

COMMANDER

Swachata Badhao, Tandrusti Badhe

WARRANTY 5 YEARS

Slim Hide Flush Tank Kahan...?

Slimhide

Badi Todfod + Deewar Ko Leakage Se Bachayen

Space Saving

London Labour Landslide

BUSINESS AS USUAL
By UNNY



Metrics for reforms, easing compliance burden: PM's plan to Secys

HARIKISHAN SHARMA & AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA
NEW DELHI, JULY 5

FROM DEVELOPING metrics to encourage competition among states in governance reforms to identifying one impactful project that needs to be commissioned and one grounded during the first 100 days; from reducing the citizen's compliance burden and pushing women-led development to revamping Ministry websites to make them more user-friendly — Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given a 16-point "directive" to Secretaries at the Centre, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

These directions came during the PM's interaction with Secretaries on June 29, his first in the NDA's third term. Two days later, Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba wrote to all Secretaries to "initiate immediate action" based on these.

Among the directions, the Prime Minister has asked the Secretaries to provide adequate opportunities to youth in "nation-building" by synergizing initiatives like National Service

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BIG PICTURE

PAGE 10

BABA'S BUSINESS

THE GODMAN & HIS EMPIRE

WHO IS SURAJ PAL ALIAS BHOLEY BABA

EXPRESS NETWORK

BSP'S TAMIL NADU CHIEF HACKED TO DEATH PAGE 8

BIHAR SUSPENDS 11 ENGINEERS OVER COLLAPSE OF BRIDGES PAGE 9

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

GOPAL KATESHIYA
RAJKOT, JULY 5

IN A photograph clicked at Bhachau police station in Gujarat's Kutch in the early hours of July 1, the arrested duo stood staring at the camera, their hands folded behind them. The alleged bootlegger, in a blue button-down shirt, and his 'accomplice', Head Constable Nita Chaudhary, 34, wearing a white T-shirt and yellow pants, and with a hint of a smile on her face.

The events that followed the dramatic chase and arrest of



Britain's new Prime Minister Keir Starmer and his wife Victoria outside 10, Downing Street in London on Friday. Reuters

Starmer is UK's new PM: Past chill, Delhi cautious as it warms to Labour realism, push on FTA

KYLIE MACLELLAN, WILLIAM JAMES & SARAH YOUNG
LONDON, JULY 5

BRITAIN'S NEW Prime Minister Keir Starmer pledged on Friday to use his massive electoral majority to rebuild the country, saying he wanted to take the heat out of politics after years of upheaval and strife.

Standing outside his new office and residence at Number 10 Downing Street, Starmer acknowledged the scale of the

challenge after his party's landslide victory in a parliamentary election that ended 14 years of often tumultuous Conservative government.

He warned that any improvements would take time, and he would need to first rebuild faith in politics. "This lack of trust can only be healed by actions, not words. I know that," he said. "Whether you voted Labour

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

FULL COVERAGE PAGE 14

SHUBHAJIT ROY & RAVI DUTTA MISHRA
NEW DELHI, JULY 5

WITHIN HOURS of the Labour Party, led by Keir Starmer, sweeping the polls in the United Kingdom ending 14 years of Conservative Party-ruled government, Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated

the newly elected leader on the "remarkable victory" and said he looked forward to "positive and constructive collaboration" to further strengthen bilateral ties.

"Heartiest congratulations and best wishes to @Keir_Starmer on the remarkable victory in the UK general elections. I look forward to our positive and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Mumbai Police close case against MP who joined Shinde Sena

SAGAR RAJPUT
MUMBAI, JULY 5

JUST FOUR months after Ravindra Waikar moved from Sena UBT to the Shiv Sena led by Eknath Shinde, and won the Mumbai North West Lok Sabha seat, the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Mumbai Police filed a closure report in a case registered against him, his wife Manisha, and four associates.

The Mumbai Police registered an FIR on September 14, 2023, based on a complaint by a Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) engineer that Waikar used a plot of land reserved for a public garden to construct a hotel.

Now, in a C-summary report submitted to the court on



Ravindra Waikar, MP, Mumbai North West

Thursday, the EOW said the complaint filed on behalf of the BMC by sub-engineer Santosh Mandavkar was based on "incomplete information and misunderstanding". A C-summary report is filed in cases where the FIR is found to be based on a mistake of fact, or when the offence is of a civil nature.

"We are waiting for further direction on our submission," said a police officer, who did not want to be named. "After recording the statements of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

FOUR KILLED, 10 INJURED IN 13 INCIDENTS SINCE JUNE 19

Bengal hit by lynchings linked to rumours of phone, child 'thefts'

Over 50 held so far, state launches awareness campaigns

RAVIBHATTACHARYA & JOYPRAKASH DAS
KOLKATA, NORTH 24 PARGANAS, JULY 5

WHEN 75-YEAR-OLD Bhagabati Mondal first saw her grandson Prasen (26) tied to a tree close to the local primary health centre is of a civil nature.

Around him stood four local residents, allegedly still beating him up. "I begged them to stop



Bhagabati Mondal's grandson was allegedly lynched. Partha Paul

and spare him, but they continued to whip him with a tree branch. I rushed to call neighbours. When I returned, he was dead," she says.

Prasen was one of the victims of a spate of recent mob lynch-

AFFIDAVITS FILED AHEAD OF JULY 8 HEARING Govt, NTA oppose NEET retest, tell SC honest candidates will be hit

Absence of any large-scale breach of confidentiality: Education Ministry

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G & RITIKA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, JULY 5

EXPRESSING ITS unwillingness to conduct the NEET-UG examination again, the Centre has told the Supreme Court that "scrapping the exam in entirety would seriously jeopardise the lakhs of honest candidates who attempted the question paper in 2024".

In an affidavit filed Thursday in the top court — it is set to take up on July 8 a clutch of petitions alleging exam paper leak and irregularities in the conduct of the NEET-UG on May 5 and demands for a retest — the Education Ministry makes no mention of a paper leak, only acknowledging that "some alleged instances of irregularities/cheating/ impersonation/ malpractices during the conduct of NEET (UG) 2024 Examination have been reported".

In a separate affidavit, also filed Thursday, the National Testing Agency echoed the Ministry stand. It said the NEET-UG examination process "is not vitiated and the results do not deserve to be set aside as career prospects of lakhs of students who performed well on their own merits, cannot be jeopardised on account of few sporadic



At a protest over alleged irregularities in NEET in Lucknow. PTI file

and scattered instances of unfair means attempted by an identifiable number of persons at identified places which are minuscule and insignificant in the context of very large number of meritorious candidates who have performed well".

The Ministry, in its affidavit, stated that "in the absence of any proof of any large-scale breach of confidentiality in a pan-India examination, it would not be rational to scrap the entire examination".

"It is submitted that in any examination there are competing rights that have been created whereby the interests of a large number of students who have taken the examination without adopting any alleged unfair means must not also be jeopardised," it said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Change in NEET-PG: Two shifts on Aug 11, only at TCS centres

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, JULY 5

THE NATIONAL Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences announced Friday that NEET-PG 2024, the qualifying examination for postgraduate medical courses which was postponed last month, will be conducted on August 11. The test, the NBEMS said, will be conducted in two shifts and the scores of the candidates will be normalised.

As the NBEMS announced the date of the examination, officials said it will be conducted only at TCS iON centres and not outsourced centres.

This is the first time that the test will be conducted in two batches. Sources said this will ensure that the examination is conducted in fewer centres.

"There has been an increase in the number of students appearing for the paper over the years. To ensure that the examination is completely secure and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

CPM poll review for Kerala flags cadres' arrogance, BJP rise

Central Committee also takes note of 'growing instances of corruption'

MANOJ CGG
NEW DELHI, JULY 5

A MONTH after the CPI(M)-led LDF suffered a severe drubbing in the Lok Sabha elections in Kerala, the party's central leadership has identified the "erosion" of a section of its vote base in favour of the BJP as one of the most serious issues facing it. The Left failed to pay "sufficient attention" to this, a review of the Lok Sabha results by the CPI(M)'s Central Committee says.

The report also blames "arrogant behaviour" of cadres from "top to bottom" as well as corruption at all levels, saying these



THE EXPRESS INTERVIEW
'LOST IN 2019 TOO, BUT THIS TIME BJP HAS GROWN IN KERALA...'
BINO VISWAM, CPI LEADER
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

were "alienating" the people from the organisation. CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Gujarat's curious case of a 'bootlegger', Instagram cop, car chase

Chaudhary, Head Constable of Gujarat's Criminal Investigation Department (CID), and Yuvrajsinh Jadeja, 30, who has 15 cases of alleged bootlegging and one attempt to murder case registered against him at Bhachau police station, have kept the Gujarat Police busy.

All this, while it grapples with a new problem: Chaudhary's popularity on social media. "Since her arrest, her Instagram followers have more than doubled and gone past 1 lakh," says a police officer. Chaudhary's bio on Instagram describes her as an "artist" and has reels of her lip-

syncing to popular numbers. The reels also feature an SUV, which the police say was the one she and Jadeja were in when they were intercepted on June 30.

According to an FIR registered that night, a joint team from the Bhachau police station and the Kutch East police crime branch received a tip-off that Jadeja, wanted in four cases registered under Gujarat Prohibition Act, was in an SUV headed towards Gandhidham town. The team started tailing the car around 6.30 pm near Samakhia, a village on NH 41. Minutes later, they intercepted



A still from a reel posted on Instagram account of Head Constable Nita Chaudhary. Instagram/Chaudharinita

the SUV under a railway over-bridge, some 22 km from Samakhia. At the wheel, the police say, was Jadeja, while her colleague Chaudhary, attached to the Gandhidham CID (crime), was in the passenger seat.

The police say more drama ensued since Jadeja, despite repeated directions from the police, neither came out of the car nor did he lower the SUV's window. The police eventually broke the window and detained him, adds the FIR. The police arrested the duo and, based on Bhachau police sub-inspector Dinesh Kumar Zala's complaint, filed a

case under IPC sections related to attempt to murder, among others.

The police also recovered from the SUV 16 bottles of Indian-made foreign liquor (IMFL) and two beer cans, cumulatively worth Rs 1,880. They filed another case, under the Gujarat Prohibition Act, against the two.

On July 2, a local Bhachau court rejected the police plea seeking the duo's remand in the attempt to murder case and sent them to judicial custody instead. The next day, the magisterial court granted Chaudhary bail in

that case. Before she could walk out of jail, the police took her into custody after securing a transfer warrant on July 3, and arrested her and Jadeja in the prohibition case. The duo are now lodged in police custody. The Home Department has since suspended Chaudhary from service.

The police said the vehicle in which Chaudhary and Jadeja were travelling didn't have a registration plate and was registered in the name of a local journalist.

On how a CID (crime) constable ended up in a car being driven by an alleged bootlegger,

the officer said, "During interrogation, Chaudhary said that she and Jadeja came in contact via Instagram and Facebook around six months ago and became friends."

Jadeja is a resident of Juni Moti Chirai, a village on the outskirts of Bhachau town, while Chaudhary belongs to Moriya village in Banaskantha district bordering Rajasthan. Chaudhary is married to Virsang Bhutadiya, the former sarpanch of Badarpura (Bhutedi), a village adjoining Moriya. The eldest of four siblings, her father is a farmer in Moriya.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

• Delhi cautious as it warms to Labour realism

constructive collaboration to further strengthen the India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in all areas, fostering mutual growth and prosperity," Modi tweeted. He also praised outgoing British PM Rishi Sunak "for your admirable leadership of the UK, and your active contribution to deepen the ties between India and the UK during your term in office. Best wishes to you and your family for the future."

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar congratulated David Lammy on his appointment as Foreign Secretary and said, "Look forward to continuing our engagement and strengthen the India UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership." Reading the verdict in Delhi, South Block is "cautiously optimistic" on what the new, changed Labour party-led government means for India.

The caution comes from its past experience of dealing with Labour in its previous avatar — when British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook offered to mediate between India and Pakistan on Kashmir in 1997. More recently, under then Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn's watch, after the abrogation of Article 370, the party adopted a resolution calling the situation in Kashmir "deeply disturbing" adding that "human rights abuses taking place are unacceptable". South Block, predictably, had reacted angrily.

Stamer, who took over the reins of the Labour party soon after the defeat in December 2019 elections, managed to move the party to centre-left, and has adopted what observers call "progressive realism".

He was able to nudge Corbyn out of the party, who ran as an Independent and has won amid the Labour's winning streak. Indian diplomats, who have interacted with Labour leaders, say that while the centre-left party is "progressive" in its ideas and values, it is also going to be "realistic" in its strategy. They point to the party's 2024 manifesto which frames the bilateral relationship: "We will seek a new strategic partnership with India, including a free trade agreement, as well as deepening co-operation in areas like security, education, technology and climate change."

Indeed, Labour's outreach towards India began last year when

Stamer attended the Global India Forum conference in June 2023 and declared: "This is a changed Labour party".

Speaking to an audience that included the Indian and British High Commissioners and British India industry leaders, Stamer said that in India, he saw "a modern and a confident nation", and that the challenge for Britain is to "cast aside the entitlement of history" and deepen its relationship with the modern and future India.

His message in the manifesto echoed this but to assuage any concerns, Labour sent three of its top leaders to India as they sensed victory in the polls.

In February, then Shadow Foreign Secretary David Lammy and Jonathan Reynolds, Shadow Secretary of State for Business and Trade of UK, came to New Delhi and met Jaishankar and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal respectively. Incidentally, this was when both sides were in the middle of FTA negotiations.

In late February, Shadow deputy PM Angela Rayner attended the Raisina dialogue — which is jointly organised by think tank ORF and Ministry of External Affairs — and talked about India being on course to become the third largest economy in the world. She also said that it showed the progress India has made and a part of that is due to the policies that the Indian government has introduced around recognising women's role.

Most recently, in the last week of June, Lammy used his speech at the inaugural day of India Global Forum's IGF London 2024 to send a key message to the Modi government, emphasising the Labour Party's readiness to finalise a free trade agreement (FTA) with India. Referring to the Diwali 2022 FTA deadline set by then PM Boris Johnson, Lammy said: "Many Diwalis have come and gone now without a trade deal and too many businesses have been left waiting. My message to Minister (Nirmala) Sitharaman and Minister (Piyush) Goyal is that Labour is ready to go. Let's finally get our free trade deal done!" He accused the incumbent Conservative Government of overpromising and under-delivering, expressing frustration at the missed opportunities.

Calling India a superpower that is the "future of Asia, the fu-

ture of the English language with almost four times as many English speakers than the UK and the future of democracy itself," Lammy said: "I deeply believe that India's democratic elections with almost a billion voters are the most important statement, the most important validation not only of the democratic ideal but of democratic practice." Congratulating Modi on his re-election, Lammy said he looked forward to working with his government should Labour be voted in.

One diplomatic challenge for Labour, officials here said, will be to insulate the New Delhi-London relationship from the pulls and pressures of the deeply divided South Asian diaspora — including pro-Khalistan Sikh separatist groups or the Pak and Kashmiri diaspora. Diplomats from both sides, led by new Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and British High Commissioner Lindy Cameron, will be looking at a diplomatic calendar of visits. The British Foreign Secretary is scheduled to be in Laos for the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' meeting July 21-27. Delhi and London, sources said, are looking at a possible visit on the way in or out.

New Delhi and London have been negotiating the proposed FTA for over two years now, with a final deal expected to result in a mutual tariff relaxation on a range of goods such as cars, clothes, alcoholic beverages, and medical instruments. While the Tories and Labour disagree on how to restrict immigration into the UK, there is a bipartisan consensus on the fact that it must be curbed.

With the UK being a powerhouse in the financial services and technology segments, India is seeking temporary visas for its service sector workforce. Given the political climate, though, Labour is likely to negotiate hard on the visa issue. On climate, Labour has repeatedly cornered the Tories for deviating from the UK's 2030 net zero goals. India has been seeking a relaxation on the carbon tax that the UK is expected to implement along the lines of the one put in place by the EU. New Delhi had argued during the FTA negotiations that the proposed carbon border adjustment mechanism could take away much of the tariff concessions agreed to under the bilateral deal.

FROM PAGE ONE FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM
Govt, NTA oppose NEET retest

"Scrapping the exam in entirety would seriously jeopardise the lakhs of honest candidates who attempted the question paper in 2024," the Ministry said in its affidavit. This is the first time that the Centre is putting on record its stand on holding a retest of NEET-UG for all 24 lakh candidates. Earlier, in a press conference last month, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan had taken moral responsibility for the inconclusive results to candidates but did not make the government stand clear on holding a retest.

The Ministry, in its affidavit, stated that it had asked the CBI to "conduct a comprehensive investigation into the entire gamut of alleged irregularities including conspiracy, cheating, impersonation, breach of trust, destruction of evidence by the candidates/institutes/middlemen including attempted irregularities" and that the CBI had registered case in this regard. It said it had also constituted a high-level committee of experts under former ISRO Chairman K Radhakrishnan "to suggest effective measures for conducting transparent, smooth and fair conduct of examinations by the National Testing Agency".

The committee, the affidavit said, "shall make recommendations on Reforms in mechanism of examination process, Improvement in Data Security protocols and structure and functioning of National Testing Agency" and will submit its report in two months.

The committee, it said, has already held four meetings and started consultation with stakeholders, especially students, seeking suggestions and ideas online until July 7.

The Ministry said it is committed to ensure the sanctity of examinations and protect the interest of students. "To ensure transparency, fairness, and credibility in public examination, Parliament has enacted Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act 2024 on 12.02.2024" with stringent punishment for offences related to unfair means in public examinations, it stated.

The NTA, in its affidavit, said "isolated and sporadic instances of alleged paper leak, which are confined to a very small number of candidates, may not be considered sufficient to impeach and assail the sanctity of NEET (UG) 2024. Even otherwise, a proportionately large number of candidates, who are not involved and do not have any correlation with such incidents, do not deserve to be made innocent victims to suffer the adverse consequences flowing from avoidable re-conduct of the entire examination".

The most prominent factor in 61 candidates scoring 720/720 is due to the reduction in the syllabus, which was done to enable candidates to focus on the core concepts and to alleviate the pressure on students who faced challenges in completing their studies due to the pandemic in 2019-20. The syllabus was reduced by ap-

proximately 22-25% compared to last year, removing difficult and time-consuming chapters," the NTA stated.

It described as "completely unsubstantiated" the allegation that the number of students scoring high marks are only from certain centres.

It said "in this regard, the result of top 100 candidates was analysed and it has been reported that they are distributed across 95 centres located in 56 cities within 18 States/UTs of the country. This diverse distribution highlights the widespread participation and competitive spirit among students from different regions and educational backgrounds".

The NTA said circumstances laid down for cancellation of the entire exam "have apparently and prima facie not arisen, hence the entire examination pan-India involving more than 23 lakh students does not require to be cancelled/set aside".

The affidavits have been filed days after the Bihar government, in its communication to the Education Ministry, stated that its probe "clearly suggests a paper leak." Bihar's Economic Offences Unit, during its investigation, is said to have matched 68 questions (of the estimated 200) retrieved from the burnt remains of a purported photocopy of the question paper with the original one that the NTA shared with it. Based on this, the EOU concluded that NEET-UG was leaked before the exam on May 5.

• Change in NEET-PG

robust, this time it will be conducted only in TCS iON centres and not outsourced ones," a senior official said.

The NEET-PG exam is conducted by TCS iON in collaboration with the NBEMS every year. Sources said about a quarter of exam centres for NEET-PG usually used to be that of private entities other than those of TCS iON.

The number of PG seats have nearly doubled in the last decade, totalling nearly 68,000 for the current session. Around 2.27 lakh students will appear for the NEET-PG.

• PM's plan

The official said "sensitive centres" will be avoided this year. This will include centres in far-flung areas and where security is not completely controlled by TCS iON.

Union Health Secretary Apurva Chandra said, "The test will be conducted only in our reliable centres." The NEET-PG was postponed a day ahead of its scheduled June 23 date as a "precautionary measure". The notice Friday also stated that the cut-off date — the date by which candidates must have finished their mandatory one-year internship — will continue to be August 15.

The NBEMS also released a notice stating that there was no leak of papers of the Foreign Medical Graduates Examination, a test conducted twice a year for Indian medical graduates from other countries to qualify for practice within India. Chandra said there has been no leak of FMGE question papers because the question papers are prepared only a few hours ahead of the examination as is the case with any other computer-based test.

• PM's plan

Scheme (NSS), National Cadet Corps (NCC), Bharat Scouts and Guides. The PM has asked all ministries to start planning for post-Budget webinars. This direction is significant as the government is preparing to present the first full Budget of the NDA government, later this month.

In her address to Parliament on June 27, President Droupadi Murmu had said that "along with major economic and social decisions, many historic steps will also be seen in this budget." And the pace of reforms will be "further accelerated in tune with the aspirations of people of India."

Incidentally, ahead of the announcement of the schedule for the 2024 general elections, Modi had chaired, on March 3, a meeting of the Council of Ministers and discussed the 100-day action plan to be implemented by the new government after the polls.

Another directive is to undertake an exercise to study the impact of the Jal Jeevan Mission and assess personnel requirements of ministries and departments.

• Starmer is UK's new PM

or not, in fact, especially if you did not, I say to you directly — My government will serve you. Politics can be a force for good. We will show that."

Starmer was greeted by huge cheers and took time before making his speech to shake hands with and hug aides and well-wishers who lined Downing Street — scenes that were reminiscent of Labour predecessor Tony Blair's arrival in government in 1997.

Standing behind a lectern, he said he understood that many Britons were disillusioned with politics after years of scandal and chaos under the Conservatives, who were roundly rejected in Thursday's election, suffering a historic loss. Starmer said the rejection signalled that Britain was ready for a reset. "Because no matter how fierce the storms of history, one of the great strengths of this nation has always been our ability to navigate away to calmer waters." The Centre-Left Labour won a massive majority in the 650-seat Parliament, prompting Rishi Sunak's resignation on Friday morning, before Starmer went to meet King Charles and be formally named Prime Minister.

Starmer said he would fight every day to rebuild trust, saying Britain would have a "government unburdened by doctrine", underlining something he had repeated during the campaign — that he would put country first, party second. "To defy, quietly, those who have written our country off. You have given us a clear mandate, and we will use it to deliver change."

The election result has upended British politics. Labour won more than 410 seats, an increase of 211, while the Conservatives, the western world's most successful party, lost 250 lawmakers, including a record number of senior ministers and former Prime Minister Liz Truss.

Sunak's Conservatives suffered the worst performance in the party's long history as voters punished them for a cost of living crisis, failing public services and a series of scandals. "To the country, I would like to say first and foremost I am sorry," Sunak said outside Downing Street, adding he would stay as Conservative leader until the party was ready to appoint his replacement.

"I have given this job my all, but you have sent a clear signal that the government of the United Kingdom must change, and yours is the only judgment that matters. I have heard your anger, your disappointment and I take responsibility for this loss," he said.

Despite Starmer's convincing victory, polls suggested there was little enthusiasm for him or his party. Thanks to the quirks of Britain's first-past-the-post system and a low turnout, Labour's triumph was achieved with fewer

votes than it secured in 2017 and 2019 — the latter its worst result in terms of seats won for 84 years. The pound and British stocks and government bonds rose marginally on Friday, but Starmer comes to power at a time when the country is facing a series of daunting challenges.

Britain's tax burden is set to hit its highest since just after World War Two, net debt is almost equivalent to annual economic output, living standards have fallen, and public services are crumbling, especially the much cherished National Health Service which has been dogged by strikes.

Some of Labour's more ambitious plans, such as its flagship green spending pledges, have already been scaled back, while Starmer has promised not to raise taxes for "working people". Likewise, he has promised to scrap the Conservative's policy of sending asylum seekers to Rwanda, but with migration a key electoral issue, he will be under pressure himself to find a way to stop tens of thousands of people arriving across the Channel from France on small boats.

"I don't promise you it will be easy," Starmer said earlier at a victory rally. "Changing a country is not like flicking a switch. It's hard work. Patient, determined, work, and we will have to get moving immediately."

His first appointments to his top team of ministers contained no surprises. Rachel Reeves was named as Britain's first female finance minister, Angela Rayner was made deputy prime minister and David Lammy was appointed foreign minister, all keeping the policy briefs they had held in opposition.

Britain's election result showed growth in support for the right-wing Reform party, led by Nigel Farage, echoing recent similar results in Europe where the far-right have been surging. But, unlike France where Marine Le Pen's National Rally party made historic gains in an election last Sunday, overall the British public has plumped for a Centre-Left party to bring about change.

Starmer has promised to improve relations with the European Union after Brexit, but Labour has said rejoining the EU was not on the table. He may also have to work with Donald Trump if he wins November's US presidential election. Trump has already sent congratulations to Farage, via his social media platform Truth Social.

While he has promised to bring change domestically, Starmer has vowed to continue London's unequivocal support for Ukraine in its war against Russia. On many foreign issues, his policies are similar to Sunak's.

• EOW case against MP closed

complaining authorities and the accused parties and after scrutinising BMC documents, it appears that the issue of obtaining permission to construct the hotel under Development Control and Promotion Regulation, is not criminal in nature. It is an administrative complaint. It is still not clear whether the people accused in the case have received any benefits," the officer said.

Waikar, his wife Manisha, business partners Aasoo Nehlanai, Raj Lalchandani and Prithpal Bindra, and architect Arun Dubey were booked for criminal breach

of trust, cheating and criminal conspiracy in the FIR filed last September. The case was initially registered at Azad Maidan police station and was transferred to the EOW immediately thereafter.

As per the FIR, Waikar had entered into a contract with the BMC after getting permission to run a sports facility at the plot in Jogeshwari. The permission was granted when the MVA government was in power. In early 2023, BMC issued a notice for using a plot of land reserved for a public garden to construct a hotel.

The ED had in October 2023 registered a case under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) based on EOW's FIR and subsequently in January this year, the agency raided seven places including Waikar's residence and premises of other accused named in the case. During the course of the probe, both Mumbai police's EOW and the ED had summoned him for questioning.

On March 10, Waikar who was considered a close associate of Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, joined the Sena faction led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. This came days after the BMC informed the Supreme Court that a decision to cancel the permission of the construction of the 5-star hotel was being reconsidered. Earlier, in June 2023, the BMC issued an order in which it declared that it was cancelling the permission granted to Waikar to construct a five-star hotel in Jogeshwari.

Interestingly, in the middle of the Lok Sabha elections, Waikar had said, "I was already under pressure, but it increased more when my wife's name was also being embroiled (in the legal case)... Then you had no option but to switch sides. The situation that to destiny brought on me, should not befall on anyone."

Waikar contested from Mumbai North West seat in the Lok Sabha elections and defeated Sena UBT's Amol Kirtikar by 48 votes, the lowest winning margin across the country.

DEHLI POLICE From 1st July 2024

New Criminal Laws Are Victim Centric

▶ Now it is the responsibility of the police to inform victim about progress of the investigation within 90 days

▶ Under the new law, the court will grant the victim an opportunity to be heard in case withdrawal matters

▶ Witnesses, accused, experts and victims can appear through electronic mode

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It focuses on justice, not punishment

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita

The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita

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- CSAT Test Series (8 Full Length)
- Optional Test Series (Paper 1: 4 Sectional + 2 Full Length, Paper 2: 4 Sectional + 2 Full Length)

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

Geography By Akshay Sanjay Gurubhaiye	Public Adm. By Vivek Raj Yadav
Physics By Prateek Tripathi	PSIR By Dr. Bijendra Jha
Zoology By Shivani Sharma	Sociology By Dr. Huma Hassan
Anthropology By Dr. Huma Hassan	Economics By Prateek Tripathi
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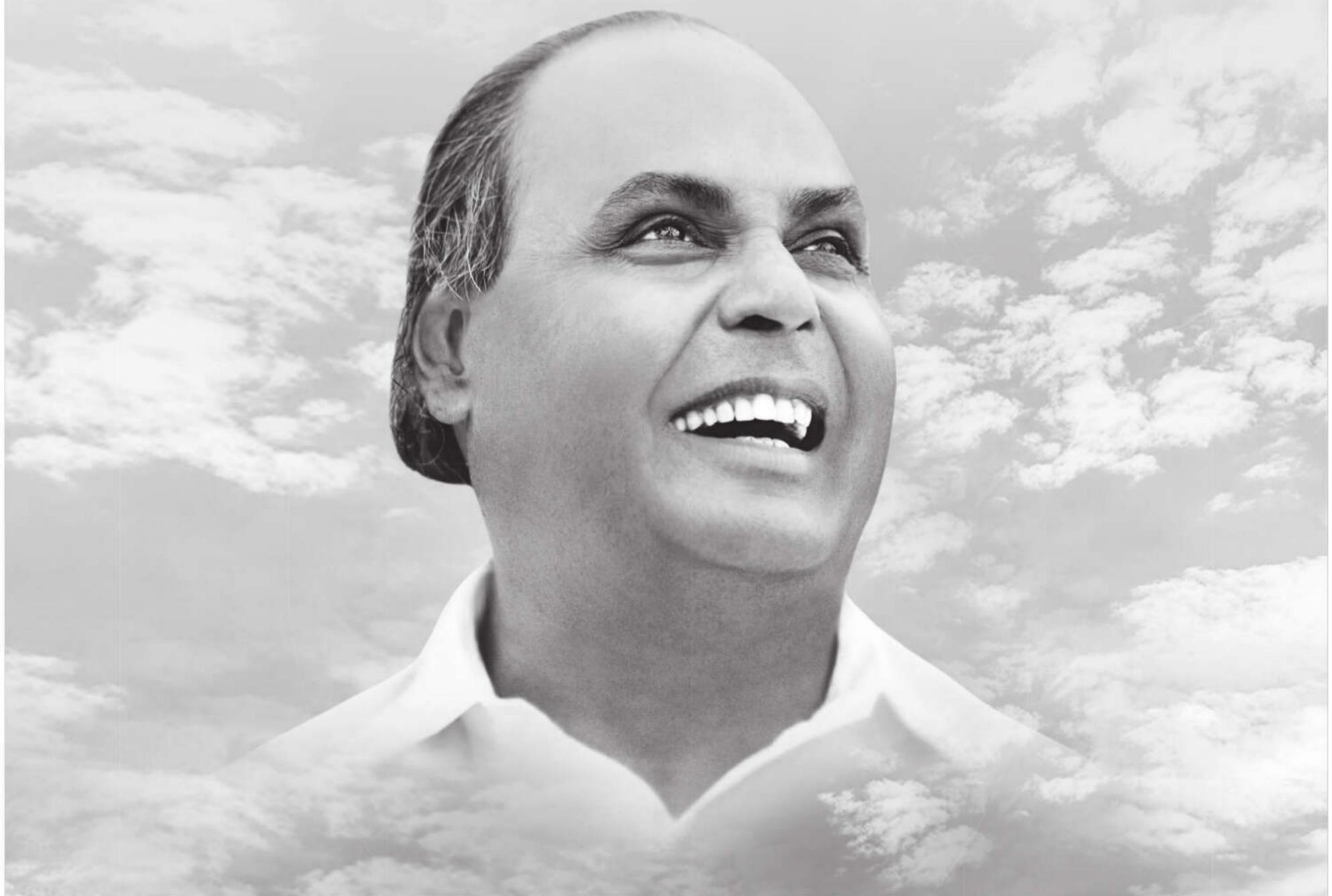
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will never cease to be. The soul is eternal, immortal, and ageless.
It is not destroyed when the body is destroyed.

- Bhagavad Gita (Ch. 2 - Text 20)

In loving memory - Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani and Family



Growth is Life

DUE TO BETTER REPORTING, SAY OFFICIALS

More dengue cases in Delhi this year than last five years, data shows

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 5

AMID RECORD showers in the national capital, Delhi has reported more dengue cases this year as compared to the previous five years, data shows.

According to officials, however, the figure can be attributed to better reporting, including from private laboratories.

A total of 246 cases have been recorded in the city between January 1 and June 29 this year, the highest for the time period since at least 2019.

On Friday, Delhi Health Minister Saurabh Bhardwaj held a meeting with the officials of state health department and civic bodies regarding the preparedness against the viral disease and other vector-borne ailments.

Dengue cases and deaths were discussed in a report presented during the meeting. Last year, the city reported 122 cases till June 29, half of what has been reported this year, along with 19 deaths.

Speaking with the Indian Express, Bhardwaj said there has been an increase in the reporting of cases.

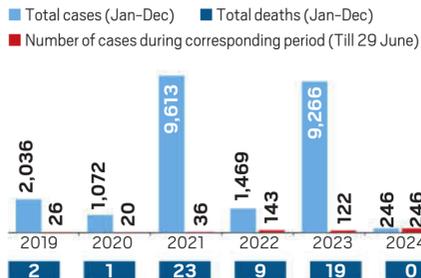
"We conducted a meeting last week where we found that the number of cases is higher this year. When we asked officials, they said that this was because there is better reporting from labs, which was not the case earlier. We then asked them to get us details from government hospitals so that a comparison could be drawn.

At Safdarjung Hospital, for example, the number of cases so far are almost one fourth of what was reported last year; at Lok Nayak Hospital, the number of cases are almost the same as last year," he said.



Delhi witnessed heavy waterlogging last week. File

DENGUE CASES AND DEATHS



He said the situation was under control at present.

"There are no worrying signs. We have also directed the health officials to determine the serotype of the prevailing dengue virus in the city. So far, the samples have shown that it is DenV2 strain," he said, adding that the sampling is currently low and will be increased soon.

As per the report presented at Friday's meeting, there has been a positive impact on reporting of dengue cases due to the gazette notification issued in 2021.

It said that reporting of vector-borne diseases has strengthened over time resulting in better surveillance due to more reporting units at super speciality hospitals, private hospitals and Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP).

Delhi on June 28 recorded heavy rain, after which significant rainfall has been received on two days in the past week.

Even as the intensity of rain has abated, waterlogging woes continued to haunt several areas, which upped the concerns on mosquito breeding.

ED searches in four cities in corruption case linked to DJB

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 5

MULTIPLE TEAMS of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) conducted search operations in four cities in a sewage treatment plant corruption case linked to the Delhi Jal Board (DJB).

The search operations were carried out at various locations in Delhi, Ahmedabad, Mumbai, and Hyderabad, an ED spokesperson said. "During the search operations, cash amounting to Rs 41 lakh, various incriminating documents, and digital evidence were found and seized," the spokesperson said.

According to the ED, the investigation was initiated based on an FIR registered by the anti-corruption branch against Euroteck Environmental Pvt Ltd, and other entities in the alleged DJB scam. The alleged corrup-

tion is related to the augmentation and upgradation of 10 sewage treatment plants (STPs) at Pappankala, Nilothi, Najafgarh, Keshopur, Coronation Pillar, Narela, Rohini and Kondli. The four tenders valued at Rs 1,943 crore were awarded to various entities in a joint venture in October 2022. The FIR alleged that only three joint venture firms [JVs] participated in all four tenders.

Delhi Water Minister Atishi targeted the BJP over the action. "The AAP has been opposing the dictatorship of the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi and will continue to oppose it. The ED has only registered a case in Delhi Jal Board, now the Health Department, Education Department, Flood Department are still left? If there is a department for breathing, then ED can file a case on how the AAP members are breathing," she said.

AFTER LAB FLOODED

Years of research work, personal belongings: Students, faculty at IIT Delhi count losses

VIDHEESHA KUNTAMALLA & SHRIYA MURMU
NEW DELHI, JULY 5

YEARS OF research work, including chemical samples, personal property, and costly equipment—students and faculty at the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi's Kusuma School of Biological Sciences (KSBS) are grappling with heavy losses after last week's torrential rain in the city.

Amid ongoing cleaning at the lab, several students are compelled to pause their research work till it opens again. Many faculty members too have suffered losses.

It was around 10.30 am on June 28 when a PhD scholar found out that the lab in the lower

basement of the KSBS was flooded amid a massive spell of rain. "When I went into the lab to collect my stuff, the water was almost up to the knee level. I have lost my laptop. I am still trying to dry and recover five years of research work," the student, in his final year, shared.

"Waterlogging in the lab happens almost every year due to rain but this time it has caused a lot of damage to the equipment and research work of several students and teachers. All we are asking for is good working conditions in India's premier institute," he added.

Another PhD student, who is also in his final year, expressed concern about the safety of sanitation workers who are deployed to clean the work. "The water that

AAP COUNTERS CLAIM

Kejriwal cleared tree felling in Ridge area, alleges BJP

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 5

DAYS AFTER the Supreme Court sought to know whether Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena had visited a site on the Delhi Ridge before trees were cut to construct a road in the forest area, the city unit of the BJP alleged that the permission to cut trees for the project was granted by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. The ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), however, has hit back, saying the BJP is "trying to mislead people".

Citing purported government documents, Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva said that the file to approve tree felling was signed by Kejriwal on January 24, wherein he also made a "remark that the Lt Governor is bound by the advice of the Chief Minister and cabinet in this matter".

"Thus there was no space for the Lt Governor V.K. Saxena to deny approval... For the last two



Ridge area has been at the centre of the row. File

weeks Delhi Ministers Saurabh Bhardwaj, Gopal Rai and other AAP leaders have been raising the issue continuously, making the allegation that DDA felled trees under pressure from the Lt Governor. The document accessed by Delhi BJP clearly shows that Chief Minister Kejriwal and Environment Minister Gopal Rai knew about the matter and it was he who recommended tree felling," Sachdeva said.

The AAP accused the BJP of trying to mislead people. "BJP is

citing some questionable documents for felling of 424 trees of a different issue, while the Supreme Court is probing the issue of 1,100 trees in the eco-sensitive zone of Sabari. Why didn't the L-G show this permission to the Supreme Court? Why are the L-G and DDA suffering humiliation every day in the SC when they have all the valid permissions... It has been mentioned in the SC many times the emails submitted by DDA clearly state the trees were cut on the instructions of the L-G," the party said.

The SC on June 26 issued a contempt notice to the Delhi government through the Principal Secretary, Forest and Environment Department for clearing the felling of 422 trees while the authority concerned for this was the Tree Officer under the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994. The bench wondered how the government could "usurp" the powers of the Tree Officer under the 1994 Act.

HC asks duo to remove social media posts on 'centipede in Amul ice cream tub'

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has directed the removal of social media posts on X (earlier Twitter) by two individuals, alleging that a centipede was found in a tub of Amul ice cream bought by one of them.

While hearing a lawsuit moved by the plaintiff, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation that sells products under the Amul brand, a single judge bench of Justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora, in its July 4 order, said, "Defendant nos. 1 and 2 are directed to forthwith remove the social media posts uploaded by them on defendant no. 1's Twitter/X account... within three days from the date of passing of this order." ENS



Flooding at IIT Delhi premises. Express

is floating around in the basement is filled with hazardous chemicals but we see sanitation workers cleaning the lab without any special safety gear. We dispose of such material carefully

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of Work and its location: 30-Elect-35-T-2024-25-E3 Electrical work regarding Air-Conditioning System with Laminar Air Flow System at Newly Constructed 02 Nos. Modular OT in new building NRDH Hospital Old Delhi.

Approx cost of the works in: Rs. 45.85 lacs

Address of the office: Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi, Bid Security: Rs. 91700.00

Date & time of submission of tender: 02.08.2024, 12.00 Hrs.

Opening of tender: 02.08.2024, 12.00 Hrs.

Website & notice board: www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2045/24

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system

Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items :-

S. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
01	15240085	SILENCER MUFFLER	40 NOS	25-07-24
02	01240335	MAIN COMPRESSOR 110V	21 NOS	29-07-24
03	09242573	DRAFT GEAR ARRANGEMENT INCLUDING DRAFT GEAR FOLLOWER FOR BCNHL/BOXNHL WAGONS.	696 NOS	29-07-24
04	19240774	INTERMEDIATE OVERHAULING (IOH) KIT	68 SET	29-07-24
05	12240906	LED TUBULAR TUBE 9W	25345 NOS	30-07-24
06	03242223	DECORATIVE THERMOSETTING SYNTHETIC RESIN BONDED LAMINATED SHEET (LP SHEET) FOR AC COACHES	5973 NOS	30-07-24
07	09242132	COUPLER BODY WITH SHANK WEAR PLATE FOR BCNHL WAGONS	4856 NOS	31-07-24
08	15235238C	AIR COMPRESSOR ROTARY SCREW ELECTRIC DRIVEN	02 NOS	05-08-24
09	08245143	PROCUREMENT OF SUITCASE TYPE PORTABLE AUTO ACQUIRING V SAT TERMINAL	01 SET	06-08-24
10	08245077B	PROCUREMENT OF SMPS BASED 48V 50A BATTERY CHARGER	43 NOS	08-08-24

Note : 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained.

