

स्लीमहाईड 5 साल
स्वच्छता बढ़ाओ, तंदुरुस्ती बढ़े

स्लीमहाईड फ्लश टैंक कहाँ..?

बड़ी तोड़फोड़ + दीवार को लीकेज से बचायें

जगह बचाये

MUMBAI VISIT: INAUGURATES PROJECTS WORTH OVER ₹29,000 CR

PM Modi hits back at Opp: More jobs as pace of infra projects stepped up

PM: Aim to make state a financial powerhouse of world, Mumbai fintech capital

NAYONIKA BOSE
MUMBAI, JULY 13

COUNTERING THE Opposition's attack on rising unemployment, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who inaugurated projects worth over Rs 29,000 crore in Mumbai on Saturday, said that every infrastructure project leads to job creation, and the increased pace of infrastructure development has led to increased employment generation.

This was Modi's first visit to the city since his re-election last



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde, Governor Ramesh Bais and Deputy CMs Devendra Fadnis and Ajit Pawar in Mumbai on Saturday. Sankhadeep Banerjee

month. Among other projects, he laid the foundation stone for two underground twin tunnel projects.

"With the construction of

every bridge, road or manufacturing of railway coaches, someone gets a job. With the increasing pace of infrastructure development, employment generation is

also increasing, and with higher investment, these opportunities will increase further," he said.

Saying that Maharashtra has propagated cultural, social and

national consciousness in the country, Modi added: "We have to remember that goodwill (sadbhaav) and harmony (sauhard) are intrinsic to the path to prosperity (samruddhi)."

Accusing the Opposition of creating a false narrative, he cited a recent report released by the Reserve Bank of India which said almost 8 crore jobs had been created in the last three-four years.

"With these projects which are worth about Rs 30,000 crore, employment opportunities will also be created in Maharashtra. Only two-three months back, the Central Government gave clearance for Vadavan port. This project, which is close to over Rs 76,000 crore, will create employment opportunities for over 10 lakh people," he said.

"I had said that in the third term of the NDA government, we will work at thrice the pace.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BYPOLLS IN SEVEN STATES

INDIA bloc takes 10 of 13 Assembly seats, BJP gets 2 TMC sweep in Bengal; Bihar seat goes to Independent

ASAD REHMAN
NEW DELHI, JULY 13

IN THE first big electoral battle after the Lok Sabha poll results last month, the INDIA bloc parties, which contested separately in West Bengal and Punjab, gained five seats to win 10 of the 13 Assembly seats across seven states where bypolls were held. The BJP, on the other hand, retained just two of its three seats in West Bengal, while ally JD(U) lost its seat in Bihar to an Independent.

In the bypoll results on Saturday, only one of the three outgoing Independent MLAs who contested as BJP candidates this time, retained his seat in Himachal Pradesh.

The Trinamool Congress (TMC) in West Bengal saw the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

THE WINNERS

CONSTITUENCY	CANDIDATE	VOTESHARE
WEST BENGAL (TMC retains Maniktala, wrests the rest from BJP)		
Raiganj	Krishna Kalyani, TMC	57.97% (+21.39)
Ranaghat Dakshin	Mukut Mani Adhikari, TMC	55.08% (+12.57)
Bagda	Madhuparna Thakur, TMC	55.04% (+10.1)
Maniktala	Supty Pandey, TMC	71.65% (+20.83)
HIMACHAL PRADESH (Seats were with Independents who joined BJP)		
Dehra	Kamlesh Thakur, Cong	57.94% (+26.38)
Hamirpur	Ashish Sharma, BJP	51.23% (+27.98)
Nalagarh	Hardeep Singh Bawa, Cong	46.43% (+19.58)
UTTARAKHAND (Cong retains Badrinath, wrests Manglaur from BSP)		
Badrinath	Lakhapat Singh Butola, Cong	51.93% (+4.05)
Manglaur	Qazi Md. Nizamuddin, Cong	37.91% (+1.41)
BIHAR (Singh was with LJP last time and got 24% votes, wrests seat from JDU)		
Rupauli	Shankar Singh, Ind	39.97%
TAMIL NADU (DMK retains seat)		
Vikravandi	Anniyur Siva, DMK	63.22% (+14.81)
PUNJAB (AAP retains seat)		
Jalandhar West	Mohinder Bhagat, AAP	58.39% (+24.66)
MADHYA PRADESH (Shah retains seat he fought last time from Cong)		
Amarwara	Kamlesh Pratap Shah, BJP	40.84% (+3.54)

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PAGE 5

Reasi attackers paid local cattle trader for logistics, finds probe

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
NEW DELHI, JULY 13

SHORTLY AFTER attacking a bus ferrying pilgrims in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi on June 9, killing nine people, three terrorists from Pakistan gave Rs 5,000 to a local resident for the logistical support he provided, it is learnt. With his help, central agencies have now prepared sketches of two more attackers.

Investigation into the case had been transferred from the Jammu and Kashmir police to the National Investigation Agency, on the directions of the



Nine people were killed in the attack on June 9. File

Ministry of Home Affairs.

On June 20, the J&K police had arrested Hakam Din, a 45-year-old from Rajouri district. He used to be a porter at Mata Vaishno

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

MTNL on the brink of debt default, knocks on Govt door for funds

AANCHAL MAGAZINE & SOUMYARENDRA BARIK
NEW DELHI, JULY 13

STATE-OWNED Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has sought funds from the government since it does not have sufficient funds to pay interest on its debt obligations.

With the date for paying interest on a part of debt due a week later on July 20 and more interest payments to be made in coming months, any further delay may force lenders to invoke the sovereign guarantee accompanying the debt raised by the company.

A section in the government

EXPLAINED Managing long-term debt

ONE OF the options MTNL had to ensure was an asset monetisation plan that would have helped it raise funds. But of the Rs 17,500 crore target fixed in 2019, it has monetised assets to the tune of only Rs 1,500-1,600 crore.

is concerned since most MTNL debt is backed by a sovereign

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INSIDE



AS J&K L-G GETS MORE POWERS, PARTIES CALL IT 'ANTI-DEMOCRATIC'

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Army looking at '360-degree' appraisal with inputs from peers, subordinates

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA
NEW DELHI, JULY 13

SEEKING TO bring in a more comprehensive process to assess the performance of its personnel, the Army is learnt to be considering the "360-degree appraisal" method which would include inputs from peers and subordinates too.

This is likely to be on the lines of the appraisal method learnt to be employed by the central government to assess the performance of civil servants, including officers from the All India Services and other Group A services, for empanelment to the post of joint secretary and above.

Senior officials said the issue was discussed at the Army Commanders' Conference in

May. The Army is learnt to have sought comments from all its Commands on the need for such an appraisal system.

The Army, at present, follows a three-tier hierarchical model for performance appraisal of its personnel. The initiating officer (IO), who is the immediate superior of the person being assessed, writes the Annual Confidential

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

As MP doubles down on cattle smuggling, officials busy with arrests and demolitions

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

ANAND MOHAN SEONI, JULY 13

MADHYA PRADESH has declared 2024 as 'Gauvansh Raksha Varsh' (Bovine Protection Year), doubled down on efforts to confiscate vehicles used in cattle smuggling, tripled the budget for cow protection and directed senior officers in every district to clamp down on cow slaughter.



MP CM Mohan Yadav had directed state officials to take strict action on illegal transportation of cows. Anand Mohan

Since Mohan Yadav took over as Chief Minister six months ago, the BJP government has made evident that cow protection and a crackdown on cattle smuggling are among its top priorities, forcing an already stretched government machinery — the district administration, police and prosecution — to match up to the task.

From January to June this year, police arrested 1,651 people in 731 cases related to illegal cattle transport in the state; the corresponding period last year saw 212 cases and around 400

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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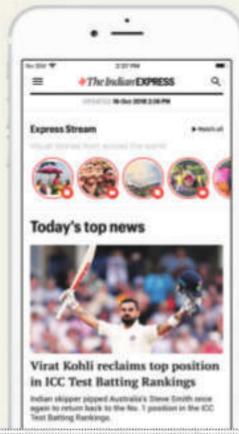
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NOTHING CMF WATCH PRO 2 REVIEW: A FRESH TAKE ON A BUDGET SMARTWATCH

The CMF Watch Pro 2 isn't the smartest fitness tracker on the market, and Nothing doesn't expect it to be. It covers the basics — designed for beginners, not gym enthusiasts and fitness nerds who are looking for deeper statistics and advanced fitness tracking capabilities.

ENTERTAINMENT



INTERVIEW WITH ALI FAZAL

Mirzapur always leaves me with injuries, says actor



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EXPRESS AUDIO

Anti-dam activists detained, production of fruit down, and the NEET 'kingpin'

Two activists in preventive detention, a major decline in Uttarakhand's fruit production, and the NEET UG paper leak kingpin arrested.

FROM PAGE ONE FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

PM Modi hits back at Opp: More jobs as pace of infra projects stepped up

And today, we are watching this happen. Maharashtra has a glorious history, empowered present and dreams of a prosperous future. It has a strong role to play in Viksit Bharat. It has the power of industry, agriculture as well as the finance sector. This power has made Mumbai the financial capital... With this power, I have a goal to make Maharashtra a financial powerhouse of the world and make Mumbai the fintech capital of the world," he said.

Besides creating employment, the projects will improve connectivity in Mumbai and its neighbouring areas, he said. These include the Goregaon Mulund Link Road (GMLR) and the Thane-Borivali Twin Tunnel Project, for which he performed the "bhoomi puja" on Saturday.

The two projects are together valued at nearly Rs 23,000 crore. Pegged at Rs 16,600.40 crore, the 11.8 km-long Thane Borivali Twin Tunnel Project, which is being executed by the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA), is slated to be India's longest and largest urban tunnel. It will reduce the distance between Thane and Borivali to 12 km.

Executed by the BMC, the entire GMLR will be 12.2 km long, while the twin tunnels will measure 4.7 km each. The GMLR tunnel will connect Film City, inside the Aarey Forest in the western suburbs, with Khindi Panda at Bhandup in the eastern suburbs.

Modi also laid the foundation

stones for remodelling of the Kalyan yard, which is pegged at over Rs 800 crore, and construction of the Gati Shakti multi-modal cargo terminal at Turbhe worth Rs 27 crore. He also inaugurated the Rs 5,600 crore Mukhyamantri Yuva Karya Prashikshan Yojana, an internship programme which seeks to provide employment to the youth.

Further, a new platform at the Lokmanya Tilak Terminus (LTT) as well as extended platforms at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus were also inaugurated.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Ministers Devendra Fadnis and Ajit Pawar were among those present at the event at

Goregaon's NESCO centre.

"The double-engine Mahayuti has been working hard over the past two years to remove the speed-breakers introduced by the previous government," Shinde said. Listing his government's welfare schemes, he said they would win the state Assembly elections due later this year.

"The idea (of the infrastructure projects) is that one can go from one corner of the city to another within 60 minutes. The face of the city will change, and the entire credit goes to the Mahayuti sarkar," said Fadnis.

"Under Modi's prime ministership, the government will undertake many more infrastructure projects in the country," said Ajit Pawar.

● Army looking at '360-degree' appraisal to include inputs from peers and subordinates; talks on

Report (ACR) which includes the medical and disciplinary parameters as well. This report is then reviewed by two of the IO's senior officers in the reporting structure — the reviewing officer and the senior reviewing officer.

In the case of Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs) and Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs), the initiating officer is the company commander, the reviewing officer is the Commanding Officer of the unit, and the senior reviewing officer is the brigade commander.

For officers, it is similarly initiated and reviewed by their superiors in the chain of command. For Major Generals, the senior reviewing officer is the Chief of Army Staff.

The Indian Air Force also follows a similar three-tier appraisal system.

Under the "360-degree appraisal" system being discussed within the Army, two models are being considered. The first is a model which has already been adopted by the Navy and involves reciprocal feedback by a subordinate to his IO after the initiation of his ACR.

It also includes online feedback from "system generated random peers and subordinates" before selection boards are conducted, as well as a direct online input to Naval headquarters on the IO's leadership qualities by the person being assessed, ahead of submission of his confidential report to the IO.

The second model being

considered is the "peer group perception model", which seeks to obtain peer group feedback on the person being assessed. This is on the lines of the current system at various training establishments of the Armed Forces, where officers get assessed by their course mates and contemporaries, from their own as well as other services.

Officials said such data collated centrally over a certain period could be used to carry out a detailed and comprehensive appraisal of a person, including on his general repute and integrity.

The Army has sought views on the viability of both models from its Commands.

While the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), in response to a petition, told the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) last year that it does not employ the "360-degree appraisal" system for civil servants, it had told a parliamentary panel in 2017 that it had revised its guidelines for empanelment, in April 2016, to include multi-source feedback (MSF) from at least five stakeholders, which could be seniors, juniors, peers, external stakeholders and serving secretaries.

A parliamentary standing committee report on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice, tabled in Parliament in August 2017, had said this is known as the "360-degree review", adding that it is the same as MSF. The committee's report had also called the "360-degree appraisal" system "opaque, non-transparent and subjective".

● MP cattle smuggling

cases in the whole of 2023.

The state also demolished 21 homes of the accused, including 11 on June 15 in Mandla district, where beef was allegedly found in their refrigerators. Police have seized 450 vehicles and rescued 7,524 cows across the state this year.

Seoni, a tribal district in south Madhya Pradesh, is central to the government's crackdown on cattle smuggling. Sixty-three butchered cows were found here on June 19, prompting CM Yadav to transfer the local SP and collector overnight.

From January to June this year, 55 cases were registered in Seoni, 99 people arrested and 1,301 cows rescued. In 2023, a total of 136 cases (279 arrests and 1,740 cattle rescued) were filed, besides Seoni police recovering 673 kg of beef and seizing 93 vehicles. The administration also cracked down on Balaghat (48 cases), Betul (40), Khargone (34) and Neemuch (23) districts.

Seoni is a key transit point for cattle smugglers on NH44. Cattle are allegedly trafficked from north and east MP, including Jhansi (UP) and Morena, and central regions like Vidisha, before heading to slaughterhouses in Nagpur and southern states.

Stating that "there were 150 police stations en route to Seoni, Additional SP Gurdatt Sharma called for better 'inter-district police management'. An analysis of arrests from 2019 to 2024 shows Seoni residents leading with 209 arrests, followed by Narsinghpur (98), Nagpur in Maharashtra (64) and UP (20).

Spending little time in his office, Seoni's new SP Sunil Mehta has been focusing on field visits. "A trader can earn Rs 30,000 per cow (from meat, skin and bones), after spending about Rs 22,000 on transport," he explained.

A senior CID official says pick-up trucks that cost Rs 20-50 lakh carry cows worth Rs 2-8 lakh. "A few trips cover vehicle costs. We are focusing on seizing these vehicles to disrupt the network."

Newly posted Seoni Collector Sanskriti Jain has been reviewing cases lodged against cattle smugglers. "We can invoke the National Security Act (NSA) against cattle smugglers based on SP reports and also confiscate vehicles under the amended law (one of the state's two anti-cattle slaughter laws). We are also focusing on preventive measures and intelligence gathering," she said.

Noting that beef consumption in these districts involves various sub-castes and is "not just a Hindu-Muslim issue", a senior district official emphasised the need for "sensitive policing". In 2022, two tribal men were lynched by a mob over suspicion of cow slaughter.

At the Seoni district court, as an investigator added four more cow slaughter charges to the pile, a senior prosecution branch officer said, "More cow cases? Don't we have anything else to do?"

"Prosecutors at Judicial Magistrate

First Class courts handle 8-10 cow slaughter cases each. They are understaffed, leading to a poor disposal rate (30%) in smuggling cases," the officer added.

The Seoni district court heard 399 cases this year, of which 19 ended in acquittal and eight in conviction. Since a cattle smuggling case takes nearly three years to conclude, Bhopal's state prosecution branch has plans to add 700 prosecutors across MP.

Prosecutors also report growing difficulty in cattle smuggling cases since, typically, only vehicle owners are arrested as drivers flee. "But owners produce rental agreements, claiming innocence. We lack resources to prove that these agreements were created post-arrest," said an Additional District Prosecution Officer.

"Proving intent for slaughter is extremely difficult. The accused often have valid sale documents and cattle ID tags. Police make arrests based on tips, but these cases frequently fall apart in court."

Hostile witnesses also lead to acquittals. "Since many witnesses and accused belong to the same village, the former turns hostile due to the lack of police protection. Then there are public witnesses, roped in by the police to witness seizures. During the trial, it is often found that public witnesses were never taken to the operation and merely signed on blank papers," said the official.

Typically in cattle smuggling cases, the state police invoke the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960; and the two anti-cow-smuggling laws. The maximum punishment under these laws is a three-year imprisonment.

To ensure lower courts do not hand out bail, senior officers from Seoni, Balaghat and Chhindwara districts say the police usually invoke tougher provisions. An officer from Mandla said, "I seized 53 kg of beef recently from a repeat offender and invoked provisions related to promoting enmity. After a month, he ended up getting bail from the HC. Often, we fail to defend invoking that section."

Following the CM's directive, senior officers have also analysed the routes used to illegally transport cows over the past decade. Police say "criminals usually smuggle cows through jungles and village dirt roads". There are also "lookouts on bikes" to warn alleged smugglers. "Around 5 km ahead of the truck transporting cows, a biker acts as a lookout. We only manage three-four surprise inspections a day," said an Assistant Sub-Inspector in Seoni.

At checkpoints, staff deficit prevents the police from inspecting more than two trolleys at a time. "The district needs 200 more personnel to effectively patrol the 170-km highway stretch to Nagpur," said a senior officer.

Then there's the question of confiscated cattle. An officer said, "Gaushalas in Seoni were made for 500 cows, but have at least 800. At times, we keep the cows at the police station and even pay for their feed till we find a gaushala."

● Reasi attackers paid local cattle trader Rs 5,000 for logistics

Devi shrine, but left the job three years ago and took up cattle trading. Before the case was handed over to the NIA, Senior Superintendent of Police Mohita Sharma had called Hakam a "prime militant associate".

He was questioned by multiple agencies following his arrest. A source familiar with the investigation said, "He claims he first met the attackers around 5.30 pm on June 1, when they knocked on his door and asked him to prepare food for three people. One of them was refer-

ring to another as 'Manzoor bhai'. They asked him to bring food to their shelter in a forest."

"On June 7, the three militants again visited his house, and asked him to accompany them for a recce to Pouni, where the attack took place. They were there for around three and a half hours. They sat in different spots to pick a strategic location for the attack, and to identify the slope of the road where the vehicle would slow down. They marked these locations before leaving. They also asked Hakam about

the movement of tourist buses," said the source.

A day after conducting the recce, they visited Hakam's house for tea and discussed the plan. "They left with food. On June 9, they returned to their marked locations and waited for a specific bus carrying pilgrims. They first targeted the driver, and did not stop firing even after he lost control of the bus, which plummeted into a gorge," said the source.

After the attack, they gave Hakam Rs 5,000 and asked him

to escape, but took his Aadhaar card. "With the help of the description provided by him, we have prepared two new sketches of the attackers and shared them with central investigation agencies. Based on his questioning, we suspect the militants infiltrated from across the Line of Control and are still hiding in the dense forests," the source said.

The sketch of the third attacker was released earlier, and a reward of Rs 20 lakh was announced for information leading to his arrest.

all to be honoured by the government," another person in the know said.

The immediate concern stems because payments are due before July 20 on debt raised through debentures as per a tripartite agreement signed between MTNL, Department of Telecommunication and Beacon Trusteeship Ltd.

The second semi-annual interest payment was to be credited in an escrow account. "This breach of condition of the debenture trustee deed is considered as an event of default, as per the intimation received by the agency," India Ratings said in a note.

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and MTNL did not respond to a request for comment by *The Indian Express*.

The government had also formed a Committee of Secretaries to decide the merger of MTNL with its other telco BSNL after restructuring the debt of the former. However, sources said this may be tedious given MTNL's losses, and instead an agreement for BSNL to manage MTNL's operations could be explored. The decision is yet to receive a nod from the committee.

As per MTNL's annual report 2022-23, the company has borrowed Rs 28,883 crore from banks, financial

institutions and bond holders up to March 2023 to meet operational expenses, capex needs and spectrum charges. Its total borrowings from banks and others have an effective weighted average rate of 7.95 per cent per annum calculated using the interest rate effective as on March 31, 2023.

"The substitution of bank debts with low cost Sovereign Guarantee bonds has improved the situation in FY 2022-23 and the same is expected to continue in FY 2023-24. However, the spiralling interest costs can undo the gains made out of the revival plan affecting the capability of the company either to raise further loans or to service the debts and interest costs leading to a defaulting scenario," it said in its annual report.

In FY23, MTNL posted Rs 2,910 crore losses, up from Rs 2,602 crore losses in FY22. Its revenue from operations also slumped from Rs 1,069 crore in FY22 to Rs 861 crore in FY23.

In March 2023, former Minister of State for Telecom, Devusinh Chauhan had informed Parliament that MTNL's total assets were worth a little over Rs 12,000 crore. At the time, he had also said that until March 2023, MTNL had not sold or leased any of its properties. It holds a land area of 334.36 acre.

trustees by T-3rd day (July 17) and last by July 20, failing which it would be classified as a sovereign default.

The company was accorded sovereign guarantee for raising bonds to the tune of Rs 10,910 crore in FY23 and Rs 6,661 crore in FY24.

But given the situation now, it may default on more loan repayments this year due to a severe paucity of funds.

For immediate relief, an official said MTNL sought Rs 90-100 crore, but the amount will only go up during the rest of the year. Between July and October, MTNL is scheduled to make installments for long-term loans to State Bank of India, Union Bank of India, Andhra Bank, Corporation Bank, and Punjab & Sind Bank, among others.

In 2022, MTNL had defaulted on an interest payment of Rs 35.15 crore to the Union Bank of India, but paid the amount after a delay of 41 days.

"One interest payment has already been defaulted by MTNL. Another default is about to happen. There is an urgent need to plan cash flows properly by MTNL and to bring the asset monetisation plan proposed earlier fully into force. Otherwise, a series of defaults is likely,

guarantee, any default would leave the government with little choice but to fund it by the exchequer.

Three government officials confirmed that the telecom operator, already classified as a sick public sector unit (PSU), has asked for funds to the tune of Rs 1,000 crore till March-end to meet its debt liabilities. "Over five years ago, MTNL had sought Cabinet approval for restructuring its debt and had got a nod for sovereign guarantee on its debt. The proposal had included assurance from MTNL of raising around Rs 17,500 crore through monetisation of assets. However, since 2019, the monetisation has resulted in proceeds of only Rs 1,500-1,600 crore," an official said.

MTNL had informed the stock exchanges on Thursday that due to insufficient funds in the escrow account, it was unable to pay semi-annual interest to a bondholder. On July 12, the T-8th day, as per the payment structure mechanism, the trustee invoked the Government of India (GoI) guarantee by sending a notice of invocation.

The government has to deposit requisite funds in the designated trust and retention account as per the notice of invocation served by the

● MTNL on brink of debt default

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biggest gain, retaining its seat while wresting three more from the BJP. The Congress, which had two seats (one each in Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand), lost its MP seat but gained one more in Uttarakhand, and two in Himachal Pradesh. The other INDIA bloc allies — DMK and AAP — retained their single seats in Tamil Nadu and Punjab respectively.

The BSP lost its single seat in Uttarakhand.

Overall, the results seem to have gone largely in favour of the ruling parties in the states. The ruling TMC won all the four seats in West Bengal, while the ruling Congress won two of the three seats in Himachal Pradesh. Similarly, the ruling parties won the single seats in Punjab (AAP), Madhya Pradesh (BJP) and Tamil Nadu (DMK).

Uttarakhand and Bihar, however, bucked the trend as the candi-

dates of the ruling parties — BJP and JD(U) respectively — were defeated, by the Congress in both seats in Uttarakhand, and an Independent in Bihar.

■ In Himachal Pradesh, of the three Independent MLAs who crossed over to BJP and were fielded by BJP this time, only one retained his seat. The trio — Ashish Sharma from Hamirpur, K L Thakur from Nalagarh and Hoshiyar Singh from Dehra — had voted in favour of the BJP's candidate in the Rajya Sabha polls in February. They had later joined the BJP, and resigned from the House, leading to the bypolls.

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu's wife and Congress candidate Kamlesh Thakur won the Dehra Assembly seat by a margin of 9,399 votes, defeating two-time MLA Hoshiyar Singh. The Congress's Hardeep Singh Bawa also defeated K L Thakur in Nalagarh by 8,990 votes. The BJP's Ashish Sharma,

however, retained the Hamirpur seat by a margin of 1,571 votes. Dehra and Hamirpur Assembly seats are part of the Hamirpur Lok Sabha constituency, represented by Union Minister Anurag Thakur, who had led the BJP's campaign in the bypolls.

In the 68-member Himachal Pradesh Assembly, the Congress tally has now increased to 40, while the BJP is at 28 seats.

■ In West Bengal, the ruling TMC re-established its dominance, retaining its seat and wresting three more from the BJP. While the BJP came a distant second in all the four seats, the Left-Congress alliance candidates lost their deposits in three of the four seats.

Barring Manikta, where the bypoll was necessitated by the death of state minister and veteran TMC leader Sadhan Pande, the other three seats — Ranaghat Dakshin, Bagda and Raiganj — fell vacant after their BJP MLAs resigned to con-

test Lok Sabha polls on TMC symbol.

The TMC candidates won by comfortable margins in all four seats — by 62,312 votes in Manikta, 50,077 votes in Raiganj, 30,048 votes in Ranaghat-Dakshin, and 33,455 votes in Bagda.

■ In Uttarakhand, a month after its third consecutive whitewash in the Lok Sabha elections, the Congress retained Badrinath and wrested Manglaur from the BSP.

The Badrinath seat had fallen vacant after three-term MLA and former state minister Rajendra Singh Bhandari left the Congress for BJP, which fielded him as its candidate this time. He lost to Congress's Lakhpat Singh Butola by 5,224 votes. The win in Badrinath gains significance as the Opposition party has raised the issue of the BJP losing elections in important religious places after its Ayodhya defeat.

In Manglaur, three-time MLA and senior Congress leader Qazi

● Bypolls

third. The Congress and AAP, both part of the INDIA bloc, had contested the Lok Sabha elections separately in Punjab — a template repeated in the bypoll. The seat fell vacant after Angural resigned as the AAP legislator and joined the BJP in March.

■ In Tamil Nadu, the ruling DMK retained its Vikravandi seat, with its candidate, Anniyar Siva, defeating NDA constituent Pattali Makkal Katchi's Ambumani C by a margin of 67,757 votes. The AIADMK and DMDK had announced a boycott of the bypoll, which was necessitated due to the death of DMK legislator N Pugazhenti in April this year.

■ In Madhya Pradesh, the BJP's Kamlesh Pratap Shah won the Amarwarra seat by a margin of 3,027 votes against the Congress's Dheeran Sah Sukharam Das Inwati. The bypoll was necessitated after Shah left the Congress for the BJP in the run-up to the Lok Sabha elections.

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OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

Anthropology By Dr. Huma Hassan	Physics By Prateek Tripathi
Public Adm. By Vivek Raj	PSIR By Dr. Bijendra Jha
Geography By Akshay Sanjay Gurubhaiya	Sociology By Dr. Huma Hassan
History By Dr. Jitendra Kumar	Economics By Prateek Tripathi
Psychology By Shalini Singh	Zoology By Shivani Sharma
Agriculture By Dr. Hardeep Singh	Chemistry By Dr. Keshav Kumar

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HC reinstates students struck off by pvt school over fee hike dispute

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 13

The Delhi High Court recently reinstated the names of students who had been struck off from the rolls by a private school over non-payment of hiked fees.

A single-judge bench of Justice Swarna Kanta Sharma, in its July 9 interim order, said, "In the interregnum, it is directed that without prejudice to the rights and contentions of the respective parties and subject to the petitions depositing 50% of the hiked school fee only for the academic year 2024-25, the names of the wards of the petitioners be restored on the rolls of the school in their respective classes, subject to the final outcome of the present writ petition."

The HC said the order was being passed keeping in view the "future and saving the academic year" of the students.

The HC also issued notice to the Delhi government's Directorate of Education (DoE), the school concerned -- Delhi Public School (DPS) Dwarka -- and the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) in the main petition asking them to file their response in two weeks. The matter is next listed on July 30.

On Saturday, *The Indian Express* reported that DPS Dwarka had published on its official website the names of 21 students and the outstanding fees their parents have to pay. On Friday, *The Indian Express* reported that over 20 students of DPS were allegedly not being allowed inside their classrooms since school resumed after summer vacation on July 1. Parents alleged their children were being "segregated" and their names had been struck off from the rolls.

In their plea, the parents had argued that the school had struck off the names of their wards from the rolls "on account of non-payment of hiked fee". It was submitted that the fee had been hiked without the DoE's approval.

Apart from seeking the students' reinstatement, the plea sought that only approved fees be charged by the school for the 2024-25 academic year.

The plea further sought directions to the school to refund the "excess amount lying with them for the previous years, prior to the academic session 2023-24, amounting to Rs 1,76,000."

It also sought a direction to the DDA to cancel the allotment of land to the school.

