

{ BUSINESS } 'PAY FOR PRIVACY' MOD

Meta not compliant with tech rules: EU

The EU on Monday accused Facebook owner Meta of breaching the bloc's digital rules. The charges against the US tech titan follow a finding last week against Apple that marked the first time Brussels had levelled formal accusations under the EU's Digital Markets Act. The latest case focuses on Meta's new ad-free subscription model for Facebook and Instagram, which has sparked complaints over privacy concerns. Meta's 'pay or consent' system means users have to pay to avoid data collection, or agree to share their data with Facebook and Instagram to keep using the platforms for free. The EU's move is a preliminary step. But eventual fines for breaches can be as high as 10% of global annual revenue, or 20% for repeated violations. →P17

{ MY INDIA } SENT FOR AUTOPSY

Parents, their 3 kids die by suicide in MP

Three children were found hanging along with their parents in Alirajpur district of Madhya Pradesh on Monday morning, said police. The bodies have been sent for an autopsy, said officers. Alirajpur superintendent of police Rajesh Vyas said, "Sendhwa police received information on Monday morning that a resident of the village found five members of a family hanging at their house. Police rushed to the spot and brought down the bodies." The FSL team found no signs of struggle or anything that points to murder. However, we can't ignore the village residents' and family members' allegations, so we are investigating the matter," he added. HTC

{ SPORT } EURO 2024

France edge past Belgium after deflected Muani shot

Kylian Mbappé and France advanced to the European Championship quarterfinals after Randal Kolo Muani's deflected shot secured a 1-0 win over Belgium on Monday. Kolo Muani sent in an effort in the 85th minute that looped up off Belgium defender Jan Vertonghen and over stranded goalkeeper Koen Castels. Mbappé had five shots but none were on target in a low-quality match where the teams cancelled each other out. France were in control for most of the match, with Tchouameni and Marcus Thuram finding chances on both sides of half-time and Kylian Mbappé quick-footed and threatening. Belgium could have won the game late on, with Romelu Lukaku and Kevin De Bruyne forcing good saves from French goalkeeper Mike Maignan. →P19

{ MY INDIA } 'AFTER AN ARGUMENT'

Constable murders wife in Karnataka

A 48-year-old head constable has been arrested for murdering his wife outside the office of the superintendent of police in Hassan, officials said on Monday, adding that the incident was likely a fall-out of a land dispute within the family. A case of murder has been filed against Lokanath under section 103 (murder) of the newly implemented Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the officials said. Police said the accused and his wife, Mamata S, 40, had an argument in the morning, following which Mamata left the house saying she would file a police complaint. Lokanath followed her and stabbed her to death, police said. HTC

{ WORLD } FOR 'OFFICIAL ACTS'

US court says Trump has some immunity

A divided US Supreme Court threw out a judicial decision rejecting Donald Trump's bid to shield himself from federal criminal charges involving his efforts to overturn his 2020 election loss in a major ruling on Monday involving the scope of presidential immunity from prosecution. The court ruled that former presidents are shielded from prosecution for actions they take within their constitutional authority, as opposed to a private capacity. The ruling marked the first time since the nation's 18th century founding that the Supreme Court has declared that former presidents may be shielded from criminal charges in any instance. The outcome means additional delay, all but ending prospects that Trump could be tried before the November election. →P15

{ LEFT FIELD }

Sharda Ugra

**Has the WC win sunk in yet? And other questions...**

On these days of disbelief and wonderment, of the swift disintegration of soul-crumbing memory, of a lightness and an elevation and a bubbling over, of I suppose, bubbled-over feels and thoughts, some pertinent questions:

Where is the Bumrah statue going to be built? Still don't think he needs one? Okay, maybe statue is too much for a man who turned 30 only six months ago.

But surely something to show Bumrah the love? This bowler came into Indian cricket like a messiah who makes the down-right miraculous routine and the unprecedented predictable. At the point at which fans stop breathing or reach for tissues or glasses (not spectacles), the Bearded One arrives and delivers. Not snail mail delivery, steady, reliable.

But of a crackling electronic age, of AI and high-order neural networks. Except, Bumrah is of mind, muscle and bone, real, human. His bowling is fast, decisive, short, sharp, jarring, zapping, zigging, reversing, yorking, cutting through gaps created in the batters' body and brain.

His mental markers creating order from chaos – 107 dot balls from 178 bowled, Player-of-the-Series, 15 wickets @8.26/SRI1.86. Those cities that claim to be cricket-loving or star-loving whatever, bring on your A-game. Bangalore's got its Anil Kumble Circle. Surely you have expressways or flyovers, or hell even speeding zones that must salute this once-in-many-generations fast bowling genius?

Who plays Rohit in the biopic?

There's got to be a biopic, surely. Have we ever had a captain with a career that's gone through more switchbacks and hairpins and dark tunnel entries and exits than the Monte Carlo FI circuit? Who has remodelled his batting so much it's virtually split its personality.

It began with a fluid easy-on-the-eye beauty which rendered scoreboards irrelevant. But a late-career drive and purpose has brought a Mad Max white ball version which left bowlers imagining they've gone a few rounds with Oleksandr Usyk. Shunted from Mumbai Indians captaincy, Rohit's 400-plus 2024 runs came at his highest strike rate across 17 IPLs.

In the T20 World Cup, he was the second highest run-scorer @156.7 SR, his highest in any multilateral tournament, at age 37. In the midst of this, Rohit has carried multifaceted captaincy, multi-title defeat and multimedia lunacy with what's best called a comfort fit. Bollywood, do your best. While you're at it, please come up with a better nick name than Hit Man?

Do Rohit-Virat T20I retirements mean end of superstardom?

I have two words for you: Hardik, SKY. Whatever else they do or don't do in the rest of their careers, Bridgetown, June 2024 is forever.

Pandya will always be the man who cut off South Africa's oxygen supply, leading them to drop the T20 World Cup from

their hands. Surya is the guy who caught it in a mystic combination of untrammelled athleticism and nerve-chilling spatial awareness.

Pandya will no doubt believe he is owed a drama series of his own, morphing from a franchise cricket showboater into a big-game, big-show death overs superhero. In T20I death overs, Pandya's taken 20 wickets in 165 balls, ER@7.27.

He has been India T20I captain and can order his team to walk on fire and swim in ice because he's done it too. Surya will forever be flying around the long-on boundary doing in perfect two-step before sprinting towards his teammates, signing No.1 in the air. In 2009, he had lost out a Rajasthan Royals IPL contract because of his, er... fielding. Superstars, they're rockstars, these two.

Has Dravid copyrighted the Buddha coaching template?

See, you can't ask him, "who writes your scripts, Jammy?" because you'll get an eyeroll as reprimand for usage of that nickname. Which he dislikes a little less than The Wall.

Instead of scripts, let's do this the logical orderly and methodical Dravid way and talk of templates. Of starting from the bottom – coaching at the NCA and the under-19s and unlearning a previous century's learnings to find ways to work with Millennials, GenXers and Zoomers. Of virtually managing to invisibilise his very famous older self into something other than media personality out of a comm box. Coaching not just cricketers, but schooling media and broadcaster promo makers into binning those tropes of redemption and closure.

When's the victory parade?

Depending on the age of the Indian cricket fan, the 2024 ICC World Cup victory will have ended a wait between 17, 13 or 11 years. Depending from where you count: the first ICC World T20 in 2007, the 2011 ICC World Cup or the 2013 Champions Trophy. Anyway, it's been too long. The time lapse between India's first and second ODI World Cup was 28 years.

And when 2011 was won, Mumbai poured onto the streets, the team parted madly through the night, went to meet the Maharashtra governor and then quickly separated as IPL was starting in a few days. You just don't do that to the fans. In 2007, the victory parade and the motorcade took hours through Mumbai.

Surely, the fans deserve to see their team with the 2024 T20 World Cup trophy. Okay, don't stop traffic everywhere, but some celebrations, please? In India's great cricket cities which the fans can share. Please tell me it's on your mind, BCCI?

{ STORM IN THE ATLANTIC } 'DANGEROUS AND LIFE-THREATENING SITUATION'

Hurricane Beryl threatens the Caribbean

Hurricane Beryl began pounding the southeast Caribbean on Monday as officials warned residents to seek shelter amid powerful winds and swells expected from the extremely powerful storm. Here's what we know.

IN THE EYE OF THE STORM

Beryl slammed into one of the islands of Grenada producing "life-threatening conditions" after it strengthened into a Category 4 storm. A Category 3 or higher on the Saffir-Simpson scale is considered a major hurricane, and a Category 4 storm packs sustained winds of at least 130 miles per hour (209 km/h).

Barbados, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada and Tobago were all under hurricane warnings, while a tropical storm warning was in effect for Martinique, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, the Cayman Islands and the NW Caribbean were warned to carefully monitor its progress.



D Tropical Depression wind speed less than 39mph

S Tropical Storm wind speed between 39mph and 73mph

H Hurricane wind speed between 74mph and 110mph

M Major Hurricane wind speed greater than 110mph

INDIAN TEAM STUCK IN BARBADOS

The Indian team's travel plans have been impacted by the hurricane with the airport in Bridgetown, Barbados shut down ahead of the storm. People familiar with the matter said the plan now is to fly the team back to India on a charter flight.

**DEVASTATING WINDS**

- The storm had not made landfall yet, but officials in Barbados already received more than a dozen reports of roof damage, fallen trees and downed electric posts across the island.
- Forecasters warned of a life-threatening storm surge of up to 9 feet (3 meters) in areas where Beryl will make landfall, with 3 to 6 inches (7.6 to 15 centimeters) of rain for Barbados and nearby islands and possibly 10 inches in some areas (25 centimeters), especially in Grenada and the Grenadines.

IMPACT OF CLIMATE CRISIS, LA NINA

The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has said that it expects this year to be an "extraordinary" hurricane season as a result of warm Atlantic Ocean temperatures and related La Nina conditions in the Pacific. Extreme weather events including hurricanes have become more frequent and more devastating because of the climate crisis. Such a powerful storm forming this early in the Atlantic hurricane season – which runs from early June to late November – is extremely rare.

52% of the 18th Lok Sabha comprises first-time members spanning political ideologies, parties and regions. HT traces some of their journeys

Breaking gender barrier to carve out new path

Dhrubo Jyoti and Ruchir Kumar

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI/PATNA: Shambhavi Choudhury first moved to the Capital in the spring of 2016 as a bright-eyed 18-year-old from Patna. As an undergraduate student of sociology, Choudhury spent three years shuttling between her paying guest accommodation and the leafy campus of Lady Shri Ram College in south Delhi. "I did everything a girl in DU has to do – splitting bills, hopping between cafes in GK-1, fighting over momos – all in the middle of two-hour class breaks," she said. "And being late to the next class."

This week, Choudhury returned to Delhi as the first woman parliamentarian from Samastipur, Bihar, taking her place in India's Parliament as one of its youngest members. "It was overwhelming – surreal, nerve and exciting at the same time. I must have practised the oath before the mirror 500 times so that I don't stumble," she said, walking up the steps of the new Parliament building into its cavernous main chamber.

In some ways, her maiden victory from the impoverished town was the culmination of her political bequest as the third generation scion of a political family. And yet, her victory underlined a raft of other social shifts – a woman victor in a region dominated by male

satras, a young, articulate leader from the Dalit community from a seat once held by the venerable Paswan family and Bharat Ratna Karpooi Thakur, and an educated face representing an area abandoned by thousands of young people every year in search of low-paying labour jobs.

Her challenge – change all that, and fast. Assembly elections in Bihar are due next year.

Choudhury's entry into politics was smoothed by her gilded legacy. Her father, Ashok Choudhury, is a sitting minister in Bihar and considered a close aide of chief minister Nitish Kumar. Her grandfather Mahavir Choudhury was a senior Congress leader, and her father-in-law is former IPS officer Kishore Kunal, who once was part of the mediating team in the Ayodhya title dispute.

After LSR and a Master's at the Delhi School of Economics, Choudhury worked as a director in a school in Patna for some years. During the pandemic, though, she and her husband Saayan Kunal started growing closer to LJP (RV) chief Chirag Paswan.

It was an important moment. Paswan was arguably the nadir of his political career, having barely withstood an internal rebellion by his uncle Pashupati Parash who broke the party and became a Union minister. Fighting for his father's legacy after having lost the symbol and party name, Paswan only had 15-20 leaders on his side at the time. "When I moved to



An alumna of LSR and Delhi School of Economics, Choudhury was a director in a Patna school for a few years. ARVIND YADAV/HT

Delhi in 2019, I used to meet him often, but we only seriously started talking after 2021. Even then, I was struck by his patience. It showed me that voter bases cannot be stolen," she said. "He never lost faith."

Paswan secured his first victory when his party was allotted five seats by the NDA, against none for Paras. Then, he cemented his stature by winning every single one – a strike rate of 100% that ended the legacy dispute in more conclusive ways than similar battles in the Shiv Sena and Nationalist Congress Party in Maharashtra.

Key to that strategy was Samastipur. Held earlier by Paswan's cousin Prince Raj, the seat held an emotional connotation for the state's Dalit population, the LJP's main vote base. And unlike many other leaders from her generation, Choudhury was not alien to the dynamics of caste. "I obviously knew of the enormity of the seat, I was a Pasi, entering a seat held by Paswans. Pasis come under Mahadalit, who usually don't get a

lot of representation. So that was important too," she said.

Her father was in the JD(U) but she joined the LJP (RV) months before the general elections. "There were rumours of a strife but it was all false. Dad was there for 45 days in the campaign, leaving everything," she said.

In Samastipur, where 70% of the population lives in villages and per capita income is a sixth of the national average, the battle was between the scions of two political families – Choudhury facing off against the Congress's Sunny Hazari, the son of sitting JD(U) minister Maheshwar Hazari. "My father taught me the importance of three Ps – presence, politeness, perception. These are everything for a politician," she said.

After being allotted five seats, Paswan gambled on fielding fresh faces as part of a generational switch in a party that many senior leaders left during the rebellion. In Samastipur, Choudhury suddenly found herself in villages and ham-

lets where no women had ever been allowed access to public spaces, let alone seek votes.

"For the first two or three days, people may have thought she's a woman or too young. Some would even prefer to talk to my husband but I'd interrupt them and ask them to talk to me. I'd tell them I'll be the boss," she said.

"People only thought that the father and the husband would have the power. But I knew it will take time for society to adjust."

Choudhury quickly found out that her two perceived weaknesses could also become her biggest strengths. Her young campaign found innovative ways to overcome the LJP's biggest hurdle – making rural people aware of their poll symbol of helicopter, and make them not vote for the old symbol of bungalow. "We have ludo for village children with my name and symbol. We did street plays, mini concerts, and connected the helicopter to both Modi ji and Ram Vilas ji," she said.

And her womanhood helped her forge a bond with the local women who were used to being overlooked by male candidates. "Women know what's going on with us. They talk more freely. Male candidates would often meet important men of the village and leave. But I met mothers and sisters inside the homes," she said.

"An old lady just held my face in the middle of the campaign one day and started crying because she had never seen a candidate come to her remote village."

Her challenges are many. Despite decades of being at the centre of Bihar politics, Samastipur is still a migration sink with farm incomes dipping and infrastructure crumbling. "Samastipur is almost untouched by development... we have a 20-year demand for the construction of a road over-bridge (ROB)," said Amit Gunjan, 53, a businessman.

"Another is construction of a bypass road for those travelling to adjoining districts such as Darbhanga or Rosera. Presently, all such people have to drive through the maze of traffic in the middle of Samastipur town," he added.

Ensuring continuous power supply, piped water to households and laying proper drainage are key civic issues, said Ranjit Kumar Singh, 51, a practising advocate in the Samastipur court.

Rajesh Jha, 37, a leader of the LJP (RV), said upgrading education and health facilities, besides upholding farmers' interest, are high on the party's goals. "Having voted for Prince Raj, people were disappointed because he was never around when needed most," he said.

Choudhury straddles many worlds – a suave leader for one of the most impoverished regions of India, a devotee of Shiva and Shakti who is also a scholar of Dr BR Ambedkar, and a woman conscious of caste and her Dalit identity but aiming to break the mould. "I cannot deny the fact that I am a Dalit woman who is in politics. Other women from my strata might not have this privilege," she said. "So when I speak in Parliament, it'll be for Dalit rights and women's rights."

Caught stealing, boy kills 9-yr-old neighbour, attempts to burn body

Police said the 16-year-old has been changing statements, and officials said he appears to have gotten ideas from true-crime shows

Leena Dhankhar
letters@hindustantimes.com

GURUGRAM: A 16-year-old boy allegedly strangled a nine-year-old girl to death at her house in Gurugram, and then tried to set her body on fire using naphthalene balls — a gruesome crime and a brazen attempt to recreate a true-crime TV show cover-up — in an incident that shocked residents in their middle-class housing society and police officers investigating the case.

The girl caught the teenaged boy stealing her mother's jewellery when he visited her house purportedly to help with her homework, the officers said, adding that he was apprehended on Monday morning.

The case was the first registered under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) in Gurugram, even as the suspect was produced before the juvenile justice board and sent to an observation home.

An autopsy will be conducted on the corpse on Tuesday, said police, adding that they have not ruled out the possibility of sexual assault.

The boy's mother and the victim's mother, both residents of an apartment complex in Sector 107 on Dwarka Expressway, were acquainted, said police, adding that the 16-year-old used to play with the latter's two-year-old son. In this vein, on Monday morning, the teenager asked the victim's mother if he could play with her son, and took him to his house, two buildings away.

However, the 16-year-old slipped out of his house soon after. As the woman went to get her son back from their house, the boy went into the girl's house without telling anyone. Minutes later, the girl saw him rummaging through her mother's cupboard and confronted him.

"She shouted and threatened that she would inform her mother," Karan Goel, Gurugram's deputy commissioner of police (west).

At this point, the boy first strangled her with a dupatta. He then got hold of naphthalene balls and ground them, he said.

"He then kept the body over a pile of clothes and a pillow, sprinkled the grounds over them, and set this afire," said Goel.

When the girl's mother came back to her house with her son, the iron mesh door was drawn, but the door was open.

As she went inside, she saw flames spilling out of the bedroom, where her daughter's

How the murder played out

The families of the accused and the victim are friends. The victim's two-year-old brother spent a lot of time at the former's house as the mother of accused was fond of the toddler

WHERE: A residential society in Sector 107 on Dwarka E-way

8.45am: The boy comes to victim's house (in another tower) to take her brother to his house
9.10am: Victim's mother arrives at flat of the accused to get her son
9.11am: Accused tells victim's mother that he will go to her flat and help her 9-year-old daughter with holiday homework
9.35am: 9-yr-old calls her mom to tell her that milkman has come
10am: As the mother returns home, she finds the iron grill door locked, but wooden door open — as such she can see inside her house, but is unable to enter

10.01am: She sees accused inside her 2-BHK flat and asks him to open the door, but he ignores her
10.05am: As he moves restlessly in flat and ignores her requests, she raises alarm, calls neighbours and society's fire officer
10.30am: Fire team enters flat through balcony. They enter the house and open the main door
10.31am: As the mother enters her house, she finds her daughter half-burnt in bed
11am: Suspect tries to mislead cops that thieves entered flat and murdered the 9-yr-old



threw the jewellery off the balcony onto the ground. When the woman saw him, he began shouting that the thieves had fled," said the officer.

Another senior police officer associated with the case said that when they asked the boy if he tried to sexually harass or assault the victim, the teenager said "he was aware of law and that they can send a swab to a lab to rule out sexual assault."

It was unclear why the boy was stealing the woman's jewellery, said police, adding that the investigation will seek to ascertain this.

"He told us he wanted to repay ₹20,000 he had borrowed for a loan. But he has constantly changed his statements," said Goel.

The case was registered under the BNS sections 103(1) (murder), 238(A) (causing disappearance of evidence of offence, or giving false information to screen offender), 305 (theft) and 62 (punishment for attempting to commit offences punishable with imprisonment for life or other imprisonment) at the Rajendra Park police station on Monday.

CM Kejriwal moves HC, calls CBI arrest 'illegal'

Shruti Kakkar
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday approached the Delhi high court challenging his arrest and remand by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in connection with alleged irregularities in the scrapped 2021-22 Delhi excise policy.

In his petition before the high court, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener, while calling his arrest "illegal", sought that a Delhi special court's June 26 and June 29 orders be set aside.

On June 26, a city court sent the CM to three-day CBI custody, saying that the remand was warranted as the probe agency had taken court's permission before examining Kejriwal, and based upon the interrogation report, found the necessity to arrest him. In a June 29 order, the city court remanded the AAP chief to 14 days in judicial custody.

The plea, filed through advocates Vivek Jain and Mohd Irshad, claimed that Kejriwal's arrest was illegal since it was in contravention of the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court's ruling in Armesh Kumar vs State of Bihar and Section 41A of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) which mandates the investigating officer to issue notice to the person accused of committing an offence before making an arrest without warrant. In the Armesh Kumar ruling, the Supreme Court formulated guidelines to prevent unnecessary arrests.

The petition went on to add



On June 26, a city court sent Arvind Kejriwal to three-day CBI custody.

ground to statutorily available to arrest a person.

"That the present case in the arrest memo dated 26.06.2024 the grounds of arrest merely stated that Petitioner is not co-operating with investigation and not disclosing the facts which are in his knowledge. The same cannot be a ground of arrest and a mere non-cooperation is not the ground statutorily available to arrest the person," the plea read.

It added that the probe agency has not pointed towards any "new evidence" or "material" in the arrest memo or remand note to justify the CM's arrest in judicial custody.

"There is no new material which has come in the possession of the CBI 04.06.2024 which demonstrate that there was any justifiable reason or explanation basis which the permission was sought to investigate the Petitioner on 25.06.2024 and then subsequently arrest the Petitioner solely on the ground that the response of the Petitioner is evasive. This only shows malice on the part of CBI which is to create a frivolous impression for arresting the Petitioner," the plea said.

The probe agency arrested Kejriwal in the Rouse Avenue court on June 26 while he was already in judicial custody in a related ED case over the scrapped excise policy. CBI has filed four charge sheets in the case against 17 accused persons, including former deputy CM Sisodia and BRS leader K Kavitha, both of whom are in jail. Kejriwal has not been named as an accused in any of the indictments yet.

Vacation vibes off, it's back to school



Students return home after a day of school at KG Marg on Monday. Schools across the Capital reopened after a month-and-a-half-long summer vacation.

3 murders in 3 hours on Sunday of horrors

NEW DELHI: Three men were stabbed to death in separate incidents in northwest, outer, and east Delhi within three hours of each other on Sunday, police said on Monday. Two of the three deceased have been identified, they added. Arrests have been made in two cases, but suspects are at large in one.

In Shahdara, east Delhi, a man was stabbed to death near Nathu Colony flyover close to railway tracks in Mansarovar Park. Deputy commissioner of police Surendra Chaudhary said that the murder was reported at 8.15pm. Police arrived on the scene and rushed the victim to a nearby hospital where he was declared dead. Police ruled out robbery as a motive because ₹3,000 was found in his pocket. The body was sent to Guru Teg Bahadur

22k affected by T1 closure: Ministry

Neha LM Tripathi
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The flying schedule of more than 22,000 passengers was affected over the weekend due to the closure of the Terminal 1 of IGI airport following the collapse of its roof on Friday which resulted in the death of a cab driver, the civil aviation ministry said on Monday.

According to the civil aviation ministry, the schedule of 22,615 passengers was disrupted and 10,168 tickets were cancelled and refunded. Of the latter, refunds have been issued for 9,972 passengers booked on IndiGo (9,431) and SpiceJet (541) flights, while the refund of 196 passengers remains pending.

Union civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu inspected the

{ 2 YEARS SINCE BAN } ABSENCE OF COMPLIANCE Banned single-use plastic still a common sight in city

Jasjev Gandhioh
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: It has been two years since the country-wide ban on 19 single-use plastic (SUP) came into force to phase them out but little has changed on the ground — indicating the need for stricter enforcement, and the lack of cheaper alternatives — spot checks by HT on Monday found.

The ban was notified on July 1, 2022, after which enforcement teams formed by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) and other Urban Local Bodies (ULB) set out to identify and penalise violators. The list of such violators includes anyone selling, stocking, manufacturing or importing these items, with a fine of ₹5,000 to be imposed per violation.

During the spot check, the rampant use of plastic cutlery was visible, apart from plastic bags with thicknesses varying from 10 to 15 microns. The standard thickness for such items is at least 120 microns.

DPCC officials, when con-

tacted, said that the enforcement has not stopped and teams were taking action against violators regularly.

"Both ULB and DPCC teams are enforcing the ban. Our assessment of data from March 2023 till May 2024 shows 449 challans have been issued by ULBs, with fines totalling ₹14.16 lakh. DPCC's teams have imposed an environmental damage compensation of ₹1.49 crore against violators, which includes 48 SUP manufacturers," said a senior DPCC official, requesting anonymity, adding that a total of 4,540 units in Delhi were inspected during this period.

HT reached out to the MCD which did not respond to queries seeking comments.

The ban was largely being flouted in the informal market areas, largely comprising fruit and vegetable vendors. Crowded areas like ISBTs and railway stations and tourist spots were no less, where street food vendors flock given the large footfall. At India Gate, plastic spoons were being used



openly at food stalls, while straws and glasses were a common sight at juice stalls.

No alternatives, say vendors
Asif Khan, a fruit juice seller at Sarai Jullena near New Friends Colony, said the lack of cheaper alternatives was still a problem,

forcing vendors to use plastic straws. "We buy paper straws for nearly three times the price of a plastic straw. Until the price gap is bridged, people with limited incomes will continue to prioritise the cheaper option," said Khan.

The 19 banned items include commonly used SUPs like ear-

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Haryana govt gives nod for construction of stilt and 4 floors

Hitender Rao and Leena Dhankhar
letters@hindustantimes.com

CHANDIGARH/GURUGRAM: The Haryana government has decided to allow construction of buildings with a stilt and four floors in certain residential sectors, officials aware of the matter said on Monday.

The development comes months before Haryana goes to the polls.

Under the new policy, the state has allowed the construction of four floors with stilts in sectors where the layout plan allows for the building of four dwelling units per plot. This policy also extends to plots adjoining 10-metre roads where the layout plan allows for the building of three dwelling units per plot, contingent on the inking of a mutual consent agreement with all adjoining plot allottees, officials said.

In cases where such buildings have been constructed without approval of building plans, violators can apply for composition of offence on payment of a penalty 10 times the rate prescribed for raising constructions without getting building plans approved.

The move was applauded by developers, who called the decision a positive step towards increasing the availability of housing in Gurugram and the state. Residents, however, said the decision will only lead to an increase in construction and pollution.

"It is a positive move but convincing neighbours to give consent might be a hurdle. Many people might resist due to concerns about privacy, sunlight, and increased density," said Chirag Gehlot, vice president of real estate developer Central Park.

Residents, meanwhile, said the policy will add to congestion. "The increase in population density will exacerbate the existing issues of parking and traffic," DLF Qutub Enclave RWA president Baljeet Singh Rathee said.

Street vendor first in city booked under BNS; Police later junk case

Jignasa Sinha letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: In the early hours of Monday, the Delhi Police registered its first FIR against a 19-year-old street vendor under the new criminal law code. However, hours later, police said they are in the process of quashing the FIR after a review of the case.

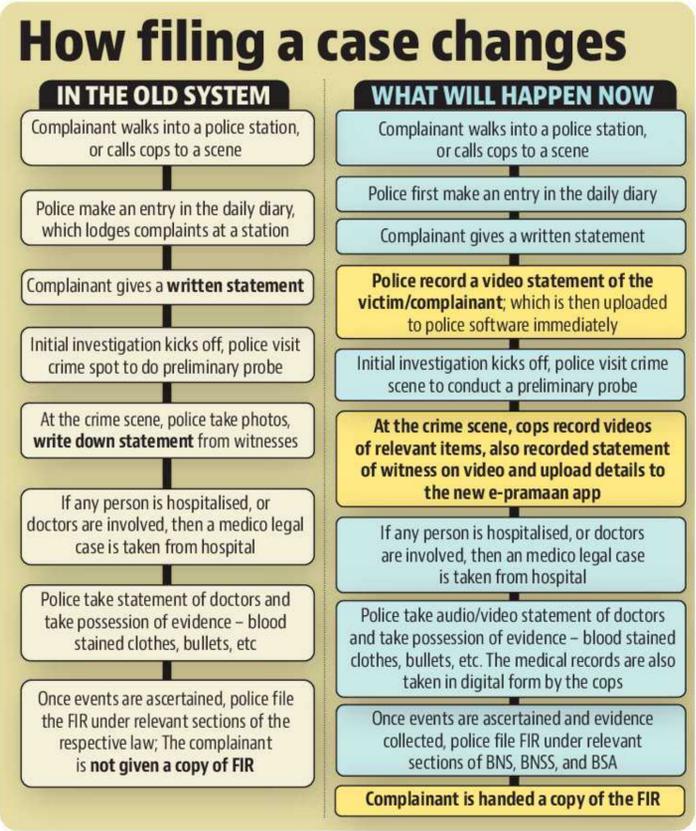
Union home minister Amit Shah, in a press conference on Monday, said the FIR was quashed. The Delhi Police did not issue an explanation about the exact reason for quashing of the FIR.

The FIR was lodged at 1.30am under provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita against a vendor in the Kamla Market area. Police said he was apprehended by a sub-inspector around 12.15am for obstructing a public way with his cart under the foot over-bridge near the New Delhi Railway Station.

The original copy of the FIR read: "A person was openly selling water, bidis and cigarettes by putting his cart on the public road which was causing trouble and obstruction to the public. Passersby felt bad about this. The SI (complainant) told the person several times to remove his cart from the public way but the person ignored his words. The SI told 4-5 passersby to join the investigation by telling them the situation, but everyone left the spot. The SI (then) made a video of the spot on his mobile phone through E-Praman application".

The FIR was registered under Section 285 of BNS. The section states: "Whoever, by doing any act, or by omitting to take order with any property in his possession or under his charge, causes danger, obstruction or injury to any person in any public way or any public line of navigation, shall be punished with fine which may extend to ₹5,000."

Soon afterwards, the FIR copy was made public as it was the first FIR in Delhi under the new criminal laws enacted in the country from Monday. The Indian Penal Code (IPC), Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPc) and Indian Evidence Act, the British-era laws that formed the basis of the criminal justice system of the country for over



150 years, ceased to exist from Monday, when the three new criminal laws brought by the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi came into force. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), replaces the IPC, while the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) replaces the CrPc, and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA) replaces the Indian Evidence Act.

under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023. It is by the Delhi police against a street vendor for obstruction, after he was earning his daily livelihood under a foot-over bridge of New Delhi Railway Station. Arbind Singh, the national coordinator of National Association of Street Vendors of India, said that it was a misuse of the new law. He said, "This is unfortunate as the registered case is against a street vendor who has done nothing but exercise his right to livelihood. The authority has filed a case on baseless grounds and this will lead to fear among the vendors, on top of that fines are hefty which street

vendors will not be able to bear and this will create more den of corruption." Shah later addressed the media and said the first FIR in India under BNS was lodged in Gwalior in a case of motorcycle theft. He said, "About the vendor case, there were provisions earlier as well. It is not a new provision. Police used the provision to review (the case) and has quashed that case." Deputy commissioner of police (central) Harsha Vardhan, however, did not elaborate on the reason for the quashing and refused to comment on it. A senior police officer, who did not wish to be identified, said

the FIR is being quashed and the IO will go to court. "It was registered based on a sub inspector's statement. It was reviewed later and is now being dismissed." The officer too denied giving the reason for quashing. The vendor, Pankaj Kumar, was called to the police station and his statement was recorded. His elder brother, Mithoon Kumar, told HT, "Why was my brother targeted? It was my stall which has been near the NDLS since 2007. Why was the FIR filed now? He was targeted late at night and he didn't ignore any directions/orders. We sell cigarettes and water bottles. We don't know anything about the new law. At midnight, two officers came and started recording him without a reason...any explanation. On Monday morning, our shop was shut. We don't know what is happening."

The first day of new proceedings At other police stations, Delhi Police continued lodging FIRs throughout the day in a variety of cases ranging from theft to accidents. More than 20 FIRs were lodged on Monday under the new law code, said another officer who refused to be named. An FIR in Seelampur is against two unknown persons who have been booked under attempted murder and Arms Act for shooting a man in the torso. The FIR was lodged by Shahdara district police.

In Mangolpuri, a case was lodged against a street vendor for obstructing in public way. Police said the vendor had a small auto parts shop on the main road. DCP (outer) Jimmy Chiram said, "There was also an accident case in Nihal Vihar. Three other FIRs lodged in Sulatpuri police station and one each in Rani Bagh and Raj Park."

In northeast Delhi, police lodged a theft case but refused to share the details. An investigating officer at Vasant Kunj police station said he got confused while recording evidence for a theft case. "It takes time to understand the app. We are not used to all this. I was trying to upload a video of her house but there was some error. My juniors helped me," he said.

Medha Patkar gets 5 mnths in prison in defamation case

Deepankar Malviya letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Monday sentenced social activist Medha Patkar to five months in prison in connection with a criminal defamation case filed against her in 2001 by VK Saxena, currently the lieutenant governor of Delhi.

The court also fined Patkar ₹10 lakh as compensation to Saxena, but suspended the sentence for 30 days to enable her to challenge the judgment. The court has listed the matter for further hearing on August 1.

Exiting the court, Patkar said, "The truth cannot be defeated... We have no intention of defaming anyone... We will challenge the order". The LG did not comment on the issue.

The case stems from a press release issued by Patkar on November 25, 2000, in which she alleged that Saxena, the then president of not-for-profit National Council for Civil Liber-



Medha Patkar, VK Saxena

ties (NCCL), gave a cheque to Patkar's Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA) that later bounced.

At that time, NCCL was actively involved in ensuring the completion of the Sardar Sarovar — a project that NBA was bitterly opposed to — and on January 18, 2001, Saxena filed a defamation case against Patkar, alleging that the press release contained false accusations intended to harm his reputation.

During the hearings, Saxena testified that the press release was issued with an ulterior motive to defame him. His claims were supported by two witnesses who testified that their high regard for Saxena

was diminished after reading the press release.

In its order convicting Patkar, the trial court in May found that Patkar had failed to provide evidence countering Saxena's claims, and concluded that her actions were "deliberate", "malicious", and aimed at tarnishing Saxena's reputation.

Determining the quantum of punishment on Monday, judicial magistrate first class Raghav Sharma noted Patkar's advanced age and medical ailments, and stated that an imprisonment of one or two years could be "disproportionately harsh", and while a term of one or two months would leave the complainant without justice.

"Therefore, a sentence of five months simple imprisonment is appropriate, ensuring that the punishment is significant yet not excessively severe given her circumstances", the judge said.

The court also turned down Patkar's plea to release her on probation.

Excise case: Delhi HC denies bail to Kavitha

Shruti Kakkar letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Delhi high court on Monday dismissed Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) leader K Kavitha's plea seeking bail in cases registered against her in connection with alleged irregularities in the Delhi excise policy 2021-22.

The verdict was pronounced by a bench of justice Swarana Kanta Sharma. Kavitha, 46, is currently in judicial custody. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested her from Hyderabad on March 15, and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) arrested her in a parallel case on April 11, while she was lodged in Tihar jail.

Challenging her arrest, the BRS leader alleged the investigation by the federal agencies was "compromised" and was being carried out to further a "political agenda". Kavitha's plea was first

CM AIDE'S PLEA IS MAINTAINABLE: HC IN MALIWAL ASSAULT CASE

Shruti Kakkar letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Delhi high court on Monday issued notice to the Delhi Police in a plea by Bibhav Kumar, a close aide of chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, challenging his arrest in connection with the alleged assault case involving Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Rajya Sabha MP Swati Malwal. The court rejected the Delhi Police's objections to the maintainability of the petition.

A bench of justice Swarana Kanta Sharma directed the Delhi Police to file its response in a week and posted the matter for hearing on July 8.