Tender Notice No. 30/2024-25 Date:- 05.07.2024 2058/2024

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IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Website: www.ircon.org, CIN: L45202DL1975GO0008171

e-Procurement Notice (National Competitive Bidding)

e-Tender No. IRCON/ELECT/5937-5038/NCRT/CLASS ERECTION/OT/124 dated 05.07.2024 "Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Auxiliary Sub-stations (ASS) Equipments of Stage-4 (Meerut Central to Modipuram & Modipuram Depot) for Delhi-Ghaziabad - Meerut RRTS Corridor of NCRTC (Package-19 Lot-2)".

Estimated Cost of the Work: Rs. 3.57,35,950/-

Last Date & Time of e-Bid Submission: 26.07.2024 upto 15.00 Hrs.

For further details, visit website: https://tenders.gov.in/procure/app. Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website.

Chief General Manager/Electrical, C-4 District Centre, Saket, New Delhi-110017

Government of Odisha
Office of the Chief Construction Engineer
Rural Works Circle, Angul

E-Mail - sencrwangul@yahoo.co.in ☎ 06764-236404
No. 1736 // Dt. 4/7/24 //

e-Procurement Notice for Maintenance works in Odisha

- Name of the work : Maintenance works
- Total No. of work : 01 No.
- Estimated cost : Rs. 106.39 Lakh
- Class of Contractor : 'B' & 'A' Class
- Period of completion : 03(Three) Calendar Months and Five years routine maintenance
- 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, Angul	Maintenance Online- AGL-04/2024-25	10.07.24 at 10.00 A.M	24.07.24 upto 5.00 P.M	23.07.24 upto 1.00 P.M	25.07.24 at 10.00 A.M	Will be intimated separately

For detailed Notice inviting Tenders, Please visit to the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in

OIPR- 25180/11/0005/2425 Sd/- Chief Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Angul.

Appeal for Identification

General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body Name: Unknown, S/o Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: about 50 years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Shallow, Wearing : Yellow White T-Shirt Black Pant he was found dead Under Fly over Shahdara Opp Hanuman Mandir Shahdara, Delhi. In this regard, a DD No. 42A, dated 03.07.2024 has been lodged at PS: Shahdara, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any, person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
P.S., Shahdara, Delhi
Ph. : 7065036027
9811579086

DP/8747/SHD/2024

TELANGANA INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE CORPORATION LIMITED
(Govt of Telangana Undertaking)
Regd. Office: Parishrama Bhavan", 6th Floor, 5-9-58/B, Basheerbagh, Hyderabad, PIN-500004, Ph: 040-23237625/26, Email: vcmd_lic@telangana.gov.in

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
For Selection of Advisor cum Merchant Banking Firms
Tender Notice No. TG/IC/02/RM/2024

Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Limited (TG/IC), the nodal agency of Government of Telangana for development of Industrial Infrastructure in the State, invites proposals from reputed Merchant Banking Firms with experience in raising funds through debt markets and handling the issuance of Bonds. Interested and eligible bidders are advised to peruse the RFP and submit proposals.

The RFP can be downloaded from www.tgic.telangana.gov.in from 05.07.2024. Due date for submission of proposals: 12.07.2024, 15.00 Hrs (IST). Further updates on this tender will be available in this website only. Sd/-

For Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Ltd
R.O. No.: 156-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25

REQUEST FOR BIDS (RFB) E-Procurement Notice (Two-Envelope Bidding Process with e-Procurement) NATIONAL OPEN COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT

PNiEt No: 03/PNIT/EE/PWD (G)/(R&B)/GNT/2024-25, Dated: 04-07-2024

The Executive Engineer, Gonda Twisa Division, PWD (G), Gonda Twisa, Dhalai District on behalf of the 'Governor of Tripura', invites online item rate e-tender in two bid system from the eligible Central & State public sector undertaking / enterprise and eligible Contractors / Firms / Private Ltd. Firm / Agencies of Appropriate Class registered with PWD/TTAADC/MES/CPWD/Railway / Govt. Organization of other State & Central for the following works:-

RFB No.	NAME OF WORK	Earnest Money	Bid Fee	Time For Completion	Last Date & Time of Bid Submission	Date & Time of Opening of Bid
IN-PWD(B)-403658-CW-RFB-2	Infrastructure Development of Girish Chandra Karbari Para H.S. School under Raishyabari Block, Dhalai District, Tripura under World Bank Aided Project namely, TRESP(2nd Call).	Rs. 22,30,000/- (Rupees twenty-two lakh thirty thousand only)	Rs. 10,000/-	730 days	At 3:30 PM on 09-08-2024	At 3:00 PM on 09-08-2024

- Date of publishing of bid: 05-07-2024
 - Last date and time for document downloading and bidding: Up to 1500 Hrs on 09-08-2024
 - Class of tenderer: Appropriate Class.
 - Bid fee and Earnest Money are to be paid offline.
- Document downloading and bidding at application; https://tripuratenders.gov.in. For further enquiry, contact to the office of the undersigned.

For and on behalf of Governor of Tripura
-Sd-
Executive Engineer,
Gonda Twisa Division, PWD(G),
Gonda Twisa, Dhalai District, Tripura

ICA/C/762/24

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B Nagar, (U.P.)
Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

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

(A).

S. no.	Job no/Work name	Amount (Rs. in Lacs)
1.	40/D(H)/GM/DD(H)-I/2023-24, D/o Park, (Sh: P/F Open gym) with Five Year Maintenance Sector-69 Transport Nagar Noida	30.87
2.	47/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2022-23, D/o Park, Green Belt & RSP in sector-40, 45 & 48 with two year maintenance.	80.02

Which can be uploaded by date 15/07/2024 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened / downloaded on date 16/07/2024 at 11.00 AM.

(B).

S. no.	Job no/Work name	Amount (Rs. in Lacs)
1.	23/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2024-25, D/o Green Belt Opposite (Hilstone Residency Sector-79) Two Year Maintenance.	60.51
2.	24/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2024-25, M/o Park, Green Belt & RSP Sector-115, Sorkha Village and Samsan Ghat, Sector-117 & 118 Samajwadi Flat, For Two Year Maintenance.	79.27
3.	25/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2024-25, M/o RSP MP IIIRD, Sector 52 Metro Station to Sector-37 & Shashi Chowk Golchakar for two year maintenance.	54.60

Which can be uploaded by date 22/07/2024 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened / downloaded on date 23/07/2024 at 11.00 AM.

Director (Hort.)
Noida

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2nd Floor, Smart City Development Corporation Office Building,
Kalibadi Road, BHEL, Sector-A, Barkheda, Bhopal-462022

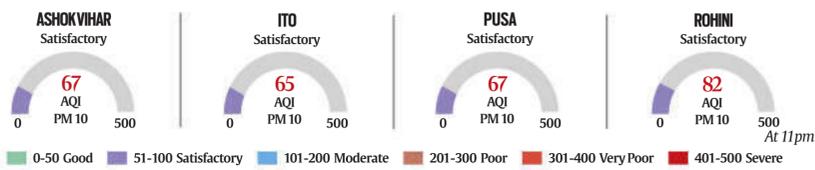
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5 THE CITY



SKYWATCH
 July 6
 Generally cloudy sky. Light rain/thunderstorm/lightning
MAX: 33
 3.4°C below normal
MIN: 26
 1.9°C below normal

BRIEFLY

Gahlot warns action against car dealers over delay in registration

New Delhi: Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot has directed the department officials to take strict action, including suspension of their licence, against any car dealer if they do not hand over the registration certificate to the private car buyer at the time of purchase of the vehicle. Gahlot has taken cognisance of complaints from private vehicle buyers in Delhi regarding delays in receiving the RCs. **PTI**

Preps on to set up 200 camps for Kanwar Yatris

New Delhi: The Delhi government has expedited preparations to set up 200 camps across the city, particularly in the trans-Yamuna areas, for the Kanwar Yatra that will begin later this month, officials said on Friday. Of these 200 camps, 40 will be located in North East Delhi, 30 in East Delhi and 17 in Shahdara, an official said. **PTI**

REPLY TO BAIL PLEA, CBI TOLD Not a case of a terrorist, Delhi CM tells HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JULY 5

THE DELHI High Court on Friday sought the CBI's response to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's bail plea filed over the agency's corruption case linked to the now-scrapped excise policy. While arguing for his bail plea, the AAP national convenor emphasised that this was not a case of a proclaimed offender or a terrorist.



Arvind Kejriwal. File

A single-judge bench of Justice Neena Bansal Krishna issued a notice to the central agency and asked it to file its response. The bench, however, noted the CBI's contention that "(the) petitioner (Kejriwal) has approached the High Court without moving any application" for bail before the trial court. "This contention shall be considered at the time of arguments," said the bench.

The bench listed the matter for the next hearing on July 17. Arvind Kejriwal's writ petition challenging his arrest by the central agency and three-day CBI remand is also listed on the same date. During the hearing on Friday, senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for the Chief Minister, said that this was not a matter related to Section 45 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Section

45 of the PMLA refers to "offences which are cognisable and non-bailable", and also lists the requirements to be followed for granting bail for an offence of money laundering. "This is not a case where there can be any remotest allegation of the triple test being touched, forget being violated. Can't be a flight risk, can't be non-cooperation, can't be an instance of influencing witnesses. Four people have got bail. Just because they say I'm a special class, I'm a VIP... so VIP does not get bail that everybody else gets," Singhvi said. Singhvi said Kejriwal was arrested two years after the CBI FIR was registered in 2022. He was interrogated for nine hours in April last year, Singhvi added.

"I'm pressing for some interim relief. Your lordship may consider the totality of this. This is not a case of a proclaimed offender or a terrorist," Singhvi said.



Digging work underway in River Yamuna to clear the water flow, at Yamuna Barrage, ITO in New Delhi Friday. Praveen Khanna

24x7 control room to keep a watch on floods

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JULY 5

A WEEK after the civic infrastructure in the national capital buckled under the pressure of record rain, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government on Friday unveiled a flood control action plan. Delhi Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj and Water Minister Atishi shared the details at a press briefing. The government is completely equipped for an increase in the water level of Yamuna, the ruling party assured.

"Today there was a flood control apex body meeting where precautionary measures taken by

different government bodies were discussed," said Bharadwaj. Officials of various government bodies, including the Revenue Department, New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), Delhi Cantonment Board, Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Delhi Traffic Police, Irrigation and Flood Control Department, and PWD were in attendance at the meeting.

The Ministers announced that the Irrigation and Flood Control Department on Friday set up a 24x7 flood control room at the East Delhi District Magistrate office. "Officials from the DDA, MCD, and NDMC will be deployed here

24x7, including people from all relevant departments and services such as BSES, Delhi Jal Board, TATA Power and Health Department," said Atishi.

The flood control room will enable real-time data monitoring of discharge from the Hathnikund Barrage, which receives the Yamuna River water from the Haryana government.

"If there is a release of more than one lakh cusec of water from Hathnikund barrage, the rescue operations will begin immediately. Steps to evacuate people from Yamuna floodplains will be taken and relief camps will be set up," said Atishi. She added the apex body meeting reviewed the

flood relief and rescue equipment, assessed the inventory, tracked the status of the deployed equipment, and discussed the steps for flood relief, evacuation, and control. Among the steps taken to tackle a flood-like situation, the Ministers counted regular review of the desilting work to prevent waterlogging in the city and opening of all the ITO barrage gates.

Bharadwaj added pilot cuts have been deployed wherever there has been island formation in the course of the Yamuna River, in Delhi. There were also directions given to the central agencies involved in construction activities along the river bed to remove obstructions.

Climate change, forest cover in Haryana's 'green manifesto' ahead of state elections

ANGELINA FLORENCE SHICIL, DEVANSH MITTAL GURGAON, JULY 5

THE INHABITANTS of Haryana are suffering the consequences of global warming and climate change with an increased intensity of heatwaves and changes in rainfall patterns – an environmental group has come up with a green manifesto draft for the state ahead of the assembly elections due later this year, which highlights such issues.

The state has the lowest forest cover in the country and faces water stress, underlines the group, People for Aravalli. "We demand that the health of the entire state with all its natural ecosystem, and inhabitants be at the forefront of decision-making by our elected representatives and policymakers..." Neelam Ahluwalia, founder member of People for Aravallis, stresses in the manifesto.

The manifesto underlines that the "citizens demand the protection of Haryana's forests and hills". A four-year-roadmap to achieve the 21 per cent legal forest cover by involving the communities, ensuring the creation of biodiversity management committees, prioritising planting of native species for afforestation and restoration, devising and implementing an action plan for the protection of the exotic species of Haryana are among the demands.

This first draft of the Haryana Green Manifesto 2024 will be circulated for extensive consultation. (The writers are interns at The Indian Express)

Fire triggers panic at mall in Noida; short circuit likely cause, say officials

UPASIKA SINGHAL NEW DELHI, JULY 5

A FIRE broke out at a shop in Noida's Logix Mall around 11 am on Friday. Chief Fire Officer (CFO) Pradeep Kumar said that the shop on the first floor was yet to open for the day when the blaze broke out. According to officials, there were no casualties and those inside the mall were safely evacuated. However, the blaze triggered a brief spell of panic, as per eyewitnesses.

After the fire was reported, around 15 fire tenders were rushed to the spot. Even before the arrival of the fire tenders, officials instructed the mall authorities to evacuate the premises. "Since the shutters of the shop (where the blaze broke out) were still down, we are assuming that a short circuit may have triggered a blaze," said Kumar.

While the fire was quickly doused, the firemen had to deal with thick plumes of smoke. The glass exterior of a cafe on the



A fire tender outside the mall. Amit Mehra

ground floor was broken to allow an extractor machine to dispel the smoke. "There was not much damage as only one shop caught fire. The smoke didn't do any damage to the interiors either," an employee of the mall administration said, requesting anonymity.

Devendra Kumar, who works at the mall, said, "I was shifting boxes near the first-floor lift when a security guard came and told us to rush outside. We just saw a bit of smoke, which got thicker only later when all of us were outside," he recalled. Barun Jha, a maintenance worker, said, "We all panicked and ran out."

DUSIB shelter among structures razed by DDA in floodplains; illegal, says minister

HIMANSHU HARSH NEW DELHI, JULY 5

"EIGHTEEN PEOPLE lived here. They left around 8 this morning for work as daily wage labourers. They don't even know of this yet," says Arjun Kumar, 27, in charge of one of the Porta cabins in Yamuna Khadar.

On Friday, Delhi Development Authority (DDA) demolished multiple structures, including a DUSIB night shelter and an NGO-run educational and vocational training centre, in the area as part of its anti-encroachment drive on Yamuna floodplains.

"I repeatedly told them that this is a government structure. But they didn't listen..." Kumar adds. Delhi's Urban Development minister Saurabh Bharadwaj slammed the DDA for the move. "This is illegal. DDA has shown its anti-poor mentality. We will explore legal options against this," he tells *The Indian Express*.

Meanwhile, at the demolition site, people could be seen salvaging their belongings. "We somehow managed to take four



People salvage their belongings at Yamuna Khadar. Express

beds out of the shelter," says Arjun, adding, "Everyone will have to spend the night here only, even if it rains." Meanwhile, a vehicle belonging to Akshaya Patra Foundation reaches the spot with the night meals for the shelter. There are no more utensils left to collect the food, though. "Everything was fine when I came yesterday," says the driver.

The children in the area used to study at an educational centre run by an NGO – Rakshdeep Akshvaat Foundation. Only its rubble remains now. "250 children from the area used to study

here, without any charge," says Madhu, 49, CEO and Director of the foundation, which also conducted free sewing and parlour-training courses for women.

Around 2 kilometre away, Poonam Devi is sitting in front of a broken tent near Pusta Road. Her daughter is supposed to get married in the night, the wedding tent had also been demolished. "Daawat ka bhi sara saaman kuchal diya," says the bride's maternal uncle, Raghunath Singh.

"She has gone to a friend's place. Where will she get ready here?" her father, Shailendra

Singh, 45, asks.

The residents said DDA posted the demolition notice on Thursday evening and reached the area 12 hours later.

Around 50 meters away, for the family of Heera Lal Singh, who died the previous night, the demolition came as a double blow. "Body ke samne he humare ghar tod diye (They demolished our homes even as the body lay)," says Lal's nephew, Ray Singh, 33. "We have been living here for 27 years."

The DDA did not respond to comments on the demolition of the DUSIB shelter. Officials, however, said that as per NGT orders, structures cannot be built on the Yamuna floodplains.

Meanwhile, in a letter to CJJDY Chandrachud, social activist and Executive Director of Centre for Holistic Development (CHD) Sunil Kumar Aledia and lawyer Pragya Dubey said the action was against the Supreme Court orders. "This action violates the Supreme Court's ruling... which mandates that no temporary shelters can be demolished without approaching the Hon'ble Supreme Court," the letter states.

Footage from 300 CCTVs checked to nab man who kidnapped 2 kids

New Delhi: Last week, with the parents off to buy sweets from a shop in East Delhi, two children – an 11-year-old girl and a 3-year-old boy – were kidnapped in their car parked outside the market. Police have now arrested the accused, Prateek Shrivastava, 38, who allegedly fled after leaving the children and the car near Samaypur Badli in Northwest Delhi after being chased down by 20 police vehicles for 200 km.

After his escape, over 300 CCTV footages were reviewed by

the police, and the accused was identified. He was arrested on Thursday. "He had observed instances where parents briefly left their children in cars with the engine running. This prompted him to devise a plan to kidnap children along with the car, aiming to demand a significant ransom from their parents," said DCP East Apoorva Gupta.

The accused allegedly conducted reconnaissance in the area for a week and four days before zeroing in on the family on June 28. **ENS**

BENGAL DOMESTIC HELPS BACK AT WORK AFTER POLLS

'I don't care where money comes from... Modi, Mamata or Rahul'

ANNAPURNA BHATTACHARYA NEW DELHI, JULY 5

NOIDA'S LOTUS Boulevard Espacia rises 44 stories. Eight towers with two apartments on every floor, at noon on a Monday the complex is quiet – except for a crowd of women catching a shade by tower 37. These are the Bengali *kaajer bous* (domestic helps) of Lotus Boulevard. Though they live in Noida, they are officially residents and voters of West Bengal. This allows them to enter the Trinamool Congress's (TMC) Lakshmir Bhandar programme.

Since 2021, Lakshmir Bhandar's participants, women between 25 and 60 that do not have government jobs, get monthly bank transfers from the state: Rs 1,000 for general category women and Rs 1,200 for those on the SC/ST list. As of July 2024, the West Bengal Ministry of Finance reports 2.5 crore Lakshmir Bhandar recipients. Some are, on paper, permanent residents of Bengal but their work keeps them away for months, even years, at a time.

Two workers aged 53 and 40 work in the same Lotus Boulevard flat. After the 2020 COVID-19 lockdown, they took the Farakka Express back to Balurghat for the first time in May for the vote. Neither are Lakshmir Bhandar recipients but both know of their eligibility.

"Can I register from here?" the older one asks the crowd.

Registration for Lakshmir Bhandar happens at outreach camps across Bengal through a programme called Duare Sarkar – the government at your doorstep.

"We should have been home when Duare Sarkar came," says her companion.

Of the 29 Lok Sabha seats the TMC won this year, 11 – the highest of all states – are occupied by women. Lakshmir Bhandar, one of three TMC programmes that target women and girls, is said to have swayed the crucial female electorate in its favour.

"Lakshmir Bhandar is good, but I vote for Modi. I don't mind if they find out," says Rashmoni Sarkar, 50. She registered in Malda. The money goes towards her son's and daughter-in-law's education in Bengal.



At a Duare Sarkar camp in West Bengal. Archive

"Oi, Bangali" Susmita calls to another *kaajer bou*.

Salma Bibi, 36, walks over. Originally from Cooch Behar she puts the money towards her ninth grade son's tuition.

"Whoever provides the money – Modi, Mamata, Rahul Gandhi, I don't care. I keep working," she laughs. "Still, Mamata mashi gives me more pocket money than my mother ever did."

Another *kaajer bou* from Cooch Behar WhatsApped her and her daughter's Aadhaar cards and bank information to a TMC worker back home to register. The

worker took money but she is happy with "Mamata Didi."

Anita Sarkar, 24, is not. She registered in May, but hasn't received anything. "Some get, some don't."

Another woman in the crowd waits for her 25th birthday. The last time she was in Malda she was too young to register. This winter, when Duare Sarkar comes back, she'll be home, and of age. "When my daughter starts school, I'll pay her tuition fees with it."

Govt speak

Q: Many of the beneficiaries of the scheme have had to leave Bengal over a lack of jobs. How do welfare schemes factor into the government's efforts to create employment?

A: The direct payments that are going to poor women are coming back into the Bengal economy, almost immediately, as demand for goods and services. It's Keynesian demand stimulation: excess demand generates investment which brings companies which employ people.

– Amit Mitra, Special Advisor, Finance, to West Bengal CM, and former Finance, Commerce and Industries minister of West Bengal

Institute, an NGO chaired by Nobel laureate Amartya Sen, conducted a study of 1,136 Lakshmir Bhandar

recipients. 42% of those surveyed said part of the money went towards their children's education.

The West Bengal government cites this study to show that the programme enhances female independence and childhood developmental outcomes. Critics maintain, however, that Bengal's many welfare programmes exist just to increase votes and do not help economic productivity.

As a rare summer breeze blows through Lotus Boulevard, the woman, eager to turn 25, speaks of home. She wishes her daughter could pluck mangoes from the roof of her childhood house. Every monsoon the roads in Malda turned to mud. The totorickshaw her husband drove kept breaking down. "BJP/TMC – no one fixed it. You can't work in Bengal. So, now we're here."

Why do these women stay West Bengal voters?

Partly, it's the hurdles involved in navigating forms as women that never learned to read.

The other part: Bengal is home. Their vote is a way to hold on to it.

(The writer is an intern at The Indian Express)

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF DELHI
 (Health Department)
 Office of the Director Hospital Administration,
 E-1 Block, 18th Floor, Dr. SPM Civic Centre, J.L.N. Marg, New Delhi-110002,
 E-mail: cmprojectmcd@gmail.com, Phone No. 91-11-23226824

NOTICE FOR EMPANELMENT OF PRIVATE HOSPITALS, DIAGNOSTIC CENTRES, DENTAL CLINICS AND EYE CENTRE IN RESPECT OF MUNICIPAL BENEFICIARIES.

Application are invited from interested private hospitals, diagnostic centers, dental clinics and Eye centre that are already empanelled under CGHS Delhi or DGEHS Govt. of NCT, Delhi for empanelment in respect of employees and Pensioner's of MCD for period up to 14.02.2026. The Health Institutions already empanelled in MCD vide circular No. 434/DHA/MCD/2024 dated 15.02.2024 for up to 14.02.2026 need not apply. The details of the medical facilities, eligibility criteria, draft agreement, security deposit, Timeline & other T&C etc. are available on website www.mcdonline.nic.in. For any query, contact in person as per details mentioned between 11 A.M. to 04 P.M. (Mon to Fri). **Sd.**

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Criteria for admission and reservations shall be followed as per the GGSIP University guidelines. Candidates aspiring for admission through Management Quota can apply online on the institute's portal or download the form from the institute's website www.vips.edu and deposit the same by paying Registration Fee of Rs. 2,500/- (Non - Refundable) against receipt issued by the institute between 11:00 A.M. to 02:00 P.M. w.e.f. 12.07.2024. Last date of submission of application form at the Reception is 31.07.2024 up to 2:00 P.M. (The last date of submission of application form can be extended by notification on the institute's portal / website considering the schedule of counselling of GGSIPU for various programmes).
 For detailed admission process and schedule of counselling, candidates shall visit institute's website (<https://www.vips.edu>) regularly. **Principal**

Government of Punjab Recruitment Notice Reference No.194

Punjab Gajral Science City, Kapurthala (Department of Science, Technology & Environment, Punjab) requires a dynamic person for the following post on contractual basis for a period of 5 years:

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Note:
 • Any corrigendum(s) to the recruitment notice shall be published on the above website.
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Sd/-
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6 GOVT & POLITICS

'New laws drafted by part-timers... When has a major law ever been passed without reference to Law Commission?'

FORMER UNION home minister and senior Congress leader **P CHIDAMBARAM**, who registered his dissent during the parliamentary panel discussions over the new criminal laws, speaks to **APURVA VISHWANATH** about the problems with the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and Bharatiya Saksha Adhinyam, which were rolled out on July 1. Excerpts:

Your main criticism was the new laws weren't necessary.
You should only make changes which are necessary. The law must have stability... which means not only the substance of the law, but the manner in which it is presented to the world by Parliament.

For example, the CrPC was completely rewritten in 1973. Alright, 50 years later you rewrite it, I have no problem. But you have copied it... the IPC, CrPC, everything... 90-95% of the IPC is copied; 95% of the CrPC is copied.

What according to you are the changes that could have been made?

It is a sleight of hand. For example, sedition should have been scrapped. The change (new law) has the same effect. Death penalty should have been dropped. On the contrary, they have introduced another unusual punishment called solitary confinement. Community service should have been defined. See, each judge will now define what is community service. For example, the Pune minor (accused of running over two peo-



THE EXPRESS INTERVIEW
WITH **P CHIDAMBARAM**
CONGRESS LEADER

ple driving a Porsche)... they asked him to write an essay. Is that community service?...

Now that the laws are in force, what roadblocks do you see?

The first is a fundamental question that obviously the government is not answering. The general principle of law is that substantive laws have prospective effect, while procedural laws apply to pending cases. Now, the

IPC is a substantive law, but the CrPC and Evidence Act are substantive as well as procedural. Which parts will apply prospectively and which parts retrospectively? Answer that.

There are concerns around terror and organised crime, covered by special laws in the IPC, being included as regular offences now.

The IPC has two different sections, one dealing with offences and the other with aggravated forms of offence. Organised crime is an aggravated form of offence. Therefore, there is no harm in having a special section for that, a special definition for that, and enhanced punishment for that.

On terrorism, there is already UAPA. So long as there is a special law, why introduce it in the IPC when you are not repealing UAPA? Similarly, for electoral offences, there is a special law (Representation of the People's Act, 1951). It will only lead to confusion... which law do we apply?

One of the things you said the new laws should have talked about is safeguarding against

arbitrary arrests.

It is not something that the new laws have dealt with... What is the need for an arrest? The courts have applied it to even Section 45 of the PMLA (bail) now, and asked what the need was for an arrest. In fact, CJI D Y Chandrachud said recently in a judgment that the power to arrest doesn't mean a necessity to arrest.

The magistrate must be asked to examine whether the procedure for arrest has been followed. Strictly. And to also ask: Is it legal? Was it necessary?

Sixty-six per cent of the prisoners in India are undertrials. Why are we putting people behind bars in this digital age? When there is Aadhaar, electronic surveillance, a mobile in everybody's hands.

But much of this restrictive bail regime was introduced in the PMLA during UPA tenure.

PMLA was passed in 2002... Who was in power in 2002? It was the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led government which passed the law, and it received the President's assent on January 17, 2003. Who was the PM in 2003? Vajpayee.

But it was notified when your government came to power in 2004.

The Financial Action Task Force had been pestering us since 2002-2003. Yashwant Sinha (NDA Finance Minister) and Vajpayee avoided the question until March 2004, and then we came to power. The FATF threatened us that if you don't notify this law, we will exclude you. So we had no option, and we notified it on July 1, 2005 after making two significant amendments. Let's understand the history of Section 45... For Section 45, we made a significant amendment in 2005 but it was amended again in 2018.

Do the new laws take this restrictive bail regime forward?

It is all because non-professional people have drafted the new laws. They were part-time members of a committee. It should have gone through the sieve of the Law Commission.

Which major law in this country has been passed without referring it to the Law Commission?
FULL INTERVIEW
www.indianexpress.com

UP 16.7% FROM FY 2022-23 Manufacturing in Defence hits record high at ₹1.27 lakh cr

Govt committed to making India a defence manufacturing hub: Rajnath

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA
NEW DELHI, JULY 5

"The Make in India programme is crossing new milestones, year after year, under the leadership of PM Shri @narendramodi"

RAJNATH SINGH
DEFENCE MINISTER, ON X

INDIA'S INDIGENOUS defence production rose to a record high value of Rs 1.27 lakh crore in 2023-24, the Defence Ministry said Friday, attributing the 16.7% growth against the previous fiscal to government policies and self-reliance initiatives.

Congratulating the industry, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said the Government was committed to creating a more conducive regime for developing India as a leading global defence manufacturing hub.

"The Make in India programme is crossing new milestones, year after year, under the leadership of PM Shri @narendramodi," Singh said in a post on X.

In a statement, the Ministry said: As per the data received from all DPSUs (Defence Public Sector Undertakings), other PSUs manufacturing defence items and private firms, the value of defence production in the country has gone up to a record-high figure, i.e., Rs 1,26,887 crore, reflecting a growth of 16.7% over the previous financial year.

Of the total value of production (VoP) in 2023-24, about 79.2% came from DPSUs and other PSUs, and 20.8% percent by the private sector, the Ministry said. In terms of absolute value, both DPSUs/PSUs and the private sector recorded a steady growth in defence production, it added.

What contributed to the overall growth in the indigenous production, according to the Ministry, was the increasing de-

fence exports. In FY 2023-24, defence exports worth Rs 21,083 crore were registered, up 32.5% over Rs 15,920 crore in the previous fiscal.

Since 2019-20, when defence production stood at Rs 790.71 crore, the growth in value is over 60%.

Industry experts said the growth in India's own defence manufacturing underscored its "unwavering commitment to self-reliance and innovation" in the sector.

"Our strategic focus on indigenisation, supported by robust policy frameworks, public-private partnerships, and substantial investments in research and development, has been pivotal in reaching this milestone," said Rudra Shriram, the chair of defence committee at the industry body PHDCCI and DCM Shriram Industries.

"This growth not only enhances our national security but also drives economic progress, technological advancements, and job creation. As we continue on this path, we remain dedicated to further strengthening our defence capabilities and fostering a resilient, self-reliant India," he said.

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



A police convoy carrying Waris Punjab De chief Amritpal Singh leaves Parliament after he took oath as MP. ANI

OUT FOR OATH

THE OATH-TAKING ceremony of radical Sikh preacher Amritpal Singh and Kashmiri leader Sheikh Abdul Rashid or Engineer Rashid in the Lok Sabha on Friday was kept away from the media glare. Even pictures were not shared. The staff and officials in Parliament House were not allowed to come out of their offices when the two were brought to the House, it is learnt. Both Rashid and Singh were brought separately under heavy security and the area was cordoned off. Rashid was out on a two-hour custody parole from Tihar jail, while Singh, who is in Dibrugarh jail, was granted four days.

TDP ADDRESS

IMMEDIATELY AFTER the announcement of Lok Sabha results, the government bungalow — 50, Ashoka Road — had become the centre of activity as TDP leader Chandrababu Naidu stayed there during his time in New Delhi. This bungalow, at that time, was the official residence of former TDP MP Jayadev Galla. He did not contest the recent Lok Sabha elections and is learnt to have vacated it. However, even after his departure, the residence remains a focal point for TDP activities, with Naidu again choosing to stay there during his current visit to the national capital. Sources say it is likely to be allocated to a senior TDP MP.

ADD-ON AMENITIES

THE DELHI High Court stands out among high courts across states when it comes to infrastructure and public amenities. Now, it is about to have outlets of McDonald's and South Indian food joint Sagar Ratna. These will be in addition to the old canteen of the Delhi HC Bar Association, and a Starbucks outlet.

Echoing PM, Goyal takes swipe at Rahul: 10 years of Modi govt, 20 to go

PARIMAL DABHI
SARANGPUR (BOTAD), JULY 5

ECHOING WHAT the Prime Minister said in Rajya Sabha two days ago, Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, took a swipe at Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and "his friends" over their claim of this being "a one-third government" when he said Friday that the Modi government has completed 10 years and has 20 more years to serve the country.

Addressing the two-day Brihad Karobar (extended executive) of the Gujarat BJP at Sarangpur in Botad district, Goyal highlighted the party's performance in the Lok Sabha elections. Targeting Rahul Gandhi without naming him, Goyal said, "Aage chalkar BJP aur apna vistar karegi... Ab isko balak buddhi aur

unke mitra-bandhu ek tihai sarkar kehthe hain. Aur bada sahi kehthe hain. Kyunki 10 varsh poore huye hain. Ek tihai, PM Modiji ka term, abhi poora hua hai. Unhe 20 varsh aur desh ki seva karni hai (BJP is going to expand further. Now, balak buddhi and his friends are calling it a one-third government. They are correct. Because 10 years have been completed. One-third of PM Modiji's term has been completed. He has to serve the country for 20 more years)," he said.

In Rajya Sabha Wednesday, the Prime Minister, responding to the Congress jibe of "one-third government", said his government had completed 10 years and had 20 more years to go.

Goyal said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, the country will develop further while the "parasite" Congress will go back further.

MEA: Issue of Indians fighting war in Ukraine to be raised at Modi-Putin meet

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 5

THE EARLY discharge sought by India of its nationals who were "misled" into fighting for Russia against Ukraine is expected to be discussed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Moscow next week, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said Friday.

Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin will discuss issues of regional and global interest when they meet next week on Monday and Tuesday, said Kwatra. They will also discuss bilateral ties including matters related to defence, investment, education, culture, and people-to-people ties.

Kwatra said the 22nd annual India-Russia Summit is taking place after three years, and "we attach great importance to it". After his trip to Russia, Modi will travel to Austria on July 9 and 10, the first visit by an Indian PM to that country in 41 years.

At least four Indian nationals have been killed in the war so far. India estimates anywhere between 30 and 40 of its citizens could be already serving, Kwatra said.

'No evidence so far': Kerala cops on FMGE 'leak'

Thiruvananthapuram: A day after it lodged a case over social media announcements that said the question paper and answer key of the Foreign Medical Graduate Examination were up for sale, the city police said Friday that "so far there is no evidence to suggest that someone has accessed" the documents.

"Those who are attending the FMGE exam should remain vigilant not to fall victim to frauds of these types for exchange of money," the police said in a statement.

The NBEMS, which conducts FMGE, said the exam will be held as per schedule on July 6. **ENS**

Modi govt weak, can fall anytime, says Lalu

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, JULY 5

ADDRESSING THE RJD's 27th Foundation Day event in Patna, party president Lalu Prasad on Friday targeted the Narendra Modi government and predicted its fall because of its "own weaknesses". Lalu's son and former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Prasad Yadav advised JD(U) chief and Bihar CM Nitish Kumar, one of the key BJP allies, to ensure that the Centre grants Bihar special category status and not "beg for it".

"The Narendra Modi government is weak. It can fall anytime



HONOURING VALOUR

President Droupadi Murmu hands over the Kirti Chakra for Late Captain Anshuman Singh to his wife at the Defence Investiture Ceremony in Rashtrapati Bhavan on Friday. An officer of the Army Medical Corps, Singh died rescuing fellow soldiers during a fire at Siachen in July 2023. PTI

Rahul meets Hathras victims' kin, flags 'mistakes' by admin

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 5

LEADER OF Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi Friday met families of Hathras stampede victims, holding the administration responsible for the incident and appealing to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to ensure swift compensation.

"It is very tragic. Many families have lost a lot. Many have died. I don't want to say anything through a political prism. But, there are shortcomings of the administration and there have been some mistakes. It should be found out. The most important thing is that the right compensation should be given. They are poor families, and it is a very tough time for them. They should get maximum compensation. I request the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister that compensation should be given wholeheartedly," Gandhi said.

The government has announced compensation of ₹2 lakh for those killed and ₹50,000 for the injured.

"I spoke to the families... They have said the administration was at fault. The arrangement of police that should have been there, wasn't there. They are in grief and shock, and I tried to understand their issues," Gandhi said.

UP Congress General Secretary (Organisation) Yadav told *The Indian Express* that Gandhi reached Aligarh's Pilakhna village at around 8.30 am where he met families who had lost multiple members in the tragedy.

Gandhi then went to Hathras's Green Park in Vibhav Nagar where he met some more families affected by the tragedy.



Rahul Gandhi with families in Aligarh on Friday. PTI

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Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi, Friday. PTI

Rebuilding Andhra a difficult task, we'll do it step by step: Naidu

NIKHILA HENRY
NEW DELHI, JULY 5

ON THE concluding day of his first visit to Delhi after becoming Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Chandrababu Naidu seemed confident that his trip was fruitful, saying that his relationship with the Centre is "good".

"We have short-term, mid-term and long-term plans of developing Andhra Pradesh and we are confident of rebuilding the state," he said at a media interaction held on Friday. In the short-term, Naidu said, "hand holding" by the Centre in terms of financial assistance is essential.

"Rebuilding Andhra Pradesh is a difficult task. But we will do it step by step," he said. Naidu, however, did not speak of Special Category Status for Andhra Pradesh, a demand which YSR Congress Party has been raising in the Rajya Sabha.

The TDP chief, who came back to power with a thumping majority in Andhra Pradesh this year, also has the leverage of 16 MPs by his side to get the financial packages for the state. The TDP is a part of the NDA government at the Centre.

On his visit to Delhi that started on July 3, Naidu had held

meetings with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and other senior Cabinet ministers. In these meetings he had submitted a list of demands seeking support for development projects in Andhra Pradesh.

The Andhra CM sought Union government's support in commissioning Polavaram national irrigation project and "special incentives" for industrial development. Naidu also asked for "additional allocation" under the scheme for special assistance to states for capital investment in essential sectors such as roads, bridges, irrigation and drinking water projects. He also sought aid in developing Amaravati as the state's capital.

The CM also sought support for backward regions of his state on the lines of Bundelkhand package. He asked for support in the development of Duggirajupatnam port.

On issues of national importance, including election of the Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha, Naidu said that the NDA will take a decision based on discussion among all the allies. So far, there is no structure for the NDA, even though all partners are equally important, he said.



Government of Madhya Pradesh



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BSP's Tamil Nadu chief hacked to death by six-member gang

ARUN JANARDHANAN CHENNAI, JULY 5



K Armstrong was killed outside his house

K ARMSTRONG, the Tamil Nadu state unit president of Bahujan Samaj Party, was hacked to death by a six-member gang on Friday evening near Perambur in the city.

Armstrong's friends fled as the gang wielded machetes and sickles, threatening anyone who tried to intervene. His family members rushed to the scene on hearing his cries, only to find him lying in a pool of blood with injuries to his head and neck.

A senior police officer said the gang arrived on three bikes around 7 pm, attacked Armstrong, and escaped. A special team, led by Sembur Inspector of Police Chiranjeevi, has been formed to track down the suspects.

Police are currently investigating a potential rivalry with a criminal from North Chennai, who is currently in prison.

Armstrong had a tumultuous

early life, with police saying he faced eight criminal cases in the past. "His history sheet was closed a decade ago. In his early political career, Armstrong gained prominence by organising rallies for former Uttar Pradesh CM Mayawati in Chennai and as a known Dalit leader.

AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami condemned the killing, questioning the law and order situation under DMK rule. VCK chief Thol Thirumavalavan called for a special unit to probe the crime.

BSP national president Mayawati in a post on X said: "The gruesome killing of Mr K Armstrong... is highly deplorable and condemnable. The state Govt. must punish the guilty."

Shiv Sena Punjab leader attacked with swords, two arrested

Ludhiana: A group of three Nihang Sikhs Friday attacked Shiv Sena (Punjab) leader Sandeep Thapar (58) with swords in full public view in Ludhiana leaving him critically injured, police said.