250 HOMES RAZED IN KHYBER PASS, RESIDENTS PROTEST

'Served notice but were not told when demolition would happen'

SAMAN HUSAIN
NEW DELHI, JULY 13

A LARGE-SCALE demolition drive at Khyber Pass near Civil Lines Saturday led to over 250 houses being razed and hundreds of residents being displaced.

The operation was carried out under heavy police deployment in the early hours of Saturday. A senior government official said: "On Saturday, 15 acres of around 32 acres of land which belongs to the L&DO (Land and Development Office) were cleared; the remaining will be cleared later."

At the site, the air was thick with dust as machinery tore down buildings. Several residents were seen sitting amid the rubble that was once their home.

Residents claimed police personnel were deployed overnight and the area was barricaded, restricting entry for outsiders and preventing them from leaving. "How will we go search for houses if they do not let us leave the premises?" questioned Roop Chand. He claimed he is the fourth-generation member of his family living in the area.

Also among the displaced was 26-year-old Imran Khan, who, along with his 60-year-old grandmother, was seen climbing through the boundaries to access their home. "This is the fifth generation of my family living here. We are a family of six, and everything has been destroyed," said Khan, a relationship manager at HDFC Bank.

"We had built a proper house with all the papers, but they demolished it anyway. Police told us last night that no demolition would take place. No political party has come to help us..." he alleged.

According to a Delhi High Court order from July 9, the land initially belonged to the Ministry of Defence. A notice was issued on July 1, requiring residents to



A resident sits amid the rubble of her demolished home, Saturday. Amit Mehra



vacate by July 4. This was challenged, but in an urgent hearing on July 3, the court allowed the demolition to proceed, provided due process was followed. On July 9, the final hearing took place and the court ruled that the petitioners lacked documents proving their land ownership. The court identified them as trespassers, stating that the land, now under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, was being acquired for public purposes.

The demolition drive has hit pregnant women, infants, and students particularly hard.

Pushpa, a student pursuing her BA from Delhi University's Daulat Ram College, alleged:

"We hadn't received any information. At 3 am, police told us we didn't need to empty our houses. Then they changed their stance when we mentioned small kids living here. We started emptying our homes at 3 am; by 7 am, the demolition began. We should have had at least 25 days to vacate."

Residents are now struggling to find shelter. Shamli, cradling her two-month-old infant, said, "Rooms that were once Rs 5,000 are now being offered for Rs 10,000-15,000 on rent. Landlords are exploiting our helplessness. Where do we go? We don't earn enough to rent such expensive places."

Breach in canal fixed, water supply in Dwarka to be restored today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 13

WATER SUPPLY in Dwarka and parts of South West Delhi is expected to be restored by Sunday morning, Delhi Jal Board (DJB) officials said Saturday.

The Jal Board in an official statement said that the Carrier Lined Channel (CLC), a major water supply route that brings Yamuna water from Haryana to Delhi, experienced a breach on July 11, which caused widespread disruption.

The breach, which occurred on the CLC's left bank for a length of about 15 metres near Hanuman Mandir in Bawana led to flooding in the area and halted water supply operations, impacting the Dwarka water treatment plant, it said.

The Haryana Irrigation department, which is responsible for the maintenance of the canal, including the section of the falls within Delhi, was notified.

The CLC typically supplies around 500 cusecs of water daily to Delhi. Due to the breach, operations at the Dwarka water treatment plant were stopped since it relies on water from the



Repairs underway at the Munak Canal. X/@AtishiAAP

CLC. The repair work started on Thursday and was completed by midnight on Friday. A fitness test was then conducted, following which water was released from the Kakroi regulator, located 40 km upstream from the Delhi border, at 11 am on Saturday. Delhi water minister Atishi said.

The breach had led to flooding in J, K, L and M blocks of Bawana's JJ colony. A day after the incident, residents their food and belongings were washed away and vehicles suffered extensive damage.

BJP playing with CM's health: Sanjay Singh; party hits back

New Delhi: CM Arvind Kejriwal losing 8.5 kg in jail could be a sign of serious illness, said AAP leader Sanjay Singh Saturday as he accused the BJP and the PM of allegedly conspiring to keep the CM in jail and play with his health.

The AAP Rajya Sabha MP claimed at a press conference: "When Kejriwal was arrested on March 21, his weight was 70 kg and today his weight has dropped by 8.5 kg to 61.5 kg. The reason for this is not known, no serious investigation is being done to find out

how he lost so much weight..." Singh also said ever since Kejriwal was jailed, his sugar level suddenly fell below 50 at night around five times.

Terming Singh's statement "rhetoric", Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva alleged that each time the AAP convener got bail, he never went for any treatment and his "political diatribe increase to new heights" instead. "Sanjay Singh should note that people of Delhi have no trust left in Kejriwal and AAP..." he said. ENS

To boost FSL, L-G sanctions appointments on 165 posts

New Delhi: Noting that strengthening the capital's Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) was a key focus area with the three new criminal laws coming into effect, L-G V K Saxena has sanctioned the appointment of 165 Junior Scientific Assistants (JSA) on contract basis to meet immediate needs.

L-G House officials said Saxena, who recently reviewed the preparedness and rollout of the three newly enacted criminal laws by the Delhi Police and the Delhi home department, had

stressed on the strengthening of FSL, Delhi. "To this effect, Saxena Friday sanctioned recruitment of 165 JSAs on a contract basis to meet immediate needs, pending finalisation of Recruitment Rules. These JSAs would be deployed at crime scenes," officials said.

"Directing the FSL to finalise Recruitment Rules for various vacant posts at the earliest, the L-G directed the FSL to maintain total transparency in the recruitment process, so there is no scope for any complaint even in the future..." officials added. ENS



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- ▶ Recommended candidates will undergo medical examination and verification of antecedents.

Note: For more details please visit www.jointerritorialarmy@gov.in

- ▶ **DATE OF SELECTION:** OCTOBER 2024 (Firm dates will be communicated later by post/e-mail).
- ▶ **LAST DATE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION:** (Application form completed in all respects will be accepted till **12 SEPTEMBER 2024** at Directorate General Territorial Army, Integrated Headquarters of Ministry of Defence, 'A' Block, 4th Floor, Defence Office Complex, KG Marg, New Delhi-110001 (through India Post only).
- ▶ Application form and other details given in the advertisement will be available on the Territorial Army official website www.jointerritorialarmy.gov.in from 15 JUL 2024. The detailed advertisement will also be published in the Employment News of this month.
- ▶ **INCOMPLETE/ INELIGIBLE APPLICATION FORM AND THOSE APPLICATION FORMS RECEIVED AFTER 12 SEPTEMBER 2024 WILL BE REJECTED WITHOUT INTIMATION.**

CBC 10120/11/0002/2425

सार्वजनिक सूचना

कार्यदायी संस्था मैसर्स जेपी इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर लिमिटेड द्वारा ग्रुप हाऊसिंग पॉकेट संख्या B-04 (Pavilion Court), सेक्टर-128 की स्वीकृति 29/10/2009 को प्राप्त की गई एवं नवन मानचित्र का पुनर्विधायन दिनांक 29/10/2021 को हुआ है, जिसके क्रम में ग्रुप हाऊसिंग पॉकेट संख्या- B-04 (Pavilion Court), के अन्तर्गत नियोजित टॉवर संख्या पीसी-05बी (कुल 01 टॉवर) के अधिभोग प्रमाण पत्र (Completion Certificate) हेतु दिनांक 03/06/2024 Online Portal के माध्यम से आवेदन किया गया है। कार्यदायी संस्था द्वारा प्रस्तुत डी.ओ.डी. एवं मानचित्र का परीक्षण सार्वजनिक सूचना जारी होने के 15 दिन के अन्दर किसी भी कार्य दिवस में सुबह 9.30 बजे से दोपहर 12.30 बजे तक नियोजन विभाग में किया जा सकता है। अपार्टमेंट्स स्वामियों/रेजिडेंट वेलफेयर एसोसिएशन तथा उनके संघ से लिखित आपत्तियाँ निर्धारित अवधि अर्थात् सार्वजनिक सूचना प्रसारित होने के 15 कार्य दिवसों तक आमत्रित की जाती है।

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NOTIFICATION OF 12TH CONVOCATION

The 12th Convocation of the institute will be held on 31st July 2024. All the graduating M.S./M.Tech/Ph.D students who have fulfilled the requirements of their degrees in the academic year 2023-24 are informed to register online through the link <https://forms.gle/TPFsAG7hdAHUEPNn7>. The last date of registration: 22.07.2024.

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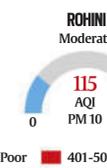
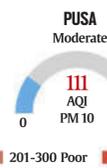
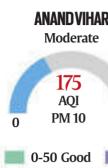
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"PENSION ADALAT"

Central GST Commissionerate Faridabad, Government of India will hold "Pension Adalat" on 18.07.2024 (Thursday) at 04:00 PM for redressal of grievances of Pensioners of erstwhile Central Excise & Service Tax Commissionerate, Faridabad - I, II & CGST Commissionerate, Faridabad, If any.

Venue : Conference Hall, O/o Commissioner CGST Commissionerate Faridabad, Block - D' New CGO Complex, NH-IV, NIT, Faridabad.

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SKY WATCH
July 14
Generally cloudy sky with very light rain

MAX: 34 | **MIN: 26**
1.5°C above normal | 1.3°C above normal

BRIEFLY

'Lewd' remark on soldier's widow: FIR filed in Delhi

New Delhi: Delhi Police's Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operation (IFSO) cell has registered an FIR over an alleged lewd remark made on the widow of Kirti Chakra Captain Anshuman Singh on social media platform X, officials said on Saturday. The National Commission for Women (NCW) on Monday took a suo motu cognisance and filed a complaint before Delhi Police regarding the matter.

The social media platform has also been contacted to provide details about the handle.

PTI

50,000 trees planted so far this year: DDA

New Delhi: The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) on Saturday undertook a plantation drive across the capital. During 2024-25, the DDA said in a statement, it has planted 50,000 trees and 5.5 lakh shrubs at various locations across the city.

On Saturday, the DDA undertook a plantation drive at Dwarka in the vicinity of its Sector 19B housing development.

ENS

THREE KILLED IN SHOOTOUT IN HARYANA

'Saw it coming...', say kin of 'Bhau' gangmen gunned down in 'encounter'

AISWARYA RAJ
SONIPAT, JULY 13

OUTSIDE THE post-mortem complex at a government hospital in Haryana's Sonapat, three families sit in a somber mood. All of them seemed to have expected this violent end. The relatives of one of the men said they have one less worry now — police will no longer raid their houses, check their phones, or interrogate them.

A day after three men from the state were allegedly shot dead by Delhi Police and the Haryana Special Task Force (STF), their families were at the hospital to collect the bodies of the brothers, nephews or cousins they had not seen in years.

The trio was allegedly involved in a string of incidents in Haryana under fugitive gangster Himanshu alias Bhau's patronage; two of them were allegedly involved in a shootout at Burger King in Delhi's Rajouri Garden last month.

Hailing from Rindhana, the family of Vicky said they came to know of the incident from newspapers on Saturday morning. "Police later informed us that the body was in Sonapat Civil Hospital and we came here. We will see him after seven years," said Rajkumar Dahiya, Vicky's uncle. According to the family, Vicky, who used to live with his mother at Hisar Road in Rohtak, left home to marry a woman



Manoj Dhaka



A day after Vicky, Sunny and Ashish (left to right) were shot dead in an encounter, their families were at BPS hospital (top) to receive their bodies, on Saturday.

from the same colony, leaving the family enraged.

"They got married and started living in a different house seven years ago. A year ago, they separated. The last time we spoke to him was around two years ago. No one in the family was in touch with him," said Pradeep, his brother, adding that Vicky is also survived by a five-year-old daughter.

Vicky was 10 when his father

died. Pradeep claimed he was not aware of Vicky's involvement in criminal activities. "I believe he got involved with the gangster (Himanshu Bhau) three months ago," he said.

As per police records, Ashish was involved in 20 cases including murder, attempt to murder, dacoity, and robbery. Sunny was involved in six cases of murder, attempt to murder, and firing, Delhi Police said. Vicky and

Ashish were also allegedly involved in the murder of a liquor trader, Sunder Malik, on March 10. While Ashish alias Lalu was 24, Sunny Kharar and Vicky Rindhana were both 23.

Friday's encounter took place six days after Bhau, in a post on social media, alleged that the police had not revealed the arrest of three of his associates. He later deleted the post. The families of Ashish alias Ashu and Sunny Gurjar, both hailing from Hisar, said they saw it coming.

"The police killed him but Sunny brought it upon himself. He was a part of a gang, killed people, and committed crimes... it was only a matter of time. We are farmers and our family has no tarnished past, but after Sunny's acts, we have been subjected to ridicule. Every day, a police vehicle comes to our house, officers check our phones and interrogate us. Even Sunny's mother has to bear the brunt of what he has been doing. When she heard the news today, she called me and I knew she was expecting it. If this had happened a few years ago, we would have reacted differently, but we had given up on him," said Lukka, Sunny's cousin.

He said that Sunny's first case landed him in a juvenile facility where he allegedly met Ashish. Sunny's first case dates back to February 2020 under sections of murder, attempted murder, and Arms Act.

"When he got out, we advised him, asked him to mend his ways

and put an end to his friendship with certain people who were accused along with him, but he didn't change. He left home two years ago and had not spoken to us ever since," Lukka said. Sunny's father died when he was three years old. "It was not the absence of a father figure that led him astray. He has an elder brother and he has turned out well. He raised Sunny but in vain," Lukka said. Sunny dropped out of a school in Kharar in class 9 and a murder took place in the village after which the police were hot on his heels.

Sandeep, the elder brother of Ashish, was tackling police procedures when he said, "I don't know anything about him."

As per police records, the first case against Ashish was registered in March 2020 for attempted murder; he allegedly opened fire at a man who had a liquor store in the village. According to the FIR registered at Hisar Sadar police station, two men on a bike charged at the victim and opened fire at him.

His kin said Ashish dropped out of school in class 12. "He fell into bad company and dropped out. He hasn't visited home in over a year and police come knocking on their doors regularly," said Shamsheer, a neighbour who accompanied Ashish's father and brother from Hisar's Kharia. Ashish was raised by the duo after his mother died when he was young. "His father knew this day was not far," he said.

AFTER DEPORTATION FROM THAILAND

Wanted criminal, involved in Burger King killing, arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, JULY 13

A DAY after three men, two of whom were allegedly behind the shooting at a Burger King outlet in the Capital last month, were shot dead in an "encounter" in Haryana's Sonapat, Haryana Police's Special Task Force (STF) on Saturday said another wanted criminal allegedly involved in the murder of a man in June at the Delhi outlet has been arrested after being deported from Thailand. Rakesh alias Kala Khairmpuria was known for his alleged involvement in serious and violent crimes across Haryana and Rajasthan, said officials.

Fifteen cases have been registered against him since 2014 in Haryana and Rajasthan on charges of extortion, robbery, murder, and attempt to murder besides various other offences, including illegal possession of firearms, said officials.

"Some of the crimes Rakesh and his gang members were involved in include the murder of a sarpanch in Sonapat in December 2023, a firing incident on a famous sweet shop in Gohana in January this year, a murder at Murthal eatery and the shootout at a Burger King outlet in Delhi's Rajouri Garden last month," said an official.

"Rakesh was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment in 2018 for a murder that he committed in 2015 in

Hanumangarh. After serving the sentence till 2020, he was released on parole and he never reported back. During this period, he evaded arrest and further expanded his criminal operations in Haryana and neighbouring states. He committed another murder in Darauli (village) in the area of police station - Bhattu Kalan, District Fatehabad in 2021. Kala could not be arrested and was declared a proclaimed offender (PO) in 2023," said an STF spokesperson.

He was wanted by the police ever since he jumped his parole in 2020. "Throughout this period, he continued to orchestrate criminal activities initially from within India and then after fleeing abroad from countries including UAE, Armenia, and Thailand," the spokesperson added.

"Rakesh used a fraudulently acquired passport and fled India in early 2023."

"He continued to operate his gang from abroad. His affiliations extended to notorious criminal groups such as the Himanshu Bhau gang and Neeraj Faridpuria gang, and contributing to a crime syndicate responsible for several high-profile crimes, including extortion," the official underlined.

The STF was able to establish and unearth a fake identity on which Kala got his passport made. Once his identity was established, the teams tracked his travel details and mounted surveillance.



Hemant Soren and his wife Kalpana with Sunita Kejriwal and Sanjay Singh. PTI

'Against dictatorship': Soren, wife call on Sunita

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 13

THE ALLEGED "misuse" of central probe agencies against Opposition leaders was discussed as Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren and his wife Kalpana called on Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's wife Sunita at her residence on Saturday, said Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh.

Singh, who was present during the meeting at the AAP office of Arvind Kejriwal's official Civil Lines residence, alleged, "He (Hemant Soren) and Kejriwal were both victims of the BJP's politics of ill will, revenge, and efforts to stop Opposition leaders from campaigning in the Lok Sabha

polls." The Jharkhand CM, he added, extended "full support" to Kejriwal, his family, and the AAP in the fight against the "atrocities" by the BJP-led Centre.

The AAP posted a video of the meeting on X. "INDIA is united against dictatorship," read the caption along with it. Soren and his wife had, earlier during the day, called on Congress Parliamentary Party chief Sonia Gandhi, terming it a courtesy call.

Soren, the executive president of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), had resigned as the CM of Jharkhand before his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with a money laundering case linked to an alleged land scam in January before assuming the post again after spending five months in prison.

'DNA report aaya kya?': Long wait for parents after their newborns were 'put up for adoption' by baby-selling gang

ARNABJIT SUR
NEW DELHI, JULY 13

LIKE CLOCKWORK each day, officers at the Begumpur Police Station in New Delhi have been receiving two calls for the past six months from Punjab — one from a farmer in Firozpur district and the other from a wedding photographer in Muktsar district. Both callers ask them the same question: "Test report aaya kya sir (has the test report come)?"

The report of the DNA test they have been enquiring about will determine who would finally take home the six-month-old unnamed girl, living under the care of a West Delhi-based NGO since she was rescued from Rohini's Begampur colony on February 20 from a gang accused of selling babies. She was barely 10 days old at the time of her rescue.

The gang is accused of coaxing poor parents to give up their newborns for adoption, after which videos of the children — along with their "prices" — would be shared with prospective buyers. According to the chargesheet filed in the case in a Rohini court recently, nine persons, including two Punjab-

based ASHA workers and a midwife who ran a clinic there, have been named as accused under Indian Penal Code (IPC) Sections 370 (4) (trafficking), 120B (pertaining to conspiracy) and 34 (pertaining to common intention).

When the police arrested ASHA workers Simranjeet Kaur and Pooja Rani in connection with the racket, they stumbled upon blank stamp papers bearing the signatures of Lek Singh and Amandeep, besides copies of their Aadhaar cards. Lek Singh and Amandeep were then tracked to their villages in Punjab.

While farmer Lek Singh, 32, from Panjeke Hithar village in Firozpur district's Jalalabad, claimed that he gave away his baby girl for adoption on February 15, photographer Amandeep, 35, a resident of Gidderbaha in Muktsar district, said he put up his daughter for adoption on February 10.

After receiving a call from the Delhi Police on March 28, Lek Singh and Amandeep told *The Indian Express* on the telephone that they arrived in the national capital to give DNA samples in early April. While DNA test results are typically processed in around five days, the report is yet



Raman and Rajinder (right) are among the nine accused arrested so far. Express

to arrive from the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) Rohini, the biggest of four forensic labs in Delhi which deal with thousands of cases every month.

As they wait for the test report, both men — who already have two daughters each — say they decided to put up their third one for adoption due to their "weak" financial condition and in hope that their daughter will have a "bright future with a well-off couple".

Both have similar stories of how they were persuaded to give up their children. Claiming they were unaware that they were being "deceived by a gang", the two men said their only aim now was to "get their child back".

Lek Singh, who owns a small parcel of land in his village, says, "My third daughter was born underweight on February 15.

When doctors said she needed medical treatment, I realised that the cost of her treatment was beyond me."

Two days later, village ASHA worker Pooja Rani — named as one of the accused in the chargesheet — visited his house. Since Pooja had taken care of his wife during her pregnancy, he says they considered her "family".

"She advised me to let a well-off family she knew in Delhi adopt my daughter. Pooja is from my village and we thought she had good intentions. Little did we know that our daughter was being sold by a gang. Pooja made me sign blank papers, claiming that it was a part of the adoption process," he says.

Amandeep, who earns a modest salary working as a wedding photographer, says he gave up his daughter for adoption on

February 10, a day after she was born. His wife gave birth at the clinic run by accused midwife Binder Kaur, also named in the chargesheet.

Amandeep says, "We trusted Binder *didi* blindly. A day after my daughter was born, she approached us, claiming that her cousin, a government servant in Delhi, and his wife were unable to conceive due to health issues. She convinced us that my daughter would be better off with them."

On February 10, he says, one Rajinder, also named in the chargesheet, turned up at Binder's clinic in a suit. Claiming that he was a government servant, he allegedly signed forged adoption papers before taking away Amandeep's daughter. Rajinder originally worked as a taxi driver in Punjab, the chargesheet states.

On his daily calls to the case incharge in Delhi for updates on the DNA test results, Amandeep says, "My wife and I just want to bring our child back home. We will take care of all her needs."

According to the chargesheet, the accused are part of a "baby-selling racket in Delhi and Punjab".

The document states that ASHA workers Simranjeet Kaur and Pooja Rani would go to the

houses of low-income families in several villages of Punjab in search of newborns or expectant mothers.

The modus operandi followed by them was the same — the ASHAs would strike a friendship with the victims "on the pretext of tending to their medical needs" and later "advise" them to let a well-off childless acquaintance of theirs raise the child instead.

The chargesheet states that ASHAs Simranjeet and Pooja allegedly handed over the victims' babies at Binder's "clinic" in Punjab. The police said Binder was in touch with Delhi-based Priya Devki and Sangram, who sold these babies. The police said Priya was involved in a baby-selling racket in north-east Delhi earlier and was released on bail a year back.

The police said Pooja Rani and Raman, also an accused, would also pose as a "wealthy childless couple looking to adopt a baby."

The chargesheet states that data was recovered from their seized mobile phones, with "videos of newborns sent to clients with prices". The total number of victims targeted by the accused is yet to be ascertained, the police said.

BCI ASSURES DECISION ON SYLLABUS FOR NEW LAWS WITHIN 10 DAYS

Questions, concerns galore as students tackle transition

NIRBHAY THAKUR & INSHA HUSAIN
NEW DELHI, JULY 13

WILL BOTH old and new criminal laws be covered in entrance exams? How will students who have already studied old laws study the new laws? How long will the old laws remain relevant? These and many other questions have been haunting law students as they struggle amid the transition.

With three new laws enforced earlier this month, the first-year students will have a drastically different curriculum than their seniors — probably in a first. The overlap between new and old laws, however, is expected to make the transition smoother for older students, suggest some teachers.

The students starting their second year from August 1 at Delhi University's Faculty of Law, like their seniors, studied the colonial

era laws — the Indian Penal Code (IPC), CrPC (Code of Criminal Procedure), and the Indian Evidence Act (IEA) in their first year. The freshers this year, however, will have a tryst with the three new laws that replace them — the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA).

Anxiety among students is palpable. "I am anxious about the transition phase of leaving the law school and going into practice. The sections are different in new laws, and we will have to constantly go back and forth to refer to them since we never got the chance to study them in college," says Tanvir, a second-year student.

"Other than that, we are also anxious about the exams that we will sit for after completing our degree. We are not sure where the questions in those exams will come from. They could come



At DU's Faculty of Law. Express

from the old Acts or the new ones," he adds.

Abhishek, another second-year student, says, "The major difficulty that we will face is to learn all the sections afresh in the new laws."

Saavy Gupta, another second-year student, also expresses concern. "We had already studied the IPC, CrPC, and IEA in our first year which are considered founda-

tional to the criminal justice system. We are told to memorise these laws by heart," she says.

A professor underlines that students will have to be well-versed in both the new and old laws. "As things stand, we will have to teach students both the old and the new laws together...that will be our biggest challenge," says Professor Anup Surendranath who teaches criminal law and constitutional law at the National Law University (NLU). For cases filed before July 1, at any stage (charges, trial, prosecution evidence), old laws will be applicable. The cases filed after July 1, however, are being registered under the new laws.

In courts, according to Professor Surendranath, both old and new laws will be referred for at least 15 years with the older laws applicable to the pending cases. Surendranath is also the executive director of Project 39A, a criminal justice programme at

NLU.

The Bar Council of India (BCI) has assured it will decide within 10 days on the process of incorporating new laws in the syllabus of all the students. "We have a legal education committee that is headed by a former Supreme Court judge...we also have an academic committee," Bar Council of India chairman Manan Kumar Mishra tells *The Indian Express*.

He adds that after various meetings with the committees, a decision will be taken in 10 days. "It is important to incorporate the new criminal laws in the syllabus of all the law students," he says.

Meanwhile, the final-year students too can't escape a deep dive into the new laws as they head to a law firm for an internship, or plan their future career course. "Professors and students should both be trained on the new laws," says Professor Meghraj who teaches at DU.

He also says that students who

have studied the new laws will have an edge over other students in terms of entrance exams. "All entrance and competitive exams will have questions from the new criminal laws...those who haven't read them as part of their curriculum will have to work harder to crack the entrance exams," he adds. However, Krishna Murari, another professor at the college, says that the students will have to work a little harder but won't have major issues due to the overlap. "There is a strong overlap between the old and the new laws," he says.

"There are new things in the laws as well...we have prepared PDFs and documents for the students to help them...we will always support them," he stresses. He also says that the BSA, which has replaced the Indian Evidence Act, does not have major changes but the BNSS has some significant changes compared to the CrPC.

(Insha Husain is an intern with *The Indian Express*)

5 BYPOLL VERDICT

Riding on bypoll success, Cong in comfort zone as Sukhu emerges as biggest winner

SAURABH PARASHAR
SHIMLA, JULY 13

FOR HIMACHAL Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, the bypoll results Saturday come as a huge relief as they have cemented his control over the ruling Congress party in the state.

Himachal politics hit turbulence in February after six Congress MLAs voted in favour of the BJP's Harsh Mahajan in the Rajya Sabha elections. They were later disqualified from the Assembly after the Congress's Rajya Sabha candidate Abhishek Singhvi lost the poll. This also reduced the party's tally to 34 in the 68-member House, when the majority mark was 35.

Then, questions were raised whether the Congress government could survive, as reports of dissension and factionalism within the state party unit surfaced. Sukhu, however, got a breather in June, when the Congress won four out of six seats in the bypolls, which were vacated due to the disqualification of the rebel MLAs who joined the BJP.

The July 10 bypolls to three other seats — Dehra, Hamirpur and Nalagarh — were necessitated because of the resignations of Independent MLAs from these seats. They also joined the BJP.

Sukhu aimed to clinch these three seats to further consolidate the position of the Congress dispensation led by him. On the other hand, the BJP went all out in the bypolls, hoping that its victory would put Sukhu government on shaky ground again.

The bypoll outcome saw the Congress winning from the



Himachal Pradesh CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu with Congress leader Vikramaditya Singh in Shimla, Saturday. PTI

Dehra and Nalagarh seats while losing Hamirpur with a slender margin. This also took the Congress's tally to 40 seats — the party's original position that it had achieved after clinching the 2022 Assembly polls.

The Dehra win is especially significant for Sukhu as it is a seat the Congress has never won. Hoping to reverse this, Sukhu's wife Kamlesh Thakur made her election debut from the seat and won against the BJP's Hoshyar Singh Chambyal. In her poll campaign, she had pledged that Dehra would get a CM office in the event of her win.

In Nalagarh, the Congress's Hardeep Singh Bawa won, defeating BJP candidate KL Thakur. Bawa has also become a first-time MLA.

Hamirpur saw the most fierce battle among the three seats. The Hamirpur parliamentary seat — under which Dehra also falls — is represented by senior BJP leader Anurag Thakur. Even during the campaigning, Anurag's focus on the seat was apparent: he practically camped

in his constituency for days for it.

While BJP's Ashish Sharma managed to win Hamirpur against Congress's Pushpendra Verma, his victory margin is just 1,571 votes. There are talks in the Congress circles now that the bypoll results have reinforced Sukhu's dominance in the government as well as the party.

"CM Sukhu has emerged stronger by the outcome of these bypolls. His stature was enhanced when Congress had won four by-elections out of six in June. Two more wins now make his grip tighter on the party affairs. The people of Himachal Pradesh have rejected the policies of the BJP."

Rajeev Bindal, the state BJP president, however, said: "The results of bypolls are the outcome of the threatening tactics of CM Sukhu and his government. Sukhu's government is rooted in deep corruption. Despite all odds, the BJP won Hamirpur."

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Behind BJP's Dehra loss, angry leaders who refused to campaign

SAURABH PARASHAR
SHIMLA, JULY 13

AS CONGRESS opened its account in Dehra Assembly seat after 25 years, with CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu's wife Kamlesh Thakur winning, the BJP state leadership, which had fielded Hoshyar Singh Chambyal — a two-time former Independent MLA — will now have to answer several questions.

The BJP was quick to announce candidature of Hoshyar Singh — as well as the two other former Independent MLAs who joined the party after resigning from Vidhan Sabha — ignoring claim to the tickets from its own stalwart. After the seat was declared vacant, BJP's former minister Ramesh Chand Dhawala had evinced interest in contesting the bypoll.