"The petition before is maintainable to the extent of issuance of notice to the respondent. The merit of the case... will be decided only after a reply is filed in this case by the State," justice Sharma said.

SAHARANPUR SMART CITY LIMITED advertisement. Includes details about the smart city project, contact information, and a table with dates and times for RFP and bid submission.

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कार्यालय अपर जिलाधिकारी (भू.अ.) advertisement. Recruitment notice for various posts. Includes details about the exam, syllabus, and application process.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED advertisement. Notice regarding the appearance of a person accused in a criminal case.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON advertisement. Notice regarding the appearance of a person accused in a criminal case.

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Have fun with facts on Sundays advertisement. Promotion for a quiz on the week's development.

CSIR-NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE COMMUNICATION & POLICY RESEARCH advertisement. Recruitment notice for research assistant.

Slow cleaning ops at Taimoor Ngr drain, residents brace for the worst

Paras Singh
paras@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: As a sudden downpour once again crippled the infrastructure in the Capital last week, a kilometre-long stretch of the Taimoor Nagar drain became the single source of torment for residents of thousands of houses across south and southeast Delhi, pushing sewage-mixed water into homes and causing irreparable damage.

The problem was particularly acute in Maharani Bagh and Friends Colony, where the damage included wooden flooring, documents, paintings, and furniture.

Flooding in this drain is a notorious annual phenomenon, and the severity of the rain last Friday — Delhi recorded 228mm of rainfall in 24 hours — proved that little had been done to tackle the problem by government agencies such as the Public Works Department (PWD) and the Delhi Jal Board (DJB); the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD); and the Delhi Development Authority (DDA).

Experts stressed that the impact of the overflowing drain could have been partially addressed if civic authorities had been more proactive in dealing with four choke points that have been created over the years due to a variety of issues ranging from unbridled waste-dumping to structural deficiencies.

Triveni Mahajan, secretary of the Friends Colony residents' welfare association (RWA), said: "Houses in Friends Colony were flooded in just a couple of hours of rain. The rainwater nallah flowing through the colony was supposed to carry the water through, but with illegal constructions in Taimoor Nagar, constant diversion of sewage into this nallah and construction on DDA land have created a situation of backflow and flooding." She said that for residents of the colony, classified as a Grade A area, the monsoon is now an anxious time. "MCD, DJB and DDA have failed us. No authority cares about solving this issue. It is just a blame game," she said.

Apprehensive of what the rain might bring, on June 25, the resi-

Drain choked, sewage backflows

A slew of issues with the Taimoor Nagar drain causes waterlogging in the area

Key issues:

- Rampant garbage dumping
- Encroachments by juggis and houses
- Elevation profile of outfall points
- Multiplicity of agencies

Solutions:

- Cleaning of drains
- Encroachment removal and widening of drain
- Separation of sewage and stormwater drains
- Inter-agency coordination
- Upgrade of drainage infra

Importance of the drain
Taimoor Nagar drain is the outfall drain for southeast Delhi localities, such as Maharani Bagh, New Friends Colony, Friends Colony, Srinivaspuri, Garhi and surrounding areas

dents wrote to Delhi lieutenant governor VK Saxena to voice their fears.

"Taimoor Nagar drain gets narrowed and constricted due to unauthorised construction on DDA land prior to it entering Yamuna... Last monsoon, sandbags had been put on this DDA land, causing flooding in Maharani Bagh, Friends Colony and Srinivaspuri," the RWA said in the letter.

Three days later, their worst fears came true.

The drainage network
Drains from colonies in south-

east Delhi converge at Eastern Avenue Road, near Gate 5 of Maharani Bagh. The drain, through its opening stretch, is 20 to 30 feet wide, but dumped garbage and encroachments have reduced its width to around five feet at several points along its course. This turns the outfall of the drain at Yamuna floodplains into a choke point, leading to water backflowing in colonies.

The problem is at its gravest in a narrow lane off the arterial Eastern Avenue Road, parallel to Mathura Road.

Here, the open drain, locally known as "nullah road", runs

alongside Taimoor Nagar, which is made up of an urban village on one side and two slum clusters on the other. Smaller drains from areas as far as Srinivaspuri, Garhi, Kalindi, New Friends Colony, and Friends Colony West and East empty here, and the water is expected to flow directly into the Yamuna.

But since the drain is unable to accommodate a huge volume of water, especially during heavy rainfall, sewage backflow in residential colonies in the vicinity becomes inevitable as there is nowhere for the excess water to go but out on the roads, and into

homes.

On Saturday, the LG too inspected the drain with other senior officials, finding it choked by huge silt deposits and garbage that prevented the water from flowing out. He issued a series of directions to clear the obstructions in the next few days.

During a spot check on Monday, HT found one excavator streamlining the accumulated mounds of silt to create a clear passage in the first 50m stretch of the drain. However, several parts of the "outfall drain", a lifeline for the drainage system of this part of Delhi, were still com-

pletely covered by a thick layer of plastic bags, floating containers and domestic waste bundled in bags, which defied the claims of monsoon preparedness.

Passing the buck

During the spot check, HT noticed that the erstwhile South MCD constructed a barrier around the drain in 2017 to prevent locals from throwing garbage in the drain, but it did little to stop the issue.

Even now, agencies continued to pass the buck. An MCD official, not asking to be named said the civic body was undertaking cleaning of the initial section of the drain but the last stretch of the Taimoor Nagar drain, including the outfall point, comes under DDA.

In a separate statement, the MCD said: "To clear the garbage dump and desilting the Taimoor Nagar drain, we deployed a long excavator. Desilting is essential to stop waterlogging in upstream colonies like Maharani Bagh and Friends Colony... We took major action downstream, at the end, by removing the diversion blockade done by DJB for trapping drainwater for sewage treatment. We'll widen the narrow section just upstream of the Khizarabad culvert. With this, we expect no further waterlogging due to the Taimoor Nagar drain."

Rajpal, the area councillor, said annual flooding due to the Taimoor Nagar drain backflow started eight years ago, and admitted that the problem has become worse over the years.

A spokesperson for the DDA said they will get the facts checked and place it before the competent authority.

Dr S Velumuran, chief scientist and head of traffic engineering and safety division of Central Road Research Institute (CRRI), who is also a resident of the CRRI staff quarters near Maharani Bagh, said: "The gradient of drains will need to be reworked, a rainwater harvesting system will be needed with large pits and stormwater drainage systems should be separated from sewer lines," he said. "There is no quick fix. It needs a complete overhaul!"

IMD revises its rain alert twice on a sultry day

Jasjeev Gandhiok
jasjeev.gandhiok@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The India Meteorological Department's (IMD) prediction of heavy rainfall for Delhi on Monday fell flat, with the Capital remaining bone dry and recording a sultry day due to high humidity levels. Delhi recorded a maximum temperature of 36 degrees Celsius (°C), but humidity of 59-82% kept the heat index or "real feel" temperature at 47°C.

On the day, IMD revised its daily weather forecast for the Capital twice. The colour-coded alert — used to depict the severity of weather events — was downgraded to "yellow" at 9am, with light to moderate rain forecast for the rest of the day. At 12.30pm, this was upgraded to "orange" again, with a forecast of moderate to heavy rain.

IMD, at present, has an "orange" alert in place for Tuesday and Wednesday, saying moderate to heavy rainfall is likely on both days. The maximum temperature is likely to drop to 33°C on Tuesday, it said, forecasting that the minimum will be between 26°C and 27°C on the two days.

Despite Monday's forecast, rain eluded Delhi, and IMD said that forecasts for a city of Delhi's size can be challenging. IMD also announced plans to improve weather forecasting in the region by adding three more doppler weather radars (DWRs) in the national capital region (NCR), in addition to the three operating in Ayanagar, Palam and Lodhi Road.

Currently, the weather radars at Lodhi Road and Palam are under maintenance, IMD said.

Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, director general of meteorology, IMD, said: "Forecasts for any region, particularly during monsoon, can be challenging, but our accuracy over the years has improved by 10% to 20%. Since Delhi has a small area, rain spells often miss Delhi, but end up occurring in the neighbouring Haryana or Uttar Pradesh."

He cited the instance of Safdarjung receiving 91mm of rainfall between 5am and 6am on June 28, which was close to the cloudburst criteria of over



The wet bulb, maximum and real feel temperature on Monday was 28.8°C, 36°C, and 47°C respectively. VIPIN KUMAR/HT

100mm in a single hour, as challenges in forecasting for a smaller area. "This extreme rainfall event was very confined, spatially and temporally, to some parts of the city, particularly Safdarjung. So, it is definitely a challenge we are trying to address," he said.

A "yellow" alert is the first of three colour-coded alerts and simply alerts the public of an upcoming weather event. It is upgraded to "orange" when the public is to "be prepared" for an upcoming weather event. The last stage, a "red alert" is issued when the IMD wants people to be "most vigilant and take action".

Last Saturday, IMD forecast moderate to heavy rain for Delhi, issuing an "orange" alert for Sunday. However, Delhi recorded zero rainfall at the Safdarjung station, which is representative of Delhi weather, in the 24-hour period between 8.30am on Sunday and Monday. Its forecast for Monday was heavy rain and an "orange" alert, but there was no rainfall at any of Delhi's five weather stations.

Mohapatra said IMD is trying to use "nowcasts", which are short-range forecasts issued for weather events in the next two to three hours. He said that despite no rain in Delhi on Sunday, parts of Faridabad and Ghaziabad recorded light showers. "It is, therefore, more accurate to look at a much larger area of NCR for forecasts," he said.

He said the addition of three doppler radars will strengthen the forecasting system, and the under-maintenance ones at Lodhi Road and Palam will soon become functional.

Delhi's minimum temperature was 28.4°C on Monday, a degree above normal.

No honour among thieves: Bawana distances self from W Delhi shooting

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A social media post purportedly made by gangster Neeraj Bawana mentioning his dissociation with fugitive gangster Himanshu Bhau is currently under probe by the Delhi Police, officers said on Monday.

Bawana could have gained access to a phone in jail, said an officer, adding that they were yet to ascertain whether the post was made by him or his aides. Bhau has always been linked to Kausalgang, Bambiha gang, Naveen Bali, and Bawana, said an officer. The post came to light after the murder of a man, Aman Joon, at a Burger King outlet in Rajouri Garden last month. Soon after the incident, Bhau claimed responsibility for the attack on social media.

"Bawana was taken into custody from jail after the murder and questioned about his involvement. He may want to distance himself from the alliance," added the officer.

"I, Neeraj Bawana... I want to tell everyone that I am not associated with gangster Himanshu Bhau or his associates... I have never formed a gang... It was my uncle Kaala Asodiya [who] formed the gang... If Bhau or any of his men are committing crime using my name, they are wrong as I am not linked," Bawana's Instagram post read.

marked to LG VK Saxena and CM Arvind Kejriwal's office, people aware of the matter said. HT has seen a copy of the letter.

Singh said the committee did not have the authority of the council of ministers. "The committee is nothing but a Group of Ministers... not constituted by the Cabinet... constituted under Saurabh Bharadwaj... without due authority," Singh wrote.

A Delhi government official alleged Singh was "running away from accountability". "There is pressure to not appear before the committee," the official said. HT reached out to Singh, but he did not respond queries.

MCD to release ₹2 crore to clear salaries of Hardayal library staff

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) will release a grant of ₹2 crore to the 161-year-old Lala Hardayal Municipal Heritage Library to clear the salary pendency of the staff members, a senior MCD official said on Monday.

This will be the second tranche of funds to be released over the last year to help the library tide over its financial crisis. In November 2023, the civic body

released ₹2.26 crore for the library, some of which was directed towards the payment of salaries.

A senior MCD official said the library had originally demanded ₹10.4 crore to pay salaries between November 2021 and May 2023. "The community services department has informed the library that the fund will only be used for pending salaries of the employees and for appointment of a chartered accountant after that," the official said, asking not to be

named. Sunita Bharadwaj, deputy librarian, said that the staff welcomes the release of funds. "Our salaries are currently pending from November 2022," she said.



On Nov 15, 2023, HT reported the library was in a state of disrepair and caught in a political slugfest.

Delhiwale

EXPERIENCE YOUR CITY LIKE NEVER BEFORE



Of silence and song

City's streets as a home for rickshaw pullers

{ PUBLIC INTEREST }

The lane is steeped in pin drop silence, what teachers at the school ahead might expect from their students.

The short Ramjas Path in Daryaganj is lined with a handful of enormous pilkhan, whose thick brown branches gently spread upon the lane, colonising the upper altitudes, hiding much of the sky from the earth. A pair of vessels are hanging from a branch high up in the air; one of those is said to be filled with grain for birds, another is filled with water. Aam panna seller Yameen shows a rope-and-pulley apparatus equipped around the tree's wrinkled trunk. "It brings down the vessels to our level for us to refill them every two days."

This unbearably hot, humid Sunday afternoon, scores of rickshaws are parked on both sides of the lane. Some of these rickshaws have shirts and towels draped on them; the passenger seats are claimed by their pullers, their legs dangling. One of them turns half-asleep, sighing, "Jai Siya Ram."

The murmur dissolves into the street's concentrated silence. Another puller calls out in a similar tone—"Arre mere sarkar."

Meanwhile, ensconced under a tree, ice seller

"Maharaj ji" is sleepily sitting beside the sheeted slabs of his "baraf-factory" ice. Fanning himself slowly with a haath ka punkah, his head bobs down, chin almost touching the chest. He resolutely lifts the head, only for it to bob down again.

The shelved wall in the lane's only chai stall is arrayed out with dozens of mobile phones, plugged to a switchboard with many sockets. These are phones of the street's rickshaw pullers. Tea man Deepak charges ₹10 to charge a mobile to full capacity. His late father's garlanded portrait hangs beside the soft drink refrigerator. The stall dates back to 1965. The Ramjas Girls Senior Secondary School at the end of the street is from 1961.

White-haired rickshaw puller Bhola walks over to the tea stall, muttering, "I'm from Kashi, land of the Ganga." In a voice full on passion, he breaks into the mid-portion of an old film song:

*Ladakpan khel mein khoya
Jawani neend bhar soya
Budhapa dekh kar roya
(Boyhood lost in mischief
Youth gone in a snooze
Now weeping in old age)*

Waving at the empty lane, he predicts the immediate future. "The school is opening tomorrow after the long summer break, you will not find a spot to even stand."



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

DJB water supply up but still below normal levels

NEW DELHI: The arrival of the monsoon has improved raw water levels in the Capital, with the Delhi Jal Board supplying 974 MGD (million gallons per day) water — the highest level since June 10, according to the bulleting released on Monday. But the level is still 26 MGD less than the normal supply level of 1,000 MGD due to faults in Wazirabad pumps and leakage from Okhla reservoir outlet.

4 of family killed in accident on KMP expressway

GURUGRAM: Four people were killed and two were critically injured when their Maruti Ertiga rear ended a truck on the Kundli-Manesar-Palwal Expressway near Farrukhnagar, Gurgram at 2pm on Monday, said police. The family of six was returning from Haridwar after immersing their father's ashes in the Ganga. The truck driver fled the scene, police said.

Women's helpline 181 in transition phase, calls to 112

NEW DELHI: The women and child development department of the Delhi government is set to take over the management of the women helpline number 181 from the Delhi women's commission. Before the transition, expected to be completed within two days, the 181-helpline stopped working from July 1 and callers are being advised to make a call to 112 for assistance. **HTC**

RAHUL'S LOP SPEECH

about the BJP and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's brand of Hinduism.

To be sure, there is a possibility that some of the comments may be expunged after review. However, no such decision was taken at the time of going to press.

While the comment on Hindus may have generated the most heat, and the use of a picture of Lord Shiva as a prop created a controversy (the use of such props is not allowed by Parliament rules), Gandhi managed to criticise the government on a host of issues.

It was a performance that was cheered by other Opposition leaders, had several senior BJP MPs waving the rule book and asking the Speaker to intercede, and countered by Union ministers.

The LoP — the first in the Lok Sabha in 10 years — spent a bulk of his speech focussing on the economy and accusing the BJP of failing to create jobs or easing prices, and of complicating taxation.

"MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises) have been destroyed. The backbone of job creation has been wrecked due to demonetisation and the flawed GST," he said, adding that these moves were meant to benefit industrialists.

"Even in Gujarat, small traders said, it was done for billionaires. Narendra Modi works for billionaires," Gandhi said. "To scare farmers, you destroyed the land acquisition law we made. Then you brought in the three farm laws. The PM said it will benefit farmers."

He also accused the government of denying farmers minimum support prices for their crops, drawing a charged response from yet another Union minister, as agriculture minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

"If you are making allegations, then verify them. You are lying. How much purchase was made when you were in power?" Chouhan asked.

Gandhi also attacked the Agniveer scheme.

"I met the family of an Agniveer. I call him a martyr. But Modi calls him Agniveer. There is no pension for him, there is no status of a martyr. An Agniveer is a use-and-throw labourer. You are creating differences between soldiers," he said.

This prompted an intervention from defence minister Rajnath Singh and home minister Amit Shah.

"The LoP shouldn't mislead the house by giving false speeches. If an Agniveer dies during war or at the border, his family gets ₹1 crore," Rajnath said.

Shah then said, "He (Gandhi) should speak on factual positions, or apologise."

Gandhi stood his ground. Singh then stood up to refute Gandhi's claims again.

"One fifty-eight organisations were consulted before this scheme was launched. It is a well-planned scheme. Such schemes are there in different countries including the UK and US," he said.

Gandhi said, "I have spoken. Rajnath Singh has stated his position. The people of the country know what is the truth. Neither his speech nor mine will make a difference. The country knows Agniveer is not the army's scheme. It is the PM's scheme."

"If we come to power, we will remove this scheme," he added.

The Rae Bareilly MP then said voters in Ayodhya had rejected the BJP despite the Ram Temple being built there because of the party's hubris and arrogance. The BJP's Lallu Singh lost the Faizabad Lok Sabha seat in Uttar Pradesh, of which Ayodhya is a part, to the Samajwadi Party's Awadesh Sharma.

"Ayodhya sent you a message. Lord Ram's place of birth sent you a message," he said.

UP chief minister Adityanath later said Gandhi made the remarks to "defame UP and Ayodhya."

Gandhi also referred to the fiasco around the National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test (NEET-UG), which has been dogged by allegations of paper leaks and skewed results.

"NEET students spend years preparing for the exams. And the truth is NEET students don't believe in exams and it is designed for rich people and not for meritorious people. This creates a quota for rich people. The students study, but don't know if the exams will be leaked or not."

This year's NEET-UG, conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) for admissions to MBBS, BDS and other related undergraduate courses across India, has been beset with a series of allegations ranging from question paper leaks, inflated marking and arbitrary allowance of grace marks — issues that have become a nationwide flashpoint for political parties, leading to thousands of students protesting for weeks.

Several petitioners have

approached the Supreme Court with various requests relating to the exam, including a plea to scrap it entirely or halt the counselling process — by which students are allotted seats in different colleges — that is scheduled to begin on July 6. The court refused to pass any interim orders and is due to hear the matter again on July 8.

Later on, at a press conference, Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw hit back at Gandhi and said he "denigrated" the LoP position.

"Gandhi has always enjoyed power without responsibility. Now he holds a responsible position. But he made a most irresponsible speech today," he said, claiming that the Congress has always weakened the constitutional bodies.

NEW CRIMINAL LAWS

mentation of new laws, India will have the most modern criminal justice system in the world," Shah said at a press conference in the Capital.

The home minister said that, with the implementation, the criminal justice system of the country has now become completely "swadeshi", 77 years after Independence.

"The new laws brought in a modern justice system, incorporating provisions such as Zero FIR, online registration of police complaints, summonses through electronic modes such as SMS and mandatory videography of crime scenes for all heinous crimes."

He said the judicial process would now be timebound and the new laws set time limits of three years to end trial in cases up to the Supreme Court, ending long delays.

On allegations of not enough discussion levelled by the Opposition, Shah said: "We discussed every aspect of these laws with every stakeholder for four years. In fact, there has not been a law discussed for so long since Independence. In 2020 itself, I had sought suggestions from all members of parliament, the Supreme Court and high court judges. The home secretary too sought suggestions from all states. I chaired 158 consultative meetings to review the new laws."

He added: "In Parliament, there was a 9.29-hour debate in Lok Sabha, and for 6.7 hours in Rajya Sabha... and 34 members in Lok Sabha and 26 in Rajya Sabha participated [in the debate]. But misinformation is being spread

{ FROM PAGE 1 }

about them."

In a post on X, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge said after the political and moral shock in the elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) were pretending to respect the Constitution. "But the truth is that the three laws of the criminal justice system that are being implemented from today [Monday] were forcibly passed by suspending 146 MPs [members of Parliament]."

Former Union home minister P Chidambaram said the government had taken a lazy approach and 90-99% of the new laws are simply a cut, copy and paste job.

"A task that could have been completed with a few amendments to the existing three laws has been turned into a wasteful exercise. Yes, there are a few improvements in the new laws, and we have welcomed them. They could have been introduced as amendments," he said on X.

He further said that most of the suggestions received by the committee for reforms in criminal laws were incorporated in the new laws "except 4-5 suggestions of political nature".

Shah urged parties not to give a "political colour" to the implementation of new laws and support them in "public interest".

Nonetheless, he said, he was open to hearing the suggestions but there "should not be politics on this".

Shah also clarified that the police can take custody of arrested people only for 15 days under the new laws, like the erstwhile legislation. "Confusion has been created on this aspect that police remand time has been increased. I want to clarify that the total remand period will remain the same (15 days) in the period of the first 60 days (of arrest)," he said.

The home minister further said the new laws make the forensic investigations mandatory in offences punishable by seven years or more, which will help speed up justice and take the conviction rate up to 90%.

The Union Cabinet, he said, has recently decided to set up campuses of forensic science university and establish six new Central Forensic Science Laboratories (CFSLS) in nine more states as India will need manpower of 40,000 forensic experts in coming days. Currently there are seven CFSLS in Hyderabad, Kolkata, Chandigarh, New Delhi, Guwahati, Bhopal and Pune.

MAKE IN INDIA PLAN

writing to manufacture Rafale fighters in India under the "Make in India" rubric with locally sourced components to meet IAF's demand, the two people added, asking not to be named. This comes even as engine maker Safran SA is setting up a MRO facility to handle Rafale fighter engines (if numbers are enough) at Hyderabad adjacent to the company's LEAP engine facility for civilian aircraft, which will be ready by 2025. Safran, the people added, has conveyed that if there is a Rafale order for IAF, it is willing to manufacture the M-88 engines in India.

Given that HAL's LCA Mark II with GE-414 engines, which will replace the Mirage 2000, will not be ready before the middle of the next decade, the Rafale fighter will not only meet India's requirement but also allow India to export the same fighters to third countries. Dassault has already started sourcing titanium parts from companies in India for manufacture of Rafale fighters and plans to add more local vendors to the supply chain list.

According to the two people, the manufacture of Rafale fighters in India is a win-win for both close allies as Dassault already has some 300 fighter orders in hand from Croatia, Greece, Serbia, Egypt, Qatar, UAE and Indonesia and has no capacity to manufacture extra planes for India. The company is also in talks with Saudi Arabia for supply of fighters and the French Air Force has asked it for 42 more Rafales.

IAF is already operating 36 Rafale fighters with Hammer and SCALP missiles with the Indian Navy currently involved in price negotiations for 26 Maritime Strike Rafales for the INS Vikrant aircraft carrier. India already has base maintenance depots, repairs, training and simulators for Rafales in its Ambala air base.

Given the gestation period for fighters and engines is over decades, the Modi government has also taken reassurance from France's stable licensing policy which will ensure there is no hiccup — like Russia, France has been supplying aircraft to India since the Toofani fighter in 1953.

The people added that Safran is also ready for a joint venture with an Indian company for manufacture of engines for

Indian Multi-Role Helicopters (IMRH) so that India does not have to look for a third country for urgent supplies.

With the Chinese PLA in an aggressive mood on the land and sea with India and equipped with its own fifth generation J-20 fighters, the Indian Air Force needs to be bolstered as its force levels are below its projected requirement. China has developed the WS-15 engine, reverse engineering it from the Russian AL-31, and is rapidly expanding its force levels on land, air and sea. "India can ill afford to further delay the acquisition of advanced multi-role fighters as the Chinese challenge will increase by the day," said a national security planner.

SETBACK FOR MACRON

could secure a working majority in parliament in the decisive final round next Sunday — or they might fall short, stymied at the last hurdle by opponents who still hope to prevent the formation of France's first far-right government since World War II.

The first round decides less than 100 of the 577-seat National Assembly. Most projections published by French polling organisations showed the RN falling short of an absolute majority, but the final outcome remains far from certain.

A hung parliament could lead to months of political paralysis and chaos — just as Paris is preparing to host the Olympic Games this summer, and while France on the international stage takes a prime role in backing Ukraine against the Russian invasion.

French Prime Minister Gabriel Attal, who is likely to be forced to resign after the second round, warned that the far right was now at the "gates of power".

The RN should not get a "single vote" in the second round, he said. "We have seven days to spare France from catastrophe," said Raphael Glucksmann, a key figure in the left-wing alliance.

The second round will see a three-way or two-way run-off in the remainder of the seats to be decided, with Macron's camp hoping that tactical voting will prevent the RN winning the 289 seats needed for an absolute majority.

Macron in a written statement urged a "broad" coalition against the far right in the sec-

ond round, amid controversy among supporters over whether they should tactically vote for the left where needed in the second round.

The arrival of the anti-immigration and eurosceptic RN in government would be a turning point in French modern history: the first time a Far Right force has taken power in the country since World War II, when it was occupied by Nazi Germany.

If the RN takes an absolute majority and Jordan Bardella, 28, becomes prime minister this would create a tense period of "cohabitation" with Macron, who has vowed to serve out his term until 2027.

Rancour remained over Macron's decision to call the election in the first place, a move he took with only a tight circle of advisers in the hours after his party was trounced by the RN in European elections last month.

The chaos risks damaging the international credibility of Macron, regarded by some as the European Union's number-one leader and who immediately after the second round will attend the Nato summit in Washington.

"Macron's gamble of calling for a snap election has backfired, leaving him weakened and isolated," said Celia Belin, senior policy fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR). She described the move as "self-sabotage, accelerating the rise of the far right in French politics by months or even years."

The French result comes after the European Parliament elections last month strengthened hard-right parties overall, though their performance varied from country to country.

It also comes as Hungary, led by Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, long known as a Eurosceptic, took over the European Union's presidency for the coming six months.

German and Polish leaders said it was too early to judge the election result before Sunday's second ballot in France, but some still warned of a shift to the right.

"This trend is really dangerous," the Polish prime minister Donald Tusk told reporters on Monday, adding that the election result was "a very clear sign of what is going on, not only in France but also in some other countries of Western Europe."

GGM COPS ISSUE ADVISORY OF WORK AT NH-48, WARN OF SNARLS

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

GURUGRAM: The Gurugram police issued an advisory on Monday night, warning that traffic will be affected for four days on National Highway 48 (NH-48) on the carriageway from Gurugram towards Delhi due to maintenance work being carried out by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

Virender Vij, deputy commissioner of police (traffic), said the service road from Shiv Murti to Rangpuri will remain closed. "We want commuters to take alternative route to ensure smooth passage. The traffic movement will be likely slow on the stretch," he said.

Vibhor Tyagi, a resident of Sector 32 who commutes on NH-48 daily, said while maintenance work is necessary, it is going to cause a lot of inconvenience to commuters. "The alternate routes are already congested, and this closure will make things worse," he said.

WOMAN DIES AT EMPLOYER'S HOUSE, KIN SAY FOUL PLAY

NEW DELHI: A 40-year-old woman died of electrocution at the house of her employer in Jagatpuri, east Delhi, after she came in contact with a faulty refrigerator on Sunday, police said, even as the her family alleged foul play and said her employer killed her.

DCP (Shahdara) Surendra Chaudhary said police received a call from Mohit Kumar regarding the death of his mother, identified by her single name, Geeta. A team reached the government hospital where she was taken to.

The victim's second son, Preetam Kumar, alleged that the employer "wasted precious time" by taking the victim to her house instead of the hospital. "We suspect that my mother was murdered. She had kept ₹5 lakh and some gold jewellery with him to buy a house," said Kumar.

DCP Chaudhary said forensic experts inspected the refrigerator. We have registered a case and are probing it," he said. **HTC**

HT Homage

Shradhanjali
Late **Shri Kailash Chandra Sharma**
(23-06-1937 - 02-07-2002)
Founder
Kailash Group of Hospitals
22nd Death Anniversary
The light which showed us the right path and taught us the aims of life is sacrifice we pay our respectful homage to the noble soul.
ALWAYS HEADING TOWARDS YOUR IDEALS...

Dr. Mahesh Sharma
MP - Lok Sabha G.B. Nagar
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Dr. Pallavi Sharma
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Dr. Kartik Sharma
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Smt. Lalita Sharma (wife)
Dinesh, Naresh,
Rajesh, Umesh (Sons)
Malti, Kanti (Sisters) &
Kailash Hospital Family

Ph. : 0120-2444444, 2466666
Email: drmahesh3333@gmail.com

Shanti
In Loving Memory of
Smt. Reshma Harbaksh Singh
On her Birthday 2nd July
02.07.1966 06.05.2023

What is one of the biggest gifts of life if not to know that there is someone who would fight the world for you & say things you are unable to. They silently give you shade from so high above that you don't even realise where it's coming from.

Maa, you were born to be that island of relief and protection for so many. We personally feel it more and more as we grow to be stronger like you, for ourselves and others too. We love you so much that one's chest bursts!

Love you forever and beyond!
In Remembrance

Sons: Vikramaditya Singh, Singeshwar Singh & family
Mobile: 8104712288, 7738109926

Forever In Our Hearts
Sunil Lal
1946 to 2024

He lived life kingsize, savouring each moment with a heart full of joy and a spirit that knew no bounds.
Please join us to celebrate his life and his memory

Uthala
3rd July, 2024 (Wednesday) from 4 PM to 5 PM
Venue:
Arun Vihar Community Centre (AVCC)
Arun Vihar, Sector 37, Noida, Uttar Pradesh 201303

Fondly remembered by:
Sandhya, Gaurav, Shruti & all loved ones

CHAUTHA / UTHALA
You Live In Our Hearts and Thoughts Forever

Shri Verinder Kumar Arora
S/o Late Shri Ram Chand Arora (Kamalia)
who left for his heavenly abode on
29 JUNE 2024

CHAUTHA / UTHALA
Will be held on **Tuesday, 02 July 2024**
From 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm
At Sanatan Dharam Mandir, Sector-9, Faridabad

Deeply Mourned by :
Arora Family **Bajaj Family**
Agarwal Family **Khanna Family**
Contact Number : 9810971400, 9911640436

HT Unforgettable

3rd Death Anniversary
Smt. Sarla Verma
15-06-1954 - 02-07-2021

Three years have gone by since you left us, but continue to fill our hearts, minds, & soul with your love and blessings. Fondly remembered by **Shri Jawahar Lal (Husband), Jyoti Jawahar Lal (Daughter), Jyoti Jawahar Lal (Daughter), Jyoti Jawahar Lal (Daughter), Jyoti Jawahar Lal (Daughter)**

Dr. Kamla Kant Mishra
19.05.50 - 02.07.08
Smt. Usha Mishra
12.08.54 - 27.06.2022

Mummy Papa we miss you! Your unconditional love, esteem hardwork, honesty, truthfulness & enthusiasm for life always, inspires and guides us. Things will never remain the same without you, but you will always remain in our heart showing us the right path. We know you are always there somewhere around us. We wish you could return! Deeply missed by- **Dolly, Jolly, Lali, Gudiya, Ajit, Ashok, Kshitij, Aditi, Kaustubh, Cherry & Berry.**

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

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **David Richard** S/o Patric R/o Street No. 13, Near Govt. School, TKD Extn., Govindpuri, New Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence case FIR No. 478/2020 u/s 14 Foreigner Act at P.S. Govindpuri, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **David Richard** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **David Richard** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proceeding u/s 82 Cr.P.C. has been initiated in the case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said **David Richard** accused of FIR No. 478/2020 u/s 14 Foreigner Act at P.S. Govindpuri, New Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on **21.09.2024**.

By Order: **Ms. Devanshi Janmeja,**
Metropolitan Magistrate-04 (South East)
Court No. 10,
Saket Court Complex, New Delhi

DP/6394/SE/2024

GOVERNMENT OF GUJARAT
NARMADA WATER RESOURCES WATER SUPPLY & KALPSAR DEPARTMENT
E-TENDER NOTICE NO.06 OF 2024-25

In the name and on behalf of Governor of Gujarat State, The Executive Engineer, Ver II Project Division Vyara Dist. Tapi Pin code No.394650 (Phone No.02626-222090) Invites online tender from registered Contractors in the class shown below for the work as under.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	(1) Estimate Cost (2) Class of Registration (3) E.M.D. (4) Tender Fee D.D. (5) Solvency (6) Time Limit
1.	Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) Construction Work of Air-filled Rubber Dam Across River Ambika Near Village Pathakavadi, Ta.Dolvan, Dist. Tapi.	(1) Rs.79,12,80,486.97/- (2) "AA" Class (3) Rs.79,13,000.00/- (4) Rs.18,000/- (5)Rs.15,82,56,097/- (6)24 Months.
2.	Downloading of tender Document	Dt.04/07/2024 to Dt.05/08/2024 upto 18.00 Hrs.
3.	Tender Uploading Date	Dt.04/07/2024 to Dt.05/08/2024 upto 18.00 Hrs.
4.	Pre-bid Conference Date & Address	Dt.18/07/2024 at 12.00 Hrs. Office of Committee Room, Block No.9 Fourth Floor, Sachivalay, Gandhinagar
5.	Last date & Physical Submission of Tender fee, EMD & Other Documents in Division office during office hours by RPA/Speed Post Only.	Upto dt.16/08/2024 upto 18.00 Hrs. Executive Engineer Ver-II Project Division, Vyara Ph.No.02626-222090
6.	PQ Bid Opening Date & Time	On Dt.06/08/2024, 12.00 Hrs. Office of Superintending Engineer, Ukai (Civil) Circle, Ukai.
7.	Inquiry/ Contact office Address	Executive Engineer Ver-II Project Division, Vyara Ph.No.02626-222090 Superintending Engineer, Ukai Division (Civil)Ukai, Dist. Tapi Ph.No.02624-233270, 233269

Detailed notice of these works can be found on the website <https://tender.nprocure.com> or more details regarding these works can be obtained by contacting this office during working days.

No.:Mahiti-Surat/206/2024

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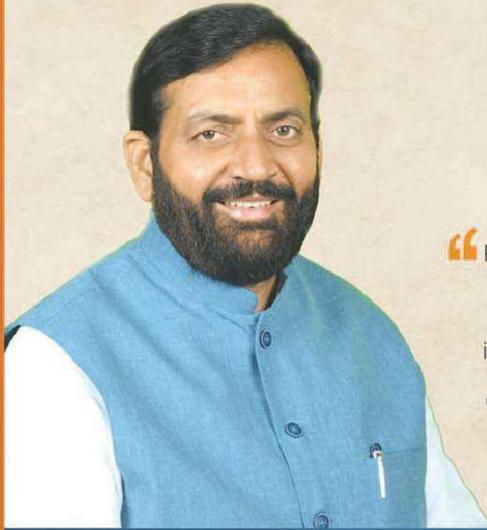
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HT Del (Metro Run) + HT Chd. + HT Mum + HT Pune	₹ 1100/-

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Govt. of Haryana

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- Nayab Singh



“Our Government will continue to work to strengthen Panchayati Raj institutions and give wings to people's dreams.”