Thapar was riding his two-wheeler, with a gunman provided to him riding pillion, Shiv Sena (Punjab) chief Rajiv Tandon said. He alleged that the attack comes days after Thapar's security cover was pruned from three to one personnel.

Ludhiana Police Commissioner Kuldeep Singh Chahal said that three attackers have been identified as Sarabjit Singh Saba (34) and Harjot Singh alias Jata (30) and Tehal Singh Ladi. The police have arrested Sarabjit and Harjot.

Chahal said that the probe was on to know the motive behind the attack. ENS

FROM PAGE ONE FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

CPM poll review for Kerala flags cadres' arrogance, BJP rise

Central Committee, the highest decision-making body of the CPI(M), met over the last weekend to consider reports compiled by the party's state units on the 18th Lok Sabha elections.

In 2021, the CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) had created history by returning to power in Kerala under the leadership of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, bucking the trend of the state changing governments every five years.

Like 2019, the Left won one seat in Kerala in the Lok Sabha polls, Alathur (CPM), with the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) winning 18. The Left's score was the same as the BJP's, which picked up its first-ever Lok Sabha seat in Kerala.

Pointing out the "wide gap" between the estimates and the actual results, the CPI(M) review calls it a "bigger problem". This shows that Party units were unable to gauge the mood of the people and their preferences. The

weakening of the Party's live links with people has to be corrected." Talking of "instances of arrogant behaviour of cadres - from top to bottom", the review says this is pushing people away.

The report also calls for a strict check on "growing instances of corruption in panchayats, cooperative institutions and at various levels".

However, it is the growth of the BJP that has the CPI(M) most worried. The BJP did not just win the Thrissur seat, where popular actor-politician Suresh Gopi is its candidate, but finished first in 11 Assembly segments across the state and second in eight.

The CPI(M) review says: "The BJP/NDA have polled 19.2 per cent of the votes, which is an increase of 3.64 per cent compared to 2019. It should be noted that the BJP/NDA vote share has almost doubled over the last ten years - from 10.08 per cent in 2014 to 19.2 per cent in 2024."

The LDF vote share, on the other hand, came down to 33.35 per cent from 35.10 per cent in 2019, about the same as the dip in the UDF's vote share (by 2.8 per cent).

The CPI(M) review admits that a considerable section of the people, particularly the minorities, saw that only the Congress, as the largest party in the INDIA bloc, could defeat the BJP at the Centre. "The Left was not seen by them as a major player in the defeat of the BJP and the formation of an alternative government," it says.

The party further says: "The BJP-RSS work to advance Hindutva politics has shown results. They have been using temples, religious and social activities as a means to propagate their Hindutva and anti-minority politics. They have been using various Central schemes which convey benefits to penetrate selected

caste groups. Self-critically, it must be noted that we have not paid sufficient attention to counter their politics and activities. This must be taken up on a priority basis."

On other "caste and communal organisations" that played a big role, the CPI(M) report talks of the Ezhava outfit SNDP working largely in favour of the BJP and the Jamaat-e-Islami and SDPI, combined with the Muslim League, sticking with the Congress. A section of the Christian Church establishment, it says, also tilted in favour of the BJP.

This observation is likely to add to the chorus against Vijayan as, under him, the CPI(M) has made aggressive overtures to woo the minorities, particularly the Muslims. The CPI(M), in fact, ran its campaign around the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, playing on Muslim apprehensions regarding the legislation.

Lastly, the CPI(M) review talks about the party's social media campaign trailing both the UDF and BJP's by far. "Urgent steps have to be taken to expand the coverage through social media at all levels and strengthen content generation."

Bareilly man gets 7-yr jail for 'raping' wife when she was 13

Lucknow: A court in Uttar Pradesh's Bareilly has sentenced a 30-year-old man to seven years of imprisonment for allegedly kidnapping and raping a minor, who now is his wife, in 2015.

The alleged victim was 13-year-old when a case of kidnapping was registered that year against the man, who was in his twenties at the time, on the complaint of the girl's father.

"The court examined seven prosecution witnesses. The complainant and the victim did not support the prosecution's theory and were declared hostile," said defence counsel Mohammad Firoz. In the FIR, the girl's father alleged that his distant relatives were involved in the kidnapping of his daughter.

The girl's statement was recorded by the police and a magistrate. On the basis of her statement, the police invoked rape charges against the youth.

"The girl stated she had gone with the youth on her own," said advocate Mohammad Firoz. ENS

2 Gaganyaan astronauts to go to ISS aboard the Axiom-4 mission

ANONNA DUTT NEW DELHI, JULY 5

THE INDIAN Space Research Organisation has selected two of its four trained Gaganyaan astronauts to go to the International Space Station (ISS) in collaboration with National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) later this year, said officials familiar with the matter.

The mission will take place "no earlier than October 2024," according to the information available on NASA website. The astronauts will have to go to the United States ahead of the mission to train on the specifics of the ISS, said one of the officials quoted above. "While they have general training for space-fairing, much of their training in India focussed on Gaganyaan modules. They will have to be familiarised with ISS modules and protocols," the official said.

The Axiom-4 mission, which will take the Indian astronauts to the ISS, is the fourth private astronaut mission of NASA and a private US company Axiom Space. The mission is expected to dock with the ISS for fourteen

days. At the time when the Axiom-4 mission was announced last year, NASA is a re-launched had said: "The Ax-4 crew members will train with NASA, international partners, and SpaceX for their flight. Axiom Space has contracted SpaceX as launch provider for transportation to and from the space station, and to familiarize the private astronauts with systems, procedures, and emergency preparedness for the Dragon spacecraft."

This has been in the works for a while. Last year, a joint statement by India and US during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US had said that NASA would provide advance training to Indian astronauts. Later the same year, NASA administrator Bill Nelson during his Delhi visit had said that the space agency will train an Indian astronaut for a mission to the International Space Station by 2024 end.

India's own human spaceflight is unlikely to take place before 2025, with the first unmanned flight still to take off. The first flight carrying humans will be launched only after two successful unmanned flights.

Bengal hit by lynchings linked to rumours of phone, child 'thefts'

such incidents in the state in a fortnight since June 19 - prompting the Opposition to question the law and order in the state under the Trinamool Congress government.

The state government has responded by launching awareness campaigns. Law enforcement agencies have launched social media drives and are distributing pamphlets in several districts.

So far, the cases have been reported from five places - North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas, Hooghly, Bardhaman and Paschim Medinipur, all contiguous districts in the south part of the state.

According to police sources, the spate of such incidents possibly began after the body of an 11-year-old boy, who had been missing for five days, was found in an unused toilet near his home in North 24 Parganas - where the first incident was reported on June 19. The boy's uncle, Anjib Nabi, was eventually arrested.

"We suspect there is a connection between the incident and the rumours. The accused, to avoid suspicion, may have cooked up a story about kidnappers. We are probing this," says a senior police officer. Over 50 people have been arrested in connection with the

various assault cases, with the Mamata Banerjee government announcing a compensation of Rs 2 lakh for the families of those killed.

"Awareness drives have been going on for a week," Kamanasish Sen, Superintendent of Police of Hooghly (Rural), says. "We have given out phone numbers of police stations and asked the public to contact us immediately if they see anything suspicious."

In an address in the Assembly earlier this week, Speaker Biman Bandopadhyay blamed these occurrences on the Raj Bhawan's reluctance to sign the West Bengal (Prevention of Lynching) Bill, 2019.

Passed by the Assembly in 2019, it is meant to act as a deterrent to mob lynching. "The Bill should have been signed by the Governor. If it had been, we may not have seen mob lynching in Bengal," Bandopadhyay told reporters.

But Opposition parties cited it as yet another example of the crumbling law and order in West Bengal. "Although the state has been seeing such incidents one after the other, police can't seem to pin the culprits even with a telescope. Where are they? What precautions are being taken (to pre-

vent this)? No one knows," BJP state president and MP Sukanta Majumdar told The Indian Express.

"They beat her up like she was an animal"

Back at Prasen's village, neighbours and the police say the accused beat him through the night. "The three are locals and knew him. By the time we reached in the morning, he was dead," says a neighbour, Asima Sarkar. All three have been arrested.

In Prabhakarkati village in Barasat, 34-year-old Nehra Banu shows the scars from an alleged mob assault on June 19. She and a woman relative were looking for a restaurant in Kazipara when some people accosted them with allegations of being child-lifters. Despite their protests, the assault allegedly continued.

"I told them I'm a mother of two. But they didn't listen... They used sticks and an iron wrench to beat me," says Nehra. She was eventually rescued by the police and admitted to a hospital, where she spent five days. Eighteen people, including a woman, have been arrested. "They beat her up like she was an animal," says Ansar Ali, Nehra's 57-year-old father. "She's still traumatised."

Some 40 kilometres away, in Barrackpore's Ruiapara, 35-year-old plumber Najir Hossain is nursing fractured ribs and legs. He was on his way home on June 21 when some youngsters accosted him near Chak Kathalia village, 20 minutes from home. "Suddenly they

shouted 'bachha chor, bachha chor' and started beating me up. I kept explaining that my house is near and that I could call my brothers. They didn't listen and continued assaulting me with iron rods and sticks," Najir says.

One person has been arrested. At Irshad Alam's house in Kolkata's Belgachia area, the family says the 37-year-old, who worked at a TV repair shop, was lynched at a student hostel on suspicion of mobile theft. According to his 30-year-old wife Salma Bibi, he went to work on the morning of June 26 and never returned. "By evening we heard what happened. I went to the hospital but he was dead already." Fourteen people have been arrested in connection with this assault.

When asked about the incidents in her district, Barasat SP Pratiksha Jharkharia said the situation was under control. "But incidents are happening in other areas. Therefore, we are continuing our awareness campaigns and using loudspeakers to make people aware of such rumours," she said, adding that 35 people have been arrested in the district.

Similar measures are being taken in Jhargram, too, where one person died after being mistaken for a thief on June 22. "Two people have been arrested and charged with murder," Jhargram SP Arjit Singh said.

"Our stand is clear," TMC spokesperson Arup Chakraborty said. "Zero tolerance for culprits. Police are taking action without seeing any political colour. However, it's also a fact that this is a social evil and awareness should be increased among the public"

Gujarat case

Chaudhary's fondness for social media has got her in trouble in the past. She once shared a video of a "drinking party", following which she was transferred to a difficult location as a punishment, said an officer, adding, "She hails from a family of politicians in Banaskantha district in north Gujarat."

Chaudhary joined the Gujarat Police in 2015-16 and was posted in Kutch East district. She served in police stations in Bhachau and Gandhidham before being attached to the local crime branch. In August 2021, she was deputed to CID (crime) in Gandhidham.

"After two cases were registered against her, CID (crime) repatriated her to Kutch East Police on Tuesday (July 2). Following her repatriation, we suspended her from service in view of the two criminal cases registered against her," Sagar Bagmar, Superintendent of Police, Kutch East Police, said.

Meanwhile, the Kutch East Police are making efforts to convince courts about the prima facie cases against the head constable. Police had produced the duo in the court of D S Dabhi, additional chief judicial magistrate of Bhachau on Monday evening, seeking their remand for seven days in the case of attempt to murder. Police told the court that Chaudhary had purchased the liquor from Abu Rota, a town on the border of Rajasthan and Gujarat, and that she was on her way back to Gandhidham in the Thar when Yuvrajsinh joined her from a hotel in Samakhiali.

Before she was booked in the Prohibition case, the court had granted her bail in the attempt to murder case. "...if the accused is denied bail just because she was sitting in the seat (beside the driver's) in the Thar car will amount to pre-trial conviction," magistrate Dabhi noted in his order granting bail to Chaudhary.

"We brought to the notice of the court that this very court had on Tuesday rejected a police application seeking her remand as the court had found no reasonable grounds for remand. We submitted that when there is no need for her custodial interrogation, the applicant being a woman should be enlarged on bail under CrPC Section 437," her lawyer Dilip Joshi told The Indian Express.

Main accused in Hathras case

Hathras: Uttar Pradesh Police on Friday arrested the main accused Mukhya Seward Dev Prakash Madhukar in the Hathras stampede case, from Delhi.

Madhukar's lawyer AP Singh said that the former surrendered before the police. "Madhukar is a heart patient and was undergoing treatment in Delhi. After doctors said that his condition is okay, we got him handed over to the police," said Singh.

He said, "His health should be taken care of. We did not file any anticipatory bail... people should not think that we want to run away from probe. Officials said Madhukar was arrested from Najafgarh in Delhi. ENS

Office of the Chief General Manager, Construction Wing UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL SANSADHAN VIKAS EVAM NIRMAN NIGAM (Uttarakhand Government Undertaking) Bid Identification no - 2593/Nivida(Garhwal) Vikasnagar/78 Dated:- 05.07.2024

WESTERN RAILWAY - VADODARA DIVISION OHE WORK Tender No. EL/TRD/Tender/23-24/15-R-3 Tenders for and on behalf of The President of India are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Electrical Tr.D) Western Railway, Vadodara

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उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड निम्नलिखित ई-निविदा अधिष्ठा एवं अनुभवों कार्यदायी संस्थाओं/फर्मों से, जो जी.एस.टी. में पंजीकृत हो, ई-टेंडर के माध्यम से आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

बिहार सरकार कार्यालय, कार्यालयक अभियन्ता शीर्ष कार्य प्रमंडल, वीरपुर (पूर्वी भाग, प्रथम तल, कोशिकी भवन, email ID :- eehwdbirpur@gmail.com) प्रपत्रांक-1104/वीरपुर, शुद्धि पत्र इस प्रमंडल के प्रपत्रांक 1045 दिनांक 24.06.2024 द्वारा निर्गत अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या 01/2024-25, जिसका पी 0 आर 0 नं-002489(WRD)2024-25 हे. को अपरिहार्य कारण से स्थिियों में निम्नांकित रूप से विस्तार (Extend) किया जाता है।

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE E-OPEN TENDER NOTICE NO. S&T/SEE/E-07/24-25/23 Date: 03.07.2024 The DRM (Sig. & Telecom)/SEE for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open E-Tenders for the following works. The last date of online E-tendering is 24.07.2024 up to 12:00 hrs. All information and tender documents related to E-tender is available on website - www.ireps.gov.in.

INDIAN RAILWAYS GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAILWAY BOARD) New Delhi, dated 05.07.2024 E-Open Indigenous Tender No.2024-TMS-2 closing on 29.07.2024 for procurement of Hydraulic Spares for IR Track Machines.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER NO. XENW/AIN/E-Tender/10/2024-25 Dated: 03.07.2024 Following E-Tender is invited by XENW/AIN/Infra-Ajmer at 15.00 Hrs. on the mentioned date. (1) Tender No. : 10-Workshop-AII-2024-25 (2) Name of Work : Ajmer- Redevelopment of Facility and Capacity enhancement of ST/All Hostel for Mechanical & Electrical Staff involved in Vande Bharat Maintenance.

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UK ELECTIONS

28 with India roots in new UK House, 12 of them Sikhs

ENS & PTI
AMRITSAR, LONDON, JULY 5

A RECORD 28 persons of Indian origin were elected to the UK Parliament Friday, with several Conservatives surviving a largely brutal outcome for their party.

Of the 28, a record 12 members from the Sikh community, including six women, were elected to the House of Commons. All the Sikh MPs belong to the Labour Party. They include nine first-timers, two who have been elected for the third straight time, and one who made it to the House of Commons for the second time.

British Sikh MPs Preet Kaur Gill — who defeated Tory first-timer Ashvir Sangha — and Tanmanjeet Singh Dhosi won their seats for Labour in Birmingham Edgbaston and Slough, respectively, for the third time. Nadia Whittome, who identifies as queer and a Catholic Sikh, won from Nottingham East for the second consecutive time. At the age of 23, Whittome was the youngest MP in the House of Commons when she was first elected in 2019.

Kirithi Entwistle, also known as Kirith Ahluwalia, became the first woman to be elected MP from Bolton North East. Sonia Kumar too became the first woman MP from the Dudley parliamentary seat. Similarly, Harpreet Kaur Uppal won the Huddersfield parliamentary seat to enter Parliament for the first time.

With 12 Sikh MPs, UK is now second only to Canada, which is home to a sizeable Punjabi diaspora, and has 18 Sikh MPs.

Outgoing prime minister Rishi Sunak leads the Tory charge of British Indians holding on to their seats, with a decisive win in his Richmond and



Labour MPs Preet Kaur Gill and Tanmanjeet Singh Dhosi won for the 3rd straight time

Northallerton constituency in Yorkshire. Other prominent British Indian Tories holding on to their seats included former home secretaries Suella Braverman and Priti Patel, and Sunak's Goan-origin Cabinet ally Claire Coutinho.

Gagan Mohindra held on to his South West Hertfordshire seat for the Conservatives, with Shivani Raja registering a gain for the party in the keenly watched constituency of Leicester East where she was contesting against fellow Indian-origin Labour candidate Rajesh Agrawal.

They had both canvassed around the topic of saving the city's famous Diwali lights from being switched off over council budget cuts, as did former MP Keith Vaz who was contesting as an Independent. Vaz lost.

Among the big losses on the Tory side included Shailesh Vara, who narrowly lost his North West Cambridgeshire seat to Labour, and first-timer Ameet Jogia, who also lost the Tory-held Hendon seat in London to Labour.

Reflective of the overall tally, it was the Labour Party that had the highest number of winning Indian diaspora candidates, starting with party veterans such as Seema Malhotra. Goan-origin Valerie Vaz, sister of Keith Vaz, won in Walsall and Bloxwich, as did Lisa Nandy in Wigan.

Assam floods worsen: 24L hit, 52 deaths

ENS & PTI
GUWAHATI, NEW DELHI, JULY 5

THE FLOOD situation in Assam continues to remain grim with around 24 lakh people across 3,518 villages affected.

The state has been reeling under severe floods since last week and 52 people have died so far this year in flood-related incidents. One person also died in a landslide triggered by rainfall in Guwahati on Friday, while an eight-year old boy was washed away after falling into a flooded drain in the city and is missing.

Massive waterlogging has been reported from various parts of Guwahati on Friday.

The numbers of those affected by the floods continue to grow everyday and a total of 47,103 affected people have been displaced from their homes and are currently residing in relief camps across 21 districts of the state.

The current floods have also resulted in mass-scale damage of



SDRF distributes relief material in Guwahati on Friday. ANI

crops and livestock, with a total crop area of 63,490 hectares currently submerged in the floods.

The current floods are also adversely affecting wildlife in the state and animals in the Kaziranga National Park have recorded the deaths of 77 animals, including three rhinos which had drowned in the floodwater. The rest of the animals which have died are all hog deer. The IMD has predicted moderate to heavy and very heavy rainfall across different parts of the Northeast for the next five days, which might mean that the flood situation will continue for the days to come.

According to a PTI report, heavy rain disrupted daily life in vast swathes of north India, including Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, on Friday.

In Uttarakhand, which has received heavy rain over the past

few days, a five-year-old drowned in a rainwater-filled pit in Dehradun and a teenager in a Haridwar rivulet.

Daily life was disrupted in the hill state as the rain triggered numerous landslides, blocking key roads, including the national highway leading to Badrinath.

Heavy rain also lashed several parts of Himachal Pradesh, leading to the closure of 64 roads. The regional Met office warned of moderate flash flood risk in few areas of Kangra, Kullu, Kinnaur, Mandi, Sirmour and Shimla districts in the next 24 hours.

Rain-drenched northern West Bengal is likely to receive more showers till July 9, the Met office said. A trough from Rajasthan to the Northeast and an active monsoon over northern West Bengal is likely to bring heavy rainfall in the region, it said. Heavy to very heavy rain is likely in the sub-Himalayan districts of Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar and Coochbehar, the Met said.

NCW seeks FIR against Moitra for remarks against its chief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JULY 5

THE NATIONAL Commission for Women (NCW) has taken suo motu cognisance of a remark by TMC MP Mahua Moitra against its chairperson Rekha Sharma and sought an FIR against her.

This came a day after the TMC leader, commenting on a X video showing the NCW chairperson's arrival at the Hathras stampede site, wrote: "She is too busy holding up her boss's pajamas." Moitra deleted the post.

The original post showed a man walking behind the NCW



TMC MP Mahua Moitra

chief holding an umbrella. "The crude remarks are outrageous and a violation of a woman's right to dignity. The Commission observed that this remark attracts Section 79 of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita, 2023," the NCW said on X.

The NCW said: "An FIR should be registered against Moitra and a detailed action report should be communicated to the Commission within 3 days."

Moitra posted: "Come on Delhi Police, please take action immediately on these suo motu orders. Am in Nadia in case you need me in the next three days to make a quick arrest."

Moitra also shared several screenshots of posts made by Sharma in the past, and said an FIR should also be lodged against these. One screenshot was of a post where Sharma made remarks on RJD leader Lalu Prasad Yadav and Congress leader Sonia Gandhi calling them "dumb". In another post, Sharma said: "Mahatma Gandhi couldn't be a god son how we call him father of nation..."

RAJ BHAVAN WRITES TO MURMU: 'VIOLATION OF CONSTITUTION'

Impasse ends, Speaker administers oath to 2 TMC MLAs in Assembly

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, JULY 5

ENDING A stalemate that lasted over two weeks, West Bengal Assembly Speaker Biman Banerjee Friday administered oath to two Trinamool Congress MLAs: Sayantika Banerjee and Reyat Hossain Sarkar.

This prompted Governor Ananda Bose — who had authorised the Deputy Speaker to administer the oath — to write to President Droupadi Murmu over a "violation of the Constitution".

Earlier, Deputy Speaker Ashish Banerjee refused to administer the oath, saying "it does not seem good that the Deputy



MLAs Sayantika Banerjee and Reyat Hossain Sarkar

Speaker is administering oath while the Speaker is present".

The face-off between the Trinamool Congress government and Bose over the swearing-in ceremony began in the second week of June after the

Governor asked the two MLAs to come to the Raj Bhavan for oath ceremony and they refused.

The Governor, who normally assigns either the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker to administer oath to the legislators, sent an invitation to the MLAs to take oath at the Raj Bhavan on June 26. The letter did not mention who would administer the oath.

This led the TMC to announce that it would not attend the swearing-in ceremony.

The two MLAs had also gone on a sit-in protest within the Assembly premises, demanding that Governor Bose should come to the Assembly to administer the oath or assign the Speaker to take up the task.

Same-sex marriage ruling: SC to take up review pleas on July 10

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 5

A FIVE-JUDGE bench of the Supreme Court will on July 10 consider the petitions seeking review of the top court's October 2023 judgment refusing to grant legal recognition for same-sex marriages. The October ruling was delivered by a bench comprising Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud and Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, S Ravindra Bhat, Hima Kohli and P S Narasimha.

Justices Kaul and Bhat have since retired and will be replaced

by Justices Sanjiv Khanna and B Nagarathna in the bench that will consider the review petitions on July 10.

In a ruling that disappointed LGBTQ+ activists, the 5-judge bench, in four separate judgments on October 7, 2023, declined to strike down or tweak provisions of the Special Marriage Act, 1954 (SMA), saying there was "no unqualified right" to marriage and a same-sex couple cannot claim it as a Fundamental Right under the Constitution. It left it to the Parliament to change the law for such a union.

'Crony capitalism': Cong slams govt over tariff hike by telcos

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 5

THE CONGRESS Friday asked the Union government how the country's three private telecom operators were allowed to unilaterally raise tariffs without regulation, accusing it of "crony capitalism".

Alleging that 109 crore mobile phone users were being "fleeced", Congress General Secretary Randeep Surjewala said at a press conference: "From July 3, cell-phone rates have been increased by the three private companies. This news came but the news of

what impact it has on the country didn't come. From July 3, under the Modi government's permission, this country's three mobile network companies, which have 91.6 percent market share... meaning 109 crore users of Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea... a burden of ₹34,824 crore has been put on them by the Modi government. The Modi government is helping these three companies earn ₹34,824 crore by making 109 crore people pay."

"This is the blessing of the Modi 3.0 tenure — the same old crony capitalism as Rahulji says," said the Congress leader.

Centre looks to resume rice sale to states

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JULY 5

WITH ITS granaries full, the Centre is contemplating options to offload "excess" rice, including allowing states to buy rice from Food Corporation of India (FCI) under the Open Market Sale Scheme-Domestic (OMSS-D), *The Indian Express* has learnt.

According to sources, the available rice stock in the central pool stood at 329.17 lakh metric tonnes as on July 3, 2024. This is separate from un-milled paddy stock, from which the FCI will receive another 153.07 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of rice. The total rice stock would reach 482.24 LMT. With the new kharif crop just 3-4 months away, the rice stock is expected to increase further. As per buffer norms, the Centre is required to maintain a stock of 135.40 LMT of rice as on the first day of July.

Sources said the Centre had to incur a carrying cost of ₹6,000 crore to maintain the "excess" stock of rice during financial year 2023-24 and it is expected to rise by another ₹1,600 crore in the current financial year.

Sources said efforts to clear the "excess" stock through the OMSS-D have not yielded the desired results. Despite the Centre offering rice at ₹29 per kg — much below the economic cost of ₹39.31 per kg — only 1.72 lakh tonnes of rice was sold through auctioning under the OMSS-D during financial year 2023-24.

Last year in June, the Centre had excluded the state govern-

KHARIF SOWING AREA OF ONIONS TO BE 27% HIGHER THIS YEAR

New Delhi: Boosted by "good, timely monsoon rains", the Kharif sowing area of onions is set to be 27% higher than last year, the Union Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ministry said Friday. "Target area under Kharif onion is 3.61 lakh hectare...27% higher than last year. In Karnataka, top Kharif onion producing state, sowing is completed in 30% of its targeted area of 1.50 lakh hectare," it said. **ENS**

ments from the ambit of OMSS-D, barring them from buying rice from the FCI. The move affected states like Karnataka that had sought 2.28 lakh metric tonnes from FCI to provide 10 kg food grains per person per month to all BPL families free of cost under the Anna Bhagya scheme.

A source said that the ministry is also pondering whether to reduce the reserve price of rice from the existing ₹29 under the OMSS-D. The price should be reduced by ₹1-2 per kg, said a source. Besides, it is also exploring options of resuming supply of rice to distillers for ethanol. The source said that these options are on the Empowered Group of Ministers, headed by Home Minister Amit Shah, to take a call. An email seeking a response from Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution went unanswered.

After 10 bridges collapse, Bihar govt suspends 15 engineers

Two construction firms get notices

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, JULY 5

IN THE first crackdown following a spurt of bridges collapsing in around a fortnight, the Bihar government on Friday suspended 15 engineers from the water resources and rural works departments for alleged negligence.

The government has also issued show cause notices to two construction companies, asking why they should not be blacklisted. Since June 18, ten bridges have collapsed or caved in across the state — in Kishanganj, Araria, Madhubani, East Champaran, Siwan and Saran. Four of nine bridges/culverts had fallen in Siwan alone.

Apart from issuing show-cause notices and initiating the process to blacklist errant contractors and construction companies, the government is also withholding payment to some of them.

"A total of nine bridges and culverts have collapsed in different districts of the state, out of which six bridges and culverts were very old and three bridges and culverts were under construction," the government said. The water resources department suspended 11 officials, including executive engineers, assistant engineers, and junior engineers.

The rural works department also suspended four of its present and former engineers for dereliction of duty.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had earlier sought an inspection report regarding all under-construction and old bridges in Bihar within two weeks.

The incidents have led to political storm, with the Nitish government trading charges with the Opposition over who is to be held accountable. While Building Construction Minister Ashok Kumar Choudhary blamed former deputy CM Tejashwi Prasad Yadav for not putting in place a robust bridge maintenance policy when he was the state's road construction and building construction minister, the latter said it was a case of "pot calling the kettle black".

Agniveer on sentry duty 'dies by suicide' at Agra IAF station

Meerut: A 22-year-old Agniveer from Uttar Pradesh's Ballia district allegedly died by suicide while on sentry duty at the Air Force Station in Agra late Tuesday evening, police said on Friday. Police identified the deceased as Srikanth Kumar Chaudhary, who joined the Indian Air Force in 2022.

An inquiry panel has been formed to ascertain what led to Srikanth's death, his family was reportedly informed by officers who handed over his body. Srikanth was cremated at Narayanpur Thursday with a Guard of Honour. Sources said Srikanth had been upset at not getting leave due to lack of manpower at the IAF Station.

Amit Kumar Maan, SHO Shahganj police station, said: "We will probe the suicide if the family members register a complaint." **ENS**

Nurse who migrated to UK 20 yrs ago becomes its first Keralite MP

Sojan Joseph of Labour beats veteran

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JULY 5

A NURSE from Kerala, who migrated to the United Kingdom two decades ago, is set to be elected to the British Parliament after he contested as a Labour Party candidate in the recently concluded UK elections and won.

Sojan Joseph, 49, who contested from the Conservative Party's stronghold of Ashford, will be the first Keralite to get elected to the British Parliament. He defeated the veteran politician Damien Green.

Hailing from Kaipuzha in Kottayam — a hub of nursing professionals in Kerala — Sojan scripted victory for the Labour Party in Ashford for the first time in the last 139 years.

On the party's social media page for Ashford, he had written, "Britain's tax burden is at its highest in 70 years. Yet our National Health Service is on its knees and we are not dealing with the gangs behind illegal immigration. Where is the money going? It's time for change, vote Labour."

Back in Kerala, Sojan's family is thrilled over the news. He is the



Joseph, 49, with his family

youngest of seven children of farmer couple Joseph and the late Elikuttu. After studying nursing at Ambedkar Medical College, Bengaluru, Sojan worked for a year at a hospital in Dehradun.

"He went to the UK in 2001 and joined the government health service as a nurse. He had not pursued politics during his campus days in Kerala or Bengaluru. But he was always a good organiser. For the last two years, he had served as a councillor at Ashford, before stepping into the race for the Parliament elections," Sojan's sister Alice, a retired teacher, said.

His wife Brita, a native of Thrissur, is also a nurse. The couple has three children. One of his elder sisters, Siby Sunny, is also settled as a nurse at Ashford.

Gujarat firm at centre of UP police exam leak has a murky past

RITU SHARMA
AHMEDABAD, JULY 5

THE AHMEDABAD-BASED examination and testing agency that was blacklisted by the Uttar Pradesh government following a paper leak in the Uttar Pradesh Police Constable Recruitment Examination last month has in the past faced similar action over compromised question papers.

In 2017, after a leak in the Bihar Staff Selection Commission examination, Vineet Arya, the owner of EduTest Solutions Pvt Ltd and its then director, was arrested and remanded in judicial custody until 2020. Then, last year, the firm was blacklisted by the Bihar School Examination Board (BSEB) following a leak in teacher recruitment exams that the firm conducted.

Yet, the firm was awarded the contract for conducting the UP police constable recruitment exam that was held on February

17 and 18. At least 48 lakh candidates appeared for the exam for 60,244 police constable posts. Over 2,370 examination centers were set up in 75 districts.

As concerns over the question paper being leaked spread across the state, on February 24, the government cancelled the exam, and the UP Police Recruitment and Promotion Board issued a blacklist order against the firm.

UP's Special Task Force (STF), which is probing the role of the Ahmedabad-based company in the leak of the exams, has issued notices to Vineet Arya, but he hasn't turned up for questioning so far. The STF has filed a chargesheet against 18 persons.

The police have so far not taken any action against any employee of the company for their role in the paper leak case. A senior police officer said the probe has so far revealed "evidence of negligence" on the part of the company. On why a blacklisted firm



Police have so far not taken any action against any employee of the company for their role in the paper leak. Nirmal Harindran

was given the contract for conducting the UP police exams, officials at the Police Recruitment Board refused to comment.

EduTest, which runs out of a plush three-storey building, JBR Corporate House, on Ahmedabad's Sindhu Bhavan Road, claims in its website to have conducted "1,130 million exams"

for government and government education institutes. Sources said EduFest was to conduct an exam for the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) July 7.

A CSIR official told *The Indian Express* that this was the first time that EduTest had been hired to conduct an examination for the organisation. The source said that

CSIR was unaware that it had been blacklisted by a state and that there was nothing in the documents submitted by the agency to suggest that it had been blacklisted for irregularities.

The firm, with a staff of 450, has offices spread across Noida, Lucknow, Patna, Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar, and has employees operating out of 26 locations.

The firm is involved in several aspects related to the conduct of examinations — from application forms to payment integration, hall tickets, printing question paper, managing examination centres, scanning answer sheets, preparation of results and uploading the answer sheets.

The company, which was started in 1981-82 as a question paper printing firm, now claims to be the "second-largest testing company" after TCS in terms of revenue, and conducts examinations in digital, from home and paper-pen modes.

10 BIG PICTURE



BABA'S BUSINESS

The godman & his empire

Half-a-dozen ashrams, followers consumed by their devotion, and layers of secrecy. As the Hathras stampede puts the spotlight on the world of preacher Suraj Pal alias Bhole Baba, BHUPENDRA PANDEY from Lucknow and DHEERAJ MISHRA & NEETIKA JHA from his ashram in Kasganj join the dots on how a constable ended up being a cult figure

BAHADUR NAGAR is a village consumed by faith — the kind that is unquestioning, leaving no space for disbelief. It's this devotion that got Pratap Singh, 40, to forgo the daily wages that he gets as a labourer in Firozabad district and travel over a 100 km for "duty" to Bahadur Nagar village in neighbouring Kasganj.

Standing outside the pearly white fortress that's the ashram of Suraj Pal alias Bhole Baba alias Narayan Sakaar Hari — the 'godman' at the centre of the Hathras stampede, one of the biggest such in recent times that led to at least 121 deaths and left many injured — Pratap Singh says, "This is a sacred place, you cannot come near it with your dirty shoes. This is a divine gate. Nobody is allowed past this gate. Like you can only feel hunger, but cannot see it, you can only experience the power of Bhole Baba. You cannot see his magic, but you can feel it."

Dressed in his light pink uniform, Pratap is a *sewadar* (volunteer) at the ashram in Bahadur Nagar, Suraj Pal's ancestral village. It's an eight-hour daily duty that he will do for the next 21 days until another set of *sewadars* replace him and the other volunteers.

That Suraj Pal has been on the run since the stampede doesn't dent his devotion. "Hundreds of *satsangs* have taken place over the years, but not even an ant has been trampled upon in all these years. This was just an accident, it should be seen as one," says the man, turning around and chanting in a loop, "*Satya roopi jwala Sakar Vishwa Hari...*"

Bahadur Nagar, around 47 km from Sikandra Rao in Hathras, the site of the stampede, is the ancestral village of Suraj Pal. Though he doesn't live here anymore — the village hasn't seen a *satsang* by him since November 2014 and the man himself last made a brief visit in March 2023 — the ashram, spread on nearly 2.5 bighas and standing behind tall walls and golden gates, is revered as a shrine. Every Tuesday, hundreds of devotees gather here and bow down at the locked gates.

But these days, in the aftermath of the tragedy that followed Suraj Pal's *satsang* in Hathras, Bahadur Nagar, a village with nearly 1,000 people, has a new set of visitors: media personnel, police and a few curious minds. They come asking questions of its residents: Who is Suraj Pal and how did he become Bhole Baba?

From police to "prabhu ji"

With most of his associates and others close to the family on the run, there are few answers to how a constable turned to spirituality and eventually got called "Parmatma" and "Prabhu ji" by his followers.

Suraj Pal, who served in the Local Intelligence Unit of the Uttar Pradesh Police in Agra, later joined the force and was posted in the office of the Superintendent of Police

(Rural Area) in the district.

While addressing the media after the recent arrests in the stampede, Aligarh range IG Shalabh Mathur said, "Suraj Pal took voluntary retirement from the force in 2000. He was then head constable and was posted at the SP (RA) office."

Senior police sources say their investigation so far suggests that he had started making claims of supernatural powers while in service. It was in 2000, after he left the force, that he claimed that he would be able to revive a 16-year-old girl who had died and forcibly took the body away from her family — an incident that landed him in jail in 2000. Police say that so far, it's the only known FIR against Suraj Pal.

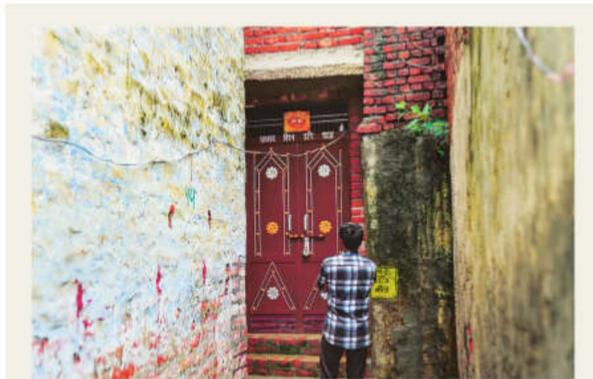
After he came out of jail, he moved from Agra to his ancestral village in Kasganj, where he took to preaching.

Born to farmer Nanhe Singh Jatav in Bahadur Nagar, Suraj Pal, who is believed to be in his 60s, is the eldest of three siblings. While one of his younger brothers, Bhagwan Das, died of an illness, the other, Rakesh Kumar, is a former pradhan of Bahadur Nagar and lives in the village with his family. Villagers say the two brothers had a fallout many years ago and Rakesh Kumar continued to live in the small family home that's at the end of a narrow lane. Days after the stampede, the house is deserted, with a lock on the main gate.

Suraj Pal's cult-like status is evident in large swathes of rural Agra, Farrukhabad, Etah, Hathras, Kasganj, Aligarh, Mainpuri, Etawah, Kanpur Nagar and Kanpur Dehat. A senior IPS officer in Uttar Pradesh, who, in the days since the tragedy, is collating details from across the state on Suraj Pal, says his followers are also present in the districts of Rajasthan and Haryana that border Uttar Pradesh.

The officer said Suraj Pal cultivated his followers carefully. As was evident in Hathras, women made up a bulk of his followers. They would come to his *satsangs*, their hearts overwhelmed with pain — an illness in the family, an unmarried daughter, a wayward son — and go back, believing they had found their salve in his words. Almost all of them, the officer says, are from the Dalit Jatav community to which Suraj Pal belongs and which has a significant presence across Uttar Pradesh. Most of them are emotionally vulnerable, looking for ready solutions to their many challenges, bypassing a system they feel marginalised in.

Unlike most godmen, the officer said, Suraj Pal preferred to stay low-key, with no personal website or social media accounts. None of his ashrams have CCTVs and his *satsangs* and his other activities have rarely been covered on traditional or social media. He is not known to have a spokesperson or public relation officer and has rarely been interviewed. Which is why, when his name first came up following the stampede, few had seen or heard of him — no invite, for instance, had gone out to any media professional or organisation about the Hathras event where



(From top) Suraj Pal's ashram in Bahadur Nagar; the house in which he was born to farmer Nanhe Singh Jatav; a locket with the godman's photo at the stampede site in Hathras. Abhinav Saha

WHO IS SURAJ PAL ALIAS BHOLEY BABA

- Born Suraj Pal to farmer Nanhe Singh Jatav in Bahadur Nagar village in Kasganj, UP

- Served in the Local Intelligence Unit of UP Police in Agra. Later joined the force and was posted in the office of the Superintendent of Police (Rural Area)

- Was head constable when he opted for voluntary retirement



in 2000

- Arrested in Agra in 2000 for allegedly taking the body of a 16-year-old forcibly from her family, claiming he would bring her back to life. The case was closed.

- Has around half-a-dozen ashrams, including in Kasganj, Mainpuri, Kanpur, Etah and in Dausa in Rajasthan

Suraj Pal eventually addressed a gathering of close to 2.5 lakh devotees.

His highly guarded persona meant that his followers, too, were prohibited from sharing anything about him or his *satsangs* on social media. The only known photographs of Suraj Pal are those displayed on posters and trinkets at his religious gatherings or a few secretly captured videos from his *satsangs*.

Police officials say that in the absence of publicity, Suraj Pal used an ingenious network marketing model to get more devotees — each follower had to bring in a few others, a process and chain with unlimited reach.