Hoshyar Singh had defeated Ramesh Chand in the 2022 Assembly elections. Prior to that, in 2017 Assembly polls, Hoshyar had defeated Ravinder Singh Ravi, also a former minister of the BJP.

Both Ravi, a powerful Rajput leader, and Dhawala did not campaign for Hoshyar Singh.

Once considered the BJP's OBC face, Ramesh Chand was left mostly unattended by the state party leadership during the elec-



Congress's Kamlesh Thakur after winning from Dehra on Saturday. Express

tion campaign. Though angry at being denied the ticket, Ramesh Chand had hinted he will think of campaigning for Hoshyar Singh if BJP senior leadership approached him. That Ramesh Chand did not campaign, points to the fact no senior leader visited him.

The rebellion from within BJP also cost it Nalagarh seat from where Congress's Hardeep Singh Bawa won against BJP's KL Thakur. In Nalagarh, BJP leader Harpreet Singh Saini had staked claim to ticket, but was denied. Harpreet Singh rebelled and contested as an Independent candidate, securing 13,025 votes, making a dent in BJP's vote share.

A BJP leader said though party wanted to act tough against Harpreet, Thakur was in favor of him contesting as an Independent.

DMK retains Vikravandi seat in TN bypoll

Chennai: The ruling DMK emerged victorious in the bypoll to the Vikravandi Assembly seat by a margin of 67,757 votes and NDA constituent Pattali Makkal Katchi ended up runner-up with 56,296 votes.

The bypoll was necessitated due to death of DMK legislator N Pugazhenthir in April this year.

All through vote-counting exercise Saturday, DMK's Anniyur Siva alias A Sivasanthamugam was in the lead position and the margin between him and his nearest rival, PMK nominee C Anbumani widened round after round. When counting was completed, the EC declared Anniyur Siva has secured 1,24,053 votes and Nam Tamilar Katchi nominee K Abinaya secured 1,06,202 votes and became the distant-third. PMK's C Anbumani got 56,296 votes.

By retaining the Vikravandi seat, the ruling DMK has continued to maintain its winning streak in the state since the 2019 Lok Sabha election. Party chief and Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin said, "BJP must realise that without respecting regional sentiments it cannot run the government and the party." PTI

ANAND MOHAN J
BHOVAL, JULY 13

IN A NAIL-biting thriller, the ruling BJP finally clinched the Amarwarra Assembly bye-election in Madhya Pradesh Saturday, defeating the Congress candidate by 3,027 votes.

The BJP's Kamlesh Shah was trailing in 16 rounds of counting of votes before he made a dramatic comeback in the last five rounds to defeat Congress candidate Dheeran Sah Inwati, the son of a local tribal seer Sukhram dada, the chief of Anchalkund Dham.

Following the declaration of results, former Chhindwara MP Nakul Nath, son of state Congress stalwart and former CM Kamal Nath, alleged this was a "defeat" for the BJP. The current BJP candidate, who has been a three-time MLA from the Congress, had won the last election by about 25,000 votes under the leadership of Honorable Kamal Nathji. Victory by a small



TMC supporters celebrate in Kolkata on Saturday. PTI

Another shot in arm for Mamata as TMC wrests three seats from BJP, retains one

SANTANU CHOWDHURY
KOLKATA, JULY 13

MAINTAINING ITS momentum from its triumph in Lok Sabha polls in West Bengal, the ruling TMC swept all four Assembly bypolls in the state Saturday, wresting three seats from the BJP.

The BJP, which saw its Lok Sabha tally decline in the state, failed to make a turnaround, as all its candidates lost the bypolls, coming distant second, while the Left-Congress alliance candidates lost their deposits in three of the four seats.

In Kolkata's Maniktala, TMC's Supti Pande won against BJP's Kalyan Chaubey. Pande not only retained the seat that her late husband Sadhan Pande had won thrice (in 2011, 2016 and 2021), but also increased the margin.

In North Dinajpur's Raiganj, TMC's Krishna Kalyani won. This is the first time the TMC has won this seat. In the 2021 Assembly polls, Krishna Kalyani had won this seat, but on a BJP ticket.

He later switched to the TMC and unsuccessfully contested from the Raiganj Lok Sabha seat on its ticket. Before the Lok Sabha polls, he had resigned as the BJP MLA, resulting in the bypoll, in which the TMC again made him its candidate. BJP's Manas Kumar Ghosh polled 36,402 votes.

In Nadia's Ranaghat-Dakshin seat, TMC's Mukut Mani Adhikari won. In 2021, Adhikari, then with the BJP, had won this seat. Like Kalyani, he too had joined the TMC after the Assembly polls, without resigning as an MLA.

Like Kalyani, he too only resigned to contest the Lok Sabha polls, unsuccessfully, on the TMC ticket. He was again made a TMC candidate in the bypoll, defeating BJP's Manoj Kumar Biswas, who got 74,485 votes.

In Bagdah constituency in North 24 Parganas district, TMC's Madhuparna Thakur won against BJP's Biny Kumar Biswas. The bypoll was necessitated after BJP MLA Biswajit Das resigned.

The Bagdah bypoll outcome has also come as a boost for the TMC as it has wrested the seat from the BJP, which had won it in 2021. The TMC had won it in 2011 and 2016. The victory also assumes significance as the seat falls

BENGAL CM: TREND IN COUNTRY IS ANTI-BJP

Kolkata: Hailing her party's victory in the Assembly bypolls, West Bengal CM and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee said the results are as significant as that of the Lok Sabha polls in the state, where it won 29 seats. Speaking to mediapersons after returning to Kolkata from Mumbai, she said, "The BJP has lost in the bypolls across the country except for two seats in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh where they are in power. The trend across the country is anti-BJP. The mandate of the people is not in favour of the NDA, but in favour of INDIA bloc. All parties together in NDA collectively got 46% votes while INDIA bloc parties got 51% votes," she said. ENS

in the area dominated by the Matua community, a large section of which backed the BJP in the last two Lok Sabha polls.

The Mamata Banerjee-led TMC described the bypoll results as a "massive success" for the party, and said the people of Bengal have once again rejected the BJP. "The BJP has lost the election and people's trust," said TMC leader Kunal Ghosh.

The bypoll results come over a month after the TMC's impressive performance in the Lok Sabha polls, in which it bagged 29 seats out of 42 as against the

BJP's 12 seats. In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the TMC had got 22 seats as compared to the BJP's 18.

The BJP said it would reflect over the results. "We will introspect over our performance... However, the TMC did not allow free and fair elections to take place. There were reports of a lot of electoral malpractices," said state BJP spokesperson Samik Bhattacharya.

About 63% polling was recorded in the bypolls held on Wednesday. While the TMC said it was peaceful, the BJP alleged the ruling party workers had indulged in electoral malpractices like rigging and false voting to win the by-elections.

WEST BENGAL

BIHAR

Independent clinches Rupauli seat; 'stunning result', says RJD

Purnea: In a classic case of dark horse winning race, Independent candidate Shankar Singh Saturday clinched the Rupauli Assembly seat in Bihar bypoll.

The bye-election was necessitated by resignation of JD(U) MLA who sought re-election an RJD ticket. Bima Bharti, a former Bihar minister who had won the seat for JD(U) three times on the trot, failed to retain it on an RJD ticket.

JD(U) candidate Kaladhar Prasad Mandal, who had joined the party recently, put up a spirited fight. RJD spokesperson Shakti Yadav said, "It is a stunning result. Two OBC candidates have lost. Those working on agenda of the BJP have succeeded. The backward classes must introspect."

Deputy CM Vijay Kumar Sinha said, "The Independent candidate, after all, has his roots in the NDA. The bypoll outcome is proof people are fed up with RJD and the loudmouth local MP who was supporting that party".

Shankar Singh, had last month quit Union minister Chirag Paswan's LJP (Ram Vilas) to contest the bypoll.

The Rajput strongman, who seems to have benefited from split in OBC votes between JD(U) and RJD, had tasted victory in 2005 Assembly polls when he fought as a candidate of LJP, headed by Ram Vilas Paswan. However, Singh did not get a chance to enter Assembly, which was dissolved by then Governor Buta Singh. PTI

Cong takes both seats, eyes revival in hill state as BJP reels from loss in temple town of Badrinath

AVANEESH MISHRA
DEHRADUN, JULY 13

ONE MONTH after the ruling BJP's third consecutive sweep in the Lok Sabha polls in Uttarakhand, the Congress has now made a comeback in the hill state by winning both Badrinath and Mangalaur Assembly seats in bypolls.

The Congress's Lakhpat Singh Butola won the Badrinath seat against the BJP's Rajendra Singh Bhandari by 5,224 votes. Bhandari's switch from the Congress to the BJP led to the bye-election.

In Mangalaur, senior Congress leader and three-time MLA Qazi Nizamuddin emerged victorious by just 422 votes after a recount, against BJP's Kartar Singh Bhadana. The BSP's Ubaidur



Congress workers celebrate in Chamoli on Saturday. PTI

Rehman, also known as Monty, finished third. The bye-election was necessitated by the death of Monty's father, former BSP MLA Sarwat Karim Ansari.

These bypoll results were seen by some observers as a signal for revival of the Congress in the state, while for the BJP, the defeat in the

temple town of Badrinath echoed the party's earlier loss in Ayodhya, where it failed to win the Lok Sabha seat just months.

The Uttarakhand Pradesh Congress Committee (UPCC) attributed its defeat in the Lok Sabha elections in the state — losing all five seats of the state at

the hands of the BJP — to a "lack of coordination, harmony, and communication among party leaders" in its initial analysis.

After its LS poll debacle, the party claimed it would have done better if the elections had been held in the state at a later poll phase — something it now claims has been "validated" by the bypoll results.

Garima Mehra Dasauni, the party's state media in-charge, told *The Indian Express* the scheduling of the elections in an early phase had worked against the party as "the momentum began to shift in its favour later".

On Saturday, after winning, Dasauni reiterated the party's claim had merit and suggested

this could signal a revival for the Congress in the state.

The party's victory in Mangalaur is also notable, because although main political rivalry in Uttarakhand is between the BJP and the Congress, BSP has always fought strongly in Mangalaur.

Despite voters' sympathy for BSP candidate over Ansari's demise, the Congress won. The BJP, though, is not viewing the result as a defeat, as they came very close to winning the seat for the first time, garnering its highest-ever 31,305 votes.

BJP had expected to win Badrinath seat, especially in light of its government's emphasis on Char Dham Yatra and religious tourism in Dev Bhoomi Uttarakhand.

PUNJAB

but is also strategically aimed at strengthening AAP's foothold in Majha and Doaba regions ahead of 2027 Assembly polls.

Adding to campaign's effectiveness was the active involvement of Mann's family. His wife,

Dr Gurpreet Kaur, and his sister Manpreet Kaur played a key role in engaging with people from the Doaba and Majha regions and addressing their grievances.

His wife publicly acknowledged the mistake of previous candidate selection in 2022. All senior Punjab ministers and AAP MPs also took part in campaign.

Party spokesperson Neel Garg said "It is clear from this bye-election result AAP is most favoured party in Punjab. In LS polls, people of Punjab wanted a change at Centre. They wanted to vote against PM Narendra Modi. They voted for Congress. Where is Congress now?"

UTTARAKHAND

viewing the result as a defeat, as they came very close to winning the seat for the first time, garnering its highest-ever 31,305 votes.

6 GOVT & POLITICS

Govt using 'spyware' to target my phone, says Venugopal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 13

CONGRESS MP and General Secretary in-charge of organisation KC Venugopal Saturday accused the "Modi government of using a malicious spyware" to target his mobile phone and said "we will oppose this blatantly unconstitutional act and breach on our privacy tooth and nail".

He said the attack came to his attention after Apple sent him an alert.

This comes days after Iltija Mufti, daughter of former J&K CM Mehbooba Mufti said she had received an Apple threat notification saying her iPhone could have been attacked by "mercenary spyware", such as the NSO Group's Pegasus.

Venugopal shared a screenshot of the notification, which read: "You are being targeted by a mercenary spyware attack that is trying to remotely compromise the iPhone associated with your Apple ID... Today's notification is being sent to targeted users in 98 countries, and to date we have notified users in over 150 countries in total".

In his post on X, Venugopal said: "Thank you PM Modi for sending your favourite malicious spyware on my phone also! Apple has been kind enough to intimate me about this special present of yours!"

Mercenary spyware attacks, such as those using Pegasus from the NSO Group, are exceptionally rare and vastly more sophisticated than regular cybercriminal activity or consumer malware, the alert read.

"Apple previously sent you a notification on October 30, 2023. This is not a repeat notice - it is to inform you that we detected another attack against your device," the screenshot read.

India to host global summit on media and entertainment in November

New Delhi: India will host the first World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit in November alongside the International Film Festival of India in Goa, with I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnav promising to strengthen the ecosystem for the protection of intellectual property rights in the media and entertainment sector.

Vaishnav and Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Saturday made the announcement of the first World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) in Goa from November 20-24 and described it as a visionary initiative by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as India seeks to make a mark in the media and entertainment sector.

"IP rights hold huge value in the media and entertainment sector. We will be strengthening the ecosystem for protecting IP rights," Vaishnav, the Information and Broadcasting Minister, said at the curtain raiser event for WAVES. PTI

MOVE WILL CURB POWERS OF CM & ASSEMBLY, SAY POLITICAL PARTIES

Centre gives more powers to J&K L-G on matters of police, all-India service officers

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, JULY 13

THE MINISTRY of Home Affairs Friday notified changes that enhance the powers of the Jammu & Kashmir Lt Governor on government departments and over the appointments and transfer of senior civil and police officers, triggering sharp reactions from political parties.

The changes have come just before expected elections to the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly after a gap of six years.

The Transaction of Business of Government of UT of Jammu and Kashmir (Second Amendment) Rules, 2024, deals with the powers of the LG related to police, public order, All India Services and transfers and postings.

As per the notification by the Union Home Ministry, the transfer or posting of any officer from the All India Services - which means the entire top rung of the administration, including all the

administrative secretaries, heads of departments and deputy commissioners - has to be approved by the LG, currently Manoj Sinha.

The government must also seek approval of the LG to appoint "the Advocate-General and other Law Officers to assist the Advocate-General in the court proceedings". Besides, the LG will have the last word on any proposal for grant of prosecution sanction.

The amendments say all such proposals should be forwarded to the LG, through the Chief Secretary, for the final call.

The amendments also state: "No proposal which requires previous concurrence of the Finance Department with regard to Police, Public Order, All India Service and Anti Corruption Bureau to exercise the discretion of the Lieutenant Governor under the Act shall be concurred or rejected unless it has been placed before the Lieutenant Governor through the Chief Secretary."

As per a political leader, "Earlier, the Governor used to be



J&K L-G Manoj Sinha. PTI

the 'advisor' of the chief minister; now the CM and the Cabinet will be advisors to the 'Governor'."

Former chief minister and National Centre leader Omar Abdullah said "a firm commitment laying out the timeline for restoration of full, undiluted statehood for J&K" is a prerequisite for Assembly elections. "The people of J&K deserve better than powerless, rubber stamp CM who will have to beg the LG to get his/her peon appointed," Omar posted on X.

Senior PDP leader Waheed

EXPLAINED
Why the changes are significant

THE SUPREME Court had asked the Centre to conduct the Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir by September. The changes before that as notified on Friday are being seen by the Valley as an indication that the Centre wants to bring key powers under its own domain before an elected government.

Parra told *The Indian Express* that the Assembly elections when they are held would be "meaningless" after these changes, and said they were a continuation of what began on August 5, 2019. "Whether they now hold the elections or not, the L-G has the powers of the Assembly, the Cabinet and the

government," Parra said.

Calling the amendments a "huge structural disempowerment", the PDP leader said that an elected government would only be a "glorified municipality" now. "It would be a Legislative Assembly without the powers of legislation."

As per official sources, the notification by the Union Home Ministry was not about amendments to the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, but changes to the Transaction of Business Rules to "avoid any ambiguity". "This notification does not in any sense alter the balance of powers as enshrined in the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019," a source said, emphasising that the Act had been "passed by Parliament and upheld by the Supreme Court".

Sources said the notification would provide "better clarity on processes so as to enable smooth administration". **WITH INPUTS FROM ENDS DELHI**

'People were fed up with BJP in '19... Cong lost due to lapses; our house in order now'

HAVING WON five of the 10 seats in Haryana in recent Lok Sabha elections, the Congress is riding high ahead of the Assembly polls in the state. Five-term Congress MP from Rohtak DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA speaks to MANOJ C.G. Excerpts:

Congress opened its account in Haryana in Lok Sabha polls this time, after 0 seats in 2019 and 1 in 2014. How do you see it in terms of Assembly polls?

The people of Haryana have spoken decisively in the Lok Sabha elections. They have voted for change. There is a high level of anti-incumbency against the state government, which has failed to deliver. The BJP has derailed the Haryana story from being a No. 1 state in terms of per capita income, per capita investment, growth rate and other social indices, to the No. 1 state in unemployment, drug addiction, drug abuse-related deaths and crime...

We won five seats, but we also got 47.6% of the vote share, which is the highest INDIA bloc garnered in any state, a nearly 20% upswing from the 2019 results.

But the BJP had the lead in 44 of the 90 Assembly segments, against the Congress's 42 and INDIA's 46.

If you look at the last 10 years, the BJP has done well in national elections but not that well in state polls. In Haryana, the BJP was ahead in 80 Assembly segments in 2019. The Congress was ahead in only 10. But when the Assembly polls took place some months later, the Congress went up to 31, and the BJP tumbled down to 40. They could not form government on their own. A BJP leader then said it could not repeat the same results in the Assembly polls because Modi was a 'Brahmastra', but only in the LS polls. This time, their 'Brahmastra' has also failed. So we



are confident of a clean sweep.

What should Congress do differently this time, given it lost last two Assembly polls?

One of the factors behind our confidence is anti-incumbency. The other is that we have put our house in order. The people were fed up with the BJP in 2019 itself, but (we lost due to) certain organisational lapses on our part... The strength of any good organisation is to learn and make amends... The Congress has taken good and timely organisational decisions... Our house is in order this time.

Kumari Selja has announced a state-wide padyatra. There is a belief that PCC campaign will only have the Hoodas, so some leaders are planning their own campaigns.

Every leader is now in Haryana for the elections. They will all join the campaign, along with the candidates... The BJP and the media are fishing for something negative, but Haryana Congress is united. There is no factionalism. **FULL INTERVIEW** www.indianexpress.com



CJI D Y Chandrachud and UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at the convocation ceremony of the Dr Ram Manohar Lohia National Law University in Lucknow on Saturday. Vishal Srivastav

Teaching law in Indian languages can improve legal access: CJI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, JULY 13

CHIEF JUSTICE of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud Sunday said law should be taught in regional languages so that people's access to the legal system can be improved.

Chandrachud was speaking during the convocation ceremony of Dr Ram Manohar Lohia National Law University (RM NLU) in Lucknow on Saturday, an event that was also attended by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court Arun Bhansali and several judges of the Allahabad High Court, a release said.

"I often discuss with educationists across the country how law can be taught in simple language," said the CJI. He added that if one cannot explain the principles of law to the general public in simple terms, there is a deficiency in the legal profession and legal education.

Pointing out that regional languages should also be taken into consideration when teaching law, he said: "I believe that RM NLU should start an LLB course in Hindi. Laws related to regional issues should also be

taught in our universities. For instance, if someone comes to the university's legal aid centre from a nearby village with a land-related problem and the student does not understand terms such as Khasra and Khatauni, how will they be able to help? Therefore, students should be educated about regional laws related to land."

Chandrachud said that as Chief Justice, he has issued many instructions to make the justice process more accessible. For example, Supreme Court decisions provided in English are being translated into various languages recognized in the Constitution of India, allowing the public to understand the content of these decisions.

At present, there are 37,000 Supreme Court decisions from 1950 to 2024 that have been translated into Hindi, and this service is available free of charge to all citizens.

CM Adityanath highlighted the significance of good governance, the release said. He emphasized that the rule of law is the "precondition for good governance". He said that legal experts can contribute significantly to nation-building.

Allahabad HC issues ruling in three languages

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, JULY 13

IN A significant move, the Allahabad High Court has pronounced a judgment in three languages: English, Hindi and Sanskrit, in a case concerning the maintainability of a petition seeking enforcement of an interim maintenance order made by a family court made under section 125 CrPc.

The High Court dismissed the petition.

"This judgment is also being written in Hindi as well as in Sanskrit languages and the copies of the same shall also be attached along with this judgment," the court said.

The petitioner's lawyer Azad Khan said, "This is the first time in my 32 years of legal practice that I have seen a judgment given in three languages. The judgment in three languages has been merged into a single document."

As his son faces assault complaint, Odisha Gov meets Raj Bhavan staffer

Raghubar Das assured us of justice, says wife of Raj Bhavan employee

SUJIT BISOYI
BHUBANESWAR, JULY 13

ODISHA GOVERNOR Raghubar Das Saturday met the Raj Bhavan staffer who has accused his son of assault for not sending luxury cars to pick him up from the Puri railway station. "He listened to us in detail and assured justice soon. We will wait before taking further steps," Sayoj, the wife of Raj Bhavan employee Baikuntha Pradhan, said.

Pradhan (47) is posted as the Assistant Section Officer, Household Section, Governor's Secretariat, Raj Bhavan. He has alleged that Das's son Lalit Kumar and five others slapped, punched, and kicked him on the night of July 7 on the Raj Bhavan premises in Puri, where he was posted to supervise the preparation for President Droupadi Murmu's visit.

Pradhan, who submitted a written complaint to the Governor's principal secretary on July 10, did not speak to the media citing "government regulations". He also submitted a police complaint on July 11, though an FIR has not been filed so far. Raj Bhavan is yet to comment on the allegations.

Sayoj said the governor's personal cook, a co-accused in the police complaint, begged Pradhan for forgiveness "by touching his feet" in front of Das.

Since the other accused, including Kumar, were not present in the Raj Bhavan, Das assured Pradhan they would be summoned to take further action, she said.

"We will definitely wait for a few days given his assurance. But we will not withdraw the police



Sayoj, wife of Raj Bhavan official Baikuntha Pradhan, shows his complaint Friday

complaint until we get justice," she said.

Before meeting Das, Pradhan and his wife also met Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi at the state secretariat, who suggested they meet the Governor.

When contacted, a senior police officer in Puri said though they have received the complaint, they are awaiting instructions from their superiors since the matter involves the Raj Bhavan.

The issue also snowballed into a political row, with senior Congress leader Taraprasad Bahinipati demanding Kumar's arrest. Members of the NSUI and youth Congress staged protests outside the Raj Bhavan in Bhubaneswar.

BJD MLA Pratap Deb questioned the police inaction on the complaint, while his party colleagues said the attack on Pradhan by a "non-Odia" was an assault on "Odia smita (pride)".

BJP's Dilip Mallick said the law is being for all and the complaint will be examined in detail.

33 Indian labourers freed from 'slavery', say Italian police

REUTERS
ROME, JULY 13

ITALIAN POLICE said on Saturday they had freed 33 Indian farm labourers from slave-like working conditions in the northern Verona province and seized almost half a million euros (\$545,300) from their two alleged abusers.

Labour exploitation is in the spotlight in Italy following an accident in June in which an Indian fruit picker died after his arm was severed by machinery.

In the latest case, police said the alleged gang-masters, also from India, brought fellow nationals to Italy on seasonal work permits, asking them to pay 17,000 euros each and promising them a better future.

The migrants were given farm jobs, working seven days a week and 10-12 hours a day for just 4 euros per hour, which was entirely docked from them until they settled all their debts, po-

lice said, describing the migrants' treatment as "slavery".

Some were asked to continue working for free to pay an additional 13,000 euros for a permanent work permit "which, in reality, would have never been given to them," the police statement said.

The alleged abusers were charged with crimes connected to slavery and labour exploitation, while the victims will be offered protection, work opportunities and legal residency papers, the police said.

Like other European nations, Italy has growing labour shortages often filled via immigration, particularly in lower paid jobs, and has a migrant work visa system that has faced cases of fraud.

The country also has a problem with labour law violations. According to 2021 data from national statistics office Istat, about 11 per cent of Italian workers were employed illegally, rising to more than 23 per cent in agriculture.

In Hathras stampede aftermath, how 'Bhole Baba' has divided major parties in UP

BHUPENDRA PANDEY
LUCKNOW, JULY 13

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) that probed the July 2 Hathras stampede did not rule out a "major conspiracy" behind the incident even as it found the "event organiser and tehsil-level police and administration guilty". However, the person conspicuous by his absence from the report was self-styled godman Surajpal alias Narayan Sakar Hari, at whose satsang the stampede occurred.

The report only talks of serving a notice at Surajpal's Mainpuri ashram for questioning, and that he did not respond to the same.

Political parties in Uttar Pradesh, where the recent Lok Sabha polls indicated a shift in

caste loyalties, with the BJP dealt a major blow, have been chary of pointing fingers at Surajpal, or "Bhole Baba" as he is known among his largely Dalit devotees. While the BSP has been the most vocal demanding action against him, the Congress too has asked why Surajpal has not been questioned yet. But the BJP and SP have chosen a more cautious approach.

During his visit to Hathras the day after the stampede, which left 121 people dead, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath emphasised the "conspiracy angle", and said it required investigation. He did not take Surajpal's name, referring to him twice as "sajjan (the gentleman)" in his statements to the media. In the first reference, the CM underlined that the stampede occurred "soon after... the sajjan completed his sermon" and got off the stage

to leave, when a crowd of followers tried to collect the soil on which he had trod.

Asked why the self-styled godman had not been named in the police case, Adityanath told reporters: "Everyone knows with whom that sajjan has a photo and with whom he has political connections." The CM's purported reference was to a video, which went viral after the stampede, of SP president Akhilesh Yadav at one of Surajpal's events.

Then, Adityanath, without naming Akhilesh, talked about the "unmanageable crowd" at the rallies of the SP chief. During the Lok Sabha election campaigns, a rally in Phulpur, Prayagraj, which Akhilesh and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi were supposed to address, had got cancelled because of a stampede-like situation.

Asked about the SIT report, the



Godman Surajpal alias Narayan Sakar Hari.

BJP's newly elected Hathras MP, Anoop Valmiki, told *The Indian Express*: "No one involved in the incident will be spared. The SIT did not hold the Baba responsible as it must have found that he did not play a role in the incident. Still, a judicial enquiry is underway."

The police have also sug-

gested a political link, claiming that the main accused and Surajpal's confidant, Devprakash Madhukar, who was the satsang organiser, used to raise funds from political parties. Asked if he knew about Madhukar's alleged political connections, Valmiki said: "I have no clue about this since I am new to this place and was elected MP only recently."

On the SIT report not naming Surajpal, SP Hathras district president Devendra Kumar Kushwaha also emphasises that the "godman" had left the place before the stampede occurred. "Baba was inside his car when the incident took place. Why should he be held responsible for the deaths? The administration and the police are solely responsible for the deaths as they did not make adequate arrangements to manage the large gathering," he said.

About police looking into Madhukar's "political connections", Kushwaha said: "I am not aware of this. I haven't even heard about him. Madhukar belongs to Etah district and was working in MGNREGA there. He shifted to Hathras a few years ago."

SP spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary said: "The administration and government are solely responsible for the deaths. Where does the question about the Baba's role arise? The SIT has given him a clean chit. The administration was supposed to make arrangements to manage such a huge gathering there, but they failed."

The SP's ally Congress, however, asked why Surajpal was not being questioned. UP Congress president Ajay Rai told *The Indian Express*: "This government is known for taking such stands.

Why were only the organisers held guilty in the SIT report and not the Baba? How is it possible that when the event was organised for the Baba and a huge gathering arrived for him, he was not questioned about the deaths or booked in the case?"

BSP chief Mayawati has also targeted the state government for not questioning Surajpal. In a post on X Thursday, Mayawati wrote in Hindi, "The death of 121 innocent women and children is an example of government's negligence. The SIT report seems to be inspired more by politics than the seriousness of the incident. The SIT's silence over the role of the Baba, who is the event's key organiser, is a reason for concern. Instead of taking action, giving a clean chit to him has become an issue."

In its 855-page report, the SIT comprising Additional Director

General of Police (Agra Zone) Anupam Kulshreshtha and Aligarh Divisional Commissioner Chaitra V blamed the local administration and police officials for a display of negligence and alleged that the satsang's organisers and the guards in Surajpal's security team "mismanaged" the crowd. The SIT report also said that though a notice was served to Surajpal's ashram in Mainpuri for the recording of his statement, he did not turn up or respond.

While Inspector General of Police (Aligarh Range) Shalabh Mathur and Hathras Superintendent of Police Nipun Agarwal did not respond to calls or messages, Additional SP Ashok Kumar Singh, when asked about the conspiracy angle, Madhukar's alleged political connections, and Surajpal's alleged role, said: "All angles are being investigated."