- Narendra Modi



Decentralization of Powers Strengthening Panchayats

State Level Panchayati Raj & Sarpanch Sammelan

Chief Guest

Sh. Nayab Singh

Chief Minister, Haryana

Presided Over By

Sh. Mahipal Dhanda

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

Date
July 2, 2024

Time
1:00 PM

Venue
**Auditorium,
Kurukshetra University
Kurukshetra**



Scan QR Code
to Join
the Program



All Sarpanches across the State are Cordially Invited to the Sammelan

Development and Panchayats Department, Haryana



Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana

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GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
SR. NO	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./ AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/ EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./ AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/ EMAIL
1	HARYANA STATE WAREHOUSING CORPORATION	CONSTRUCTION OF 37.884 MTS CAPACITY GODOWNS, CC ROADS, LABOUR HUT, TOILET, GUARD ROOM AND CONVERSION OF 15246 MTS CONVERTIBLE PLINTHS INTO COVERED GODOWNS ETC WITH ARCH-SHAPED GALVALUME SHEET WITH ARCH-MM THICK AND E.I. WORK AT FSD CAMPUS MEHUWALA (DISTT. FATEHABAD) + 41 WORKS	26.06.2024 12.07.2024	52.27 CRORES	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01722587200 sechwhc@hry.nic.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaaprocurment.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in
RO No. 13/2025/40/27/350/1/19/7

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF TRAINING NATIONAL SKILL TRAINING INSTITUTE (WOMEN) D-1, SECTOR-1, NOIDA (U.P.) - 201301 Tel : 0120-2535266, Email: nstiwnoida@dgat.gov.in Website : https://nstiwnoida.dgt.gov.in	
ADMISSION NOTICE-2024-25	
Admission to courses under Craft Instructor Training Scheme (CITS) at National Skill Training Institutes NSTI (W), Noida for the academic session 2024-25 will be made through All India Common Entrance Test (AICT) which is scheduled to be held on 21.07.2024 . Applications are invited for Computer Based Test (online) on www.nimionlineadmission.in from the eligible candidates w.e.f. from 15.06.2024 to 05.07.2024 to appear in the entrance test at various centers across the country. For more details visit: www.nimionlineadmission.in & Institute's website http://nstiwnoida.dgt.gov.in and contact on - 9868729584 .	
CBC 63108/12/0002/2425	

Thane Municipal Corporation, Thane Solid Waste Management Tender Notice	
Request For Qualification (RFQ) City cleaning services for the project area in Thane Municipal Corporation (Package-I) and (Package-II) under public private partnership mode through Design Build Finance Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) invited by Solid Waste Management department of Thane Municipal Corporation. Separate RFQ invited for Package-I and Package-II areas. The RFQ documents will be available on www.mahatender.gov.in . The schedule of key dates is as follows.	
Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)	1) City Cleaning Services for the Project Area in Thane Municipal Corporation (Package I) 2) City Cleaning Services for the Project Area in Thane Municipal Corporation (Package II)
Date of Purchase/Download of RFQ Documents	02/07/2024 onwards
Cost of tender documents	Rs 25000/- + GST Package I
Cost of tender documents	Rs 25000/- + GST Package II
Submission of Pre-Bid Queries by prospective Bidders	On or before 10/07/2024 till 3.00 PM
Pre-Bid Meeting date, time and venue	10/07/2024 Venue: Conference Hall, Commissioner Office, TMC @ 3.00 PM
Pre-Bid Meeting Clarifications by Authority	15/07/2024
Bid Due Date (Online submission)	Date: 02/08/2024 Time: 3.00 pm
Bid- Opening Date and Time D	Date: 03/08/2024 Time: 4.00 pm
Thane Municipal Corporation reserve the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without giving reasons thereof. TMC/PRO/ S.W.M.D/98/2024-25 Dt.01.07.2024 Sd/- Dy. Municipal Commissioner Solid Waste Management Department Thane Municipal Corporation pls visit our official web-site www.thanecity.gov.in	

Thane Municipal Corporation, Thane Solid Waste Management Tender Notice	
Thane Municipal corporation Solid Waste Management Department Invites Tender for legacy waste management, by E-tenders process on the website www.mahatender.gov.in as follows. The schedule of key dates is as follows.	
Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)	Thane Municipal corporation Solid Waste Management Department Invites Tender for legacy waste management
Date of purchase / Download of Tender Document	Date : 02/07/2024 onwards
Cost of tender documents	Rs 25000/- + GST
Submission of Pre-Bid Queries by prospective Bidders	On or before Date : 11/07/2024 till 3.00 PM
Pre-Bid Meeting date, Time and venue	Date:11/07/2024 venue : Conference Additional Commissioner-2 office,TMC @ 3.00 P.M
Pre-Bid meeting clarification by Authority	Date : 15/07/2024
Bid Due date (Online submission)	Date : 02/08/2024 Time : 3.00 P.M
Bid- Opening Date and Time D	Date : 03/08/2024 Time : 4.00 P.M
Thane Municipal Corporation reserve the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without giving reasons thereof. TMC/PRO/ S.W.M.D/99/2024-25 Dt.01.07.2024 Sd/- Dy. Municipal Commissioner Solid Waste Management Department Thane Municipal Corporation pls visit our official web-site www.thanecity.gov.in	

GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH ARUNACHAL STATE RURAL LIVELIHOODS MISSION, ITANAGAR Email- srlmceo@gmail.com / cooskills.arsrlm@gmail.com www.arsrlm.in No. ArSRLM-15022/1/2024-ArSRLM-ASRLM E-191298 Dated Itanagar, the 27th June 2024	
Expression of Interest	
Arunachal State Rural Livelihoods Mission (ArSRLM) invites proposal under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushal Yojana (DDU-GKY) for Captive Employer in the state of Arunachal Pradesh for skill training and placement for rural poor youth. The applicant agencies need to adhere to the guideline and SOP laid down by Ministry of Rural Development, GOI for Captive Employer vide Notification 18/2020 dated 6th Oct' 2020 and DDU-GK Y. Interested and eligible organization may submit their offline (Hard Copy) along with a complete set of supporting documents in covered sealed envelope addressed to The Chief Executive Officer cum State Mission Director, Arunachal State Rural Livelihoods Mission, 3rd & 4th Floor Alexander House, Niti Vihar, VIP Road, Itanagar, Pin Code 791111. The envelope should be super scribed as 'Captive Employer DDU-GKY Project Proposal'. While preparing the proposal, latest CNN (Cost Norm Notification) is to be taken into account. The appraisal of the project proposals shall be carried out based on Captive Employer vide Notification 18/2020 dated 6th Oct 2020. Further, Potential Captive Employers may keep into consideration below mentioned points before applying: 1. Training will be for residential course only. 2. Training will be provided to Arunachal Pradesh Schedule Tribe (APST) youths only. Potential Captive Employer may also apply for providing training only to the Special Groups such as PWD, Victims of trafficking, manual scavengers, trans-gender, rehabilitated bonded labour etc. Important information are as follows:	
1 Name of Assignment	To Select a Partner as Captive Employer with ArSRLM under DDU-GKY
2 Download of Request for Proposal Document	01/07/2024 from ArSRLM Official website www.arsrlm.in
3 Last Date of receiving Queries	08/07/2024 at 1700 Hrs
4 Last Date for submission of Proposal	12/07/2024 at 1700 Hrs
5 Contact Details	Ruzing Bellai, Chief Operating Officer (Skills). Ph 8119020465 or cooskills.arsrlm@gmail.com Gyati Hassang & Asstt. MIS GKY, Ph No. 9774892284 or assttmisgky@gmail.com
CEO-cum-State Mission Director, Arunachal State Rural Livelihoods Mission Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar DIPR/ARN/539	

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY E-Tender No. : JHS-ENG-N-2024-129 E-TENDER NOTICE	
Divisional Railway Manager (Works) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work.	
Approx Cost : 6489662.99	Earnest Money : 129800.00
Description of work : Pumping out water arrangements with other ancillary works at LHSs under ADEN/GWL sub division for 02 year period.	
Date of closing Tender : 24/07/2024 at 15:00 hrs., Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter : 24 Months - Tender online can be submitted up to 15:00 hrs on 24.07.2024 - For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.irreps.gov.in 1142/24 (AN)	
North central railways @ www.nccr.indianrailways.gov.in @northcentralrailway @CPRONCR	

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY Tender Notice No.: 11/2024/RS/JHS Dated: 28.06.2024 TENDER NOTICE	
For and on behalf of President of India, the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (Rolling Stock) North Central Railway, Jhansi invites open tenders through online (E-Tendering) for the following work:-	
Tender No. JHS-RS-WC-T7-2024-25	
Description: Set of test benches for testing of pneumatic valves of Air brake system of Electric Locomotives.	
Tender Value: 4436800.00	Earnest money: 88700.00
Completion period from the date of issue of LOA.: 06 Months	
Closing date of tender: 24.07.2024, Tenderer will submit the tender online upto 24.07.2024 (15:00 Hrs.). Complete details & for submission of tenders can be seen in Indian Railway website http://www.irreps.gov.in 1137/24 (P)	
North central railways @ www.nccr.indianrailways.gov.in @northcentralrailway @CPRONCR	

Government of Madhya Pradesh Office of the Engineer-in-Chief, Water Resources Department Jal Sansadhan Bhawan, Tulsī Nagar, Bhopal (M.P.) Email Id : ceproc.enrcwd.bpl@nic.in Tel: 0755-2767635, Fax : 0755-2552406 N.I.T. No. 1071/2024-25/E-in-C/e-tendering Bhopal, Dated 26.06.2024				
Bids for following works are invited on website https://www.mptenders.gov.in . Last Date of purchase/download of Bid Document and submission of bid is 15.07.2024, 17:30 hrs. Any amendment/modification can be seen only on the website. Detailed N.I.T. and other details can be viewed on above mentioned website.				
S. No.	Tender No.	Work	District	Amount (Lakhs)
1.	2024 WRD_349136	Construction and development of basic facilities for rehabilitation of village Keshpur under Kaniyakhedī Medium Irrigation Project.	Sehore	793.84
2.	2024 WRD_349138	Construction of building at village Dhanora, Barahbriyari, Tumda, Mouar, Keowlari Sambha, Jamuniya and Mogaon at block Chhindwara and Chourai.	Chhindwara	409.50
G-12707/24 Chief Engineer (Procurement)				

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER PUBLIC HEALTH & MEDICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT Satpura Bhawan, 6 th Floor, M.P. Bhopal E-mail : dme12001@yahoo.com Website : www.medicaleducation.mp.gov.in	
No. 857/4/PG/DME/2024 Bhopal, dated 01.07.2024 // Advertisement //	
Information regarding Admissions in MDS Course under State Quota seats in Government Autonomous & Private Dental Colleges of State for academic session 2024-25	
The process of registration for Admission in MDS course, on all the seats under State Quota in Government & Private Dental Colleges of State for academic session 2024-25 on the basis of NEET MDS-2024 merit is commencing from 03/07/2024.	
The Counselling schedule and other relevant information regarding the above mentioned Counseling shall be available on Directorate of Medical Education website www.medicaleducation.mp.gov.in and also on designated portal https://dme.mponline.gov.in Any Change in the programme will be published on D.M.E. website and designated portal. Candidates are advised to remain in touch with D.M.E. & M.P. Online website regularly for updates. No separate advertisement will be published regarding any change.	
For any query regarding counseling, candidate may contact on dedicated e-mail I.D. mpugggcounseling@gmail.com	
Director of Medical Education Madhya Pradesh G-12683/23	

P.W. Division Govt. Resolution No. CAT-2017/CR-8/Bldg-2 Date 22 October, 2018 PRAPATRA-1 GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA Office Of The Executive Engineer Address:- Public Works Division No-1, Civil Line Chandrapur - 442401 E-Mail Address - chandrapur1.ee@mahapwd.gov.in Phone No - 07172-250245		
E-Tender Notice No. 1/SBD year 2024-25		
Executive Engineer, Public Works Division No.1 Chandrapur (Tel. No. 07172-250245) Invites e.Tenders in "Item Rates" SBD" Form. Download detail tender papers from the website https://mahatenders.gov.in The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders. Conditional Tenders will not be accepted.		
Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated cost in Rs. Lakh
1.	CONSTRUCTION OF NEW COURT BUILDING WITH ELECTRIFICATION AT CHANDRAPUR TA & DISTRICT CHANDRAPUR	4910.00
Download Period of Online Tender Online Time Table		
All Details are Display on 1 http://mahapwd.com 2 https://mahatenders.gov.in (If any change in tender notice then all changes are shown in above website only) 3 Tender Notice board		
Rules		
1 The EMD will be paid via online (RTGS/NEFT) mode only. It should be ensured that the EMD is paid online through the bidders account only. 2 These works include the Post Qualification Criteria. 3 To participate in e.tenders the contractors should register themselves for Class-III digital signature and at the above website for e.tenders. 4 Online time table is final.		
Outword No./ /D-4(1)/Tender/2024-25 Office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Division No.1, Chandrapur. Ph.No.- 07172-250245 Sd/- (S. V. Kumbhe) Executive Engineer Public Works Division No.1, Chandrapur DGIPR/2024-25/ROC 532		

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
SR. NO	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/ EMAIL
1	HARYANA AGRO INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LIMITED	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PARTICIPATION IN E-BIDDING PROCESS ON STAR AGRI BAZAAR AND NEML PORTAL ON 16TH JULY 2024 FOR SUPPLY OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES TO HAICL SPECIFIED DELIVERY POINTS WITHIN THE STATE OF HARYANA.	16.07.2024	10000/- AS PER THE CONTRACT NOTE	http://haicl.co.in	0172-2561305 haicpl@haicl.com
2	HARYANA AGRO INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LIMITED	SHORT TERM E-TENDER FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITY ITEMS FOR THE HAR-HITH RETAIL PROJECT OF HARYANA AGRO INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LIMITED ON 16TH JULY 2024 FOR SUPPLY TO HAICL SPECIFIED DELIVERY POINTS/DC'S/WAREHOUSES WITHIN THE STATE OF HARYANA	02.07.2024 16.07.2024	10000/-	http://www.haicl.co.in	0172-2561305 haicpl@haicl.com
3	HARYANA AGRO INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LIMITED	SHORT TERM E-TENDER FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF FORTIFIED MUSTARD OIL FOR THE HAR-HITH RETAIL PROJECT OF HARYANA AGRO INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LIMITED ON 16TH JULY 2024 FOR SUPPLY TO HAICL SPECIFIED DELIVERY POINTS/DC'S/WAREHOUSES WITHIN THE STATE OF HARYANA	02.07.2024 16.07.2024	10000/-	http://www.haicl.co.in	0172-2561305 haicpl@haicl.com
4	HARYANA AGRO INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LIMITED	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PARTICIPATION IN E-BIDDING PROCESS ON STAR AGRI BAZAAR AND NEML PORTAL ON 16TH JULY 2024 FOR SUPPLY OF FORTIFIED MUSTARD OIL & FORTIFIED SUNFLOWER OIL TO HAICL SPECIFIED DELIVERY POINTS WITHIN THE STATE OF HARYANA.	CLOSING DATE 16.07.2024	10000/- AS PER THE CONTRACT NOTE	http://www.haicl.co.in	0172-2561305 haicpl@haicl.com
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaaprocurment.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO No 13/2025/160/27358/1/19/7						

झारखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग सर्कुलर नोट, राँची-834001 प्रेस विज्ञापित	
विज्ञापन सं-16/2023, बिरसा कृषि विश्वविद्यालय, राँची अन्तर्गत पशु चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, राँची में विश्वविद्यालय प्राध्यापक-सह-मुख्य वैज्ञानिक (University Professor-cum- Chief Scientist) के पद पर नियमित नियुक्ति के संबंध में आवश्यक सूचना।	
बिरसा कृषि विश्वविद्यालय, राँची अन्तर्गत पशु चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, राँची में विश्वविद्यालय प्राध्यापक-सह-मुख्य वैज्ञानिक (University Professor-cum- Chief Scientist) के पद पर नियमित नियुक्ति हेतु विज्ञापन सं-16/2023 का प्रकाशन किया गया था। उक्त विज्ञापन के आलोक में प्राप्त कुल 11(ग्यारह) आवेदनों का विज्ञापन की कडिका-04 के आलोक में अर्हता की जाँच की गई।	
कुल 11(ग्यारह) आवेदनों में 09 आवेदन ऐसे हैं जिसे कतिपय कारणों से अयोग्य घोषित किया गया है। अयोग्य अर्हियों की सूची आयोग के वेबसाइट पर प्रकाशित की गई है। संबंधित अर्हियों अपनी अयोग्यता का कारण उक्त सूची में देख सकते हैं। यदि किसी अर्हियों को अपनी अयोग्यता के विरुद्ध दावा करना है तो वे अपना दावा (प्रमाण सहित) दिनांक-02.07.2024 तक email id-professorbau162023@jpsc.gov.in पर online भेज सकते हैं। अंतिम तिथि के पश्चात् प्राप्त दावों पर विचार नहीं किया जाएगा।	
विदित हो कि उक्त विज्ञापन हेतु ऑनलाईन आवेदन करने की अंतिम तिथि 05.07.2023 के बाद का निर्गत कोई भी प्रमाण पत्र मान्य नहीं होगा।	
ह/0/- सचिव, PR 328225 (Jharkhand Public Service Commission) 24-25 (D) झारखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग, राँची।	

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./ AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/ EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/ EMAIL
1.	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION GURUGRAM	ESTIMATE FOR PROVIDING AND FIXING OF 80MM THICK M-35 GRADE INTERLOCKING PAVEMENT BLOCKS AT REVENUE RASTA (KHASRA NO - 95-96-98) IN VILLAGE KANHAL, UNDER MCG + 3 WORKS	27.06.2024 12.07.2024	70.65 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	999674063 es6@mcg.gov.in
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaaprocurment.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO No. 13/2025/40/27/348/1/19/7						

SPECIAL BRANCH POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL No. SB/Store/2024-25 (213), Bhopal, Dated 24.06.2024 "ONLINE E-TENDER NOTICE"					
E-tender are invited by Assistant Inspector General of Police, Special Branch (G) M.P. Bhopal on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal for the following item on website https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app :-					
S. No.	Name of Item(s)	Qty.	Tender Fees (Rs.) Paid Online Through mptenders.gov.in	EMD (Rs.)	Tender No.
1	Portable Door Frame Metal Detector	600	10,000/-	9,00,000/-	1 st Tender
2	Hand Held Metal Detector	1100	10,000/-	11,55,000/-	1 st Tender
1. Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is non refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & must submit online through website https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app .					
2. Tender document can be download from the website of MP Police (www.mppolice.gov.in)					
3. Bids shall be submitted online only at MP Tenders website : https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app					
4. Tender Schedule :					
No.	Tender Activity	Tentative Date & Time			
i	Submission of written queries- through e-mail : sec25-sb@mppolice.gov.in	01/07/2024 up to 1700 hrs.			
ii	Pre Bid Meeting along with written queries	02/07/2024 at 1100 hrs.			
iii	Bid Submission Start Date	10/07/2024 at 1000 hrs.			
iv	Last date of online e-Tender submission	23/07/2024 up to 1600 hrs.			
v	Bid will be opened on	24/07/2024 up to 1600 hrs.			
vi	Demonstration from	31/07/2024 at 11.00 hrs.			
D.I.G. of Police (Intelligence) M.P. Bhopal Tel.No. 0755-2443654 G-12616/24					

Bihar Skill Development Mission (BSDM) Department of Labour Resources, Government of Bihar A-Wing, 5 th Floor, Niyojan Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna-800001 Phone: 0612-2528455 Fax: 0612-2535004 Email: biharskilldevelopmentmission@gmail.com Website: www.skillmissionbihar.org Notice Inviting Request for Proposal	
RFP No: BSDM/RFP-57/2020-Part I-1	
Principal Secretary, Dept. of Labour Resources, Govt. of Bihar- cum- CEO, BSDM, invites proposals (Two Bid System) from reputed and experienced Chartered Accountant Firms for selection of Statutory Auditor, to conduct the Statutory Audit of Bihar Skill Development Mission (BSDM) for the Financial Years 2023-24 to 2025-26.	
Eligibility Criteria for participating Chartered Accountant Firms (CA Firms):	
a. The CA Firm must be currently empaneled with the C&AG. (Empanelment Proof must be valid as on last date of submission of bid)	
b. The CA Firm must be currently registered with ICAI (Latest Certificate of ICAI issued on or after 01.01.2024)	
c. The CA Firm must be constituted on or before 01.04.2019 (Proof of constitution)	
d. The CA Firm should have its Head Office or Functional Branch Office in Bihar (Proof of Office)	
e. The CA Firm must have an Annual Turnover of Rs. 50 Lakh or more in any one of the last three FYs ending on 31 st March 2023. The Turnover figure of FY 23-24 will not be considered. (Audited Financial Statements comprising Balance sheet, Profit & Loss Account of the respective financial year)	
f. At-least three different assignments of Statutory/Internal Audit of Central or State Government Departments or their undertakings or corporations/PSUs entities (except Bank Branch Audit/ Concurrent Audit). The workorders or the assignments must be related to audit period after 01.04.2020.	
g. Minimum Five, Full Time Partners should be associated with the CA Firm at least one partner being a Fellow CA (Latest Certificate of ICAI issued on or after 01.01.2024)	
h. CA Firm who was FIMSC of BSDM in any of last five FY (i.e. from FY 2018-19 to 2023-24) will not be eligible to participate.	
Document Fee and Tender Processing Fee: All Applicants have to pay a non-refundable Document Fee of Rs. 10,000/- (Ten Thousand only) and Tender Processing Fee of Rs. 590.00 or as applicable (Five Hundred Ninety only) through e-payment mode (i.e. NEFT/RTGS/Credit Card/Debit Card) on E-Proc Portal.	
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): An EMD of Rs. 25,000/- (TwentyFive Thousand) through e-payment mode only (i.e. NEFT/RTGS/Credit Card/Debit Card) on E-Proc Portal, well before the last date/time for submission/ uploading of offer/Bid, failing which the bid will be rejected. This EMD will be non-interest bearing and refundable. If the selected bidder fails to submit the requisite performance guarantee or to execute the agreement, this EMD will be forfeited.	
The Proposal has to be submitted through online mode on https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in and can be searched by clicking the Tab "Tender" on home page of above website and then going to Latest Tender by searching Department Name as "Labour Resources Department".	
The application procedure, eligibility criteria, evaluation methodology, terms and conditions and the scope of work are detailed in this RFP which can be seen or downloaded from the "e-Procurement Portal" https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in and departmental website: http://www.skillmissionbihar.org . The RFP will be available to download from the above websites from 01.07.2024. The Pre-bid meeting will be held physically on 02:30 PM of 11.07.2024 at BSDM office. The last date for uploading of proposal/bid will be 31.07.2024 up to 15.00 Hrs. Technical Bid will be opened on or after 31.07.2024 post 16:00 Hrs. The Evaluation of Bids will be under Least Cost System. Please refer RFP document for complete details.	
The undersigned reserves the right to issue addendum/corrigendum/modification or to amend any or all conditions of this RFP Document or to accept or reject any or all proposal(s) or to cancel the whole of this RFP at any stage without assigning any reason thereof and no bidder shall have any cause of action or claim against the undersigned for the same.	
For further details please visit website state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar	
Mission Director, Bihar Skill Development Mission, Department of Labour Resources, Govt. of Bihar PR- 002916 (L R D) 2024-25 नये की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।	

State-of-the-art weapons, tech for soldiers a top priority: Army chief

Rahul Singh
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A day after taking over as India's 30th army chief, General Upendra Dwivedi on Monday drew attention to the unique operational challenges confronting the force even as he underlined the need to remain prepared for the emerging threats and called for equipping soldiers with modern weapons and technology.

In his maiden address as army chief, Dwivedi also touched upon indigenisation of military hardware, synergy among the three services, and welfare measures for soldiers and their families.



Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi inspects the Guard of Honour, in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

"The Indian Army faces unique operational challenges and to remain prepared for such threats and distinctive requirements, it is crucial that we continuously equip our soldiers with state-of-the-art weapons and technology and continue to evolve our war-fighting strategies," Dwivedi said after inspecting a guard of honour at the South Block.

Dwivedi has assumed charge at a time when the military standoff between India and China in the Ladakh sector is now in its fifth year.

"This is a moment of immense

pride and honour for me to be assigned the responsibility to lead the Indian Army. The glorious traditions of the army rest on the legacy of valour and sacrifice of our soldiers. I pay my solemn tributes to the bravehearts who made supreme sacrifice in the line of duty," he said.

An alumnus of Sainik School, Rewa, Dwivedi was commissioned into 18 Jammu and Kashmir Rifles of the Indian Army in 1984. He commanded the unit later.

On indigenisation, the army chief said, "The Indian Army is on the 'path to transformation' and we aspire to be 'Atmanirbhar' (self-reliant). To achieve

this, we will encourage Indigenous Initiatives and induct maximum war systems and equipment that are manufactured in our country."

Dwivedi also highlighted the significance of synergy among the three services.

"It will be my endeavour to ensure that the Indian Army is always ready to operate in the full spectrum of conflict, maintaining complete synergy with the Indian Navy, Indian Air Force and other stakeholders. This will ensure that India's interests are secured, and we become a major pillar of nation building to achieve the vision of 'Viksit Bharat-2047,'" he said.

Lt Gen Subramani takes over as army vice chief

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani on Monday took over as the army's vice chief, succeeding General Upendra Dwivedi who took charge as the army chief on Sunday.

Subramani was the Central Army commander in Lucknow before he assumed the new appointment.

An alumnus of National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, and Indian Military Academy, Dehradun, he was commissioned into the Garhwal Rifles in December 1985.

"In an illustrious career spanning over 37 years, he has served across a wide spectrum of conflict and terrain profiles and has tenanted a host of command, staff and instructional appointments. The General Officer has insightful knowledge and a deep understanding of operational dynamics on both the western and northern borders," the army said in a statement.

He is also an alumnus of Joint Services Command Staff College, Bracknell, UK, and National Defence College, New Delhi. He holds a Master of Arts Degree from King's College London and an M Phil in Defence Studies from Madras University.

Lieutenant General Anindya Sengupta replaced Subramani as the Central Army commander. After taking over, he exhorted all ranks to continue working with soldierly pride and honour. He was earlier the chief of staff of the Udhampur-based Northern Command.

In other top appointments, Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth has taken over as the Southern Army commander in Pune, Lieutenant General Manjinder Singh is the new South Western Army commander in Jaipur and Lieutenant General Devendra Sharma is the new chief of the Army Training Command in Shimla. Seth was earlier heading South Western Command, Singh was heading the Army Training Command and Sharma was chief of staff of the Chandimandir-based Western Command.

NEET-UG retest results out, none score full marks

HT Correspondents
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI/GURUGRAM: The National Testing Agency (NTA) has announced the results of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG), 2024, retest and issued a revised rank list for this year's premium medical entrance exam, which has been embroiled in a raging controversy, according to a notification issued late on Sunday.

The retest was conducted on June 23 for the candidates who were given grace marks in the exam held on May 5 due to a loss of time following a Supreme Court intervention. A section of students had complained that they did not get the stipulated 3 hours and 20 minutes to complete the examination. The NTA grievance committee looked into this and identified 1,563 candidates from six centres in Meghalaya, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Surat and Chandigarh who did not get enough time to write the test. Of these 1,563 candidates, 813 appeared for the re-exam.

According to NTA officials, the six students from the same Haryana centre who scored 720/720 in the original exam, did not get perfect scores in the retest, bringing down the number of toppers from 67 to 61.

One of the original toppers said they got 637 marks in the retest and were unlikely to get admission into a college of their choice. "I have achieved decent marks but with this score, I will not get any good college," said the student.

A student from Jharkhand, who was among the perfect scorers in the May 5 test, said they scored 448 marks in the retest. "I did not get time to prepare for the retest. I will take a drop this year and appear next year, but I have become a subject of mockery in my neighbourhood," said the 17-year-old, requesting anonymity.

SIX STUDENTS WHO SCORED 720/720 IN EXAM DID NOT GET PERFECT SCORES IN THE RETEST, BRINGING DOWN THE NUMBER OF TOPPERS FROM 67 TO 61

This year's NEET-UG, conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) for admissions to MBBS, BDS and other related undergraduate courses across India, has been beset with a series of allegations ranging from question paper leaks, inflated marking and arbitrary allowance of grace marks — issues that have become a nationwide flashpoint for political parties, leading to thousands of students protesting for weeks. The examination was conducted at 4,750 centres in 571 cities, including 14 abroad, with 2.3 million candidates appearing for it.

Several petitioners have approached the Supreme Court with various requests relating to the exam, including a plea to scrap it entirely or halt the counselling process — by which students are allotted seats in different colleges — that is scheduled to begin on July 6. The court refused to pass any interim orders and is due to hear the matter again on July 8.

Last week, the Union education ministry of education handed over the probe into allegations of cheating and question paper leaks in the NEET-UG examination to the Central Bureau of Investigation. The federal agency has registered at least six cases in the matter and arrested six people from across the country, suspecting that a "larger conspiracy" with "interstate links" existed in connection with the irregularities.

17-YR-OLD NEET ASPIRANT DIES BY SUICIDE IN SIKAR

JAIPUR: A 17-year-old National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) aspirant has died by suicide in Sikar district of Rajasthan, making it the 13th such incident in the state this year, police said on Monday.

This is the 13th suicide this year by any student preparing for a competitive exam in the state, with 12 being reported from coaching hub Kota.

According to police, the student from Jaipur arrived in Sikar's Udhay Nagar on Wednesday and was staying in a rented accommodation with his younger brother.

"The incident came to light when his landlord went to the room and found his body," Surendra Degra, station house officer (SHO) of Udhay Nagar police station said.

The SHO added that no suicide note has been recovered from the room and preliminary probe hasn't suggested any behavioural changes. The body has been sent to the district medical college hospital for an autopsy, he said.

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

SC TO HEAR PLEA ON OMR SHEET 'SWAP' AFTER TWO WEEKS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday posted for hearing after two weeks a plea alleging OMR sheet manipulation in NEET-UG, 2024.

The plea came up for hearing before a vacation bench of Justice CT Ravikumar and Justice Manoj Misra.

The counsel appearing for the petitioner, who had taken the medical entrance exam, alleged that his OMR sheet was swapped.

The bench later told the counsel that the petitioner was seeking permission to appear in the retest that was held on June 23.

"The exam (re-test) is over on June 23," the bench said. PTI

{ TO TRAIN 180 COMMERCIAL PILOTS ANNUALLY }

Air India to set up South Asia's largest flying school in Maharashtra

Yogesh Naik
letters@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: Air India will set up South Asia's largest flying institute at Amravati in Maharashtra's Vidarbha region with an aim to train 180 commercial pilots annually, the Tata Group-owned airline said on Monday.

The flying training organisation (FTO), licensed by the airline regulator DGCA, will come

up at the Belora Airport in Amravati and become operational from the first quarter of the next financial year. The FTO, the first by any Indian airline in the country, will have 31 single-engine and three twin-engine aircraft for training.

"It is a significant step towards making Indian aviation more self-reliant. The young pilots coming out of this FTO will fuel Air India's ambition of

THE INSTITUTE WILL BE SET UP AT BELORA AIRPORT IN AMRAVATI DISTT

becoming a world-class airline, as it moves ahead in its transformation journey," Campbell Wilson, MD CEO, Air India, said.

The airline said it has got the tender from the state-owned

Maharashtra Airport Development Company to operate the flying institute for 30 years.

Recently, the MADC has expanded the runway of the Amravati airport from 1,370 metres to 1,850 metres for the operation of Q400 planes. "The infrastructure at Belora airport was recently upgraded and it now has the instrument-landing and the night-landing systems," MADC managing director Swati

Pandey said.

The facility will have digitally enabled classrooms, hostels at par with global academies, a digitised operation centre, and a maintenance unit. Air India said in a statement. "The FTO will be operational by Q1 FY26 and offer aspiring pilots an opportunity to undergo training with world-class curricula," Sunil Bhaskaran, director, Aviation Academy, Air India, said.

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RAGHAV NOW TAKES A LITTLE MORE INTEREST IN FILMS: PARINEETI CHOPRA

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S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Chief Engineer (CON)/HQ, South Eastern Railway, Garden Reach, Kolkata-700043 invites E-tender for the following work. Following tender has been uploaded on website www.ireps.gov.in. The tender will be closed at 12.00 hrs. on due date. e-Tender Notice No.: 4507-GRC-CE-C-HQ-47-2024, Date: 28.06.2024. Brief Description of work: Execution for extension of BCN shed at Nimpura in connection with infrastructure facilities for augmentation of ROH capacity of wagon from 250 to 450 per month in the jurisdiction of Dy. Chief Engineer (Con), S.E. Railway, Kharagpur. Approx. Cost: ₹ 19.54 Crore. Bid Security: ₹ 11,27,100. Completion Period: 12 months. Closing Date: 22.07.2024. Interested tenderers may visit website www.ireps.gov.in for full details/description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tender for this item will be accepted. N.B.: Prospective bidders may regularly visit www.ireps.gov.in to participate in all other tenders. (PR-325)

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The Managing Director, JMHDPC, Namkum, Ranchi hereby invites separate Technical and Commercial Bids (Two Envelope System) through e-tender from WHO/NABL ACCREDITED ANALYTICAL LABORATORIES for testing of Drugs and other items.

The Blank tender documents with detailed conditions can be downloaded through web site <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> and should be submitted through e-procurement system only. The eligible bidders willing to participate must necessarily be registered in e-Procurement portal.

Sl.No.	Particulars	Details
1	Name of Work	Empanelment of Analytical Lab.
2	Time of Completion	Within 30 days after issue of work order
3	Date of Publication of Tender on website	03.07.2024
4	Pre-Bid Meeting Date/Time	10.07.2024 at 3.00 PM
5	Date / time for receipt of bids	19.07.2024 to 25.07.2024 at 4.00 PM
6	Date of Technical Bid opening	26.07.2024 at 4.00 PM
7	Application fee (Non-refundable)	Rs. 5,000.00 (Online Payment Gateway)
8	EMD	Rs. 10,000.00 (Online Payment Gateway)
9	Contact no. of procurement person	8709368893, 7000891789.

Note: The above dates may change due to declaration of holidays. JMHDPC Ranchi reserves the right to amend or withdraw any of the terms and conditions contained in the Tender Document including quantity/amount of items to be supplied or to reject any or all tenders without giving any notice or assigning any reason. The decision of the Managing Director, JMHDPC, Namkum, Ranchi in this regard shall be final. Detailed tender document can be seen and applied through website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> only. PR 328264 Jharkhand Medical & Health Infrastructure Dev & Procurement Corp Ltd (24-25)_D

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Kharge's attack on RSS sparks strong objection by Chairman

Smriti Kak Ramachandran
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Congress president and Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) over a host of issues, including alleged irregularities in this year's NEET-UG, and levelled allegations against the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), even as Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar defended the organisation, objected to some of the remarks and expunged them from the records.

Participating in the discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address in the Upper House, Kharge also cited the recent terror attacks in Jammu & Kashmir, the collapse of canopy at three airports, the train accident in West Bengal, the violence in Manipur, bridge collapses in Bihar and the hike in toll tax during the third term of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA)-led government, and took a swipe at Modi over his remark that the last 10 years of his rule was just a trailer and "picture abhi baaki hai (the real picture is yet to come)". "How the Prime Minister's picture would be, we have been able to imagine in the last one month," Kharge said.

During his nearly 90-minute speech in the House, Kharge lashed out at Modi for allegedly invoking communal sentiments during the campaign for the Lok Sabha polls and cited newspaper reports to buttress his remarks.

The Congress president alleged that Modi tried to stoke fears about the Congress manifesto by saying there was a plan to take away the assets of the majority community and divide the same among minorities. He further read out portions of the Prime Minister's speeches where the latter spoke about the Congress's attempt to snatch the assets, including mangalsutra, of Hindu women.

"The government diverts public attention from important issues... When the Opposition talks about BJP's divisive thinking, Narendra Modi talks about Aurangzeb and the Mughals... While the Opposition talks of unemployment and paper leaks, Narendra Modi talks of 'mangalsutra and 'mujra'...", the LoP said in the House. Instead of listening to the people and the Opposition, Modi "starts speaking his Mann Ki Baat", Kharge said,



Mallikarjun Kharge and Jagdeep Dhankhar

referring to the Prime Minister's monthly radio broadcast.