An officer said those who spread the word on the Baba's "magical prowess" made sure they did so in rural areas, mostly in the most impoverished parts, where they made it a point to underline Surajpal's caste — that he was one of them, yet blessed with a divinity that could be theirs too. His gatherings usually coincide with the post-harvesting season.

During most of his sermons, Suraj Pal,

usually dressed in white shirts and trousers, and his wife Premwati — a constant presence at these gatherings — sit on gilded chairs, while he talks of himself as God. "One who prays for Sakaar Hari becomes immortal. You are born into this life to pray to Sakaar Hari and not waste your life. I have made it easy for you so that you can pray to Sakaar Hari while being part of the society and doing your jobs," he says in one of the few available recordings of his *satsangs*.

A senior police officer who, during his posting in a district in Agra zone, had once given permission for a Suraj Pal gathering, shares, "I came to know about this godman when an application seeking permission for his *satsang* landed on my desk. Since lower-rung police officials and the district administration had already cleared it, I did not raise any objection. I went to the venue and was surprised at what I saw — the gathering was huge."

Details collected by the administration during its investigation into the Hathras stampede

has found that Suraj Pal prefers to keep his distance from politicians, though many come to seek his blessings, especially during the elections, given his hold over the Jatav community. Police sources say that while Suraj Pal was seen as a people's *baba*, his *satsangs* had a separate sitting arrangement for his VIP guests, many of them senior officials.

Talking about the patronage Suraj Pal enjoyed, a senior officer said their investigation has so far revealed that the trusts run by him got donations from senior officials and businessmen.

The officer pointed to the funds required to maintain about half-a-dozen of the "luxurious" ashrams that he ran in Kasganj, Mainpuri, Kanpur and Etah in UP and Dausa in Rajasthan. Of late, the officer said, Suraj Pal, who has been staying at his Mainpuri ashram, had been spending more time in his Dausa facility.

The security cordon

As part of their investigation into the Hathras deaths, police are probing the role of Suraj Pal's private security guards, who allegedly pushed back the crowd when they tried to collect the soil left behind by his moving car. This has been mentioned as the main cause of the stampede in a report that the Hathras Sub Divisional Magistrate has submitted to the government.

According to his followers, Suraj Pal relies heavily on his team of security guards. While the male guards are categorised into three groups — the Narayani Sena, Harivahak Sena and Garud Yodhha — each with distinct roles, the women guards are part of the Gopika Unit. While those in the Narayani Sena wear light pink uniforms, the Harivahak wear brown and the Garuds, in commando-like bandanas, are usually in black. The women's 'Gopika Unit', whose uniform is identical to that of the paramilitary forces, forms the first ring of security around Suraj Pal. Their primary job is to ensure that no one, not even the followers, use mobile phones to take his pictures.

Police sources say the guards handle the crowd at all religious gatherings and are usually deployed on both sides of the roads leading to the venue, among the crowd, and around the stage where Surajpal sits.

While briefing the media in Hathras on Wednesday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had said that the personal guards of the Baba did not allow policemen to go inside the pandal. Police said their preliminary inquiry has found that some serving policemen could have been part of Surajpal's personal security force.

"These policemen take leave to accompany the Baba. Some retired policemen also give their services to the Baba by training the security guards. Our investigation will verify and collect all these details," said an officer.

'He is our God'

Back in Bahadur Nagar, the faithful continue to throng the gates of the ashram, with the tragedy in Hathras barely a blip on their

minds. A plaque at the gate displays a list of prominent donors, among them police officers, doctors, businessmen and bankers.

Pushing back devotees who cross a white line in front of the ashram gate, *sewadar* Rakesh Kumar, 45, says "Bhole Baba" had answers to all his problems and that he is now paying off his debt to his "God" by doing *sewa* at the ashram.

Rakesh says that it was his aunt who persuaded him to attend Suraj Pal's *satsang* in UP's Tundla district. "In 2006, my wife Usha Devi used to be possessed and I had lost all hope. I have four children and it was difficult to run the household. I attended a *satsang* and when I returned, my wife was already feeling better. I even started earning better from farming on my agricultural land. Baba is our God now. Because of him, my daughter got married into a good family and my elder son has a job at a *khoya* factory in Gujarat," says Rakesh, a resident of Airoli village in Jalaun district.

He says all his family members are devotees of Suraj Pal. "We will serve Baba for generations. After I am dead, my son will do *sewa* at the ashram."

The ashram stands as a stark contrast to the rest of the village that's dotted by unplastered homes and open drains. Most of the villagers work as small-time farm labourers, masons, painters and carpenters.

Around 50 metres from the ashram lives Anand Kumar, 26, his mother Draupa Devi, 80, and their extended family members.

Draupa says she has been a follower of the godman for nearly 30 years now. "His ashram was not huge then. He would come here every Tuesday for *satsangs* in a small hut. I attended those *satsangs* regularly. Baba would tell us not to lie, steal, use intoxicants and gamble. My husband was an alcoholic, but he stopped drinking because of Baba's magical powers," she says.

When Draupa's son Anand is not working as a painter in Ghaziabad, he doubles as a *sewadar* at the ashram. His sister Arti, who is employed at the anganwadi kendra in the village, hopes "Bholey Baba's" magical powers will help her patch up her estranged husband. Arti's niece Laxmi Jatav, 12, too, has her reasons. "Last year, I had prayed to Bholey Baba that I should top the exams. And I did," says Laxmi, who studies in Class 8 in the village school.

While most in the village are willing to suspend their disbelief when they talk of Suraj Pal, a few say they have other reasons to back him. Bhanu Pratap, who works as a data entry operator in the Block office, says while the village has its own set of problems — poverty, illiteracy, unemployment — people support Suraj Pal because he is someone from their *samaj* (community) who has made it big.

"I am not really a follower. Bholey Baba has not done anything for me or for my village. But I support him after what happened in Hathras. If the same incident had happened in an upper caste preacher's event, no one would have cared. But because he is from our *samaj*, everyone is out looking for him."

How Agniveer compensation differs from a regular soldier's

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA
NEW DELHI, JULY 5

EARLIER THIS week, LoP in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi alleged that the family of Agniveer Ajay Kumar, who was killed in a landmine blast in January, did not receive financial assistance from the government.

After Defence Minister Rajnath Singh told Parliament that an Agniveer killed in the line of duty receives a compensation of Rs 1 crore, Rahul accused him of lying on social media.

On July 3, the Army issued a statement saying the Agniveer's family would get Rs 1.65 crore in compensation. Government sources said this amount includes Rs 48 lakh and Rs 50 lakh as insurance from the Centre, and from financial institutions under an MoU respectively; an additional sum of Rs 39,000; Rs 44 lakh as *ex gratia*; Rs 8 lakh from the Army welfare fund; Rs 13 lakh as balance of pay until completion of tenure; and Rs 2.3 lakh as Seva Nidhi. The Army said Rs 98.39 lakh had already been paid to the fallen Agniveer's family.

Insurance and ex gratia

Deaths of regular soldiers are classified into categories A to E, while those of Agniveers are put in categories X, Y, and Z.

Category A and category X deaths are neither attributable to, nor aggravated by military service. Deaths placed in categories B, C, and Y are attributable to and aggravated by military service (e.g., deaths due to accidents on duty).

Categories D, E, and Z include deaths in acts of violence, natural calamities, enemy action, border skirmishes, and war-like situations.

INSURANCE: All regular soldiers contribute Rs 5,000 per month towards the Army Group Insurance Fund which insures them for Rs 50 lakh. Agniveers are insured for Rs 48 lakh, but make no contribution from their salary towards this. This sum is paid to all fallen soldiers irrespective of the cause of death.

The services have signed MoUs with the banks where salaries of defence personnel, including Agniveers, are credited. The personnel are also insured by the banks for various amounts as per the banks' policies.

THE AGNIPATH SCHEME

AGNIVEERS are personnel below the rank of commissioned officers who are recruited in all three branches of the armed forces initially for a period of four years as part of the government's Agnipath scheme that was implemented in 2022. There has been no regular recruitment of jawans since then.

THREE ARMY Agniveers have lost their lives so far. One died in Siachen last year, another was killed in a landmine blast in Naushera sector in January. The third Agniveer died after a self-inflicted injury.

IN THE NAVY, a woman Agniveer died by suicide last year.

EX GRATIA: A sum of Rs 44 lakh has been earmarked as *ex gratia* for Agniveers whose deaths are attributable and aggravated by military service, or occur during operations. The *ex gratia* for a regular soldier can be Rs 25 lakh, Rs 35 lakh or Rs 45 lakh, depending on the nature of the casualty. Deaths which are neither attributable to nor aggravated by military service are not eligible for any *ex gratia*.

EXPLAINED POLICY

The *ex gratia* from state governments varies from zero to Rs 1 crore, depending on the state. This is applicable to both Agniveers and regular soldiers.

IN ADDITION: Agniveers and regular soldiers also get Rs 8 lakh (death in operations) and Rs 2.5 lakh (death due to other reason).

Seva Nidhi for Agniveers

Seva Nidhi is a contributory scheme appli-

cable only to Agniveers. Those whose deaths are neither attributable to nor aggravated by military service, get the amount accumulated till the date of death, along with the government's contribution and interest. Agniveers who die while on duty or in operations get the full pay for the unserved period up to four years, including the Seva Nidhi component.

Only for regular soldiers

Some substantial benefits, like gratuity and monthly family pension, are available only to regular soldiers.

■ Death gratuity of 15 days' pay for every completed year of service or part thereof, subject to a maximum of Rs 25 lakh. This amount was recently revised from Rs 20 lakh after the Dearness Allowance (DA) crossed 50%.

■ Families of soldiers who die due to reasons neither attributable to, nor aggravated by military service get ordinary family pension, which is 50% of the last pay drawn for up to 10 years, and 30% thereafter.

■ In case of deaths that are attributable to military service, a special family pension,

which is 60% of the soldier's last pay, applies. For soldiers killed in operations, a liberalised family pension, which 100% of the last pay, is given to the family. This is tax-free.

■ These pensions are revised as per the system of One Rank One Pay (OROP) and Pay Commission recommendations. The DA component is also added to the pensions.

■ Children of soldiers who die due to operational reasons are eligible for a children's education allowance which is equal to the cost of school/college fees, books, transportation, hostel, and uniforms.

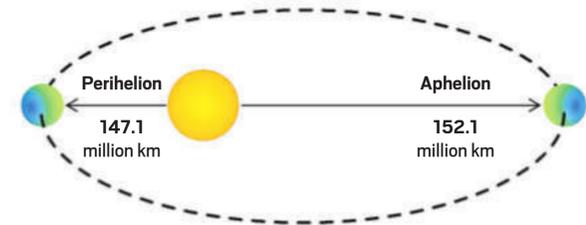
■ For other than battle casualties, an educational scholarship varying from Rs 10,000 to Rs 50,000 per annum, depending on the level of education, is given. Wives of such soldiers are entitled to Rs 20,000-50,000 per annum for graduation and professional courses.

■ The families of regular soldiers are entitled to benefits of the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS), a centrally-funded scheme along the lines of CGHS to provide medical care to armed forces pensioners and their families.

THIS WORD MEANS

APHELION

The point farthest from the sun in the path of an orbiting celestial body such as a planet or asteroid



EARTH REACHES aphelion every July. This year it did so on Friday.

That Earth has an aphelion is a result of its orbit being elliptical, rather than circular. According to Kirby Runyon, a geologist at the Planetary Science Institute, all planets in the solar system travel in elongated circles around the Sun, rather than perfect ones. This is most likely true for worlds around other stars, too.

Behind elliptical orbits lies gravity. "All the planets tend to jostle each other around," pulling their orbits from perfect circles, Runyon said. "It's literally this chaotic tug of war between small amounts of gravitational influence that the planets have on each other."

Jupiter exerts the most influence because it is the most massive planet in our solar system, he added.

How much an orbit deviates from a perfect circle is measured by its eccentricity. The higher the eccentricity, the more elliptical the orbit. For some bodies in the solar system, eccentricity is quite pronounced: Mars has an eccentricity of 0.094. Pluto is even more eccentric at 0.244. On the other hand, Earth's eccentricity is 0.017.

How far is the Earth from the Sun at aphelion?

At aphelion, Earth's distance from the Sun is about 152.1 million km.

Six months later, in early January, Earth reaches perihelion — the point at which it is closest to the Sun. At perihelion, the distance between Earth and the Sun is roughly 147.1 million km (see illustration).

Does aphelion affect temperatures on Earth?

A common misconception is that Earth's varying distance from the Sun is what gives rise to the seasons.

We get 7% less sunlight at aphelion compared to what we are exposed to at perihelion, leading to slightly milder summers and winters in the Northern Hemisphere. But this effect is offset by Earth's tilt on its axis — at different points along its orbit the hemispheres slant either toward or away from the Sun.

What would happen if there were no aphelion?

If our planetary orbit were a perfect circle, the seasons' lengths would be exactly the same — right now, spring and summer are a few days longer than fall and winter in the Northern Hemisphere. But not much else would change.

"If, somehow, we snapped our magic fingers and Earth's orbit became more circular, it'd probably be fine," according to Runyon. But if something made Earth's orbit grow more eccentric, the consequences could be catastrophic. Seasons in the Southern Hemisphere would become too extreme — summers would be unbearably hot, and winters would be intolerably cold. This could lead to crop failures and freezes.

"If it got really bad," Dr Runyon said, "advanced civilisation would not be possible." For now, be thankful our planet is in a sweet spot.

THE NEW YORK TIMES



UDIT MISRA

LAST WEEK, data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) showed that India's current account registered a surplus during the fourth quarter (Jan-Mar) of the 2023-24 financial year. This was the first time in 11 quarters that India had witnessed a surplus.

Movements in the current account are closely monitored as they not only impact the exchange rate of the rupee and India's sovereign ratings, but also because they point to the overall health of the economy.

However, the country's current account cannot be understood in isolation. The larger picture is provided by the so-called 'Balance of Payments' table alongside.

What is Balance of Payments?

The Balance of Payments (BoP) is essentially a ledger of a country's transactions with the rest of the world. As Indians trade and transact with the rest of the world, money flows in and out of the country. The BoP shows how much money (shown here in billions of US dollars) went out of the country and how much money came in. All the money coming into the country is marked positive and all the money going out is marked negative. As such, in the BoP table, a minus sign points to a deficit.

The BoP matters because it captures the relative demand of the rupee *vis-à-vis* the demand for foreign currencies (represented in dollar terms). Hypothetically, if there were only two countries in the world, India and the US, every time an Indian wanted to buy an American good or service, or to invest in the US, they would have to hand over a certain number of rupees to first buy the dollars needed to complete that transaction. In the end, the exchange rate would be determined by the relative demand of the two currencies — if Indians demanded more dollars than Americans demanded rupees, the 'price' (or the exchange rate) of the dollar relative to the rupee would go up.

What are the constituents of the BoP?

The table shows the constituents of

EXPLAINED ECONOMICS

Balance of Payments

India's current account registered a surplus in Q4 of 2023-24. But current account surpluses are not necessarily good, nor is a deficit always bad. Here's how to read India's Balance of Payments

Understanding India's Balance of Payments

(In \$ billion)		Q4 FY24	FY24	FY23	FY21	FY25#
Current account*		6	-23.3 (0.7% of GDP)	-67 (2% of GDP)	24 (0.9% of GDP)	-39 (1% of GDP)
	Trade of Goods	-51	-242	-265	-102	-268
	Trade of Services (Invisibles)	57	218	198	126	229
	Services	43	163	143	89	171
	Transfers	29	106	101	74	106
Capital account*		25	86	59	63	77
	Foreign investment	21	54	23	80	52
	FDI	10	10	28	44	20
	FII	11	44	-5	36	32
	Loans	2	2	8	6	10
	Banking Capital	7	41	21	-21	15
	Other Capital	3	-10	7	-2	0
Balance of Payments*		31	64	-9	87	38
Change in Forex**		-31	-64	9	-87	

* A minus sign is deficit; ** A minus sign shows increase in India's foreign exchange reserves; # Forecast by ICICI Securities
Source: RBI, ICICI Securities, Indian Express Research

India's BoP. The BoP has two main 'accounts' — Current Account, and Capital Account.

CURRENT ACCOUNT: The current account, as the name suggests, records transactions that are of a 'current' nature. There are two subdivisions of the current account: the trade of goods, and the trade of services.

The trade or merchandise account refers to the export and import of physical goods (cars or wheat or gadgets, etc), which determines the 'balance of trade'. If India imports more goods than it exports, it is running a trade deficit, which is shown by a negative sign.

The second part of the current account is made up by the 'invisibles' trade, so called because it refers to trade in services and other transactions that are typically 'not visible' in the same way as, say, the trade in cars or chairs or phones is.

'Invisible' transactions include services (e.g., banking, insurance IT, tourism, transport, etc.); transfers (e.g., Indians working in foreign countries sending back money to families back home); and incomes (such as the income earned from investments).

The net of these two kinds of trades is the current account. As can be seen from the table,

in Q4, India registered a surplus on the current account. There was a surplus on the invisibles, but there was a deficit on the trade account.

CAPITAL ACCOUNT: The capital account captures transactions that are less about current consumption and more about investments, such as Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Foreign Institutional Investments (FII). The table for Q4 shows a net surplus of \$25 billion on the capital account.

Lastly, the BoP table always balances through the change in the foreign exchange reserves column. When there is a BoP surplus — net of current and capital account — implying billions of dollars coming into the country, the RBI sucks up these dollars and adds to its foreign exchange reserves.

If the RBI did not do this, the rupee's exchange rate would appreciate — and undermine the competitiveness of India's exports.

How should the data in the table be read?

Contrary to the images they evoke in the lay person's mind, the words 'deficit' and 'surplus' do not always correlate to 'bad' and 'good' respectively. So, a current account deficit may not always be bad for an econ-

omy, nor is a current account surplus necessarily a good development.

The first thing to note is the difference between the Q4 data and the full year (FY2023-24) data.

The current account balance, which is surplus in Q4, is in deficit for the full year. Typically, for a country such as India, a current account deficit happens because a developing economy needs to import lots of capital goods (read machinery) to build up its capacity to produce more exports. A trade deficit also suggests that India's underlying economy has a strong demand impulse.

Look at the data from FY2020-21, which shows a surplus on the current account. But this was the year when Covid-induced lockdowns brought the shutters down on economic activity. The current account surplus in FY21 was not a desirable one.

According to N R Bhanumurthy of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), an autonomous research institute under the Finance Ministry, it is broadly agreed that a current account deficit of 1.5%-2% of GDP is consistent with a GDP growth rate of 7%-8%.

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Why China wants to build a rail network to Singapore, via Southeast Asia

RISHIKA SINGH
NEW DELHI, JULY 5

DURING HIS visit to Malaysia last month, Chinese Premier Li Qiang said that China was willing to study a plan to connect its railway projects in the Southeast Asian countries of Malaysia, Laos, and Thailand for "enhancing regional connectivity". Li was at the groundbreaking ceremony for a terminal station of Malaysia's East Coast Rail Link (ECRL).

China has made major investments in the region under its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), billed as an attempt to enhance infrastructure development in Asia, Africa, and South America.

What is the ECRL?

The nearly \$10 billion project is sometimes linked to a China-led "pan-Asian" railway network that would connect the southern Chinese city and transportation hub of

Kunming to Singapore, through lines across multiple Southeast Asian countries.

The 665km-long ECRL will connect Kota Bharu in the east with Port Klang, located on the strategically important Strait of Malacca on Malaysia's west coast. It is expected to bring economic benefits through improved connectivity and tourism. Although work began in 2017, it was stalled amid funding constraints. It is now expected to be completed by 2027.

In 2018, then-Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said the project would be frozen due to high costs. "I believe China itself does not want to see Malaysia become a bankrupt country," he said. Work resumed in 2020, after a lower-cost deal was negotiated with China.

What is the pan-Asian rail network?

Infrastructure projects to link Southeast Asian countries have been proposed in the past, including during European colonial

rule in the region.

More recently, the pan-Asian rail network was conceptualised in the form of three links — a western line from Kunming via Myanmar and Thailand; a central line via Laos and Thailand; and an eastern line via Vietnam, Cambodia, and Thailand.

Another line would connect Thailand's capital Bangkok with Malaysia and Singapore, which sits at the mouth of the Malacca Strait. Around 30% of global trade passes through this strait.

What is the rail network's current status?

The project has faced roadblocks for multiple reasons. Only the Laos-China section has been operational since 2021. Like Malaysia, Thailand has also faced problems of high costs and been wary of taking assistance from China. The Thailand-China project is expected to be completed in 2028, but may be delayed.

Doubts have been expressed over the projected economic gains as well. Jonathan E Hillman, a political economist with the



Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), argued in his book, *The Emperor's New Road: China and the Project of the Century* (2020), that the width of the railway tracks across these countries vary, making seamless cargo transportation challenging.

There are concerns over demand as well. "Most people travelling from Kunming to Singapore would still prefer to fly, which will remain cheaper, and faster. Likewise, cargo shuttled between the two destinations would be cheaper if transported first to the coast, and then by boat to Singapore. Most studies have found that a pan-Asian rail system would complement maritime shipping rather than compete with it," Hillman wrote.

What are China's interests here?

Hillman noted that plans for the rail link project predate President Xi Jinping's BRI. Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao mentioned it at the ASEAN summit in 2007. But "despite missing... deadlines, China has made the pan-Asian railway an even more central part

of its regional engagement," he wrote.

China has direct influence in Southeast Asia on account of geography and strong economic and cultural ties. According to the Chinese government, "In 2023, the trade volume between China and ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) reached USD 911.7 billion." This made them each other's largest trading partners for the fourth year.

With the BRI, these ties can be further strengthened. China has emerged as a provider of loans for infrastructure projects in countries historically lacking them, despite apprehensions about their financing.

China's aggressive moves, and territorial claims in the South China Sea have also made many countries in the region nervous, and Beijing hopes to leverage economic ties to develop goodwill and trust. It has rejected accusations of practising "debt trap diplomacy", which involves providing loans at high interest rates, and then seizing control of strategic assets when the debtor countries fail to pay back.



The Indian EXPRESS

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RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

Taking back control

After a historic win, the challenge before Labour is articulating a long-term vision for the UK



RISHABH BHANDARI

POWER IS POISED to change hands in Westminster with a landslide win for the Labour party in the general elections. In a year where several elections globally have delivered surprising verdicts, the British public have stuck firmly with the consistent trends flagged by opinion polls. After 14 years in government, the public turned on the Tory party in no uncertain fashion. Labour returns to office with its first general election win in 19 years. Keir Starmer deserves plaudits for turning around the fortunes of a party that seemed in doldrums not so long ago. His challenge will lie in articulating a positive vision for the future amid sluggish economic productivity and tightened finances.

It was a night to remember for Labour supporters and one to forget for the Tories. Labour surged to 411 seats which represented an astounding upswing of 210 seats from 2019. Conversely, the Tories plunged to their worst result in their history. The party ended with a sobering 119 seats which meant a loss of about 248 seats from the last election. They were outflanked not just by Labour but also by the Liberal Democrats who had a tremendous night with 71 seats, their best outcome in a century. Disaffected Tory voters also boosted support for the Reform Party which won 4 seats and elected Nigel Farage as an MP for the first time.

Labour clearly benefitted from the groundswell of anti-incumbency across the country. It won seats across all regions. It regained support from 'Northern Wall' voters while also securing wins in the South. Crucially, it gained considerable ground in Scotland over the Scottish National Party

Labour clearly benefitted from the groundswell of anti-incumbency across the country. It won seats across all regions pointing to the strength of voter feeling for change. It regained support from 'Northern Wall' voters while also securing wins in the South. Crucially, it gained considerable ground in Scotland over the Scottish National Party which suggests that calls for Scottish independence are unlikely to gain traction in the medium term. To be fair, voter turnout was lower than expected but, at face value, the results also represent a vindication for the centrist approach favoured by Starmer.

which suggests that calls for Scottish independence are unlikely to gain traction in the medium term. To be fair, voter turnout was lower than expected but, at face value, the results also represent a vindication for the centrist approach favoured by Starmer. A party deemed unelectable not so long ago in the Corbyn era has bounced back.

Spare a thought for the outgoing PM Rishi Sunak, too. Granted that the Tories ran a lacklustre campaign where gaffes such as Sunak leaving a D-Day celebration early did not help. But taking a step back, he deserves a measure of appreciation for restoring stability to the government during his tenure. Inflation has come down and Sunak's focus on fiscal restraint helped to steer the country through turbulence.

The truth though is that the Party-gate scandal and Liz Truss' ill-fated premiership had caused irretrievable damage. A dramatic turnaround was too much to expect. The constant bickering and feuding within the party over the past year suggested that all was not as it should be. As the party heads to the opposition benches, the concern is that it may lurch further rightwards. Some will point to the support for the Reform party as evidence that the party lost because it was not right wing enough. The Tories would do well to remember that they are at their best when posing a unified front with a wider appeal across all regions. A period of introspection would be in order.

Turning to Labour, in the lead-up to the election, Starmer's approach was focused on letting the Tories score own goals while remaining silent himself. That worked as leader of the opposition but to govern is to

choose. What should he prioritise in government? First, continuing to keep a check on inflation headwinds by focusing on fiscal responsibility would be vital. Starmer will need to keep trade-union pressures at bay in this pursuit.

Second, targeted investment in infrastructure and in education should be prioritised. Britain's long-term future depends on upskilling a population to boost productivity and ease dependency on welfare schemes. In this context, addressing health and social-care challenges faced by an ageing population cannot be ignored.

Further, a competitive British tax regime to boost entrepreneurship and a fit-for-purpose approach to immigration would be core as well. The discontent over "small boats" should not be forgotten. Alliances with like-minded democracies such as India will need to be cemented, too. Sunak's rapport with his Indian counterpart was obvious. That needs to be developed further by his successor. Rebuilding relationships with European allies should also be factored.

As an exhausted Tory party cedes office, the result also speaks to the voter desire for renewal that has found expression through the democratic process. The public has signalled that it needs a hopeful vision for the future. In this narrative, a focus on stability and a push for growth are not mutually exclusive. If Keir Starmer is to make the most of his majority, he should push on when goodwill is intact. That would truly signify "taking back control".

Bhandari is a London-based lawyer and political commentator

LANDSLIDE FORETOLD

Labour sweeps UK polls but it must know that tough decisions lie ahead. For India, it's an opportunity to build a key relationship

IN AN ELECTION verdict that was foretold, but is nonetheless momentous, a UK seeking stability has voted to power the Keir Starmer-led Labour Party. This ends 14 years of Conservative rule scarred by chaos and controversy. The scale of the victory that Labour has been handed — sweeping to power with 412 seats, well past the majority mark — makes this a historic election for the party. Coming five years after its worst poll defeat in a century, it is also a reminder that a volatile electorate that seems to have less enthusiasm for Labour than for the Tories could very well swing away from it again in 2029. Beneath the roiling surface of electoral politics are deep, structural problems in need of attention. The UK's new Prime Minister's emphasis on "national renewal" in his victory speech suggests that he understands the import of this moment.

For the Tories, as Rishi Sunak said while conceding defeat, the 2024 election has delivered a "sobering verdict", one that should lead them to ask how a party that was ensconced in Whitehall for nearly a decade and a half, lost its way. The Tories' inability to make prudent fiscal choices was certainly a factor, as were the debacle of the Brexit vote, the cost-of-living crisis that came with the Covid-19 pandemic, the seeming breakdown of "national treasure" NHS, the housing shortage, and a chaotic leadership lurching from crisis to crisis amidst public inner-party bickering. PR disasters like the Downing Street party at the height of the Covid restrictions delivered blows the party struggled to recover from. While the spectacle of a government lacking clarity of purpose and vision may have been what handed Labour its thumping victory, Starmer's hard work to make the party electable — making a sharp turn away from the hard Left stance of expelled leader Jeremy Corbyn — cannot be overlooked. Going ahead, the new government cannot afford to get complacent. Tough decisions — on public spending, housing, migrants and foreign policy — will need to be stepped up to. Fresh challenges have already cast their shadow on Labour's moment of triumph: Nigel Farage, whose anti-immigrant party Rising UK ate into traditional Tory support in some seats, with Farage himself winning after seven failed attempts, has declared his intention to go after Labour voters next. Starmer would also be uneasy over the victory of five independent candidates, including the ousted Corbyn, who campaigned against Labour's stance on Gaza.

With the new Labour's stated intention of continuing to pursue a productive relationship with India, that developed under the Tories, Delhi has reason to be optimistic. This is a sharp departure from the party's narrow view of India through the prism of Kashmir and Pakistan alone. In recent years, the India-UK relationship has emerged as a key one for both sides and David Lammy, who is likely to be the new Foreign Secretary, has already spoken of closing the FTA deal with India and moving ahead on the technological and defence fronts. For India, a Labour-led UK that speaks of "progressive realism" as a guide for foreign policy, opens the window of opportunity wider.

WHEN WATERS RISE

Assam's vulnerability to floods stems from outmoded solutions. State government must do better than blaming geography

LAST YEAR IN October, after flood waters had receded in Assam, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced 54 projects to mitigate the effects of swelling rivers. These initiatives, he had said, "would bring us close to a flood-free Assam". The state government, however, is nowhere close to securing people's lives and properties against the rising and raging waters. This year, according to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority, floods have claimed more than 50 lives and displaced 3,60,000 people. More than 40,000 hectares of crop area have been affected and large parts of Dibrugarh and Guwahati are under water. Now, CM Himanta Biswa Sarma has struck a note of despair — "floods are due to geographical factors beyond the state's control", he has said.

Assam's vulnerability stems from a complex combination of hydrological and climatic factors. The state has more than 120 rivers, several of which originate from the hills and mountains of extreme rainfall hotspots in Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya as well as in China and Bhutan. But it's also a fact that for nearly 70 years, the Centre and Assam government have not found ways to control the damage caused by rivers in spate. Despite flood after flood exposing the hazards of the embankment-centred approach, the state's authorities have not course corrected. Most of these flood control structures date back to the 1960s and 1970s, when the hydrology of Assam's rivers, including the mighty Brahmaputra, was poorly understood. Solutions such as tapping into the knowledge systems of indigenous people to build flood-resistant houses, dredging rivers, arresting erosion or even building more resilient embankments have either remained on paper or haven't been adequately implemented. In 2021, a parliamentary panel asked the Centre to set up modern weather stations in the upstream catchment of the Northeast's dams and install sirens to alert people downstream of floods. However, the region continues to lack state-of-the-art warning systems.

Guwahati is a bowl-shaped lowland, susceptible to water logging. Historically, marshes and water channels worked together to make the city habitable. In the last 70 years, however, construction projects have chipped away at these critical ecological features. Like in most Indian cities, Guwahati's drainage system is in disrepair. Rainwater from neighbouring Meghalaya and the surrounding hills causes flash floods. For at least a decade now, it's been evident that governments in the Northeast — and the Centre — need to put their heads together to mitigate flood-related damages. The people of Assam, and the Northeast, deserve governance solutions, instead of an administration that blames floods on geography.

DRAKE VS LAMAR

When a Pulitzer Prize winner faces off against a chart-topper, you need to tune in

"P.S.T, I SEE dead people", begins Compton-born rapper Kendrick Lamar's latest diss track 'Not Like Us' aimed at Canadian rapper Drake. By definition, diss tracks are songs that take potshots at another artist. The just-released music video features snapshots from Lamar's Juneteenth (a day that commemorates freedom from slavery) show in Los Angeles. The Pop Out — Ken and Friends concert — was Lamar's "victory lap" of the feud that began in March when he objected to being categorised alongside Drake and J Cole as the "Big 3" in Drake's track 'First Person Shooter' and shot back saying, "...it's just big me".

Fans of rap music know that feuds are a part of its culture. True to the origin of hip-hop as a voice of empowerment that exposed racism against African Americans, these battles and diss tracks inspire sharp social commentary. The first known feud was the Roxanne Wars in 1984. But the most legendary feud was between Tupac Shakur and The Notorious B.I.G. (Biggie) in the '90s which proved to be fatal for both.

Sometimes, as with Drake and Lamar, rap slug-fests descend into personal territory — the details they reveal about each other in the tracks can be excruciating. Drake raps about Lamar's infidelity, which he has publicly accepted, and rumoured domestic abuse. Lamar, in turn, alleges that Drake is a pedophile, and in one song addresses Drake's son Adonis: "I'm sorry that that man is your father". For rap fans, however, beefs are raw and real and a reflection of an art form that grew from the streets. After all, in what other art form would a Pulitzer Prize winner (Lamar) face off against a chart-topper (Drake) making the biggest winner the audience, who came for the music and stayed for the drama?



SHASHI THAROOR

POLITICAL DIFFERENCES OVER issues of philosophical conviction are, as Rakesh Sinha says ('Attack on RSS is a self-goal', IE, July 3), inevitable and even desirable in democracies. The fact that such differences exist in our country over fundamental understandings of the Hindu religion should be no surprise. It is tendentious, though, for Sinha to suggest that the "articulation at the top" by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi ignores "the collective consciousness of the Indian people".

The fact is that Hinduism is the faith adhered to by some 80 per cent of the Indian population and therefore by huge majorities in every political party, including both the BJP and Congress. Whereas the RSS-BJP faith is in the political doctrine of "Hindutva", rather than in the broader philosophical and spiritual underpinnings of Hinduism, Hindus in Congress tend to profess an understanding of the faith taught not by politicians but by religious preceptors. In speaking of Hinduism as a faith of non-violence, acceptance and inclusion, Rahul Gandhi was advancing an understanding of the religion that has been imparted by gurus and rishis for centuries. This view of the faith found its most prominent public articulation in the piety of Mahatma Gandhi, whose advocacy of ahimsa and satyagraha brought Hindu values into the national movement while accommodating all other faiths.

For Sinha to state that the RSS' Hindutva "is not a political ideology" is risible. It flies in the face of RSS ideologues' own articulation of their ideology and the BJP's formal adoption of Hindutva as its guiding political doctrine in its 1989 Palampur resolution. To say, as Sinha does, that all the RSS is doing is "shar[ing] the ideas of Hindu icons like Swami Vivekananda, Swami Dayananda Saraswati, Bankim Chandra Chatterjee and R K Mookerji" glosses over the vast gulf between these icons' views and the RSS' selective portrayal of them.

THEIR FALSE GODS

Rahul Gandhi takes on RSS both from the platform of the Constitution and as a Hindu

Whereas the RSS-BJP faith is in the political doctrine of 'Hindutva', rather than in the broader philosophical and spiritual underpinnings of Hinduism, Hindus in Congress tend to profess an understanding of the faith taught not by politicians but by religious preceptors. In speaking of Hinduism as a faith of non-violence, acceptance and inclusion, Rahul Gandhi was advancing an understanding of the religion that has been imparted by gurus and rishis for centuries.

For instance, Swami Vivekananda's famous line in Chicago, which even Prime Minister Narendra Modi quoted in the Lok Sabha debate while replying to Rahul Gandhi, expressed his pride in "speaking on behalf of a faith which has taught the world not just tolerance but acceptance". The RSS speaks of tolerance, which Swamiji understood was essentially a patronising idea. The tolerant majority believes in the sanctity of its own truth and merely grants others the right to be wrong. "Acceptance" involves mutual respect for the different truths believed by both the majority and the minority. Nowhere has the RSS or the BJP advocated the principle of "acceptance". Similarly, Swami Dayanand Saraswati's core principles condemned such practices as idol worship, pilgrimages, priestcraft, offerings made in temples, and discrimination against women, all of which are practised and promoted by many of the advocates of Hindutva, including the Prime Minister himself. It is disingenuous to claim that the BJP/RSS merely echoes these great sages when there are such major differences between the beliefs and practices of the two.

What boggles the mind is when Sinha defends the Ram Temple at Ayodhya as freeing "the definition of secularism... from the shackles of political and intellectual elitists". The temple may well fulfil the dreams of millions of Hindus, but it has nothing to do with secularism and everything to do with religious faith. And its construction followed an act of vandalism and violence that destroyed the masjid that stood there. For Sinha to state that with this episode "the idea of India found the opportunity and space to be redefined" is preposterous. The idea of India is the idea enshrined in the Constitution, of a land of multiple religions, languages and identities all made secure by the sheltering carapace of citizenship. Such an idea can never

accommodate any act of violence, as the Supreme Court made clear in its verdict on the Ayodhya case. "Under our Constitution," its judgement declared, "citizens of all faiths, beliefs and creeds seeking divine provenance are both subject to the law and equality before the law. The Constitution does not make a distinction between the faith and belief of one religion and another. All forms of belief, worship and prayer are equal." That, Mr Sinha, is the reaffirmed idea of India. It has not been "redefined".

Sinha avers that "for decades, the Congress has not honestly discussed the expansion of Hindutva and the impact of the RSS". We have done so at various gatherings, most recently our Udaipur Chintan Shivir, and concluded that Hindutva is not Hinduism, but a political ideology of majoritarian dominance that threatens to undermine our "unity in diversity" — which has long been the most hallowed of our national movement's principles. To conflate Hindutva with "nationalism and democratic advancement", as Sinha does, is to equate nationalism with one community and democracy with the exclusion of minorities, neither of which makes either definitional or political sense.

The RSS has consistently rejected the idea of India enshrined in the Constitution, dismissing it as a Western construct unconnected to Indian traditions like the Manusmriti. When Rahul Gandhi takes on the RSS, he does so both from the platform of the Constitution and as a Hindu who cherishes the principles of non-violence, acceptance and inclusion he has learned from his faith. Those who have advocated hatred for, and conducted violence against, Muslims and other minorities betray both Hinduism and the Constitution.

The writer is MP, Lok Sabha and chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology



JULY 6, 1984, FORTY YEARS AGO

MILITANTS ATTACK IA

SIKH TERRORISTS, FROM the Jammu and Kashmir unit of the All-India Sikh Students Federation, hijacked an Indian Airlines Airbus to Lahore while it was on a Srinagar-Delhi-Bombay flight. They threatened to blow up the plane with 264 aboard, if their demand to release all Sikhs arrested, following the Army action in Punjab, was not met.

CRPF OFFICIALS KILLED

FOUR CRPF PERSONNEL, including an assistant commandant, were killed and three security men, seriously injured in an ambush

by Tripura National Volunteers extremists at Tethuiba in the Amarapur-Ompi Road in south district. Intelligence officials said the operation was carried out by a TNV hit group under the leadership of self-styled Lieutenant Colonel Kartick Kolol.

J&K ON ALERT

ON THE EVE of the crucial protest rally planned by Farooq Abdullah and his mother, Begum Abdullah, Shah's government sent an urgent message to New Delhi asking for more paramilitary forces to tackle possible trouble. The police forces in Srinagar announced that people should remain indoors because of the

strict curfew the authorities had in effect.

HIJACKING MYSTERY

THE EASE WITH which nine ostensibly armed men managed to board the plane at Srinagar after a series of hijacking alerts has left both Indian Airlines and the anti-hijacking cell of the Civil Aviation Ministry dumbfounded. The hijackers' subsequent actions, identity, objectives and future course of action remain shrouded in mystery. The fortuitous presence of another Indian Airlines flight within radio distance enabled Indian Airlines to learn that the Airbus was on its way to Lahore.

13 THE IDEAS PAGE

The Dubey Doctrine

The life and times of Muchkund Dubey provide a prism through which to view how multilateralism has come full circle



RAJA-MANDALA
BY C RAJA MOHAN

AMBASSADOR MUCHKUND DUBEY, who died last week, was a polymath excelling in the worlds of diplomacy and scholarship, poetry and public policy, social development and global justice. In the story of independent India's diplomacy, Dubey holds a special place for driving the nation's quest for a just world order.

Dubey's diplomatic career coincided with India's "peak multilateralism". After he stepped down as foreign secretary at the end of 1990, India's multilateralism had to modify if not discard many of the old ideas to adapt to a rapidly changing world. The defiant idealism of newly independent India had to give way to supple pragmatism by the end of 20th century; India's universalist multilateralism yielded eventually to ad hoc multilateralism.