BRIEFLY

GUJARAT

4 children die, Chandipura virus suspected

Ahmedabad: Four children have died of suspected infection of Chandipura virus at the civil hospital in Sabarkantha district between June 27 and July 10. Two children with similar symptoms are undergoing treatment at the hospital. Blood samples of all the six children have been sent to the National Institute of Virology in Pune for confirmation and their results are expected four to five days, said officials. Chandipura virus causes fever, with symptoms similar to flu, and acute encephalitis (inflammation of brain). **ENS**

UTTAR PRADESH

Man kills himself after being 'beaten by boss'

Firozabad: A 20-year-old man allegedly committed suicide by setting himself on fire here, police said on Saturday. According to police, Kamalkant, who worked as a truck driver, was allegedly held hostage and beaten by some men in the Dakshini Mohanlalganj area. On July 6, Kamalkant asked his employer, Pramod alias Pappu, for Rs 60,000 in advance to repay some loan, police said. **PTI**

MAHARASHTRA

Jarange to sit on indefinite fast from July 20

Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar: Quota activist Manoj Jarange on Saturday announced to launch indefinite fast from July 20 if the government fails to grant the reservation to Marathas by midnight on July 13. Jarange has urged the Marathas to gather in Mumbai for the next phase of the agitation, with the schedule to be declared on July 20. He emphasised that if the government fails to grant the reservation by tonight, the agitation will be reignited on July 20. **PTI**

Kerala cricket coach 'sexually abused minor girls' for years, parents approach High Court

He was arrested on June 12 on the complaint of a girl's parents; 5 others came forward after that

SHAJUPHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JULY 13

PARENTS OF five minor girls who were being trained by a Kerala Cricket Association coach have moved the High Court seeking a fair probe into the sexual abuse allegations against him. The coach was arrested last month on charges of sexually abusing a girl in 2019.

After his arrest came to light, five other girls made similar allegations against the coach, who used to work at a cricket academy in the state.

On Friday, the KCA recommended cancellation of his certification from the BCCI-affiliated National Cricket Academy and directed cricket associations across

India against taking him on as coach.

In their petition before the Kerala HC, the parents alleged that others were also involved and the "involvement of mafia is suspected".

"They have taken videos and photographs of the children and uploaded it on various websites for commercial purposes as certain websites are available for encouraging such illegalities against the children. It is suspected that the accused and his allies have taken nude photographs of the survivors with criminal intention to misuse it in the future," the petition said.

The mother of a girl whose complaint led to the arrest under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act also recounted her daughter's ordeal

KCA has recommended cancellation of his certification from National Cricket Academy and directed cricket associations across India against taking him on as coach

from 2019.

"She wanted to discontinue cricket practice and move to Bengaluru," she wrote in the petition. "She had then expressed some abnormal behaviour, but the family did not understand the issue. Recently, she got frightened after seeing the coach again in Thiruvananthapuram. The girl then revealed what had hap-

pened in 2019, leading to registration of the case."

Following his arrest on June 12, other girls and their parents came forward alleging similar sexual harassment during coaching sessions in 2020 and 2021, when the coach had allegedly clicked nude photographs of the girls under the guise of checking for their physical fitness.

KCA president Jayesh George claimed the association never shielded the coach and that the complaint only came to light last month. "He had faced a similar case in 2022. Then, the association had kept him away from the job of coach. But a section of students and their parents wanted him back as coach and said the complaint emerged as part of issues related to selection. But the association was not ready to take him

back," he said, adding that a court eventually disposed of the case after students and parents supported the accused.

However, he admitted to a lapse on the part of the KCA, saying that it should have kept the coach away even after this acquittal. "We should have conducted an internal probe then," he said.

Another parent told *The Indian Express* that the coach sexually harassed several girls over the years. "After he wriggled out of the earlier POCSO case, he had shown the same tendencies. He used to take girls to a tournament in Tamil Nadu without any women staff or coach accompanying. A few parents withdrew their daughters (from coaching) in the last few months after they grew suspicious about his behaviour," he alleged.

India-SA match-fixing: Cheating and conspiracy charges against 4 accused

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 13

A DELHI court on Thursday ordered framing of cheating and conspiracy charges against four accused in a 24-year-old case related to a cricket match played between India and South Africa in 2000. "A serious attempt was made to fix the match," the court noted while also adding that viewers of the game attach a "national pride" to their teams.

Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Neha Priya was hearing the case against four accused — Rajesh Kalra, Krishan Kumar, Sunil Dara, and Sanjeev Chawla. Hansie Cronje, the then South African team captain, was also named along with four other accused in the case.

An FIR was registered in 2000 by the Crime Branch of Delhi Police against Hansie Cronje. Following an investigation, a chargesheet was filed in 2013 against six accused, including Kalra, Kumar, Dara, and Chawla.

On Thursday, the court noted that two players on the South African team — Herschelle Gibbs and Henry Williams — were allegedly offered bribes to the tune of \$15,000 from Cronje to score a certain amount of runs.

Based on recorded telephonic conversations between Cronje and the other accused, provided as evidence by the prosecution, the Court decided to frame charges.

Constant communication between the accused, fixing agreed-upon scores, team compositions, and financial transactions related to betting — the Court order gave these and other details.

"It was also agreed that if the results came as agreed, then Sanjeev Chawla (co-accused) would pay \$140,000 to Hansie Cronje. Though the players forgot about the deal in the heat of the game and did not play as per agreed terms, it can be concluded that a serious attempt was made to fix the match," the Judge noted while ordering the framing of charges against the accused.

The Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate noted that viewers of the game attach a "national pride" to the teams that play these international matches.

"The only thing predictable about a game of cricket is its unpredictability... If this aspect of the game is taken out of the equation, and if the spectators know that the result is pre-decided, then there would be zero interest in watching the match," the Judge noted.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Ministers Devendra Fadnis and Ajit Pawar during the inauguration of the Indian Newspaper Society Towers in Mumbai on Saturday. **PTI**

PM: Media's natural role is to create discourse by discussing serious issues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, JULY 13

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Saturday said the media's natural role is to create discourse by discussing serious issues.

Speaking after inaugurating INS Towers, the Indian Newspaper Society's secretariat in Mumbai's Bandra-Kurla Complex, Modi expressed confidence that India will

soon become the third-largest economy and spoke about how the nation has become the leader in digital payments.

He said the role of newspapers is crucial in the journey to Viksit Bharat in the next 25 years and appealed to Indian publications to enhance their global presence.

"Media makes people aware of their strength. Media's natural role is to create discourse by discussing serious issues," Modi

said even as he emphasised the impact of government policies on the functioning of the media.

He said the media is not a mute spectator of the condition of the nations but it plays a major role in changing them.

Underlining the role of newspapers and magazines in the next 25-year journey to Viksit Bharat, Modi highlighted the media's role in creating awareness about rights and the potential of the citizens.

Ratna Bhandar of Puri temple to be opened today

Group of lock breakers, snake helpline members, medical teams on standby

SUJIT BISOYI
BHUBANESWAR, JULY 13

THE LOCK of the inner Ratna Bhandar (treasure trove) of Puri Jagannath Temple will be broken if it will not open with the existing "duplicate keys" with the Odisha government clearing a proposal to open the lord's treasury on Sunday, after a gap of almost four decades.

"The key is no more an issue now. Whether the keys will work or not, the Ratna Bhandar will be opened anyway. It's a fact that the lock has not been opened for a long period. There are also chances of the lock getting rust since it's made of iron. If needed, we will break the lock," said Justice Biswanath Rath, who chairs the committee formed to supervise the process.

A "lock breaking group" will also be part of the team comprising representatives of temple managing committee, supervisory committee, servitors and Puri district administration, which will enter the lord's treasury on Sunday.

Amid tales about serpents guarding the Ratna Bhandar, the administration said they will take help from members of snake helpline.

"The members of the snake



The Ratna Bhandar has been closed for four decades. **File**

helpline and medical team will not go inside the temple. They will remain on standby near the temple administration office located outside the 12th century shrine. If needed, their help will be taken," said Justice Rath.

The precious ornaments of sibling deities — Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Goddess Subhadra — donated by devotees and erstwhile kings over centuries are stored in the Ratna Bhandar of the temple. It has two chambers — Bhitara Bhandar (inner chamber) and Bahara Bhandar (outer chamber).

While the outer chamber is opened regularly to fetch ornaments for the deities during the Sana Besha (golden attire) — a key ritual during the annual Rath Yatra, and also during major festivals throughout the year — the last inventory of the lords' treasury was done in 1978.

₹10 LAKH FINE UPHeld SC orders Mercedes to pay ₹36 lakh refund for 'defects'

AJOY SINHA KARPURAM
NEW DELHI, JULY 13

THE SUPREME COURT Friday upheld a 2017 order of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission imposing Rs 10 lakh fine and ordered Mercedes Benz India Pvt. Ltd to refund Rs 36 lakh to the buyers.

The buyers — Controls & Switchgear Company Ltd and CG Power Industrial Solutions Pvt Ltd — purchased cars for its directors and filed cases against Mercedes for "defects" in the vehicles. Controls & Switchgear claimed that the car purchased was prone to "excessive heating" whereas CG Power contended that the airbags

were defective and did not deploy to protect their director from "grievous injuries" during an accident. Mercedes argued the cars were purchased for "commercial purposes", barring the companies from proceeding against them under the Consumer Protection Act, in which a consumer "does not include a person who obtains such goods for resale or for any commercial purpose".

A bench of Justices Bela M Trivedi and Pankaj Mishra observed that there is no "strait-jacket" method to decide if the cars were purchased for commercial purposes, but mentioned that the "dominant intention or dominant purpose" should be to facilitate profit generation.

'CAUSING SAFETY CONCERN'

Pune civic body notice to Khedkar's mother over land encroachment

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, JULY 13

PUNE MUNICIPAL Corporation (PMC) on Saturday served a notice to controversial probationary IAS officer Pooja Khedkar's mother Manorama Khedkar for encroaching on land owned by the civic body outside her residence of National Housing society on Baner road in Aundh.

A notice pasted by PMC on a wall of Manorama Khedkar's residence states that the civic body has found a structure — along the sixty feet long boundary wall of the residential premises — with a width of three feet and height of two feet encroach-

ing on PMC-owned land meant for road purposes.

"The encroachment is causing inconvenience to citizens from using the road and footpath. The PMC has also received a complaint regarding it. The encroachment on Baner road just outside your property is causing a safety concern to citizens using the road," it said.

"The encroachment should be removed in seven days and if it is not done then the Pune Municipal Corporation will taken action against it," said civic officer Makrand Wadekar in the notice.

A 2023 batch IAS officer, Pooja Khedkar is under probation and currently posted in her home cadre Maharashtra.

Two killed, 25 injured after bus falls into gorge in Doda

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 13

Two people were killed and 25 others injured on Saturday as a mini bus skidded off the road and fell into a 200-ft deep gorge near Batyas in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district.

According to Doda Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh, the vehicle was on its way from Bhalessa to Thathri when a mechanical failure led to the accident. There were a total 36 people — including two children — in the vehicle. A woman was among those killed. At least nine injured have been admitted to Government Medical College Hospital in Doda, four of whom are stated to be critical.

Opp objects to Sunburn's plans to relocate: 'Promotes drugs'

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA
PANAJI, JULY 13

OPPOSITION MLAs from Goa have stridently objected to the popular electronic dance music festival Sunburn's plans of relocating to South Goa, claiming that the event promotes "drug culture".

Since its inception in 2007, the festival — popular among tourists — has been held in the coastal beach belt of North Goa. For the last several years, it has been held at Vagator beach.

On X on Friday, the festival organisers said: "Welcome to the next chapter of Sunburn Goa. This year, immerse yourself into the ultimate blend of music and

a surreal underwater experience in our stunning new South Goa home. Let the currents of music and magic take you on an unforgettable adventure".

On Instagram, the organisers shared a link for registration.

On its part, the state tourism department claims it has yet to receive any proposal for a change in venue. However, an official of the Entertainment Society of Goa (ESG) — the nodal body founded by the Goa government to deal with the state's entertainment policy — confirmed it had received a proposal.

"It is yet to be examined. There is a high-powered committee which deliberates such proposals. No decision has been taken so far," this official said. A

spokesperson for Percept Limited, which organises the festival, did not respond to calls and texts for a comment.

First founded in 2007, the Sunburn Festival has had a few run-ins in Goa, with several organisations and activists calling for a ban on an event they claim "promotes drug culture". The festival this year is scheduled to be held from December 28-30.

Speculations of relocation of the festival to Mopa village in North Goa's Pernem taluka last year prompted a citizens' collective to threaten scale protests. Then, on the first day of the festival, police shut down one stage following complaints of loud music beyond permissible levels.

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with provisions of the Delhi Building and other Construction Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1996, labour CESS is collected @ of 1% of the total construction cost of a particular project. At present, labour CESS is either deposited by individual person/ firm directly in the account of the Board or in some cases, labour CESS is collected by Government Departments/PSUs/Autonomous Bodies and later on remitted in the account of the Board.

It is hereby clarified that individual person/ firm, depositing labour CESS in the account of the Board, is required to deposit the same in **online mode only**. Offline mode of payment for them has been discontinued with effect from 01.04.2024. For making this payment, they may visit the DBOCWW Board's web portal "<https://dboewwb.delhi.gov.in/>" and by clicking the "cess collection process online payment" link and following the given process, CESS amount may be deposited.

It is further clarified that Government Departments/PSUs/Autonomous Bodies, collecting Labour CESS on behalf of the Board and remitting later on, are advised to remit the collected CESS in the DBOCWW Board's Bank of Maharashtra A/c No. **60435175753, IFSC Code: MAHB0002208** only. At the end of the financial year, the Board shall reconcile the deposit with the concerned Government Departments/PSUs/Autonomous Bodies. Therefore, after remittance of the collected CESS, Government Departments/PSUs/Autonomous Bodies may also forward the details of Contractors in the following format:

S. No.	Name & Location of work/Project (please mention District of location also)	Name of the Contractor	Address of the Contractor (With contact no. & e-mail)	Total cost of the project/ Work	Total amount of CESS to be deducted (@ 1% of project cost)	Amount of Labour Cess collected and deposited

DIP-SHABDARTH/CLASSIFIED/0124/24-25

Sd/-
SECRETARY,
DBOCW BOARD

8 EXPRESS NETWORK



Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi. PPT

Shah stresses on local jobs to prevent migration from border villages

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 13

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah Saturday said that there is a need to provide employment opportunities to the residents of border villages in order to prevent migration.

He said that central armed police forces (CAPFs) and Army deployed in such areas should encourage purchase of local agricultural and handicraft products.

Reviewing the implementation of the "Vibrant Villages Programme" (VVP), Shah directed all concerned to continue the efforts made by senior ministers and officials in this regard.

During the meeting, he said the government is committed to the all-round development of the border villages. He said the healthcare facilities of the Army and central armed police forces should be regularly made available to benefit the residents of nearby villages. The home minister stressed upon maximum use of solar energy and other renewable sources of energy like windmills etc. So far, more than 6,000 events have been organised in these border villages, which include about 4000 service delivery and awareness camps. More than 600 projects have been sanctioned by the Centre for employment generation in these villages.

Mufti, Lone say they are under house arrest as Kashmir marks Martyrs' Day

BASHARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, JULY 13

FORMER JAMMU and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti was among those who claimed that they were put under house arrest Saturday as the UT marked Martyrs' Day to commemorate the day that 22 Kashmiris were killed by the Dogra army in the erstwhile princely state of Jammu and Kashmir in 1931.

While leaders like Mufti and People's Conference chairman Sajad Lone said they were put under house arrest, others like BJP ally Altaf Bukhari were prevented from heading toward Mazar-e-Shuhada, or the martyrs' cemetery, in Srinagar.

Significantly, July 13 is marked as Martyrs' Day, formerly a public holiday in the erstwhile

state of Jammu and Kashmir. But since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, the UT administration has been not only done away with official functions but has also been stopping politicians from visiting the cemetery.

Police have so far been silent on the claims of putting politicians under house arrest and didn't respond to calls from *The Indian Express*.

Mehbooba Mufti was among the first to claim that she had been put under house arrest. In a video statement issued to the media she said: "Despite being a Muslim majority state, keeping all other issues aside, we held the hand of India thinking that Jammu and Kashmir — we were an independent state, a small state where Hindus, Muslim, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, people speaking different languages, wearing different costumes and living in different



PDP leader Mehbooba Mufti, People's Conference chairman Sajad Lone

climatic conditions lived together — will live a dignified life in a democratic country. But today, with sadness, we have to say that the Kashmiri has been forced to think if he made a mistake in making the decision that day (1947).

Lone, too, said he had been put under house arrest. "I really fail to understand what the administration gets in stopping people from going to the martyrs' graveyard.

People have a right to choose their heroes. And the martyrs are heroes for the people of Kashmir," he said on X.

Former CM and National Conference vice-president Omar Abdullah, too, criticised the move. "Another 13th July, Martyr's Day, another round of locked gates & police excesses to stop people from paying homage to those who sacrificed their lives to establish a just, fair & democratic regime in J&K. Everywhere else in the country these people would have been celebrated but in J&K the administration wants to ignore these sacrifices," he said on X. Meanwhile, BJP ally Altaf Bukhari claimed he and several other leaders of his Apni Party were stopped right outside his home as they were heading to the cemetery.

Imposing restrictions "can't erase" the memory of martyrs'

"from the hearts and minds of people", Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader MY Tarigami said in a statement.

"Not allowing the official commemoration of this historic day, and stopping the political leaders from visiting Mazar Shuhada to pay homage to the martyrs is an attempt to change the history of Kashmir and erase the collective memory of the people. Through these desperate attempts, the administration cannot remove the memory of this historic day from the hearts and minds of our people," he said. Calling July 13, 1931 a historic day, the separatist Hurriyat Conference condemned the house arrest of its chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq. "The memories and sacrifices of these martyrs are deeply ingrained in the hearts and minds of the Kashmiri people and can't be forgotten," the statement said.

CBI FIR: Trafficked Indians forced into cybercrimes at 'China control scam centres'

'Global network behind trafficking of Indians to Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar'

MAHENDER SINGH
MANRAL
NEW DELHI, JULY 13

PROBING A human trafficking, cheating and criminal conspiracy angle against cybercriminals from Southeast Asian countries, the CBI has alleged in its FIR that an international network is involved in trafficking of Indians to Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar, where they are forced into cybercrimes at "Chinese control scam centres".

Two months ago, the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), a division of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), found the China connection while probing cyber-related complaints.

"Around 7,000 cyber-related complaints on an average are registered with the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP) daily and most of the frauds have origin in three Southeast Asian countries — Cambodia, Myanmar and Laos. We have found that many web applications used to commit the crimes are written in Mandarin, so we cannot rule out China connection," said Rajesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, I4C.

In its FIR, the CBI said, "It has been learnt from reliable sources that an international network of human traffickers is involved in trafficking of Indian nationals to Southeast Asian Countries, particularly to Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar. First, the victims are offered lucrative job offers in Thailand, Dubai and Bangkok. When the victims reach the pre-destined countries, they are further trafficked/transported to Southeast Asian countries where they are forced to work as 'cyber criminals' under threat and duress

in Chinese control scam centres."

The FIR was lodged after multiple rounds of meetings were held by the MHA with the Telecom Ministry, Reserve Bank of India and CBI, asking them to identify and plug loopholes in banking and telecom sectors that enable such scams.

As first reported by *The Indian Express* on March 28, over 5,000 Indians are suspected of being stuck in Cambodia and forced to carry out "cyberfrauds".

The CBI mentioned in its FIR about a case study of one of the victims, Saddam Sheikh, a resident of Maharashtra's Palghar. "Saddam had received WhatsApp calls from two persons, working with a south Delhi-based manpower consultancy firm, informing him about a job in Thailand. He visited their office and met the owner and also with an agent, who took Rs 1.4 lakh from him for procuring visa," the FIR states.

"...After arrangements of air tickets and visa, Saddam was asked to reach the Kolkata airport to get all his documents and he left for Bangkok on February 10. At Bangkok airport, he met another agent who took money from him and took him to Chiang Rai immigration from where he was taken to Laos, where he met another agent, who is a native of Sikkim and he was taken to Golden Triangle Special Economic Zone where he was introduced to other Chinese agents as well as Indian agents," the CBI said in its FIR.

Saddam was forced to work on social media profiles to cheat people in India, Canada and the US through cryptocurrency investment schemes. He managed to escape from the scam centre and reached Bangkok, from where he came back to India on April 19.

Worried over fast growth, foreign powers working against BJP govt: Chouhan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, JULY 13

UNION AGRICULTURE Minister Shivrang Singh Chouhan Saturday claimed that foreign powers are trying to harm the ruling party "at any cost" as they are unhappy with the speed at which India is growing. Speaking at a state BJP working committee meeting in Jaipur, the former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister said: "Hamare virodhi — jis mein yeh sach hai ki videshi taakatein bhi shamil hain — ye hamare desh mein kaisey bhi BJP ki sarkaar na rahe. Jis tezi se Bharat badh raha hai, ye hamare virodhiyon ko raas nahi aa raha hai. (Our opponents — and it is true that these include foreign powers — they want to

prevent a BJP government at all costs. Our opponents don't like the speed at which India is growing). Many forces are trying to harm BJP at any cost. We need to be careful of them." Calling Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi "baalak buddhi" (childish), Chouhan attacked him for his remarks in Parliament. He claimed that the Opposition lied about Agniveer and Minimum Support Price during the Lok Sabha polls, and that the Congress-led alliance is trying to set misleading narratives.

BJP national executive member Vinay Sahasrabudhe said there were multiple causes behind the LS results for BJP, including disinformation by the Opposition on reservation. Chouhan praise Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma and PM Modi.



OUT OF THE BLUE

Union Culture and Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat goes tandem skydiving in Haryana's Narnaul, Saturday. On the occasion of World Skydiving Day, the minister flagged off an aircraft that will be used for skydiving, said to be the first such plane in the country. ANI

Nashik man returns after 'Haj on foot'

SIDDHANT KONDUSKAR
MUMBAI, JULY 13

SAYYED ALI Shahebab, a 45-year-old signboard painter from Nashik, Maharashtra, has become a testament to faith and the indomitable human spirit after completing his year-long Hajj pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia entirely on foot. His journey, which began from Nashik's Badi Dargah on July 3, 2023, stands as a poignant story of devotion and determination.

Preparing for such an arduous journey was no small feat. Shahebab acknowledges his friend of 20 years, Satish Shivaji Jagtap, for crucial support during the preparation phase. Jagtap conducted extensive research to ensure a smooth pilgrimage. Additionally, Shahebab's brother, Sayyed Gulaab Shahebab, and other friends played vital roles in securing necessary permissions from local, state, and central authorities. "Satish ji and my brother made it possible for me to embark on this pilgrimage," Shahebab expressed.

Shahebab's journey began with a 2,100 km walk through Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana, and Delhi. Originally planning to tra-



Sayyed Ali Shahebab

verse Pakistan, he adjusted his route after facing clearance issues and flew from Delhi to Mashhad in Iran. From Mashhad, he resumed his journey on foot, covering another 2,000 km through Iran, followed by 1,100 km through Iraq, before reaching the Rafah Border to enter Saudi Arabia and eventually heading towards Medina.

In Mecca, Shahebab found kindness in Salman Khan, a Saudi-based caterer who provided free accommodation and meals for a month and a half. "There is no country like India. The diversity and unity we have is unparalleled. I made sure to sleep every night embracing the tricolour," he said. Returning to India on July 12, 2024, landing at Mumbai airport, Shahebab's journey continues as he plans to walk back to his hometown, Nashik, from Mumbai.

45 patients rescued after fire at nursing home in Cuttack

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, JULY 13

FIRE SERVICE personnel Saturday evacuated at least 45 patients, including 20 children, after fire broke out at a private nursing home in Cuttack.

Officials said flames were reported from the nursing home's ICU located on the third floor.

The fire fighters reached the spot, evacuated the patients and shifted them to various government and private medical facilities. Cuttack collector Arindam Daku said the priority for the administration was to evacuate all patients safely and to extend them required medical facility.

"We will verify the papers and look into other aspects like whether the nursing home had fire safety clearance or not. The administration will take steps accordingly," Daku said.

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi expressed concern over the incident and directed the district administration to ensure proper care of the evacuees. Majhi said the government will bear the medical expenses of those evacuated from the nursing home.

Tripura CPM leader killed ahead of civic polls, statewide shutdown called today

DEBRAJ DEB
AGARTALA, JULY 13

THE OPPOSITION CPI(M) has announced a 12-hour strike in Tripura on Sunday in protest against the alleged murder of its candidate for Zilla Parishad in the August 8 panchayat polls.

Badal Shil, candidate for South Tripura Zilla Parishad, was injured after he was allegedly attacked by the BJP supporters at Rajnagar in South Tripura district on Friday. He was shifted to GBP Hospital in Agartala after being provided primary medical treatment in a local hospital.

He succumbed to his injuries at GBP Hospital on Saturday, said Tripura Left Front convener Narayan Kar. He alleged that over a dozen of Left Front party lead-



CPI(M) workers stage a protest over 'deterioration of law and order' in the state, in Agartala on Saturday. PPT

ers and members were attacked by the BJP cadre since announcement of panchayat polls.

Speaking about their shutdown programme, CPI(M)

Tripura state secretary Jitendra Chaudhury said that there would be no picketing in support of the strike. He also appealed to the people to extend support to

the dawn-to-dusk strike.

Congress Working Committee member Sudip Roy Barman said that his party would extend support to the strike. BJP spokesperson Nabendu Bhattacharjee said that it would oppose the strike as it would disturb the normal situation in the state ahead of the panchayat elections.

As per announced schedule, 6,370 seats in 606 gram panchayats of the state, 423 seats in 35 panchayat samities and 116 seats in eight zilla parishad bodies are scheduled to go to polls on August 8, with counting on August 12. State Election Commissioner (SEC) Saradindu Chaudhuri said the notification for the elections was issued on Thursday and nomination papers can be filed till July 18.

Work together for society, says Amartya Sen

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, JULY 13

EMPHASISING ON the need to encourage people and communities to "work together" for betterment of the society, Nobel laureate Amartya Sen on Saturday said that the country should emphasise on the idea of 'juktto sadhana' (collaborative work) in our present times.

Sen was attending an event at the Alipore Jail Museum — 'Chair for The Reader' — a curated reading space project, to foster book reading and storytelling habits among the youth in areas inhabited by underprivileged children.

Addressing the gathering the economist said that the history of the country can be traced back to collaborative work (juktto sadhana) between Hindus and Muslims. "As far as the history of our country goes, Hindus and Muslims have been working together in cohesion for ages. We need to emphasise on this idea of 'juktto sadhana' (collaborative work) in our present times. Juktto sadhana has no spiritual connotation like sadhana. It only defines working side by side in perfect coordination," said Sen.

Trafficked with postpartum psychosis, Bangladesh woman now a support worker

SAGAR RAJPUT
MUMBAI, JULY 13

IN DECEMBER 2022, a Government Railway Police (GRP) team found a young woman in a long-distance train at Borivali. Bedraggled and undernourished, the woman wore an oversized green kurta and bore signs of a mental illness. The woman, a Bangladeshi national, had allegedly been illegally trafficked into India three years earlier.

The team contacted Shradha Rehabilitation Foundation, a centre for the mentally-ill destitute in Karjat near Mumbai, which diagnosed her with postpartum psychosis — a rare but severe mental condition that affects new mothers.

Today, the 22-year-old has almost recovered. Now working as a support worker at the Karjat rehabilitation centre, she wants to put her past behind and return home to her five-year-old daughter. "I miss my daughter very much and want to go back to her soon. I promise to never leave her again," she told *The Indian Express*.

The rehabilitation centre said it has approached Bangladesh High Commission to have her repatriated and is currently waiting for authorities to process her request.

When contacted, an official at the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Mumbai confirmed that they had forwarded the relevant documents to Bangladesh. "We are waiting for

their repatriation order."

According to her doctor, an associate psychiatrist at the Shradha Rehabilitation Foundation, the 22-year-old went through a divorce in Bangladesh and was being treated for postpartum psychosis but eventually stopped taking her medicines and wandered off.

"Sensing a false threat to her life, she must have run away from her home," the doctor said.

The woman has only vague recollections of her time in India. From what doctors and support staff at the centre could gather from her inconsistent narrations — which doctors put down to post-traumatic stress disorder — during her three years in India, she travelled from West Bengal to Delhi and eventually came to



The 22-year-old wants to put her past behind and return home to her five-year-old daughter. Express

Maharashtra. What she recalls distinctly, however, was the man who

promised to help her cross the border and seek the medical assistance she needed. "When we

were crossing the border, all of us hid under a fence. We would cross over one by one as soon as an armed guard went to the other side," she said of that time.

She was allegedly first taken to West Bengal, where she was kept confined in a room with other women and brutally assaulted. "Wahan par wo aadmi mujhe joote se maarta tha (the man would brutally assault me with his shoes)," she said in fluent Hindi, breaking down at the memory.

She was allegedly forced into prostitution, first in Kolkata and then in Delhi, but eventually escaped to a relative's house in Pune, where too, she claims, she was sexually assaulted.

For a few months after she was brought to the Karjat rehabilitation centre, she would have

nightmares and anxiety attacks, waking up in a cold sweat at night, her caregivers said. She also had trust issues.

"These are classic symptoms of the trauma inflicted on her. We do not have any substantial evidence to confirm her claims but we chose not to dig further into her past as we feared that it could lead to a relapse and affect her mental health," the doctor said.