The Congress leader's remarks evoked a sharp reaction from Dhankhar who asked the former to authenticate his assertions about Modi. As Kharge said the speeches were sourced from newspapers, the Chair refused to accept the explanation and said such reports cannot be used for authentication, prompting the Opposition to protest.

Kharge was backed by his party colleague and former Union finance minister P Chidambaram, who asked how an opposition MP could authenticate what the Prime Minister has said other than by citing news reports.

Dhankhar, however, did not accept the arguments and expunged the remarks made by Kharge from the records. "It won't go on record. It is derogatory, defamatory..." he said.

Kharge also took a swipe at Modi over his remarks in the 17th Lok Sabha that he is capable of taking on the Opposition uniting against him. "Ek akela par aaj kitne log bhaari he, election ne dikha diya ki desh ka samvidhan aur janata sab par bhaari hai (Elections proved that Constitution and public weigh over everything)."

Attacking the Centre over instances of paper leaks and irregularities in key exams, Kharge said: "If this keeps happening, students will stop studying...there have been 70 instances of paper leaks in the last 10 years."

Kharge accused the government of taking arbitrary decisions over relocation of statues of freedom fighters in Parliament premises. "There was no meeting or prior consultation. It was done as though in authoritarian rule," he said. Dhankhar said the relocation was carried out methodically and there should not be criticisms for the sake of it. Talking about the education system, the LoP made certain allegations against the RSS. As Dhankhar expunged the remarks, he defended the organisation, saying it was engaged in working for the nation.



Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi with INDIA bloc MPs during a protest against alleged misuse of probe agencies, in Parliament on Monday.

'Chair does not control mics': Dhankhar, Birla counter Oppn

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The issue of microphones of opposition leaders being turned off during debates rocked both Houses of Parliament on Monday, with presiding officers in both Houses — Rajya Sabha chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar and Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla — reminding the Opposition that they have no remote control for the devices.

In the Rajya Sabha, Dhankhar and Leader of Opposition in the House Mallikarjun Kharge entered an argument, with the former asking: "What does he mean by mic has been muted? This is automatic. You can't understand simple technology. Kharge ji, do you really believe that mics are switched off here?"

When senior Congress leader Pramod Tiwari suggested that the microphone of the Opposition has been switched off, Dhankhar said, "I have strong exception. What does he mean by saying, the

LS OFFICIALS SAID THAT TECHNICAL TEAM HANDLING THE AUDIO-VISUAL SYSTEM ONLY SWITCHES ON MICS OF THE MPs WHO HAVE BEEN ASKED TO SPEAK

mic has been shut down? This is automatic. Tainting, tarnishing, diminishing our institutions. Do we shut down microphones here? Do we send a signal from here?"

The Rajya Sabha chairman also quipped that "I sense that after a change in the front row, some members are more aggressive", suggesting that after the entry of former Congress chief Sonia Gandhi in the Upper House, her party colleagues have become aggressive.

In the Lok Sabha, meanwhile, Congress leader and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi complained that his

microphone was being switched off.

To this, Speaker Om Birla said: "There is one issue which is of great importance. Some people allege that Chair switches off the mic. You are an experienced MP. Some of you are senior than me. You have been in the old House and the new building. There is a system whoever is called by the Speaker to speak, his or her microphone is switched on."

Congress general secretary KC Venugopal said, "...Not only mics, Sansad TV is not showing the Opposition at all. It is completely on the government's side, how can it be like that?"

Responding to questions on the controversy, senior Lok Sabha officials said that the technical team that handles the audio-visual system of the House only switches on the microphones of the MPs who have been asked to speak.

"And if the Speaker is addressing a member of the House, all other microphones are switched off," said an official.

Rahul denigrated LoP post: Vaishnav, Rijiju

Smriti Kak Ramachandran
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Congress MP Rahul Gandhi denigrated the position of the Leader of Opposition (LoP) to a level that is "condemnable", with his "irresponsible" speech in the Lok Sabha on Monday, Union minister Ashwini Vaishnav said, as the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) attacked the lawmaker over his remarks against the ruling party and claims about the Agnipath scheme for recruitment in the armed forces.

While Vaishnav accused Gandhi of "misleading" Parliament through a series of statements, Union parliamentary affairs minister Kiren Rijiju said the BJP has approached Speaker Om Birla for action in the matter. This came after Gandhi, in his maiden speech as LoP on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address earlier in the day, said BJP leaders were "not Hindus" and accused them of promoting violence against minorities. He also claimed that an Agniveer is not called a 'jawan' and that they will not get a pension for their service of four years.

Hitting out at the Congress lawmaker, Vaishnav said BJP leaders like former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, L K Advani and Sushma Swaraj were LoPs at different points of time and brought responsibility and seriousness to the position. "Gandhi has always



Kiren Rijiju, Ashwini Vaishnav

enjoyed power without responsibility. Now he holds a responsible position. But he made the most irresponsible speech today," he told reporters.

Gandhi had once torn apart an ordinance of his own party's government, Vaishnav said, referring to the ordinance passed by the UPA Cabinet to protect Parliamentarians from disqualification in case they are convicted in any case. "He (Gandhi) made some objectionable remarks in Parliament today. He said that martyrs will not receive compensation under the Agnipath scheme. This is a big lie. During Gandhi's speech, defence minister Rajnath Singh said martyrs under the Agnipath scheme will be given a compensation of ₹1 crore. The Congress has always made such remarks against the armed forces and tried to mislead the public."

"He tried to mislead Parliament... he said compensation was not paid to farmers in Ayodhya, whereas ₹253 crore was paid to over 4,000 shopkeepers. The most important issue is that he insulted

Hindus. In 2010, then home minister P Chidambaram called Hindus terrorists; in 2013 Sushilkumar Shinde said the same. In 2021, Rahul Gandhi said 'Hindutvavadis' should be expelled," he added.

In his speech, Gandhi claimed "the people of Ayodhya lost their land and they were not allowed at the inauguration of the Ram Temple". Vaishnav said Gandhi lowered the dignity of polity to a level that is "condemnable".

Rijiju also criticised Gandhi's remarks in the House. "We have made a request to the Speaker to pass a direction that if we have made an unverified statement, then we are ready to take a corrective course. But if the Leader of Opposition has lied in the House, then he will have to face the rules and regulations of the House. He (Speaker) has already assured the House that he will give necessary and appropriate directions in this regard," he said. BJP president JP Nadra sought an apology from Gandhi. "Rahul Gandhi Ji must immediately APOLOGISE to all Hindus for terming them as violent," he posted on X.

Ayodhya MP Awadhesh Prasad, however, said Gandhi did not make remarks about Hindus. "He spoke about the mindset of the BJP and the ideology of the RSS (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh). His statement was not for Hindus but for the people of the BJP and the RSS," he said.

TUSSLE ON KEY ISSUES

Agnipath scheme

Rahul Gandhi: I met the family of an Agniveer. I call him a martyr. But Modi calls him Agniveer. There is no pension for him, there is no status of a martyr. Agniveer is a 'use and throw mazdoor (labourer)'.

Rajnath Singh, defence minister: LoP shouldn't mislead the House. If an Agniveer dies during war or at the border, his family gets a compensation of ₹1 crore.

MSPs for farmers

Rahul Gandhi: Farmers want MSP with legal guarantee which Centre is not willing to give.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan, agriculture minister: Procurement at MSP is ongoing... How many MSPs were there during their term?

Construction of Ram Temple

Rahul Gandhi: The people of Ayodhya lost their land and they were not allowed at the inauguration of the Ram Temple.

Ashwini Vaishnav, Railways minister: Gandhi said compensation was not paid to farmers in Ayodhya, whereas ₹253 crore was paid to over 4,000 shopkeepers.



Sheikh Abdul Rashid

JAILED MP RASHID CAN TAKE OATH, NIA TELLS DELHI COURT; ORDER LIKELY TODAY

Mir Ehsan

letters@hindustantimes.com

SRINAGAR: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday gave its consent before a special court to allow jailed Kashmiri leader Sheikh Abdul Rashid, popularly known as Engineer Rashid, to take oath as a member of Parliament, a move welcomed by various political parties in Jammu & Kashmir.

The Patiala House court in Delhi will pass an order on the matter on Tuesday. While consenting before the court, NIA set certain conditions on Rashid — who has been lodged in Tihar jail since August 2019 under stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act or UAPA — like not speaking to the media, people familiar with the matter said.

Rashid, who won the recently concluded general elections from Baramulla in J&K as an Independent candidate, defeating former chief minister and National Conference leader Omar Abdullah by 204,142 votes, has been arrested for his alleged involvement in a 2017 J&K terror funding case. He had moved the court seeking interim bail, or custody parole in the alternative, to take oath and perform his parliamentary functions.

Welcoming the decision, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti claimed that Rashid has been incarcerated on "baseless charges". "It's a shame that Engineer Rashid has been behind bars since 2019 on baseless charges. Relieved to know he's been allowed to take oath as Member [of] Parliament..." she posted on X.

The DPAP led by veteran leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, who had extended support to Rashid in the polls, also welcomed the decision.

Ruckus in Parl as Oppn corners govt

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Proceedings in both the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha on Monday saw several disruptions on Monday, as Opposition members tried to corner the treasury benches over issues ranging from alleged irregularities in NEET-UG to misuse of federal agencies and misgovernance by the Centre.

In the Rajya Sabha, Communist Party of India (CPI) member Binoy Viswam used the debate on motion of thanks to the President's speech to claim that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) did not respect President Droupadi Murmu.

Citing various provisions of the Constitution, the CPI leader said the President is a "defender of the Constitution" and the "commander-in-chief of the armed forces".

"So, we all respect her. Being a tribal lady, I bow my head to Droupadi Murmu ji. But where was she on two great occasions of the history of this Parliament? One was the inauguration of this building of Parliament. The second occasion was when the PM went to Ayodhya for Pran Pratishtha of the Ram temple." Viswam said, accusing the BJP of not respecting the President.

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) lawmaker Sanjay Singh, who returned to Parliament after 11

months, accused the Centre of "misusing" investigative agencies to jail Opposition leaders and chief ministers while referring to the Delhi liquor policy case. "I want to tell the House who actually was involved in liquor scam. The prime minister and the BJP should have information on this. The real liquor scam was done by the BJP who accepted ₹60 crore bribe from Sharad Reddy through electoral bonds," Singh alleged.

In the Lok Sabha, Trinamool Congress lawmaker Mahua Moitra, who was expelled from the 17th Lok Sabha in December last year over cash-for-query allegations, said, "People would tell me, 'Mahua, you lost so much. You lost your membership, your house.' I also lost my uterus, but you know what I gained? I gained freedom from fear."

Hitting out at the ruling party, the TMC MP from Krishnanagar said the BJP tried to defeat her but ended up losing its 63 lawmakers.

Cong against secularism, Constitution, claims BJP

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: BJP lawmaker Anurag Thakur on Monday took a swipe at Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, saying he was enjoying power without responsibility till he became the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

Hitting out at the Congress for claiming to protect the Constitution, Thakur alleged the party has been acting against both the Constitution as well as "secularism".

He made the remarks while initiating the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on President's Address.

While congratulating Gandhi on becoming the Leader of Opposition, Thakur said the Congress leader now has power with responsibility and "absence of landism will not work". For the last many years, Gandhi was enjoying power without responsibility, Thakur said and asserted that it was an "agnipariksha" for the Congress leader now. "The person who was used to bunking, would be able to sit in the House till late as the prime minister does?... he is not



Anurag Thakur

there (even) now," he said.

He also threw a challenge at the Opposition MPs, asking them how many pages are there in the Indian Constitution. "How many pages are there in the Constitution? How many?... The Constitution is being tossed around like the word secularism, devaluation and demeaning it, that too by a party who has forever been acting against the ethos of both the words," he said.

BJP MP Sambit Patra slammed Gandhi for his remarks that the ruling party members are "not Hindus" as they promote division and violence. "It pains me to see the way Hindu traditions are being criticised. I am a Hindu, and I am not violent. Hindus have never committed violence," the first-time MP said.

"The country has fought the scourge and moved on and we hope limiting access is also done away with," it said in a letter to Birla. The Guild urged Dhankhar to restore complete access to all media accredited media persons to the House without the need for them to secure additional access passes, which only adds to the bureaucratic work at a time when the effort is to reduce the load.

'CONG A BUNDLE OF LIES': YOGI ON RAHUL'S REMARKS ON TEMPLE TOWN

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

LUCKNOW: Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday hit out at Congress MP Rahul Gandhi over his remarks that the people in Ayodhya were not compensated for the land used for development work, and accused him of "defaming" the state and temple town.

"Whether it is Rampath, Bhakti Path, Jannabhoomi Path or Ayodhya airport, compensation was given to all those whose land, house or shop was acquired," Adityanath said.

"We constructed shops for those who had space behind (the demolished shops) and for those who didn't, we allotted them new shops at complexes," he added. Adityanath said "everyone knows who has deprived Ayodhya of its identity." "Today, when Ayodhya is re-establishing its glory and attracting the entire world, how can the Congress consider it as good? The Congress is a bundle of lies," he said.

Speaking in the Lok Sabha earlier in the day, Gandhi said: "An airport was built in Ayodhya, land was forcibly taken away from the public and no compensation was given till date."

Modi makes a rare intervention in Parl, top leaders weigh in

Saubhadra Chatterji
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and a battery of top ministers, including Rajnath Singh and Amit Shah, intervened while Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi made allegations at the government during a highly charged debate on the President's speech in the Lok Sabha on Monday.

This was the first time that Modi intervened during any MP's speech in the House during his tenure as Prime Minister from 2014 onwards.

The trigger for the PM standing up to make a point was Gandhi making a reference to Hindu god Shiva in an attempt to invoke his posture of peace and security, and trying to contrast it with "those who call themselves Hindus are 24 hours (engaged) in hatred, violence and untruth", in what was a reference to leaders from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). This prompted Modi to get up for a rare intervention. "To say that the entire Hindu society is violent is a very serious issue," he said, even as Gandhi argued that "Modi, BJP and RSS don't represent the entire Hindu society".

The issue then snowballed into a major controversy, prompting a series of disruptions, even as Union home minister Amit Shah took serious exception and demanded an apology. "Whatever has been said can't be concealed in the commotion. By saying that Hindus commit violence, lie, and spread hatred, Rahul Gandhi has insulted crores of Hindus. He should apologise for this."

A little while later, Prime Minister made another intervention after Gandhi complained that the PM did not greet him or smile though defence minister Rajnath Singh did. Modi then got up and said: "Democracy and the Constitution have taught me that I need to take the Leader of Opposi-



Narendra Modi

tion seriously." This comment was met by chuckles from the treasury benches.

Though Rajnath intervened to correct Gandhi on the Agniveer army recruitment issue, and agriculture minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to interject on minimum support prices, home minister Shah was most vocal during Gandhi's speech.

He demanded that Gandhi must authenticate all his claims he was making in the House — including that Agniveers did not get the status of martyrs and were deprived of compensation or pension, or that the NEET exam "is designed for rich people and not for meritorious people". "I can understand, he is speaking for the first time. But how can he be allowed to overrule the rule book of the House? We need protection from this," Shah said. Shah also urged Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to review Gandhi's speech. "He has said something. And here, ministers have given their version. I want his speech to be reviewed in the context."

Environment minister Bhupendra Yadav, too, frequently threw the rulebook at Gandhi to argue that the LoP was not adhering to the rules of the House.

Later, Union ministers Ashwini Vaishnav and Kiren Rijiju accused Gandhi of denigrating the position of the LoP with his "extremely irresponsible" speech in the Lok Sabha, and of inflicting "grave insult" on the Hindus by allegedly linking them with violence and spreading untruths.

housenotes

PM TO ADDRESS PARLIAMENTARY PARTY MEETING OF NDA TODAY

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to address the National Democratic Alliance (NDA)'s parliamentary party meeting on Tuesday, in what would be the first such meeting after the formation of the NDA-led government at the Centre last month.

Modi addresses BJP lawmakers during Parliament session, but this time the meeting has been expanded to include MPs of alliance partners as well. Apart from the BJP, the NDA has 14 allies, including the Janata Dal (United) and the Telugu Desam Party (TDP).

MPs of the BJP and its allies have been notified about Tuesday's meeting, a person aware of the details said. The meeting is significant as the BJP has been able to form government for a third straight time with help from its allies and is being cornered by a resurgent opposition, which improved its tally in the recent polls.

DMK'S RAJA CALLS FOR CASTE-BASED CENSUS FOR 'EQUALITY, INCLUSIVITY'

NEW DELHI: Senior Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) leader and Lok Sabha member A Raja on Monday called for a caste-based census across the country and emphasised the necessity of equality and inclusivity.

Speaking on the motion of thanks to the President's address in the Lok Sabha, Raja also took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "We're even prepared to accept Narendra Modi as Godlike if he has those qualifications. But he doesn't have any such thing!" the senior DMK leader said.

Stressing on the importance of a caste-based national census and acknowledging intersectional disparities, Raja added: "We are all Hindus. I am a Hindu according to the law in the Constitution since I am not a Mohamadan, not a Christian, not a Buddhist, not a Parsi. The law says this is Hindu."

END ACCESS RESTRICTION ON MEDIA: EDITORS GUILD TO BIRLA, DHANKHAR

NEW DELHI: The Editors Guild of India on Monday urged Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar to remove access restrictions on the media for covering proceedings of Parliament. The Guild, in a letter to Birla, said the practice of restricting the number of media persons, including those holding permanent accreditation, came into force when Covid-19 protocols were in place.

"The country has fought the scourge and moved on and we hope limiting access is also done away with," it said in a letter to Birla.

The Guild urged Dhankhar to restore complete access to all media accredited media persons to the House without the need for them to secure additional access passes, which only adds to the bureaucratic work at a time when the effort is to reduce the load.

Theft, neighbours' fight among 1st few cases lodged under BNS

HT Correspondents
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: India's new criminal code saw its first cases registered on Monday, just hours after replacing the colonial-era Indian Penal Code, with people being booked for cases ranging from motorcycle theft to cyber fraud filed under the new law.

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) went into effect at midnight Sunday.

Union home minister Amit Shah said the first case was lodged in Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh at 12.24am for motorcycle theft. Teenager Saurabh Narwariya reported his bike, valued at ₹1.80 lakh stolen outside his rented accommodation.

"Without wasting any time, I rushed to the police station so that CCTVs could be checked," Narwariya said. "The FIR was lodged swiftly and investigation was started."

Gwalior superintendent of police Dharamveer Yadav said the case was registered under Section 303(2) of the BNS within 10 minutes of reporting.

The other cases included a verbal abuse complaint in Kabirdham district of Chhattisgarh at 12.30am, a street vendor charged with obstructing pedestrians in Gandhinagar in Gujarat at 12.45am, an assault case in Mandi district in Himachal Pradesh at 1.45am, a robbery reported in Sonapat district of Haryana at 3.10am and a cyber fraud case in Mumbai at 2.28am.

In Tamil Nadu, where the state government opposed implementing the new laws, police still registered cases under the BNS. A 21-year-old man was arrested in Chennai for allegedly recording a woman bathing without consent.

Tamil Nadu's ruling DMK, which is among Opposition-ruled states that have opposed the new criminal codes, said they will hold a hunger strike on July 6 to oppose the new criminal laws.

The changes in the criminal code — which include replacing IPC with BNS, the criminal procedure code (CrPC) with Bharatiya

Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNS) and Indian Evidence Act with the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) — bring about a raft of changes.

Most significantly, the sections are numbered differently, but some of the changes also give police more power — such as deciding whether a case goes to trial — while also making filing complaints easier.

The code has been modernised, requiring video recordings to be made at the scene of serious crimes, as well as updating admissible digital evidence. The BNS introduces changes to punishments and classifications of certain crimes. For example, the fine for obstructing public ways increased from ₹200 to ₹5,000.

The BNS, the CrPC's new version, includes sections that are meant to prioritise victims. It makes it mandatory for victims to be heard before any application for withdrawal of case by prosecutor is allowed by the court.

The rollout of the cases was not without controversy. In the national capital, police officials said they had filed the first FIR under BNS against a hawkker for allegedly obstructing traffic. Union home minister Amit Shah clarified that contrary to rumours, the first FIR under the new law was not related to a street vendor in Delhi but rather to a motorcycle theft case in Gwalior.

"The case against the street vendor from Delhi was not the first case registered and by using the provision of review the police has disposed of the case," he said.

The National Hawker Federation, Delhi, criticised the Delhi Police's move, calling it "targeting of the underprivileged" and "misuse of power".

In Uttar Pradesh, police officials said the switch was easy. "We had been provided proper training about the three new laws and there is no issuing registering the FIR under appropriate sections as every police station have been provided a handbook comparing the old IPS and the new BNS sections," said sub-inspector Praveen Kumar at Amroha's Rehra police station,

FIRs filed as new laws roll out

Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh Police station: Time: Hazira 12.24am Section: BNS 303(2) Charges: Theft	Kabirdham, Chhattisgarh Police station: Time: Rengakhar 12.30am Section: BNS 296 Charges: Obscene acts and songs Section: BNS 351(2) Charges: Criminal intimidation	Gandhinagar, Gujarat Police station: Time: Infocity 1am Section: BNS 285 Charges: Danger or obstruction in public way or line of navigation
Mandi, Himachal Pradesh Police station: Time: Dhanotu 1.58am Section: BNS 126(2) Charges: Wrongful restraint Section: BNS 352 Charges: Provocation	Sonepat, Haryana Police station: Time: Sonipat Sadar 3.10am Section: BNS 309(4) Charges: Robbery	Shimla, Himachal Pradesh Police station: Time: Dhali 7.54am Section: BNS 303(2) Charges: Theft

SOME GLITCHES REMAIN

The rollout of the cases was not without controversy. In Delhi, police officers said they had filed the first FIR against a hawkker for obstructing traffic. Union minister Amit Shah clarified that the first FIR was not in Delhi, but in Gwalior over a motorcycle theft.

where the state's first FIR under BNS was filed over a death by negligence complaint. The allegation was filed under section 106 of BNS — in the older IPC code, it would have been under 304-A.

In Mumbai, where DB Marg police station filed the state's first BNS case following a complaint of financial cheating, too said filing cases was not any tougher since only the section numbers had changed for this particular crime.

What has changed is the enhancement in punishment for cheating — from three to five years imprisonment, said Mohit Garg, the deputy commissioner of police at Zone II. Garg added that the investigation officer's next task would be to identify the accused persons and apprehend him / them, as has been the process.

"Thereafter, we will collect electronic evidence — pertaining to the transactions and also carry out videography, as required under the Bharatiya Saksha Adhiniyam (BSA), at the time of carrying seizures, if any," Garg said.

(With inputs from state bureaux)

Tewari targets Centre over new criminal laws

Wrinda Tulsian
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Congress's Chandigarh MP Manish Tewari on Monday launched a scathing attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party-led central government, condemning its performance over the last decade, particularly the three new criminal laws that came into effect on Monday.

Highlighting national security, economic development, institutional independence, international relations, and communal harmony during a speech in the Lok Sabha, Tewari said that "in the last 10 years, the BJP government in India has failed. It has been a complete failure. If I say that you have completely shattered these five points in the last ten years, perhaps it would not be wrong".

"From 12 o'clock last night, a new process of criminal laws has been implemented in this country... This criminal law procedure... will serve to maintain the new police rule in this country," he said as he attacked the government over the new laws.

The Congress leader criticized the timing and process behind these laws, saying, "These three laws were passed at a time when one hundred and forty MPs were suspended from this Parliament therefore, these laws are not collective wisdom of this House or the Rajya Sabha".

The three criminal laws were introduced in Parliament on August 11 last year, and then sent to a standing committee. Some of the suggestions of the panel were incorporated and a set of new bills (labelled as second) were tabled on December 12, 2023. They were passed in the same winter session.

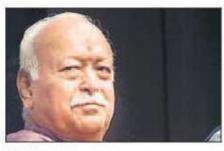
Despite all diversities, India is one: RSS chief

GHAZIPUR: Whatever it might appear from the outside, love for the motherland prevails everywhere and India is one nation despite its diversities, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat said Monday at the launch of a book on war hero Abdul Hamid.

The event was held in Ghazipur's Dhamapur village, where Hamid was born this day in 1933. He was posthumously decorated with the Param Vir Chakra for his bravery during the India-Pakistan war in 1965.

Bhagwat said India is a vast country with numerous languages and ancient traditions. Naturally, there will be many customs and forms of worship, he added.

"Despite these diversities, our country has been functioning as one nation for thousands of years, and we are one nation and one society," the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh leader said.



Mohan Bhagwat

"Whenever a country attacks our nation, as China and Pakistan have done, all countrymen forget their differences and stand together because unity is in our roots." This is because Indians not just love their country but worship it, he said.

"Whatever it might seem on the outside, there is love and devotion towards motherland India everywhere. The ideals of our ancestors who shed blood and sweat for our motherland and the ancient culture unite us all. These are the things that make us one." PTI

BJP names Munde, Cong retains Satav in Maha council elections

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress on Monday announced candidates for the second round of polls to the Maharashtra legislative council.

Among significant names, the BJP named OBC leader and former minister Pankaja Munde, former MLA Yogesh Tilakar, Parinay Phuke, Amit Gorkhe and Sadabhau Khot as its candidates for the 11 seats of the Upper House of the state legislature.

Munde, the party's national general secretary, lost the state assembly polls in 2019 and the recently held Lok Sabha elections from Beed against NCP (SP)'s Bajrang Sonawane.

Among other candidates, Tilakar hails from Pune. Khot is from Sangli, and Gorkhe is a BJP functionary from Pimpri Chinchwad and belongs to the Matang com-



Pankaja Munde and Pradnya Satav

munity, one of the backward classes in the state. Phuke is from Nagpur and known to be close to BJP leader and deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnis.

The Congress, meanwhile, re-nominated MLC Pradnya Satav as its candidate for the July 12 biennial elections from the MLA quota.

Tuesday (July 2) is the last date of filing nominations for elections to 11 seats in the Upper House of the state legislature.

Out of the 11 retiring MLCs, two were in the Congress. But given

the Congress's current strength in the assembly, the opposition party can get only one candidate elected to the Upper House.

Pradnya Satav is the wife of late Congress MP Rajeev Satav. She was elected unopposed to the council in 2021 when a bypoll was necessitated after the death of sitting Congress MLC Sharad Ranpise.

The six-year term in office of 11 MLCs, elected by the Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs), is due to end on July 27 of their retirement. The biennial elections are being held just ahead of assembly polls, which are due in October.

Meanwhile, the Shiv Sena (UBT) won the Mumbai Graduates and Mumbai Teachers constituencies while the BJP emerged victorious on the Konkan Graduates seat in the Maharashtra Legislative Council polls, results of which were announced on Monday.

Assam villagers seek refuge amid floods



Villagers try to escape to a safer location after heavy rainfall at Borghuli village in Nagaon, Assam, on Monday left the area flooded.

{ NEW IMD DATA }

NW India sizzled under hottest June since 1901

Jayashree Nandi
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: It was the warmest June for northwest India since record keeping began in 1901, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Monday, bearing out the deadly heat spell recorded over Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and other parts of the region which killed at least 100 people.

The weather department flagged as unprecedented the 235.5mm rainfall recorded in a 24-hour window on June 28 in Delhi — the highest since 1936 — and said that forecasting the event was a challenge because nearly 100mm rainfall was recorded in parts of the city within an hour.

June ended with 11% deficiency in monsoon rain for the country, 7th lowest rain since 2001, making it a month of extremes. For July, IMD expects extreme rain and flooding over some parts, especially in the foothills of Western Himalayas.

Warmest June for northwest India

At 31.73°C, the mean temperature over northwest India was 1.65°C above normal. The average maximum temperature over the region was 38.2°C, nearly 2°C above normal, and even the minimum temperature was the second highest since 1901 at 25.44°C, 1.35°C above normal. East and northeast India also recorded its warmest June in terms of night time temperatures recording an average minimum temperature of 25.14°C, nearly 1°C above normal.

Compared to a normal of three to four heatwave days, parts of Indo-Gangetic plains, northwest India, central and north India recorded a range of 10 to 18 heatwave days in June.

UP recorded 18 heatwave days, Bihar 13, Gangetic West Bengal 9, Delhi and Haryana region recorded 14, Punjab 11, and Himachal Pradesh 10 days.

Between April and June, 20 to 38 days of heatwave were recorded in different parts of east, north and central India. Most frequent heatwave (20-38 days) were recorded over Rajasthan, MP, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, West and East UP and HP, Odisha, Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar, Saurashtra and Kutch, IMD said.

Extreme localised rain over Delhi

On July 27, IMD forecast "heavy"



At least 100 people were killed in the heatwave that gripped most of northwest India in June.

rainfall over the plains of northwest India but what happened over Delhi was "impossible" to predict, said M Mohapatra, director general, IMD.

"There are some situations that seem just impossible. Our data shows some stations recorded up to 91mm rain between 5 am and 6 am. This extreme rainfall event was very confined spatially and temporally... So, definitely it is a challenge but we are trying to address it," said Mohapatra.

"Our heatwave warning performance has improved by about 10 to 20% since 2019. But when there is continuous extremely warm atmospheric conditions for several days, the moisture holding capacity of the atmosphere increases and so immediately after that rain can be unprecedented. That is how climate change impacts. With every degree of warming, the moisture holding capacity of the atmosphere increases by 7%," he said.

Heavy rain likely in July

Monthly rainfall over the country as a whole during July 2024 is most likely to be above normal (~106% of LPA). The LPA of rainfall over the country as a whole during July based on data from 1971-2020 is about 280.4 mm. During July, normal to above normal rainfall is most likely over most parts of the country except many parts of northeast India and some parts of northwest, east and southeast peninsular India where below normal rainfall is likely.

In July, minimum temperatures are most likely to be above-normal over many parts of the country except some parts of northwest and adjoining areas of central India and some pockets of south-eastern peninsular India where normal to below normal minimum temperatures are likely.

GLACIAL MELT TO RAISE WATER LEVELS IN LADAKH RIVERS, SAYS IMD

Jayashree Nandi
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Two days after five soldiers, including a junior commissioned officer, were killed during a tank exercise after their Russian-origin T-72 was swept away by the raging waters of the Shyok river near Saser Brangsa, IMD officials in Ladakh warned of water levels in rivers rising further.

"Monsoon has onset over northern parts of the country including Ladakh due to which moisture level has increased leading to localized rain/shower. Temperature rose sharply across Ladakh leading to fast melting of snow and glaciers. As a result of which water levels in local streams (nallahs) & rivers have increased significantly," a warning from the Leh office said.

Rain/Snow (over hilly areas) is very likely at many places of Ladakh during July 5 to 7. Brief spell of heavy shower may occur at isolated pockets which can trigger Flash Flood, Mudslide and Landslide at vulnerable places.

"Accordingly, all concerned and general public are advised to remain Alert, Cautious & Updated and Avoid Venturing near or into fast flowing water bodies as Flash flood, Mudslide, Landslide happens almost every year in July-August," IMD has cautioned.

"There has been a continued rise of day temperatures which has led to fast melting of ice and glaciers because of which water levels in rivers rose, and are still rising." Sonam Lotus, a scientist with IMD, Leh said on Saturday.

GUV SEEKS REPORT ON ASSAULT OF COUPLE IN BENGAL

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

KOLKATA: West Bengal governor CV Ananda Bose on Monday sought a report from chief minister Mamata Banerjee on the alleged flogging of a couple in public in Chopra, Uttar Dinajpur district, officials said.

Expressing his shock over the incident, the government called it "barbarous", the officials said. "He condemned the incident and has sought an immediate report from CM Banerjee," an official familiar with the matter said.

The assault took place on a public street in Chopra on Friday, and a purported video of the incident shows a man beating up two people in the presence of onlookers.

The police on Sunday registered a case after the video of the incident emerged on social media, sparking widespread outrage. The man seen hitting the couple with a bamboo stick was identified as Tajimul Islam alias "JCB", who is reportedly a local Trinamool Congress leader.

On Monday, a district court remanded Islam in police custody for five days.

NHRC, meanwhile, has also sought a report from the state within a week.

Man lynched over theft suspicion, 5th in 10 days

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

KOLKATA: A 23-year-old man was allegedly beaten to death over suspicion of theft in Hooghly district of West Bengal on Sunday, police said on Monday, making it the fifth such case of lynching in the state in a span of 10 days.

According to the police, the latest incident on Sunday took place in Tarakeswar area after the deceased, Biswajit Manna, who was a driver, was accused of stealing ₹50,000 from his employer's house. Two people, including Manna's employer Bikash Samanta, were arrested.

"A murder case has been registered. The prime accused, Samanta, who is a trader, and his son Debkanta have been arrested," a district police officer said on condition of anonymity.

Police officials aware of the details said that in their complaint, the deceased's family alleged he was forcibly taken to the accused's house on Sunday night and repeatedly assaulted with sticks over suspicion that he stole ₹50,000 from their house.

As police learnt about the incident, they rushed to the spot and found Manna bleeding. They

POLICE OFFICIALS SAID THAT THE FAMILY OF THE DECEASED SAID HE WAS REPEATEDLY ASSAULTED OVER SUSPICION THAT HE STOLE ₹50,000

rushed him to a hospital where doctors declared him dead on arrival, the officials said.

This is the fifth incident of lynching in Bengal since June 22. Earlier, similar instances were reported in Kolkata on June 28, Salt Lake on June 29, Jhargram on June 22 (the injured victim died in hospital on June 30) and Pandua (in Hooghly) on June 27. The victims in three of these cases were attacked over suspicion of theft. The only exception was the incident at Pandua where the brawl started over playing loudspeakers.

Fourteen college students were arrested in connection with the lynching that took place in Kolkata on June 28 over allegations that the deceased had stolen a mobile phone. The deceased was identified as Ershad Alam, who used to repair televisions.

Three women who broke the glass ceiling in Nagaland polls

Alice Yhoshü
letters@hindustantimes.com

KOHIMA: The last urban body polls in Nagaland were held in 2004, and for two decades, 77-year-old Sibuele waited for her opportunity. On Saturday, Sibuele was elected as a councillor from an unreserved seat in Peren town council, the oldest of the 102 women, and indeed all 278 members, who won the polls that were held on June 26 across 278 seats, and one of the eight women that were victorious from unreserved seats.

The urban local body elections were significant because it was held with the Supreme Court mandated 33 percent reservation of seats for women; an issue that has proved a difficult fault-line in a state which only elected its first two women legislators in history in March 2023. There were 198 female candidates in the contest across 24 urban local bodies (ULB) in the state, with the oldest — Sibuele, and the youngest — 22-year-old Nzanrhoni I Mozhu from Bhandari town — both women.

Sibuele told HT that she may now be wizened, and by the first urban local polls in two decades had presented to her the oppor-



Sibuele, Sole Tep, and Ruth Thong

tunity to "rise to the challenge". "My hometown of Peren is small but without a functioning civic body for so many years, there is much to do. I hope to turn it into a better place for residents," she said.

The youngest winning candidate, 22-year-old Nzanrhoni I Mozhu from Bhandari under Wokha district, who shone through the contest with hopes of improving governance says she is grateful to her family and ward members for their confidence in her.

For Sole Tep, who fought from the unreserved ward from Tsemnyu, also an unreserved seat, said that the 33 percent reservation had come as a blessing for Nag women. Tep, who has a masters degree in English literature said, "From my expe-

rience, politics is not for everyone. It is not easy but if you have the heart for the community and society, you have to be part of decision making bodies. I encourage young women to boldly step up." Tep says.

Ruth Thong, another woman who fought and won in Tsemnyu, said that she had been told not to contest because her ward was not reserved for women. "I got elected against two male opponents because of the unflinching support of women and the youth in my area. The reservation has opened the doors against the old patriarchal mindset and women have felt emboldened to contest in the election. I aspire to create an inclusive and equitable community, where every voice is heard," Thong said.