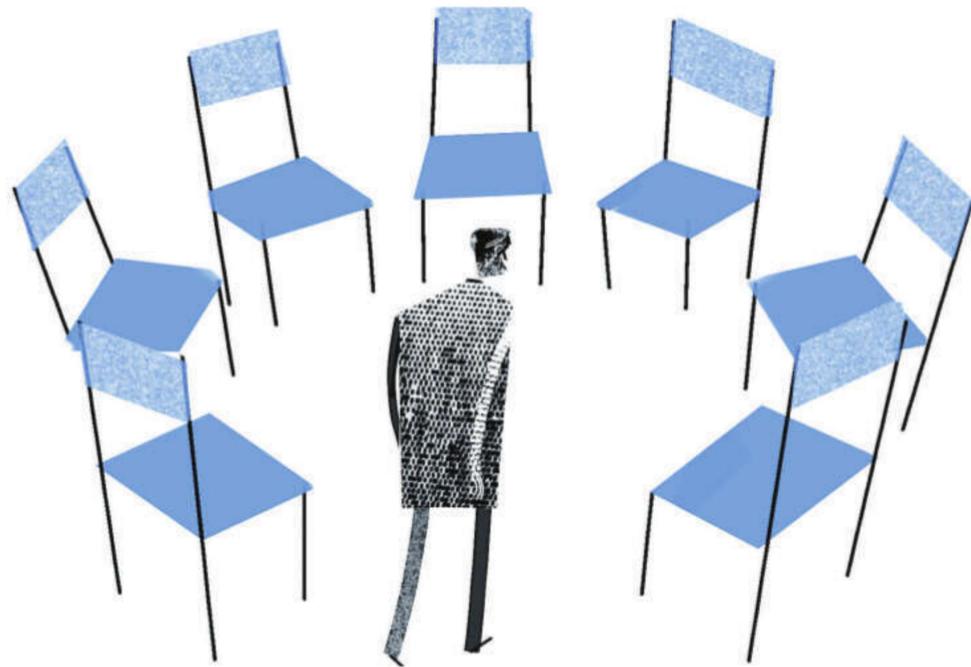
By the time Dubey passed away, though, the old ideas such as "Global South" that animated him, had returned to the Indian diplomatic vocabulary. After playing deep defence to fend off the multilateral infringement of national sovereignty in the vulnerable 1990s, a rising India gained in confidence and learnt to exercise influence on the global order in the 21st century.

Dubey, who joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1957, brought extraordinary personal conviction, formidable intellect, and a fierce commitment to India's campaigns from the late 1960s to transform the post-War global order in favour of developing countries and build a more ethical international system.

In the 1950s and 1960s, India had moved on from the decolonisation agenda and charged into new battles for development, disarmament and the democratisation of the global order. As he rose through the ranks of the foreign office, Dubey spent time at the United Nations and related institutions in New York and Geneva. At the headquarters, he led India's multilateral diplomacy on promotion of universal disarmament, the "New International Economic Order", South-South cooperation, and regionalism in the Subcontinent.

These battles, however, had taken an unexpected twist at the turn of the 1990s amid change in the external environment (end of the Cold War) and India's own reorientation (driven by the reform agenda) on key issues. The tension between India's traditional positions in the multilateral arena and the new global demands began to grow in the final years of Dubey's career (the second half of the 1980s), and burst into the open in the 1990s.

Nowhere was this tension more palpable than in the arena of disarmament. Dubey crafted an ambitious plan for the time-bound elimination of all nuclear weapons by the end of the 20th century that was unveiled at the UN by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in June 1988. Even as India articulated a well designed schema for nuclear abolition, Delhi was moving inexorably towards the building of an atomic arsenal in the late 1980s. As



C R Sasikumar

the world sought to curb India's nuclear weapons programme in the 1990s, India moved to demonstrate its nuclear weapon capability in 1998.

Since then the story of India's nuclear diplomacy has been less about promoting universal disarmament and more about consolidating its own interests as a nuclear weapon power. India held back from signing the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty that it once championed with much enthusiasm, refused to sign the 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and sought to join export control groups, like the Nuclear Suppliers Group, that Delhi denounced as "discriminatory" in Dubey's era of multilateralism.

Dubey also presided over a major transition in India's economic diplomacy. The Uruguay Round of trade talks launched in 1986, under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, was a wrecking ball against the vision of the New International Economic Order that Dubey and his colleagues had sought to promote. Many developing countries had abandoned the notion of "collective bargaining" against global capitalism and begun to make national adjustments to their own.

With the economy facing bankruptcy at the turn of the 1990s, India had to alter its developmental strategy and undertake significant moves towards liberalisation and globalisation. The challenge for Indian diplomacy at the turn of the 1990s was to create time and space to respond to the changing imperatives of the global economic order.

Dubey's last years in the Foreign Office saw a new engagement with the idea of South Asian regionalism. Long accustomed to unilateralism or "beneficial bilateralism" in the Subcontinent, Delhi had to deal with the new imperative of regional multilateralism marked by the creation of the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation in 1985.

Has India lost the world of Dubey's multilateralism? Pessimists will say yes; optimists will disagree. Optimists will insist that the shift towards pragmatic multilateralism has led to greater Indian say in global institutions. As a member of like-minded coalitions led by the West, India is in a better position today to shape the global rules on disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation.

Promoting South Asian cooperation became a lifelong intellectual passion for Dubey. But the prospects for Subcontinental regionalism were torpedoed by the breakdown in India-Pakistan relations at the turn of 1990s. Rawalpindi's nuclear capability, its support for cross-border terrorism and the rise of militancy in Kashmir in the last years of Dubey's tenure made it hard for India to build on the promise of South Asian regionalism.

Has India lost the world of Dubey's multilateralism? Pessimists will say yes; optimists will disagree. Optimists will insist that the shift towards pragmatic multilateralism has led to greater Indian say in global institutions. As a member of like-minded coalitions led by the West, India is in a better position today to shape the global rules on disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation.

As a growing economic power, it is now part of an effort to build "de-centred globalisation" around trusted geographies and resilient supply chains. Although the SAARC is going nowhere, Dubey's ideal of regional integration is unfolding, if slowly, in the eastern Subcontinent through sub-regional initiatives. Optimists will add it is a matter of time before a rising India will rediscover the virtues of a world order underwritten by norms.

On its way up the greasy pole of the international hierarchy, India had to inevitably move its multilateralism away from high moral politik. As it reaches the top of the heap, though, it will need more than realism to shape the world order. It needs to ideate a normative framework, of the kind Dubey championed, in order to draw support from the widest sections of the international community and lend legitimacy to India as a major power.

The writer is a contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"For our old leaders, changing coalition partners is a matter of convenience rather than conviction... But in bringing Dahal to the ground at last, the Deuba-Oli duo has given a message that an electoral pigmy can no longer play a permanent 'badshah' in the game of thrones that is Nepali politics." — THE KATHMANDU POST

Not an open and shut case

There is a need for criminal law reform in postcolonial nations. But it must be in consonance with constitutional values



OPENING ARGUMENT
BY MENAKA GURUSWAMY

THERE HAS BEEN a seismic shift in criminal law in India. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS) has replaced the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860, the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023, has come in the stead of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 and the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 replaces the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

The three new statutes impact offences that are committed on and after July 1. The BNS, via a saving and repeal clause, specifically provides that it will not affect anything done or suffered under the Indian Penal Code, 1860. This column will address only changes made by the BNS. Subsequent columns will explore the changes made to criminal procedure and evidence law.

This column is divided into three parts. First, we shall briefly discuss what has not changed when one compares the BNS to the Indian Penal Code, 1860. Second, we shall consider provisions that have been minimally revised. And finally, we shall interrogate what has been redefined in general criminal law — this category deserves most attention.

The first part is the simplest to address. Experts suggest that 80 to 90 per cent of the IPC is retained in the BNS, 2023. What has been revised are the provision numbers, but the essence of the provisions have been maintained. This includes provisions pertaining to culpable homicide, murder, assault, forgery, criminal intimidation, defamation and rape. For instance, murder, which was represented by the classic sections 300 and 302 in IPC, is now in sections 101 and 103 of the BNS. I feel a tinge of regret at this change. The easy flair with which we lawyers would reel off the "murder sections", as we sat gossiping over cups of hot tea in court, in answer to "kya matter hai?" or "kiske liye ruke ho?" with an easy "arey year 302", and then nonchalantly continue our conversation, will now need tweaking.

However, there have been some major changes — which takes me to the second part of the piece. Sedition as an offence has been retained (section 152 BNS), but the definition has been expanded, the nomenclature changed and the punishment for the offence made more severe. One can now attract the offence of "acts endangering sovereignty" by exciting secession, or armed rebellion, or subversive activities or encouraging feelings of separatism or endangering sovereignty. Under the BNS, the punishment is now seven years to life imprisonment, an increase from three years to life.

The BNS also specifically punishes death caused by negligence of a "registered medical practitioner" while performing a medical procedure. The erstwhile section

304A that could be used against doctors, did not specifically mention this. The legislative intent is now to explicitly punish the negligent medical practitioner — this takes us into the domain of what is truly negligent and what is the gap between life, death and medical science.

Another reform has come in the form of the new provision on theft. Section 303 of the BNS provides for community service for offenders who have been convicted for the first time and where the value of the stolen property is under Rs 5,000. Given that most theft is petty theft, this is a welcome provision.

The most dramatic change to criminal law is the incorporation of what I have discussed previously ("Weakening law's guardrails", IE, September 2, 2023). At the risk of repeating myself, BNS is at odds with the established legislative practice of having separate and distinct harsh special statutes with procedural checks and balances. This is the case with Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, 1967 (UAPA) and the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime, 1999 (MCOCA) used to combat organised crime in Delhi and Maharashtra.

Both statutes are illustrations of special legislation that are intended to combat alleged offences that are elaborate in how they are planned and fulfilled. While the punishments are harsh, special statutes have some procedural safeguards that attempt to balance the rights of the accused and the interest of the prosecution. BNS brings such special statutes into the framework of general criminal law. It includes within the definition of organised crime (section 111) unlawful activities including kidnapping, robbery, vehicle theft, land grabbing, contract killing, and trafficking of human beings, weapons and drugs by two or more persons acting singly or jointly. The punishment ranges from five years to life imprisonment. Petty organised crime, including theft, snatching, pick pocketing, shoplifting and cheating shall be punishable with one to seven years imprisonment.

Similarly, erstwhile UAPA offences have been brought under section 113 "terrorist act" of the BNS. The UAPA definition of who commits a terrorist act has been replicated in the BNS, 2023. A terrorist act in UAPA and in the BNS, 2023 is defined as whoever does any act with the intent to threaten or is likely to threaten the unity, integrity of India by using an array of weapons. If death results from such terrorist acts then the punishment could be life imprisonment or death. And in any other case it will range from five years to life.

The definitional provisions of the UAPA and BNS are similar with the difference that the former special statute has comparatively greater procedural safeguards. Now, the BNS provides that an officer, not below the rank of Superintendent of Police, shall decide whether to register the case under BNS or UAPA. The need for law reform in postcolonial nations is undeniable. However, the contours of that postcolonial law reform must be in consonance with the Constitution's values. In the context of criminal law, this includes fair trial, a presumption of innocence and procedural justice.

The writer is a Senior Advocate at the Supreme Court



RAM RAJA
BY RAM MADHAV

Don't misread the mandate

Opposition has done well. But it is wrong to assume voters have rejected NDA

A MONTH AFTER the unexpected mandate delivered by the people of the country, its meaning and message are still sinking in. Both the ruling NDA and the Opposition INDI Alliance are struggling to cope with an outcome they didn't anticipate. Global critics, who had cast aspersions on Indian democracy and questioned the ability of its voter to be impartial, too, have been compelled to sing peanons to the elections.

Indian voters have demonstrated their maturity time and again, but political parties tend to forget this. On several occasions in the past, the electorate has given the message that it can be scrupulously ruthless in choosing leaders and parties. It was no different this time.

Delivering his final speech on November 26, 1949, after the completion of the process of Constitution making, Rajendra Prasad, chairman of the Constituent Assembly, highlighted this maturity while referring to a debate over universal adult franchise. Some members believed that giving the right to vote to every adult in a country that was poor and illiterate could bring doom as those masses may not have the political maturity to use the right diligently. They feared that India would become a "mobocracy".

Referring to the members who "doubted the wisdom of adult franchise", Rajendrababu said, "I am a man of the village... I, therefore, know the village people who will constitute the bulk of this vast electorate. In my opinion, our people possess in-

telligence and common sense. They also have a culture which the sophisticated people of today may not appreciate, but which is solid. They are not literate and do not possess the mechanical skills of reading and writing. But I have no doubt that they are able to take measure of their own interest and also of the interests of the country at large if things are explained to them... I cannot say the same thing about the other people who may try to influence them by slogans and by placing before them beautiful pictures of impracticable programmes. Nevertheless, I think their sturdy common sense will enable them to see things in the right perspective".

These words, spoken more than seven decades ago, sound prophetic after every mandate. The challenge is for political parties and their leaders to understand that message. Sadly, if the just-concluded first session of Parliament is any indication, it appears that the message has not sunk in sufficiently, especially among the Opposition.

In the first five decades after Independence, the Congress hardly had a reason to sit in the Opposition benches for long. It was either in the treasury benches or propping up governments that survived on its mercy. Three years of the Janata Party rule during 1977-80 and 11 months of the National Front government in 1989-90 were the brief occasions when the Congress was in Opposition.

By the time the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government assumed office in 1998, forcing the

Congress to sit in Opposition for a full six years, it had developed a mindset of being the "natural party of governance" for India. In fact, this became the trait of the Congress after it came under the new leadership in 1996. By then, many senior and mature leaders like Sharad Pawar had left the party and it became a prisoner in the hands of "the family". As Sonia Gandhi rose to power within the Congress, her inexperience, coupled with arrogance, resulted in her contempt for the Vajpayee government. A leader of Vajpayee's stature, whom many in her own party used to respect as "Ajaatsatru" — one without enemies — was dubbed by her as "incompetent, insensitive and brazenly corrupt".

The week-long session of the newly-elected Parliament showed that the principal Opposition party is still reeling under that mindset. That the party leadership is unable to accept the fact that the electorate had handed down a mandate for them to sit in Opposition was evident from their speeches and actions. They appear to still believe that the mandate was not for Narendra Modi, but for them.

A country of India's size and significance needs a constructive Opposition. But if the Opposition believes that the ruling party has no right to rule, the functioning of Parliament will become a challenge. That is precisely what was witnessed again in the new Parliament. A clear contempt for the ruling party was on display, wherein the Opposition, led by Rahul Gandhi, seemed determined to not allow Parliament to function

smoothly. Having sat in Opposition for 10 years, there was palpable impatience in the Opposition over the prospect of another stint of five years.

Parliamentary democracy succeeds only when the ruling and Opposition parties recognise and appreciate the mandate. The ruling party has to realise that the Opposition has returned to the House with an enhanced popular mandate. But the Opposition should shed this mythical illusion that there is some "moral defeat" that has made the ruling party ineligible to rule. This mandate was a complex one with lots of important messages, but clear to the extent that the NDA was given sufficient numbers to rule and the Opposition sufficient numbers to be effective on the other side.

It will be the immaturity of the elected — not the electorate — to interpret the message of the mandate in a way that will defeat the Constitution. Rajendrababu had warned in that famous speech, "A law giver requires intellectual equipment but even more than that the capacity to take a balanced view of things, to act independently and above all to be true to those fundamental things of life — in one word, to have character", adding, "It is not possible to devise any yardstick for measuring the moral qualities of a man and so long as that is not possible, our Constitution will remain defective."

The writer, president, India Foundation, is with the RSS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FAILURE AT HATHRAS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The Hathras questions' (IE, July 5). Once the event has faded from public consciousness, neither the probe's findings nor the government's corrective measures for the future are made public. Several deficiencies in crowd control were identified and ways to avoid them were suggested. Still, we see that crowded religious congregations continue to be hosted without adequate arrangements, making them susceptible to a similar emergency later.

Kamal Laddha, Bengaluru

PROMISING LEADER

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Awadhesh Prasad, MP' (IE, July 5). The victory of the SP Dalit leader from Faizabad, the Ayodhya constituency where the Ram Mandir is situated, against sitting BJP MP Lallu Singh has broken the myth of BJP's domination in the area. It neutralised the blitzkrieg around the Ram Mandir consecration ceremony. Contrary to usual practice, a Dalit person was given a ticket to contest from the general seat. Awadhesh Prasad's win symbolises the defeat of BJP-RSS's Hindutva ideology.

L R Murmu, New Delhi

ESSENCE OF YOGA

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Yoga, on sporting merit' (IE, July 5). Yoga, by na-

ture, aims for the union of Atma and Parmatma. Portraying yoga solely as a physical activity and something that can be competitively judged diminishes the essence of yoga. In India, for centuries, yoga has been used as a tool for self-discovery and liberation from the cycle of rebirth. The large-scale commercialisation of yoga has already been done. Including it in the Olympic Games will only intensify this.

Jainil T Shash, Ahmedabad

A HISTORIC MOMENT

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'A billion-plus welcome' (IE, July 5). The heroic welcome bestowed upon the victorious Indian team upon their return was nothing short of monumental. It was nothing less than a religious celebration with the fervour and devotion of these fans akin to devotees lining up for a Darshan. Witnessing this, one can confidently say that cricket is the biggest religion in India, capable of garnering such passionate and reverent support. Nariman Point and Marine Drive were packed with people of all ages and genders, eager to see Rohit Sharma & Co. pass by. Children perched on car roofs chanted "India! India! India!" while adults echoed "Vande Mataram" and "Bharat Mata Ki Jai," capturing the moment in their memory for eternity.

Sanjay Chopra, Mohali

14 THE WORLD



HOLDS ON TO LONDON'S ISLINGTON NORTH AS INDEPENDENT LABOUR EX-CHIEF JEREMY CORBYN WINS

Jeremy Corbyn, who led the Labour Party into the general elections of 2017 and 2019, has held onto his seat in north London, but this time as an independent. Corbyn won the seat by nearly 7,000 votes over his Labour opponent.

BIGGEST DEFEAT EVER for Conservative Party since inception

INCOMING GOVT pledges strict fiscal rules to reduce debt levels

DISTRUST in institutions, fraying social fabric among key hurdles

PARLIAMENT to be ideologically fractured as the divide deepens

Jobs, economy boost: Labour's task ahead

ASSOCIATED PRESS & THE NEW YORK TIMES LONDON, JULY 5

EXPLAINED Most diverse Parliament in UK's history

BRITAIN'S NEW Prime Minister Keir Starmer will oversee a parliament more ethnically diverse and more female than ever after securing a landslide victory in the election on Thursday. Black, Asian and ethnic minority lawmakers will represent around 13% of the House of Commons, up from 10% in 2019, when Britain last held a parliamentary election. It will be the largest-ever share of ethnic minority members of the lower house, according to an analysis by British Future, a think tank.

BRITISH PRIME Minister Keir Starmer said he would lead a "government of service" on a mission of national renewal in his first official remarks Friday after his Labour Party swept to power in a landslide victory after more than a decade in opposition. Starmer acknowledged in his first speech outside 10 Downing St. that many people are disillusioned and cynical about politics, but said his government would try to restore faith in government.

With almost all the results in, Labour had won 410 seats in the 650-seat House of Commons and — a massive triumph that will bring huge challenges, as he faces a weary electorate impatient for change against a gloomy backdrop of economic malaise, mounting distrust in institutions and a fraying social fabric.

Labour has made it one of its missions to revitalize Britain's economy and to provide good jobs and productivity growth all over the country. With productivity and wages stalled for the past decade and a half, it's a tall order. Starmer acknowledged early Friday morning that changing the country, including the economy, would require patience and determination.

Labour Party has said it would take a different approach to the economy from the Conservative Party that was in power for 14 years by working more closely with businesses to increase investment while protecting workers' rights.

It has said its economic agenda will be focused on providing economic security.

The party has committed to

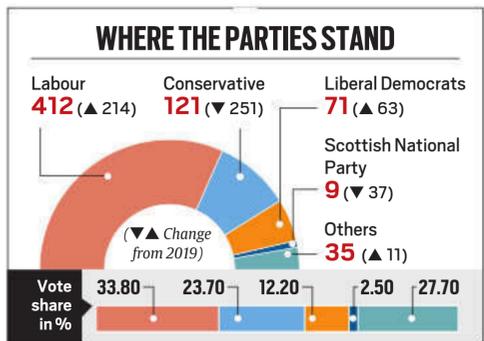
showing restraint and has chosen to bind itself to strict fiscal rules to lower debt levels that will likely rule out major changes to taxes and spending.

Labour is expected to focus on other changes and on building institutions that it hopes will unlock billions in private investment to boost productivity and improve living standards.

The party's proposals include changing Britain's planning system to make it easier to build infrastructure and more than a million new homes. The party said it would also build new towns. Labour has vowed to create a national wealth fund to invest in green energy, build gigafactories and revive the steel industry. It has also promised to establish a publicly owned energy company, GB Energy, in an effort to reduce Britain's exposure to international energy markets.



Prime Minister Keir Starmer and his wife Victoria arrive at Downing Street on Friday. Reuters



Dull, pragmatist: How Starmer pulled Labour towards the centre

JILL LAWLESS LONDON, JULY 5

FOR SOMEONE often derided as dull, Keir Starmer has delivered a sensational election result.

Starmer led Britain's Labour Party to a landslide election victory, and on Friday became the country's 58th prime minister — the first leader from the center-left party to win a U.K. national election since Tony Blair, who won three in a row starting in 1997.

It's the latest reinvention for a man who went from human rights attorney to hard-nosed prosecutor and from young radical to middle-aged pragmatist. Like Blair, 61-year-old Starmer led Labour to a landslide victory after dragging the party towards the political middle ground.

He won by promising voters change, but also calm, vowing to restore stability to public life and give Britain "the sunlight of hope" after 14 years of turmoil under the Conservatives.

A former chief prosecutor for England and Wales, Starmer has often been caricatured by Conservative opponents as a "lefty London lawyer."

He and his wife Victoria, who works in occupational health, have two teenage children they strive to keep out of the public eye.

Born in 1963, Starmer is the son of a toolmaker and a nurse

who named him after Keir Hardie, the Labour Party's first leader. One of four children, he was raised in a cash-strapped household in a small town outside London. "I know what out-of-control inflation feels like, how the rising cost of living can make you scared of the postman coming down the path," he said. Starmer entered politics relatively late, in his 50s, and was elected to Parliament in 2015. He often disagreed with the party leader at the time, staunch socialist Jeremy Corbyn, at one point quitting the party's top team over disagreements, but agreed to serve as Labour's Brexit spokesman under Corbyn.

After Corbyn led Labour to election defeats in 2017 and 2019, Labour picked Starmer to lead efforts to rebuild. His leadership has coincided with a turbulent period that saw Britain suffer through the COVID-19 pandemic, leave the EU, absorb the economic shock of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and endure economic turmoil from Liz Truss' turbulent 49-day term as prime minister in 2022.

Starmer will face pressure to deliver quickly. He has already dismayed some supporters by watering down a pledge to spend billions investing in green technology, saying a Labour government would not borrow more to fund public spending.

CONSERVATIVE LEADERS WHO WERE DEFEATED



LIZ TRUSS
Former British Prime Minister (Lost by 640 votes)



PENNY MORDAUNT
Leader of House of Commons (Lost by 780 votes)



GRANT SHAPPS
Defence Secretary (Lost by 10,733 votes)



ROBERT BUCKLAND
Former Justice Secretary (Lost by 9,606 votes)



GILLIAN KEEGAN
Education Secretary (Lost by 12,172 votes)



LUCY FRAZER
Culture Secretary (Lost by 495 votes)

Smaller parties eat into Conservative vote, sign of volatile public mood

ASSOCIATED PRESS LONDON, JULY 5

THE HISTORIC defeat — the smallest number of seats in the party's two-century history — leaves it depleted and in disarray and will spark an immediate contest to replace Sunak, who said he would step down as leader.

In a sign of the volatile public mood and anger at the system, the incoming Parliament will be more fractured and ideologically diverse than any for years. Smaller parties picked up millions of votes, including the centrist Liberal Democrats and Farage's Reform UK. It won four seats, including one for Farage, securing a place in Parliament on his eighth attempt. The Liberal Democrats won



Reform UK Party Leader Nigel Farage on Friday. Reuters

about 70 seats, on a slightly lower share of the vote than Reform because its votes were more efficiently distributed. The Green Party won four seats, up from just one before the election.

Scottish National Party, which held most of Scotland's 57 seats, lost all its seats but a handful, mostly to Labour.

Sunak to quit party top post, Tories seek new direction, face leadership 'bloodbath'

ELIZABETH PIPER LONDON, JULY 5

THE RECRIMINATIONS and jostling for top positions among Britain's Conservative lawmakers began long before Thursday's crushing election defeat to Labour that some party figures said left the party facing the prospect of a decade out of power.

After 14 years in government the Conservatives are now confronted by an internal struggle among lawmakers, grassroots members and donors over whether to move further to the right or turn back to the centre.

Rishi Sunak promptly announced his resignation as prime minister on Friday and said he would step aside as Conservative leader once arrangements were made to select his successor, as the



Outgoing PM Rishi Sunak at 10, Downing Street Friday. Reuters

party sought to rebuild. Reuters spoke to 20 politicians, party members and strategists who said that Sunak's widely expected departure would trigger a battle among the institutions that under-

pin the party — with the right-wing media, financial backers, think tanks and vocal members all jostling to influence its direction.

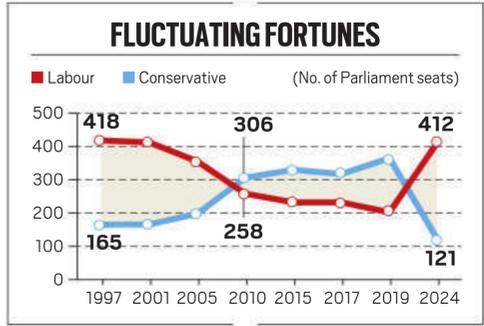
The outcome will help determine whether a party that has

governed Britain alone or in coalition for around 100 years since it was formed in 1834 can rebuild from a much-diminished state.

One veteran Conservative former lawmaker predicted a "bloodbath" as the party set about charting its way back to power. "The party will suffer a kind of nervous breakdown, which will continue for a wee while," said the former lawmaker, who declined to be identified. "And it's then going to be necessary to find a way forward."

Several lawmakers are expected to compete to replace Sunak, the party sources said, with the right wing likely to promote Priti Patel and Suella Braverman.

Centrists were also preparing campaigns, with James Cleverly and Tom Tugendhat, interior and security ministers under Sunak, as possible contenders. REUTERS



Biden heads into make-or-break stretch for imperiled campaign

ASSOCIATED PRESS WASHINGTON, JULY 5

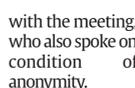
PRESIDENT JOE Biden on Thursday opened a critical stretch in his effort to salvage his imperiled reelection campaign, facing a growing sense that he may have just days to make a persuasive case that he is fit for office before Democratic support for him completely evaporates.

In the aftermath of Biden's disastrous debate performance last week against Republican Donald Trump, some financial backers were holding off or canceling upcoming fundraisers, according to a person familiar with the plans who spoke to AP. "I'm not going anywhere," Biden told a crowd gathered for a July Fourth barbecue on the White House South Lawn.

In a Wednesday night meeting with Democratic governors, Biden acknowledged that he needs to get more sleep and limit evening events so he can turn in earlier to be rested for the job, according to three people familiar



President Joe Biden with Vice President Kamala Harris at the White House on Thursday. AP



RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

with the meeting, who also spoke on condition of anonymity.

Biden argued that much more than his own political future was in jeopardy. In an interview with a Wisconsin radio station that aired Thursday he said: "The stakes are really high. I know you know this.

For democracy, freedom ... our economy, they're all on the line."

The interview on the Earl Ingram Show on the Civic Media Radio Network, taped Wednesday, was the part of a media and public events blitz that the Democratic president and his staff have acknowledged as a make-or-break moment.

Iranians vote in run-off presidential race

PARISA HAFEZI DUBAI, JULY 5

IRANIANS VOTED on Friday for a run-off presidential election that will test the clerical rulers' popularity amid voter apathy at a time of regional tensions and a standoff with the West over Tehran's nuclear programme.

State TV said polling stations opened their doors to voters at 8 a.m. local time (0430 GMT). Polling was to have ended at 6 p.m. (1430 GMT), but was ex-



Masoud Pezeshkian in Tehran on Friday. Reuters

tended until 8 p.m. in response to "requests from provinces across the country", an interior ministry

spokesman told state TV.

It showed queues inside polling stations in several cities later in the day. The final result will be announced on Saturday, although initial figures may come out sooner.

The run-off follows a June 28 ballot with historically low turnout, when over 60% of Iranian voters abstained from the snap election for a successor to Ebrahim Raisi, following his death in a helicopter crash. The low participation is seen by critics as a vote of no confidence in

the Islamic Republic. The vote is a tight race between low-key lawmaker Masoud Pezeshkian, the sole moderate in the original field of four candidates, and hardline former nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili, a staunch advocate of deepening ties with Russia and China.

Voter turnout has plunged over the past four years, which critics say underlines that support for clerical rule has eroded at a time of growing public discontent over economic hardship and curbs on political and social freedoms. REUTERS

ISRAELI DELEGATION LED BY SPY CHIEF LEAVES DOHA AFTER CEASEFIRE TALKS

7 Palestinians killed in Israeli strike in West Bank

REUTERS JENIN, JULY 5

SEVEN PALESTINIANS were killed in an Israeli military operation in the West Bank city of Jenin on Friday, the Palestinian health ministry and the Palestinian Red Crescent said.

Israel's military said in a statement its forces had encircled a building where militants had bar-



Aftermath of an Israeli strike in Jenin on Friday. Reuters

ricaded themselves in, and that an Israeli aircraft had struck targets in the area. The Israeli operation in Jenin was the latest in a series of clashes in the West Bank between Israeli forces and Palestinians. The violence had been escalating for more than two years but picked up in intensity since Hamas fighters based in the coastal enclave of Gaza led an attack on Israel last October. Meanwhile, an Israeli delega-

tion led by spy chief David Barnea left Doha after meeting with Qatari mediators about Gaza ceasefire talks, a source with knowledge of the talks told Reuters on Friday. Barnea returned to Israel to consult with the Israeli government, the source added. Efforts to secure a ceasefire and hostage release in Gaza gathered momentum Friday after Hamas made a revised proposal on the terms of a deal.

Hungary's Orban meets Putin in Moscow, draws rebuke from EU

ASSOCIATED PRESS MOSCOW, JULY 5

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin welcomed Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban to Moscow on Friday for a rare meeting with a European leader to discuss peace proposals for Ukraine.

Orban's visit comes only days after he made a similar unannounced trip to Ukraine, where he met with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and proposed that Ukraine consider agreeing to an immediate cease-fire with Russia. "The number of countries that can talk to both warring sides is diminishing," Orban said.

Putin suggested that Orban had come to Moscow as a representative of the European Council, despite several European officials having condemned the visit. He told Orban that he wanted to hear about the position of his "European colleagues" on Ukraine and discuss Moscow's plan for peace as well as bilateral relations.

15 ECONOMY

SENSEX: 79,996.60 ▼ 53.07 (0.07%) NIFTY: 24,323.85 ▼ 21.70 (0.09%) NIKKEI: 40,912.37 ▼ 1.28 HANG SENG: 17,799.61 ▼ 228.67 FTSE: 8,243.37 ▲ 2.11 DAX: 18,587.30 ▲ 136.82

GOLD	USD RATE	OIL	SILVER
₹73,310	₹83.49	\$87.30	₹93,400

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of July 4

International market data till 1900 IST

EQUITY ISSUANCE SURGE LED BY IPOs

SMEs on IPO spree in April, May as corporates mobilise nearly ₹85K cr

HITESH VYAS
MUMBAI, JULY 5

IN JUST the first two months of financial year 2024-25 (FY25), Indian corporates have mobilised Rs 84,866 crore through equity issuances, including initial public offerings (IPO), follow-on public issues and preferential allotment. In the twelve months of FY24, corporates had raised Rs 67,956 crore from the IPO market and are expected to mobilise over Rs 1 lakh crore through primary issuances in the current fiscal.

Leading the equity issuance surge during the first two months were IPOs from the small and mid-cap (SME) segment, with 44 of these companies getting listed in the first two months of the current fiscal (FY25). This comes amid the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch raising concerns over manipulation in the listing of SMEs a few months back.

While 44 companies got listed on SME platforms of the BSE and the NSE in April and May, there

INDIA INC RAISING FUNDS

A TOTAL of 21 SMEs got listed in April, raising Rs 527 crore, while there were 23 SME IPOs which mobilised Rs 673 crore in May

ALL SME IPOs witnessed higher participation from retail investors and also were listed at a premium

INDIAN CORPORATES raised Rs 67,956 crore from the IPO market in FY24 and are expected to mobilise over Rs 1 lakh crore in the current fiscal

CORPORATES DID NOT raise money through the follow-on public offer route in May this year

were a total of 52 listings (main board IPOs plus SME IPOs) during the two month period. In fiscal 2023-24, the total number of SME companies that were listed was 196.

A total of 21 SMEs got listed in April, raising Rs 527 crore, while there were 23 SME IPOs which mobilised Rs 673 crore in May, according to the data from Sebi data.

In March this year, the Sebi Chairperson had said that there were signs of price manipulation in SME IPOs and trading of such shares in the secondary market. "The reality is that SMEs are rela-

tively small entities, the market is small, the free float is small, it is relatively easy to manipulate both at the IPO level and the trading level," Buch had said.

Some of the SMEs that raised capital through IPO route in April and May 2024 included ABS Marine Services (Rs 96.29 crore), Trust Fintech Ltd (Rs 63.45 crore), Creative Graphics Solutions India (Rs 54.4 crore), Quest Laboratories (Rs 43.16 crore) and Indian Emulsifiers (Rs 42.39 crore). All SME IPOs witnessed higher participation from retail investors and also were listed at a pre-

mium. In order to check volatility in the listing of SMEs, NSE, on Thursday, introduced an overall capping of 90 per cent on the opening price discovered during a special pre-open session for IPOs on its SME platform. This means the listing day price of any SME cannot go above 90 per cent of the issue price.

On an overall basis, Indian corporates mobilised Rs 84,866 crore through equity issuances, including initial public offering (IPO), both mainboard and SME platform, follow-on public offering and preferential allotment in the first two months of fiscal 2024-24, the SEBI data showed.

India Inc raised Rs 14,661 crore through eight main board IPOs in April and May, the data showed. Some of the main board IPOs included Aadhaar Housing Finance (Rs 3000 crore), Go Digit General Insurance Rs 2,614 crore and Awfis Space Solutions Ltd (Rs 599 crore).

Indian corporates raised Rs 67,956 crore from the IPO market in FY24 and they are expected to mobilise over Rs 1 lakh crore

through primary issuances in the current fiscal. The rise in the number of companies raising money through IPOs can be attributed to the strong macroeconomic growth of the country, stable government and interest rates, and ease in inflation.

According to Sebi data, corporates did not raise money through the follow-on public offer route in May this year. However, in April, Rs 18,000 crore was raised through a single FPO of Vodafone Idea, which was the largest issue in the country. Funds amounting to Rs 3,798 crore were raised through 20 rights issues in April and May.

Funds raised through preferential allotment during the two months stood at Rs 32,695 crore. The amount raised through QIP (Qualified Institutional Placement) stood at Rs 14,512 crore in the period.

In May 2024, Rs 1,207 crore was mobilised through the public issue of debt, compared to the Rs 687 crore raised during April. Private placement of debt raised Rs 61,227 crore in May, compared to Rs 30,508 crore in April.

How the US, EU tariff wars on China are fuelling a global container shortage

RAVIDUTTA MISHRA
NEW DELHI, JULY 5

AS EUROPEAN Union's (EU) 37.6 per cent tariffs on imports of Chinese electric vehicles (EVs) kick in from Friday, barely a month before United States' (US) tariffs are slated to come into effect, India exporters as well as traders globally are hit by unprecedented container shortages.

At a review meeting in the Commerce Ministry last month, exporters brought up concerns of a sudden shortage of containers, pointing at structural weakness that has been hurting Indian goods exports since the Covid-19 pandemic. Shortages have also resurfaced as voyage time of ships has increased amid the ongoing Red Sea crisis and fresh trade tensions between the US and China.

The trigger for container crunch

Indian exporters are finding fewer containers for exports amid an increased demand for the steel boxes. This is primarily on account of the demand from Chinese exporters in the backdrop of fresh US and EU tariffs on products from China. In order to beat the steep US and EU tariffs, which in case of the US go up to as high as 100 per cent on EVs and 50 per cent on semiconductors that are set to come into effect on August 1, exporters are scrambling to ship as many items as possible. Due to the scale of trade between the US and China, container demand has gone up leaving Indian exporters with fewer containers for exports. This has added to the already short supply due to the Red Sea crisis.

The Red Sea crisis

The Red Sea shipping route is still under blockade amid near-daily attacks targeting commercial vessels by Yemen's Houthi rebels that has slashed traffic through the route by 90 per cent compared to December last year as per US Defence Intelligence Agency report. Last month, a bulk carrier reportedly sank indicating escalation of tensions in the cru-



File

sual maritime route. This has resulted in more ships taking the longer route via the Cape of Good Hope route and spending more time on the sea blocking a higher number of containers for reuse. The Red Sea crisis has also increased port congestion. Reuters reported that global port congestion has reached an 18-month high, with 60 per cent of ships waiting at anchor located in Asia.

Unprecedented shortages

Tariffs hikes have been a part and parcel of trade between the US and China for several years, especially beginning in the Donald Trump administration but shipping routes and containers did not have the impact as they are seen this time. One reason is that the US under Joe Biden not only kept the Trump era tariffs unchanged, he has targeted EV, the fastest growing traded item as per World Trade Organization (WTO). This urgency is displayed by Chinese traders also in the backdrop of significant over capacity of EV items in China. But China is set to lose out to two major markets: the US and the EU. To make matters worse, Canada is also mulling higher duty on Chinese EVs. Indonesia has also announced an import tariff of up to 200 per cent on a range of Chinese goods.

Dependence on China for containers

While the reasons for the ongoing container crunch may be different this time around, the root cause of such repeated concerns is India's limited capacity for container manufacturing and com-

plete dependence on China for the steel boxes crucial for global goods trade. China is the largest exporter of containers and makes up for 95 per cent of the large steel boxes production globally. Much of the container manufacturing in China is done by a handful of highly subsidized state owned enterprises that has sparked security concerns in the US, EU as well as in India. Realising high dependence on China for crucial port operation calls for domestic manufacturing of containers began after Covid-19. The US has initiated plans to de-risk its ports from over reliance on Chinese containers and cranes. India also began production after 2021.

Container production in India

The Indian Express had reported in 2021 that state-owned wagon manufacturer Braithwaite, and engineering major Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited had received an order from Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) to develop and produce 1000 containers each. However, the production did not go as expected. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told Parliament last year that CONCOR was facing problems in supply and procurement of domestic containers.

In April, Vaishnaw told Parliament that CONCOR had placed orders for 19,000 containers on seven indigenous container manufacturers located in Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, Maharashtra, and Gujarat but till March 31, 2023, about 500 containers had been delivered to CONCOR.

Retail, apparel dominate informal enterprises, employ most workers

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JULY 5

RETAIL TRADE, apparel manufacturing, and community, social and personal services were the top activity categories in the informal sector and employed the highest number of workers among the informal enterprises, the Annual Survey of Unincorporated Enterprises (ASUSE) for 2021-22 and 2022-23 showed on Friday.

Released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), the data showed that the total number of establishments in the informal sector increased to 6.50 crore in 2022-23 from 5.97 crore in 2021-22, recording a 5.88 per cent annual growth.

Out of the total number of establishments, other services sector topped with the highest share of enterprises at 37.88 per cent in ASUSE 2022-23, followed by trade (34.71 per cent) and manufacturing (27.41 per cent), the MoSPI release added.