Although her memories of crossing over to India are vivid, her memories of her life in Bangladesh remain hazy, she told her caregivers that her house was close to two landmarks — Ichamati College and Ichamati river, both in Bangladesh's Jessore, a district that shares its borders with India and is a hotbed for human trafficking.

The foundation then contacted an NGO, Rights Jessore, and through this network, were able to contact her family.

When contacted, her father, who drives a cycle rickshaw, said he was happy to know his daughter had been found. "Around a year ago, a policeman had come to our house and inquired whether my daughter stayed here. I had then submitted all the documents to the home ministry in Bangladesh. I hope they speed up the process and I get to see my daughter soon," he said.

The 22-year-old is now eagerly awaiting her return to Bangladesh. But asked what she would miss most in India, she gets emotional. "I will miss the hills and the lake I used to visit here," she said.

सार्वजनिक सूचना

कार्यदायी संस्था मैसर्स जेपी इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर लिमिटेड द्वारा गुप हाऊसिंग पॉकेट संख्या B-16 से B-18 (Kensington Park and Heights), सैक्टर-133 की स्वीकृति 26/03/2012 को प्राप्त की गई, एवं मवन मानचित्र का पुनर्विधेकरण दिनांक 14/11/2022 को हुआ है, जिसके क्रम में गुप हाऊसिंग पॉकेट संख्या-बी-16 से बी-18, (Kensington Park and Heights), के अन्तर्गत नियोजित टॉवर संख्या केबीए-08 (1 टॉवर) के अधिभोग प्रमाण पत्र (Completion Certificate) हेतु दिनांक 17/06/2024, Online Portal के माध्यम से आवेदन किया गया है। कार्यदायी संस्था द्वारा प्रस्तुत डी.ओ.डी. एवं मानचित्र का परीक्षण सार्वजनिक सूचना जारी होने के 15 दिन के अन्दर किसी भी कार्य दिवस में सुबह 9.30 बजे से दोपहर 12.30 बजे तक नियोजन विभाग में किया जा सकता है। अपार्टमेंट्स स्वामियों/रेजीडेन्ट वेलफेयर एसोसिएशन तथा उनके संघ से लिखित आपत्तियाँ निर्धारित अवधि अर्थात् सार्वजनिक सूचना प्रसारित होने के 15 कार्य दिवसों तक आमत्रित की जाती है।

उपरोक्त के निहितार्थ अपनी आपत्तियाँ लिखित रूप में अथवा ऑनलाईन ईमेल आईडी captpnoida@gmail.com पर अपने आवेदन पत्र, नाम, पता, एवं दूरभाष नम्बर के साथ कार्यालय समय व कार्य दिवस में नोएडा प्राधिकरण में स्थित महाप्रबन्धक (नियोजन) में निर्धारित अवधि अर्थात् सूचना प्रसारित होने के 15 कार्य दिवसों में प्राप्त कराई जा सकती है।

महाप्रबन्धक (नियोजन)
नौएडा

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Procurement Tender Notice No. - JHS/DYCCM/2024/19 Date : 11.07.2024

E-Procurement Tender Notice

On behalf of the President of India, The Dy. Chief Material Manager, General Store Depot, Jhansi are invite the following E-Procurement tender.

SN	Tender No.	Qty	Tender Opening date	EMD
1	51245323	18 Nos	31.07.2024	Rs. 54590/-

Description : Cast Steel Side Frame (With 'K' Class Narrow Pedestal Jaw) for LVLH25 Bogie as per Drawing No. WD-15021-S/03 alt 05 or latest specn.

Note : 1. The complete information of above E-Procurement Tender are available on IREPS website i.e <http://www.ireps.gov.in> 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders for this purpose vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with class III digital signature certificate issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 3. Rates entered into financial rate page and duly signed digitally signature shall only be considered rates and any other financial entry in any other form/letter head if attached by vendor shall be original straight way ignore and shall not be considered. 1216/24 (D)

North central railways @ www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @northcentralrailway @CPRONCR

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Procurement Tender Notice No. - E.T.D./C.N.B./2024-25/16 Date 11.07.2024

Tender Notice

On behalf of the President of India, The Senior Materials Manager, E.T.D./J Kanpur invites the following e-procurement tender.

Description: Supply, Installation and Commissioning of current module with voltage probe with carrying case Make/Model Hiki 9665 (Qty- 4 Nos) or similar as per Annexure-1 attached.

Tender No.	Qty	Tender Opening Date	EMD
57245173	01 Set.	01.08.2024	Nil

Note: 1. The complete information of above E-Procurement Tender are available on IREPS website i.e <https://www.ireps.gov.in> 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above Tender. For this purpose, Vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with class III Digital signature certificate issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 3. Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally signature shall only be considered. Rates and any other financial entry in any other form/letter head if attached by vendor shall be original straight away ignored and shall not be considered. 1223/24 FA

North central railways @ www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @northcentralrailway @CPRONCR

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के खण्ड कार्यालय के पत्रांक-1640/ई.एन.जी-24/218 दिनांक 12.07.2024 के द्वारा अलंकार परियोजना के अन्तर्गत जनपद आगरा, हाथरस एवं मथुरा में विभिन्न निर्माण कार्यों हेतु अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रित की गयी है जिसकी समस्त सूचना व शर्तें वेब साइट www.etender.up.nic.in एवं www.upavp.in पर देखी जा सकती है। उक्त निविदाओं से सम्बन्धित भविष्य में समस्त सूचनाएँ उक्त वेबसाइट पर ही उपलब्ध होंगी। अधिशासी अभियन्ता, उ०प्र० आवास एवं विकास परिषद निर्माण खण्ड आगरा-02।

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-AUCTION NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/PS, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites bids through e-Auction through IREPS (<https://ireps.gov.in>) for the allotment of under mention contracts at following Railway stations/Locations:

E-Catalogue No.	Date & Time of bidding	Railway Stations/Locations/Lots
Parking-13-2024	29.07.2024 at 11:00 hrs.	Near Pragati Maidan Railway Station (10000 Sq. Mtrs), Meerut Cantt. (Kankankhera), Naya Ghaziabad, Ghazikhabad IInd Entry Bhoor Side (2430.46 Sq.Mtrs. for one year), Ghaziabad (City Side) (2534.90 Sq.Mtrs.), Delhi Sarai Rohilla (Car), Delhi (PF-16) (B-T), Shakurbasti, New Delhi (AGS Side) (TW Parking), Karnal (641.62 Sq.Mtrs.), Kurukshetra 1st Entry, Patel Nagar = Total 12 Sites.
Parking-14-2024	30.07.2024 at 11:00 hrs.	Delhi 2nd Entry KGS Side (TW Parking), Sahibabad, Budhlada, Bareta, Kurukshetra 2nd Entry, Kurukshetra Site 2, Panipat 1st Entry, Sahabad Markanda, Muradnagar, Sampla (Main Entry), Sampla (2nd Entry), Khatauli = Total 12 Sites.

Website particulars where complete details of E-Auction can be seen <https://ireps.gov.in/>

All contractors who intend to participate in the e-auctions conducted through E-Auction Leasing module of IREPS should fulfill following mandatory requirements before they can submit their bids:-

- Registration on IREPS for E-Auction Leasing module-Active IREPS User Account for E-Auction Leasing Module
- Payment of One Time Registration Fee
- Current Account in State Bank of India
- Integration of SBI Bank Account with IREPS Account
- Lien Marking of Funds
- Update of Turnover Details
- Contractors who do not have IREPS account for any module of IREPS can submit their online request for registration by clicking on New Vendors/Contractors (E-Tender / E-Auction Leasing) link on IREPS Home page.

Railway Authority to contact, in case of any query

Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Commercial Branch, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055
E-Mail: pkg.delhidivision@gmail.com
Tel:-011-23743084

No. 23AC/393/E-Auction/2024 Dated: 12.07.2024 2129/2024
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

सार्वजनिक सूचना

कार्यदायी संस्था मैसर्स जेपी इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर लिमिटेड द्वारा गुप हाऊसिंग पॉकेट संख्या B-12 से B-15 (Kensington Boulevard), सैक्टर-131 की स्वीकृति 26/03/2012 को प्राप्त की गई एवं मवन मानचित्र का पुनर्विधेकरण दिनांक 14/11/2022 को हुआ है, जिसके क्रम में गुप हाऊसिंग पॉकेट संख्या- B-12 से B-15 (Kensington Boulevard), के अन्तर्गत नियोजित टॉवर संख्या केबीए-9 व केबीए-10 (कुल 2 टॉवर) के अधिभोग प्रमाण पत्र (Completion Certificate) हेतु दिनांक 17/06/2024, Online Portal के माध्यम से आवेदन किया गया है। कार्यदायी संस्था द्वारा प्रस्तुत डी.ओ.डी. एवं मानचित्र का परीक्षण सार्वजनिक सूचना जारी होने के 15 दिन के अन्दर किसी भी कार्य दिवस में सुबह 9.30 बजे से दोपहर 12.30 बजे तक नियोजन विभाग में किया जा सकता है। अपार्टमेंट्स स्वामियों/रेजीडेन्ट वेलफेयर एसोसिएशन तथा उनके संघ से लिखित आपत्तियाँ निर्धारित अवधि अर्थात् सार्वजनिक सूचना प्रसारित होने के 15 कार्य दिवसों तक आमत्रित की जाती है।

उपरोक्त के निहितार्थ अपनी आपत्तियाँ लिखित रूप में अथवा ऑनलाईन ईमेल आईडी captpnoida@gmail.com पर अपने आवेदन पत्र, नाम, पता, एवं दूरभाष नम्बर के साथ कार्यालय समय व कार्य दिवस में नोएडा प्राधिकरण में स्थित महाप्रबन्धक (नियोजन) में निर्धारित अवधि अर्थात् सूचना प्रसारित होने के 15 कार्य दिवसों में प्राप्त कराई जा सकती है।

महाप्रबन्धक (नियोजन)
नौएडा

सार्वजनिक सूचना

कार्यदायी संस्था मैसर्स जेपी इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर लिमिटेड द्वारा गुप हाऊसिंग पॉकेट संख्या बी-37 (Kosmos), सैक्टर-134 की स्वीकृति 01/11/2011 को प्राप्त की गई एवं मवन मानचित्र का पुनर्विधेकरण दिनांक 14/11/2022 को हुआ है, जिसके क्रम में गुप हाऊसिंग पॉकेट संख्या- बी-37, (Kosmos), के अन्तर्गत नियोजित टॉवर संख्या के०एम०-26, 45, 46, 47 एवं क्लब-15 (कुल 4 टॉवर व एक क्लब) के अधिभोग प्रमाण पत्र (Completion Certificate) हेतु दिनांक 13/06/2024, Online Portal के माध्यम से आवेदन किया गया है। कार्यदायी संस्था द्वारा प्रस्तुत डी.ओ.डी. एवं मानचित्र का परीक्षण सार्वजनिक सूचना जारी होने के 15 दिन के अन्दर किसी भी कार्य दिवस में सुबह 9.30 बजे से दोपहर 12.30 बजे तक नियोजन विभाग में किया जा सकता है। अपार्टमेंट्स स्वामियों/रेजीडेन्ट वेलफेयर एसोसिएशन तथा उनके संघ से लिखित आपत्तियाँ निर्धारित अवधि अर्थात् सार्वजनिक सूचना प्रसारित होने के 15 कार्य दिवसों तक आमत्रित की जाती है।

उपरोक्त के निहितार्थ अपनी आपत्तियाँ लिखित रूप में अथवा ऑनलाईन ईमेल आईडी captpnoida@gmail.com पर अपने आवेदन पत्र, नाम, पता, एवं दूरभाष नम्बर के साथ कार्यालय समय व कार्य दिवस में नोएडा प्राधिकरण में स्थित महाप्रबन्धक (नियोजन) में निर्धारित अवधि अर्थात् सूचना प्रसारित होने के 15 कार्य दिवसों में प्राप्त कराई जा सकती है।

महाप्रबन्धक (नियोजन)
नौएडा

"IMPORTANT"

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WESTERN RAILWAY - BHAVNAGAR DIVISION

ENGINEERING WORKS

E-Tender No. : 78/2024-25 Name of Work : Bhavnagar Division: Providing Track mounted automatic Gauge face Lubricators

Tender Value (Rs.): ₹6,74,67,456.00 EMD Rs : ₹4,87,300.00 Bidding Start Date : 15/07/2024 Date of Bidding Closing : 30/07/2024 NIT Dated: 08/07/2024 has been uploaded on Railway website www.ireps.gov.in.

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Office Of Executive Officer Municipal Council, Chaibasa

कार्यपालक पदाधिकारी का कार्यालय नगर परिषद् चाईबासा

Amla Tola , Sadar Bazar Chaibasa W Singhbhum-833201

E-mail- nagarpalika-chaibasa@jharkhandmail.gov.in

| npchaibasa@gmail.com | Phone No:-06582357025

आम सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि अपने घरों/प्रतिष्ठानों/ कार्यालय भवनों/अस्पताल/शिक्षण संस्थानों/विवाह भवन/लॉज अन्य सभी प्रकार के भवन जिसमें शौचालय उपलब्ध हो एवं प्रयोग में लाया जाता हो, "आवासन एवं शहरी विकास मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के स्वच्छ भारत मिशन योजना के मापदण्डों के अनुसार उन सभी भवनों के शौचालय टंकी की सफाई प्रति तीन वर्ष में कराना अनिवार्य है।

शौचालय टंकी सफाई के लिए निकाय कर्मी एवं SWM एजेंसी के निर्माकित कर्मी से सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है-

1. परवेज आलम, [PIU] मोनॉं - 9304928298
2. गोविन्द यादव, Incharge SWM Agency, Mob. 6200029741

प्रशासक,
नगर परिषद, चाईबासा

PR 329584 West Singhbhum(24-25).D

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, भोपाल

केन्द्रीय कर्मशाला (मैके. शाखा)
निविदा सूचना

भोपाल, दिनांक 12/7/2024

नगर निगम भोपाल केन्द्रीय कर्मशाला के द्वारा विभिन्न प्रकार के वाहन किराये पर लिये जाने हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदा निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र.	निविदा क्र.	सामान का विवरण	अनुमानित रकम	घरेलू राशि	निविदा फर्म का मूल्य	प्रदाय अवधि
1.	2024_UAD_357230_1	HIRING OF VEHICLES J.C.B. MACHINE (3 D.X. OR 76 H.P.), DUMPER (8-10 METER CAPACITY) OR EQUIVALENT VEHICLES, TRUCK 407 OR EQUIVALENT VEHICLES, ERICKSON AND TATA MAGIC FOR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION BHOPAL.	15318000/-	765900/-	125000/-	आवश्यकानुसार

BID SUBMISSION END DATE- 09/08/2024 TIME-05:30 PM
BID OPENING DATE- 12/08/2024 TIME-12:00 PM

निविदा से संबंधित अन्य विस्तृत जानकारी वेबसाइट mptenders.gov.in पर देखी एवं केन्द्रीय कर्मशाला (मैकेनिकल) से कार्यालयीन समय में प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

नि.क्र. 173/024/024

हस्ता./-
उपायुक्त
परिवहन शाखा
नगर निगम भोपाल

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

रुद्धिपत्र

इस कार्यालय द्वारा आपत्ति खुली निविदा सूचना संख्या SNT-JP-07-2024-25 (NIT-05.07.2024) जो की दिनांक 29.07.2024 को जारी की गयी है में निम्नलिखित संशोधन किये जाते हैं। कार्य का नाम: ट्रेन के लोकोमोटिव में ऑटोमैटिक विद्युत संदेश द्वारा आने वाले सिग्नलों के माध्यम से अलग कठामें हेतु सिस्टम को, जम्पुर नगर में विकसित करने के लिए सिग्नलिंग और सुरक्षा कार्य। क्रम संख्या: 1. पूर्व में जारी विज्ञापन SNT-JP-07-2024-25 संशोधन: ट्रेन टैक्स्ट: निम्न: नया टैक्स्ट: ऑटोमैटिक संदेश सिस्टम का है। अन्य शर्तें अपरिवर्तित हैं।

809-PM/24 नई रेल प्रबन्धक (एच ए टी) जम्पुर

WESTERN RAILWAY - VADODARA DIVISION

PROVISION OF AUXILIARY TRANSFORMER AND CABLING ACTIVITY

Tender No. : EL/TRD/Tender/24-25/06

Tenders for and on behalf of The President of India are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Electrical Tr.D) Western Railway, following works. Tender No. : EL/TRD/Tender/24-25/06 Name of Work : Provision of 25 KVA Auxiliary Transformer and cabling activity in Surat - Vadodara section of Vadodara Division. Approximate cost of the work (In Rs.): ₹69,77,991/- Bid security (In Rs.): ₹1,39,600/- Cost of Tender documents and completion period : Completion period 12 months Tender scheduled on : Tender closing date 09/08/2024 and time of closing at 15:00 hrs. on the same date Web page particulars and notice for location where complete details can be seen & address of the office and clarification : Divisional Railway Manager (Electrical Tr.D) Western Railway, Pratnagar, Vadodara - 390 004 Web site : www.ireps.gov.in

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NOTICE

INVITATION OF TENDER FOR REGTL SHOPS AT ARMY HOSPITAL (R&R) ON CLOSED BID SYSTEM

1. A tender closed bid is invited from eligible person for allotment of following regtl shops for welfare of patients, troops and their families at Army Hospital (R&R), Delhi Cantt-10, initially for eleven months and extendable for a period of maximum five years subject to revision of license fee as per the policy in vogue:-

Ser No	Name of Regtl Shop	Loc	Basic Price
(a)	Fresh Juice & Fresh Fruit Shop	Opp PMR	10,000.00 per month
(b)	Optical Shop	Near Acute Med Ward (First Floor)	20,000.00 per month

2. Priority of allotment will be given to the following category of eligible applicants in the order as mentioned through a closed bid system -
(a) War Widows/Widows of defence personnel killed while on duty.
(b) Disable soldier
(c) Ex-Servicemen
(d) Spouse / Widow of Ex-Servicemen
Note: Subletting will not be allowed

3. Application form can be obtained from Regimental Shop Office (Main Office) Army Hospital (R&R) from 1000hrs to 1300hrs within 07 days of publication of this notice in newspaper.

4. Eligible volunteers may submit their application alongwith self attested copy of discharge book/documents/PPO within 15 days of publication of the advertisement addressed to "The Commandant, Army Hospital (R&R) Delhi Cantt-110010" in a sealed envelope & deposit in Tender Box (Main Office). The Board of Officer will carryout the allotment and intimation letter will be given to the allottee accordingly.

Note:-
(a) The applicant who is already in possession of Regtl shop in any location or had license within three years cooling off/ break period are not eligible to apply.
(b) Open envelope/ without envelope and over writing bid will not be accepted.

Brig /C Adm & Cdr Tps
Army Hospital (R&R) for Comdt

IMPORTANT NOTICE

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR KANWAR MELA - 2024 (FROM 22.07.2024 TO 19.08.2024)

For the convenience of Kanwariyas during Kanwar Mela-2024, Northern Railway has decided to extend the nominated train services up to Haridwar, run of Kanwar Special Trains and to provide temporary stoppages to some of existing services. The details are as under:

Extension of Train No. 04465/04466 Delhi - Shamli - Delhi DEMU upto Haridwar

Train No. 04465	STATIONS	Train No. 04466
ARR. DEP.		ARR. DEP.
- 20:00	Delhi	09:25 -
22:50 22:55	Shamli	06:25 06:30
23:20 23:22	Thana Bhawan	05:25 05:27
23:44 23:46	Rampur Maniharan	05:02 05:04
00:15 00:17	Tapri	04:46 04:48
00:56 00:58	Roorkee	04:17 04:19
01:38 01:40	Jwalapur	03:15 03:17
01:55 -	Haridwar	-- 03:05

Date of run :- 04465 Ex. Delhi from 21.07.2024 to 03.08.2024 and 04466 Ex. Haridwar from 22.07.2024 to 04.08.2024.
Accommodation : General.

Extension of Train No. 04403/04404 Delhi - Saharanpur - Delhi MEMU upto Haridwar

Train No. 04403	STATIONS	Train No. 04404
ARR. DEP.		ARR. DEP.
- 16:25	Delhi	08.45 -
20:50 21:10	Saharanpur	03:40 04:20
21:48 21:50	Roorkee	02:53 02:55
22:25 22:27	Jwalapur	02:10 02:12
22:50 --	Haridwar	-- 02:00

Date of run :- 04403 Ex. Delhi from 22.07.2024 to 03.08.2024 and 04404 Ex. Haridwar from 23.07.2024 to 04.08.2024.
Accommodation : General.

Run of Mela Special Trains as per Time-Table given below :

Train No. 04322/04321 Moradabad - Laksar - Moradabad Mela Special Train

Train No. 04322	STATIONS	Train No. 04321
ARR. DEP.		ARR. DEP.
07:15 -	Laksar	- 12:00
- 04:15	Moradabad	15:15 -

Date of run :- 04322 Ex. Moradabad and 04321 Ex. Laksar from 22.07.224 to 19.08.2024.
Accommodation : General.
Stoppages : Balawali, Muazzampur Narain, Najibabad, Nagina, Dhampur, Seohara & Kanth Stations.

Train No. 04324/04323 Haridwar - Delhi - Haridwar Mela Special Train

Train No. 04324	STATIONS	Train No. 04323
ARR. DEP.		ARR. DEP.
- 15:45	Haridwar	04:25 -
20:50 -	Delhi	- 22:00

Date of run :- 04324 Ex. Haridwar and 04323 Ex. Delhi from 29.07.2024 to 02.08.2024.
Accommodation : General.
Stoppages : Jwalapur, Roorkee, Saharanpur, Muzaffarnagar, Meerut City & Ghaziabad Stations.

Train No. 04330/04329 Yog Nagari Rishikesh - Delhi - Yog Nagari Rishikesh Mela Special Train

Train No. 04330	STATIONS	Train No. 04329
ARR. DEP.		ARR. DEP.
- 20:35	Yog Nagari Rishikesh	11:00 -
04:15 -	Delhi	- 04:45

Date of run :- 04330 Ex. Yog Nagari Rishikesh and 04329 Ex. Delhi from 29.07.2024 to 02.08.2024.
Accommodation : General.
Stoppages : Raiwala, Motichur, Haridwar, Jwalapur, Roorkee, Saharanpur, Shamli & Delhi Shahdara Stations.

Train No. 04372/04371 Yog Nagari Rishikesh - Lucknow - Yog Nagari Rishikesh Mela Special Train

Train No. 04372	STATIONS	Train No. 04371
ARR. DEP.		ARR. DEP.
- 20:35	Yog Nagari Rishikesh	23:00 -
11:15 -	Lucknow	- 11:45

Date of run :- 04372 Ex. Yog Nagari Rishikesh and 04371 Ex. Lucknow from 06.08.2024 to 19.08.2024.
Accommodation : General.
Stoppages : Raiwala, Motichur, Haridwar, Jwalapur, Laksar, Balawali, Muazzampur Narain, Najibabad, Moradabad, Rampur, Bareilly & Shahjahanpur Stations.

Train No. 04370/04369 Yog Nagari Rishikesh - Bareilly - Yog Nagari Rishikesh Mela Special Train

Train No. 04370	STATIONS	Train No. 04369
ARR. DEP.		ARR. DEP.
- 20:35	Yog Nagari Rishikesh	23:00 -
05:15 -	Bareilly	- 15:50

Date of run :- 04370 Ex. Yog Nagari Rishikesh and 04369 Ex. Bareilly from 03.08.2024 to 05.08.2024.
Accommodation : General.
Stoppages : Raiwala, Motichur, Haridwar, Jwalapur, Laksar, Balawali, Muazzampur Narain, Najibabad, Moradabad & Rampur Stations.

TEMPORARY STOPPAGES OF TRAINS FROM 22.07.2024 TO 03.08.2024

Train No. & Name	Frequency	Temporary Stoppages	Timings
14113 Subedarganj-Dehradun Express	Daily	Jwalapur	10:43 10:45
		Motichur	11:04 11:06
		Raiwala	11:14 11:16
14114 Dehradun-Subedarganj Express	Daily	Raiwala	14:15 14:17
		Motichur	14:34 14:36
		Jwalapur	15:15 15:17
14309 Ujjain-Dehradun Express	Bi-Weekly	Jwalapur	15:53 15:55
		Motichur	17:00 17:02
		Raiwala	17:35 17:37
14310 Dehradun - Ujjain Express	Bi-Weekly	Raiwala	07:08 07:10
		Motichur	07:24 07:26
		Jwalapur	07:52 07:54
14317 Indore-Dehradun Express	Bi-Weekly	Jwalapur	15:53 15:55
		Motichur	17:00 17:02
		Raiwala	17:35 17:37
14318 Dehradun-Indore Express	Bi-Weekly	Raiwala	07:08 07:10
		Motichur	07:24 07:26
		Jwalapur	07:52 07:54
19565 Okha-Dehradun Express	Weekly	Jwalapur	15:53 15:55
		Motichur	17:00 17:02
		Raiwala	17:35 17:37
19566 Dehradun-Okha Express	Weekly	Raiwala	07:08 07:10
		Motichur	07:24 07:26
		Jwalapur	07:52 07:54
22659 Kochuveli - Yog Nagari Rishikesh Superfast Express	Weekly	Jwalapur	12:08 12:10
		Motichur	12:45 12:47
		Raiwala	13:00 13:02
22660 Kochuveli - Yog Nagari Rishikesh Superfast Express	Weekly	Raiwala	07:08 07:10
		Motichur	07:24 07:26
		Jwalapur	07:52 07:54
14610 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra- Yog Nagari Rishikesh Hemkund Exp.	Daily	Jwalapur	06:48 06:50
		Motichur	07:20 07:22
		Jwalapur	18:31 18:33

TEMPORARY STOPPAGE OF TRAINS FROM 22.07.2024 TO 19.08.2024

04303 Bareilly-Delhi Special Exp.	Daily	Kankather	23:36 23:38
04304 Delhi-Bareilly Special Exp.	Daily	Kankather	02:40 02:42

For detailed information, please call RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit enquiry website: www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

RailMadad Helpline No. 139

Visit RailMadad website:- www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in

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10 CLASSIFIEDS & TENDERS

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I,Nitin S/o Rajveer Singh residing at 97/25 Basant Vihar Bahadurgarh Jhajjar 124507, have changed my name to Nitin Rathee for all future purposes. 0050245990-1

It is for general information that I, ANITA SHARMA W/O LALIT SHARMA R/O House No. 152, Gali No.-9A, Village-Nithari, Sector-31, Noida, Distt.-Gautam Budh Nagar, UP-201301 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as ANITA in my minor daughter MAHIMA SHARMA, aged 14 Years in her school records. The actual name of mine is ANITA SHARMA respectively, which may be amended accordingly. 0070912722-1

I,ved parkash,S/O Raisal singh,R/O H.No.967 pana Paposian Narela,Delhi-110040,declare that name of my son Has been wrongly written as Harsh vardan rangathan in my service-records the actual-name of my son is Noratan parsad. 0040738384-5

I,hitherto known as PRIYAMVAD YADAV,S/o Vikhyat Kumar Yadav,R/O-4/3,Block-4, Kalkaji Extension,Behind Pracheen Bhairav Mandir,Kalkaji,VTC,Kalkaji,PO: Kalkaji,Sub District:Kalkaji,District:South Delhi,State: Delhi-110019,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PRIYAMVAD. 0040738382-8

I,Yogesh Kumar Sharma S/o N.C. Sharma R/O B-335, Single Storey, Brij Vihar, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201011, have changed my name to Yogesh Sharma. 0040738364-3

I,Wasjid Ali Khan,S/O Mohammad Ali Khan R/o,H.No.151,Tantan-Upper Kote, Bulandshahr,U.P.-203001, have changed my name to Wajid Ali Khan. 0040738379-3

I,VANSH AGGARWAL,S/O-HARI OM AGGARWAL,R/O-32 SECOND-FLOOR,72 NEAR CLUB-ROAD,WEST PUNJABI-BAGH, DELHI-110026,have changed my name to VANSH AGGARWAL 0040738370-1

I,VAISHNAVI SINHA,D/o Sh Sanjay Sinha R/O SESNA,DIVYA SHREE, ELANSARJAPUR ROAD SARJAPUR,BANGLORE-562125,also at J-1108 Prateek lauret sector-120,Noida Gautambudha nagar,UP,declare that SINHA VAISHNAVI SANJAY and VAISHNAVI SINHA are same person and both names are mine. 0040738388-1

I,TABASSUM MIRZA,W/O-RAHIS MIRZA,R/O - PLOT NUMBER-31, KAVITA-COLONY, NANGLOI,DELHI-110041,have changed my name to TABSSUM MIRZA. 0040738382-5

I,Sourabh Gupta,S/o Siri Chand Gupta,R/O H.No.53/18, opp.Housing Board Colony, Jharsa Road Gurgaon(Haryana),have changed my name to Sorabh Gupta,for all Purposes. 0040738379-9

I,Sharvan Devi,W/o-Ganga Ram,R/O-H.No.302,Bagri Mohalla,Bankner, Narela,Delhi-110040,that in my Bank of Baroda,account no-3032010005722 my name,& DOB is mentioned,as Sarvan Devi Bunker (DOB-05.01.1969).The correct name,& DOB of mine,is Sharvan Devi (DOB-01.07.1967) 0040738370-3