Chouhan begins farm policy talks with states

Zia Haq
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Union agriculture minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Monday met the ministers from Chhattisgarh and Assam to discuss farm policies, kicking off a series of one-on-one meetings with major states that are likely over the next few weeks to bolster the sector.

Chouhan is keen on understanding states' views in forging customized strategies and had recently written to state ministers to invite them for discussions, an official familiar with the matter said.

During his tenure as Madhya Pradesh chief minister, the state's farm sector consistently registered average growth rate of 6.8%, a record.

Following Monday's meeting, Chhattisgarh minister Ramvihar Netam quoted Chouhan as saying that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the welfare of farmers and growth in the agriculture sector were topmost priority and all assistance to would be provided to the state.

The Union agriculture minister said Chhattisgarh had great potential to grow corn and soybean, besides pulses. The Chhattisgarh minister sought the Cen-



Shivraj Singh Chouhan

tre's help in expanding irrigation facilities in the state and cold storage facilities for perishables. Chouhan told Assam minister Atul Bora that the Centre would extend all assistance to the northeastern state for promoting natural farming.

He emphasised the need for creation of infrastructure like creation of dry storage, cold storage, processing units under Agriculture Infrastructure Fund.

Earlier on June 21, he had held a video conference with ministers of pulses-producing states of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, Karnataka and Telangana.

Growth in the farm sector, which employs nearly half the population, dipped to 1.4% in 2023-24 on the back of extreme weather and patchy rains.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION MANESAR
MAKING MODERN MANESAR

PUBLIC NOTICE

Empanelment of Agencies for providing waste management solutions and services to Bulk Waste Generators

Municipal Corporation Manesar

MCM has defined Bulk Waste Generator (BWG) as any entity generating 50 or more kgs per day of waste (wet + dry + domestic hazardous), or any entity having more than 5000 sq mt of campus. All Bulk waste generators are required to manage their own wet waste and make their own arrangements for dry, bio-hazardous, E-waste management. However, it has been noticed that currently, BWGs in the city lack adequate in-house technical expertise and required infrastructure. To support the BWGs, Municipal Corporation Manesar (MCM) is in the process of empaneling agencies that can provide waste management services to the BWG.

To facilitate the BWGs of Manesar for fulfilling their responsibilities, it is proposed to empanel service providers for the following 3 categories. Interested agencies can choose any of the categories:

- 1) Management of all waste streams for BWG (Wet, Dry and Domestic Hazardous waste)
- 2) Management of only Wet waste.
- 3) Management of E-waste.

Application form along with terms/ conditions and eligibility can be downloaded from MCM website (<https://ulbharyana.gov.in/Manesar/10664>) homepage. Bulk Waste Generators can apply upto 13.07.2024. Email applications to admc.mcmansar@outlook.com with cc to consultant-sbm.mcmansar@outlook.com

Commissioner,
Municipal Corporation, Manesar

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused (1) Puneet S/o Sunil, R/o- Village- Endari, PS- Rojka, Distt.- Mewat, Nuh, Haryana (2) Tejpal @ Kalu S/o Bhagat Singh, R/o- Village- Endari, PS- Rojka, Distt.- Mewat, Nuh, Haryana (3) Azhar S/o Ibrahim, R/o- Village- Janafgrah, PS- Punhana, Distt.- Mewat, Nuh, Haryana has committed (or suspected to have committed) the offence in case registered vide E-FIR No. 23676/20 U/s 411/34 IPC PS Govindpur, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused Puneet, Tejpal @ Kalu and Azhar cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Puneet, Tejpal @ Kalu and Azhar has absconded (or is concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Puneet, Tejpal @ Kalu and Azhar of case E-FIR No. 23676/20 U/s 411/34 IPC PS Govindpur, New Delhi is required to appear before this court (or before me) to answer the complaint on or before the day of 03.08.2024.

By Order,
Ms. Devanshi Janmeja
Metropolitan Magistrate-04
South East District, Court No.10,
Saket Court Complex, New Delhi

DP/8391/SE/2024 (Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(Section 82 Cr. P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused person (1) Anuj s/o Sh. Mangeram R/o Village kirijunardan, (2) Sanjay @ Jhallu S/o Sh. Ramesh R/o village + post office Alludinpur police station Jhinhana, District Shami, Uttar Pradesh has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 116/22 u/s 356/379/411/34 IPC at PS C.R. Park Delhi and it has been returned to warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused person (1) Anuj (2) Sanjay @ Jhallu cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person (1) Anuj (2) Sanjay @ Jhallu, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said person (1) Anuj (2) Sanjay @ Jhallu, accused of FIR No. 116/22 u/s 356/379/411/34 IPC at PS C.R.Park Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 01.08.2024.

By order
Ms. Devanshi Janmeja
Metropolitan Magistrate
Room no. 10, Saket Courts, Delhi

DP/8412/SD/2024

NORTHERN RAILWAY
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

TENDER NOTICE

The Sr.DME/Diesel, Northern Railway, Diesel Loco Shed, Tughlakabad for and on behalf of President of India invites e-tenders for the following work. The tender will be accepted online only in the prescribed tender document.

Name of work	Place of work	Qty./Period of Completion	Approximate cost of work
Provision for Modification of Conventional hand brake to modified hand brake (gear type) arrangement in electric locomotives as per RDSO Modification Sheet no. RDSO/2014/ELMS/0440, (Rev. 1) dated 16.09.2015	Diesel Shed, Tughlakabad, New Delhi-110044.	32 Nos./ 06 months	Rs. 4,69,793.92/- Inclusive of GST @18% (Rupees Four Lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Three and Ninety Two Paise Only)

Amount of Bid Security Rs.9,400/- (Rupees Nine Thousand Four Hundred Only)

Eligibility Criteria Technical & Financial eligibility criteria as per Clause 10 tender form Second sheet of the Tender Document.

Website to download and upload e-tender document www.ireps.gov.in

Due date & time of uploading of Tender by tenderer 20.07.2024 upto 12:00 Hrs

Date & Time of Tender opening. 20.07.2024 after 12:00 hrs

Validity of offer 60 days from opening of tender.

Allocation 05-0511-32

Tender Document can be downloaded from Indian Railway website www.ireps.gov.in. For details of work experience, scope of work and terms & conditions please see Tender document. TENDER NOTICE NO.- DSL-TKD-HBGT-MOD-OT-RT-24 dated 28.06.2024 1985/24

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida-201301 (U.P.)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.in

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firm for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in & <https://tender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

A) Fresh Tender Work:-

S. No.	Job No.	Name of Work	Tender Amount (in Lacs)
1	06/DGM/ Sr. M.(E&M)-II/2024-25/ET	Strengthening of Street light work on DS Road, Internal roads Sector-67, Noida.	134.19
2	07/DGM/ Sr. M.(E&M)-II/2024-25/ET	Strengthening of Road, Park lights in Block A,B & C Sector-58, Noida.	113.72
3	09/DGM/ Sr. M.(E&M)-II/2024-25/ET	Providing Street lights and High mast lights in internal roads at Sector-59, Noida	133.90
4	11/DGM/ Sr. M.(E&M)-II/2024-25/ET	Providing Octagonal poles for Street light on 12 Mtr road, 18 Mtr road in Internal roads of Sector- 55, Noida.	134.66
5	09/DGM(E&M)/M(E&M)-I/ET-2024-25	Providing Street Light on Left hand side service road of FNG to Sec-83, Noida.	149.29
6	07/DGM(E&M)/M(E&M)-I/ET-2024-25	Providing Light Arrangement on the Services Road Left hand side & Right hand side in front of sikka Society at Sec-143, Noida	158.87
7	08/DGM(E&M)/M(E&M)-I/ET-2024-25	Providing Lighting arrangement External Road at Salarpur, Noida	183.35
8	31/DGM(E&M)/SM(E&M)-I/ET-2023-24	Augmentaiton of Electrical installation on sector 142 thana to Expressway metro road, Sector 144 to FNG road and sector 137 to sehadra road Noida.	125.70

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 15.07.2024 up to 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 16.07.2024 at 11.00 AM.

Dy. General Manager (E&M)
Sector-39, NOIDA
CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION, AMRAVATI
(e-mail - amravati.ee@mahapwd.com)
TENDER NOTICE NO. 08 OF 2024-2025 (No. 5374/TC/Dt. 26.06.2024)
TENDER NOTIFICATION UNDER e-PROCUREMENT

E-Tender for the following work in "B-1" (Percentage Rate) form is invited via online e-tendering system from Registered/Unregistered Contractor by the Executive Engineer P.W.Division Amravati on behalf of Government of Maharashtra. Tender Documents are downloaded from Government of Maharashtra portal <http://mahatenders.gov.in>. Rights to select or reject is reserved by Executive Engineer P.W.Division Amravati. Tender with condition is never accepted.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (in Lakhs)
1	Construction of various sports activities like 400 m track with ground, skating ring, VIP laung, Renovation of Indoor Hall at Divisional Sports Complex Morshi Road, Amravati.	2195.00

E-Tender Issue Date :- As per Tender Schedule
E-Tender Opening Date :- As per Tender Schedule

Note
All information of e-tender available on 1) <http://mahapwd.com> 2) <http://mahatenders.gov.in>
3) Please note the further changes regarding this work will not be published through corrigendum by press notice. The changes will be available on electronic tendering system of Government of Maharashtra which is available on the Portal <http://mahatenders.gov.in>
4) The Bidder shall submit the Hard Copy within 72 Hrs.
5) कंत्राटदातनी ई-निविदा ऑनलाईन द्वारे भरताना E.M.D. ही ज्या नावाने जसे (वैयक्तीक संस्था / भागीदारी संस्था / कंपनी) निविदा भरली आहे त्याच्याच बँक खात्यातून सादर करणे आवश्यक आहे.

Sd/-
(C. U. Mehrete)
Executive Engineer
Public Works Division, Amravati.

आरओसी-२०२४-२५/क्र.५/८५५६

GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI
DEPARTMENT OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT
DELHI SECRETARIAT, I.P. ESTATE
NEW DELHI-110002

F. 18(634)/A.U.D./PIg/2022-23/6241 Dated: 26.06.2024

ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are invited from willing and eligible candidates for filling up of one (01) post of Advisor in the Pay Level-12 of Pay Matrix of Rs. 78,800-2,09,700/- on contractual basis for a period of one year extendable beyond one year on satisfactory performance in National Capital Region Planning and Monitoring Cell, Department of Urban Development, GNCTD.

Educational Qualifications and Experience:
Post Graduate Degree in Town or City or Urban or Housing or Country or Rural or Infrastructure or Regional or Transport or Environmental Planning from a recognized University or Institute with 15 years experience in Govt. Organization or reputed Private Organization/Institutions in the field of Town or City or Urban or Housing or Country or Rural or Infrastructure or Regional or Transport or Environmental Planning.

Or
Retired Group 'A' Gazetted Officer from any Central Government/State Government/Union territory Administrations/Boards/ Corporations/PSUs Autonomous body of which 05 years should be in Govt. Department of any State in Urban Development Affairs/Urban Planning. Applicant should have retired at least in the Pay Level-12 of Pay Matrix Rs. 78,800-2,09,200/- (as per 7th CPC)

General Instructions: Complete details regarding terms & conditions, eligibility criteria, remuneration, experience and other relevant details are available on the website: <https://udd.delhi.gov.in>. Candidates are advised to apply in the prescribed application form available on the website of this department.

The filled-in Application form along with self certified copies of documents in support of educational qualification, experience claimed may be emailed at nrcpmcd@gmail.com along with hardcopy to undersigned at Planning Branch, Ground floor, Behind Reception block, Delhi Secretariat, New Delhi-110002 within 15 days from the date of publishing of this Advertisement.

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0110/24-25 Asstt. Director (PIg.)

NORTHERN RAILWAY
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

No. NIT-37 & 42-24-25-W-II Dated: 01.07.2024
The Sr. Divisional Engineer-II, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work.

NIT No.	Name of work	Date & Time of opening of tender	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen
1	NIT-37 Name of work : Replacement of steel girder bridges > 6.10 m & upto 9.15 m into PSC slab in the section of ADEN/SMQL under Sr. DEN-II (Br. No. 40, 46, 102, 162 & 342 each having span 1x9.15 m & Bridge no. 255 having span 4x9.15 m) Approx cost of wok : As per NIT or IREPS Earnest Money to be deposited : As per NIT or IREPS	26.07.2024 15:00 Hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in
2	NIT-42 Name of work : Providing portable train detection system and alarm system (POTA) on Bridge No. 154 UP & DN on GZB-SRE section of Sr. DEN-II/DLI. Approx cost of work : As per NIT or IREPS, Earnest Money to be deposited : As per NIT or IREPS	26.07.2024 15:00 Hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in

* The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system. * For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. * No manual offers are acceptable. * Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.

1977/24

JHARKHAND MEDICAL & HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT & PROCUREMENT CORPORATION LTD.
MCH BUILDING, RCH CAMPUS, NAMKUM, RANCHI - 834010.
(CIN - U855100JH2013SGC001276) E-mail: jmhdp2014@gmail.com
Website: <https://jmhdpcl.jharkhand.gov.in/>
GST NO: 20AADJ4293LZJH, PAN NO: AADJ4293L

PR.NO.328229 Jharkhand Medical & Health Infrastructure Dev & Procurement Corp Ltd(24-25):D

Rate Contract for supply of Homeopathic medicine from the Registered & Licensed GMP Compilid manufactures (2nd Call).

The Managing Director, Jharkhand Medical & Health Infrastructure Development & Procurement Corporation Limited (JMHDPC), Ranchi hereby invites separate Technical Bid and Financial Bid (two envelope system) through e-procurement from eligible Manufacturer/their Authorized Dealer/Distributors/ Authorized Stockist for health facilities of the State of Jharkhand.

The Bid documents with detailed conditions can be viewed and downloaded through website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> and should be submitted through e-procurement system only. The eligible Bidder(s) willing to participate must be registered in e-procurement portal.

Particulars	Date & Time
Time of Completion	Within 60 days after issue of work order
Date of Publication of Bid	02-07-2024
Bid Submission Start Date	19-07-2024
Bid Submission Closing Date & Time	25-07-2024 04:00 PM
Bid Opening Date for Technical Proposal	26-07-2024 04:00 PM
Application Fee (Non-Refundable)	Rs 5900/- With GST (Online Payment Gateway)
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs 200,000/- (Online Payment Gateway)
Contact/ Helpline No. of E-Procurement Cell	+91-8709368893
Pre-bid meeting Date & Time	09-07-2024 at 03:00 PM

Note: The above dates may change due to declaration of holidays. In the event of any of the dates being declared as a holiday for the office of the JMHDPC, the Bids will be opened on the next working day at the appointed time.

JMHDPC reserves the right to amend or withdraw any of the terms and conditions contained in the Bid document including quantity /number of items to be supplied or to reject any or all Bids without giving any notice or assigning any reason. The decision of the Managing Director, JMHDPC in this regard shall be final.

Sd/-
Managing Director
JMHDPC

JHARKHAND MEDICAL & HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT & PROCUREMENT CORPORATION LTD.
MCH BUILDING, RCH CAMPUS, NAMKUM, RANCHI - 834010.
(CIN - U855100JH2013SGC001276) E-mail: jmhdp2014@gmail.com
Website: <https://jmhdpcl.jharkhand.gov.in/>
GST NO: 20AADJ4293LZJH

PR.NO.328233 Jharkhand Medical & Health Infrastructure Dev & Procurement Corp Ltd(24-25):D

Rate Contract for Supply of Homeopathic Medicine

The Managing Director, Jharkhand Medical & Health Infrastructure Development & Procurement Corporation Limited (JMHDPC), Ranchi hereby invites separate Technical Bid and Financial Bid (two envelope system) through e-procurement from eligible manufacturer Rate Contract for Supply Medicines.

The Bid documents with detailed conditions can be viewed and downloaded through website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> and should be submitted through e-procurement system only. The eligible Bidder(s) willing to participate must be registered in e-procurement portal.

Particulars	Date & Time
Name of Work	Rate Contract for Supply of Homeopathic Medicine
Time of Completion	Within 60 days after issue of work order
Date of Publication of Bid	02-07-2024
Pre-bid Meeting	09-07-2024 03:00 PM
Bid Submission Start Date	19-07-2024
Bid Submission Closing Date & Time	25-07-2024 05:00 PM
Bid Opening Date for Technical Proposal	26-07-2024 05:00 PM
Date of Opening of Financial Proposal	To be notified later
Application Fee (Non-Refundable)	Rs 5900/- Inclusive of GST(Online Payment Gateway)
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs 200000/- (Online Payment Gateway)
Contact/ Helpline No. of E-Procurement Cell	+91-8709368893

Note: The above dates may change due to declaration of holidays. In the event of any of the dates being declared as a holiday for the office of the JMHDPC, the Bids will be opened on the next working day at the appointed time.

JMHDPC reserves the right to amend or withdraw any of the terms and conditions contained in the Bid document including quantity/ number of Medicines to be supplied or to reject any or all Bids without giving any notice or assigning any reason. The decision of the Managing Director, JMHDPC in this regard shall be final.

Sd/-
Managing Director
JMHDPC

राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन, मध्यप्रदेश
लिंक रोड 03, पत्रकार कॉलोनी के सामने, भोपाल (म.प्र.)
Email:- tendersnhmp@gmail.com

क्रमांक/एन.एच.एम./स्टोर/2024/19493 भोपाल, दिनांक : 28.06.2024

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन म.प्र. भोपाल कार्यालय द्वारा ई-निविदा के माध्यम से दरें आमंत्रित की जाती है। इच्छुक निविदाकर्ता राशि रुपये 2000/- (रु. दो हजार मात्र) का ऑनलाईन एम.पी. ई-टेंडर पर भुगतान कर निविदा प्रपत्र प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। विवरण निम्नानुसार है :-

क्र.	निविदा का नाम	निविदा प्रपत्र क्रय / प्राप्त करने की दिनांक	प्रि-बिड दिनांक	निविदा प्रपत्र जमा करने की प्रारंभ दिनांक	निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम दिनांक	निविदा खोले जाने की दिनांक
1	Request for Proposal for Supply of Office Stationery and other General items to National Health Mission, Madhya Pradesh.	01.07.2024	09.07.2024	16.07.2024	23.07.2024	24.07.2024

निम्नतु विवरण/जानकारी वेबसाईट <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> एवं <https://www.nhmp.gov.in> पर उपलब्ध है।
(मिशन संचालक, एनएचएम द्वारा अनुमोदित)
उप संचालक स्टोर
राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन
मध्यप्रदेश
जी-12723/24

S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER
NIT No.: ST_P_SER_ABS_KGP-BHC_04
Date: 29.06.2024. For & on behalf of President of India, ASTE/Project, South Eastern Railway, Garden Reach, Kolkata-700043 invites E-Tender in for the following work. Brief description of name of the work with its location: Design, supply, installation, testing & commissioning of Automatic Block Signalling System between Kharagpur-Ex. Bhadrak (172 RKM) section of Kharagpur Division of South Eastern Railway. Approximate Cost of work: ₹ 188,14,62,304.28. Bid Security Amount: ₹ 95,57,300. Date of closing of tender: 30.07.2024 at 11.30 hrs. The detailed tender notice for the above tender has already been published in website www.ireps.gov.in. (PR-330)

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THE WEEK THAT WAS
A quiz on the week's development.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
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E-Procurement Tender Notice No. 01/2024-25 Dated: 28.06.2024

E-Procurement Tender Notice

On behalf of the President of India, Senior Material Manager, North Central Railway, Jhansi, invites the E-procurement tender for following item.

Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.
54245200A	Rotor for MCP 14 HP, 415 V, 3 phase Auxiliary motor used in AC Locomotive M/s CGL make suitable for 975 RPM frame no. 180L. Enclosure IP 55 Rated current 23 Amp. Frequency 50 Hz and Insulation class H along with inner grease cups.	04 Nos.

Tender closing/opening date: 25.07.2024. Note: The complete information of above E-Procurement is available on IREPS website i.e <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. 1122/24(K)

@PRONCR @northcentralrailway North central railways www.nor.indianrailways.gov.in

NORTHERN RAILWAY
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

1st Corrigendum

In reference to following, there is extension of date of opening tender, which is scheduled to be opened on date 12.07.2024. Due to Administrative reasons the opening date of following tender is extended. The details of tender are given below:-

NIT No.	Name of Work	Existing Date of Opening	Modified Date of Opening
NIT-09-24-25-WE	Repair & Maintenance of Lawn/Ground and Cricket Pitches at Karnal Singh Stadium in the S/o SSE/Hort./NDLS under ADEN/Hort./NDLS.	12.07.2024	23.07.2024

The Tender is to be opened on 23/07/2024. Tender has been uploaded on website www.ireps.gov.in accordingly. No.128-W/269/O.E.T/NIT No 09/24-25/WE Dated-01 07.2024

उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग
हरिद्वार
फ़ोन नं.- 249404

संख्या: 74 / 79 / 04 / डीओआर / (मुओअओचिओ) / सेवा-1 / 2023-2024
दिनांक: 01 जुलाई, 2024
मुख्य अग्निशमन अधिकारी परीक्षा-2024

विज्ञापित

एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि उत्तराखण्ड अग्निशमन एवं आपात सेवा विभाग के अंतर्गत मुख्य अग्निशमन अधिकारी के कुल रिक्त 01 (अनुसूचित जाति हेतु आरक्षित) पद पर सीधी भर्ती के माध्यम से चयन हेतु विज्ञापन संख्या: A-2/DR(CFO)/S-1/2024 द्वारा पात्र अभ्यर्थियों से आयोग की वेबसाईट psc.uk.gov.in पर ऑनलाईन आवेदन-पत्र आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। ऑनलाईन आवेदन किए जाने से सम्बन्धित महत्वपूर्ण विधियां निम्नवत हैं-

विज्ञापन प्रकाशन की तिथि	01 जुलाई, 2024
ऑनलाइन आवेदन पत्र भरने की अन्तिम तिथि	21 जुलाई, 2024 (रात्रि 11.59.59 बजे तक)
आवेदन शुल्क-Net Banking/Debit Card/ Credit Card/UPI Payment द्वारा जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि	21 जुलाई, 2024 (रात्रि 11.59.59 बजे तक)
ऑनलाईन आवेदन प्रक्रिया पूर्ण करने के पश्चात् ऑनलाइन आवेदन पत्र की प्रविष्टियों में संशोधन/परिवर्तन किये जाने हेतु समय	दिनांक 27.07.2024 से दिनांक 05.08.2024 तक (रात्रि 11.59.59 बजे तक)
प्रमाणपत्रों की स्वमागित छायाप्रति, ऑनलाइन आवेदनपत्र के प्रिन्टाउट के साथ आयोग कार्यालय में जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि	20 अगस्त, 2024 (सायं 6:00 बजे तक)

अभ्यर्थी ऑनलाइन आवेदन करने से पूर्व आयोग की वेबसाईट पर प्रकाशित विज्ञापन में वर्णित समस्त शर्तों/निर्देशों का मली-मॉति अवलोकन कर लें।
(गिम्शारी सिंह रावत) सचिव।

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THE WEEK THAT WAS
A quiz on the week's development.

HT
FIRST VOICE. LAST WORD.

9 Maoists arrested over Sukma IED blast: Police
SUKMA: Nine Maoists, including four allegedly involved in blowing up a mini truck with an IED resulting in the death of two CRPF CoBRA personnel last month, were arrested from two places in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district, police said on Monday. The four involved in the blast were apprehended on Sunday.

TMC leader fined ₹50L over posts on ex-diplomat
NEW DELHI: The Delhi high court directed TMC leader Saket Gokhale on Monday to apologise and pay ₹50 lakh damages to former diplomat Lakshmi Murdeshwar Puri, the wife of Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri, for defamatory posts against her over the purchase of a property in Switzerland.

DGFT: No new concessional duty on import of milk
NEW DELHI: The Centre will not grant any fresh concessional duty on import of milk, milk products, corn and vegetable oil other than what India already committed at the WTO in 2004-05. Directorate General of Foreign Trade chief Santosh Kumar Sarangi said that no concessional duty imports of milk products have been undertaken since 2014-15.

TN edu policy panel submits report to CM
CHENNAI: The Justice D Murugesan Committee, constituted to formulate the TN Education Policy, submitted its report to chief minister MK Stalin on Monday. The report has recommended that TN continue its dual-language policy of Tamil and English and abolish public examinations for classes 3, 5, and 8.

Justice Gavai cautions HC judges over canvassing for SC elevation

Utkarsh Anand
 letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: In a stern critique of judicial conduct, Supreme Court judge BR Gavai has admonished certain high court judges for various lapses, including canvassing for their elevation to the apex court and failing to adhere to punctuality and efficiency. Speaking at the judicial academy in Kolkata on June 29, Justice Gavai highlighted instances of judges not sitting in court on time, keeping judgments reserved for months and mistreating lawyers. "Some of the judges in some of the high courts do not sit on time. It is shocking to know that some of the judges, though the court timings are 10.30 am, sit at 11.30 am and get up at 12.30 pm, though the court timings are up to 1.30 pm. It is more shocking to know that some of the judges do not sit in the second half," he said. Justice Gavai expressed con-



Supreme Court judge BR Gavai

cerns about the integrity of the judiciary, emphasising the importance of judicial discipline and fraternity. "Some of the judges even go to the extent of canvassing their candidature for elevation to the Supreme Court," he said. "They try to prove their case as to how they are more suitable for elevation to the Supreme Court than the other senior judges of the said court." Such behaviour, he maintained, undermines the principle of judicial discipline and harms the reputation of the institution. Justice Gavai, who is in line to become the Chief Justice of India

in May 2025, pointed out that the collegium, or the judges' selection panel, works on a database with information on all judges who are in the zone of consideration for elevation. "Apart from that, inputs from various sources, including the opinions of the consultee judges in the Supreme Court who had an occasion to examine the functioning of such judges, are also taken into consideration. In my view, such canvassing by judges is injurious to the principle of discipline that we should maintain," he said. Keeping judgments reserved for inordinate long periods, Justice Gavai asserted, leads to "eroding the confidence of the public in the judiciary". "It is our duty to enhance the faith that this common citizen has in our Institution and to ensure that we perform in a manner which not only enhances its faith but also the dignity of this great institution to which we owe everything," he said.

Rebel Akali Dal leaders apologise to Akal Takht

HT Correspondent
 letters@hindustantimes.com

CHANDIGARH: Rebel Shiromani Akali Dal leaders on Monday appeared before the jathedar of the Akal Takht and apologised for the "mistakes" committed when their party was in power in the state. They handed the apology letter to Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Raghbir Singh at the Golden Temple in Amritsar. The Akal Takht is the supreme temporal seat of the Sikhs.

The leaders sought forgiveness for the "four mistakes" during the former SAD regime between 2007 and 2017, including the failure to punish those responsible for the 2015 sacrilege incidents, and pardoning Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurneet Ram Rahim Singh in the 2007 blasphemy case. They also held SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal, who was the deputy chief minister at that time, responsible for the "mistakes".

While the rebels targeted Badal, in Chandigarh, the SAD's women wing expressed faith in his leadership, saying he is best suited to lead the party at this juncture. In the letter to the Akal Takht, the rebel leaders said the Sikh panth and the people of Punjab drifted away from the Akali Dal over these "mistakes" while asserting that they were ready to face any punishment in accordance with the Sikh tenets. Because of this, the SAD faced "failures" not only on the religious front but also suffered people's apathy in the political field, the rebel leaders said while acknowledging that they also remained part of the party leadership as these events unfolded.

Reacting to Badal's 2023 apology for not being able to catch the culprits involved in the sacrilege incidents, the rebel leaders had recently said the forgiveness sought by the SAD chief was neither from the Akal Takht nor followed the rites and rituals of the Sikh tenets.

COPS: 17-YEAR-OLD GIRL STABBED TO DEATH BY STALKER IN M.P., PROBE ON

BHOPAL/JABALPUR: A 17-year-old girl was allegedly stabbed to death by a 20-year-old stalker in Jabalpur city of Madhya Pradesh on Monday, police said.

While a case has been registered under the new criminal laws, a search is on for the accused, who is absconding, police added. According to superintendent of police (city) Rajesh Kumar Rathore, the deceased had allegedly turned down a proposal by the accused and stopped talking to him a few days ago.

"The accused was upset. On Monday evening, he stabbed the girl at a local market. The girl was rushed to a private hospital and later referred to another facility, where doctors declared her dead," Rathore said. The accused used to study in the same school as the girl, he added.

"We have registered a murder case under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and a search is on for the accused," he said. **HTC**

ALLAHABAD HC THROWS OUT PLEA THAT CLAIMED RAHUL IS BRITISH

LUCKNOW: The Allahabad high court on Monday dismissed a PIL questioning the recent election of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to Lok Sabha alleging he is a British citizen, after the petitioner sought withdrawal of his plea.

"Accordingly, the petition is dismissed as withdrawn with liberty to approach the competent authority under Section 9(2) of the Citizenship Act, 1955 as far as it may be permissible in law," the HC's Lucknow bench said. The bench of Justices Rajan Roy and Om Prakash Shukla passed the order as the petitioner S Vignesh Shishir, after presenting arguments in the court, sought withdrawal of his PIL with the liberty to approach the competent authority under the Citizenship Act 1955 for raising his grievance.

Shishir, who claims to be a farmer from Karnataka and a member of political party, had moved the PIL seeking the issuance of a writ quo-warranto, which is used to challenge a person's right to hold a public office, against Rahul Gandhi. It alleged Gandhi was a British citizen and was not eligible to contest elections in India. **HTC**

India seeks early release of 185 Indians held in Pak

HT Correspondent
 letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: India and Pakistan on Monday exchanged lists of civilian prisoners and fishermen in each other's custody, with New Delhi calling for the early release and repatriation of 185 Indian nationals who had completed their prison terms.

Under the provisions of the 2008 Agreement on Consular Access, the two countries exchange lists of prisoners in each other's custody twice a year, on January 1 and July 1, through diplomatic channels in New Delhi and Islamabad. India shared the names of 366 civilian prisoners and 86 fishermen in its custody, who are Pakistani or are believed-to-be-Pakistani, the external affairs ministry said in a statement.

Similarly, Pakistan shared the names of 43 civilian prisoners and 21 fishermen in its custody who are Indian or are believed-to-be-Indian. "Pakistan has been asked to expedite the release and repatriation of 185 Indian fishermen and civilian prisoners, who have completed their sentence," the statement said. In addition, Pakistan was asked

PAK HAS BEEN ASKED TO GIVE IMMEDIATE CONSULAR ACCESS TO 47 CIVILIAN PRISONERS AND FISHERMEN IN ITS CUSTODY

to provide immediate consular access to 47 civilian prisoners and fishermen in its custody, who are believed-to-be-Indian and have not been provided such access so far. Pakistan was also requested to "ensure the safety, security and welfare of all Indian and believed-to-be-Indian civilian prisoners and fishermen, pending their release and repatriation", it said.

The Indian government also called for the early release and repatriation of civilian prisoners, fishermen with their boats, and missing Indian defence personnel believed to be in Pakistan's custody.

India urged Pakistan to expedite the process to verify the nationality of 75 believed-to-be-Pakistani civilian prisoners and fishermen in India's custody.

INDIAN PSU INKS DEAL WITH B'DESH NAVY UNDER CREDIT LINE OF \$500MN

Rezual H Laskar
 letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Bangladesh Navy has inked a deal with India's state-run Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) for an 800 tonne ocean-going tug, the first major contract under a \$500 million line of credit offered by New Delhi for defence purchases.

The agreement was signed in Dhaka on Sunday by representatives of the Bangladesh Navy's directorate general of defence purchases and GRSE to coincide with the four-day visit by the Indian Navy chief, Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, aimed at bolstering bilateral defence ties and to explore new avenues for naval cooperation.

The \$500 million line of credit was operationalised last year and Bangladesh used it to finalise a few minor deals with India for equipment such as Bailey bridges and vehicles, people familiar with the matter said on condition of anonymity. "This is the first major deal under the line of credit and will enable Indian shipyards to gain a foothold in Bangladesh," one the people said.

HT Shine Jobs

COUNCIL FOR THE INDIAN SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS
 Advt. No.: RC-01/07/2024
 The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) a private National Examination Board in the country is looking for competent individuals for the following posts:

- Deputy Officers
- Assistant Officer (IT)
- Sr. Office Assistant
- Junior Clerk Cum Typist

Kindly visit Notices Section at www.cisce.org for detailed job description and eligibility criteria for the posts or scan the above QR Code. Last date to apply: 20th July 2024.

HANSRAJ COLLEGE
 University of Delhi, Mahatma Hansraj Marg, Malka Ganj, Delhi-110007

Online applications are invited for the appointment of Assistant Professors in following subjects.

S. No.	Subject	No. of Post(s)	Details
1	Botany	2	UR-2
2	Chemistry	1	UR-1
3	Commerce	2	ST-1, UR-1
4	Computer Science	5	SC-1, OBC-1, EWS-1, UR-1, PwBD(VI)-1
5	Economics	1	EWS-1
6	Electronics	2	OBC-1, UR-1
7	Hindi	1	UR-1
8	History	2	ST-1, UR-1
9	Philosophy	4	SC-1, ST-1, OBC-1, EWS-1
10	Sanskrit	2	UR-1, PwBD(VI)-1
11	Zoology	3	OBC-1, UR-2

The detailed advertisement and eligibility criteria is available on the college website: <https://www.hansrajcollege.ac.in/>. The last date for receipt of applications: 12th July, 2024. (PRINCIPAL)

HANSRAJ COLLEGE
 University of Delhi, Mahatma Hansraj Marg, Malka Ganj, Delhi-110007

Online applications are invited in the prescribed form at web link <https://iunt.uod.ac.in/> for the following non-teaching post on Permanent basis. Last date for receipt of application is within 21 days from the date of publication of advertisement in the Employment News. For more details regarding the qualification, instructions to the candidates etc., please refer to the college website www.hansrajcollege.ac.in. Any addendum/corrigendum shall be uploaded on the College website. It shall be the responsibility of the candidate to read the details before filling up the form and to monitor the same.

S. N.	Name of the Post	No. of Vacant posts	Pay Level	UR	OBC	SC	PwBD		Age Limit
							HI	VI(LV)	
1	Laboratory Attendant	07	Pay Level - 01	01	03	01	01	01	30

(PRINCIPAL)

IDBI BANK
 Regd. Office: IDBI Tower, WTC Complex, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai 400 005. Tel. 66553404

IDBI Bank Ltd.
 Advertisement No. 04/2024-25
Recruitment of Specialist Officers (2024-25)

IDBI Bank Ltd. invites online applications for the position(s) of Deputy General Manager (DGM) - Grade D, Assistant General Manager (AGM) - Grade C, and Manager (Grade B) as per below mentioned details:

Sr. No.	Functional Area	Grade			
		D	C	B	Total
1	Finance & Accounts	1	2	4	7
2	Audit-Information System	0	3	0	3
3	Digital Banking & Emerging Payments (DB&EP)	0	1	1	2
4	Risk Management - Information Security Group (ISG)	1	5	3	9
5	Security	1	0	2	3
6	Fraud Risk Management Group	1	4	3	8
Total		3	15	13	31

For eligibility criteria (age, work experience, job profile etc.), requisite fees and other details, please visit the 'Careers' section of the Bank's website www.idbibank.in. Online registration starts from July 01, 2024 till July 15, 2024.

NOTE: IDBI Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any/all application(s) without assigning any reason(s) whatsoever. Any addendum/modifications with regards to the selection process shall only be published on the Bank's website (career section) www.idbibank.in and not through any other media. Candidates are requested to regularly visit the website as above, for update in the matter.