Other retail trade accounted for 30.38 per cent of the enterprises and employed 29.80 per cent of the total workers in

ASUSE 2022-23, followed by manufacturing of apparel with 11.27 per cent share of establishments and 8.39 per cent share of total workers.

The unincorporated non-agricultural sector employed about 11 crore workers from October 2022 to September 2023, up from 9.8 crore in ASUSE 2021-22. More than one-third of this labour force was engaged in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and West Bengal.

The use of the internet for entrepreneurial purposes has increased by 7.2 per cent, indicating a rapid rate of digitisation in the sector, MoSPI said.

Unincorporated sector enterprises' Gross Value Added (GVA) grew 9.83 per cent at current prices in October 2022-September 2023 compared with the April 2021-March 2022 period.

The highest number of establishments (rural and urban combined) were recorded in Uttar Pradesh, followed by West Bengal and Maharashtra. The proportion of female workers has marginally increased to 25.63 per cent in ASUSE 2022-23 from 25.52 per cent in ASUSE 2021-22.

'Passenger vehicle retail sales drop in June'

Passenger vehicle (PV) retail sales in India witnessed a 7% on-year decline due to severe heatwave, as per the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA)



Inventory levels of passenger vehicles have reached an all-time high, ranging from 62 to 67 days

Stalled monsoon and election-related market slowdowns particularly affected rural sales, which fell from 59.8% in May to 58.6% in June

Source: FADA/PTI

JUNE SALES

Overall retail sales rose marginally year-on-year to **18,95,552 units**

Commercial vehicle sales dropped 5% to **72,747 units**

Two-wheeler registrations rose 5% year-on-year to **13,75,889 units**

Tractor sales last month declined 28% year-on-year to **71,029 units**

Three-wheeler registrations rose 5% to **94,321 units**

PM's goal to make India high-income country by 2047 unlikely, says Wolf

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JULY 5

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi's goal of making India a high-income country by 2047 is unlikely to be achieved but India should become an upper middle-income country and a superpower by the middle of the century, Martin Wolf, Chief Economics Commentator, Financial Times said on Friday. Wolf also said the obstacles to the necessary progress in India lie "overwhelmingly in domestic institutions, policies and politics".

"Inclusive and rapid growth on the desired scale will require sustained openness, but also huge investments in physical and human capital. Openness remains a handmaiden of economic progress," he added.

At a lecture titled "What would it take for India to become a developed country by 2047" organised by CUTS, Wolf



Martin Wolf. Photo by FT

said, "Is Mr Modi's goal of making India a high-income country by 2047 plausible, or even feasible? Probably not. But India is still likely to become a superpower by the middle of the century. Size matters!"

Citing PM Modi's objective of turning India to a developed country by 2047, Wolf said India wishes to become a high-income country but that is unlikely to be achieved. "But it should become an upper middle-income country by then. It would then also become a superpower," he said.

He flagged that the slow-growing, shock-prone and fragile world at present will make this rise difficult. "India will have to work hard to use its influence to shape that world in a favourable direction. It will also have to shape itself to exploit the opportunities it will have," he said. In his 2023 Independence Day speech, PM Modi had said India will be a developed country in 2047 when it celebrates its 100 years of independence.

While noting that India can still take advantage of global opportunities, Wolf said India can form useful and productive economic relations with all sides. "It can, if it tries, partially replace China as a competitive global supplier of goods and services. It can become a magnet for foreign direct investment. It can (and must) be a positive influence on global discussions," he said.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Mahindra & Volkswagen in talks for joint venture

New Delhi: Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) is believed to be in preliminary talks with Volkswagen to scale up their supply agreement on components to a joint venture.

The development comes amid reports that the German carmaker is in looking to sell its stake in its India business to an Indian company.

In February, the two companies signed a supply agreement on components of the VW's vehicle platform for M&M's purpose-built electric platform called INGL0. The deal covers the supply of certain electric components as well as unified cells.

At a Reuters Events Automotive Europe conference in Munich in May, VW group's finance chief Arno Antlitz said it is engaged in "concrete discussions" for a potential partnership for PV production in India. FE

Govt limits Trai Chief eligibility to secy level

New Delhi: The government has notified rules under the Telecom Act which makes only secretary to the government or officials with equivalent rank eligible for the position of sector regulator Trai chairman.

The government has made certain sections of the Act operational from June 26 and some of the rules of those sections have come into effect from July 5, including the criteria for appointment as Chairperson and Members of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai), according to an official statement issued on Friday.

"Criteria for appointment as Chairperson and Members of

TRAI: Section 59(b) of the Act will amend section 4 of the TRAI Act 1997 and prescribes criteria for appointment of Chairperson and Members of TRAI," the statement said. The new section restricts sector experts with professional experience in the field of telecommunication, industry, finance, accountancy, law etc, from becoming Trai chairperson.

"Provided that a person who is, or has been, in the service of government shall not be appointed...as a Chairperson unless such person has held the post of Secretary to the Government of India or any equivalent post in the central government or the state government," it states. PTI

BRIEFLY

DPIIT, NCAER team up for logistics cost

New Delhi: The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has inked a pact with NCAER to develop a framework for assessment of logistics cost and carry out a study for assessment of the cost for 2023-24. The Commerce Ministry said that NCAER would also do an assessment of differentials in logistics costs across routes, types of cargo, and service operations; besides identifying major determinants. PTI

Crisil: Veg & non-veg thali prices rise in June

Mumbai: The cost of representative home-cooked vegetarian and non-vegetarian thalis increased by 6 per cent and 4 per cent, respectively, on a month-on-month basis in June 2024, CRISIL MI&A Research said.

The cost of the vegetarian thali rose on-month mainly due to a rise in vegetable prices, with prices of potato, onion and tomato rising 9 per cent, 15 per cent and 29 per cent, respectively, due to lower arrivals, it said.

The cost of the non-vegetarian thali also rose due to elevated vegetable prices, but an estimated one per cent on-month increase in the cost of broiler, which accounts for 50 per cent of the non-vegetarian thali cost, arrested further increase.

On a year-on-year basis, the cost of a representative home-cooked vegetarian thali rose 10 per cent in June, while that of the non-vegetarian thali declined 4 per cent, it added. The cost of the vegetarian thali increased due to a surge of 30 per cent, 46 per cent and 59 per cent on-year in prices of tomato, onion and potato, respectively, due to low base of last fiscal. ENS

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

US unemployment rate rises to 4.1% in June

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, JULY 5

US job growth slowed marginally in June, but a rise in the unemployment rate to more than a 2-1/2-year high of 4.1 per cent and moderation in wage gains pointed to an easing of labor market conditions that keeps the Federal Reserve on track to start cutting interest rates this year.

The Labor Department's closely watched employment report on Friday also showed the economy created 1,11,000 fewer jobs in April and June than previously estimated. About 2,77,000 people entered the labor force last month, accounting for the in-

crease in the jobless rate from 4.0 per cent in May to the highest level since November 2021.

An expanding labor pool is helping to curb wage growth, with annual wages rising at the slowest pace in three years.

When added to the moderation in prices in May, the report confirmed that the disinflationary trend is back on track after inflation surged in the first quarter.

Financial markets expect the US central bank to start its easing cycle in September after it aggressively tightened monetary policy in 2022 and 2023.

"Slowly, but surely, US labor market conditions are cooling," said Brian Coulton, the chief economist at Fitch Ratings.

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH CHANDIGARH

CORRIGENDUM

Ref: Global Tender Enquiry Notice No. P/EP/23-24/G-06

Following changes are made:-

No	Equipment	Original Bid Submission Date	Revised Bid Submission Date	Original Bid Opening Date	Revised Bid Opening Date	Dept. Name
10	Fully Automated IHC Stainer	06.07.2024	06.08.2024	08.07.2024	07.08.2024	Histo-pathology

All other details shall remain the same. Professor In-Charge (EP)

MILITARY STATION, BHUJ

Madhapar Gate, Military Camp, Bhuj-370001
E-mail: ruywamagnificent17@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE NO : 2064/HOOR/PRI

Sealed bids are invited under two stage bidding system from the interested & eligible bidders for Renovation of Existing Badminton Court at Bhuj Military Station.

EMD: Rs. 1,50,000/- in favour of (As per Tender Documents)

For Bid Document Terms & Conditions and other details kindly contact to Mobile No. 9119906843 & E-mail: ruywamagnificent17@gmail.com

Last Date for Submission 27 Jul 2024 at 1700hrs

Dated : 06 Jul 2024

Tender Inviting Authority
Bhuj Military Station

HOOGLY RIVER BRIDGE COMMISSIONERS
(A Statutory Organisation under Govt. of West Bengal)
St. Georges' Gate Road, Kolkata-700 021
Ph. No. : 033-2253-4133/2248-5833
Email : direc.pldn@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING ELECTRONIC BID (ABRIDGED)
NleB No. HRBC/01/DIRPLDN/2024-2025 dated 06.07.2024

HRBC through Director (PI & Dn), HRBC invites online e-Bids through online e-procurement portal of the Government of West Bengal, viz. <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> from Companies registered under Company Act or Limited Liability Partnership Firms or Registered Partnership Firms, excluding Joint ventures, for the following work:

Name of the work: Collection of Toll at Vidyasagar Setu, Kolkata including handling, operation, maintenance (existing and upgraded systems), renewing and renovation, upgrading of existing electronically operated Toll Collection system as per requirement.

Period of Contract: 3(three) years.

Reserve Price of Annual Upfront Fees: 1st year: Rs. 101 crore; 2nd year: Rs. 110 crore; 3rd year: Rs. 121 crore.

Outline of major Eligibility Criteria: Minimum 4 years' experience of operating Toll Bridges or Toll Roads during the last 10 years and experience of operating one Toll Bridge/Toll Road having at least 12 lanes with fully electronically operated toll collection system for minimum one year; also experience of handling minimum 60,000 (sixty thousand) vehicles per day in any single Toll Bridge/Toll Road at a single location in India. The bidder's minimum average annual Toll collection over the last 3 years in all of its locations in India should be Rs. 60 (sixty) crore. The bidder must have average annual Turn Over of Rs.150 (one hundred fifty) crore for the last 3 years and a Net Worth of at least Rs. 100 (one hundred) crore as on 31.03.2023. Also the bidder must have made Profit for at least 3 years during the last 5 years ending on 31.03.2023.

Earnest Money / Bid Security: Rs. 2,20,00,000/-

Closing date of Bid submission (online): 29.07.2024 at 1.00 PM.

The NleB containing the details of scope of work, eligibility criteria, terms and conditions of contract etc. can be obtained from <https://wbtdenders.gov.in>.

The prospective bidders may consult the website <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> regularly to see Corrigenda/Addenda which may be issued by HRBC from time to time.

Sd/-
Director (PI & Dn.), HRBC

16 REVIEWS CINEMA & MUSIC

Empty on the Inside

DESPICABLE ME 4

★
Director: Chris Renaud, Patrick Delage
Voices: Steve Carell, Kristen Wiig, Pierre Coffin, Will Ferrell, Joey King, Sofia Vergara, Dana Gaier, Madison Polan, Miranda Cosgrove, Stephen Colbert



SHALINI LANGER

THE LAW of diminishing returns caught up with *Despicable Me* some time back — more precisely, seven years ago, when the third movie by the same title was released. The question is how much more can you squeeze out of the most profitable animation movie franchise of all time, against diminishing despicability?

Very, very little. *Despicable Me 4* is driven solely by the purpose of cashing in, with a plot that is as inconsequential and as scattered as the minions swarming around, and with none of the laughs and little of the warmth. This is despite adding yet another member to the family of Gru (Carell), this time a baby. By the third film, he had already acquired a wife, Lucy (Wiig), in addition to his three adopted daughters (Grier, Polan, and Cosgrove). He also got a twin brother Dru then, but he has been unceremoniously dumped now (perhaps Carell realised two of him weren't worth the paycheck).

The take-off point here is that Gru has ticked off a pretty villainous creature called Maxime de Mal (Ferrell), who has acquired the power of turning into a monstrous insect with talonous legs etc etc. So now Maxime and girlfriend Valentina (a completely wasted Vergara) are after Gru and his family, forcing them to go into 'a safe house'.

If only the safe house was the story because here the Grus — or the Cunnighams as they call themselves — are forced to lead an ordinary life next door to some pretty uppity neighbours. The uppier of them all is Perry (Colbert himself), who turns his nose up at Gru's hopeless efforts to make friends so as to 'blend in'.

Lucy and the girls are, meanwhile, battling their own transition, into a new job, a new school, some karate lessons, and their mean neighbour's daughter called Poppy (King), who proclaims that it's not that she doesn't respect elders... 'I don't respect Boomers'.

But no, we must turn time and again to Maxime and his ludicrous attempts to track Gru down; a school of villainy called Lycee Pas Bon (literally meaning School No Good), where a lot of the action happens; Gru's mentor Silas tinkering with minions to make them "mega minions"; the mega minions reenacting famous scenes from superhero movies, and failing, and lots of lots of minions doing absolutely nothing except crowding the picture.

We do get flashes of two old hits — *Karma Chameleon*, and *Everybody Wants to Rule The World*. Why? Don't ask.

An Uphill Battle

SHUBHRA GUPTA

IF *MIRZAPUR* was roaring fire, and *Mirzapur 2's* lethal glow flickered here and there and yet kept steady, *Mirzapur 3* is banked embers which burst into flame only once in a while.

The battlefield now extends to the entire 'Pradesh', with 'Pashchim' wanting more than 'Purvanchal' is willing to give, and the stakes, the series is at pains to point out, are higher, but this 'Who will be the new Bahubali' game gets old before our eyes, and season 3 is less *bhaukaal*, more boredom.

It isn't exactly as if it's been steadily downhill from the first season (2018) which introduced us to a fictional Mirzapur, coasting on the trappings of the real one with its characteristic combo of carpets and *kattas*, and its self-confessed 'king', Akhandanand Tripathi aka Kaleen Bhaiyya, (Tripathi) and his *bigda hu beta*



Munna (Divyendu), who has notions about himself but no matching skill-sets.

Their dominance is challenged by other mob bosses who have high stakes in the flourishing drugs-and-guns business, as well as unexpected irritants in the shape of local lad Guddu Pandit (Fazal) and his straight-arrow lawyer father Ramakant (Tailang). Pankaj Tripathi exuded a distinctive Purabiya menace in his Kaleen Bhaiyya, Divyendu was suitably manic, the goons and the good guys exchanged

KILL ★★★
Director: Nikhil Nagesh Bhat **Cast:** Lakshya, Raghav Juyal, Tanya Maniktala, Abhishek Chauhan, Ashish Vidyarthi, Adrija Sinha, Harsh Chhaya

Not for the Faint-Hearted

SHUBHRA GUPTA

COMPLAINING THAT there is gratuitous violence in *Kill* is pointless because the film is nothing but a string of sequences oozing with an overwhelming degree of blood and gore, a quantum we haven't seen in Hindi cinema before. This is a no-holds-barred, brutal pro-max, going for the jugular-and-everywhere-else film, which bows to genre conventions as it starts the way it means to go on: slash, bang, thud, rinse, repeat.

The one-line story — two commandos up against a bunch of bandits who invade a train going from Ranchi to Delhi — is basically an excuse for the action director and the fight choreographer to conjure up the many ways to kill a man. And, yes, a woman. Those who are fans of genre movies, and have been watching the South Koreans show us how it is done (*Train To Busan*, *Snowpiercer*), will find the desi *Kill* derivative. But that will be ignoring how much this Nikhil Nagesh Bhat's fast-and-furious tale is its own creature, which takes care to surround us with familiar elements, even when ratcheting the kill quotient as high as it can go: the good guys are patriotic Army commandos, the bad guys are modern-day versions of the good ol' *dakus*, there is romance in the air, the young lovers stealing moments in the crowd, and the overweight cops, as always, bring up the rear.

A film which calls itself *Kill* allows for no nuance. We know, going in, that there will be blood. The question is: just how palatable is this *maar-dhaad*? Will it make us wince in horror, and close our eyes against the relentlessness of it all? Or will it become a spectator sport, where we, the viewers, will cheer on the good fellas, willing them to smash the baddies to a pulp? On that score, I can tell you that while I did the wincing and closing-the-eyes bit, I also succumbed to a moment or two of visceral delight at both seeing the bad guys get theirs, as well as marvelling at the action experts who made each of these kills different, using different parts of the train, and different methods of killing, to the hilt.

There's also an excuse for all the carnage in the slender storyline, which has just enough weight to carry all this slashing-and-shooting. One of the commandos, Amrit (Lakshya) is in love with Tulika (Tanya Maniktala), who is on the train with her heavy dad Thakur Baldev Singh (Harsh



Chhaya) and younger sister (Adrija Sinha); the other, Viresh (Abhishek Chauhan), equally skilled in weaponry and single-hand combat, is also busy fulfilling that old Bollywood trope, as the hero's best friend.

The posse of *dakus* is led by a son-and-father duo (Raghav Juyal as Fani, and Ashish Vidyarthi as Beni), and once the bets are off, triggered by a killing which feels even more gratuitous than the others, it's a free-for-all, and the body count piles in grisly, grotesque ways. One, involving a fire extinguisher and a human head, is going to give me nightmares, despite my high tolerance for the shoot-and-scoot kind of movie.

The things that make this film distinctively desi also distract from the main task: the romantic bits between Amrit and Tulika remain banal but mercifully brief, as Lakshya is much better at snarling and

killing than canoodling; and the insistence on making the bad guys human (there are tears when they find their compatriots twisted in shapes no living being can pull off, boo hoo), comes off more a digression than anything else. Making Fani this baddie who can switch easily between funny-and-vicious is also a trope, riffing off Bollywood dialogues, and coming up with his own (*'tum rakshak ho ya raakshas?'*) even though juyal is the most effective part of this film: he makes us enjoy him being a terrible human being.

The film itself makes itself desi because of all its references, from *DDLJ* (can there be a pair of lovers on a train which doesn't remind us of that iconic love story?) to *QSQT* (heavy-handed Thakur dads are clearly still in vogue), to the hero's name which is that of a film in which our boys

from the Army won over an enemy, to the old *dhand* of *chori-chakaari* and *firauni*? But it's also savage enough to really raise the stakes — it doesn't pussy foot about trying to save all the main characters and sacrifice the 'sides' — which then gives Amrit reason to rampage the way he does.

So, that's where it comes down to. Are you a fan of movies in which piling up bodies is the only reason for their existence, in which each kill comes wrapped in stylistic flourishes which then invites a counter and that's how it goes, back and forth? And have you been thirsting for a desi *Bullet Train*, *Die Hard*, *John Wick*, or all of the above? Then this one's for you.

Kill is a lean, mean killing machine. Get out of the way, if you're faint of heart. Or hold your breath, and swing aboard for a wild, wild ride.

Good Cop, Bad Cop

BEVERLY HILLS COP: AXEL F

★★★

Director: Mark Malloy
Cast: Eddie Murphy, Taylour Paige, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Judge Reinhold, Kevin Bacon
Streaming on: Netflix

ROHAN NAAHAR

THE *BEVERLY Hills Cop* franchise appeared to die a natural death in 1994 when the third film bombed in the eyes of critics, audiences, even star Eddie Murphy. But the dead don't die in the era of re-quals, legacy-quals and side-quals, and in perhaps the most algorithmic sign of the times, we've been presented with a fourth instalment three decades later.

An approximation of '80s action comedies but with an eye on contemporary anxieties, the new *Beverly Hills Cop* is an uneven experience that doesn't leave much of an impression. It's diverting, at best, but not entirely dismissible. Now living out in Detroit, Axel Foley receives a panicked call from his old buddy Billy Rosewood (Judge



Reinhold). Billy advises Axel to return because his daughter Jane, from whom he has been estranged for years, has become mixed up with the wrong people.

Played by Taylour Paige, Jane works as a criminal defence lawyer — something that Axel, being Axel, chalks down to her daddy issues. She's defending the same folks that he's putting away, he points out. Is this her way of getting back at him for essentially abandoning her? They get plenty of opportunities to dissect their damaged relationship, as Will Beall's standard-issue script forces them to join hands in uncovering a major corruption scandal involving a police captain played by franchise newcomer Kevin Bacon.

Axel and Jane are aided in their adventures by a new detective named Bobby (Joseph Gordon-Levitt). "Have you two had intercourse?" Axel asks tactlessly when he senses history between them. As it turns out they used to date. Perhaps a spill-over from an earlier draft of the screenplay, Bobby is mostly restricted to the sidelines, while Axel and Jane take centre stage. As it stands, *Beverly Hills Cop 4* feels far too crammed. But it's Axel and Jane's arc that is by far the most arresting. It brings a certain maturity to a movie franchise that has always favoured silliness over serious drama. An excellent scene in which they're driving around town together illustrates how effective this aspect of the movie is. Axel tells Jane that he did what he did — leaving her behind to live with her mother in Los Angeles while he moved back to Detroit — was to protect her

from all the enemies that he'd made.

The first *Beverly Hills Cop* was famously developed as a brutal Sylvester Stallone vehicle. It was only after Murphy became attached that the project adopted a goofier tone; the movie pretty much popularised the action-comedy genre single-handedly. Murphy is prone to phoning it in from time to time, but it's delightful to see him have fun again on-screen. A scene in which Axel and Jane pretend to be movie people as they extract information from a man who once played an extra in *Jupiter Ascending* (2015) is particularly inspired.

And as underwritten as he is, Bacon's villain brings his own believable motivations. He was shot in the line of duty many years ago, but felt that the state didn't do enough to rehabilitate him or honour his service. His entitlement and bitterness led him down a path of corruption. It's an interesting idea because the movie implies that most cops are similarly mistreated, which is what births the bad apples. You wonder, however, if anybody tuning in to watch the new *Beverly Hills Cop* would be prepared for a movie about parenting and policing, but there you have it.

Directed by debutante Mark Malloy, *Beverly Hills Cop: Axel F* doesn't have the retro energy of the new *Bad Boys* films — the action scenes are imaginatively conceived, but poorly executed — but mercifully, it isn't nearly as mechanical as some of the other assembly-line products Netflix releases in the name of action movies either.

MIRZAPUR SEASON 3 ★★★

Director: Gurmmeet Singh and Anand Iyer
Cast: Pankaj Tripathi, Ali Fazal, Ransika Dugal, Shweta Tripathi Sharma, Rajesh Tailang, Vijay Varma, Anjum Sharma, Isha Talwar, Manu Rishi Chadha, Sheeba Chadha, Anil George, Priyanshu Pailyuli, Anangsha Biswas, Meghna Malik, Lilliput, Alka Amin
Streaming on: Prime Video

bandook, power *usike paas hai*. New characters keep joining the fray to keep our interest from flagging, and everything is satisfyingly bloody and brutal.

Those who've been tracking the goings-on will remember how season 2 ends in an extended shoot-out, with Kaleen Bhaiyya's grievously wounded body vanishing. Munna's lifeless eyes staring back at us, and Guddu and Golu being left empty-handed. Season 3, written by Apurva Dhar Badgaiyann, Avinash Singh Tomar, Vijay Narayan Verma, and Avinash Singh, starts with a long prologue, which goes about reacquainting us with the dramatis personae, and where they are at now: fair enough, as it's been a long gap since the previous one. But all too soon, familiarity of both character and locale sets in, and you go along the 10

episodes, 45-50 minutes each, waiting for something terrible to happen.

For crime thrillers that depend on the bestiality-brutality-viciousness quotient, the problem is clear. How many shockers can you build into the proceedings to keep up the momentum? Season 3 feels like everything has settled into an all-too-comfortable groove, and the only time it jolts us is when the next dose of brutality is administered in the middle of all that *chai-and-nashta-and-chat*.

I won't be spoiling things if I tell you that there are a couple of killings which we don't see coming, but the novelty factor has now decidedly worn off, and the two characters that made the first two seasons are mostly missing: the rest, despite Ali Fazal's terrific act as the conflicted Guddu, are left to wade their way through long, repetitive tracks, heavy on declarative, flowery dialogue. Though liking her as a performer, I never really bought into the diminutive Prasad as a Bahubali, and her Golu gets a lot of play in this season: she shows her mettle when not desperately trying to be gangster, but then she is given this line: *'ab hum challenge nahin contender hain'*. You don't say.

Again, Tailang is a solid actor, but his struggle between clinging to his morals and survival-in-prison loses steam, even when it's

STREAMING WATCH LIST

BY ALAKA SAHANI



BABYLON

NETFLIX
 This dark comedy featuring Brad Pitt, Margot Robbie, Diego Calva Hernández, Jean Smart, and Li Jun Li, is written and directed by Damien Chazelle. Nominated for three Oscars, it follows the stories of a movie star, a striving ingenue and an aspiring producer chasing fame, fortune and glory amid the glamorous debauchery of '20s Hollywood.



MONSTER

PRIME VIDEO
 This Japanese masterpiece by Hirokazu Koreeda presents a tender exploration of truth. When a young boy displays worrying behavior, his mother decides to take up the matter with his teachers, even though one of them is suspected to be the cause of the issues. The truth, however, is complex as the story is told from three different perspectives.



SPACE CADET

PRIME VIDEO
 Written and directed by Liz W Garcia, *Space Cadet* is a classic coming-of-age comedy, which centres around Tiffany 'Rex' Simpson (Emma Roberts), a Florida-based bartender with a penchant for partying. Rex's life takes an unexpected turn after she finds herself inexplicably admitted into NASA.



ARTHUR THE KING

LIONSGATE PLAY
 This heartwarming tale follows the trajectory of Michael Light, a failing athlete who manages to convince sponsors to let him and a few other athletes compete in the Adventure Racing World Championship. As they struggle to keep their hopes up, a dog named Arthur joins them on to change their idea of friendship and perseverance.

upended by a shocking killing. And you keep waiting for the wonderful Dugal to come into her own, but her Beena *bhabhi* is determinedly saddled with a wailing infant and not enough occasion to show us her wiles.

The sly political undertones of the rampant lawlessness in this 'Pradesh' do come up for air once or twice, but there's no sting. Isha Talwar's crafty CM Madhuri, harping on a *'bhai-mukt pradesh'*, while keeping a pulse on the dirty money, Sharan Shukla (Anjum Sharma), the *'daavdear'* of the Mirzapur *'gaddi'* cosying up to the power centres in Lucknow, Vijay Verma's troubled surviving twin (is it Bharat or Shatrughan?) revealing his rancid boudoir habits, Priyanshu Pailyuli's hovering in the background in his printed shirts, all come off much less effective than they should have. A walk-on bad guy who seems to have come straight out of the movies makes a mention of *'mann ki baat'*, but doesn't leave as much impact as a throw-away legend — 'UP, Ummeedon Ka Pradesh' — glimpsed in season one.

All through the toings-and-froings, I missed Kaleen Bhaiyya and his machinations, and I wished Divyendu would somehow be resurrected. We really need a humdinger season 4 to get us back on track.

Send Through Regd./Speed Post Only

No/ITB Police/3RD Bn/Estt-04/HC/(PNR) Rajveer/2024-147
Office of the Commandant, 3 Bn
Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force
MHA/Govt. of India
Bukhara Camp, Bareilly (UP)-243004 Date

SHOW CAUSE NOTICE

Regmtl. No. 080040394 HC/(PNR) Rajveer Singh "Adm" coy of 3rd Bn, I.T.B. Police Force, S/O Late Sh. Hori Lal, Resident of V.P.O.- Gumsani, Teh- Sambhal, Distt- Sambhal (Uttar Pradesh), Pin-244302 is hereby informed that you are absenting from Campus since 10.02.24(AN) without any information or prior permission of competent authority. You have been directed from time to time to report on duty at 3rd Bn I.T.B Police Force, but you have not reported on duty till date. A court of inquiry was conducted vide this office order NO- 2303 dtd. 20.03.24 and on the basis of recommendation of court of inquiry board, you have been declared "deserter" w.e.f. 10.02.2024(AN) vide this office order no. 3240-50 dtd. 18.05.24 and copy of said order was also sent to you, at your home address by registered post. But neither you reported nor communicated to this office even after passing of 30 days or more.

2. Apart from the above it is stated that you are according to the rule is being given the last opportunity and once again directed to report on duty at 3rd Bn, I.T.B. Police, Bukhara Camp. Bareilly (Uttar Pradesh), Pin-243004 within 30 days from issuing of this notice. If fail to report you will be "Dismissed from Service" without giving further information and notice to you.

Commandant

3rd BN I.T.B POLICE

Regmtl. No. 080040394
HC/PNR Rajveer Singh
S/O Late Sh. Hori Lal
Home Address:
V. P.O.- Gumsani, Teh- Sambhal
Police Station-Pakbada, Distt- Sambhal
Uttar Pradesh-244302

CBC 191121/10082/2425

GURUGRAM UNIVERSITY, GURUGRAM
(A State University established under Haryana Act 17 of 2017)
Sector-51, Gurugram University (Haryana)-122003

Advt. No. T-37/2024

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR HIRING OF ADJUNCT FACULTIES

The University has to engage Adjunct Faculties in the following department to enrich existing knowledge of Faculty Members and Students, from reputed practitioners/Manager (from Industry), Scientist, Academicians, Scholars, Policy Makers and other Professionals both serving and retired:

Name of Department	Date & Time	Venue
English	16-July-2024 at 11:00 AM	Gurugram University, Mayfield Garden, Sector-51, Gurugram.
Architecture		
Design		
Nursing		

The interested eligible candidates who possess the qualifications prescribed by the UGC (Annexure - A) may report for walk-in-interview alongwith filled application forms and original documents/degrees on above mentioned schedule alongwith one set of self attested copies of the same. No T.A./D.A. shall be paid for attending the interview. For detailed terms & conditions, visit university website www.gurugramuniversity.ac.in. REGISTRAR

**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR EDUCATION,
TRAINING & RESEARCH GOVERNMENT OF
ARUNACHAL PRADESH NAHARLAGUN**

NO. DMETR-19012/1/2022
Naharlagun the 2nd July 2024

Withdrawal of Advertisement

An advertisement for a post Chairperson, Arunachal Pradesh Allied and Healthcare Council vide NO.DMETR-19012/1/2022 dated Naharlagun the 20th June'2024 which was published on 27th June'2027 stands WITHDRAWN due to administrative reason.

Sd/-
(Dr. Hage Ambing)
Director of Medical Education,
T & R Government of Arunachal Pradesh
Naharlagun

HIMACHAL PRADESH UNIVERSITY
NAAC ACCREDITED "A" GRADE UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF STUDIES
SHIMLA-171005

**Advertisement Notice
(FOR MERIT BASED COURSES)**

Online Applications are invited from eligible candidates for admission to the following courses (Merit Based) against Subsidised/ Non-Subsidised seats for the Academic year 2024-2025.

Sr. No.	Name of the courses	Application Fees for Gen. Categories	Application Fees for Reserve Categories (SC/ST/Anudaya /RDP/EWS)
1.	MERIT BASED COURSES: Diploma in Yoga, PG Diploma in (Population Studies, Tribal Studies and Disaster & Disaster Management), M.A (Education, Archaeology and Ancient History, Population Studies, Defence and Strategic Studies), B.Lib./L.Sc., M.Lib./L.Sc., M.Sc.(Data Science & Artificial Intelligence, Forensic Science).	500/-	250/-

Online Application Forms are available on the website of H.P. University i.e. <https://admissions.hpshimla.in>
Last date for filling the online application Form is **15th July, 2024**.
For detailed information log on www.hpuniv.ac.in,
<https://admissions.hpshimla.in> or
contact 0177-2830922, 2833888. **Dean of Studies**

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
ASSET RECOVERY MANAGEMENT BRANCH (D.P.- 17415)
GROUND FLOOR, LUV KUSH TOWER, EXHIBITION ROAD, PATNA-800001,
Mobile No.: 8102916048, Email: cb17415@canarabank.com

(Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable & Movable Properties)
SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Movable Properties under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6(2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Canara Bank will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is". Details are as under:

Date & Time of Auction/EMD: Auction Date 07.08.2024, Auction Time 11.30 AM to 1.30 PM, EMD Date & Time 05.08.2024 by 4.00 PM

Name/ Address Contact No. of the Branch	Name of A/c/ Guarantor/Mortgagor	Outstanding in Rs.	Details of Properties	Reserve Price /EMD/Bid Multiplier Amt.
ARM Branch, Patna Mob.: 8102916048	M/S Magadh Dairy, Prop. - Sri Prakhar Sinha, S/o Mr. Prabin Kumar Sinha, Shop No. M-10, Emarat Firdous, Exhibition Road, P.S. Gandhi Maidan, Patna-800001 & Resident of Prateek House owner Dr. C. Prasad, Rukanpura, Bailey Road, Patna-800014	₹ 1,68,42,775/- together with future interest and charges from 02.12.2019	Hypothecated Plant & Machinery of Dairy Production Unit like Milk Pouch Machine (2000 Ltr./hr), Milk Storage Tank (10000 Ltr.), Milk Pasteurizer (5000 Ltr./hr), Dump Tank, Boiler (800 & 400 kg) Compressor, E.T. Plant, DG Set (62.50 KVA) with MCP panel, Electric panel board with wire, Motor Milk pump, Motor (1.2,3,20.30 HP), IBT (20000 Ltr) with complete installation, situated at Mauza- Chapra Farid, Chandan Patti, Thana No. 941, Khata No.10, Plot No. 123, Area- 22 Decimals, P.S. Sakra, District- Muzaffarpur, bearing Deed No. 446 dated 12.02.2013. Bounded by: North: Nij Monmokir, South: Nala Bihar Sarkar, East: Nij Monmokir, West: Rajendra Kumar Sinha & others and Mauza- Chapra Farid, Chandan Patti, Thana No.941, Khata No.10, S. Chak No. 123, Area-40 Decimals, P.S. Sakra, District- Muzaffarpur bearing Deed No. 3422 dated 13.02.2013. Bounded by: North: Rajendra Kumar Sinha & others, South: Nala Bihar Sarkar, East: Nij Monmokir, West: Proprietor.	₹ 14,85,000/- EMD- ₹ 1,48,500/- 10,000/-, A/c. No. 209272434 IFSC Code- CNRB0017415

For Detailed Terms and Conditions of the Sale, Please refer to the link provided in www.canarabank.com

Date: 02.07.2024 Place: Patna **Authorized Officer Canara Bank**

BUREAU OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Application for Director (on deputation basis)

BEE invites applications from Indian Nationals for filling up one post of Director in Level-13 (Rs. 123100-215900) of 7th CPC Pay Matrix on Deputation basis (including short term contract).

The incumbent will be paid remuneration as per Central Govt. Rules.

Interested applicants may forward their curriculum vitae along with 2 passport size photographs and self-attested copies of certificates/mark sheets giving complete details of their qualifications and experience within 45 days from the date of publication of this notice in Employment News to the Secretary, Bureau of Energy Efficiency, 4th Floor, Sewa Bhawan, R.K. Puram, Sector-1, New Delhi 110066. Candidates from Government Departments /PSUs/Autonomous bodies etc. should send their applications through proper channel. The Bureau reserves the right to relax the eligibility criteria in case of deserving candidates.

CBC 34106/12/0003/2425 **Secretary, BEE**

AXIS FINANCE LIMITED
(CIN U65921MH1995PLC212675)
Axis House, C-2, Wadia International Centre, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai - 400 025

Ref. AFL/CO/2024-25/Regd/June/703 27.06.2024
BY SPEED POST/ REGISTERED A.D./EMAIL/WHATSAPP WITHOUT PREJUDICE

To:

1. HITESH GOVAL (Proprietor of M/s Stone Age) For Credit Facility No. 1 (Borrower) For Credit Facility No. 2 (Co-Borrower I) Plot No. 82-83, Second Floor, Pocket 14, Sector - 22, Sultan Puri, C - Block, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110086 Email ID: Hiteshgoyalmart@gmail.com Mobile No.: 7015342151	2. KANTIA DEVI For Credit Facility No. 1 (Co-Borrower II/Mortgagor) For Credit Facility No. 2 (Co-Borrower II/Mortgagor) Plot No. 82-83, Second Floor, Pocket 14, Sector - 22, Sultan Puri, C - Block, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110086 Email ID: Hiteshgoyalmart@gmail.com Mobile No.: 7015342151
3. M/s. STONE AGE (Proprietorship concern acting through Mr. Hitesh Goyal) For Credit Facility No. 2 (Borrower II) Plot No. 56, Kharsa No. 70, Extended Lal Dora, Village Singhola, Narela, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110040 Email ID: Hiteshgoyalmart@gmail.com Mobile No.: 7015342151	

Dear Sir/Madam,

SUB-NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 (AS AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME) AND THE RULES MADE THEREUNDER

I, the undersigned, being the Authorized Officer of Axis Finance Limited (hereinafter referred to as "the AFL/Secured Creditor"), a company incorporated under the provision of the Companies Act, 1956 and a Non-Banking Financial Company registered under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, having its Registered Office at Axis House, Axis Finance, ground floor C-2, Wadia International Centre, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai - 400025, Correspondence address - 85-A, First & Second Floor, Rishyamook Building, Panchsukh Road, Near R. K. Ashram Marg Metro Station, New Delhi - 110001 do hereby give this Notice under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, (hereinafter referred to as the "SARFAESI Act") as under:

1. AFL, in the ordinary course of its business, at the request of Borrower sanctioned the following loans:

Credit Facility I - Credit Facility granted to Mr. Hitesh Goyal a/w Co-Borrowers and Security Providers
INR. 50,00,000/- (Rupees Fifty Lacs Only) ("Credit Facility I") on the terms and conditions as mentioned in Loan Agreement dated 28.09.2022 ("Loan Agreement I"), read with Sanction Letter dated 28.09.2022 ("Sanction Letter I"), signed and executed by Borrower I, Co-Borrower II/Mortgagor with AFL; and

Credit Facility II - Credit Facility granted to M/s. Stone Age a/w Co-Borrowers and Security Providers
INR. 8,00,000/- (Rupees Eight Lacs Only) ("Credit Facility II") on the terms and conditions as mentioned in Loan Agreement dated 23.09.2022 ("Loan Agreement II"), read with Sanction Letter dated 23.09.2022 ("Sanction Letter II"), signed and executed by Borrower II, Co-Borrower I/Mortgagor and Borrower - I with AFL.

[The facility and security documents executed/submitted for the Credit Facility in terms of the Facility Agreement shall be collectively referred to as the "Transaction Documents" hereinafter referred to as "the Transaction Documents"]

2. Since you the Borrowers have committed continuous defaults for repayment of your Equated Monthly Installments (EMIs), the accounts of the Borrowers were classified as non-performing asset ("NPA") w.e.f. 04.04.2024 in compliance with the directives/guidelines relating to asset classification issued by the Reserve Bank of India from time to time and was duly communicated to the Borrower.

3. It is imperative to state herein that the above information of classification of accounts as NPA was communicated by AFL to you the Addressee vide NPA Intimation letter dated 07.05.2024 bearing Ref. No. AFL/NP/CO/Apr-24/101 for the Credit Facility I and NPA Intimation letter dated 07.05.2024 bearing Ref. No. AFL/NP/CO/Apr-24/106 for the Credit Facility II.