I,SHASHANK,S/O YOGESH KUMAR MITTAL,R/O,FLAT.No.-93,SANSAD VIHAR,WEST ENCLAVE PITAM PURA,DELHI-110034,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHASHANK MITTAL,for all Purposes. 0040738382-4

I,SHANTI SWARUP,S/O-KUNDAN LAL,R/O - H.No.65, POCKET-4,SECTOR -24,ROHINI, DELHI-110085,have changed my name to SHANTI SWARUP AGGARWAL. 0040738382-7

I,SARUP CHAUDHARY,S/o-Surjit Kumar Chaudhary,R/O-H2/30,DLF Phase-1,Gurgaon-122002,Haryana,have changed my name to SARUR (name) CHAUDHARY (surname),for all future purposes. 0040738382-3

I,SAMEER IMRAN,S/O MOHAMMAD NAFIS R/O-2899,GALI SAKHON WALI MOHALLA SHAH GANJ,G.B.ROAD,DELHI-110006,Have Changed My Name To MOHAMMAD IMRAN permanently. 0040738379-2

I,SALIM AHMED,S/O ALAUDDIN, R/O.448, MASURI DISTRICT GHAZIABAD,UTTAR PRADESH-201015, have changed my name to SALIM AHMED,for all future purposes. 0040738379-10

I,Ravi Shankar S/o Suresh chand, R/O-IMP0031203, 12th-Floor, Tower-3,Imperial court Jaypee wishtown, Sector-128 Noida,Gautam Budh Nagar-UP, 0040738259-1

I,Rahul Dev,S/o Ramesh Chand,R/O B-1, First-Floor,Plot-95,Shree Om-Apartment, Sec-5,Rajendra Nagar, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad,have changed my son's name,from Shivansh to Shivansh Chauhan. 0040738379-4

I,Banwari Lal R/O A-347/348 Mangla puri phase-2 Palam colony Street No -6 New Delhi-110045, Old Name Pankaj New Name Pankaj Mahawar. 0070912639-1

I,RUPINDER KAUR D/o Sukhvir Singh R/O Wz-96 B/A top floor Gali No-34 Santgarh p/o Tilak nagar New Delhi-110018 declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as Sukhwinder Singh in my Delhi University educational Documents Rollno-9257901.Enrolment no-SOL(N)/BCOM/17437/2014.The actual-my father name is Sukhvir Singh.For all the future purposes. 0040738384-8

I,RAMKALI,W/O SH.RAJ KUMAR R/O-197, TAKIYA KALE KHAN,MIR DARD ROAD, CENTRAL,DELHI-110002,Inform That RAMKALI & RAMA are one and same person. 0040738384-3

I,QAISER JAHAN,W/O MOHD ANIS,RESIDING AT,1677 F/F,GALI MADARSA MIR JUMLA LAL KUAN,DELHI-110006,have changed my name to QAISAR JAHAN,for all future purposes. 0040738384-1

I,Parvinder Kumar Solanki,S/O Laxmi Narain R/O H-692,3rd-Floor, Palam Ext Part-1, Palam, Sector-7,Dwarka, Delhi-10045 have changed my name to Parvinder Kumar. 0040738379-1

I,Parmanand Aggarwal,s/o-Kailash chand Aggarwal,r/o,A-30/2,SFS,flats,Near PVR Cinema,Saket,Delhi-110017,have changed my name to Parmanand Agarwal,for all purpose. 0040738388-8

I,Tushar Pathreja S/o Sanjay Kumar R/O C-28, 3rd Floor, Pandav Nagar, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Pratham Pathrella. 0040738370-6

I,PARUL DHALL,W/O SAURABH DHALL H.O.NO.719 SECTOR-29 FARIDABAD-121008,HAVE MY NAME CHANGE PARUL KERRA,FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040738364-1

I,Neha Singh Chandurkar,D/o Manoranjan Singh,W/o Siddhartha Padmakar Chandurkar,R/O Block-18,Flat.no.102, Mehrauli Road,Heritage City,Gurgaon(Hr.),have changed my name to Neha Singh. 0040738379-6

I,NABEEL S/O SHAHID AHMAD,H.No-133,GALI MASJID TEHWAR KHAN,NAYA BANS,DELHI-110006,have changed my name to NABEEL AHMED,for all future purposes. 0040738370-2

I,Munna Devi W/o Pardeep Kumar,R/O F-7/255,Sultan Puri,New Delhi-110086,have changed my name to Munna Rani,for all Purposes. 0040738379-8

I,Mukesh Kumar alias Mukesh Aggarwal,S/O Laxmi Narain Aggarwal,R/O-House No.2016,First Floor,Outram Line,Guru Teg Babadur Nagar,Delhi-110009,have changed my name to Mukesh Kumar Aggarwal. 0040738370-9

I,Mohd Parvez Akhtar S/o.Miyan Baksh, R/O.C-4/326,LNJP COLONY, Ranieet Singh Marg,Darya Ganj,Delhi-110002,have changed my name to PARVEZ AKHTAR permanently. 0040738388-4

I,Mohammad Mehboob S/o Mohd Kamruddin R/O FA-360, Mansarovar Garden, New Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Mehboob Ali for all-purposes. 0040738384-4

I,Manorma Devi,W/o-Saroj Kumar,R/O-Plot No-22,Vikas Nagar,Uttam Nagar, Delhi-59,have changed my name to Manorama Devi. 0040738388-3

I,Manohar Singh,S/o Chander Singh Rawat R/O-4/334,Trilok Puri,Chilla,East Delhi-110091,have changed my name to Manohar Singh Rawat. 0040738382-9

I,MUMTAZ ALI S/O BADRUDDIN, residing at C-564-565,MEER VIHAR, MADAN PUR DABAS, RANI KHERA, DELHI-110081, have changed my name to MUMTAZ ALI, for all future purposes. 0040738384-7

I,MOHD AMIRUDDIN,S/O REYASAT HUSSAIN, HO.HO-H-13/10 SANGAM-VIHAR DELHI-110080,HAVE MY NAME CHANGE AMIRUDDIN ANSARI FOR ALL PURPOSES 0040738364-2

I,MADHVI SHARMA,W/o Gursimar Singh Anand,R/O H.No.318, GF, Ff Sector-28 Gurgaon(haryana)-122002,have changed my name Madhavi Sharma,for all purposes. 0040738379-5

I,Navneet Kumar Sharma S/o Anand Kumar Sharma,R/O 1462, Block-A, Gali No.15,Nathu Colony, Nuthapura, Burari, Delhi-110804 declare that my name is mentioned as Navneet and my Father's name mentioned as Anand Sharma in my documents whereas my correct name is Navneet Kumar Sharma and my Father's name is Anand Kumar Sharma. 0040738300-1

I,KHATUN W/O MUMTAZ ALI, residing at C-564-565,MEER VIHAR,MADAN PUR DABAS, RANI KHERA, DELHI-110081, have changed my name to KHATOON BEGAM,for all future purposes 0040738384-6

I,Banwari Lal R/O A-347/348 Mangla puri phase-2 Palam colony Street No -6 New Delhi-110045, Old Name Bhawna New Name Bhawna Mahawar. 0070912638-1

I,Krishna Mal W/o Late Sh. Kanakavon Mal(Alottee), have lost original Demand-cum-Allotment letter,Possession-Letter,Water & Electricity N.O.C.,Bank Challan Receipts,Site Possession Slip,Provisional demand letter issued by DDA. File no-116(289)87/SFS/TP of Flat-no.126-C,Second Floor,Pocket-B,Mayur Vihar Phase-2,Delhi-110091. An FIR has been registered vide LR-no.1922507/2024 dated-11/07/2024. Finder may please Contact-9354111322. 0040738370-11

I, PRAVEEN KUMAR RANA,S/O BALJEET SINGH,R/O,H.NO-1182,OPP.PALAM Apartment,Bijwasan,Delhi-110061,declare that name of mine,my wife and my minor son has been wrongly written as PRAVEEN, POONAM and DEVYANSH in my minor son namely DEVYANSH RANA aged-12-years 10 months in his school-record.The actual-name of mine,my wife and my minor son are PRAVEEN KUMAR RANA,POONAM RANI and DEVYANSH RANA. 0040738387-8

I,JASWINER KAUR,W/O RAJWANT SINGH/R/O BAMNOLI LATIPUR POLICE STATION HASTINAPUR MEERUT(UP)25044,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO JASWINDER KAUR 0040738292-1

I,JANKI DEVI W/O-OMPARKASH AHUJA R/O,A-46, F.F,RISHI NAGAR,RANI BAGH, DELHI-110034,have changed my name to JANKI DEVI AHUJA. 0040738382-6

I,Habib Ur Rehman S/o,Mehboob Ali R/O,FA-360, Mansarovar-Garden,New Delhi-110015,that my mother's name is wrongly-written as PARVIN in my 10th-Class Certificate of CBSE-Board. But my-mother's actual-name is Parveen Begum. 0040738364-5

I,HARISH MALHOTRA S/O RAM NATH MALHOTRA R/O WZ-2B,Sub EXTN.PART-1,UTTAM-NAGAR,DELHI-110059.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO HARISH CHANDER MALHOTRA. 0040738382-1

I,Gaurav Gupta,s/o,Adesh Kumar Gupta,R/O,E-217,New Ashok Nagar Delhi-110096,have changed my name from Gaurabh kumar to Gaurav Gupta,For All purposes 0040738370-10

I,Firdose begum,w/o,Parvez Akhtar,R/O,C-4/326,LNJP-Colony Ranieet Singh-Marg, Darya Ganj,Delhi-110002,have changed my name to FIRDOSH BEGAM,permanently 0040738388-5

I,Faranaj W/O Mohd Haroon,R/O,H.No. A-555,Gali.No-09,Shri Ram Colony,Rajni Nagar, Khajuri,, Delhi-110094,have changed my name to FARHA NAZ,Permanently. 0040738384-2

I,DEEPAK MEHRA,S/O,SH.ROSHAN LAL MEHRA,HOUSE.No.-140,UDAY PARK, ANDREWSGANJ,SOUTH DELHI,DELHI-110049,have changed my name from DEEPAK KUMAR MEHRA to DEEPAK MEHRA, for all future purposes. 0040738384-4

I,CHETAN KUMAR SHAH,S/O-SUBHASH CHAND SHAH,R/O-H.NO-CR-246,2 AND 3-FLOOR,GALI.No-6,LALITA PARK,LAXMI NAGAR,DELHI 110092,NEAR LUXMI SWEET,INFORM THAT CHETAN KUMAR SHAH AND CHETAN SHAH,BOTH NAMES ARE SAME PERSON. 0040738388-6

I,Balvinder Chadha,S/O-Ratan Singh,R/O-E-2/1,Shastrri Nagar,Gali No.1,near Metro Station,Delhi-110052,declare that Balvinder Chadha,and Balvinder Singh is one,and same,person. Correct name,is Balvinder chadha 0040738370-4

I,Ayushi Sharma,D/o-Sunil Kumar Sharma,R/O-B-1555,shastri nagar delhi-110052,that Ayushi,and Ayushi Sharma,are same,and one,person,shall hereafter be,known Ayushi Sharma. 0040738370-5

I,Aakash Maini D/O Sh Chander M Maini, R/O 429,Sainik Vihar,Pitam Pura, Delhi-110034 has been granted the exclusive custody of my minor daughter Saanvika, by the competent court of Delhi.I have now changed the surname of my minor daughter from Saanvika Anand to Saanvika Maini for all future purposes 0040738258-3

I,ARACHANA KUMARI,D/O RAJVEER SINGH W/O SATISH KUMAR,R/O 3025/4,2ND-FLOOR,SANT NAGAR,RANI BAGH,DELHI-110034.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RACHANA DEVI. 0040738388-2

I, Sonia w/o Chandan Deep Singh, R/O-F-103A, Sudershan Park, New Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Jaspreet Kaur. 0050245599-1

I, Savitri Devi Sidana W/o Des Raj Sidana R/O B-202, Kedar Apartments, Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi have changed my name to Savitri Sidana for all purposes. 0040738263-1

I,Navin Kumar S/o Sh. Jas Ram Kadiyan R/O B-4, Gali No.01, Opp. Radha Swami Satsang, Kashmiri Colony, Roopali Enclave, Karala, Delhi-110081 have changed my name to Navin Kadiyan for all purposes. 0040738258-2

I,Divya Aggarwal D/o Rajinder Aggarwal R/O H.No.7/27,Street No.2, Model Town, Bahadurgarh,Distt. Jhajjar Haryana declare that the name of my father has been mentioned in my documents as Rajinder Aggarwal whereas in his documents his name is mentioned as Rajinder Kumar. That Rajinder Kumar and Rajinder Aggarwal are one and same person. 0040738294-1

I,Deeksha W/O Ansh Gupta R/O 611, Felcita, Mahagan Maple, Sector-50, Noida, UP-201301 have changed my name to Deeksha Gupta for all future purposes. 0070912676-1

I, Chandan Deep Singh s/o Jasvinder Singh, R/O-F-103A, Sudershan Park, New Delhi-110015, have changed my minor daughter's name from Mannat to Mannat Kaur (DOB:29-11-2011). 0040738307-1

I Umesh Chaudhry,S/o-Budh Ram Chaudhary,R/O-C-281, Prashant Vihar, Sector-14, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Umesh Chaudhary for all purposes. 0040738292-1

I Laxmi Devi W/O Sh. Ramesh Kumar R/O G-450, VTC Sultanpuri, Post: Sultanpuri, C-Block, District North West Delhi, New Delhi-110086 have changed my name to Laxmi for all purposes. 0040738258-1

Tamanna Rawat D/o Manmohan Rawat R/o 4B, Anubhav Apartment, Sector 13, Rohini, Delhi-110085, changed my name to Tamanna Aggarwal Rawat 0130043478-1

I, Purshotam Lal R/O 116, Sitaram Dhani, Mokolwas(132), PO, Mokolwas, Gurgaon (Haryana) -122413, have changed my Minor Son name from Mohit Yadav to Mohit for all Purposes. 0040738379-7

I, KOPPULA SURENDER, S/O Sh. KOPPULA KOMARIAH, R/O G-1502, Pan Osais Society, Sector-70, Noida, UP-201301, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that my daughter's name KOPPULA ANSHU is wrongly mentioned as ANUSHU K & while my daughter true and correct name is KOPPULA ANSHU. The KOPPULA ANSHU, ANUSHU K, K. ANSHU & ANSHU KOPPULA are one the same person/individual affidavit certificate no:IN-UP105190551942W dt:13.07.2024, sworn before notary.R.B.Sharma, GB Nagar, UP. 0040738342-1

LOST & FOUND

I, Sameena Devi W/O Murlil Manohar Sharma R/O 1185/80, Shanti Nagar, Tri Nagar, Delhi-110035 Have Lost My Original Sale Dead Paper Above property. Finder Contact - 9911547426 0070912709-1

I,Aditya Sharman S/o Sh. Jagannath Hait, R/o prop. No.104, khasra No.1708, Flat No.11, BLK-A, 2nd Floor, Aaya Nagar, New Delhi-110047, have lost my 10th and 12th Class Marksheet and certificate any where 10 th class Roll No.14602456(2014-2015) and 12th Class Roll No.17143448 (2016-2017) PZ Contact No.9811117117,9625234982 0040738256-1

MATRIMONIAL

Bride wanted
I am seeking a life partner for a smart USA PR boy, born October '86, 5'8", tall, working as an IT consultant in Boston. Caste No Bar. Punjabi-based family. Contact : +1-781-330-6675, +91-9411789405 (Father) (WhatsApp Only), kaplish@gmail.com.

CASTE NO BAR

Groom wanted
For 32 year old fair and slim, catholic girl Masters in psychology and Bed. Teaching at Chandigarh. Call 8146739501 .

CHRISTIAN

Groom wanted
For 32 year old fair and slim, catholic girl Masters in psychology and Bed. Teaching at Chandigarh. Call 8146739501 .

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO BE KNOWN TO ALL THAT MY CLIENT: KAPIL ADESH S/O LATE CHANDRANA SINGH R/O Flat No.67, Laxmi Vihar CHGS Ltd Block-4-3, Plot No.24, Bodola Phase-II, Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018. The Original Property documents (i.e. Share Certificate, Possession Letter, Allotment Letter, General Power of Attorney(s), Agreement to Sell and Purchase(s) and Receipts (s) of Flat No.67, Laxmi Vihar CHGS Ltd Block-4-3, Plot No.24, Bodola Phase-II, Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018 has been lost. An FIR in this effect has been lodged in Police Station, VIDE NCR/LR No. 1928605/2024 dated: 12/07/2024. Any Person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write/contact with above named person at above address within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. Sd/- B.B.N. DEO, Advocate S.R.Ind.6 Coumpus, Janak Puri,ND-58

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Anil Kumar Gupta S/o Sh Sheesh Pal Singh, R/O 110473, Mohan Park, Naveen Shahdara Delhi-110032 intends to create a charge viz. mortgage or otherwise on the basis of laminated original title deeds pertaining to property 1/10473, Mohan Park, Naveen Shahdara Delhi-110032. (1) Deeds of date 15-5-55 in urdu. (2) Power of Attorney of date 05-09-1984 and 19-06-1986 in respect of property no 1/10473, Mohan Park, Naveen Shahdara Delhi-110032. I wish to create charge for availing a loan/credit facility from State Bank Of India, SME Branch Code 09316. In case any party has any claim towards the said property, the same should be lodged with the intending party and also with the above stated branch of State Bank of India, SME shahdara (09316) within 15 days from publication of this notice. Anil Kumar Gupta D/1161/1998 Advocate (Delhi High Court)

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Anil Kumar Gupta S/o Sh Sheesh Pal Singh, R/O 1/10473, Mohan Park, Naveen Shahdara Delhi-110032 intends to create a charge viz. mortgage or otherwise on the basis of laminated original title deeds pertaining to property 1/10473, Mohan Park, Naveen Shahdara Delhi-110032. (1) Deeds of date 15-5-55 in urdu. (2) Power of Attorney of date 05-09-1984 and 19-06-1986 in respect of property no 1/10473, Mohan Park, Naveen Shahdara Delhi-110032. I wish to create charge for availing a loan/credit facility from State Bank Of India, SME Branch Code 09316. In case any party has any claim towards the said property, the same should be lodged with the intending party and also with the above stated branch of State Bank of India, SME shahdara (09316) within 15 days from publication of this notice. Anil Kumar Gupta D/1161/1998 Advocate (Delhi High Court)

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is brought to the public notice that my client Nitu Jha W/O Pradeep Jha & Pradeep Kumar Jha R/O A-1/12 Second Floor, Sanjay Enclave, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059 has disowned & disinherit her daughter namely Ms. Payal Kumar & Pradeep Jha R/O A-1/12 Second Floor, Sanjay Enclave, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059, from all their property both movable & immovable and also severed all their relations and connections with her on account of their bad habits, insubordination towards Parents. It is further notified that anybody dealing with her in any matter/transactions, shall do the same on his/her own risk, cost, & consequences and my client shall not be liable/responsible for any act, commissions or omission on their behalf. KUNDAN LAL GUPTA (Advocate) 20/4, D. S. Prem Nagar, Janakpuri, ND-58

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at large hereby informed that My Client Sh. Kuldip Singh Sheoran S/O Sh. Kirpa Ram Sheoran is the owner of Freehold Flat No.521, Indian Airlines Workers CGS Ltd, Plot No.S, Sector-23, Dwarka New Delhi virtue of Conveyance Deed duly registered as Doc No.21366 dated 21.12.2011. Original Allotment Letter dated 31.05.1995 & Original Possession Letter dated 30.01.2001 both issued by Indian Airlines Workers CGS Ltd in favour of Sh. KS Sheoran in respect of the captioned property is informed as lost and lost report filed with P.S. Crime Branch vide LR No. 1927156/2024 dated 12.07.2024, and property is also owned & subject to Mortgage with SBI RACPF NSP New Delhi. It is hereby notified that any person or entity, firm/ company, Bank, financial institution having claim any charge, interest or lien or claim on the basis of documents mentioned above or otherwise and/or objection thereof, he/she/they may lodge/notify the same to the undersigned with documentary proof within 15 days from the day of publication, failing which the title shall be deemed to be clear and marketable without any defect, encumbrance, flaw and impediment. Sd/- NIRMAL KUMAR Advocate Chamber No. 599, Patiala House Court, New Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client states that the original Flat Buy Agreement dated 15-06-2006 issued by the Builder M/s. Charan Properties Ltd in favour of Mr. Sanjay Bhandari, Ajeet Raj Bhandari & Sushila Bhandari duly endorsed in favour of Mr. Anil Chugh in respect of property bearing No. 1141 on 11th Floor, Tower-D4, The Legend, Sector-57, Gurgaon has been lost by our client while lying in car custody. An FIR dated 20/07/2024 was filed for loss of original sale deed. If any person has any claim or interest over the said property, he/she is requested to forward his/her claim(s) along with the relevant document(s) to us within 15 days of this public notice. If we do not receive any claim from any person within 15 days, it will be strictly presumed that the property is absolutely free from any claim or encumbrance and no one can object over the said property. Sd/- RAVI CHOPRA Advocate Office No. 1 First Floor, JHA MARKET, MAYUR VIHAR PH-II, DELHI-110096

LOST & FOUND

I, Neeraj Khemka S/O Gopal Khemka, R/O C5/16, Safdarjung Development Area, New Delhi-110016, do hereby declare that my mother died on 29/05/2022 was the actual owner of property No. B-17A, Basement, Deepali Building, 92, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019. After the death of my mother I am the owner of the said property through registered Will and have got notarized NOCs from other surviving members. The Flat Buyer Agreement and other property Document regarding the said flat issued from the Builder Om Apartment, has actually been lost and not traceable till date. Finder call - 9811021202.

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I, Neeraj Khemka S/O Gopal Khemka, R/O C5/16, Safdarjung Development Area, New Delhi-110016, do hereby declare that my mother died on 29/05/2022 was the actual owner of property No. B-17A, Basement, Deepali Building, 92, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019. After the death of my mother I am the owner of the said property through registered Will and have got notarized NOCs from other surviving members. The Flat Buyer Agreement and other property Document regarding the said flat issued from the Builder Om Apartment, has actually been lost and not traceable till date. Finder call - 9811021202.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY STORES DEPARTMENT E-Auction Programme August-2024

On line auction sale through www.ireps.gov.in for disposal of scrap Ferrous, Non-Ferrous Scrap comprising of Rails on line, other P. Way Scrap, M.S. Sheet, Axles, Machines and condemned wagons/coaches will be held as per schedule programme given below:

Depot/ Division	Ajmer Depot	Ajmer Division	Jodhpur Depot	Jodhpur Division	BKN Depot & Division	Jaipur Division
August-2024	02.08.24 23.08.24	06.08.24 28.08.24	07.08.24 29.08.24	05.08.24 27.08.24	08.08.24 28.08.24	13.08.24 30.08.24

Note: The amendments regarding the date of auction can be seen on IREPS site only. No publication will be done in newspaper in future.

- Indian Railway is selling all the scrap through e-auction. Bidders are requested to get registered for E-auction with www.ireps.gov.in at any early date.
- Bidders should obtained class-III digital certificate with firm's name before registration. For payment, bidders will have to open an account with SBI (saraal/vyapar) with net banking Rights for depositing earnest money etc. For any detail please contact concerned officers of depot Dy. CMM's and HQ office stores department, Jaipur. 799-PM/24

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Across THE AISLE



PCHIDAMBARAM

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There are many more questions. Which is the platform to ask the questions and receive answers? No one in the government has answered the questions so far, but the questions will not go away. Yet the laws that are most fundamental to the administration of criminal justice in the country have 'come into force' — an example of government by some people and for some people

Who will answer the questions?

AFTER A debate that the Opposition boycotted in both Houses of Parliament (for good reasons), three Bills to replace (and re-enact) the Indian Penal Code, 1860, the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 were passed. The new Bills carried names in Hindi (or Sanskrit) even in the English versions of the Bills. The President gave her assent to the Bills and the government notified that the new laws will come into force on July 1, 2024.

There is stiff opposition to the new laws from many quarters. The government has dismissed the grounds of opposition as irrelevant and motivated. The government's ram-through approach has not deterred the opposition to the laws. On the contrary, two state governments have declared that they will bring certain amendments in the state legislatures concerned. Tamil Nadu has appointed a one-person committee to suggest the changes within a month. Karnataka and other state governments may adopt the same route. It is therefore necessary to place the facts and the issues before the public and ask the citizens to arrive at their own conclusions.

'Criminal law' is a subject in the Concurrent List of the Constitution. Both Parliament and state legislatures are competent to make laws on the subject. Undoubtedly, if a law made by Parliament and a law made by a state legislature are *repugnant*, Article 254 of the Constitution will be attracted. However,

that is an issue that will arise after the state legislature made a law, there was repugnancy, and the President did not give her assent to the law passed by the state legislature.

Meanwhile, the questions raised by those opposing the new laws must be heard and answered. Unfortunately, the central government has refused to answer in Parliament or outside. Here are the questions:

1. Is it correct that the bulk of the provisions of the three new laws have been 'copied and pasted' from the three laws that were replaced? Is it correct that 90-95 per cent of the IPC and the CrPC and 95-99 per cent of the Evidence Act have been retained in the new laws and every section re-numbered? If a few additions, deletions and changes were required in the existing laws, could the same outcome not have been achieved through *amendments*? Is not the claim that the government has thrown out the 'colonial legacy' a hollow claim?

2. If the intention was a thorough revision and overhaul of the criminal laws, why was the time-honoured practice to make a reference to the Law Commission not followed? Was not the Law Commission the most suitable body to consult all stakeholders and submit its recommendations, together with draft Bills, for the consideration of the government and Parliament? Why was the Law Commission by-passed and the task entrusted to a Committee that consisted of part-time members who, save one, were

employed as full-time professors in various Universities?

3. Are the new laws consistent with the modern principles of criminal jurisprudence? Have the new laws recognised and incorporated the progressive principles laid down by the Supreme Court in landmark judgments delivered in the last 10 years? Are several provisions of the new laws contrary to the Constitution of India as interpreted by the Supreme Court?

4. Why has the new law retained 'death penalty' that has been abolished in many democratic countries? Why has the cruel and dehumanising punishment of 'solitary confinement' been introduced? Why has the offence of 'adultery' been brought back into the criminal law? Was it necessary to retain 'defamation' as a criminal offence? Was it not necessary to stipulate a period of limitation to lodge a criminal complaint of 'defamation'? Why is same-sex relationship *without* the consent of the other person no longer an offence? Was it not necessary to define the punishment of 'community service' or, at least, give illustrations of community service?

5. Why has the offence of 'sedition' been enlarged and retained? Why has the offence of 'terrorism' been brought into the general criminal law when there is a special Act called Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act? Why have 'electoral offences' been included in the new law when there are special laws called Representation of the People Act, 1950

and Representation of the People Act, 1951?

6. Have the new laws given greater latitude to the police to arrest a person and seek the person's police custody? Have the new laws ignored the dictum of the Supreme Court that the power to arrest does not mean the necessity to arrest? Was it not necessary to explicitly provide in the law that 'bail is the rule, jail is the exception'? Was it not necessary to oblige a Magistrate to examine the *legality* of the arrest and the *need* to arrest? Do the provisions for bail effectively require the Magistrate to deny bail for 40/60 days after the arrest?

7. Is the provision that enables an FIR to be registered in any police station of the country, irrespective of the place of the offence, constitutional? Is the provision that empowers the police of that State to arrest the accused and investigate the offence unconstitutional in view of 'Police' being a subject in the State List? Are the said provisions contrary to the principle of 'federalism' which is a basic feature of the Constitution?

There are many more questions. Which is the platform to ask the questions and receive answers? No one in the government has answered the questions so far, but the questions will not go away. Yet the laws that are most fundamental to the administration of criminal justice in the country have 'come into force' — an example of government by some people and for some people.

Fifth COLUMN

TAVLEEN SINGH

Twitter @tavleen_singh



Why did Modi go to Russia?

IT DID NOT look good for the Prime Minister. Or for India. There he was smiling and hugging Vladimir Putin on the day that the Russian dictator bombed a children's hospital in Kiev. Then came more moments of bonhomie and friendship as they travelled together in a golf cart and spent the evening in the dictator's dacha. The next day Modi himself seemed to realise that a mistake had been made and spoke eloquently of how it broke his heart when children were killed in times of war. Then his spin doctors got into the act and leaked stories to the Indian media about how our Prime Minister had once more told Putin that the way forward was through diplomacy and dialogue and not on the battlefield. But the damage had been done.

I spent some time last week trying to get an American view on Modi's visit and failed. I need not have bothered. The American ambassador in Delhi said it all. He warned that there is no such thing as 'strategic autonomy' in times of conflict and warned that friendship between our two countries was better than ever before but should not be taken for granted. "The more we insist on a kind of cynical calculation in the place of a trusted relationship the less we will get..."

In fairness to Modi, he has worked harder to bring us out of the clutches of the Russians than any other Indian prime minister. He has also brought us closer to the United States but in a country in which generations have been brought up on anti-Americanism more must be done, which is why this visit to Russia was a bad idea. We need the Russians for more reasons than can be listed here and cheap Russian oil has been most useful but was there really any need for the Prime Minister to accept Russia's highest civilian award at a time when Putin is, without question, the most hated dictator in the world?