Place - Mumbai General Manager- HR

रेल विकास निगम लिमिटेड
 Rail Vikas Nigam Limited
 गुणवत्ता, परिचय, सर्वश्रेष्ठता
 (A Government of India Enterprise)

Advertisement No. 36/2024, dated: 01.07.2024
 Government of India
Rail Vikas Nigam Limited

In order to make recruitment for "RAMMAM HUDRO POWER PROJECT" at Darjeeling, West Bengal in RVNL on contract basis Walk-in Interview will be held as indicated below

S. No.	Name and No of the Post	Walk-in-interview
1	Project Manager- (01)	11.07.2024 at 11 AM
2	Deputy Manager (Finance & Accounts) - (01)	

Place: Aharika, Ground Floor, Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd., August Kranti Bhawan, Bhikaji Cama Place, R. K. Puram, New Delhi -110066.

For details (Requisite Qualification & Experience) login to website <http://www.rvnl.org>

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 INSTITUTE OF BANKING PERSONNEL SELECTION
 (An autonomous body set up by Reserve Bank of India, Central Financial Institutions and Public Sector Banks)

CRP CLERKS - XIV COMMON RECRUITMENT PROCESS FOR RECRUITMENT OF CLERKS IN PARTICIPATING BANKS (For Vacancies of 2025-26)

Website: www.ibps.in
 In case of queries / complaints please log in to <http://cgrrs.ibps.in>

The online examination (Preliminary and Main) for the upcoming Common Recruitment Process for Recruitment and Selection of personnel for Clerical cadre Posts in the Participating Banks is tentatively scheduled in the month of August, 2024 & October, 2024.

Candidates intending to apply for CRP Clerks XIV should ensure that they fulfil the minimum eligibility criteria on the stipulated date as specified in the detailed notification issued and hosted on authorised website by IBPS.

Activity	Tentative Dates
Online registration including Edit/Modification of Application & Payment of Application Fees/Intimation Charges	01.07.2024 to 21.07.2024
Conduct of Pre-Exam Training	12.08.2024 to 17.08.2024
Online Examination - Preliminary	August, 2024
Result of Online exam - Preliminary	September, 2024
Online Examination - Main	October, 2024

• PET may be conducted either in Online Mode or Physical Mode
 Candidates are advised to regularly visit the authorised IBPS website www.ibps.in for details and updates.
 Before registering online, candidates are advised to read the detailed notification carefully and follow the instructions mentioned therein.

Mumbai
 Date: 01.07.2024 **DIRECTOR**

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OPINION

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OUR TAKE

Coping with the monsoon impact

Infrastructure collapse after a single day's rain is a wake-up call to reimagine Delhi's water future

Last Friday, Delhi received a record downpour of 228.1 mm rain, the highest for a single day since 1936. A taxi driver died when the canopy of a terminal at the Indira Gandhi International Airport collapsed on his car and 11 others were injured as rain battered the city. It triggered an infrastructure collapse in the national Capital of a scale that raised serious questions about urban governance, especially the preparedness of the city and state governments to deal with the monsoon.

Exceptional rainfall is becoming common around the world — and wreaking havoc in countries big and small, rich and poor. It is always difficult to prepare for such extreme events (which are increasingly becoming common), but Delhi's multiple administrations (the LG, the UT's elected government, NDMC, MCD) had adequate warning. A record 153 mm rainfall on July 9 last year led to massive flooding in the city with the Yamuna waters breaching its bunds and inundating areas close to the river. Soon after, the powers that be promised that the city's infrastructure would be augmented to ensure that it would never encounter a similar situation. The truth is little has been done. Last week's flooding happened because the city's choking sewage drains had not been cleared, the nullahs had not been de-silted, pumps had not been readied to limit water logging and other maintenance work was left incomplete or ignored. Worse, the big problem highlighted a year ago — storm water drains being used for sewage and vice versa — was also the big reason why many parts of Delhi flooded on Friday.

The city's administrators have to address the issue across three time horizons. In the short-term, they will have to ensure the efficacy of existing infrastructure, carrying out routine maintenance work regularly, and putting in place a protocol for inspection. In the medium-term, they will have to augment infrastructure. And in the long-term, they have to accept the new reality forced on us by the climate crisis, factor in extreme events as routine ones in the planning process, and design a city that can withstand events such as Friday's. It is important to remember that much of the visuals of flooding coming in from Europe are because of the inability to do the third. Delhi's problem is more first-generation. That's the real tragedy.

Low Tehran turnout hints at political crisis

Iran's presidential election, necessitated by the death of Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash in May, has been marred, like most recent polls in that country, by a record low turnout that reflects growing voter apathy. It also ended in a stalemate, with a run-off announced for July 5 to let voters decide between hardliner Saeed Jalili and reformist Masoud Pezeshkian. Just 40% of more than 61 million eligible voters cast their ballots, the lowest turnout in presidential elections in more than four decades. This growing disinterest among voters has shown up the frailties of an electoral system that weeds out perceived reformists or dissenters.

The clergy's bid to firewall the hardline Islamic polity from any liberal incursion is undermining Iran's political democracy, with a large segment of the population staying away from elections since their voices are not allowed to even feature in the contest. This disillusionment has grown since the widespread protests triggered by the September 2022 death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old arrested for violating the strict dress rule for women, did not lead to anticipated reforms. A higher turnout in the run-off could benefit Pezeshkian, who was marginally ahead of Jalili in Sunday's election.

No matter who wins the run-off, he will have a tough task dealing with challenges such as an inflation rate of more than 40%, strained relations with the West, reviving the Iranian nuclear deal and finding a way out of crippling sanctions. Even here, the Iranian president's options are limited as most decisions are left to the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. While India must be prepared to continue engaging with the Iranian leadership to secure its strategic interests across the region, this election should serve as a wake-up call for the Supreme Leader and his aides about the need for change.

Eat the rich, but do it in a logical manner

A clean-up is needed in India's tax regime to make it rational across assets. There is also a need for policy permanence

Opinions on taxes on assets almost always depend on one's position in life. Those without assets see the merit in taxing the asset-rich and those who have built or inherited assets will argue for no or low taxes. After all, they argue, that tax on the income has already been paid and then the assets have been created — why tax them again? But other than a few tax havens that have zero tax on income or profit from assets, most nations tax both income and profits from assets. As does India. The tax regime in India has been used to nudge investors in certain directions and has ended up in a thoughtless hotchpotch with no first principles in sight. Worse, the lack of policy predictability leaves investors angry and confused as they are unable to make long-term decisions with their money. I argue for a first-principles-based approach to taxing both income and profits from assets for a nation that is on the road to middle-income status.

But first, let me define the broad categories into which assets fall. These are equity (stocks and equity funds), debt (fixed deposits, public provident fund, bonds, debt funds)

and real assets that will include real estate (immovable) and gold (movable), among other things. Income from assets is usually taxed at the slab rate (the maximum tax rate that your income tax is levied — also called your marginal rate of taxation). So, income from debt is interest and from real estate is rent. Equity, like gold, throws off no income, though, in India, dividends (that are actually distributed profits) are taxed as income in the investor's hands. Profit, or loss, is the difference between the buy price and the sell price. Called "capital gains", these are taxed according to the length of time they are held by the investor. If held for a shorter period of time, these profits are taxed mostly as income. For a longer holding tenure, the long-term capital gains are usually taxed at a lower rate. Sometimes these profits are adjusted for inflation, lowering the tax burden. Then there is the issue of re-investment — should the government tax profits from an asset at all if it is getting reinvested in the same asset class? All these lead to very different treatments for the three asset classes.

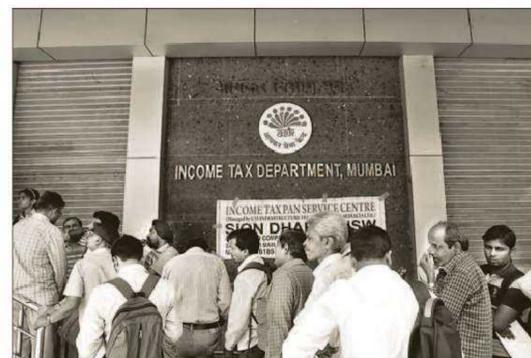
I suggest that all assets have a rationalisation of treatment across three parameters. Treat them equally so that investors can make investment decisions based on the merit of the asset rather than to harvest a lower tax regime.

The first parameter is that there should be equality regarding rates of

taxation. For the same purpose (income or capital gain), tax rates must be equalised across the three asset classes and the various forms they are held in, removing the tax arbitrage that exists today. I would like to argue for reducing the rates to the lowest possible rather than the other way around. The exact number is for the budget team to decide — this column is more a strategy direction than a recommendation on rates.

Second, there should be equality regarding the holding period to classify an asset as held for the short-term or the long-term. Equity (and listed bonds) go long-term after a holding period of one year, real estate at two years, physical gold at three years, and gold and debt mutual funds do not go long-term at all. In a strange move in 2023, the ministry of finance classified long-term profits on debt mutual funds as income to be taxed at the investor's marginal tax rate, while listed bonds get treated as equity in terms of their long-term tax treatment. This move defies logic, and better sense must prevail when the full audit of the taxes on assets is done. A neat tax system should equalise the holding period that classifies an asset as short-term or long-term and should not differentiate the mode of holding the asset — directly or through an institution.

Third, there should be equality regarding reinvestment treatment. The current system gives a free pass



We should sort out our asset tax system fast and give a clear pathway to an aspiring India that wants to be rich

to real estate by making profits tax-free if reinvested in specific bonds or another piece of real estate. There are many conditions and these keep changing year to year. But the basic tax pass that is given to real estate is not given to any other asset class for reinvestment within the same asset class. This is particularly worrisome for long-term equity investors who cannot switch from a poorly performing fund to a well-performing fund because there is a capital gains tax on exit. Surely there can be a way to switch your holding, say within a month, into another fund for no incidence of a long-term capital gains tax.

Two more issues need attention. One, we need policy permanence and not this annual tinkering with the tax system. It is difficult to make long-term decisions for investors if the ground beneath your feet keeps changing. Why is it so difficult to think through the tax on assets on a first principles basis and then just stick to it?

And last, please clean up the strange rule of taxing equity as debt when it comes to fund of funds in the mutual fund space. With

₹20,000 crore of systematic investment plans coming month after month from retail investors into risk assets such as equity funds, mutual funds are now the go-to product for middle India seeking a long-term investment product. However, a special category of funds called fund of funds which is just a mutual fund that buys units of other funds — typically used to invest overseas to give geographical diversification to a portfolio — has a tax rule that is incorrect. There is no other way to put it — it is just wrong to tax an equity fund of funds as debt.

As the government likes to say, India is on its way to becoming a developed country. *Amrit Kaal* by 2047 is a realisable goal. Along with prosperity will come financialisation and the need for investments. We still have time before the rush of retail money becomes a gush. We should sort out our asset tax system fast and give a clear pathway to an aspiring India that wants to be rich.

Monika Halan is the best-selling author of the *Let's Talk* series of books on money. The views expressed are personal



Monika Halan

In Iran, a battle between polarising political views

On June 28, Iran's snap elections for a new president ended in a run-off, with none of the three final candidates securing a majority. The surprise element was that even at a historically low voter turnout of 40%, the sole reformist candidate, Masoud Pezeshkian, maintained a lead of nearly one million votes over Saeed Jalili, a hardliner and long-time loyalist of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei. Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf — a former Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) commander, former Tehran mayor, and current parliament speaker — who projected himself as the establishment's choice, came a distant third in what was his fourth presidential campaign.

After the moderate Rouhani government was weakened by the Trump administration's unilateral withdrawal from the nuclear agreement in 2018, the Guardian Council, the conservative-dominated vetting body, has been systematically disqualifying the majority of reformist and moderate candidates in parliamentary and presidential elections. Khamenei has backed conservative control of all branches of powers — parliament, judiciary and presidency — when the Islamic Republic is facing severe internal and external challenges and a generational change in political leadership. Protesting against disqualifications that restricted the voters' choice, reformists, including former president Mohammad Khatami, boycotted recent elections. Amid the "Women, Life, Freedom" protests, Green Movement leader Mir Hossein Mousavi, who has remained under house arrest since 2011, called for a referendum on Iran's political system and the drafting of a new democratic constitution. Even moderate leaders such as Rouhani and Javad Zarif have decried the "rule of minority". In this context, the approval of Pezeshkian, a five-term parliamentarian from East Azerbaijan province and a prominent reformist disqualified in the 2021 presidential election, was a surprise. In a bid to attract alienated voters, Pezeshkian adopted Baraye Iran (For Iran), the anthem of the recent protests, as his campaign slogan.

While Mousavi still did not vote, Khatami, Rouhani, and Zarif supported Pezeshkian's campaign. Still, the manoeuvre to bring reformists back to the political arena to counter voter apathy has largely failed to attract the "grey voters" — a term for reform-minded individuals who usually don't cast their ballots. The only exception was the capital, Tehran, which usually sees the worst turnout. It saw an increase of 10.6% in polling, possibly in the favour of Pezeshkian. Further, the border provinces of Kurdistan and Sistan-Baluchistan, inhabited by ethnic and Sunni minorities,

NONE OF THE THREE FINAL CANDIDATES SECURED A MAJORITY IN IRAN'S SNAP ELECTIONS. PEZESHKIAN-JALILI RUN-OFF ON JULY 5 WILL BE A SHOWDOWN BETWEEN THE TWO MOST POLARISING POLITICAL VISIONS FOR THE COUNTRY

recorded the lowest turnout. The non-participation of 60% of the electorate underscores the deep dissatisfaction with the political system.

Pezeshkian's lead, despite the low turnout, has overturned the conventional wisdom that reformist prospects depend on high turnout. The most plausible explanation is a shift of conservative votes in his favour. Jalili and Ghalibaf together garnered 12.8 million votes, a decline of 5.2 million from the 2021 elections when Raisi emerged victorious with no serious challenger. Pezeshkian, who is an ethnic Azeri Turk and has represented Tabriz in parliament since 2008, recorded a wide lead over the conservatives in the three north-western provinces, where the majority of Azeris (comprising 16% of Iran's population) live. Pezeshkian's campaign focus on addressing the long-standing neglect of border areas and ensuring the inclusion of Sunni Muslims and ethnic minorities in government posts may have helped in making inroads into traditionally conservative votes in these regions.

Another notable feature of the elections was the intensive power struggle within the conservative camp. In the March 2024 parliamentary elections, a younger generation of hardline clerics such as Mahmoud Nabavian and Hamid Rasaei, at the helm of the Front of Islamic Revolution Stability (known by its Persian acronym Paydari), had carried out an "anti-Ghalibaf" campaign focussed on corruption allegations against him. Ghalibaf, who had secured the highest votes in Tehran in the 2020 parliament, fell to fourth place. Paydari is the most fundamentalist political group in the conservative spectrum. Unlike the pragmatic conservatives like Ghalibaf, it favours a rigid version of Islamic law and is fiercely critical of the reformist cause of social and cultural freedoms and diplomacy with the West, denouncing them as seditionists. Paydari supported Jalili, who owes his power and authority to Khamenei and is known for his uncompromising stance as Iran's top nuclear negotiator under former president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. However, Ghalibaf, driven by personal ambition and the support of power networks he cultivated during his career spanning the IRGC, Tehran municipality, and parliament, refused to withdraw in Jalili's favour even after the pre-election surveys indicated Jalili's substantial lead over him. Even an intervention by IRGC Quds Force Commander Esmail Qa'ami failed to convince either Jalili or Ghalibaf to withdraw. Subsequently, a triangular contest made a run-off including Pezeshkian almost inevitable. After the defeat, Ghalibaf extended support to Jalili.

The Pezeshkian-Jalili run-off on July 5 will be a showdown between the two most polarising political visions for the country. The whole of the conservative apparatus, including the Basij, a million-strong volunteer paramilitary organisation that led the crackdown on the reformist Green Movement and anti-mandatory hijab protests, will mobilise for Jalili. Pezeshkian's fate depends on whether he can finally move the grey voters.

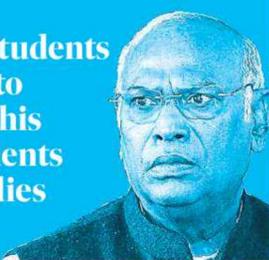
Deepika Saraswat is associate fellow, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses. The views expressed are personal



Deepika Saraswat

{ MALLIKARJUN KHARGE }
LEADER OF OPPOSITION IN RAJYA SABHA

The future of 30 lakh students has been affected due to recent paper leaks. If this keeps happening, students will stop their studies



Biden versus Trump as a modern Greek tragedy

If this is not a tragedy of Greek proportions, then what is? The United States (US) presidential debate between an incoherent, physically and intellectually impaired man who cannot even enunciate some of his best ideas and a chronic liar is a theatrical coup that nobody in the world thought they would see in their lifetime.

Donald Trump and Joe Biden are seeking re-election this year and, if neither pulls out, one of them will become the President of the US, holding the reins of a much larger global territory than the geography of the US. There's a strong sense of foreboding, "an impending sense of doom", as literary critic Frank Kermode says, that is gripping almost every observer of US realpolitik everywhere in the world.

Biden's friends and staunchest supporters have already written essays on why he should bow out of the presidential race in the interest of the Democratic Party and the nation at large. It is, after all, a tall order to make Trump come across as a better politician!

Pessimism much? Philosophers and literary critics, Friedrich Nietzsche being the foremost, have long argued about the relationship between pessimism and tragedy. "Tragedy ... is in its essence pessimistic. Existence is in itself something very terrible, man something very foolish," said the German philosopher. What is even more interesting, and bang for the buck in the present moment, is Nietzsche's proposition that all tragedy emanates from time. "All the tragedies which we can imagine return in the end to the one and only tragedy: The passage of time," philosopher Simone Weil took the idea further. The tragedy of the 2024 US elections is, paradoxically, predicated on time — the age of the president, the cut-off period for an abortion to remain legal and the deadline for the ceasefire in Palestine.

"Just how far will a leader go in order to save face and secure a military victory in the East?" In 2004, a campaign in London ran on these lines. Only, it was for a National Theatre production of Euripides' Iphigenia at Aulis and the "leader" in question was the Greek king Agamemnon, the man who burnt the "topless towers of Ilium", and not Tony Blair, in cahoots with

George W Bush, burning Iraq down. This is just to show how everything we see on the stage of western politics today has its roots in the Greek classical literary traditions. Hence, the two men in the present instance, vying for the presidential post in the world's oldest democracy, are nothing more than two performers in the polis — the public space.

One of the defining features of Greek tragedy, according to Aristotle, is terror. Only when terror is unleashed and the twin emotions of fear and pity are heightened can there be the cleansing of the said emotions. The moment of catharsis.

Seeing Biden lose his grip on reality, quite literally, during the debate was both a moment of terror and pathos. Similarly, Trump's astute use of the debate platform foreshadows the days to come. Not very confidence-inspiring, is it? One, then, begins to question the very purpose of such an exercise. What did the viewers and voters get out of it?

In 1980, behavioural scientist Constantine G Lyketos published his findings on the effects of ancient Greek drama on patients with chronic psychiatric issues. Taking the Aristotelian view forward, that frenzied people have the ability to empathise with tragic heroes, performances of various Greek tragedies had been used in Athens's Dromokration Mental Hospital as a means of psychotherapy. The findings suggested that "drama is not merely a recreational activity for mental patients: On the contrary, a unique psychotherapeutic effect is produced by the power of plot and language".

Is the presidential debate, then, an act of intervention for the public at large in the US and abroad? It would seem so, going by the public response to the debate.

The only catharsis offered here, however, is to the non-US citizens who are heaving a sigh of relief that they are not poor Americans saddled with an impossible choice this November.

Nishtha Gautam is an author, academic and journalist. She's the co-editor of *In Hard Times*, a Bloomsbury book on national security. The views expressed are personal



Nishtha Gautam

Ex-presidents have broad immunity: US top court

Chief Justice John Roberts said Trump's case will be sent back to the lower court for further review

Associated Press
letters@hindustantimes.com

WASHINGTON: The Supreme Court on Monday ruled for the first time that former presidents have some immunity from prosecution, extending the delay in the Washington criminal case against Donald Trump on charges he plotted to overturn his 2020 presidential election loss and all but ending prospects the former president could be tried before the November election. In a historic 6-3 ruling, the court's conservative majority, including the three justices appointed by Trump, returned his case to the trial court to determine what is left of special counsel Jack Smith's indictment. The outcome means additional delay before Trump could face trial.

The court's decision in a second major Trump case this term, along with its ruling rejecting efforts to bar him from the ballot because of his actions following the 2020 election, underscores the direct and possibly uncomfortable role the justices are playing in the November election.

"Under our constitutional structure of separated powers, the nature of presidential power



US President Donald Trump waves to supporters during a rally to contest the certification of the 2020 presidential election results by the Congress, in Washington, on January 6, 2021. REUTERS

entitles a former president to absolute immunity from criminal prosecution for actions within his conclusive and preclusive constitutional authority," Chief Justice John Roberts wrote for the court. "And he is entitled to at least presumptive immunity from prosecution for all his official acts. There is no immunity for unofficial acts."

The three liberal justices dissented.

In a scathing dissent she read from in the courtroom, Justice Sonia Sotomayor said, "Because our Constitution does not shield a former President from answering for criminal and treasonous acts, I dissent." Sotomayor said the decision

Big win for our constitution and democracy. Proud to be an American.

DONALD TRUMP,
Former US president

"makes a mockery of the principle, foundational to our Constitution and system of government, that no man is above the law." The protection afforded presidents by the court, she said, "is just as bad as it sounds, and it is baseless." Smith's office declined to

comment on the ruling. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer denounced the ruling as "a disgraceful decision," made with the help of the three justices that Trump appointed himself.

The justices knocked out one aspect of the indictment. The opinion found Trump is "absolutely immune" from prosecution for alleged conduct involving discussions with the justice department.

Trump is also "at least presumptively immune" from allegations that he tried to pressure Vice-President Mike Pence to reject certification of Democrat Joe Biden's electoral vote win on January 6, 2021.



Anti-far right protesters during a demonstration at Place de la Republique following election results in Paris, on Sunday. BLOOMBERG

France faces hung house, policy gridlock as Macron humbled

Bloomberg

letters@hindustantimes.com

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron's snap-election gamble has backfired. First-round parliamentary votes have put arch-enemy Marine Le Pen within reach of an absolute or more likely relative majority. Whatever happens next, the electorate is in a restless mood, Macron looks like a lame duck and an ungovernable France is a real risk.

Macron's plea to reject extremes and embrace his pro-reform "revolution" proved a resounding flop. Voters turned out in droves to vote for Le Pen's National Rally party, which came out on top with a score of about 33%, or around 12 million votes.

It's a bleak watershed moment for French politics that a party like this — which has tried to shake its history of xenophobia and anti-semitism, and which as recently as 2017 advocated "Frexit" and a lifting of sanctions on Russia — did so well. Its mix of budget giveaways and anti-immigration talk make it the movement of choice everywhere, apart from Paris and other big cities.

Macronism is no longer even effective against the Left, whose various strands have become increasingly pulled toward fire-

France's election outcome is in line with Europe-wide trends: Kremlin

MOSCOW: The Kremlin said on Monday that the outcome of the first round of parliamentary elections in France confirmed trends already being observed in various European countries. Marine Le Pen's far-right National Rally (RN) party scored historic gains to win the first round of France's parliamentary election.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that Moscow was closely following the elections in France and thought the way the first round had gone reflected a Europe-wide trend. REUTERS

brand Jean-Luc Melenchon's deficit-exploding ideas like retirement at 60 and his dismissal of anti-semitism as "residual".

The left-wing bloc scored around 28%, not far behind Le Pen, forcing Macron to steer a new course: His entourage is now open to forming a "republican front" with left-wing candi-

dates he once saw as toxic, going as far as to suspend his unpopular reform of unemployment insurance. Ex-President Francois Hollande, Macron's one-time mentor who's eyeing a return to politics, said Macron's party (which scored around 21%) lay in "tatters".

He has a point. With only three years to go before the end of Macron's second term and the imminent prospect of either a hostile cohabitation with Le Pen or a chaotic minority government, it's hard to see this as anything other than the 46-year-old's political twilight.

Perhaps some kind of centrist slab can be carved out of the left-wing bloc after the second round of voting on July 7. But it's hard to negotiate from third place, and even harder to lead without a party.

Whatever emerges from the mess will be hoping to match the 44-day Liz Truss lettuce in the UK, or the one-year limit before snap elections can be called again.

Meanwhile, a far-right or left-bloc absolute majority could see French economic output flatline next year as pricey spending plans are rolled out, according to Bloomberg Economics. There is no guarantee that voters would suddenly blame Le Pen for this state of affairs or regret their choice. AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

POLISH PM WARNS OF 'DANGEROUS' TURN AFTER FRENCH ELECTION

WARSAW: Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk warned on Monday of a "very dangerous" turn for France and Europe after the far right won the first round of pivotal French elections. "This is all really starting to smell very dangerous," said former EU chief Tusk, who also made allegations about "Russian influence" in "many parties of the radical right in Europe".

"Even the complete victory of the radical right of Mrs (Marine) Le Pen's camp does not signal the loss of power by the centre represented by President (Emmanuel) Macron," Tusk told reporters in Rzeszow, a vital hub for Western aid to Ukraine. "But it is a very clear sign of what is happening not only in France, but also in some other countries, also in Western Europe," he added, without specifying any additional European countries.

The former European Council president also spoke of a "dangerous trend", and pointed to fears that "France can soon become the sick person of Europe, because it will be forced to confront these radical forces". AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE



Imran arbitrarily detained in Pak: UN working group

WASHINGTON: A UN human rights working group said in an opinion issued on Monday that former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan was arbitrarily imprisoned in violation of international law. The Geneva-based UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention said that the "appropriate remedy would be to release Mr Khan immediately and accord him an enforceable right to compensation and other reparations, in accordance with international law". REUTERS

South African parties agree on Cabinet positions

CAPE TOWN: South African President Cyril Ramaphosa named a new Cabinet late on Sunday night after his African National Congress, the former main opposition party, and nine other parties agreed on the makeup of a coalition government following weeks of haggling. Ramaphosa's party retained the largest share of ministerial positions as he appointed African National Congress officials to 20 of the 32 Cabinet minister roles in the new coalition. AP

At least 3 killed in shooting near Cincinnati varsity

CINCINNATI: Five people were shot, including three fatally, near the University of Cincinnati campus early Monday, police said. Two people were taken into custody, including one of the wounded. AP

Nine killed in Seoul after car hits pedestrians

SEOUL: At least nine people were killed and four others were injured when a car struck pedestrians near Seoul city hall on Monday, police said. There were six fatalities at the scene, while three others were pronounced dead after being rushed to hospital, firefighter Kim Chun-soo said. AFP

{ PAKISTAN } COURT RULING IN PUNJAB PROVINCE

Christian man gets death sentence for posting hateful content against Muslims

MULTAN, PAKISTAN: A court in Pakistan sentenced a Christian man to death for sharing what it said was hateful content against Muslims on social media after one of the worst mob attacks on Christians in the eastern Punjab province last year, his lawyer said on Monday, adding he will appeal the verdict.

In August 2023, groups of Muslim men burned dozens of homes and churches in the city of Jaranwala after some residents claimed they saw two Christian men tearing out pages from Islam's holy book, the Quran, throwing them on the

ground and writing insulting remarks on other pages, authorities said. The two men were later arrested.

No casualties were reported at the time as terrified Christians fled their homes to safer areas. Though the police arrested more than 100 suspects following the attacks, it remained unclear if any were convicted.

Ehsan Shan, though not party to the desecration, was accused of reposting the defaced pages of the Quran on his TikTok account, his lawyer Khuram Shahzad said on Monday. He also

said he would appeal against the death sentence issued on Saturday by a court in the city of Sahiwal in Punjab province.

Amir Farooq, a police officer who arrested Shan, said the man shared "the hateful content at a sensitive time when authorities were already struggling to contain the violence."

Naveed Kashif, a local priest at a church in Sahiwal, said while he didn't excuse what Shan posted, he wondered "why the court ordered such an extreme verdict when those linked to the attacks are yet to be punished". AP

Oz more than doubles fee for foreign student visas

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Australia on Monday more than doubled the fee for international student visas from AU\$710 to AU\$1,600 to curb migration, with the move expected to impact Indians who make up the second largest group of foreign students.

The increase reflects the "increasing value of education in Australia" and the government's commitment to restoring integrity in the international education sector, an official statement said.

Australia's home minister Clare O'Neil said: "The changes

coming into force today [Monday] will help restore integrity to our international education system, and create a migration system which is fairer, smaller and better able to deliver for Australia."

According to the Indian high commission in Canberra, India remains the second largest source country for student enrolments in Australia. A total of 122,391 Indian students were studying in Australia during January-September 2023.

The Australian government has already taken a number of steps in recent months to curb migration and the misuse of student visas.

Advisers get flak for US prez's disastrous debate

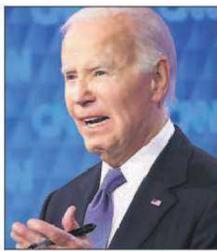
WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden's train-wreck debate with Republican opponent Donald Trump followed a series of decisions by his most senior advisers that critics now point to as wrong-headed, interviews with Democratic allies, donors and former and current aides show.

Trump, 78, repeated a series of well-worn, glaring falsehoods during the 90-minute debate on Thursday, including claims that he actually won the 2020 election. Biden, 81, failed to refute them and his fumbling, halting performance has sparked calls from Democrats for him to end his quest for a second term and for "soul-searching" or resignations among top aides.

"My only request was make sure he's rested before the debate, but he was exhausted. He was unwell," said one person who said they appealed to Biden's top aides in the days before, to no avail. "What a bad decision to send him out looking sick and exhausted."

Others were even more pointed. "It is my belief that he was over-coached, over-practised. And I believe [senior aide] Anita Dunn... put him in a venue that was conducive for Trump and not for him," said John Morgan, a Florida-based attorney and major Biden fundraiser.

Morgan said Dunn and her husband, Bob Bauer, the presi-



Joe Biden delivers remarks during the Presidential Debate in Atlanta, on Thursday. AFP

dent's attorney who played Trump in pre-debate rehearsals, should "be fired forever and

never let back anywhere near the campaign".

Biden's debate strategy was signed off on by campaign chair Jen O'Malley Dillon, who helped him win in 2020 and was appointed in January to boost an uneven re-election campaign. Dunn, a longtime Biden aide and former Barack Obama campaign strategist, backed that strategy.

Confidence going into the event was high. Trump was convicted of falsifying documents by a jury in New York on May 31, while Biden held back-to-back visits in Europe.

To the surprise of some Biden aides, his stubbornly low poll numbers began to inch up

nationally in the weeks that followed. Advisers set up a rigorous debate prep calendar, with Biden sequestered at Camp David for six days.

An inner circle, some close to Biden for decades, were involved: Ron Klain, his first White House chief of staff, Dunn, former White House counsel and long-time adviser Mike Donilon, as well as about a dozen other policy and political experts. Biden's campaign said on Friday that no staff shake-up was under consideration. Multiple aides, not just Dunn and Bauer, were involved in the preparation, said a campaign official, who also noted that Morgan was not there. REUTERS

President says 'no blood on my hands' after 39 died in Kenya protests

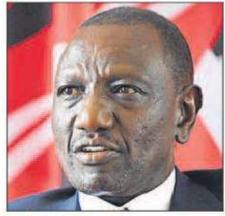
Agencies

letters@hindustantimes.com

NAIROBI: Kenyan President William Ruto defended his decision to deploy the military to quell nationwide protests over the past two weeks that have left at least 39 people dead. The updated toll was announced by the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights on Monday.

Protesters stormed the National Assembly on June 25 just after lawmakers approved a contentious tax bill that Ruto maintains would have helped him raise money for expenditure such as employment of thousands of teachers and to write off debts owed by coffee and sugarcane farmers.

Ruto said the demonstrations — against the government's plan to raise \$2.3 billion of new taxes — were infiltrated by



William Ruto AFP

criminals who made a beeline for the parliament's armoury when hundreds of protesters overwhelmed security.

"I mean, what choice did I have?" Ruto said in a televised round-table with Kenyan media on Sunday night. "I have no blood on my hands," when asked about the deaths, including of a 12-year-old school boy in the outskirts of the capital, Nairobi.

{ ACCLAIMED NOVELIST }

Ismail Kadare, giant of Albanian literature, passes away aged 88

Associated Press

letters@hindustantimes.com

TIRANA, ALBANIA: Renowned Albanian novelist Ismail Kadare has died after being rushed to a hospital in Tirana, his publishing editor said on Monday. He was 88.

Kadare has long been mentioned as a possible contender for the Nobel Literature Prize. "Albania and Albanians lost their genius of letters, their spiritual emancipator, the Balkans (lost) the poet of its myths, Europe and the world (lost) one of the most renowned representatives of modern literature," Albanian President Bajram Begaj said in a statement released by his office.

Onufri Publishing House editor Bujar Hudhri said the noted author died on Monday morning. A nurse at the hospital, who



Ismail Kadare AFP

spoke on condition of anonymity because she was not authorized to talk to the press, said he was taken to the emergency room after suffering a cardiac arrest.

Kadare became internationally recognised after his novel "The General of the Dead Army" was published in 1963 when Albania was still governed by the communist government of

late dictator Enver Hoxha. Kadare fled Albania to France in the fall of 1990, just a few months before the fall of the communist regime following student protests the previous December. He lived in Paris and had recently returned to Tirana.

Last year, French President Emmanuel Macron awarded him the Grand Officer of the Legion of Honor title during a visit by the French president to the Albanian capital. France had previously also made him a foreign associate of the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences, as well as Commander of the Legion of Honor.

Kadare has been awarded a number of international prizes for his works, which included more than 80 novels, plays, screenplays, poetry, essays and story collections translated into 45 languages.

Israel orders Palestinians to flee Khan Younis; new ground assault in offing

Associated Press

letters@hindustantimes.com

KHAN YOUNIS, GAZA STRIP: The Israeli army ordered a mass evacuation of Palestinians from much of Khan Younis on Monday, a sign that troops are likely to launch a new ground assault in the Gaza Strip's second largest city.

The order suggested Khan Younis will be the latest of Israel's repeated raids into parts of Gaza it has already invaded over the past eight months, pursuing Hamas militants as they regroup. Much of Khan Younis was already destroyed in a long assault earlier this year, but large numbers of Palestinians have since moved back in to escape another Israeli offensive in Gaza's southern-most city, Rafah.

The evacuation call covered the entire eastern half of Khan

Younis and surrounding areas. Last week, the military ordered a similar evacuation from the north Gaza district of Shuja'iya, where there has been intensive fighting since.

The order came as Israel released the director of Gaza's main hospital after holding him for seven months without charge or trial over allegations the facility had been used as a Hamas command centre. He said he and other detainees were held under harsh conditions and tortured.

The decision to release Mohammed Abu Selma raised questions over Israel's claims surrounding Shifa Hospital, which Israeli forces have raided twice since the start of the nearly nine-month war with Hamas. Abu Selma and other Palestinian health officials have denied the accusations.

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GENERAL MULTIPLE VACANCIES

SUDHA Rani W/o Manjeet Kumar, Flat no. C-1401, Antriksh Golf View-2, Sector-78, Noida-201301, has changed my name to Sudha Singh for all future purposes.

DEVI Sranooop S/o Sh. Hari Krishna Yadav R/o: F/B - 116, F-Block Lajpat Nagar, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, UP 201005, vide affidavit dated 29.06.2024 before Advocate & Notary Pramod Kumar Tyagi.

SIDDHARTH Kumar Vatas, son of Krishan Kumar Sharma, R/O 26.2 A Civil lines, Boundary Road, Meerut, have changed my name from Siddharth Kumar Vatas to Siddharth Vats. Henceforth I would be known by the name of Siddharth Vats for all future purposes.

PRIVYANKA Solanki W/o Sandeep Solanki R/O W-2-37 C, Asalapur, Janakpuri A-3, West Delhi-110058 have changed my name to Priyanka Sharma for all purpose.