4. In view of the aforesaid, the Secured Creditor has become entitled to issue this statutory notice to the Borrower/ Co-Borrower(s)/Mortgagor, in terms of Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and hereby call upon you all Addressee(s), jointly and severally to discharge in full the dues towards the Secured Creditor amounting/ aggregating INR. 59,67,230/- (Rupees Fifty Nine Lacs Sixty Seven Thousand Two Hundred and Thirty Only) due as on 06.06.2024 as more particularly detailed in SCHEDULE B hereto, together with applicable interest, further interest, default interest, premia, costs, charges etc. at contractual rates in respect of the Credit Facility from this date till date of repayment, within 60 days (Sixty days) from the date of this Notice issued under Section 13(2) of the SARFAESI Act, failing which the Secured Creditor shall be constrained to exercise its rights of enforcement of security interest available to it under Section 13 (4) and 15 of SARFAESI Act in respect of the Secured Assets mentioned herein above which include inter alia, the measures mentioned below:

- Take over possession of the Secured Asset as mentioned in Schedule A hereto including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the same;
- take over management of business of you the Addressee(s) including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the Secured Asset, subject to the conditions as stipulated in the proviso to Section 13(4)(b) and Section 15 of the SARFAESI Act;
- appoint any person to manage the Secured Asset, the possession of which will be taken over by AFL;
- require at any time by notice in writing, any person who has acquired any of the Secured Asset from you the Addressee(s) and from whom any money is due or may become due to you the Addressee(s), to pay AFL, so much of the money as is sufficient to pay the secured debt;
- All of you are notified and cautioned that as per the provisions of Section 13 (13) of the SARFAESI Act, no transfer of the Secured Asset (set out in the SCHEDULE A hereunder) by way of sale, lease or otherwise, shall be made without prior written consent of Secured Creditor;
- Your attention is invited to provisions of section 13 (8) of SARFAESI Act in respect of time available to redeem the Secured Assets;
- Kindly note that all costs, charges, expenses that shall be incurred by AFL, in the process of its actions under Section 13 (4) and incidental thereto shall be recoverable from you in the manner prescribed under the Act;
- Please further note that this statutory notice is issued without prejudice to the rights of the Secured Creditor including initiation of any other legal proceedings/legal action as deemed fit and necessary under the provisions of any law for the time being in force and/ or as per contract or both.

Yours Faithfully

Authorized Officer
Axis Finance Limited

**SCHEDULE A
DETAILS OF SECURED ASSET**

All the piece and parcel of the property "Plot No. 82-83, Second Floor (without roof and terrace), Pocket 14, Sector - 22, Sultan Puri, C - Block, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110086 measuring 344 sq. ft and bounded by East: Plot No. 84, West: Plot No. 81, North: Road, South: Plot No. 87 & 85.

**SCHEDULE B
DETAILS OF OUTSTANDING AMOUNTS AS ON 06th JUNE, 2024**

Facility	Loan Account no	Original Limit sanctioned (in INR)	Principal O/s (in INR)	Unapplied Interest (in INR)	Penal and other charges (in INR)	Total O/s (in INR)
Resident Loan ("Credit Facility I")	0456AHA0003436	50,00,000	48,60,087	2,54,187	18,946	51,36,516/-
Mortgage Loan ("Credit Facility II")	0456MMA00005783	8,00,000	7,83,952	46,910	6,323	8,36,714/-
TOTAL OUTSTANDING						59,67,230/-

Note: - Interest at the rate of 10.50 % p.a. and 12% p.a. for Credit Facility I and Credit Facility II is charged by AFL on the principal outstanding and Default Interest charged thereto as per sanction terms.

**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
MEDICAL EDUCATION & TRAINING, UTTAR PRADESH
6th FLOOR, JAWAHAR BHAWAN, LUCKNOW**

No.: ME-3/2024/1316 Lucknow: Dated 04 July, 2024

The Time Schedule of First Round of Online Counseling for UP NEET MDS-2024

In continuation of the time-table issued by Medical Counseling Committee (MCC), Government of India, New Delhi, for counseling of NEET MDS course, the time-table of the first round of online counseling for admission of state quota seats of MDS course in Government/Private Dental Colleges/Universities of the State is as follows:-

S.No.	Description	Dates	Total Days
1	Date of Online Registration	10 th July 2024 (From 5:00 PM) to 15 th July 2024 (Till 11:00 AM)	05 days
2	Date of depositing Registration Fee and Security Fee	10 th July 2024 (From 5:00 PM) to 15 th July 2024 (Till 5:00 PM)	05 days
3	Date of declaration of Merit List	15 th July 2024	01 day
4	Date of Online Choice Filling	16 th July 2024 (From 11:00 AM) to 18 th July 2024 (Till 5:00 PM)	03 days
5	Date of Declaration of result of seat allotment	19 th July 2024	01 day
6	Date for downloading allotment letters and admission process	20 th July 2024 to 25 th July 2024	06 days

All information related to UP NEET MDS 2024 counseling will be uploaded on Departmental website <https://upneet.gov.in> and www.dgme.up.gov.in. **DIRECTOR GENERAL**

**दिल्ली प्रौद्योगिकी विश्वविद्यालय
DELHI TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
(Formerly Delhi College of Engineering)
(Estd. by Govt. of Delhi vide Act 6 of 2009)
Shahbad Daultpur, Bawana Road, Delhi 110042**

MBA (Business Analytics) ADMISSION NOTICE (AY 2024-25)

Delhi School of Management invites Applications for Admission in Two year MBA (Business Analytics) Programme

The Programme is designed to inculcate in participants the knowledge of core management functions along with the skills required for business analytics and harnessing related technology, for data driven decision making for diverse functional and strategic applications.

Eligibility Criteria:

- a. A candidate who has passed any bachelor's degree examination with at least one paper in mathematics/statistics/applied mathematics with a minimum 60% marks in aggregate or equivalent CGPA from a recognized university/institution is eligible to apply. However, a relaxation of 10% in marks shall be given in eligibility criteria to SC/ST/PD candidates.
- b. A candidate who has valid CAT-2023 /MAT-2023 /MAT-2024 percentile.
- c. Those who are appearing in the final semester examination, and possess a valid CAT/MAT score, may also apply, provided that they submit the proof of eligibility by a specific date to be declared by the University, otherwise the admission of the candidate to the University will be cancelled. Candidates appearing in the final semester/year should have at least 60% marks in aggregate or equivalent CGPA in the final (overall) result.

Admission Procedure and Online Forms are available from 26th June, 2024 at the University Website <http://www.dtu.ac.in> For any query contact us at mbaadmissions@dtu.ac.in Helpline No. 011-27296203 (10.00 AM to 05.00 PM)

Last Date of filling online application form is 21st July, 2024

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CENTRAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE,
P.O.-Kasauli, Distt. Solan, (H.P.) 173204
Contact No. (01792) 273189 & 273105**

Website: www.crikasauli.nic.in, E-mail: director-crik-hp@gov.in
No: 1-12/2022-Admn. Dated the

ABRIDGED NOTICE

Applications are invited from the eligible and interested candidates for the following posts to be filled on Deputation (ISTC) basis. The posts are as under: -

1. One post of Bio-Medical Engineer, General Central Service, Group 'A' Gazetted (Non- Ministerial) in the Pay Level-11 (Rs.67700-208700) in Central Research Institute, Kasauli Under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
2. One post of Deputy Assistant Director (Bio-Chemistry) (Non Medical), General Central Service, Group 'A' Gazetted (Non-Ministerial) in the Pay Level-10 (Rs.56100-177500) in Central Research Institute, Kasauli Under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

The above posts are required to be filled by deputation (including short term contract) from amongst the Officers under the Central Government or State Government or Union territory Administration or Public Sector Undertakings or Universities or Recognized Research Institutions or semi Government or Autonomous Bodies or Statutory Organizations.

For detailed advertisement of the above posts and proforma of application, interested candidates may visit the official Website of the Institute at www.crikasauli.nic.in. In case Website is not working, interested candidate can send email to this office for want of detailed Advertisement Notice & Application Proforma.

Duly completed applications through proper channel should reach to the undersigned within 60 days of publication of this Notice in Employment News.

(Dr. Dimple Kasana),
DIRECTOR
CBC 17132/12/0002/2425

varthana Varthana Finance Private Limited
Registered Office at : No. 5BC-110, Varasiddhi, 3rd Floor, Outer Ring Road, Service Road, 3rd Block, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore-560043. Website: www.varthana.com, Email: care@varthana.com, Phone : 080-68455777, Branch Office : at Unit no. 3, Ground Floor, Pearls Omaze Tower, Plot B 1, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, Delhi - 110024.

DEMAND NOTICE

Notice under Section 13(2) & (3) of The Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002.

We hereby serve upon you this notice, the contents whereof you may kindly note. That you the Borrower along with Co-applicants/Mortgagors have approached and requested for grant of the credit facility from M/s Varthana Finance Private Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as "Company") (Formerly known as Titriment Finance Private Limited). This Demand Notice issued on 20.06.2024 the contents of which are being published herewith as per Sec.13(2) of the Act/Rw Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, by way of alternative service upon the Borrower/Co-Applicants/Mortgagor No. 1 to 5, for service of notice, since notices could not be served on the given addresses. At your request and instance, we granted you the following credit facilities (hereinafter collectively referred to as "credit facility"). The details are mentioned below.

Loan Account No: U22DEL-DEL-019696, U21DEL-DEL-017524, U22DEL-DEL-019323, S20DEL-DEL-013000 Sanctioned loan amount Rs.4,80,000/-, Rs.1,98,595/-, Rs.1,25,000/- and Rs.20,19,140/- Total Liability as on 20.06.2024: Rs.20,15,137/- (With Contractual Rate Of Interest), Name & Address of Borrower, Co-Applicants & Mortgagors : 1. M/s. Sanskar Velly Education Society, Represented by its Authorized Signatory, VPO- Kirtan Distt Hissar Haryana - 125001. 2. M/s. Sanskar Velly Education Society, Represented by its Authorized Signatory, VPO- Kirtan Distt Hissar Haryana - 125001. 3. Mr. Parvesh Kumar, S/o. Dharambir Singh Bawla, Kirtan (46) Hissar Haryana -125001. 4. Mr. Vikram, S/o Lili Ram, Kirtan (46) Hissar Haryana - 125001. 5. Mr. Dhambir Singh, S/o. Dhanpat Singh, H.No -153 Kirtan (46), Hissar Haryana -125001.

That you availed of the above mentioned credit facilities from time to time and utilized the amount and further, while availing the financial assistance you have given an undertaking for repayment of the said financial assistance in terms of the said agreement(s)/document(s). You have also created a mortgage by way of Deposit of Title Deeds/ Registered Mortgages creating security interest in favor of the Company which is more fully described in below Schedule.

That you continued to enjoy the above credit facility, however, you became irregular and failed to maintain the financial discipline, despite our repeated request and reminders from the officers of the Company you have failed and neglected to repay the said dues/ outstanding liabilities. The operation of and conduct of the above said credit facility has become irregular and the debt has been classified as Non-Performing assets (NPA) in accordance with directives/ guidelines relating to asset classifications issued by the Reserve Bank of India consequent to the default committed by you in repayment of principal debt and interest thereon accordingly Loan Account has been classified as **Non-Performing Asset on 10-03-2024**, and hereby recall the said loan / credit facility and call upon you to pay the entire outstanding balance together with interest and all sums payable by you under the said Agreement.

On account of defaults committed by you, you are jointly & severally liable to pay to us the total outstanding dues of Rs.20,15,137/- as on 20.06.2024 with agreed contractual rate of interest, until the date of payment, together with incidental expenses, cost and other charges, thereon.

Under the circumstances, we hereby call upon you to repay the above said entire dues of Rs.20,15,137/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh Fifteen Thousand One Hundred Thirty Seven Only) as on 20.06.2024 together with future interest from 21 June, 2024 at contractual rate plus legal costs/charges thereon within 60 (Sixty) days from the date of this notice. If you fail to repay to the Company the aforesaid sum with further interest and incidental expenses, cost as stated above in terms of this notice U/Sec. 13(2) of the Act, the Company will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 and under other applicable provisions of the said Act.

You are also put on notice that in terms of Sub-section (13) of Section 13 you shall not transfer by sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed below without obtaining written consent of the Company.

This notice is without prejudice to the Company's right to initiate such other actions or legal proceedings, as it deems necessary under any other applicable provisions of Law to recover its legitimate dues.

If you have any representations to be made in response to this, please mark the same to the Authorized Officer, M/s Varthana Finance Pvt Ltd., Varasiddhi, 5BC-110, 3rd Floor, Service Road, 3rd Block, HRBR Layout, Bangalore-560043.

Description of the Immovable Property (Secured Asset) : All the piece and parcel Property bearing Khata No.407/374, Khatori No. 586, Kharsa No.s 371/111 Min Western (G-12), S8/15(27-8) situated in the area of Village Kirtan, Tehsil Balesand Distt Hissar (Haryana) and bounded on: East By: Land of Dharambir 198' West By: Rasta 198' North By: Land of Balwan 228' South By: Land of Hira Lal 228'

Date: 06-07-2024, Place : Delhi **Authorized Officer, Varthana Finance Private Limited**

**No.A-16013/1/2024-AD.V
Government of India
Ministry of Home Affairs
O/o the Registrar General of India
Janganana Bhawan, 2/A, Man Singh Road, New Delhi-110011
Dated 05.06.2024
CIRCULAR**

Subject: Filling up of 23 posts of "Stenographer Grade-I" on deputation/ absorption basis in the Office of the Registrar General, India, New Delhi as well as DCOs having the offices in all the capital cities / UTs of India.

Applications through proper channels are invited for filling up of the following post on deputation / absorption basis in the office of the Registrar General, India, New Delhi and Directorates of Census Operations (DCOs) having the offices in all the capital cities / UTs of India:

1. **Stenographer Grade-I:** 23 posts
2. **Pay Band, Pay Scale, and Grade Pay** Level 6 of Pay Matrix (pre-revised PB-2 with Grade Pay of Rs. 4200/- Under 7th CPC)
3. **Eligibility, Terms & Conditions, Proforma for application, and Duties & Responsibilities:** Available at website <https://www.censusindia.gov.in>.
4. Applications must be routed through proper channel and accompanied by supporting self-attested certificates/documents. Certificates required include Vigilance clearance, integrity certificate, cadre clearance, statement of major/minor penalties, and photocopies of ACRs for the past five years.
5. Application deadline: Kindly submit applications for the mentioned post to "The Under Secretary, Admin.V Section, Office of RGI, Janganana Bhawan, 2/A, Man Singh Road, New Delhi-110011," in duplicate using the prescribed proforma for application. Ensure the application is duly signed by the applicant and certified by the Controlling Officer within 60 days from the circular's publication.
6. Period of deputation: Ordinarily not exceed three (3) years.
7. Maximum age limit for appointment on deputation: Not exceeding 56 years as on the closing date of receipt of applications through proper channel.
8. Choice posting: Selected candidates will be given choice posting as far as possible and to the extent of vacancy in that states/UTs.
9. Incomplete applications and applications received after the closing date and not certified by the respective forwarding authority will not be entertained.
10. Ensure applications are forwarded strictly with reference to the circular and the annexures.

Sd/-
(Katyayani Kulkarni)
Under Secretary to the Government of India
CBC 19108/11/0004/2425

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Kumari Shreya Dwivedi daughter of No.1569263P, Rank CHM, Name:-AK Dwivedi resident of I, Army HQ Sig Regt, New Delhi-110010, have changed my name from KUMARI SHREYA DWIVEDI to SHREYA SHREYA, vide affidavit dated-05.07.2024, before National-Capital Territory of Delhi. 0040736929-3

I, Inderjit Kaur w/o Avtar Singh R/o A-69, Hari Nagar, Delhi-110064 have changed my name to I, Inderjeet Kaur 0040736867-3

It is for general information that I, **SUDHIR KUMAR GAUR**, S/o Phool Singh Gaur, R/o H.No-86/297, Gali No.12, Saboli-baag Near-Durga mandir, Nand Nagri, North-East, Delhi-110093. Declare that name of mine has been wrongly-written as Sudhir Gaur in my minor son namely Ramjee Gaur age-16-years in his 10th-class marksheet cum certificate educational documents. The actual name of mine is Sudhir Kumar Gaur, which may be amended accordingly. 0040736943-3

I, YADU NANDAN KUMAR, father of ADITYA AHAN YADAV, Presently residing at, SMQ-1E/1, Tejas Camp, Air-Force Station, New-Delhi-110003, have changed my minor son's name, from ADITYA AHAN YADAV to ADITYA YADAV, vide affidavit dated-05.07.2024. 0040736943-6

I, Virender Kumar, S/O Late Hargovind Sharma House, No-78 B Old Janaki Puri Som-Bazar Road Jeewan Park Uttam-Nagar, New Delhi-110059, have changed my name to Virender Kumar Sharma, Permanently. 0040736937-5

I, Vanshika D/o Pawan Singh, R/o A-1/68, Sector-18, Rohini, Delhi-110089, have changed my name to Vanshika Gill, for all purposes. 0040736929-5

I, VINOD S/O-PHOOL SINGH, R/O, H.No.-A-15, GALI NO.-8, BUDH VIHAR, MANDOLI, NORTH EAST, DELHI-110093, AFFIRM AND DECLARE THAT MY REAL AND CORRECT-NAME IS VINOD INSTEAD OF VINOD KUMAR, IN FUTURE, FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040736943-8

I, Umesh Kumar Agarwal S/o Vishambar Dayal R/o E-358/B, East Babarpur, Shahdara, N.O., P.O. Dist: East Delhi, Delhi-110032 have changed my name to Umesh Kumar Agrawal for all purposes. 0040736851-3

I, Surender Kumar, S/o Harbans Singh, R/o RZ-E-668/17-B, Gali No-18D, Sād Nagar, Palam Village, New Delhi-110045, have changed my name to Surender Mehra, for all purposes. 0040736929-4

I, SANJU RANI, W/o SHIV SINGH, R/O B-6 TILAK GALI, NO.1 NEW USMANPUR, DELHI-110053, have changed my name to SANJU, for all future purposes. 0040736929-2

I, SANDEEP RASTOGI, S/O SATISH CHANDRA RASTOGI, R/O LG-3, ADITYA MEGA-CITY VAIBHAV KHAND, INDIRAPURAM, GHAZIA BAD, UP-201014, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SANDEEP KUMAR RASTOGI, FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES 0040736937-4

I, Pranshu Sharma, S/O Ghanshyam Prasad Sharma, R/O W-22, Sector-12, Noida-201301, U.P. have changed my name from Pranshu Sharma to Pranshu Sharma for all future purposes. 0040736943-9

I, POONAM SAROHA, wife of Manoj Kumar Presently residing at, Village-Nathuwas, P.O. Palwas, Distt. Bhiwani, Haryana-127021, have changed my name, from POONAM SAROHA to POONAM DEVI, vide Affidavit, Date-04.07.2024. 0040736929-8

I, POOJA JAIN, R/O T-17/1203 ORCHID PETALS SECTOR-49 SOHNA ROAD, SOUTH CITY-2, GURGAON HARYANA-122018, HAVE CHANGED MY MINOR DAUGHTER NAME ISHIKA TO ISHIKA JAIN. 0040736937-1

I, Nirmala, R/O A-5, Shanti Apartment, Sector-13, Rohini, Delhi, have changed my name to Nirmala Devi for all future purposes. 0040736937-8

I, NEERU PRABHAKAR, W/o Shailesh Gupta, R/O 239-C, 5A, Janakpuri, Delhi-110058, have changed my name to NEERU GUPTA, for all future purposes. 0040736937-7

I, Monika W/o Krishan Kumar R/O VPO- Khaira Village, Delhi-11043 have changed my name to Monika Yadav for all future purposes. 0040736853-1

I, Mahipal Singh S/o Sh. Inderjit Singh R/O H.No-F-583, SGM-Nagar, NIT Faridabad-121001, have changed my name Mahipal Singh Chauhan to Mahipal Singh, for all future purposes 0040736871-1

Tahir S/O, Mohammad Yunus R/o Village Uttawar (278), Hathin, Palwal, Haryana, 121103 have changed my name to Mohammad Tahir. 0040736927-1

I, Monica Malhotra D/o Pran Nath Mahotra and W/o Rakesh Dutt R/O 8/11, Kalkaji Extension, AII, South Delhi, Delhi-110019, have changed my name to Monica Batra 0070911248-1

I, MUKESH KUMAR GOEL S/O SAT NARAYAN GOEL R/O 6-A, MADAN PARK, EAST PUJABI BAGH, DELHI-110026, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MUKESH GOEL. 0040736937-9

I, Leela W/O Surajmal Naval, R/O Room no-g-1-4, New everest chs ltd, shell-colony Mumbai-Maharashtra 400071, have changed my name to Lalitha Surajmal Naval, for all, future purposes. 0040736943-1

I, KALSANG, S/O PHUNTSOK R/O D-1-224 THIRD FLOOR, LAJPAT NAGAR-1, NEW DELHI-110024, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO KALSANG BHUTIA. 0040736943-10

I, Hemchander S/o Sher Singh, R/o H.No-582, G-Block, Mangol Puri, North West Delhi, Delhi-110083, have changed my name to Hem Chand. 0040736929-6

I, Hansini Singh, D/o Anil Singh R/O A-2, F.F. Park-Vijoy Apartments near-Inder Enclave, Rohtak Road, New Delhi-87, have changed my name to Hansini Singh. 0040736937-6

I, Gurjit Singh, S/o Mahinder Singh Saathi, R/O J-120, SF, Rajouri Garden, Delhi-110027, have changed my name to Gurjit Singh Saathi, permanently. 0040736937-2

I, GOPAL SINGH, son of, Sita Ram Saini, Presently residing at, V.P.O. Luhsana, P.S. Budhana, Distt. Muaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh-251309, have changed my name from GOPAL SINGH to GOPAL SINGH SAINI, vide affidavit dated-04.07.2024. 0040736929-9

I, Dhruv Puri, S/o Rakesh Kumar Puri, R/o K-408, Prateek Laurel, Sec-120, Noida, G.B. Nagar, UP-201301, have changed my name, to Dhruv Puri, for all future purposes. 0040736937-3

I, Atul Miglani S/o Sh. Shanu Ram Miglani R/o Flat No.255, Pocket-A-4, Konark Apartments, Kalkaji Extn., South Delhi, Delhi-110019 have changed my name to Atul Kumar Kapoor for all purposes. 0040736851-1

I, Arti, Arti Vashist, Arti Bashisht, w/o Davinder Kumar Sharma, R/O WZ-588, Possangri Pur, Janakpuri New Delhi-110058, have changed my name to Arti Sharma, for all, future purposes. 0040736929-1

I, Anuj Sonwane S/o Sh. Rajesh Sonwane R/O A-70, Gali No.19, Jain Road, Bhagwati Garden Extension, Uttam Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi-110059 have changed my name to Anuj Kumar Sonwane for all purposes. 0040736851-2

I, ASHOK KUMAR MAKKAR S/O CHHABIL DASS MAKKAR O-155, BHERA ENCLAVE, PASCHIM VIHAR, DELHI-110087, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ASHOK MAKKAR. 0040736943-2

I, TARANJEET S WADHWA, S/O PARAM JEET SINGH, R/O J-86, RAJOURI GARDEN, TAGORE GARDEN, WEST DELHI-110027, have changed my name to TARAN JEET SINGH for all future purposes. 0070911220-1

I, Shamim Ali Rizvi S/o Zulfiqar Ali R/o 7200, Beri Wala Bagh, Pulganangas Aazad Market, Delhi-6, have changed my name to Shamim Ali for all future purposes. 0040736920-1

I, Rashmi W/o Kovid Bhatnagar R/o 247, B-5, Vivekanand Apartments, Sector 8, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Rashmi Bhatnagar for all future purposes. 0040736869-2

I, Rashmi W/o Kovid Bhatnagar R/o 247, B-5, Vivekanand Apartments, Sector 8, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Rashmi Bhatnagar for all future purposes. 0040736869-1

I, Rakesh Kumar S/o Chand Ram R/o Bhatgaon Dogran (197), Sonipat, Haryana-131022 have changed my name to Rakesh Dahiya 0070911252-1

I, Pothumudi Ravindra Murthy S/o Subba Rao Pothumudi R/o 7-2-1669, UD-706, Lodha Casaparadiso, Sanathnagar, Hyderabad, Telangana-500018, have changed my minor son's name from Pothumudi Shlok aged 17 years to Hrehan Ravindraa forever 0040736867-4

I, Karuna Narula w/o Rajat Sachdeva R/o 206, Sriram Nagar, Shahdra, Delhi-110032 have changed my name to KARUNA SACHDEVA 0040736867-4

I, Jambkar Manisha Wamanrao W/o, Patil Hari Shamrao R/o Flat No H-10, Vidyaagan School, Dulehra, Bulandshahr, UP 203202 have changed my name to Manisha Hari Patil for all purposes. 0040736936-2

I, Jambkar Manisha Wamanrao W/o, Patil Hari Shamrao R/o Flat No H-10, Vidyaagan School, Dulehra, Bulandshahr, UP 203202 have changed my name to Manisha Hari Patil for all purposes. 0040736936-1

I, Rakesh Kajla, S/o Sh. Mukhtiar, R/o 67, Bagat Pana, Nangli Sakrawati, New Delhi-110043 declare that my daughter name is wrongly mentioned in Passport as Kanan. Her correct name is Kanan Kajla for all future purposes. 0040736855-1

I, Harish Kumar Sharma S/o Kanhya Lal R/o 1/11045-A, Street No-7C, Subash Park, Naveen Shadara, Delhi-110032 have changed my name to Harish Sharma 0070911243-1

I, Gaurav Kumar Sharma R/o. G-150/F-3, Dilshad Colony, Jhilmil East Delhi-110095 have changed my daughter name from Tansi Sharma to Aadhya Sharma for all future purposes. 0040736860-1

I, Divyanshi w/o Deepak Khandelwal R/o RZ-J-12/261, West Sagarpur, Delhi-110046 have changed my name to DIVYANSHI KHANDELWAL 0040736867-2

I, Deepak S/O Om Prakash R/o RZ-J-12/261, West Sagarpur, Delhi-110046 have changed my name to DEEPAK KHANDELWAL 0040736867-1

I, Chandni Chawla w/o Priyalochan Bhardwaj R/o 802, Kanchnjuga Apartment, Vasundhara, Kaushambi, Ghaziabad, UP-201012 have changed my name to CHANDNI BHARDWAJ 0040736867-5

I, Bijender Kumar S/o Nand Kishor R/o Village Palwali, Palwali (138), Faridabad, Haryana-121002 have changed my name to Bijender sharma 0070911246-1

I, Arushi Goel D/o Manoj Kumar R/o T4 302 Unitech Heights Ch-3, Greater Noida U.P. have changed my name to Aarushi Goel for all future purposes. 0070911262-1

I, Arpita Das R/o A48/18, DLF Phase-1, Gurugram, Haryana-122002 have changed my minor son's name from AHAHAN GULATI to AHAHAN MAHESHWARI for all purposes. 0070911258-1

I, Amit Tushir R/O B-8/29 FF sector-11 Rohini Delhi-110085 have changed the name of my minor child aged 9 years from Anant to Anant Tushir for all future references. 0070911196-1

I, Amit Tushir R/O B-8/29 FF sector-11 Rohini Delhi-110085 have changed the name of my minor child aged 14 years from Eva to Eva Tushir for all future references. 0070911193-1

I, Thakur Das Sharma S/o, Onkar Sharma, R/o H-77, Block H, Adhyapak Nagar, Nangli, Niloti, West Delhi, New Delhi 110041 have changed my name to Thakur Das. 0040736925-1

I, ARYAN BHARDWAJ S/O PARDEEP KUMAR R/O HOUSE NO.-69, MOHALLA GHOGA, DELHI-110039, declare that name of my Father, PRADEEP KUMAR has been wrongly written as PARDEEP in my 10TH Class Certificate. The actual name of is PARDEEP KUMAR 0070911259-1

I, Salman S/O, Mohammad Tahir R/o Village Uttawar (278), Hathin, Palwal, Haryana, 121103 have changed my name to Salman Khan. 0040736923-1

I, RAZIA SULTAN D/O Sh. Noor Mohammad W/O Mohammad Nadeem R/O 551, Chhata Lal Miyan, Gali Papad Wali, Delhi-110006 have changed my name from Razia Sultan to Sultana for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 18/6/2024 before Notary public. Delhi 0040736850-1

I, Naval Kishor S/o-Chunni Lal Kamat R/o-Plot No.F-78-A, Rama Vihar, Karala, Delhi-110081 have changed the name of my minor son from Ritu Raj to Ritik Kumar for all purposes. 0040736864-1

I, AYUSHI, daughter of, Akhilesh Kumar Singh, Presently residing at, 154, Baghban-Apartment, Sector-28, Rohini, Delhi-110042, have changed my name from AYUSHI to AYUSHI SINGH, vide affidavit date-05.07.2024. 0040736943-7

I, Naval Kishor S/o-Chunni Lal Kamat R/o-Plot No.F-78-A, Rama Vihar, Karala, Delhi-110081 have changed the name of my minor son from Ritu Raj to Ritik Kumar for all purposes. 0040736864-1

I, Rakesh Kumar S/o Chand Ram R/o Bhatgaon Dogran (197), Sonipat, Haryana-131022 have changed my name to Rakesh Dahiya 0070911252-1

I, Pothumudi Ravindra Murthy S/o Subba Rao Pothumudi R/o 7-2-1669, UD-706, Lodha Casaparadiso, Sanathnagar, Hyderabad, Telangana-500018, have changed my minor son's name from Pothumudi Shlok aged 17 years to Hrehan Ravindraa forever 0040736867-4

I, Karuna Narula w/o Rajat Sachdeva R/o 206, Sriram Nagar, Shahdra, Delhi-110032 have changed my name to KARUNA SACHDEVA 0040736867-4

I, Jambkar Manisha Wamanrao W/o, Patil Hari Shamrao R/o Flat No H-10, Vidyaagan School, Dulehra, Bulandshahr, UP 203202 have changed my name to Manisha Hari Patil for all purposes. 0040736936-2

I, Jambkar Manisha Wamanrao W/o, Patil Hari Shamrao R/o Flat No H-10, Vidyaagan School, Dulehra, Bulandshahr, UP 203202 have changed my name to Manisha Hari Patil for all purposes. 0040736936-1

I, Rakesh Kajla, S/o Sh. Mukhtiar, R/o 67, Bagat Pana, Nangli Sakrawati, New Delhi-110043 declare that my daughter name is wrongly mentioned in Passport as Kanan. Her correct name is Kanan Kajla for all future purposes. 0040736855-1

I, Harish Kumar Sharma S/o Kanhya Lal R/o 1/11045-A, Street No-7C, Subash Park, Naveen Shadara, Delhi-110032 have changed my name to Harish Sharma 0070911243-1

I, Gaurav Kumar Sharma R/o. G-150/F-3, Dilshad Colony, Jhilmil East Delhi-110095 have changed my daughter name from Tansi Sharma to Aadhya Sharma for all future purposes. 0040736860-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that My Client Sh. Kishor Lal Gupta, S/o Late Chander Bhan Gupta R/o H.No.E-27, Sayajwala Colony, Ashok Vihar, New Delhi-110052, has declared that a Deed of Cancellation and Revocation dated 20.06.2024. My Client has already cancelled, revoked and rescinded the Special Power of Attorney dated 15.11.2022 issued and executed by him in the favour of Sh. Sanjay Kumar S/O VINOD KUMAR GUPTA. Now, the said erstwhile attorney has no right, power or authority to do any act, or deed or in the name of My Client or on his behalf. After the execution of the Deed of Cancellation dated 20.06.2024 of the SPA, My Client shall not be liable for any Acts, Deeds or representations done by the said erstwhile Attorney Holder, in any manner whatsoever. The General Public is hereby cautioned that any acts or representations made thereby by the said erstwhile Attorney Holder, in any manner whatsoever, are not recognized or ratified by My Client, in any manner, whatsoever. Any person or Party acting on the premise of the said representations shall be acting at their own risk and consequence. Sd/- SIMRAN JOY SINGH Advocate Enrl. No. D/2421/2020

I, Divyanshi w/o Deepak Khandelwal R/o RZ-J-12/261, West Sagarpur, Delhi-110046 have changed my name to DIVYANSHI KHANDELWAL 0040736867-2

I, Deepak S/O Om Prakash R/o RZ-J-12/261, West Sagarpur, Delhi-110046 have changed my name to DEEPAK KHANDELWAL 0040736867-1

I, Chandni Chawla w/o Priyalochan Bhardwaj R/o 802, Kanchnjuga Apartment, Vasundhara, Kaushambi, Ghaziabad, UP-201012 have changed my name to CHANDNI BHARDWAJ 0040736867-5

I, Bijender Kumar S/o Nand Kishor R/o Village Palwali, Palwali (138), Faridabad, Haryana-121002 have changed my name to Bijender sharma 0070911246-1

I, Arushi Goel D/o Manoj Kumar R/o T4 302 Unitech Heights Ch-3, Greater Noida U.P. have changed my name to Aarushi Goel for all future purposes. 0070911262-1

I, Arpita Das R/o A48/18, DLF Phase-1, Gurugram, Haryana-122002 have changed my minor son's name from AHAHAN GULATI to AHAHAN MAHESHWARI for all purposes. 0070911258-1

I, Dhruv Puri, S/o Rakesh Kumar Puri, R/o K-408, Prateek Laurel, Sec-120, Noida, G.B. Nagar, UP-201301, have changed my name, to Dhruv Puri, for all future purposes. 0040736937-3

I, Atul Miglani S/o Sh. Shanu Ram Miglani R/o Flat No.255, Pocket-A-4, Konark Apartments, Kalkaji Extn., South Delhi, Delhi-110019 have changed my name to Atul Kumar Kapoor for all purposes. 0040736851-1

I, Arti, Arti Vashist, Arti Bashisht, w/o Davinder Kumar Sharma, R/O WZ-588, Possangri Pur, Janakpuri New Delhi-110058, have changed my name to Arti Sharma, for all, future purposes. 0040736929-1

I, Anuj Sonwane S/o Sh. Rajesh Sonwane R/O A-70, Gali No.19, Jain Road, Bhagwati Garden Extension, Uttam Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi-110059 have changed my name to Anuj Kumar Sonwane for all purposes. 0040736851-2

I, ASHOK KUMAR MAKKAR S/O CHHABIL DASS MAKKAR O-155, BHERA ENCLAVE, PASCHIM VIHAR, DELHI-110087, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ASHOK MAKKAR. 0040736943-2

I, TARANJEET S WADHWA, S/O PARAM JEET SINGH, R/O J-86, RAJOURI GARDEN, TAGORE GARDEN, WEST DELHI-110027, have changed my name to TARAN JEET SINGH for all future purposes. 0070911220-1

I, Shamim Ali Rizvi S/o Zulfiqar Ali R/o 7200, Beri Wala Bagh, Pulganangas Aazad Market, Delhi-6, have changed my name to Shamim Ali for all future purposes. 0040736920-1

I, Rashmi W/o Kovid Bhatnagar R/o 247, B-5, Vivekanand Apartments, Sector 8, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Rashmi Bhatnagar for all future purposes. 0040736869-2

I, Rashmi W/o Kovid Bhatnagar R/o 247, B-5, Vivekanand Apartments, Sector 8, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Rashmi Bhatnagar for all future purposes. 0040736869-1

I, Rakesh Kumar S/o Chand Ram R/o Bhatgaon Dogran (197), Sonipat, Haryana-131022 have changed my name to Rakesh Dahiya 0070911252-1

I, Pothumudi Ravindra Murthy S/o Subba Rao Pothumudi R/o 7-2-1669, UD-706, Lodha Casaparadiso, Sanathnagar, Hyderabad, Telangana-500018, have changed my minor son's name from Pothumudi Shlok aged 17 years to Hrehan Ravindraa forever 0040736867-4

I, Karuna Narula w/o Rajat Sachdeva R/o 206, Sriram Nagar, Shahdra, Delhi-110032 have changed my name to KARUNA SACHDEVA 0040736867-4

I, Jambkar Manisha Wamanrao W/o, Patil Hari Shamrao R/o Flat No H-10, Vidyaagan School, Dulehra, Bulandshahr, UP 203202 have changed my name to Manisha Hari Patil for all purposes. 0040736936-2

I, Jambkar Manisha Wamanrao W/o, Patil Hari Shamrao R/o Flat No H-10, Vidyaagan School, Dulehra, Bulandshahr, UP 203202 have changed my name to Manisha Hari Patil for all purposes. 0040736936-1

I, Rakesh Kajla, S/o Sh. Mukhtiar, R/o 67, Bagat Pana, Nangli Sakrawati, New Delhi-110043 declare that my daughter name is wrongly mentioned in Passport as Kanan. Her correct name is Kanan Kajla for all future purposes. 0040736855-1

I, Harish Kumar Sharma S/o Kanhya Lal R/o 1/11045-A, Street No-7C, Subash Park, Naveen Shadara, Delhi-110032 have changed my name to Harish Sharma 0070911243-1

I, Gaurav Kumar Sharma R/o. G-150/F-3, Dilshad Colony, Jhilmil East Delhi-110095 have changed my daughter name from Tansi Sharma to Aadhya Sharma for all future purposes. 0040736860-1

I, Divyanshi w/o Deepak Khandelwal R/o RZ-J-12/261, West Sagarpur, Delhi-110046 have changed my name to DIVYANSHI KHANDELWAL 0040736867-2

I, Deepak S/O Om Prakash R/o RZ-J-12/261, West Sagarpur, Delhi-110046 have changed my name to DEEPAK KHANDELWAL 0040736867-1

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Mrs. Satyabai Mohanty have purchased property from Mr. Pankaj Gupta, due to clerical mistake property address has been mentioned as H.No. 21-A, Ekta Vihar, R.K.Puram, Sector-6, Delhi-110022 in previous documents instead of H.No. 22, Ekta Vihar, R.K.Puram, Sector 6, Delhi 110022 which is actual address. If some have noticed then contact me on or before one month. Sd/- RAMZAN AHMAD ANSARI Advocate Ch. No. 94, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi-110001

I, Divyanshi w/o Deepak Khandelwal R/o RZ-J-12/261, West Sagarpur, Delhi-110046 have changed my name to DIVYANSHI KHANDELWAL 0040736867-2

I, Deepak S/O Om Prakash R/o RZ-J-12/261, West Sagarpur, Delhi-110046 have changed my name to DEEPAK KHANDELWAL 0040736867-1

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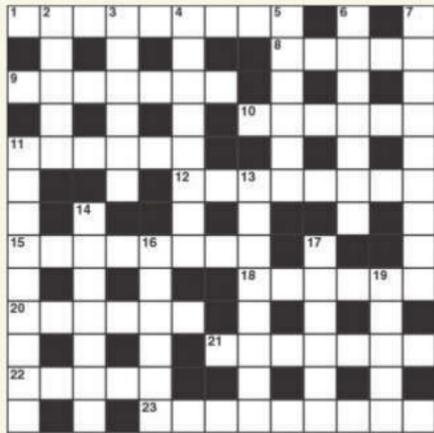
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CROSSWORD 5409



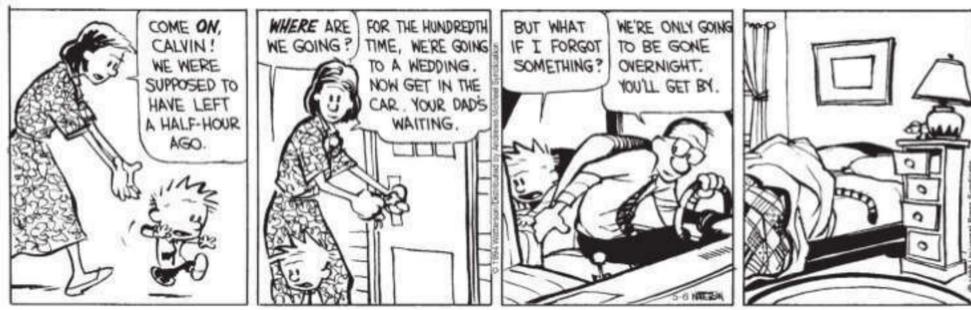
- ACROSS**
- Charges that are round sums of course (5,4)
 - Run off to match in secret (5)
 - Time is pressing (7)
 - Men guarding embattled sector (6)
 - A sweep makes little money in Ghana (6)
 - He'll be only a second (6-2)
 - Complete gathering of men for a board meeting (5,3)
 - It's natural to find a pub, having had a meal (6)
 - Articles married people may stand for (6)
 - Ruled out of order but still patient (7)
 - The strain of mourning (5)
 - Gave out rapidly as the drunk did? (6,3)
- DOWN**
- Move freely over the mountains (5)
 - Good reputation to consider (6)
 - Cultural pursuits impose a penalty on skills (4,4)
 - Time may be the main issue (6)
 - Passes around our flags (7)
 - Many members naturally support it (9)
 - Fish and chips cooked with lard (9)
 - Circulate Latin on a countrywide basis (8)
 - A long time to cry about a change of tune (7)
 - A sticker for the traditional method of roasting (6)
 - Inserted and put in face up (6)
 - A quiet removal man? (5)

Solutions Crossword 5408 Across: 1 Schools, 4 Bread, 7 Ivan, 8 Jacobean, 10 Nightshade, 12 Realms, 13 Hoorary, 15 Tabernacle, 18 Antibody, 19 Open, 20 Steam, 21 Pirates Down: 1 Scion, 2 Headgear, 3 Swathe, 4 Bloodhound, 5 Even, 6 Dynasty, 9 Stamp album, 11 Crackpot, 12 Reveals, 14 Held up, 16 Eries, 17 Style

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

Resolve to be thyself; and know, that he who finds himself, _____
- Matthew Arnold (5,3,6)

DEEOR **DIOLSS**

ENIIS **IMHMSY**

SOLUTION: ERDIE, NISEL, SOLDS, SHIMMS
Answer: Resolve to be thyself; and know, that he who finds himself, loses his misery.