What Putin has done in Ukraine is the equivalent of China invading Arunachal Pradesh or Ladakh. And why would this not happen in the future? China has made clear more than once that it does not consider Arunachal to be a part of India and has often objected officially to Indian prime ministers visiting the state. So, what is to stop Xi Jinping from turning his attention to Arunachal when he is done with Taiwan? If this happens, will Putin be on our side or on the side of China? Before he invaded Ukraine, he had that very public meeting with the Chinese dictator in which they declared that they were best friends forever.

For me personally, as I have said before in this column, there are no two sides to the invasion of Ukraine. It had every right to want to be a democratic country and that is all that it was trying to do when the Russian dictator decided that democracy was too dangerous to be allowed to flourish so close to his own totalitarian country. Putin is in every sense a vile dictator. He publicly kills opposition leaders by poisoning them in foreign countries. Or torturing them to death in jail cells as happened so tragically with Alexei Navalny. Putin jails journalists on flimsy charges and refuses them a fair trial. It might be in India's national interest to continue our relationship with him, but can we make it more transactional than it seemed on this visit?

There are other things that the men who handle India's foreign policy need to keep in mind. The world order is going through a transformation in which there is now an open clash of interests between democracies and totalitarian countries. In the totalitarian camp, led by China, there are countries like Iran and North Korea who have no time for such things as human rights and freedom. In the other camp, led by the United States are democratic countries whose foundational values are liberty, equality and freedom.

They have come together to openly condemn Putin's invasion of Ukraine and to help that country survive this horrible war and become a full democracy. India has so far refused to take sides because of our old friendship with Russia and because in the India in which I grew up, to be on the American side was to risk being called a CIA agent. Of course, to be called a KGB agent was a badge of honour.

The bureaucrats who surround Modi grew up in that same milieu and appear to still believe that the United States cannot ever be India's trusted friend. Why they believe that Russia is our forever friend is truly a puzzle. Putin is so dependent on China now that he is virtually forced to kowtow to Xi Jinping. China is without doubt the biggest threat to India's security so how is this relationship going to work going forwards?

The irony is that to the average young Indian, it is the United States that is that shining city on a hill. It is to American universities they long to go and it is in the United States that they seek to build their lives when India denies them opportunities and jobs. This is something that the Prime Minister needs to keep in mind before going down that broken diplomatic path laid down by the Congress Party.

inside TRACK

COOMIKAPOOR



INCOMPLETE ENQUIRY

THE TASK force of 40 BJP UP members has come up with predictable reasons for the party's setback in the state in the recent Lok Sabha polls — from party infighting to caste equations and non-cooperation of government employees. UP CM Yogi Adityanath transferred 12 DMs immediately after the report, since the committee's inference was that he did not exercise sufficient control over government employees.

But the genesis of the UP defeat needs more introspection. The investigation should have started with the BJP's central election committee meeting on February 29, when the names of some 50 of the 80 UP seats were cleared. The committee members, including Adityanath, waited for over two hours since Narendra Modi, Amit Shah and J P Nadda first met informally at Lok Kalyan Marg, where a short list of 50 BJP Lok Sabha candidates was drawn up. At the official meeting, general secretary (organisation) B L Santhosh read out the names and few interjected. The common refrain was "whatever the party thinks appropriate". The names from UP were cleared in barely 20 minutes and some 65% were sitting MPs, since the party seemed confident that UP's formidable 'double engine *ki sarkar*' would ensure their victory. Adityanath's reported suggestion to change the names of 35 sitting MPs was ignored. Eventually, 27 BJP incumbents lost the polls.

Incidentally, the BJP won all the Lok Sabha seats around Gorakhpur, Adityanath's stronghold but lost in parliamentary seats around Varanasi, the PM's constituency. Varanasi and Lucknow were the only two constituencies the task force did not visit. If they had travelled to Varanasi, they would have discovered the considerable resentment over contracts for major projects in and around the city being awarded not to local UP contractors, but to those from western India. Indicative of divisions in the UP BJP was the fact that Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya remained mostly in Delhi for almost a month after the election results.

UNPRECEDENTED SEATING

At the swearing-in of the Modi 3.0 cabinet last month, the Rashtrapati Bhavan staff and Delhi police were swamped by two

many important people flashing invitation cards and demanding premier seating. In the bargain, the carefully drawn up warrant of precedent was thrown to the wind. The most glaring breach of protocol was billionairess Mukesh Ambani and Gautam Adani ending up in the second row with Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan. A group of sadhus was in the front row, while J&K Governor Manoj Sinha, Adityanath and CMs from the North-East were relegated to the third row. The biggest faux pas was that CDS General Anil Chauhan and outgoing Army chief General Manoj Pande were seated in the sixth row. Security personnel cannot alone be blamed, the President's Military Secretary and her ADCs should have earmarked seats for the respective chiefs of the Armed forces.

MUMBAI ROYALS

Even the British royal family, who have conducted their marital ceremonies with pomp and circumstance, and much public interest for centuries, could perhaps learn a lesson from the Ambani's family in attracting the maximum eyeballs on social media. The family's army of event managers has organised parties for the last few months in exotic locations — from an elephant rescue farm and a zoo in Jamnagar to a swinging jet-setting cruise through Italy to celebrate the marriage of Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant. They even hijacked the Indian team's success at the World Cup to stage a felicitation at the Ambani centre in BKC, Mumbai. Nita Ambani, glittering in diamonds, and her equally dressed up wedding guests, felicitated cricket heroes Rohit Sharma, Hardik Patel and Suryakumar Yadav, who have all played for the Mumbai Indians IPL team. The trio, looking a tad embarrassed, were togged out in party attire in similar dark coloured sequinned outfits.

ENSURING ITS 10%

Opposition leader in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge is skating on thin ice. The Congress strength in the Upper House has fallen to 26 seats after two Rajya Sabha MPs, Deepender Hooda from Haryana and KC Venugopal from Rajasthan, were elected to the Lok Sabha in the recent poll. The Congress needs representation by at least 10% of the total MPs in the Upper House, whose present strength is around 250, if its nominee is to be recognised as the official leader of the Opposition. In a bid to help Congress secure the position, K Keshava Rao of the BRS recently defected to the party. With the Congress in the majority in the Telangana Assembly, the party's RS nominee will automatically win the by-election. If 85-year-old Rao agrees to step aside, jurist Abhishek Manu Singhvi is waiting eagerly for a Rajya Sabha re-entry.

History HEADLINE

ABHINAV SEKHRI



THE UNEXPIRGATED edition of *Lady Chatterley's Lover* by D H Lawrence might well hold the distinction of having spurred reforms around obscenity laws around the globe. In India, it was the subject of the Supreme Court's first judgment on whether obscenity came within the contours of the "decency or morality" restriction to the fundamental freedom of speech.

My concern here is not the Supreme Court's 1964 judgment in *Ranjit D Udeshi v State of Maharashtra*, or the finer points in the 1969 amendments to Section 292 of the now-repealed IPC (retained in Section 294 of the BNS). Rather, it is the story of the "prosecution" of *Lady Chatterley's Lover* in India that features bogus purchasers to trap booksellers, literature-review styled judicial orders and decisive interventions by PM Jawaharlal Nehru himself.

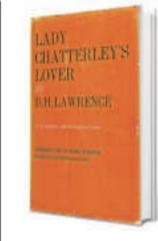
With a note dated October 24, 1959, R N Misra forwarded two copies of the unexpurgated editions "available at several bookshops... in Connaught Circus" to a colleague at the Directorate of Inspection, Customs. The colleague replied that their department should "urgently" consult the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), a part of conventions on placing import bans on books or pamphlets.

There was a ban in place already since 1943, but the Customs Department still referred the matter to the Home Ministry. Not because of monumental changes in Indian law during the interregnum, but because courts in the US had ruled in favour of *Chatterley* since. The Constitution found no mention in the dismissive notes by the MHA Under Secretary either who, with extreme reluctance, passed the file on to the Law Ministry on November 17, 1959.

It landed on the desk of Deputy Law Adviser DB Kulkarni, who issued a six-page memo on March 18, 1960, concluding that the book was obscene, a view "in consonance with our heritage, traditions, and the prevailing standards of our community". The note was approved by the Law Secretary and the file reached Deputy Minister R M Hajamavis who, in a memo dated April 7, struck a dissenting note. He referred to Khajurao, UK law and Penguin Books' victory in its trial for publishing *Chatterley* in November 1959, but not the Constitution. Since the Law Minister was away, he sent the papers to PM Nehru.

This was Nehru's second high-stakes intervention in a year to decide the fate of a controversial novel for Indian readers, the

Of laws new and old, and the debate over obscenity



The 1959 unexpurgated US edition of *Lady Chatterley's Lover*. Wikipedia

first being Vladimir Nabokov's *Lolita*. Nehru's two-paragraph memo dated April 8, 1960, says, "I am clear that this book *Lady Chatterley's Lover* should be banned. In case our order is challenged in a court of law, the matter can be faced." He was probably aware that a court would soon decide whether the unexpurgated *Chatterley* was obscene.

On December 12, 1959, bogus customers with marked money were sent by Bombay Police CID to 'Causeway Book Stall' and 'Happy Book Stall' with instructions to purchase copies of the unexpurgated *Chatterley*. Once buyers struck the deal, the police stormed the shops and seized the novels. Those on the spot, and the distributor, were arrested. After the raid, seven persons were sent for trial in April 1960. At some point, the seven shrunk to four: The prosecution simply exhibited 35 passages flagged as obscene as evidence, while the defence sought to demonstrate the book's literary merit by calling upon celebrity witnesses like screenwriter K A Abbas and author Mulk Raj Anand. On May 31, 1961, the court pronounced the four accused guilty.

The judgment was far from a ringing endorsement of the antiquated Hicklin test, which the prosecution built its case upon, under which merely flagging certain passages as having a "tendency" to corrupt the vulnerable in society could spell doom for a book. Rather, what was obscene was the overall theme of *Chatterley*, which venerated adultery and struck "at the very roots of the institution of marriage", and was in "direct conflict with the ideals of Indian womanhood, which are based on devotion, love and sacrifice". Its impact on society would be devastating, and to think that this book was there at a "modest little book stall at Colaba Causeway" simply would not do. Though the Magistrate imposed a token

fine of Rs 20 on the convicts, they filed a revision plea before the Bombay HC. On February 6, 1962, a Division Bench dismissed the plea, taking a very different view of the law. It doubled down on the Hicklin formulation, using it to distinguish Indian law from the progressive verdicts recently delivered in the US, where bans on *Chatterley* had been lifted. While this meant that the HC was satisfied with obscene passages and did not deal much with the book's theme to conclude that it was obscene, it did join the issue with the Magistrate about how the unexpurgated *Chatterley* might impact Indian women.

The Supreme Court's 1964 judgment in *Udeshi's* appeal, one of the convicted proprietors of Happy Book Stall, was perhaps the only time that the constitutional issues posed by *Chatterley's* censorship appear at the forefront in this story. By assailing the constitutional validity of Section 292 IPC, the case reached the Supreme Court's Constitution Bench. *Udeshi* contended that while the penal provision may be a valid restriction on the freedom of speech, its application using the Hicklin approach took it outside the scope of permissible limits upon speech. Justice Hidayatullah disagreed and one may read scholarly works to grasp the legal nuances of his interesting verdict.

Writing about Penguin's trial for publishing the unexpurgated *Chatterley*, Thomas Grant shows how small details made a difference. That Penguin itself courted prosecution was crucial. Unlike cases where booksellers were successfully prosecuted before magistrates, its case was tried by a jury of 12 ordinary people who had to be convinced that the book was without literary merit.

One cannot help but draw a parallel with the Indian experience, which is a tale about vesting censorship powers in the hands of a few. Everyone deciding that *Chatterley* remains off the shelves did so by making arbitrary value judgments on behalf of ordinary readers and gave differing and remarkably parochial reasons to support their views. Perhaps, consulting the ordinary reader or purveyor of such works might have provided surer insight of whether the law was pursuing a legitimate goal, or whether, in the words of Dickens, the law was being "an ass".

Abhinav Sekhri is a lawyer practising in Delhi. The article is based on research done for a paper available on SSRN

On the LOOSE

LEHER KALA

leherkala@gmail.com



LAST YEAR, an 80-year-old enthusiastically participated in the Tata Mumbai Marathon. Clad in a sari and sneakers, octogenarian Bharti Jitendra Pathak ran with the *Tiranga*, covering 4.2 km in 51 minutes. Pathak may be an aberration among Indian women, but Instagram is full of admirable grannies posting their videos lifting kettlebells and doing push-ups. The somewhat aggravating term, "ageing gracefully", has evolved from meaning sinking quietly into oblivion to making the most of life by living well. It isn't about trying to look 25 but, like that proverbial bottle of fine wine, to get better at everything as you age. How old is too old to do

The question of age

something? Who decides? It's a pertinent question because the world's focus is on the upcoming US elections, where both candidates seem ravaged by time.

If the aim is for the top job on earth, sure, the standards are different. Optics matter. A frail 80-something in a youth-obsessed society isn't particularly inspiring. However, seen another way, everyone alive is growing older and every stage has important lessons to impart. When you're a child, each year that passes feels exciting because of the looming prospect of adulthood, which, for dreamy young minds, translates to romantic visions of independence and freedom. Alas, it's another matter altogether that reaching middle age evokes severe nostalgia for childhood, which one realises in retrospect is the only time one is actually free.

Having said that, from the point of view of the slightly less agonising 40s, youth is overrated. Parents rule, you have no agency. For many the teen years are ridden with panicky insecurities, perhaps a necessary rite of passage to figuring out one's path ahead. The 20s are generally about work-hard, play-hard and fly-by-in a whirl of activity. By one's late 30s, some measure of inner confidence sets in; whatever the journey, one philosophically accepts, life goes on.

So, reading all the scathing pieces about US President Joe Biden stubbornly digging his heels in, his state of mind seems perfectly clear — he's mining the greatest benefit of old age, that you simply don't care about what other people think you should do. So much of our lives are spent wrapped up in responsibilities and

in meeting the expectations of others. If there's one thing to recommend old age, it's this — that all forms of validation cease to matter. For women, reaching this headspace is especially liberating because the dominant discourse is that our value declines as we age. We're inundated with images of perfectly crafted and remade bodies, so much so it's often difficult to tell what anyone of any age is supposed to look like any more. It's a binary choice, hanging on to youthfulness by the many surgical means possible (and, thereby, risking being a joke) or being written off for not caring enough to do anything about gravitational forces.

On the *Who What Wear* podcast that decodes fashion and style, the svelte and shapely 50-year-old influencer Gabrielle Union-Wade talked about the un-

savoury comments she received for posting photos of herself in a bikini. It doesn't cost to have an opinion, so there's no dearth of people sermonising arbitrarily on the alleged age cut-off for a certain kind of swimsuit and mini skirt. Union-Wade's tart response was that she might just don a bikini in her coffin. Dealing with spite, too, gets easier with age. The understanding deepens that we're here to enjoy ourselves not pander to becoming what the culture says we should be. It's easier to develop a long view of events. Finally, you can pursue interests without thinking about competition and the pressure of needing to excel, that plagues our youth. Life isn't over till it's over, and it's long, with many opportunities for do-overs.

The writer is director, *Hutkay Films*

K.P. Sharma Oli, set to become Nepal's new Prime Minister, on Saturday held consultations with his alliance partner Nepali Congress. The new coalition government is likely to be sworn in on Monday. President Ram Chandra Paudel is expected to appoint Oli, 72, as the Prime Minister on Sunday.

TOP OF THE WORLD



Masoud Pezeshkian

IRAN

Pezeshkian rejects US pressure, lauds Russia, China

Dubai: The United States should realise that Iran will not respond to pressure, President-elect Masoud Pezeshkian said in a statement, in which he also highlighted his country's friendship with China and Russia. Pezeshkian also reiterated that Iran does not seek nuclear weapons, adding that Tehran would expand ties with neighbours and engage with Europe. "China and Russia have consistently stood by us during challenging times. We deeply value this friendship. Russia is a valued strategic ally and my administration will remain committed to expanding our cooperation," Pezeshkian said, adding that Tehran would support initiatives aimed at ending the Ukraine conflict. **AP**

UNITED KINGDOM

Man held over human remains in suitcases

London: British police said Saturday they have arrested a man in connection with the deaths of two men whose remains were found in two suitcases in southwest England. Metropolitan Police said armed officers detained a 34-year-old suspect at a train station in the city of Bristol early Saturday. Police said more human remains were found at an address in Shepherd's Bush, west London, the previous day, believed to be connected to those found in the suitcases dumped near Clifton Suspension Bridge in Bristol Wednesday. **AP**

Gurdwara attack: Teen boy charged

London: A 17-year-old boy, arrested after two women were injured in an attack with a "bladed weapon" on a UK gurdwara, has been charged with multiple offences, including assault and threats to kill, on Saturday. Investigators from the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate charged the boy, who cannot be named as a minor, over what the local police is referring to as a "disturbance" at Sri Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara in Gravesend, south-east England, on Thursday evening. **AP**

DEADLIEST ATTACK IN GAZA IN WEEKS

At least 71 killed, 289 injured as Israel targets Hamas military chief in Gaza

Hamas calls Israel claim false, says it's only to justify the attack

REUTERS
CAIRO, GAZA, JERUSALEM
JULY 13

AN ISRAELI airstrike killed at least 71 Palestinians in a designated humanitarian zone in Gaza on Saturday, the enclave's health ministry said, in an attack that Israel said targeted Hamas military chief Mohammed Deif.

It was unclear whether Deif was killed. "We are still checking and verifying the results of the strike," an Israeli military official told reporters. Hamas said in a statement that Israeli claims it had targeted leaders of the group were false and aimed at justifying the attack, which was the deadliest Israeli attack in Gaza in weeks.

Displaced people sheltering in the area said their tents were torn down by the force of the strike, describing bodies and body parts strewn on the ground. "I couldn't even tell where I was or what was happening," said Sheikh Youssef, a resident of Gaza City who is currently displaced in the Al-Mawasi area. "I left the tent and looked around, all the tents were knocked down, body parts, bodies everywhere, elderly women thrown on



People at a tent camp attacked by Israel at Al-Mawasi area in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip on Saturday. Reuters

the floor, young children in pieces," he told Reuters.

The Israeli military said the strike against Deif also targeted Rafia Salama, the commander of Hamas' Khan Younis Brigade, describing them as two of the masterminds of the Oct. 7 attack on southern Israel that triggered the nine-month war in Gaza. Deif has survived seven Israeli

assassination attempts, the most recent in 2021 and has topped Israel's most wanted list for decades. The Gaza health ministry said at least 71 Palestinians were killed in the strike and 289 injured, the deadliest toll in weeks in the conflict-shattered enclave.

Reuters footage showed ambulances racing towards the area amidst clouds of smoke and dust.

Many of those wounded in the strike, including women and children, were taken to the nearby Nasser Hospital, which hospital officials said had been overwhelmed and was "no longer able to function" due to the intensity of the Israeli offensive and an acute shortage of medical supplies.

Separately on Saturday, at least 17 Palestinians were killed in an

Israeli attack on a prayer hall at a Gaza camp for displaced people in west Gaza City, Palestinian health officials said.

Witnesses said the Khan Younis attack came as a surprise as the area had been calm, adding more than one missile had been fired. Some of the wounded who were being evacuated were rescue workers, they said.

Imran acquitted in illegal marriage case, to remain in jail as he faces fresh arrest

SAJJAD HUSSAIN
ISLAMABAD, JULY 13

A PAKISTANI court on Saturday acquitted jailed former prime minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi in the un-Islamic marriage case, the only case keeping the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party founder behind bars since August last year.

However, barely an hour after his acquittal in the case, an anti-terrorism court in Lahore approved the request to arrest the PTI leader in three cases linked to the unprecedented May 9 riots following his arrest in an alleged corruption case.

The PTI called his latest arrest a "gimmick to keep the illegal imprisonment prolonged".

On February 3 — days before the general elections on February 8 — an Islamabad court convicted the couple based on a complaint filed by Bushra Bibi's ex-husband, Khawar Fareed Maneka, who alleged that they contracted marriage during the former first lady's Iddat period.

In Islam, a woman can't remarry before completing four months after divorce or the death of her husband.

The couple had challenged the sentence in a district and ses-



Imran's party calls his new arrest warrants a 'gimmick' to keep him in jail

sion court of the capital Islamabad where Additional District and Sessions Judge (ADSJ) Afzal Majoka heard the case. The judge announced the judgment in the afternoon after reserving the verdict earlier in the day, acquitting Khan, 71 and Bushra, 49.

"If they are not wanted in any other case, then PTI founder Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi should be released [from jail] immediately," the judge said.

But it was not clear if he would be released. However, it was the only case for which Khan was in jail after the Toshakhana corruption case sentence was suspended and acquittal in the cipher case.

The cricketer-turned-politician has been behind bars since August last year after he was sentenced in the Toshakhana corruption case and subsequently sentenced in other cases ahead of the February 8 elections. **PTI**

Nepal twin bus tragedy: 6 Indians missing, one found dead; toll at 3

PRES TRUST OF INDIA
KATHMANDU, JULY 13

THE BODY of a 40-year-old Indian national working in Nepal was among three corpses recovered by rescuers on Saturday from the wreckage of two buses that were swept by a mudslide into a rain-swollen river with more than 50 passengers a day earlier.

The two buses carrying 54 passengers, including seven Indians, went missing in the Trishuli River in the landslides at the Simaltal area along the Narayanghat-Mugling road in Chitwan district on Friday. Three people swam to safety later.

Baldwin weeps as court dismisses on-set fatal shooting case midtrial

JULIA JACOBS
SANTA FE, JULY 13

A JUDGE in New Mexico dismissed the case against actor Alec Baldwin Friday after finding that the state had withheld evidence that could have shed light on how live rounds got onto a film set where the cinematographer was fatally shot.

The dismissal was with prejudice, meaning that the prosecution of Baldwin is over. "There is no way for the court to right this wrong," Judge Mary Marlowe Sommer said in court as Baldwin



Search operation after two buses, carrying 54 people, were swept by a landslide, near Kathmandu, Saturday. AP

The first body from the buses was recovered in the morning from 50 km away from the accident site. The deceased was identified as Rishi Pal Shahi from

India, police said. The rescuers in the afternoon recovered two more bodies, police said, adding that both the deceased were Nepali nationals.



Alec Baldwin with his legal team member after the judge threw out the case. AP

wept. It was a stunning end to the trial of Baldwin, who was rehearsing with a gun on the "Rust" film set in 2021 when it fired a live

round, killing Halyna Hutchins, the movie's cinematographer. Baldwin had been told the gun was "cold," meaning it had no live ammunition.

The multiple Emmy-award winning actor still faces lawsuits, including one from Hutchins' husband, Matthew Hutchins. Although a settlement was announced in that case, it has not been fully resolved. Baldwin has vehemently denied responsibility for Hutchins' death, saying that he had no reason to believe that the gun he was handed on set that day could have been loaded with live ammunition. **NYT**



US President Joe Biden steps off Air Force One at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, on Friday. Reuters

'I am OK, not going anywhere': Biden stands firm as his campaign struggles

REUTERS
DETROIT, JULY 13

SEEKING TO revive his struggling re-election campaign, President Joe Biden held a rare rally in Detroit, telling a cheering crowd he wasn't going to leave the race and warning that Republican Donald Trump poses a serious threat. Biden, 81, is trying to shift the conversation from his mental sharpness to the impact of another Trump presidency, as his campaign struggles after his shaky debate performance on June 27.

"I am running and we're going to win," he said to a crowd that carried "Motown is Joetown" signs and chanted "Don't you quit" before he spoke. "I'm the nominee," he said. "I'm not going anywhere."

"It's time for us to stop treating politics like it's entertainment or a reality TV show," Biden said. Earlier on Friday, Biden made a surprise stop at a garage-themed restaurant in a western suburb of Detroit, where he told diners he planned to "finish the job," and said "I promise you...I'm okay."

Biden also got a boost earlier when two prominent Democrats said he should stay in the race. But there were signs

EXPLAINED Behind Democrats' worry

SINCE THE debate, at least 19 lawmakers have urged Biden to step aside so the party can pick another candidate, as have some donors, Hollywood stars, activist groups and news outlets. However, Biden retains support from key figures in the party. Democrats are worried that Biden's low approval ratings could cause them to lose seats in the House of Representatives and Senate, leaving them with no grip on power in Washington should Trump win the White House.

RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

that his support was weakening elsewhere, as two more lawmakers called on him to drop out.

It's a mistake: Zelenskyy

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said his US counterpart Joe Biden accidentally referring to him as Russian President Vladimir Putin was a mistake that could be forgotten about given all the support the US has provided to Ukraine.

China slams US Bill on Tibet, vows to defend its interests

REUTERS
BEIJING, JULY 13

CHINA EXPRESSED strong opposition on Saturday to a US law signed by President Joe Biden that presses Beijing to resolve a dispute over Tibet's demands for greater autonomy, vowing to "firmly defend" its interests.

Biden signed into law on Friday the Tibet dispute act, which seeks to push Beijing to hold talks with Tibetan leaders, stalled since 2010, to secure a negotiated agreement on the Himalayan region and spur China to address the Tibetan people's aspirations on their historical, cultural, religious and linguistic identity. The law "grossly interferes in China's domestic affairs, undermines China's

interests, and sends a severely wrong signal to the 'Tibet independence' forces," China's foreign ministry said.

Although Washington recognises Tibet as a part of China, the law appears to question that position, analysts say. The US has long supported the rights of the Tibetan people to practice their religion and culture, accusing China of human rights violations in the remote region bordering India.

"The US must not implement the Act," the China's ministry said. "If the US continues down the wrong path, China will take resolute measures to firmly defend its sovereignty, security and development interests."

Attention has focussed on Tibet-China issues as the Dalai Lama turned 89 last week.

SOME GAMBIANS SEE FGM BAN AS AN ATTACK ON AFRICAN CULTURE, OTHERS WORRY ABOUT RIPPLE EFFECTS OF REVERSING BAN

Gambia's bid to unban female genital mutilation divides families, parliament

SOFIA CHRISTENSEN
BANJUL, JULY 13

FOR MARIAMA Jarjou, taking her two daughters to a traditional circumciser when they were 5 and 4 was an act of love — a painful but important ritual that would give them status in their village and make them eligible for marriage.

An uncut woman is a "solima" in the local Mandinka language in Gambia. People will tell her she smells bad, said Jarjou, who is now in her 50s. No one will eat the food she cooks, be her friend or want her as a wife.

Few dared question Gambia's former dictator, Yahya Jammeh, when he outlawed fe-

male genital mutilation (FGM) over a decade later, in 2015, saying it was not required by Islam, the country's majority religion. But today, Jarjou strongly supports an attempt in parliament to repeal the ban.

If it succeeds, Gambia, a small West African nation of fewer than 3 million people, would be the first country in the world to make FGM legal again after outlawing it. A final vote is expected on July 24. "If we stop (FGM), women will suffer ... and our children will not know our culture," Jarjou said.

Banned in over 70 countries worldwide, FGM remains widespread in some African nations and diaspora communities. An estimated 144 million women and

girls on the continent have been subjected to the practice, which usually involves the partial or total removal of the external genitalia. The consequences are life-long and can include chronic pain; recurring infections; problems with urination, menstruation and childbirth; pain during sexual intercourse and trauma. The World Health Organization says FGM brings no health benefits, only harm.

In Gambia, many people continue to take girls to be cut despite the ban, which authorities have not enforced seriously, anti-FGM campaigners say.

Almost three-quarters of women aged 15 to 49 have undergone the practice, 65% of them when they were younger



A man rides a cart past a poster advocating for an end to female genital mutilation, in Gambia's Banjul city. A final vote on whether to reverse ban due July 24. Reuters

than 5, according to the latest government health survey in 2019-2020. The figure drops to around 46% for girls under 15, the survey found.

The first FGM convictions came eight years after the ban was introduced, in 2023, when three women were found guilty of cutting eight infant girls. This sparked a public debate about the practice for the first time in Gambia, one that has divided villages and families, and now parliament.

"People are pushing and pulling. Some say it's good; some say it's not," said one of Jarjou's daughters, Jainaba Ndure.

"I think it's not good," Ndure added out of her mother's earshot, saying she feared having children would be painful.

Now 28, Ndure learnt through harmful consequences of FGM on women's health. She noted that elders like Jarjou can feel offended by such campaigns. "They say they are showing us bad pictures," she said, referring to diagrams of women's reproductive organs.

The move to repeal the FGM ban is being spearheaded by two powerful men: Abdoulaye Fatty, an influential Muslim cleric, and Almahneh Gibba, an independent lawmaker representing a rural constituency where the practice is widespread.

Fatty publicly defended the three convicted women and paid their fines, urging the government to reconsider the ban in televised speeches and sermons. Gibba, a

vocal government critic, introduced the repeal bill in parliament seven months later. "Enough is enough," Gibba told Reuters. "We will only be free if we repeal it."

Both men rejected suggestions their campaign was opportunistic. Rights advocates fear the bill's potential to ignite a wider effort to dismantle protections for women and girls. "If they succeed today, the next day the bill will be on child marriage, then the next on gender-based violence," said Nafisa Binte Shafique, the UNICEF representative in Gambia.