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MANJIT Kaur W/o Lt Col. Amarbir Singh R/o G-5/1, S.D.A. ND-16, declare that in records my name wrongly mentioned as Manjeet Kaur instead of Manjit Kaur and my correct DOB is 01 April 1968 instead of 22 June 1967

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ASHKEESH Gupta S/O, Suresh Chand Gupta R/o 202 Prithvi Homes, Surat Nagar -1 Sector 104, Gurgaon (Haryana)-122006 have changed my name to Ashish Gupta.

HANS Raj Batta, S/O Desh Raj Batta, R/O B-17, 2nd Floor, Savitri Nagar, Near Atta Dhaki, New Delhi-110017, have changed my Name from Hans Raj to Hans Raj Batta For all future Purposes

SONIYA Maheshwari W/o Kapil Maheshwari R/o H.No.20, Behind Mother Dairy, Sector-3, Ballabgarh, Faridabad, Haryana-201004 have changed my minor daughter's name from Pahal to Pahal Maheshwari for all future pur poses.

P. N Deoram, F/o JC-386057P Sub Pathare Arijt Narayan, B/204, Bholenath CHSL, Vill/Po/Te/ Dist: Thane, State-Maharashtra-400060, changed my Name From P N Deoram to Narayan Deoram Pathare and DOB from 01 Jul 1949 to 01 Jan 1948 for all future purposes.

I, KUSUM W/o JC-386057P Sub Pathare Arijt Narayan, B/204, Bholenath CHSL, Vill/Po/Te/ Dist: Thane, State-Maharashtra-400060, changed my Name from Kusum to Kusum Narayan Pathare and DOB from 01 July 1954 to 02 June 1952 for all future purposes.

SUNIL Saxena S/o R P Saxena R/o B-319, Green Field Colony, Faridabad, Haryana, India have changed my name to Sunil Kumar Saxena for all purposes.

I HAVE changed my son's name Moksh Batta to Aarav Batta. In future he should be known as Aarav Batta. Deepak Batta son of Suresh Kumar Batta 83, Jai Chungi Meerut.

USHA Rathi W/o Karan Deep Rathi residing at Tower S, Flat No. 104, The Millennia I, Sector 37 D, Gurgaon-122006 has changed my name as Usha Nehra, vide affidavit dated 29.06.2024 before Advocate & Notary Pramod Kumar Tyagi.

DEVI Sranooop S/o Sh. Hari Krishna Yadav R/o: F/B - 116, F-Block Lajpat Nagar, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, UP 201005, vide affidavit dated 29.06.2024 before Advocate & Notary Pramod Kumar Tyagi.

PRIVYANKA Solanki W/o Sandeep Solanki R/O W-2-37 C, Asalapur, Janakpuri A-3, West Delhi-110058 have changed my name to Priyanka Sharma for all purpose.

YOGINI Dairny D/o Khagen Dairny residing at C-33, Malviya Nagar, Delhi-110015, declare that name of mine and my father have been wrongly written as BK Yogini and Khogen in my Aadhar card No. 748681265054 and Voter ID No. T200815100 and the name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as Brahma Kumari Yogini and Khogen in my Driving License No. DL122019000812 and Pan card No. DLDP1745. The actual name of mine and my father are Yogini Dairny and Khagen Dairny, which may be amended accordingly.

AGASTYA Tyagi S/o Laxmi Tyagi, R/o 1-1302, The Golden Palms, Sec-6, Noida-201305, declare that in my Old Passport, my mother's name is wrongly mentioned as Lakshita Tyagi. My mother's actual & correct name is Laxmi Tyagi as per my all other documents.

MANJIT Kaur W/o Lt Col. Amarbir Singh R/o G-5/1, S.D.A. ND-16, declare that in records my name wrongly mentioned as Manjeet Kaur instead of Manjit Kaur and my correct DOB is 01 April 1968 instead of 22 June 1967

ATUL Jindal S/o Late Brij Bhushan Jindal R/o G-2/19, Bata-02, Greater Noida, G.B. Nagar, U.P.-201310 have changed my son's name from Hardik to Hardik Jindal for all future purposes.

I HAVE changed my name from Mrs. Rekha to Rekha Devi wife of Anil Kumar Nagar. In future I should be known by this name. Rekha wife late. Anil Kumar Nagar resident Seikua Post Kharkhoda District Meerut.

KSHITI S/o Prabal Kulkshrestha R/o 156, M.G. Road, Near Idgha, Shivpuri, Etah-207001, currently residing at P-1004, Supertech Ecovillage I, G.B. Nagar, UP-201306, have changed my name to Kshiti Kulkshrestha for all pur poses.

ASHKEESH Gupta S/O, Suresh Chand Gupta R/o 202 Prithvi Homes, Surat Nagar -1 Sector 104, Gurgaon (Haryana)-122006 have changed my name to Ashish Gupta.

HANS Raj Batta, S/O Desh Raj Batta, R/O B-17, 2nd Floor, Savitri Nagar, Near Atta Dhaki, New Delhi-110017, have changed my Name from Hans Raj to Hans Raj Batta For all future Purposes

SONIYA Maheshwari W/o Kapil Maheshwari R/o H.No.20, Behind Mother Dairy, Sector-3, Ballabgarh, Faridabad, Haryana-201004 have changed my minor daughter's name from Pahal to Pahal Maheshwari for all future pur poses.

RITHU Koul W/o Sunil Bhat. R/o Flat No. 604, Azure Heights, 34 Supertech Pavilion, Sector-34, Noida, UP have changed my son s (DOB: 27.03.2008) name Nirav Bhat to Naman Bhat for all future purposes. Nirav Bhat & Naman Bhat both are the one and same person.

VASUDHA D/o Sh. Surenדר Lingval R/o C-5/6-4, C-Block Dilsaad Garden, Jhimli East, Delhi-110095 have changed my name to Vasudha Lingval for all future purposes.

SONIYA Maheshwari W/o Kapil Maheshwari R/o H.No.20, Behind Mother Dairy, Sector-3, Ballabgarh, Faridabad, Haryana-122004 have changed my minor daughter's name from Kashi to Kashi Maheshwari for all future purposes.

PRATEEK Kumar Gupta S/O Jagdish Narayan Gupta R/O Sector-134 Noida has changed my name from Prateek Kumar to Prateek Kumar Gupta for all future purposes.

THIS IS to inform that the Original builder agreement bearing Customer code 223141 dated 11.03.04 in respect of Apartment No. 001 in Tower C, Uniworl City (West) Sector 30 & 41 Gurgaon executed between M/s United Ltd & M/s Chander Bhasin & M/OP UPL has been misfiled/lost in the vicinity of the said premises/ Locality. If found pls send 9810515470. A FIR/NCR has been filed on 03.01 dated 30-06-2024

PRASHANT Pundrik S/o Krishna Chandra Pundrik have lost original Property papers of DDA - allotment letter, possession letter, NOC for water and electricity of property no. A-13/26A, Kalkaji Extension New Delhi - 110015. Finder please contact # 701460549

ANITA Bhatia W/o Baldev Bhatia R/o Railway Road, Dabri, Gautam Budh Nagar (LP) have changed my name from Aneta Devi To Anita Bhatia for all future purposes.

POOJA Chauhan W/o Hari Kesh Pratap Singh R/O G-1901 VVP Homes Gaur City 2 Noida, U.P.-201301 declare that Pooja Chauhan and Pooja Bhattara both are one and same person and shall henceforth be known as Pooja Chauhan for all purposes.

PRIVYANKA Chaturvedi, D/o Sh. Pyare Lal Chaturvedi, R/o F-14/20, Krishna Nagar, Delhi - 110051, have changed my name from Sanjilata Chaturvedi to Priyanka Chaturvedi for all future purposes.

PANKAJ Jain S/o J.K. Jain have lost the original Possession Letter and Allotment letter of my property Flat No G-3, Ground Floor, Shriya Apartment, Kaushambi, Ghaziabad U.P. Finder pls inform 9810868590

WE. SUMITA W/o Mr. Jitender Girdhar and Shyam Sunder S/o Sh. Jassu Ram R/o H.No.-987, 2nd Floor, Near Bal Bhawan, Sec-4, Gurugram, Haryana-122001, declares that the Unit No. KIMS-1402 Ansal Highland Park, Sec-103, Gurgaon- Rejeipt No. 521549, 24, 528971, 528972, 541456, 641035 and 540034 amounting to Rs. 2784083/- have been actually lost in Sec-4, Gurugram, Haryana Area. Contact: 9873008819.

I HAVE lost my Original documents of my Flat no-1002, Shivaji Kowli, Kaushambi, Ghaziabad, Whose Bahi no-6877, Pages 457/498, No-12622, Dated: 23.05.2006, Sub Registrar-IV, Ghaziabad, If anyone found, Please cont: Kalpana Anupam Sangal W/o Anupam Satyavir Sangal, M: 9643847910

MY LOST Original All Property Documents / Sale Deed / Chain of A-36, Fd New Gupta Colony, Delhi-110009. Finder Contact Soni Gupta R/O Late Anil Gupta.

THIS IS to inform that the Original builder agreement bearing Customer code 223141 dated 11.03.04 in respect of Apartment No. 001 in Tower C, Uniworl City (West) Sector 30 & 41 Gurgaon executed between M/s United Ltd & M/s Chander Bhasin & M/OP UPL has been misfiled/lost in the vicinity of the said premises/ Locality. If found pls send 9810515470. A FIR/NCR has been filed on 03.01 dated 30-06-2024

PRASHANT Pundrik S/o Krishna Chandra Pundrik have lost original Property papers of DDA - allotment

PLI push likely for parts makers of Vande Bharat

Budget move may incentivise domestic production, reduce reliance on imports

Subhash Narayan
subhash.narayan@livemint.com

NEW DELHI: The Union budget may unveil a production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for manufacturing components of Vande Bharat and Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) train sets, two persons aware of the development said, as the government expands its Make in India push in rail-ways.

Under the proposed scheme, the government will provide output-linked incentives to companies for making parts that are usually imported. The incentives may vary from 5-10%, but actual benefit will be decided after the scheme is finalized.

The first person cited above said that the PLI has been proposed for a period of three years and expected incentives may be in the region of ₹1,000-1,500 crore.

The finance ministry will evaluate the proposal on its merit to decide the quantum of



India's railway equipment market was valued at about \$12 billion in 2023.

support that would be extended by the centre for rail component makers," the person said on condition of anonymity.

The scheme would support entities that manufacture rail components like wheels, axles, braking systems, track machines, transmission systems for LHB and Vande Bharat train sets, and parts required by next-generation green trains that would run on alternate fuels and hydrogen.

Queries sent to the ministries of railways and finance remained unanswered till press time.

The initiative is expected to incentivise domestic production, reduce reliance on imports, and encourage foreign manufacturing companies to establish or expand their railway rolling stock units within India.

Top global rail systems and rolling stock manufacturers such as Alstom, Siemens, Stadler, Hitachi, and Hyundai Rotem have presence in India with their own manufacturing facilities or through joint ventures with other Indian entities.

A PLI scheme for rail components will also help these entities to bring their vendors to set up

component manufacturing facilities in India and help both their operations and that of the railway sector to grow.

"The PLI scheme is a visionary initiative poised to creating an entrepreneur-friendly ecosystem for the rail components sector in India," said Vivek Lohia, MD, Jupiter Wagons Limited, adding that such a scheme would support import substitution, export-led growth and foreign investments that would provide a supportive environment for MSMEs in the sector.

"With sustained and targeted support from the government, we anticipate significant advancements in the rail components sector, driving India towards a self-reliant and globally competitive manufacturing landscape," said Lohia.

According to industry estimates, India's railway equipment market was valued at about \$12 billion in 2023 and is expected to record a CAGR growth of more than 4% for the next few years.

More than 50% of components are imported with import levels being higher for new-age trains including the latest semi-high-speed and high-speed metro and suburban trains.

India's mfg recovers in June on strong demand

Rhik Kundu
rhik.kundu@livemint.com

NEW DELHI: India's manufacturing activities, which had slipped to a three-month low in May, recovered during June, supported by an increase in new orders, output, and a record upturn in employment.

The HSBC final India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index (PMI), compiled by S&P Global, stood at 58.3 in June, 57.5 in May, and 58.8 in April.

The June reading was slightly lower than S&P's flash projection of 58.5 last month. However, the index has remained above its long-run average and the 50-mark, which separates contraction from expansion, for nearly three years.

"June data showed that buoyant demand conditions spurred the expansions in new orders, output and buying levels. Concurrently, firms raised employment at the fastest rate seen in more than 19 years of data collection," the survey said.

"Cost pressures receded from May, but were nevertheless among the highest over the past two years. As a result, companies lifted selling prices to the greatest extent since May 2022," it added.

The June report highlighted that the underlying demand



High demand lifted output, new order sub-indexes in June. MINT

remained favourable and new business continued to flow in.

The performance of the consumer goods industry was especially strong, although substantial increases were also noted in the intermediate and investment goods categories.

Maitreyi Das, Global Economist at HSBC, said that while input buying activity also rose during June, input costs moderated slightly but remained at elevated levels.

"The Indian manufacturing sector ended the June quarter on a stronger footing. The headline manufacturing PMI rose by 0.8 percentage points to 58.3 in June, supported by increased new orders and output. Conse-

quently, firms increased their hiring at the fastest pace in over 19 years," Das said.

"While the overall outlook for the manufacturing sector remains positive, the future output index receded to a three-month low, albeit it remains above the historical average," Das added.

Incidentally, India's infrastructure output, which accounts for about two-fifths of the country's industrial production, rose 6.3% year-on-year in May, decelerating from April's 6.7% expansion.

The sector was hurt by a contraction in cement and crude oil and a slowdown in refinery products and steel, according to the provisional data from the ministry of commerce and industry released last week.

The latest core sector data showed that five of the eight core industries reported a rise in production, while output in crude oil, fertilisers and cement sectors contracted during May.

The Reserve Bank of India expects real GDP growth to be 7% in FY25. The projections of a normal monsoon bode well for agriculture output growth, with the government's robust capital expenditure, strong investment demand, and upbeat consumer and business sentiment making the Indian economy resilient.

GST COLLECTION IN JUNE CROSSES ₹1.74 LAKH CRORE

Rajeev Jayaswal
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue in June crossed ₹1.74 lakh crore, an about 8% year-on-year growth, for the fifth highest monthly collection since the new indirect tax regime started in July 2017, a person aware of the development said.

Cumulatively, GST collections were ₹5.57 lakh crore in the first quarter of current financial year as compared to ₹5.06 lakh crore in the same period of previous fiscal year, posting roughly 10% annualised growth, mainly driven by economic buoyancy, sustained domestic demand and stricter compliance.

The revenue details, such as contributions of central, state and integrated GST, monthly cess, and state-wise collections for June, could not be ascertained as the Union finance ministry did not release the data by late evening. Usually, every first day of a month is marked by an official release of GST revenue figures for the preceding month.

An e-mail query to the finance ministry's spokesperson, asking reasons for not releasing a monthly data, remained unanswered. July 1 was the seventh anniversary of the GST regime.

MS Mani, partner at Deloitte India said, "While we await the press release containing details of the GST collections as per the practice in vogue since the inception of GST, the reported collections exceeding ₹1.7 lakh crore pertaining to transactions during May 24 are in line with the previous months collections."

"The June 2024 GST collection of ₹1.74 lakh crore is a strong indicator of a booming domestic consumption sector... Timely audits, scrutiny measures, and effective enforcement by the department have all contributed to this success. The surge in collections also raises expectations for the next wave of GST reforms. These reforms could potentially address working capital blockages, streamline tax rates, ease ITC restrictions, and implement sector-specific solutions to tackle existing challenges," said Saurabh Agarwal, tax partner at EY.

Sensex, Nifty hit new peaks on gains in IT, banking shares

Press Trust of India
feedback@livemint.com

MUMBAI: Benchmark Sensex rose by 443 points to close at a new record high while Nifty settled above the 24,100 mark on Monday on buying in banking and IT shares in line with gains in Asian and European markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rebounded by 443.46 points or 0.56% to close at an all-time high of 79,476.19. During the day, the barometer soared 528.27 points or 0.66% to 79,561. As many as 20 Sensex shares closed higher while 10 stocks declined. The broader Nifty rose by 131.35 points or 0.55% to close at a fresh lifetime high of 24,141.95. Intraday, the index hit a high of 24,164, just 10 points short of its lifetime high of 24,174 hit on Friday. Sensex and Nifty had hit intra-day record high levels on Friday but closed lower due to profit-taking in blue-chips.

Among Sensex shares, Tech Mahindra, UltraTech Cement, Bajaj Finance, Hindustan Unilever, Tata Consultancy Services, JSW Steel, Infosys, HDFC Bank, Tata Motors and ICI Bank were the biggest gainers.

NTPC, State Bank of India, Larsen & Toubro, Sun Pharma, IndusInd Bank and Axis Bank were among the laggards.

"The domestic market sustained its upward momentum, with a reduction in US PCE inflation raising hopes for a rate cut by the US Fed in September. This optimism contributed to the strong performance of IT stocks," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

India's manufacturing sector output increased at a sharp pace in June as new business continued to flow in amid favourable demand conditions and resulted in record upturn in employment, an HSBC PMI survey showed. "The consistent buying interest on dips suggests bullish control, likely continuing the



The Sensex rebounded by 443.46 points to close at an all-time high of 79,476.19.

current tone. The renewed strength in midcap and smallcap segments adds further positivity," said Ajit Mishra, SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap and midcap indices raced to record high levels. Smallcap gauge jumped 1.58% and the midcap index climbed 1.11%. Among the indices, IT soared 1.84%, tech jumped 1.46%, commodities 1.21%, telecommunication 1.03%, industrials (0.95%) and metal (0.73%). Utilities, power and realty were the laggards.

A total of 2,656 stocks advanced while 1,346 declined and 144 remained unchanged on the BSE.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Shanghai settled higher. European markets were trading with gains.

"The domestic market sustained its upward momentum, with a reduction in US PCE inflation raising hopes for a rate cut by the US Fed in September. This optimism contributed to the strong performance of IT stocks," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.51% to \$85.43 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹23.09 crore on Friday, according to exchange data.

Boeing bears brunt of crisis with fraud case, Spirit deal

Bloomberg
feedback@livemint.com

Six months after a fuselage blowout threw Boeing Co. into crisis, the full weight of the legal and financial fallout from the near-catastrophic accident is bearing down on the embattled US planemaker.

The US Justice Department plans to charge Boeing with criminal fraud after finding the company violated a 2021 deferred-prosecution agreement tied to two previous, fatal crashes, Bloomberg News reported late on Sunday. Just hours later, Boeing announced

a plan to buy back Spirit AeroSystems Holdings Inc., a supplier it spun off two decades ago, for \$4.7 billion in a bid to improve manufacturing.

The intertwined developments reveal the sheer magnitude of Boeing's current troubles. The planemaker now has a few days to make a tough legal choice: plead guilty or go to trial, neither of which are without risk. The Spirit deal, meanwhile, will saddle Boeing with more debt and tie up the manufacturer with the complex task of turning around operations at a contractor that's suffered from poor

BOEING NOW HAS A FEW DAYS TO MAKE A TOUGH LEGAL CHOICE: PLEAD GUILTY OR GO TO TRIAL, NEITHER OF WHICH ARE WITHOUT RISK

workmanship for years — at a time when Boeing's own facilities aren't running smoothly.

Neither of Boeing's legal options are particularly appealing. Pleading guilty and accepting a fine potentially

locks the company out of important government contracts and might lead to higher compensation to families of victims in the two crashes. But going to court creates an uncertain legal overhang for whoever follows Chief Executive Officer Dave Calhoun, who has said he will step down by year-end at the latest.

"Either way, this is a terrible outcome for Boeing," Nick Cunningham, an analyst at Agency Partners in London, said of Boeing's legal options. With Spirit, "Boeing gains very little from this transaction and

would not have chosen to do it, given that it only spun Spirit out about 20 years ago."

Boeing shares slipped 1.2% in premarket US trading, while Spirit gained 6.3%.

The US planemaker said Monday that it will pay \$37.25 a share for Spirit in an all-stock deal.

The total transaction value is about \$8.3 billion, including Spirit's last reported net debt. Arch-rival Airbus SE, meanwhile, gets to walk away with some parts of Spirit that make components for the European planemaker, and stands to get \$559 million in compensation.

EU accuses Meta of digital law breach with paid ad-free option

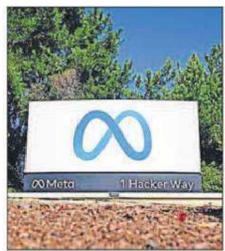
AP
feedback@livemint.com

LONDON: European Union regulators accused social media company Meta Platforms on Monday of breaching the bloc's new digital competition rulebook by forcing Facebook and Instagram users to choose between seeing ads or paying to avoid them.

Meta began giving European users the option in November of paying for ad-free versions of Facebook and Instagram as a way to comply with the continent's strict data privacy rules. Users can pay at least 10 euros (\$10.75) a month to avoid being targeted by ads based on their personal data.

The US tech giant rolled out the option after the European Union's top court ruled Meta must first get consent before showing ads to users, in a decision that threatened its business model of tailoring ads based on individual users' online interests and digital activity.

The European Commission, the EU's executive arm, said preliminary findings of its investigation show that Meta's "pay or consent" advertising model was in breach of the 27-nation bloc's Digital Markets Act.



The EU regulators opened investigation against Meta shortly after the DMA took effect in March.

Meta's model doesn't allow users to exercise their right to "freely consent" to allowing their personal data from its various services, including Facebook, Instagram, Marketplace, WhatsApp, and Messenger, to be combined to target them with personalised online ads, the commission said.

Meta now has a chance to respond to the commission, which must wrap up its investigation by March 2025.

The company could face fines worth 10% of its annual global revenues, which could run into the billions of euros.

DMA, took effect in March. It's a sweeping set of regulations aimed at preventing tech "gatekeepers" from cornering digital markets under threat of heavy financial penalties.

One of the DMA's goals is to rein in the power of Big Tech companies that have collected vast amounts of personal data on their users, giving them an edge on rivals competing in online ad or social media services. The commission indicated that in order for Meta to comply, it would like to see an option that doesn't rely on a user's full personal information being shared for advertising.

"The DMA is there to give back to the users the power to decide how their data is used and ensure innovative companies can compete on equal footing with tech giants on data access," European Commissioner Thierry Breton, who oversees the bloc's digital policy, said in a statement.

Meta now has a chance to respond to the commission, which must wrap up its investigation by March 2025.

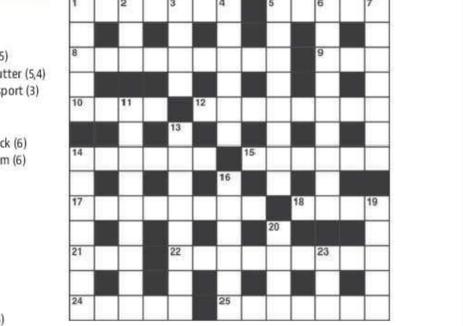
The company could face fines worth 10% of its annual global revenues, which could run into the billions of euros.

{ THE CROSSWORDS }

CRYPTIC CLUES

- ACROSS**
- Mention how to rear children (5,2)
 - A fateful day for military assistants (5)
 - William has an attempt at making butter (5,4)
 - Runner in a vigorous kind of winter sport (3)
 - See to an advance of money (4)
 - Bridge champion gets a hiding (8)
 - This drink can go a hundred years back (6)
 - He could be both best man and groom (6)
 - It capers about for exercise (8)
 - Might be in or even out (4)
 - Transport of internal combustion (3)
 - Crude oil in a USA state (9)
 - Delete an article in Gaelic (5)
 - Fair play for car drivers (7)
- DOWN**
- Ill-advised build-up of foreign talk (5)
 - Fifty is under forty-nine? Well, no (3)
 - Painter who gets involved in yoga (4)
 - Quick frolic in the middle of physical exercise (6)
 - Surprise a holy man on his involvement (8)
 - He keeps still being a man of spirit (9)
 - Ginger's stupid laugh (7)
 - This is something between Greece and Turkey (6,3)
 - If I stick around to get a soothing lozenge (8)
 - Sailor in strange place is efficient (7)
 - Produced a publication and is taken to court (6)
 - Approaches a listener with two outstanding points (5)
 - Spent American notes (4)
 - The only one in a suit (3)

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QUICK CLUES

- ACROSS**
- Body of citizen soldiers (7)
 - Essential (5)
 - Abusive material for scouring (5,4)
 - Calm centre of cyclone (3)
 - Near (4)
 - Rigorous control (4,4)
 - Shapless lump of food (6)
 - Submit (6)
 - Things given free of charge (8)
 - Derive as reward (4)
 - An age (3)
 - As an extreme limit (2,3,4)
 - Timber (5)
 - An imposed disadvantage (7)
- DOWN**
- Worker in stone (5)
 - Sheltered side (3)
 - To lean (4)
 - On a ship (6)
 - Objectively assessed (8)
 - Run away (9)
 - An English cheese (7)
 - Period of greatest prosperity (6,3)
 - Senior management (3,5)
 - Turn aside (7)
 - Repressed (4,2)
 - Tersely incisive (5)
 - Ignoble (4)
 - Lubricate (3)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS (16900)

CRYPTIC

E V A C U A T E E C H O
R L N O G H V
S H I E D P R O F U S E
E G E I S R R
S H O R T C O M I N G S
E T C S O E
M A I S Q U I E S P E C I E
A R R O G O A S
N E V E R T H E L E S S
A A E A I T S
T A L E N T S T A I N T
E E T T A N A
D U T Y T E E N A G E R

QUICK

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

{ SUDOKU } DIFFICULTY LEVEL ★★★★★



Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, column and each of the 9x9 squares contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

Investors tap forensic auditors to vet portfolio firms

Sneha Shah
sneha.shah@livemint.com

MUMBAI: Private investors are bringing in forensic auditors early to scan the books of portfolio companies after serial implosions at high-profile startups crushed valuations and wiped out investments. According to investors and auditors, the aim is to detect and fix issues before it becomes too late to put out the fire.

Earlier, private equity and venture capital funds hired forensic auditors only after financial mismanagement and corporate governance issues surfaced. "There has certainly been a bullish trend in the quantum of forensic investigations and reviews on portfolio businesses, as triggered by the investor community at large, includ-



In the last two years, investors have ordered forensic audits at several high-profile startups after cases of fraud.

ing private equity funds and venture capitalists. The investor community has developed a mature outlook towards forensic activity and a positive acceptance on commissioning of such mandates over a period of time," said Geetu Singh, a partner at KPMG in India.

There is a conscious acknowledgement that forensic activity is fundamentally a fact-finding mechanism, and now seen as a "need to have" risk management instrument in the investment lifecycle," Singh said.

In the last two years, investors have ordered forensic audits at high-profile startups such as

BharatPe, Byju's, GoMechanic, Trel and Ziingo after cases of fraud, financial mismanagement, or corporate governance missteps. However, now, investors are stepping in early.

"Earlier, most forensic audits were being done as part of a new funding round where an incoming investor was seeking diligence report on the prospective investments. But now, the existing portfolio is being scrutinized by these investors," the head of forensic services at a global consulting firm said on condition of anonymity.

The person cited above said that recently, a global investor requested a forensic audit of a medtech company after a whistleblower complaint, which exposed how the management had inflated revenues. A media tech company was audited over

suspicion of round-tripping of revenue. A beauty and personal care company and a healthcare company too saw anxious investors ordering such audits.

Identifying and managing red flags promptly is central to building organizational resilience, said Puneet Garkhel, partner and leader, forensic services, PwC India. Forensics intelligence and analytics are playing a key role in the rise of such proactive audits, he said.

"Reactive audits focus on getting to the genesis of the fraud and gauging the extent of damage after a crisis hits an organization. India Inc. has witnessed many such instances in the recent past with reactive forensic audits exposing systemic, technological and sometimes cultural gaps that have led to fraud," Garkhel said.

{ WEATHER }

TEMPERATURE • HIGH • LOW

- TUESDAY**
Generally cloudy sky with heavy rain
33°C | 27°C
- WEDNESDAY**
Generally cloudy sky with heavy rain
33°C | 27°C
- THURSDAY**
Generally cloudy sky with moderate rain
32°C | 26°C

ALMANAC

Today is
2nd July 2024
• 25 Dhul Hijah, 1445
• 11 Ashadha, Krishna Paksha, 11
• Samvat: 2081
* Sunset: Tuesday at 07:23 pm
* Sunrise: Wednesday at 05:27 a.m.
* Moonset: Tuesday at 04:05 p.m.
* Moonrise: Wednesday at 02:38 a.m.

TEMPERATURE IN FOUR METROS

- Delhi**
33°C | 27°C
- Mumbai**
31°C | 25°C
- Kolkata**
31°C | 27°C
- Chennai**
36°C | 27°C

Public Work Department
Office of the Executive Engineer Public Works (West) Division Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar
Address :- Public Works Premise, Padampura, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar - 431005
Email address:- westaurangabad.ee@mahapwd.gov.in Telephone / Fax Number :- 0240 2331288
E-Tender Notice No. (09) of 2024-25

E-Tender for the following work in B-1 Tender Form is invited via online e-tendering System from Eligible Contractor by the Executive Engineer, Public Works (west) Division, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar on behalf of Public Works Department, Government of Maharashtra Tender Document are downloaded from government portal <https://mahatenders.gov.in> in Right to select or reject is reserved by Executive Engineer, Public Works (west) Division, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar. Conditional Tender will be not accepted. (Number of 5 Works)

All information of e-tender is available on following portal.
A) <http://mahapwd.gov.in>
B) <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Public Works (west) Division,
Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar.

DGIPR/2024-25/ROC 549

INDIAN RAILWAYS
PATIALA LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
(Formerly Diesel Loco Modernisation Works)
PATIALA-147 003
Tel: 0175-2396000, 2396001 Fax: 91-175-2306413

E-TENDER NOTICE
Visit us at www.ireps.gov.in

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Elect. Services & Plant, Patiala Locomotive Works (Formerly Diesel Loco Modernization Works), Patiala (Pb.) for & on behalf of President of India invites open E-Tender on website www.ireps.gov.in for the following work. Tenderer may upload their original offer on website upto prescribed closing time & date. The offers will be uploaded up to 15:00 hrs. of closing date and uploaded offers will be opened on same day at 15:30 hrs. for the under noted work. No tender will be accepted manually.

Tender Notice No.	Name of work	Approx. cost of work (In Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (In Rs.)	Completion period	Closing date & Time of Tender
PLW/EL/405/R/24	Electrical work required for Shedule A "Boring and installation of one no. deep borewell in col-II area, PLW Patiala". Schedule B "Improvement and rectification with mechanical equipment and civil works of swimming pools in colony-II and operation, cleaning and maintenance of swimming pool in colony-II area of PLW/PATIA".	1,65,132/-	3,300/-	03 Months	On 22.07.2024 at 15:00 hrs.
PLW/EL/389/R/1/24	Provision of 50 Kw p roof-top Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant to be installed on the roof top area of Site Office Building of Civil Engg. Department, Colony-I, PLW/Patiala.	21,41,216/-	42,800/-	03 Months	On 22.07.2024 at 15:00 hrs.

Tender documents are available on Railway website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in and the same can be downloaded from there. All terms & conditions may be seen and downloaded from Railway website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. Payment of Earnest Money (EMD) in respect of e-tendering shall be accepted through Net Banking or only payment modes available on IREPS portal only.
Note:- Tenderer/s shall submit valid Electrical Contractor licence issued by any State govt/UT for any State/UT. Tender without Electrical Contractor licence will be summarily rejected.

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GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
PUBLIC WORKS ROADS DEPARTMENT
O/O THE CHIEF ENGINEER (EAP)
ARRTI CAMPUS, FATASIL AMBARI, GUWAHATI - 25,
Email-id: as-ce.asbip@assam.gov.in

RFB No.:No. CE/EAP/ARRBP/02/TENDERS/2024/9

REQUEST FOR BIDS (RFB)
E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE – Open Competitive Bidding
(Two-Envelope Bidding Process with e-Procurement)

The Government of Assam through Government of India has applied for financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the Assam Resilient Rural Bridges Program (ARRBP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds to the eligible payment under the contract. Bids are invited online from the eligible bidders from India for the 26 (Twenty Six) packages in the district of West Karbi Anglong, Karimganj, Hailakandi, Dima Hasao, Nagaon, Kokrajhar, South Salmara Mankachar, Barpeta, Jorhat, Bajali, Kamrup(M) and Dhubri for a total amount of Rs. 7557.61Lakhs (approx). Details may be seen at website <http://www.assamtenders.gov.in> and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours.

The bidding documents are available online on <http://www.assamtenders.gov.in> from 08/07/2024 to 07/08/2024. Bidders will be required to register on the website which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC). Bids must be submitted online on <http://www.assamtenders.gov.in> on or before 14:00 Hours on 07/08/2024. Other details can be seen in the bidding document. The method of paying Bid Security, Tender Processing fees as indicated in the table above of this e-procurement shall be required to be submitted online on <http://www.assamtenders.gov.in> by selecting "Pay Online" option.