SUDOKU 5613

Difficulty Level 5s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.



SUDOKU 5612

Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD
(Regd. Office PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)
Corporate Identification Number (CIN): L40109PB2018SC033813
Web site: www.pspcl.in, (Contact Number 9646118754)

Tender Enquiry No.321/HPS/ED-US-426 **Dated: 04.07.2024**

Dy.CE/ Hydrel Projects, PSPCL, Shed A-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala Invites E-Tender for REPAIR OF ONE NO.15 MW PELTON TURBINE RUNNER HAVING SR. NO. 03/RE/SHANAN FOR SHANAN, HEP, PSPCL, JOGINDER NAGAR, DISTT. MANDI (H.P.).

For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
NOTE: Corrigendum and Addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

No. 35378/PSPCL C407/24

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Dy CE (TMC) Line JHS acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tender through E-Tenders with closing date mentioned against each:

E-Tender Notice No.: JHS-TMC-05-2024

Name of Work: RECONDITIONING OF DIFFERENT COMPONENTS USE ON TRACK MACHINES AS PER SCOPE OF WORK

Estimated value (Rs.): 26,38,374.10 **Earnest money (Rs.):** 52800.00

Tender closing date & time: 26.07.2024. **Period of completion:** 24 Month. Tender can be submitted online on date mentioned against each up to 15:00 Hrs. For details description & submission of tender, please see website of Indian Railway www.ireps.gov.in. Detail of Tender notice can also be seen on Notice Board of Dy. CE (TMC) Line Office Jhansi. 1165/24 (ADM)

northcentralrailways www.nctr.indianrailways.gov.in [@northcentralrailway](https://twitter.com/northcentralrailway) [CPRONCR](https://www.facebook.com/CPRONCR)

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL (APS), NEW CANTT, ALLAHABAD
Tele No : 0532-2420772, Email : armyschoolalld@gmail.com

Quotations/Tenders are invited for purchase of Generator Set 125 KVA Silent for APS, New Cantt, Allahabad. For details and downloading tender visit school website armypublicschoolalld.org. Tenders/quotations can also be collected from school on working days from 1100hrs to 1300hrs. Last date for submission of tender is 27 Jul 2024. **PRINCIPAL**

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Chetan Anand Rathore S/o Bhim Rao Rathore, R/o B-1511, 2nd Floor, Identity City, Shastri Nagar, North-West Delhi-52 also at: M/s LT International, Shop No. 17/75, Than Singh Nagar, Anand Parbat, New Rohtak Road, New Delhi-05** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **CC No. 7467/18 U/s 138 NI Act, P.S. DBG Road, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Chetan Anand Rathore** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Chetan Anand Rathore** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Chetan Anand Rathore** of case **CC No. 7467/18 U/s 138 NI Act, P.S. DBG Road, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **05.08.2024**.

By Order
Sh. Nitish Kumar Sharma
Metropolitan Magistrate (NI Act)
Room No. 201, CBA-II
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi
DP/8754/CD/2024(Court Matter)

EVENT—NDIM

Focusing on the future of renewable energy & its pivotal role in creating a sustainable & regenerative world, the initiative aimed to explore advanced renewable energy concepts & developing energy systems that do not merely minimize environmental impact but actively contribute to the restoration of ecological systems. The event brought together faculty, industry experts, & sustainability enthusiasts to engage in thought-provoking discussions & hands-on activities.

CEREMONY — SHARDA UNIVERSITY

Sharda University held a graduation ceremony for the Class of 2023-24. During the program, 400 graduating students from 26 countries were awarded with certificates. YK Gupta, Pro-Chancellor stated "that when students study abroad, they face numerous challenges & learn about the language, culture, & customs of the host country but it is the role of university to take the international students along & help them grow. He extended his best wishes for their bright future.

PATNERSHIP — GNIOT

GNIOT Institute of Management Studies Partners with British School of Language for Enhanced Student Training Greater Noida, recently— GNIOT, GIMS, a prestigious institute has taken a significant step towards enhancing student development. This collaboration aims to provide comprehensive English language training to GIMS students, addressing the challenges they face during placements.

EVENT—RAU'S IAS STUDY CIRCLE

Former Governor of the RBI, Dr. D Subbarao, visited his alma mater, Rau's IAS Study Circle, to deliver a keynote address and engage with our students & faculty. Dr. Subbarao, a distinguished alumnus, has had an illustrious career in public service, including his tenure as the 22nd Governor of the RBI. Dr. Subbarao's visit not only marks a homecoming but also represents the values of excellence & service that Rau's IAS Study Circle strives to instill in its students.

EVENT — AMITY UNIVERSITY

Amity University participated in one of the largest Space Conclaves at the 3rd India Space Congress 24, organized by the SatCom Industry Association India recently. The event was inaugurated by ISRO Chairman Dr. S Somanath, who emphasized the critical role of collaborative efforts in driving the future of space exploration. Amity University, known for its significant contributions to space & allied sciences, had a notable presence at ISC-2024 and showcased its cutting-edge research and innovative products, such as Project Divya Drishti.

MOU—VIT

Vellore Institute of Technology signed a MoU with Nokia to pursue 5G & next generation collaborative research with AI & ML applications. The MoU was signed by Dr. T. Jayabarathi, VIT Registrar & Ms. Ponnai, Director (R&D) Nokia Bangalore University. Experts from Nokia will be part of VIT's Board of Studies, mentor students & faculty with hands-on learning, prototyping & student projects, actively engage with all the relevant departments of VIT.

CORPORATE BRIEFS

EDUCATION

ORIENTATION — JIMS ROHINI, DELHI

JIMS organized an orientation ceremony for the upcoming batch of PGDM programs at Hotel Crowne Plaza. The guests were Prof. Anil D. Sahasrabudhe, Chairman, NBA & NETF Cell, SK Jain, Chairman & MD, IRCTC & Ms. Deepthi Sethi CEO, PRACI, Global Brand & Communications Specialist. A motivation speech was delivered by Simarjeet Singh, a renowned Intl Motivational Speaker.

PROGRAM —ITS DENTAL, GHAZIABAD

Under the aegis of our chairman Dr. R P Chadha & VC, Arpit Chadha, the Dept. of Conservative Dentistry & Endodontics, ITS organized a summer school program in collaboration with IVOCLAR ACADEMY recently for updating the clinical knowledge of UG students. 14 participants from various parts of India were enrolled in this 5 days program mentored by Dr Sachin Deep Singh, Dr. Sonali Taneja & team.

EVENT—JAMIA HAMDARD

Jamia Hamdard organised a public awareness event on the New Criminal Laws in collaboration with Delhi Police recently. The event was organised to generate awareness & highlight salient features of the 3 new criminal laws w.e.f from 1st July, 2024. The event was moderated by Dr. M. A. Sikandar, Registrar. Inspector Mr. Ravindra Kumar Tomar, SHO, Tigri, South Delhi, delivered a speech at the event.

ACHIEVEMENT—JUIT, SOLAN

Ms Vinamrata Sharma, a 2024 pass out student of BTech in Bioinformatics program from the Department of Biotechnology and Bioinformatics, JUIT, Solan, Himachal Pradesh, has been admitted to the prestigious Doctoral Program in Informatics at the School of Informatics, Computing, and Engineering at Indiana University (IU), USA for the academic year 2024. Indiana University's School of Informatics, Computing, & Engineering is renowned for its world-class faculty and highly ranked academic programs, making it one of the top choices for aspiring scholars in the field of informatics.

APPOINTMENT — JAMIA HAMDARD

Jamia Hamdard is happy to announce that Dr. Akhtar Parvez has been appointed as University Librarian of Jamia Hamdard (Deemed to be University), New Delhi. Dr. Parvez holds Ph.D. from the DU. Prior to joining Jamia Hamdard, he worked as University Librarian, Maulana Azad National Urdu University; & Librarian of the prestigious IIM Indore. With a remarkable professional tenure spanning approximately 34 yrs, he has accumulated diverse experience in both govt. & private sectors. His dedication to the field is evident in his 29-year-long service in the capacity of Librarian.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Mobin Khan S/o Sh. Islam Khan, R/o- H. No. 790, Ward No. 31, Housing Board Colony, Sec-02, Palwal, Haryana** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case registered vide **FIR No. 1319/2022 U/s 279/304A PS Nihal Vihar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused **Mobin Khan** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Mobin Khan** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Mobin Khan** of case **FIR No. 1319/2022 U/s 279/304A PS Nihal Vihar, Delhi** is required to appear before this court (or before me) to answer the complaint on or before the day of **6.08.2024**.

By Order,
Sh. Schin Gupta
Judge, Motor Accident Claim
Room No. 407, Extension Block
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi.
DP/8681/OD/2024 (Court Matter)

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that this woman (depicted in the photo) **Named: Swati D/o: Ashok Kumar R/o: A-3/478, Nand Nagri, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 26.06.2024 at 11:00 a.m. from her home. In this regard a case vide **DD No.80-A, Dated 27.06.2024** has been registered at **PS-Nand Nagri, Delhi**.

Her Physical description is as under:-
Sex: Female, **Age:** 21 Years, **Height:** 4'7", **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** White print colour suit, white colour salwar & black colour sandal.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing woman but no clue has come to light so far.

If anyone having any information about this person please inform undersigned.

SHO
PS- Nand Nagri, Delhi
Ph No: 011-22583307, 22585985, 8750870733
DP/8467/NE/2024

BRIEFLY

Hardik didn't deserve what he went through: Krunal



New Delhi: All-rounder Krunal Pandya has shared a heartfelt post lauding his younger brother Hardik's performance in India's T20 World Cup win in the Caribbean. Hardik was booed and jeered at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai during the IPL 2024 season after he moved back to Mumbai Indians. After spending two years as captain with the Gujarat Titans, Hardik replaced Rohit Sharma as MI skipper last December. "It's almost been a decade since Hardik and I started playing professional cricket. And the last few days have been like a fairy tale that we've dreamt off. Like every countryman I've lived this through our team's heroics and I couldn't be more emotional with my brother being at the heart of it," wrote Krunal. "The last six months have been the toughest for Hardik. He simply didn't deserve what he went through, and as a brother, I felt very, very bad for him." **ENS**

BREAKFAST WITH PM

Rohit coaxed into dancing before picking up trophy

New Delhi: India's T20 World Cup winning captain Rohit Sharma, during a breakfast hosted by prime minister Narendra Modi, revealed who suggested to him to dance as he went to receive the trophy. "We had been waiting for this for so long. The players suggested just don't walk up to the stage in a usual way and attempt something different," Rohit said. The prime minister then asked whose idea was it. "It was idea of (Yuzvendra) Chahal and Kuldeep (Yadav)," Rohit said. Modi later asked Kuldeep how he got the courage to ask his captain to do such a thing. "But he (Rohit) did not do the way I told him to do," Kuldeep said. **ENS**

Modi says he told doctors to treat Pant abroad if required

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi had called up Rishabh Pant's mother when the wicketkeeper was recuperating after a car crash and had told doctors to treat him abroad if needed. During an interaction with the T20 World Cup-winning cricketers on Thursday, the PM said: "Your journey of recovery was difficult... First I had discussed with the doctors and took their opinion before speaking to your mother. I told them if he (Pant) needs treatment outside India, please take him and do that." **ENS**

INTERVIEW: ARSHDEEP SINGH

'Before final, I had the best sleep of my life, woke up fresh... no sleepless nights'

PRATYUSH RAJ
JULY 5

ARSHDEEP SINGH bowled India's 19th over in their famous T20 World Cup victory and kept things tight, conceding just 4 runs to strangle the South Africans. In a freewheeling chat with *The Indian Express*, the lanky Punjab bowler talks about keeping an unflappable temperament at the crunch, choosing his variations and scribbling poetry and taking to photography to unwind from pressures of cricket. *Excerpts.*

Were you able to catch some sleep after last night's celebrations in Mumbai?

I slept really well. We had hardly slept after we won the T20 World Cup

Could you sleep well before the final?

Before the final, I had the best sleep of my life. I woke up fresh. There were no sleepless nights.

What about nerves during the final?

There was nothing. In the team meeting, Rohit bhai specifically said that we treat it like any other match. "Yes the occasion is big but we will treat it like a normal day. Do your routines". That was the clear message.

The welcome you guys got in Mumbai... has it sunk in yet?

After we won there was not much of a crowd in Barbados. But when we watched videos on social media and saw the reactions from the different cities... people were dancing on the streets. We knew that we would receive a warm welcome when we returned to India but never imagined that it would be at this scale. When I looked down from the bus, people didn't have place to stand. It was a surreal feeling. I am glad we gave the country so much joy.

Everyone was crying after Hardik Pandya bowled the last ball in the final. Did you cry?

I was very happy. In the IPL, I have played so many nerve-wracking matches for Punjab Kings that I don't have any emotions left. *Mai koshish kar raha tha but yaar aansu nikle nahi* (I tried hard but just was not able to cry). I watched the legends of the game... Rohit bhai, Virat bhai, who have achieved so much... they just couldn't control their emotions. I was happy for them. But I don't know why I didn't shed a tear.

When David Miller hit that ball in the air, did it feel like the World Cup had gotten away from India?

My heart was pounding. I was standing at sweeper cover. I got the perfect side angle view. When Miller connected, I thought it would go the distance but like in a movie it started to dip. The way Surya bhai (Suryakumar Yadav) judged the catch... As he said in the post-match interviews he just wanted to save the six, but then he realised that he had the chance to take that catch. He took that risk, very brave of him.

You love to write poetry. Did you write after the final or during the tournament?

I haven't got the chance yet. But whenever I get time, I will definitely put down my emotions on paper. This feeling of winning



the World Cup, the reception we got... I don't think I would be able to do justice. I just love to write down whatever thoughts come to my mind. Writing poetry helps me take a break from cricket.

Your father had said that you laughed on reading the comments by trolls after that Asia Cup loss to Pakistan. Did you really laugh?

I did. When I am in stress, I just sleep. Sleeping is the best medicine, it solves all problems for me. Also I don't care much about people's views. For me what matters is what my family thinks and what my teammates say.

You have played 52 T20Is for India. Do you see yourself as a T20 specialist or do you want to play Test cricket as well?

Arshdeep Singh 100 per cent Test cricket *khelna chahta hai* (I want to play Test cricket). As a cricketer, when you start, you wear the whites and play with the red ball. You ask any cricketer, they will tell you wearing the Test whites and playing is a dream. That's the most difficult format.

Recently when I played for India A, wearing the whites gave me a different feeling. It's true joy. My ultimate aim is to play Test cricket for India.

In this World Cup, it seemed you knew when to bowl which kind of ball. How did that happen?

I have played enough cricket to understand what a match situation demands. You learn from experience. It doesn't matter how much you plan, you prepare but once you start playing you get to know your game better. You must have options but at the same time you must also know what variation to bowl and what will be more effective in say the Powerplay or between overs 6 and 15 and in the death overs.

And when you have Jassi bhai (Jasprit Bumrah) with you it makes your life easy. His perspective on bowling helps a lot. If the ball is reversing on certain pitches, you must hit the good length... when yorkers will be more effective, when slower ones should be bowled. But instead of overdoing it, we must keep things simple. In the entire World Cup, we have seen that run-scoring was not that easy. But at the same time to keep the batsmen in check, you have to be disciplined and execute plans.

In the IPL you bowled more yorkers than Bumrah. Now, bowling alongside him, you seem to be picking the moments to slip in the yorkers. Any reasons behind it?

Arshdeep Singh 100 per cent Test cricket *khelna chahta hai* (I want to play Test cricket)... You ask any cricketer, they will tell you wearing the Test whites is a dream.

I have started playing table tennis. I enjoy it. Photography is a new thing that I have started. I have bought a Polaroid camera although it has gone out of fashion.

The yorker has become like a cliché nowadays. In New York, you didn't have to bowl yorkers. Hitting the length was creating problems for the batsmen. It has become a norm that you must bowl yorkers in the death overs but I think you can't bowl yorkers on every pitch. When bowling in the death, you have to adapt. On certain pitches, you might end up bowling 20 slower ones out of the 24 deliveries. In the IPL, where you are playing on flat wickets, bowling a yorker is the only option. When Jassi bhai is not overdoing the yorker, it's because he knows he might end up conceding runs. In T20 bowling you can't be rigid. You need to keep an open mind as well.

We saw you doing the bhangra with Virat Kohli after the final but why didn't Jasprit Bumrah join you guys?

It's very rare to see Jassi bhai's emotion. But after the win, he was also very emotional. His family was with him. He is not expressive when you compare him with a typical Punjabi. He expressed a lot after the win and it was good to see. Usually he has a straight face whether he takes a wicket or delivers yorkers. It was different to see him expressing his emotions.

The bond with Virat bhai has always been great. Same Punjabi culture, he also loves to shake his leg. The DJ was playing a perfect song (I can't remember it now), the timing was perfect and we started doing *bhangra*.

Did you have any discussion with Bumrah on playing Test cricket?

Whenever you talk to Jassi bhai he will tell you how much he enjoys bowling in Test cricket. At the breakfast table, he would keep telling me that Arsh dhyan mein rakh tere ko *teeno formats khelna hai* (Keep it in your mind that you must play all three formats). He says when you do well in the Test cricket, people remember you and rate you more highly. Whenever we talk, he shares his input on bowling with the red ball.

In red ball you have to stick to one length, you have to be relentless and should not think about the rewards because sometimes a jaffa will miss the off-stump, there will be oohs and aahs behind the stumps but the only thing you can do is walk back to your bowling mark. In one spell, you can end up

taking five or six wickets but at the same time, you can go a day without taking a wicket. It tests your body and mind. I am looking forward to sharing the new ball with him in Test cricket as well.

Wasim Akram has said that you have got a perfect length to bowl in Test cricket. Have you ever had the chance to talk to him?

In the 2022 Asia Cup, he told me that my release point is good and that the ball is leaving my hand beautifully. Recently, when I met him in New York, he praised me for my ability to swing the ball both ways. In one of his interviews, he said that I must play red-ball cricket more with the skillset I possess.

How was it to have family watching you bowl and lifting the World Cup?

They keep their eyes shut when I bowl. I don't know why. Who does these things when they are sitting in the stadium? My parents always say that whenever I bowl they close their eyes. I have told them what is the point of coming all this way. How would you get that feeling, what is going on in the match? I respect their superstitions. For them closing their eyes while I am bowling is their contribution. It gives them happiness.

Apart from cricket, and writing poems what's the other hobbies you have?

I have started playing table tennis. I absolutely enjoy it. Photography is a new thing that I have started to like. I have bought a Polaroid camera although it has gone out of fashion but I have started liking it.

What was more difficult? Bowling with the new-ball against Pakistan at the MCG during the 2022 T20 World Cup in front of 100,000 people or the 19th over in the just-concluded final?

The feeling of bowling at MCG was very different. It was my first World Cup. I took a wicket in the first over. Bowling the 19th over was again something unreal. Here the game was on the line. Both were irreplaceable feelings. But this was more special considering it was the World Cup final. I enjoy bowling in touch and go situations. As a player you want to rescue the team. There will be times when you will not be able to. But bowling in these situations gets the best out of me.

It's often said that the 19th over is even more crucial than the 20th in T20 chases. You gave away only four runs. Captain said the conversation with Hardik in the last over was about how to best use the wind. What was the conversation with you?

There was no such talk. Rohit bhai came and said *tu jaisa daalta aya hai World Cup me bas wahi kar* (Bowl the way you have bowled in the World Cup). My idea was to try and bowl dots.

How emotional was Rahul Dravid?

Rahul sir has always been like ice. He keeps writing something in his diary. He keeps a straight face in the tense situations as well. But what I saw after the final... it was like watching a different Rahul Dravid. The way he was screaming with the trophy. I was in disbelief. He has done so much for Indian cricket as a player and now as a coach. This was a long-due reward.

Post World Cup win, India's new T20 era begins

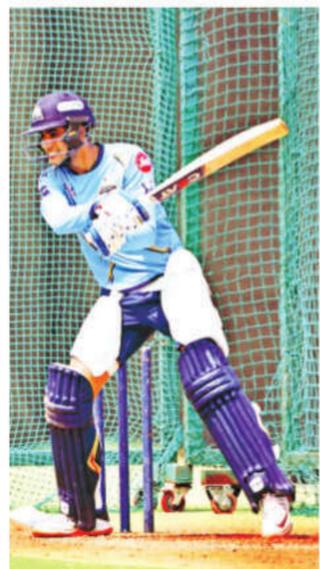
VENKATA KRISHNAB
CHENNAI, JULY 5

THE DUST has settled but the hangover from Bridgetown is still lingering. In Harare, India will take a fresh guard in a format that has just brought them a World Cup. Exactly a week after Rohit Sharma & Co lifted the title, at the Harare Sports Club India are officially entering a period of transition with an eye on the next T20 World Cup to be played at home and in Sri Lanka.

While much of their roadmap will be clear only after a new head coach takes over, India's immediate focus is very much on Test cricket, especially the tour of Australia later this year. The Indian Express understands that keeping the gruelling schedule ahead, which will see them play 10 Tests between September to January, India are prepared to try out young guns in the T20Is and ODIs even for the tour of Sri Lanka that follows soon after the Zimbabwe trip.

Which means, unless the new head coach wants a full-strength squad, the selectors are planning to rest all the seniors till the home season which begins in the third week of September. As things stand, the plan for India is to have the seniors fully fit and ready in the second week of September, just in time for a camp they are scheduled to have in Chennai ahead of the Bangladesh series.

And it is the T20Is that India are planning to use to develop a squad that can serve them well in white-ball cricket. For a change there isn't any cloud of uncertainty around the seniors any more, which means they can plan without going back and forth. Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja have all moved on. And here they are the likes of



Shubman Gill will captain India during the T20 series against Zimbabwe. File

Yashasvi Jaiswal, Sanju Samson (scheduled to link up with the squad in Zimbabwe after the first two T20Is), Rinku Singh, Abhishek Sharma, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Washington Sundar, Riyan Parag in who India believe they can take their new-found attacking approach even further. Shubman Gill is leading the side here, but all things point out to Hardik

However, having missed out on the T20 World Cup spot, with Jaiswal and Abhishek in the mix, Gill knows more than the runs it is the intent that would keep him in the frame.

Pandya taking over the reins going forward.

Though India have traditionally sent second-string squads for their off-season tour of Zimbabwe, the core of the team in Harare is expected to form the nucleus of the T20 side going forward. Like it has been the case before, at present the squad in Zimbabwe is again top-heavy with Jaiswal, Gill, Gaikwad and Abhishek – all openers – expected to bat out of position. "Rohit bhai and Virat bhai opened at the World Cup. I'm also an opener in the format. I would like to continue to open the batting in T20s," Gill said.

However, having missed out on the T20 World Cup spot, with Jaiswal and Abhishek in the mix, Gill knows more than the runs it is the intent that would keep him in the frame. But for the time being, he can breathe easy as there is still plenty of time for culling as rotating players seem to be the focus point now. For the record, India have a whopping 30 T20Is and two IPLs to figure out the ideal resources before the next T20 World Cup in 2026.

Focus on all-rounders

Right through the previous T20 cycle where they played three T20 World Cups in the space of four years, thanks to the one-dimensional batsmen in the line-up, India often struggled for the balance of the squad.

Even in their victorious campaign, two of their all-rounders – Hardik Pandya and Axar Patel – played instrumental roles and going forward it is one aspect India's selectors are keen on developing.

Abhishek's inclusion also shows India are going to take the intent formula put in place by Rohit to the next level. Right through the IPL, the opening batsman from Punjab played a brand of cricket which India are rarely accustomed to. And with the likes of Gill and Gaikwad more comfortable batting in a slightly lower gear, Abhishek is a player India's selectors believe will have a huge role to play in sustaining the momentum they have gained.

As for Washington, there is a feeling that India didn't make full use of him in the last three years.

And there is also a reason why the team management made a last-minute request to include him in the World Cup squad as there are not many off-spinners in the domestic circuit. It meant, India had to take a few risks especially when holding back their left-arm spinners. Those moves paid off, but having a rounded-squad is still top of their priority with Ravi Bishnoi around as a leg-spinner.

With role-specific players acing their job at the T20 World Cup, the inclusion of Parag and Jurel fits the bill as well.

Having aced their roles as lower middle-order batsmen in the IPL with aplomb, both also happen to be the multi-dimensional players who can help in striking the balance. As a new era begins, India has plenty of cards to choose from. How well they use them remains the big question.

India versus Zimbabwe, 1st T20 International, Live on Sony Sports Network, 4:30 pm onwards

India pay price for fielding lapses as Brits powers SA

VINAYAKK MOHANARANGAN
CHENNAI, JULY 5

LAURA WOLVAARDT was dropped on 22, she went on to make 33. Marizanne Kapp was put down on 15, she went on to score a superb 57. Tazmin Brits was given a reprieve on 50. She top-scored on the night – her career-best too – to score 81 and was only dismissed off the last ball of South Africa's innings as they went on to post 189/4.

The easiest way to restrict a team on a good batting wicket is to keep taking regular wickets, but India failed to capitalise on their chances. In the end, Harmanpreet Kaur and Co fell 12 runs short in the run-chase in Chennai in the first T20I. Perhaps there are bones to pick about their batting too, but they lost the match on the field earlier in the night.

Take nothing away from Brits though. The former javelin thrower sent a few spheres soaring into the night sky after struggling to put the ball to bat early in the innings. She was 0 off 6 at one point, then 1 off 11, but finished on 81 off 56 balls. Once she got going, she made India pay. Brits is known to be a slow starter but her power game kicks in when she gets her eye in. She can be a bit of an enigma and this stat sums it up: Brits finished the powerplay with a strike rate of 68, she scored at a strike rate of 175 in the last 14 overs.

Shreyanka Patil, one of the better fielders in the side, dropped Wolvaardt at short third after coming on as a substitute. Kapp's reprieve was not the easiest of chances, but having made the ground superbly from long off, Smriti Mandhana would feel she should have held on. And then came perhaps the most de-



Captain Harmanpreet Kaur consoles Jemimah Rodrigues. PTI

cisive drop, as Richa Ghosh completely misjudged a skier, tried diving to make up lost ground but ended up injuring herself in the process and didn't play any further part on the night. The fielding issues have followed the Indian women regularly but the ODIs and Tests showed definite improvement, something Anmol Muzumdar has been insisting on as the head coach. The think-tank will hope that it was just a one-off bad night.

With the bat, Smriti Mandhana was once again batting like a dream, but the red-hot opener fell for 48 off 30 balls after giving her side a solid start. But there was a lull in the middle overs that cost them. The finishing kick, however, didn't quite come in time on a humid night.

BRIEF SCORES: South Africa 189/4 in 20 overs (Tazmin Brits 81, Marizanne Kapp 57; Pooja Vastrakar 2/23) bt India 177/4 in 20 overs (Jemimah Rodrigues 53, Smriti Mandhana 47) by 12 runs.

Merino heads Spain into semis as hosts Germany knocked out

REUTERS
JULY 5

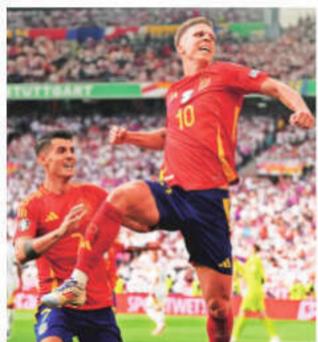
A MIKEL Merino goal in the last moments of extra time gave Spain a dramatic 2-1 win over hosts Germany in an enthralling Euro 2024 quarter-final clash on Friday between the tournament's two most successful nations.

The eagerly anticipated match hit fever pitch as the teams slugged it out at a raucous Stuttgart Arena filled by a majority of German fans who were left heartbroken after the hosts' gritty display fell short by the narrowest of margins.

Spain were the better side for the first hour and wasted several opportunities before Dani Olmo gave them a deserved lead six minutes after the break, drilling home a first-time shot into the bottom corner.

Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann made five substitutions in a desperate attempt to find the equaliser which paid dividends in the 89th minute as substitute Florian Wirtz, the Bundesliga's player of the year for champions Bayer Leverkusen, hammered home a shot from Joshua Kimmich's header to force extra time.

The game was into the 119th minute and looked set for a penalty shootout when substitute Merino rose to head home the winning goal from Olmo's cross.



Spain's Dani Olmo (right) celebrates after scoring his team's opening goal against Germany. Reuters

Alcaraz stretched

Defending champion survives scare against Tiafoe to enter fourth round

ASSOCIATED PRESS
JULY 5

CARLOS ALCARAZ found himself pushed to a Grand Slam fifth set again, this time at Wimbledon, this time against good pal Frances Tiafoe. And as he usually does under such circumstances, no matter how much trouble he might have been in, Alcaraz surged to the finish.

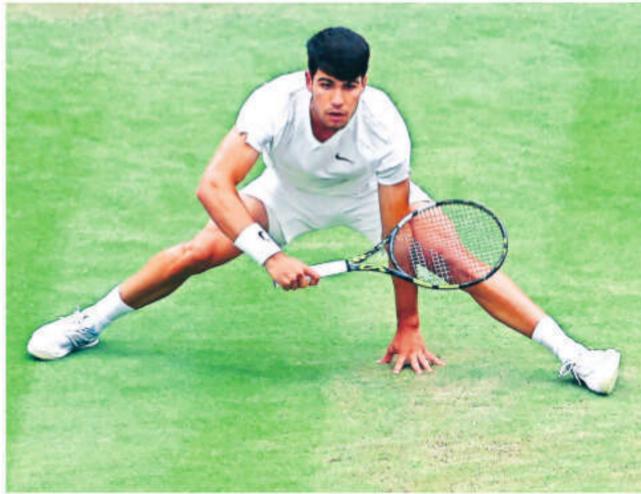
Alcaraz avoided a surprising exit and got past Tiafoe 5-7, 6-2, 4-6, 7-6 (2), 6-2 on Friday to reach Wimbledon's fourth round in an entertaining match filled with moments of brilliance and a series of momentum swings across its 3 hours, 50 minutes.

"It's always a big challenge playing against Frances. As I've said many, many times, he's a really talented player. Really tough to face. And he showed it once again," Alcaraz said. "It was really, really difficult for me to adapt my game, to find solutions, to try to put him in trouble. But really happy to do it at the end." In front of a Centre Court crowd that included Kansas City Chiefs star quarterback Patrick Mahomes and Oscar-winning actor Dustin Hoffman, and under a closed retractable roof that amplified the thuds of rackets-on-balls, grunts and cheers, the third-seeded Alcaraz was outplayed for stretches by No. 29 Tiafoe.

But Alcaraz was better at the business end and improved to 12-1 in his nascent career in fifth sets — including victories in the semifinals and final at the French Open after being down 2-1 in sets en route to the title there last month. Tiafoe fell to 6-13 in five-setters.

Tiafoe was unable to pull out what would have been a surprising victory for someone who arrived at Wimbledon with a sprained ligament in his right knee and a losing record this season.

Sure came close, though.



Carlos Alcaraz returns against Frances Tiafoe during their intense encounter on Friday. Reuters

KEY RESULTS (RD 3)

Men's Singles

12-Tommy Paul bt 33-Alexander Bublik 6-3, 6-4, 6-2; 10-Grigor Dimitrov bt Gael Monfils 6-3, 6-4, 6-3; 3-Carlos Alcaraz bt 29-Frances Tiafoe 5-7, 6-2, 4-6, 7-6 (2), 6-2.

Women's Singles

7-Jasmine Paolini bt Bianca Andreescu 7-6 (4), 6-1; 19-Emma Navarro bt Diana Shnaider 2-6, 6-3, 6-4; 12-Madison Keys bt 18-Marta Kostyuk 6-4, 6-3; 2-Coco Gauff bt Sonay Kartal 6-4, 6-0

in the week — and 2017 U.S. Open runner-up Madison Keys in the women's bracket, and No. 10 Grigor Dimitrov and No. 12 Tommy Paul in the men's.

Most of the attention was on Alcaraz and Tiafoe, two known for providing a show. Alcaraz delivered on-the-run, back-to-the-net 'tweeners and pointed to his ear to ask spectators for more noise; Tiafoe interacted with the fans, too, waving to them to get louder.

Messi misses but Martinez saves Argentina in penalties

REUTERS
JULY 5

ARGENTINA BEAT Ecuador 4-2 on penalties to move into the semi-finals of the Copa America on Thursday after goalkeeper Emi Martinez made two saves in the shootout following a 1-1 draw in regulation time.

Lisandro Martinez's opener for Argentina was cancelled out by Kevin Rodriguez in stoppage time, and with no extra time at the Copa America apart from the final the match went straight to penalties.

Lionel Messi clipped the crossbar with Argentina's first effort in the shootout but Martinez saved from Angel Mena and Alan Minda as the defending champions moved into a semi-final match-up against either Venezuela or Canada.

"In penalties, the team has blind confidence in its goalkeeper and that is fundamental," Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni said. "Even after Leo's miss and with all that means for the team, it's very important that our goalkeeper came up clutch.

"I think it's not enjoyable when you win in this way. Of course, we are happy, but I didn't enjoy this victory."

Messi started the game despite being an injury doubt after missing their final group match against Peru due to a hamstring issue, and the Argentina captain broke the record for most minutes played in the tournament's history. Argentina dominated possession early on but it was Ecuador who created the first chance when Jeremy Sarmiento found space to shoot from a tight angle and forced Martinez into a

SHOOTOUT

ARGENTINA	ECUADOR
✗ Messi	✗ Mena
✓ Alvarez	✗ Minda
✓ Mac Allister	✓ Yeboah
✓ Montiel	✓ Caicedo
✓ Otamendi	

Argentina won 4-2 on penalties. Full time score: 1-1

save. But as Argentina's fans found their voice their team took the lead in the 35th minute when Alexis Mac Allister's headed flick-on found Martinez at the far post and the defender nodded home his first international goal.

Ecuador turned up the pressure in the second half and it paid off at a corner on the hour mark when the cross was deflected onto Rodrigo De Paul's hand and the referee immediately pointed to the spot.

Post in the way

Skipper Enner Valencia stepped up and sent Martinez the wrong way but Ecuador's top scorer saw his effort come off the post before Argentina defender Cristian Romero blocked a shot from the rebound.

Martinez turned to the crowd and roared in delight with his arms raised and the miss took the wind out of Ecuador's sails.

"He's the captain and he took the penalty because he was feeling confident enough, but he missed. That happens in football," Ecuador coach Felix Sanchez said.



Argentina's Emiliano Martinez saves a penalty during the shootouts. AP

Jude awakening: How Bellingham became England football's poster boy

RAHUL PANDEY
JULY 5

ON ITV'S This Morning show, a guest didn't hold back when the possibility of Jude Bellingham being banned for England's quarter-finals against Switzerland was discussed.

"UEFA's headquarters are in Switzerland. If they ban Jude, we burn the place to the ground," the guest fumed. His comment captured the mood of the nation days before the clash on Saturday night, especially about their undisputed star.

If not for the 21-year-old's splendid, 95th-minute bicycle kick in the Round of 16 clash against Slovakia, a sub-par England would have been on the flight back home. The goal, his celebration, and the comeback it sparked only added to the hype around Bellingham.

He may have showcased his class under the bright lights on a big Euros stage, but the Real Madrid star's journey began on the humble grounds of Birmingham. And his career was shaped in the early years by Paul Robinson, who was Birmingham City's U-21 when Bellingham played there.

Robinson sets the mood by narrating a story that underlines Bellingham's class. It's of his jersey number at the club — 22. "His jersey number came from adding all the positions he could play on the field," Robinson tells The Indian Express. "He could play as a holding midfielder (4), get control of the ball in attacking midfield (8), as well as a second striker (10)."

The capacity to be an all-rounder on the pitch comes from an astonishing game IQ that Bellingham had even as a teenager. But Robinson, a former Birmingham City player, remembers almost shrugging his shoulders when he first heard the name Jude Bellingham.

"I was still playing at the time. He was 11 when I first heard about him. At such a young age, you don't think too much about it. I never made a big thing of it."

It wasn't until Robinson transitioned to coaching the Birmingham academy kids and saw Bellingham train that he realised what the fuss was all about around the young boy.

"Straightaway, I was blown. I was more blown away with his intelligence of the game. The know-how of it. His understanding of formations, where he needed to be, was astonishing," he says. "Again, he was still developing, there were still going to be a lot of mistakes, a lot of tidying up that we were going to work on but his mentality and understanding of football was something I hadn't seen in a kid at that age. His mindset was: I want to be the best."

An admirable trait for a teenager, Robinson believes, was Bellingham's maturity to admit his shortcomings from an early age and nullify them as soon as possible. One



A former Coach reveals that Jude Bellingham's steeliness comes from the fact that as a kid, he watched his dad get kicked all over the place. Reuters

He may have showcased his class under the bright lights on a big Euros stage, but the Real Madrid star's journey began on the humble grounds of Birmingham.

such aspect of his game was heading.

Bellingham may have scored from a powerful header in England's Euros opener against Serbia. From the timing of his run to the leap and the finish, everything looked picture-perfect.

But it wasn't something that came naturally to him earlier. "Jude as a kid, was technically very poor at heading. We worked on that: me crossing the ball in, getting his timing to attack the ball, and trying to nail that contact."

'Steely side from his father'

While Bellingham the goal-scorer and chance-creator is given his due, especially from his freshman year at Real Madrid, the uglier side of his play is often disregarded.

So far in the Euros, he has drawn nine fouls in four games — more than Cristiano Ronaldo, Kylian Mbappe, and his captain Harry Kane. It's an accurate marker to judge how highly the opposition regards Bellingham. Despite the tackles flying in thick and fast against him, Bellingham has largely remained unfazed.

Robinson believes the 21-year-old gets his steely side from his father, Mark Bellingham. A retired police sergeant, Bellingham Sr is a well-known name in

England's non-league football.

Per some estimates, Mark scored more than 700 goals in what was a stellar semi-professional career. One that mentally prepared his elder son for his professional career. "The level at which Mark played, it meant physical football. So Jude's been around. Growing up as a kid, he has watched his dad get kicked all over the place. So he has developed the same type of mentality: you're going to get kicked, so you have got to get up and get on with it," Robinson explains.

For Bellingham Jr, an early promotion to the U21 team also helped. "When he was 16, he played for our U21s team. He was coming up against more stronger, physical boys. You expect a young lad, who is technically good, getting more fouled at that age. Midfield players don't like it, so they're going to rough you up. Jude has grown in that sort of environment, conditioned to know that people are going to target him, to keep him quiet and out of the game."

While Mark has gifted many traits to its greatest football son, Bellingham is boundlessly adored for what he did for the club, and what he means to the city.

"Jude will always be a Brummie in his roots," says Robinson. "What he's done, coming through the academy, what he did for the football club at the time, the money he earned for the football club. When they needed it, Jude was the one who brought the funds to make sure it was safe and secure to keep going. Will we ever see a lad from Birmingham, who goes down to play for Real Madrid, that's the question we have to ask."

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