Chief Engineer, (EAP) PWRD
Assam, Fatasil Ambari, Guwahati-25
Janasanyog /CF/483/ 24/2-Jul-24

Catch the latest column of
HT TWTW
THE WEEK THAT WAS
A quiz on the week's development.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE: SUNDARGARH
AT/PO-SANKARA, SUNDARGARH-770020, E-mail address-serw_sundargarh@yahoo.com
No. Tender Online – RWCCESNG – 02 of 2024-25 Letter No 1411 /Dtd. 27.06.2024
e-Procurement NOTICE

1. Type of the Work: Weir Adjacent to HL Bridge
2. Class of Contractor: As specified in the column-6 of the Annexure
3. Time of Completion: As specified in the column-5 of the Annexure
4. Detail Projects: As per Annexure attached
5. Estimated Cost: As specified in the column-4 of the Annexure
6. Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh	RWCCESNG-02 of 2024-25	08.07.2024 11:00 AM	26.07.2024 5:00 PM	25.07.2024 5:00 PM	29.07.2024 11:00 AM	Will be intimated separately

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Chief Engineer (Design & Quality Control)
Chief Construction Engineer (I/C)
Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh
OIPR - 2513311/0004/2425

उत्तर प्रदेश शासन
आवास एवं शहरी नियोजन अनुभाग-3

संख्या-आई/ 680561 /2024/8-3099/1736/2020
लखनऊ: दिनांक: 01 जुलाई, 2024
-विज्ञापित-

विषय:- उत्तर प्रदेश भू-सम्पदा अपीलीय अधिकरण, लखनऊ में अध्यक्ष के रिक्त पद पर नियुक्ति।

भू-सम्पदा (विनियमन एवं विकास) अधिनियम-2016 के प्राविधानों के अन्तर्गत उत्तर प्रदेश भू-सम्पदा अपीलीय अधिकरण का गठन किया गया है। उत्तर प्रदेश भू-सम्पदा अपीलीय अधिकरण में अध्यक्ष एवं तीन सदस्य नियुक्त किये जाने का प्राविधान है। अधिनियम की धारा-46 के अनुसार कोई व्यक्ति अपीलीय अधिकरण के अध्यक्ष के रूप में नियुक्ति के लिए तभी पात्र होगा जब वह किसी उच्च न्यायालय का न्यायाधीश हो, या रहा हो। अपीलीय अधिकरण के अध्यक्ष की नियुक्ति समुचित सरकार द्वारा उच्च न्यायालय के मुख्य न्यायाधीश या उसके नामनिर्देशित के परामर्श से की जायेगी।

2- भू-संपदा (विनियमन एवं विकास) अधिनियम-2016 की धारा-47(1) के प्राविधानों के अनुसार भू-संपदा अपीलीय अधिकरण का अध्यक्ष उस तारीख से, जिसको वह अपना पद ग्रहण करता है उस रूप में 05 वर्ष से अधिक अवधि तक पद धारण करेगा किन्तु वह पुनर्नियुक्ति का पात्र नहीं होगा। परन्तु यदि कोई व्यक्ति, जो किसी उच्च न्यायालय का न्यायाधीश है, या रहा है अधिकरण के अध्यक्ष के रूप में नियुक्त किया गया है, तो वह सड़सठ वर्ष की आयु प्राप्त कर लेने के पश्चात पद धारण नहीं करेगा। अपीलीय अधिकरण के अध्यक्ष को देय वेतन तथा भत्ते एवं सेवा की अन्य शर्तें उ0प्र0 भू-सम्पदा (विनियमन एवं विकास) नियमावली, 2016 के नियम-27 के अनुसार होंगी।

3- उत्तर प्रदेश भू-सम्पदा अपीलीय अधिकरण, लखनऊ में अध्यक्ष के रिक्त पद पर नियुक्ति के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। भू-सम्पदा अधिनियम में निर्धारित उक्त मानदण्ड पूरा करने वाले इच्छुक योग्य व्यक्ति अपना आवेदन आवास एवं शहरी नियोजन विभाग तथा आवास बन्धु की वेबसाइट <https://awas.upsc.gov.in> एवं <https://www.awasbandhu.in> पर प्रदर्शित लिंक पर दिनांक 05.07.2024 से दिनांक 25.07.2024 की रात्रि 12 बजे तक कर सकते हैं। आवेदन पत्र केवल ऑन लाईन स्वीकार किये जायेंगे। पृथक से प्रेषित किसी आवेदन पत्र/अभिलेख पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा।

4- ऑन लाईन आवेदन पत्र के साथ आवेदक को समस्त वांछित अभिलेखों की स्वप्रमाणित प्रतियाँ तथा स्वप्रमाणित घोषणा (जैसा कि आवेदन पत्र में उल्लेख किया गया है) संलग्न करना अनिवार्य है। अपीलीय अधिकरण में अध्यक्ष के पद की अर्हता, सेवा शर्तें, पदावधि, वेतन भत्ते आदि के संबंध में विस्तृत विवरण भू-संपदा (विनियमन एवं विकास) अधिनियम-2016 के अध्याय-7 तथा उत्तर प्रदेश भू-संपदा (विनियमन एवं विकास) नियमावली-2016 के अध्याय-7 में देखा जा सकता है। उक्त अधिनियम एवं नियमावली उपर्युक्त वर्णित वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध हैं।

(डॉ० नितिन रमेश गोकर्ण)
अपर मुख्य सचिव
UP 216882 Dt. 01.07.2024, Website: www.upgov.nic.in

WATCO
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, WATCO
Ground Floor, Unnati Bhawan, H.B. Colony, Satyanagar, Bhubaneswar-751007, Odisha, India
Telefax: +91-674-2391444 / E-mail – mail@watcoodisha.in / md@watcoodisha.in
INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)
Bid Identification No. WATCO (W) – 01 / 2024-25 Dtd.28.06.2024
WATCO No. 4006 Date: 28.06.2024

1. Name of the work :- "Procurement of ISI marked DI K-7, socket & spigot pressure pipes of different diameters for WATCO Division-1, Bhubaneswar."
2. Types of Bid :- Double Cover (Technical & Financial)
3. Estimated cost :- Rs. 348.94 Lakh
4. Period of Completion :- 2 (Two calendar) Months
5. Class of Contractor :- Manufacturer
6. Date & time of availability of bid document :- From 11.00 AM of Dt.03.07.2024 to 5.00 PM of 18.07.2024 in the portal
7. Last date & time of receipt of bids in the portal :- 5.00 PM of 18.07.2024
8. Date & time of opening of technical bids :- 11.00 AM of 19.07.2024
9. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid :- CEO, WATCO, Telefax:- 0674-2391444
E-Mail: mail@watcoodisha.in / md@watcoodisha.in
10. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only.
Further details can be seen from the web site www.tendersodisha.gov.in

(CEO)
WATCO
OIPR - 13194/11/0002/2425

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL MEDICAL EDUCATION & TRAINING, U.P. JAWAHAR BHAWAN 6th FLOOR LUCKNOW

Letter No.ME-2/2024/1587 Lucknow Dated 01 July, 2024

"Re-advertisement"

In lieu of the order passed by the Government of Uttar Pradesh, Medical education section-2 letter No. I/671744/2024 Dated 19.06.2024, the advertisement published by the Director General Medical Education and Training, U.P. vide its Advertisement No. ME- 2/2023/3186 Dated 23.11.2023 for the Post of Director in Kalyan Singh Superspeciality Cancer Institute, Lucknow has now been cancelled due to some inevitable reasons. In Compliance of the direction passed by the Government of Uttar Pradesh in letter dated 19.06.2024 the re-applications are invited as per MCI Norms on prescribed format from Indian citizens for the post of regular Director, Kalyan Singh Super Speciality Cancer Institute, Lucknow having the requisite educational qualification and experience mentioned below:-

Educational Qualification:-

"He/She should possess the recognised postgraduate medical qualification and other academic qualification from a recognized institution with a minimum of ten years' teaching experience as Professor/Associate Professor/Reader in a medical college/Instt. Out of which at least five years should be as Professor in a department. Preference for these appointments may be given to the Heads of the Departments."

He shall be a person of eminent medical and administrative experience.

Salary:- Pay Matrix-Level 17-Rs 2,25,000/- and NPA would be as per rule.

Duration:- The Director of the Institute will hold office for a period of 05 years.

Eligible candidates should e-mail their applications on prescribed format (downloadable from www.dgme.up.gov.in) along with self-attested certificates. The candidates has to send their application mandatorily in its hard copy form also, **personally or through registered post till 29.07.2024 latest by 05:00 pm** to the office of Director General Medical Education and Training, U.P., 6th floor, Jawahar Bhawan, Lucknow-226001.

Applications received after due date & time and incomplete applications would not be taken into consideration.

Director General
UP 216875 Dt. 01.07.2024, Website: www.upgov.nic.in

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02

From HT Archives

BHARAT NAGAL RAJGURU (19)

Temple of modern India' thrown open

HT's report on the day the Bhakra-Nangal canal heralded a new irrigation era for India

A

HT



EURO 2024

KICKING OFF

JUDE REFERENCES ROOSEVELT'S SPEECH AFTER WONDER GOAL

Jude Bellingham's wonder goal against Slovakia on Sunday was what many have come to expect from the England star. His decision to mark the moment by referring to a speech by former US president Theodore Roosevelt, however, seemed a less likely move from someone who only celebrated his 21st birthday on Saturday. Bellingham's overhead kick in the fifth minute of stoppage time rescued England after they had trailed Slovakia 1-0 in the round of 16 at the European Championship. Bellingham later posted part of a speech by Roosevelt on his Instagram channel, likely in response to the fierce criticism the England team has received at Euro 2024. The excerpt of the speech, commonly known as "The Man in the Arena" begins with the statement, "It is not the critic who counts" and goes on to say "The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena." Meanwhile, UEFA opened a disciplinary investigation on Monday after Bellingham was caught on film mimicking a crotch grab while apparently looking towards the Slovakian bench. Bellingham dismissed the idea that it was aimed at the Slovaks.



Randal Kolo Muani's shot deflected off Belgium defender Jan Vertonghen for France's only goal of the game on Monday.

Vertonghen own goal helps France reach quarter-finals

A deflection in 85th minute off a Kolo Muani shot decides the cagey, intense tie

Dhiman Sarkar
dhiman@htlive.com

KOLKATA: The left leg of Emiliano Martinez may have prevented Randal Kolo Muani from winning a World Cup. On Monday, it was the left leg of Jan Vertonghen that directed his shot into the Belgium goal. It was enough to decide this cagey, intense match and take France to the quarter-final of the European championship. To think that a match where Kylian Mbappe, Romelu Lukaku, Antoine Griezmann, Jeremy Doku and Kevin de Bruyne were present would be decided by an own goal!

It was at this stage that France went home from the last European championship, crash-

ing against Switzerland after looking to be cruising till nine minutes from time. Unlike the last time, Belgium would exit one round earlier.

The goal in the 85th minute came off a typically elaborate France move, the ball going from right to left and right again and involving Theo Hernandez, Adrien Rabiot, Mbappe, Griezmann, N'Golo Kante and Jules Kounde before Kolo Muani, in for Marcus Thuram, could turn and shoot. It wasn't pretty, little from either side was but 1-0 for France it would be. Cue, celebrations.

France had more chances but were not clinical. The first time Mbappe had the ball, three Belgians converged. It set the trend in Dusseldorf. France managed to get all their forwards involved early but typical of a team that had 47 attempts and no goal from open play in three earlier games, the front three didn't really threaten Koen Casteels' goal.

Thuram headed out in the 34th minute after William Saliba's raking diagonal freed Kounde. The France right-back fed Thuram again in the 50th and again the effort was off target. Symptomatic of France's forward play in the first half, which ended with Aurelien Tchouameni shanking his shot after Mbappe falling, stumbling, swaying still found him, were passes from Griezmann that were too fast. Tchouameni tried from distance twice in the second half but shot neither tested Casteels.

Soon after, Mbappe almost conjured a goal out of nothing. He took the ball and cut in, accelerating even as he beat two players, De Bruyne among them, but the shot went over. It was the same in the 78th minute when Kolo Muani and Kounde combined to find him.

While Mbappe was involved from the off, Lukaku was not, reined in as he was by Saliba. And neither were Jeremy Doku

nor Kevin de Bruyne who was operating from a deeper-than-usual position till the 63rd minute when Orel Mangala gave the Belgium captain the licence to move up. It wasn't till then 71st minute that Lukaku could test Mike Maignan in France's goal and it wasn't till 10 minutes later that De Bruyne did likewise. Earlier, Yannick Carrasco did break once but Belgium's first real move came to nothing. It wasn't till the 23rd minute that Doku found space needing Griezmann to make a tackle for which he was booked. His presence confined to the team sheet till then, De Bruyne stepped up to take the free-kick and got his shot to bounce awkwardly in front of Maignan who had to leg it out.

The next time De Bruyne did something of note was in the 61st minute when he played on Carrasco on with a peach of a pass and it needed Hernandez to make the tackle of the tournament for France to prevent

Maignan from being tested. Hernandez had also blocked Carrasco's shot in the first half after another Doku run had Lois Openda turning Thuram inside out.

The last time Belgium beat France in a competitive football match, in 1981, India were two years from winning a cricket World Cup, Cristiano Ronaldo had not been born and the Hollywood actor after whom he had been named, was president of the USA. In the European championship of 1984, Michel Platini had run rings around them and in 2018, France beat Belgium in the World Cup semi-final.

History matters, but only that much. Switzerland showed that in their takedown of Italy, a team they hadn't beaten since 1993. Belgium, limp so far like in the 2022 World Cup, couldn't be brave like coach Domenico Tedesco had said they would be. Neither was France but they know how to win these matches in tournament football.

Yamal, Williams the symphony artists for Spain

Aditya Chaturvedi
aditya.chaturvedi@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: Moments after the match ended at the Cologne Stadium on Sunday, the broadcasters caught a visual that quickly gained traction on social media. It involved Lamine Yamal and Nico Williams playing a game of rock, paper, scissors. We were reminded of how young they are, even if their sizzling performance had just showed us they don't kid around with the ball on their feet.

The duo powered Spain to a 4-1 win over Georgia in the Euro round of 16. It sets up a mouth-watering quarter-final between Spain and hosts Germany — the two most successful sides in tournament history.

Yamal will celebrate his 17th birthday two days before the final, which is on July 15. Williams will turn 22 a day earlier. Together, they've been tasked with providing La Roja with the pace, precision and creativity that's needed on either wing. Against Georgia, they brought all of that, and then some.

For Georgia coach Willy Sagnol, the goal for the tournament was to dish out performances that the lowest ranked side of Euro 2024 could be proud of. By reaching the knockouts, his squad had already achieved that. In the pre-quarters, they were up against a team ranked No.8 in the world, 66 spots above them. Last September, when the sides met in the qualifiers, Spain had romped to a 7-1 victory. And to make matters worse, Georgia only got a four-day rest period compared to the nine most Spanish players got. There were no real expectations of an upset.

However, like they did in their 2-0 win over Portugal to close out the group stage, Georgia showed how devastating they can be on the counter by taking the lead in the 18th minute. Otar Kakabadze

made a run down the right flank and whipped in the ball, which was diverted into his own net by centre-back Robin Le Normand after an awkward bounce. With Spain enjoying over 70% possession until then, it was a moment no one saw coming.

That remained the high point of the night for Georgia and their fans, for the three-time champions were ruthless thereafter. Despite paying the price for committing players forward, Spain continued with their bold approach and drew level through a Rodri strike in the 39th minute. Like with his club Manchester City, the midfielder has a calming influence on his team and he showed his versatility with a superb left-footed strike from the edge of the box.

And then, in the second half, the Yamal-Williams show began. Spain took the lead in the 51st minute after a sublime cross from Yamal that was headed in at the far post by Fabian Ruiz. Fourteen minutes later, they pulled off a blazing counterattack of their own with Williams, who began his run from the Spanish half, skipping past a defender before smashing the ball past the keeper. Eight minutes later, the rout was complete as Dani Elmo slotted home the ball from the edge of the box after a wonderful first touch to create space.

Spain's utter dominance showed in the staggering numbers. They had 72% possession, 13 corners, 36 attempts on goal, and 108 attacks in all. And it was the Yamal-Williams combination that was driving force.

Their bursts of speed, quick-footed trickery and clever movement off the ball left Georgia's defenders exhausted. While there's scope for Yamal's finishing to improve, coach Luis de la Fuente will know the two youngsters have the skill and temperament to rattle the best.



Lamine Yamal (L) and Nico Williams starred in Spain's 4-1 win over Georgia on Sunday.

ROUND OF 16 RESULTS

Spain	4
(Rodri 39', Fabian Ruiz 51', Nico Williams 75', Dani Olmo 83')	
Georgia	1
(Robin Le Normand 18' OG)	
France	1
(Jan Vertonghen 85' OG)	
Belgium	0

TODAY'S MATCHES

Round of 16

FINAL TWO SPOTS IN LAST 8 FOR GRABS

This will be the final day of the Round of 16 matches at Euro 2024

Romania vs Netherlands

9.30pm IST | Venue: Munich



Austria vs Turkey

12.30am IST (Wednesday) | Venue: Leipzig



Rice: A constant in England's midfield and making an impact amid the churn

Dhiman Sarkar
dhiman@htlive.com

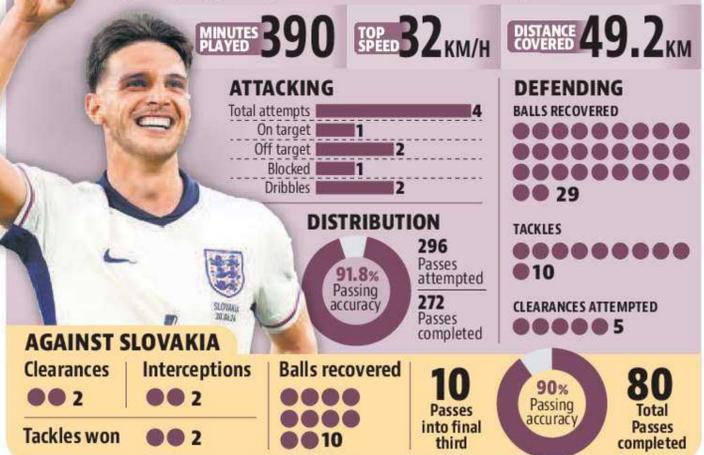
KOLKATA: Of course, it had to be Jude Bellingham who would "take a sad song and make it better." A Beatles fan, the precocious England midfielder is used to being serenaded to "Hey Jude" and his attempting that overhead shot with what was almost the last kick of the match showed chutzpah of which there was plenty in his celebration. Who else indeed.

Imagine Bellingham missing the connection and falling in a heap. England, so woeful till that moment, would have gone home. Gareth Southgate would have stepped down or sacked 99 international games into his managerial career and the obituaries after another potential-does-not-meet-performance would have been written. The image of Bellingham failing, failing could have been the metaphor for a campaign this somnolent. Instead, it may have become the most important shot for the Three Lions since David Beckham's 93rd minute free-kick helped England qualify for the 2002 World Cup. "That takes a lot of guts," said Declan Rice.

England's first shot on target came in the 90+5 minute when Bellingham scored. The second when Harry Kane headed home early in extra-time. They ended the match with one shot on target less than Slovakia. The closest they had come before that was Rice hitting the upright in the 81st minute from 25 yards. Take away the goals and the

Rice shines for lacklustre England

England haven't really sparked at the Euros so far, but Declan Rice has stepped up by putting in a shift in the middle of the park



fact that, including Ivan Toney who was introduced with a minute to go in second-half stoppage time, England had a lot of impact from the bench and Rice was possibly the most consistent outfield player for the winners in Gelsenkirchen on Sunday.

Rice had 106 touches, the most he has had in Euro 2024 but that is also because the match went beyond regulation time. Among all players who have played four matches till Sunday, Rice has covered the most ground, 49.2km reaching a top speed of 32kmph.

He had 12 progressive passes in the round of 16 and 23 overall, as per FBref.com. Only England full backs have more.

A progressive pass is one that helps move the ball at least 10 yards towards the opponents' goal from its furthest point. It excludes passes in the defending 40% of the pitch. Two goals from set-plays set up a quarter-final against Switzerland but England, as Pink Floyd said, are "hanging on in quiet desperation." Marc Guéhi was one of the bright spots but he was booked early on Sunday after

being sold short by Kieran Trippier. Guéhi and John Stones went for the same aerial ball leading to space opening up and Ivan Stranz scoring his third goal in four matches. Trippier as left-back leads to reduced passing opportunities as he is predominantly right-footed. Caught out early, Kyle Walker was hesitant going into advanced areas. England's delivery into the box was poor, Phil Foden didn't show the best part of his considerable talent by straying off-side for a goal to be disallowed and till they scored,

Bellingham and Harry Kane had done little of note.

In addition, Southgate has not been able to sort out the midfield which was changed again with Kobbie Mainoo starting. Which brings us back to Rice. Amid churn in the middle, he has been the constant. Trent Alexander Arnold, Connor Gallagher and Mainoo have all been tried around the England No 6 who can also play as No 8 as he showed with that shot and had shown all season with Arsenal (7 goals and 10 assists in 2023-24).

Think of the line-breaking pass against Fulham or the goals against Manchester United and Chelsea. Before joining Arsenal, Rice showed he could also fire passes to wide players with Toni Kroos-like accuracy. When out possession, Rice's pressing is a key component in Arsenal not letting opponents breathe (Mikel Arteta's words). Explains why Danny Simpson, the former Manchester United player, wanted a player like Rice at Old Trafford. "It is the way he recovers the ball. Covers the ground, be it in the middle winning second balls or even in full-back areas," he told "The Athletic" pointing out that now Rice gets forward too.

On Sunday, Rice, 25, was more of defensive midfielder allowing Mainoo to move up. He has been the defensive shield England would have been wobbly without. If Rice's passing hasn't been that effective it is because Bukayo Saka and the full backs move differently than they do at Arsenal, Martin Odegaard isn't in Germany and Leandro Trossard is not a teammate.

How India cracked T20 code

With their unbeaten run in T20 World Cup, Rohit and Co may have set the template for dominance in the shortest format

Rasesh Mandani

rasesh.mandani@htlive.com

MUMBAI: You may wonder which hoodoo the Indian team has finally broken — going 11 years without an ICC trophy — since the 2013 Champions Trophy — or the 13-year wait for a World Cup win since the 2011 triumph? Or 17 years since lifting the inaugural T20 World Cup title?

All three are true, but ending the T20 wait after seven trophy-less world events, in a format the world understands best and which will become even more popular after the 2028 Olympics, may be the most significant. Every time India entered the world arena recently, they grappled with the taunt of being trophy-less despite having the most resources in the game. When they fall short, questions about a tailor-made schedule for India prop up — not always accurately as it sometimes can prove to be counter-productive as well — but they live with the tag of being the bling boys, the biggest beneficiaries from the strongest T20 league in the sport yet not very good at playing a modern brand of cricket.

The Delhi meeting

Indian cricket hadn't fully healed from the ODI World Cup heartbreak when Rahul Dravid was reappointed head coach. One understands he made it known that even captain Rohit Sharma, who had been spectacular in the 50-over World Cup, had some unfinished business.

In a meeting in New Delhi which involved the captain, head coach, selectors and senior BCCI officials, it was decided that the Rohit-Dravid partnership would continue. And although it was never made public, a decision was also taken that Virat Kohli would have another crack at the T20 world title. India had six months to prepare for cricket's first 20-team T20 World Cup, which demanded more safeguards against potential upsets. The earliest throw of the dice was the Indian squad for the Afghanistan bilateral series — the last before IPL — where big-hitting Shivam Dube found a place. Dube was acting as cover for the not yet fully fit Hardik and picked as a potential left-hand batting enforcer in the middle overs.

Dube's IPL performances



What worked for champions India

A look at some key factors behind India's march to the T20 World Cup title in the US and Caribbean

1 BATTING TEMPO

The pitches in the USA and Caribbean didn't demand ultra-aggression, and that played into India's hands. But in comparison to the 2022 T20 World Cup, the change in approach of India's batters was very much apparent. They were willing to look for the attacking option far more frequently. Barring the final, Virat Kohli symbolised that change even though he wasn't able to get the big scores.

2 EXPERIENCE OF ROHIT AND KOHLI

In the end, the experience of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli proved invaluable. There were a few doubts about taking both of them to the T20 World Cup when younger players had made a case in the last two years, but the senior pros stepped up at critical junctures. Rohit played the defining knocks against Australia and England while Kohli came to the fore against South Africa in the final.

3 AXAR STEPS UP

Ravindra Jadeja was the senior spin all-rounder in the Indian team going into the tournament, but it was Axar who was entrusted with greater responsibility. His knock of 47 in the final was worth its weight in gold. He also took nine wickets in eight matches, bowling 22 overs as compared to Jadeja's 14. With Jadeja retiring from T20is, Axar seems ready to ensure a smooth transition in this department.

4 VARIETY IN BOWLING ATTACK

With left-arm Arshdeep Singh and medium-pacer Hardik Pandya complementing the redoubtable Jasprit Bumrah in the pace attack, India's variety held them in good stead. Arshdeep has been a regular member of India's T20i team for the last two years, but his 17 wickets in this tournament may be a career-defining moment. In the spin attack too, India had enough variety. While there were two left-arm orthodox spinners in Axar and Jadeja, Kuldeep's wrist spin was a real point of difference.

were eye-catching while Hardik's overall form with bat and ball underwhelming. "But Hardik, he was always a lock so long as he was fit," said a BCCI official. "What was discussed at length was the need to have several left-handed options as well as more all-rounders."

While it may be your every-day T20 strategy, it was difficult to firm up in Indian cricket, where such resources of quality are scarce. Deeper analytics showed spin would play a major role on certain pitches in the Caribbean and study of wind patterns showed hitting against the breeze would be more challenging than the uneven square boundaries seen in India.

The big tactical shift became known when India's first playing eleven was named against Ireland in New York. All the all-rounders in the squad — left-

arm spinners Axar Patel and Ravindra Jadeja as well as seamers Hardik and Dube played. This team stayed the course with the only change being Kuldeep Yadav coming in for Mohammed Siraj once India's New York leg of the tournament was over. Jadeja and Dube could never hit top gear, but added to the batting depth; it allowed the top order to bat freely, a luxury that proves so vital without IPL's Impact Player rule.

Axar was told he would be a batting floater, and how well he performed. Hardik lifted his all-round game and became the last-over bowling hero in the final. Smashed for three consecutive sixes by MS Dhoni, doing the same role in the IPL, Hardik was shedding happy tears at the Kensington Oval after successfully stalling South Africa.

Legacy-defining the 2024 title will be for captain Rohit, who soaked it all in as a 20-year-old in MS Dhoni's side of 2007. This win also helped India make amends for the hurt of the 2014 final, when Yuvraj Singh — the 2007 conqueror — found his feet stuck in quicksand and could never recover and of the 2016 semi-final, when West Indies showed India how far behind the T20 curve they were.

India's class of 2024 were so good that they stayed unbeaten across eight matches (the Canada game was washed out) in the ficklest format. They did it with only 12 players — Sanju Samson, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Yuzvendra Chahal weren't even required. It was the first ever unbeaten run to the T20 World Cup title. "Honestly, this is a journey of two years. This is not a journey from just this T20

World Cup. When I think about the construction of this team, the kind of skills we wanted, the players we wanted, those discussions started in (late) 2021," said head coach Rahul Dravid.

"I think it culminated in this World Cup. The disappointment in Australia (2022 T20 World Cup) and then the (2023) one-day World Cup, there's so much that has gone into it."

India found the winning team for the conditions. But T20's embrace of a power-hitting driven future is real. Rohit, Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja have stepped away from T20is at the right time, raising hopes that the wait for the next title will not be as long as it was for this one. The 2024 win was not an accidental success, rather it was the outcome of a more structured change in the approach. That and the rub of the green.

New India coach from Sri Lanka series, says Shah

BRIDGETOWN: The Indian cricket team will have a new head coach from the limited-overs series in Sri Lanka starting later this month, BCCI secretary Jay Shah said on Monday. He did not reveal who has been finalised to succeed the outgoing Rahul Dravid. Former opener Gautam Gambhir is expected to succeed Dravid as the India head coach. The appointment of a fifth selector will also be made soon, Shah said in Barbados. **PTI**



Carlos Alcaraz in action against Mark Lajal on Monday. **AP**

Alcaraz up and running with a straight sets win

Agencies

sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

LONDON: Carlos Alcaraz said Wimbledon's Centre Court is "the most beautiful court that I have played on" after brushing off the cobwebs to beat Estonian qualifier Mark Lajal in the opening match of his title defence. The Spanish third seed was taken to a tie-break in the opening set and trailed 2-0 against his unheralded opponent in the second but held his nerve to win 7-6 (7/3), 7-5, 6-2.

Alcaraz, still only 21, is chasing his fourth Grand Slam title and hopes to become just the sixth man after Rod Laver, Bjorn Borg, Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic to win the French Open and Wimbledon back-to-back.

"Stepping on this court, the Centre Court of Wimbledon, it is the most beautiful court that I have played on," he said.

The Spaniard was asked whether he was getting flashbacks to last year, when he beat Djokovic in a thrilling five-set final to win his first Wimbledon title. "A little bit but this is a new year, a totally different tournament, I have to be focused on my game," he said. "When I walk around I get goosebumps. I remember last year and that was a great feeling."

Alcaraz came into the match short of practice on grass after making an early exit from Queen's, where he was also the defending champion. The dreadlocked Lajal, also 21, had never won a Grand Slam qualifying match let alone a main draw tie before last week and has just two wins on the ATP Tour in his career. But the 269th-ranked player put up an impressive fight against his illustrious opponent, forcing the first break of the match, which was cancelled out

KEY RESULTS (ROUND 1)

Men: **Matteo Berrettini** (ITA) bt **Marton Fucsovics** (HUN) 7-6 (7/3), 6-2, 3-6, 6-1; **Grigor Dimitrov** (BUL x10) bt **Dusan Lajovic** (SRB) 6-3, 6-4, 7-5; **Daniil Medvedev** (RUS x5) bt **Aleksandar Kovacevic** (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2; **Carlos Alcaraz** (ESP x3) bt **Mark Lajal** (EST) 7-6 (7/3), 7-5, 6-2; **Casper Ruud** (NOR x8) bt **Alex Bolt** (AUS) 7-6 (7/2), 6-4, 6-4

Women: **Elise Mertens** (BEL) bt **Nao Hibino** (JPN) 2-6, 6-2, 6-4; **Maria Sakkari** (GRE x9) bt **McCartney Kessler** (USA) 6-3, 6-1; **Jasmine Paolini** (ITA x7) bt **Sara Sorribes Tormo** (ESP) 7-5, 6-3

straight away by Alcaraz.

The defending champion won the first set tie-break but Lajal broke again to take a 2-0 lead in the second set. Again a ruffled Alcaraz snuffed out his opponent's advantage.

Alcaraz, who won his first French Open title last month, forced a crucial break in the 11th game and served out to love to take a two-set lead.

The Spaniard, who struck 44 winners in total, stepped up a gear in the third set, winning 92 percent of points on his first serve. He raced into a 5-1 lead and although he was briefly held up he served out to win in two hours and 22 minutes and will face Australia's Aleksandar Vukic or Austria's Sebastian Ofner next.

Sabalenka pulls out due to shoulder injury

Australian Open champion and world No.3 Aryna Sabalenka said she was "heartbroken" to have withdrawn from Wimbledon due to a shoulder injury.

Sneh takes 10 wickets in lone Test as India cruise past SA

Shalini Gupta

shalini.gupta@htlive.com

CHANDIGARH: The Indian women's cricket team has been on a roll in Test cricket at home in the last seven months. On Monday, the Harmanpreet Kaur-led side completed a hat-trick of Test triumphs at home winning the one-off Test against South Africa in Chennai by 10 wickets.

Seven months ago, India beat England and Australia in Tests played in Mumbai. This comprehensive win marks the joint-longest winning streak in women's Tests, under Kaur's captaincy. India had three Test wins in a row between 2006 and 2014, while Australia have had three such streaks.

On the fourth and final day, India chased down a fourth innings target of 37 to seal victory, but only after South Africa had waged a gritty battle.

Spinners Sneh Rana, Deepti Sharma and Rajeshwari Gayakwad gelled well to finally dismiss South Africa, after following on, for 373 in reply to India's mammoth first innings 603/6 declared. South Africa were 266 all out in the first innings.

Off-spinner Rana, 30, bettered her match-winning haul of seven wickets against Australia. The 30-year-old claiming a match haul of 10 wickets. Her two second innings scalps made her only the second Indian woman to claim a ten-wicket haul in Tests. She returned match figures of 10/188. Pace bowler Jhulan Goswami had taken 10/78 against England in the 2006 Taunton Test.

South Africa's second inning fightback on the final day was led



India players celebrate with the trophy at MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai on Monday. **PTI**

by Laura Wolvaardt (122), Mari-zanne Kapp (31) and Nadine de Klerk (61), after Sune Luus had made 109. India opens Shafali Verma (24) and Shubha Sathesh (13), who came in for Smriti Mandhana, needed only 9.2 overs to knock off the target.

There was a delayed start on Monday due to a drizzle. Wolvaardt, who brought up her century in 259 balls, faced 314 deliveries and hit 16 fours. In the morning, Deepti Sharma trapped Kapp leg before and Rana removed Delhi Tucker for nought. Just before lunch, left-arm spinner Gayakwad gave India an important breakthrough by having SA captain Wolvaardt leg before at the score on 281/5.

Later, it was Nadine de Klerk's solid defence which held India at bay. She hit her first test half-century and stayed at the wicket for nearly four hours before being the last SA wicket to fall. At tea, SA

were 336/8 and trailed by one run with de Klerk at the crease, who stood tall in a fine show of defiance.

It was the final session which witnessed brilliant bowling from India. Part-time spinner Shafali Verma bowled Masabata Klaas and Gayakwad grabbed de Klerk's wicket, leaving the hosts with a target of 37 to get for the win.

An elated Kaur said: "They batted well and did not give us an easy win and we had to work hard for it. Credit goes to Smriti and Shafali who set up a platform for us. Everyone in the team contributed with the bat. The way we fielded, it was not easy to field for so many overs in these conditions. Kudos to our bowlers, especially our spinners. They kept bowling and had that belief that they could take those wickets to win us the game." "The way the bowlers played in the last two Tests, they showed

that they can keep bowling and keep creating chances. When we came in the morning, we knew we had just 100 runs in the pocket and that we had to be careful, not give them easy boundaries. But we also had to keep looking for wickets. We planned really well and stuck to that," she added.

Rana, the Player-of-the-Match, said: "It's a great feeling whenever you can contribute for your team, especially in such situations. It is an amazing feeling. At the start, it was difficult for the spinners. Later on, there was spin and bounce. I would like to give credit to the SA batters for the way they batted... We were always in the game and believed we could win it."

Brief scores: India 603/6 dec. and 37/0. South Africa 266 and (f/o) 373 in 154.4 overs (Laura Wolvaardt 122, Sune Luus 109; Rajeshwari Gayakwad 2/55). **India won by 10 wickets.**



Ecuador enter Copa quarters

AUSTIN: Ecuador ground out a 0-0 draw with Mexico to book their place in the quarter-finals of the Copa America on Sunday as Venezuela sealed top spot in Group B with a 3-0 win over Jamaica. Ecuador, needing only a point against Mexico to advance on goal difference, withstood a furious late onslaught from 'El Tri' to reach the last eight.

Biles books Paris Olympics berth

MINNEAPOLIS: Four-time Olympic gold medalist Simone Biles booked her berth to the Paris Games with a resounding all-around victory at the US gymnastics trials on Sunday. Biles capped her trials with another electrifying floor routine, her high-flying tumbling bringing the crowd to its feet.

Shubankar fifth in Italian Open

ROME: India's Olympic-bound golfer Shubankar Sharma dropped a crucial double bogey and a bogey in the space of three holes on the back nine to finish sole fifth at the Italian Open here. The two-time DP World Tour winner, co-leader after the third round, was at 11-under total and one under for the day.

World C'ship: Singapore to host Ding vs Gukesh

Susan Ninan

susan.ninan@hindustantimes.com

BENGALURU: Singapore will host the World Chess Championship match between Ding Liren and D Gukesh later this year, International chess federation, Fide announced. Two Indian cities — Delhi and Chennai were in the running as well and had submitted competing bids for the match. While Delhi was proposed by the All India Chess Federation, the Tamil Nadu government sent in an independent bid, offering to host the match in Chennai. Fide however decided to go with Singapore — the only neutral venue in the mix.

"Neutrality was clearly a major factor," Fide CEO Emil Sutovsky told HT. "Also it was important for us to bring the Fide flagship event to a new region. But it has to be said, all this would not work if the Singapore bid was not good enough. But it was very strong." This will be only the second time that the World Championship will be held in South-East Asia. Baguio, Philippines had hosted the ill-tempered 1978 match between Anatoly Karpov and Viktor Korchnoi.

Asked if the players were consulted on their venue preference, Sutovsky said, "The players were not asked, but Ding did express his preference for Singapore. However, even prior to it, a neutral venue was designated as one of the major factors."

Singapore — a multicultural, diverse, bustling metropolis — is home to a sizeable Chinese and Indian-origin population. The island state has lately had a wave of young chess talents, many of



D Gukesh (left) and Ding Liren.



PTI/FIDE

them of Indian origin, making the news. In February this year, eight-year old Ashwath Kaushik became the youngest player ever to defeat a Grandmaster in classical chess.

In May, another Indian player, 17-year-old Siddharth Jagadeesh became Singapore's youngest Grandmaster. The number of people taking an interest in chess is understood to have risen sharply in the country following the pandemic. In April last year, the Singapore Chess Federation rolled out the national training programme to nurture the country's next generation of chess talent.

Unlike Singapore, both the Indian bidding venues, Tamil Nadu and Delhi have hosted the World Championship previously. Tamil Nadu played host to the Viswanathan Anand-Magnus Carlsen match in 2013 and the also Olympiad, more recently in 2022, while the first half of the World Championship in 2000 was held in Delhi. The final half was played in Tehran where Viswanathan Anand became world champion for the first time. AICF had proposed Bharat Mandapam, the

venue of the 2023 G20 Summit in New Delhi, as venue. "We will obviously look at India to host major Fide events. There is already a pretty concrete discussion ongoing about one of our major events in 2025."

Playing a high-stakes tournament like the World Championship at home comes with crushing pressure, as well as intense media attention and frenzy. One that Gukesh perhaps might do well without. He had a handy preview of what it might look like after he returned home following his Candidates win. For the 2020 World Championship match (which was held in 2021 due to the pandemic), Magnus Carlsen's reluctance to play at home had Stavanger, Norway opt out of the bidding process. They had already secured a funding of \$3.5 million but Carlsen, remaining firm on his stance, forced them to drop plans.

India hasn't had a world champion since Anand won the title five times.

The 14-game match between Ding and Gukesh, which boasts a prize fund of \$25 million, is set to take place between November 20 and December 15.