Rights advocates also worry Gambia's bill could inspire similar legislation in other African countries with FGM bans. Kenya's high court rejected a petition to reverse its ban in 2021. **REUTERS**

13 ECONOMY

CRUDE WATCH

OIL PRICES SETTLE DOWN

New York: Oil futures prices settled slightly lower on Friday as investors weighed weaker US consumer sentiment against mounting hopes for a Federal Reserve rate cut in September. **REUTERS**

STRONG INVESTOR INTEREST PUSHES THE POPULARITY OF THEMATIC FUNDS

June investment rush: Thematic funds see record net inflows of over ₹22K cr

HITESH VYAS
MUMBAI, JULY 13

SECTORAL OR thematic funds witnessed record net inflows of over Rs 22,000 crore in June, effectively accounting for around 55 per cent of the total net inflows into equity mutual fund (MF) schemes during the month. This traction is also reflected in new launches, with nine of the 11 new equity schemes falling into the sectoral/thematic fund category and raising a cumulative Rs 12,974 crore.

Even in the first quarter of the current fiscal year (FY25), these funds received the highest inflows among all equity schemes. Sectoral/thematic funds have become the most popular equity investment category due to growing investor confidence in sectors such as railways, infrastructure, renewables, and energy, driven by favourable government policies and higher capital allocation from both the government and the private sector. However, investors should conduct a careful analysis when choosing a sectoral/thematic fund, keeping in mind their risk appetite and investment horizon.

Sectoral and Thematic Funds

Sectoral and thematic funds invest in equity and equity-related instruments of a specific sector or theme. Sectoral funds focus on a particular sector of



the economy, such as infrastructure, banking, technology, or pharmaceuticals, allocating 80 per cent of their underlying assets to that specific sector. Since these funds concentrate on just one sector, they limit diversification and are therefore riskier. The timing of investments in such funds is important, as sector performance tends to be cyclical. Thematic funds select stocks of companies in industries related to a specific theme, such as infrastructure, service industries, public sector units (PSUs), or multinational companies (MNCs). Since thematic funds also allocate 80 per cent of their underlying assets to sectors related to a specific theme, they tend to be more diversified than sectoral funds, resulting in lower risk.

Flows into Thematic Funds

The Association of Mutual Fund Industries (AMFI) provides combined data for sectoral/thematic funds. According to June data, net inflows into sectoral/thematic funds reached

INFLOWS INTO EQUITY & THEMATIC MFs

Net inflows (Rs crore)

Month	Equity schemes	Sectoral/thematic funds
Jun-24	40,608.19	22,351.69
May-24	34,697.00	19,213.43
Apr-24	18,917.09	5,166.05
Total	94,222.28	46,731.17

Source: Amfi

Surge in Inflows

Rs 22,351 crore, which accounted for 55 per cent of total inflows into equity mutual funds for the month.

In June, Rs 14,370 crore was mobilised through 11 new fund offerings (NFOs) in equity-oriented schemes. Among these, nine schemes were launched in the sectoral/thematic fund category, raising Rs 12,974 crore, which is 90 per cent of the total amount raised from the 11 new equity schemes launched during the month. In the quarter ended June 2024, total net inflows into equity schemes stood at Rs 94,222.28 crore, with sectoral/thematic funds receiving almost 50 per cent of that at Rs 46,731 crore.

Over the past year, sectoral/thematic funds have received net inflows of Rs 92,423.4 crore, or one-third of the total flows into overall equity mutual funds, which amounted to Rs 2.68 lakh crore. The overall assets under management (AUM) of sectoral/thematic funds grew 60 per cent to Rs 3.83 lakh crore as of June 2024, up from Rs 1.96 lakh crore in June 2023.

According to Gopal Kavalireddi, Vice President of Research at FYERS, the following factors have significantly contributed to the increased interest from investors in sectoral/thematic funds:

Positive Trends: Investors are typically drawn to trending sectors that indicate potential for superior returns due to continuous positive news flow or momentum. PSUs/PSBs, along with the defense, shipbuilding, and automotive sectors, have continuously exhibited positive trends.

Government Support: Policies and reforms that support the private sector and government capital expenditures in core areas like railways, renewables, infrastructure, and energy, with a planned capex of Rs 21 lakh crore for FY24 and FY25, have boosted investor confidence.

Valuation Comfort: Many economy-facing sectors have experienced turbulent times over the last decade. The previous underperformance of this

category offered relative valuation comfort to fund managers and investors.

New Fund Offerings: New and emerging sectors and themes, such as manufacturing, defense, and special opportunities presented by various Asset Management Companies (AMCs), have attracted interest. For instance, the HDFC Manufacturing fund NFO saw substantial subscriptions of Rs 9,563 crore.

Returns from These Funds

According to Value Research data, sectoral funds in banking, infrastructure, pharmaceuticals, and technology have provided returns in the range of 25.76 per cent to 73 per cent over the past year. Thematic funds based on themes such as consumption, energy, MNCs, PSUs, and ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) have delivered returns ranging from 20 per cent to 99.54 per cent.

Suitability of These Funds

Fund managers advise that the attractive returns provided by sectoral/thematic funds should not be the sole reason for an investor to choose these categories. Thorough research is essential before investing, as these funds carry higher risks.

"Investors with a long investment horizon and a higher risk appetite should consider investing in sectoral or thematic funds," Kavalireddi said.

THE YUAN CHALLENGE

How India-Russia trade gap may threaten rupee internationalisation efforts

RAVI DUTTA MISHRA
NEW DELHI, JULY 13

IN A strategic move to curb its burgeoning oil import bill and reduce dependence on the expensive US dollar, New Delhi aims to bolster bilateral trade with Moscow to \$100 billion by 2030. However, the dynamics of India-Russia trade have been skewed since the onset of the Ukraine war in 2022. Russia has rapidly ascended to become India's top oil supplier, but Indian exports to Russia have struggled, resulting in a \$57 billion trade deficit in the bilateral trade worth \$66 billion in FY24.

While India has managed to save over \$10 billion by importing cheaper Russian oil in the last two years and has benefited from exporting petroleum products by processing Urals crude, meager exports to Russia mean that a historic geopolitical opportunity to cut dependence on the expensive US dollar has remained elusive. *The Indian Express* explains why continued unbalanced trade with Russia could force India to use the Chinese yuan, which runs counter to its efforts toward internationalising the rupee.

Why is the widening trade gap with Russia benefiting the yuan?

Unlike India, China has seized the export opportunities emerging in Russia amid crippling Western sanctions and a host of Western companies and banks exiting the war economy. Chinese exports to Russia have actually grown faster than imports of Russian oil. Chinese customs data shows that shipments to Russia jumped by 47 per cent year-on-year to \$111 billion in 2023, while imports grew by 13 per cent to \$129 billion. The two-way trade crossed a record \$240 billion in 2023.

Since trade between the two countries is more balanced compared to India-Russia trade, it has fostered the use of domestic currency. The Russian government has stated that 95 per cent of trade between China and Russia occurs in domestic currency. As a result, the yuan is the most sought-after currency in the Russian stock market, even more popular than the powerful US dollar. Russian oil exports are therefore requesting payments from Indian refineries in Chinese currency, while the use of the rupee has remained restricted.



The biggest challenge has been the reluctance on the part of the private banks to facilitate trade with Russia due to fear of Western sanctions. *File*

How can India internationalise the rupee?

Even as India aims to reduce its dependence on the US dollar, it does not support the yuan as a currency for settling international trade due to recurrent border tensions with neighboring China. In July 2022, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a circular permitting an additional arrangement for settling trade using the rupee.

However, the FY23 Economic Survey states that one prerequisite for the emergence of an international currency is that it "needs to be increasingly used for trade invoicing."

According to the BIS Triennial Central Bank Survey 2022, the US dollar is the dominant vehicle currency, accounting for 88 per cent of global forex turnover, while the rupee accounts for just 1.6 per cent.

The survey indicated that if rupee turnover rises to equal the share of non-US, non-Euro currencies in global forex turnover (4 per cent), it will be regarded as an international currency.

Why are exports to Russia challenging?

The biggest challenge has been the reluctance of private banks to facilitate trade with Russia due to fears of Western sanctions. Most private banks have significant business interests in Western countries and multiple branches that could face sanctions imposed by the European Union (EU) and the US.

To address this, the joint statement following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit stressed the need to "increase Indian exports to Russia" by

strengthening industrial cooperation. Indian exporters are also facing difficulties using the rupee settlement mechanism while trading with Russia. Exporters initially complained that although the RBI had launched the mechanism, they were unable to use it due to the absence of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for banks. Moreover, the ruble and rupee, unlike the yuan, have experienced considerable volatility, complicating trade in domestic currency.

How are Russia and India planning to boost trade?

During Modi's visit, both countries decided to eliminate non-tariff and tariff barriers in trade and to initiate negotiations for a trade deal with the Russia-led Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), which could ease the flow of Indian products into the EEU. The EEU consists of five member states: Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Armenia, representing a \$5 trillion economy.

According to the joint statement, India and Russia agreed to cooperate in manufacturing sectors such as transport engineering, metallurgy, and chemicals.

Russia and India have also planned the implementation of joint projects in priority areas and emphasised the importance of expanding reciprocal trade flows of industrial products to increase their share in bilateral trade. The statement further reflected discussions on the migration and mobility partnership agreement between the two countries.

BRIEFLY

Goyal to hold meetings with G7 ministers in Italy

New Delhi: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will hold bilateral meetings at Reggio Calabria in Italy next week with his counterparts from G7 nations and discuss ways to boost trade and investments, an official statement said on Saturday. Reggio Calabria is a coastal city in southern Italy. The Group of Seven (G7) industrialised nations are Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK, and the US. These meetings aim to explore new avenues for trade and investment, resolve bilateral trade issues, and deepen economic cooperation, it said. **PTI**

D-Mart's Q1 net profit rises 17.5% to ₹774 crore

New Delhi: Avenue Supermarkets Ltd, which owns and operates the retail chain D-Mart, on Saturday reported an increase of 17.45 per cent in consolidated net profit at Rs 773.68 crore for the June quarter, helped by improvement in sales from general merchandise and apparels. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 658.71 crore in the April-June period a year ago, according to a regulatory filing from Avenue Supermarkets. Its revenue from operations was up 18.57 per cent to Rs 14,069.14 crore during the quarter under review as against Rs 11,865.44 crore in the corresponding quarter last fiscal. **PTI**

Ireda net profit surges over 30% in first quarter

New Delhi: Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (Ireda) on Friday reported over 30 per cent growth in its net profit to Rs 383.69 crore for the June quarter, mainly on the back of higher revenues. "IREDA has achieved Profit After Tax of Rs 383.69 crore (in Q1), marking an impressive year-on-year growth of 30.25 per cent," a company statement said. According to the statement, its net profit was Rs 294.58 crore in the quarter ended on June 30, 2023. **PTI**

AS INCOME TAX OUTPACES CORPORATION TAX

Net direct tax collections surge nearly 20%

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JULY 13

PERSONAL INCOME tax collections continue to outpace corporation tax collections, with cumulative net direct tax collections growing nearly 20 per cent to Rs 5.74 lakh crore during the April 1 to July 11 period of the ongoing financial year (2024-25), the Income Tax Department said in a statement late Friday.

Personal income tax collections remain higher than corporation tax collections, with Securities Transaction Tax (STT) collections more than doubling to Rs 16,634 crore in FY25. Direct taxes primarily consist

PERSONAL INCOME TAX MOP-UP

PERSONAL INCOME tax collections have risen more than corporation tax collections for the last two financial years. It has accounted for 60% of the total net direct tax collected so far this fiscal

THE GROWTH rate for personal income tax collections has been 24.07%. On the other hand, net corporation tax collections have increased 12.47% to Rs 2.10 lakh crore

of personal income tax and corporation tax. STT collections, which are included in overall personal income tax collections, surged due to a sharp increase in stock market trading activity.

During the same period in

FY24, STT collections stood at Rs 7,285 crore.

Personal income tax collections have consistently risen more than corporation tax collections over the last two financial years. They accounted for 60 per cent of the total net di-

Search operation by Sebi was a court-approved action: Quant MF

VIVEK KUMAR M
MUMBAI, JULY 13

QUANT MUTUAL Fund has informed investors that the search and seizure operation by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) last month was not part of any regular process but was a court-approved action with respect to an ongoing investigation.

This is for the first time that

the fund house has acknowledged that the action was not routine.

The market regulator is probing the fund house for alleged front-running activities. In its email to investors, the fund house said it has not received any communication from the Sebi after the initial inquiries. Quant MF added that its offices are currently functioning normally and at full capacity, and that there are no Sebi officials stationed at the

offices. In a separate statement, the fund house said in the past three weeks since the Sebi action, it has seen net equity outflows of Rs 877 crore, which is less than 1 per cent of its AUM of Rs 94,000 crore.

"Our liquidity situation remains extremely healthy (as) more than 54 per cent assets are very liquid, which includes large-cap stocks, treasury bills, government securities, gold and silver," it said. **FE**

Softbank exits Paytm at loss of \$150 mn

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JULY 13

JAPAN'S SOFTBANK investment arm Softbank Vision Fund exited from Paytm in the June quarter at a loss of around \$150 million, sources aware of the development said. Softbank invested about \$1.5 billion in One97 Communications — the owner of Paytm brand — in tranches in 2017.

"Softbank has exited Paytm at a loss of 10-12 per cent. The total loss is around \$150 million," one of the sources said.

Softbank held around 18.5 per cent stake in Paytm before the company's initial public offering (IPO) in 2021. It held a 17.3 per cent stake through SVF India Holdings (Cayman) Ltd and 1.2 per cent through SVF Panther (Cayman) Ltd. SVF Panther sold its entire stake during the IPO for Rs 1,689



File

crore, about \$225 million. "Softbank announced that it will exit Paytm in 24 months from the time of the IPO. The exit was in line with Softbank's plan. However, the company did anticipate loss at that time," another source said.

Softbank had acquired Paytm shares at an average price of about Rs 800 apiece. Paytm share price was listed at Rs 1,955, lower by 9 per cent, and has not matched its issue price of Rs 2,150 apiece to date. The share price of Paytm plummeted further after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) banned

its associate firm Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) from carrying out transactions. It touched an all-time low of Rs 310 on May 9.

Paytm reported widening of losses to Rs 550 crore in the fourth quarter of 2023-24 following the ban on transactions related to its payments bank.

The company during the reported quarter wrote off Rs 227 crore investment for a 39 per cent stake in PPBL following future uncertainties associated with its business operations, including the uncertainty of any other regulatory development, etc.

With six new models, premium bike sales up 73%

VIKRAM CHAUDHARY
NEW DELHI, JULY 13

THANKS TO six new model launches, the premium motorcycle segment (350-500 cc) grew a whopping 73 per cent during the April-June quarter.

Data released by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) on Friday shows that the segment expanded from 16,296 units in Q1 FY24 to 28,202 units in Q1 FY25, on the back of six new

bikes — Harley-Davidson X 440, Hero Mavrick 440, Triumph Speed 400 and Scrambler 400 X, the all-new Royal Enfield Himalayan, and Bajaj Pulsar NS400Z. Of these, four (X 440, Speed 400, Scrambler 400 X and Himalayan) were launched in 2023, and two (Mavrick 440 and Pulsar NS400Z) were launched earlier this year. The overall motorcycle segment grew 16.8 per cent during the period — from 2,737,348 units to 3,197,922 units.

In 2020-21, Harley-Davidson had tied-up with Hero MotoCorp, and Triumph with Bajaj, to develop midsize motorcycles both for global and Indian markets. The four bikes from that partnership are the X 440 and Mavrick 440, and the Speed 400 and Scrambler 400 X, respectively.

An automotive analyst told *FE* that there is a clear move towards purchase of premium motorcycles. "We have seen that as soon as one starts working, there is a desire to own a big motorcycle — one that stands out. Banks and NBFCs provide the nudge by offering easy credit facilities," he said.

"With ESOPs and high levels of salaries, especially in the BFSI industry and the services sector, young people nowadays have high purchasing power."

What has helped is that all these new models are unique. For instance, those who cannot afford really high-end Harley-Davidson and Triumph motorcycles — which are priced above Rs 7-8 lakh, till about Rs 20-30 lakh — now have a good option in the Rs 3-4 lakh segment with the X 440, Speed 400 and Scrambler 400 X. **FE**

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN)
(Dept of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan))
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India
An ISO 9001:2015 Institution

Manovikasnagar, Secunderabad-500 009, Telangana
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WALK-IN-INTERVIEWS FOR EMPANELMENT OF GUEST FACULTY/STAFF POSITIONS FOR R&D PROJECTS

Walk-in-interviews/screening for empanelment of professionals/personnel to work as guest faculty/staff for NIEPID Secunderabad its Regional Centres located at Noida, Navi Mumbai, Kolkata & MSEC, Noida and its Composite Regional Centre, Rajnandgaon and for various R&D projects will be held as per the details given below:
Walk-in-interviews/Screening schedule.

Sl. No.	Name of the centre	Dates
1.	Composite Regional Centre, Rajnandgaon	22 July, 2024
2.	NIEPID Headquarters., Secunderabad (including R&D project)	23-24 July, 2024
3.	NIEPID Regional Centre, Kolkata	25-26 July, 2024
4.	NIEPID Regional Centre, Noida (including MSEC)	29-30 July, 2024
5.	NIEPID Regional Centre, Navi Mumbai (including R&D Project)	01-02 August, 2024

For complete details about the qualifications, experience, remuneration, terms & conditions and to download application forms, please visit Institute's website www.niepid.nic.in. For any other information, please contact at Ph.No.040-27751741-45 Extn. 209.

DIRECTOR

BRIDGE

Dealer: West Vulnerable: North/South

NORTH		SOUTH	
♠ 82	♥ J1098	♠ AKQ10764	♥ 76
♦ 7643	♣ QJ7	♦ AQ5	♣ A

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1H♥ pass	pass	dbl	4S♣
pass	2D♦	pass	4S♣
pass	pass	pass	pass

West led the king of hearts and continued with a heart to East's ace. East returned the ten of diamonds. Do you expect to make 4S?

South has two possible losers in diamonds. If only North had the jack of diamonds instead of the jack of hearts and the QJ of clubs. This is truly a case of North's having the wrong cards. Do you think East can have the king of diamonds?

East passed 1H. He should not have six points. Do you recall what East had in hearts? He had the ace and a small one. East has already shown up with four points. If he had the king of diamonds too, he would have bid. What does your play for 4S require?

The West hand: S-J5H-KQ542D-KJC-K642
The East hand: S-93H-A3D-10982C-109853

Given that West has the king of diamonds, you have to wish for it to be singleton or doubleton. Rise with the ace and after drawing trumps, lead a small diamond from your hand hoping West has to play the king. Since he began with the KJ doubleton, this line works. Tip: When you know a finesse can't work, do not take it.

Dealer: South Vulnerable: East/West

NORTH		EAST	
♠ J7	♥ 763	♠ 1083	♥ QJ5
♦ QJ106	♣ AK53	♦ 95	♣ 98764

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	3D♦	pass	1D♦
pass	pass	pass	3NT

Your partner leads the five of spades and dummy's jack wins the trick. At trick two declarer leads the queen of diamonds from dummy. This goes around to your partner's king. He returns the two of hearts and you play the jack. It wins. What choices are you considering?

SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2486

QUICK CLUES ACROSS

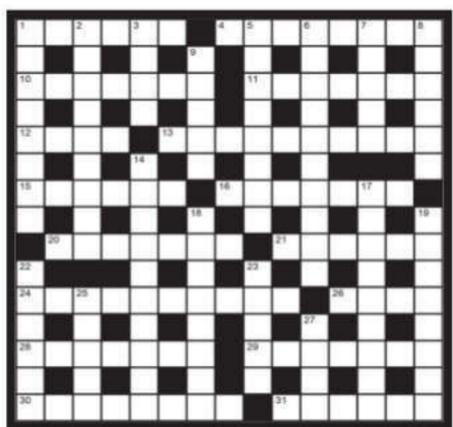
- Foul-smelling (6)
- Animal that hunts (8)
- Rolled oats (7)
- Writing space (7)
- ___ down (demolished) (4)
- Business activity (10)
- Tray (6)
- Decipher (7)
- Kneecap (7)
- Not in favour of (6)
- At first (10)
- Hindu wind God (4)
- Dessert wine (7)
- Prove someone guilty (7)
- Complete, utter, perfect (8)
- Available when summoned (2,4)

DOWN

- Least lengthy (8)
- Among others (9)
- Retain (4)
- Got back from the pawn-shop? (8)
- Think something is not right (10)
- All (mus.) (5)
- Torn (6)
- Toss (5)
- Advantageous (10)
- For each person (3,6)
- Agreeable (8)
- Denial (8)
- Melbourne festival (6)
- Cry of a hen (5)
- Great Asian river (5)
- Privy to (2,2)

CRYPTIC CLUES ACROSS

- Torch a joiner left in church (6)
- Attempt by Heather to get accommodation for horses (8)
- We linger outside, nevertheless (7)
- Is the first mime about wise men and movement in poetic composition? (7)
- An exchange of blows, but there's nothing in it (4)
- Stymie at which golfers danced with rage? (6,4)
- Tony initially adds irritation on the air (6)
- Deal with in a patient manner (7)
- Roar with Doctor Young at the vehicle outlet (3,4)
- Ambassador has caviar for superstars (6)
- It takes the father and mother of



- a mind to produce it (5-5)
26. Hints about a cooking device (4)
28. As enjoyed by a sick celebrity? (3-4)
29. OK to be embraced by man before producing cheese (7)
30. Coffee, and fast, love (8)
31. My clue may be academic for philosophers (6)
- (4,4)
19. Being in line with this, it's not the same thousand (8)
22. Compel to do a favour? (6)
23. Many pieces of wood, made to last? (5)
25. Finish everything rising (3-2)
27. What you might have to pay for a tour? (4)

Solutions to 2485

QUICK CLUES Across: 1 Hearing-impaired, 9 Arrows, 10 Abettors, 11 Felt like, 14 Growth, 17 Molluscoidling, 20 Madhya Pradesh, 23 Arctic, 25 Soft soap, 28 Template, 29 Resist, 30 Curriculum vitae Down: 2 Earned, 3 Roost, 4 Nisel, 5 Inane, 6 Pledged, 7 Intro, 8 Dysphagia, 12 Lolly, 13 Key up, 15 Which, 16 Gymnastic, 17 Medic, 18 Orago, 19 Dwell, 21 Archaic, 22 Nauses, 24 Taper, 25 Steel, 26 Forum, 27 Sushi CRYPTIC CLUES Across: 1 Turn to advantage, 9 Rwanda, 10 Lightens, 11 Classics, 14 Shifty, 17 Put out feelers, 20 Three thousand, 23 Ecarte, 25 Et cetera, 28 Ovalness, 29 Roughs, 30 Fire whippers Down: 2 Unwell, 3 Nines, 4 Okapi, 5 Dolls, 6 Augusta, 7 Tutti, 8 Essayists, 12 Setae, 13 Couch, 15 Field, 16 Better off, 17 Parke, 18 Fault, 19 Elate, 21 Thero, 22 Arthur, 24 R Lee, 25 East's, 26 Corgi, 27 Thump

If its your Birthday

Sunday July 14

Keep focused on your essential mission: to develop your personal skills and talents. It will do you no good to jump to conclusions. Looking ahead, you may rely on your experience.

Monday July 15

Sometimes you can be a real wanderer. Your nomadic instincts are strong, although obviously all those born under your sign are not about to tear up their roots and move home.

Tuesday July 16

You've got a lot on your plate, but don't get too bogged down with the facts and figures, for what really counts now is not an agreement, but the spirit of it.

Wednesday July 17

Your deep sense of duty will be stirring, and it looks as if you will be acting on the basis of the right thing to do, rather than what you want.

Thursday July 18

Well done. You've survived this far, and that is no mean feat. The only cloud on the horizon is a partner's ability to make you jealous.

Friday July 19

The time is ripe for pleasure so if you are celebrating today everything should go according to plan. You will soon become more emotionally secure.

Saturday July 20

You'll have flashes of brilliance surrounded by periods of confusion. What's more, this could set the pattern for the rest of the year.

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
You may be caught on the horns of a dilemma as the days pass, wondering whether career or worldly ambitions should be your priority. In fact, the conflict is only skin-deep and can be easily resolved if you approach the problem freshly.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
Colleagues may be irrational and conditions at work could be tense. With Pluto about to complete a complicated series of planetary alignments, a great deal of unspoken potential is in the air, and frustration may result if you don't work.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
The Moon's relationship with your sign helps create the bright and balanced conditions that are so important to your general well-being. If travel is on the agenda, the results could be fortunate.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
You've struggled through thick and thin all by yourself, but much more assistance is now available from willing helpers, so why not seek advice over the coming days rather than just pressing on alone? You're about to receive a temporary respite from a perennial problem.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
Your personal relationships are now at a turning point. You are unlikely to notice anything right now but, over the coming few weeks, you'll have another stab at an engagement or association which flopped some time ago. It will be an immense relief when personal plans finally work out in your favour.

Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
Your emotional Moon brings a challenging and passionate aspect to your sign this week, placing an undeniable accent on frivolity and friendship, commodities that have often been in short supply in the past. Why not take advantage of a more relaxed mood at work to defer irksome tasks?

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
Your personal stars are stronger than usual. An intimate relationship now enters a new and fulfilling phase. But if there's any possibility that you'll be short of cash over the next few weeks, this is the time to start raising funds.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
Mars, your splendid planetary ruler, is in a helpful position, indicating that you'll rise above the generally irritating conditions around you. You know that you're right and there's little point in compromise for the sake of it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)
Do listen very carefully to what other people are saying and doing. You must sympathise with their many various and often difficult situations, otherwise you'll misunderstand their motives. At work, colleagues will back your ideas, so why not take the lead?

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
The general celestial situation suits you rather nicely, and many people who never gave you a second thought will soon find themselves having to behave in Capricornian ways, or get nowhere. Obviously, you'll have a head start, which is certainly a good thing.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
There could be one or two hold-ups at home, mainly because of a partner's opposition. Professional plans are sailing along very nicely, although right now you probably feel as if you still have a supreme effort to make. You're right, but it will be easier than you think, so don't be put off by imaginary worries.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
Something very curious is happening, and you would be well advised to keep a careful check on the legal situation. The last thing you want now is to be ripped off somehow, or find that others have taken you for granted. A cash bonus provides some comfort.

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 clue.

I would imagine that if you could understand _____ a tap dancer would drive you crazy. - Mitch Hedberg (5,4)

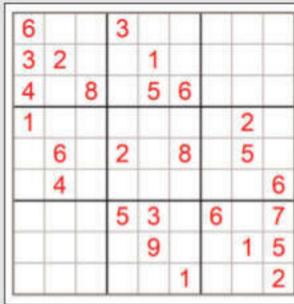
BVEER	CIIVCS
LNYOO	DIISDM

Answer: I would imagine that if you could understand Morse code, a tap dancer would drive you crazy. - Mitch Hedberg
SOLUTION: BVEER, LONY, CIIVCS, MISDID

SUDOKU 5621

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.

Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



SOLUTION SUDOKU 5620



कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, राँची पश्चिम, राँची
ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट निविदा सूचना
निविदा रद्द करने के संबंध में
इस कार्यालय द्वारा प्रकाशित Supply of 29604 nos. of 5G Smart phones with a minimum of 3 GB RAM and 32GB data storage capacity for the use of Jalshiyas working in different Villages of Jharkhand under SBM (G) and JIM for the financial year 2023-24 कार्य का ई-निविदा सं- DWSD/RWR-28/2023-24 तिथि - 20.01.2024, जिसका PR No. 314931 (Drinking Water & Sanitation) 2023-24 है, को अपरिहार्य कारणों से रद्द किया जाता है।
कार्यपालक अभियंता,
PR 329549 Drinking Water and Sanitation (24-25) D पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, राँची पश्चिम, राँची

Jharkhand Film Development Corporation Limited
An Undertaking of Government of Jharkhand
Suchana Bhawan, Meur's Road, Beside- Audrey House, Ranchi, Jharkhand-834008
E-mail: connect.jfdcl@gmail.com

CORRIGENDUM
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR SELECTION OF FILM PRODUCTION COMPANY / FIRM FOR SHOOTING & PRODUCTION OF FILM FEATURING INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED BAND / ARTIST AT NETARHAT AND ONE WATERFALL OF RANCHI AS DECIDED BY THE CORPORATION IN ORDER TO PROMOTE TOURISM. (PR NO:- 329277).
The date to submit EOI has been extended till 18th July 2024; 02:00 PM.
PR 329589 Jharkhand Film Development Corp Ltd(24-25)#D Sd/- Managing Director

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-tender through e-procurement system for supply of the following item:-

S. N.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
1	09242351A	Liner 160 X 125 X 3 MM	38369 Nos.	06.08.2024
2	12241833A	LED Type Light Fitting 2x5 Watt Tubular LED Lamp	2500 Nos.	07.08.2024
3	02241935	Battery Box For Non-AC Coaches 110V	778 Nos.	08.08.2024
4	02241739	Battery Fuse Box	1177 Nos.	09.08.2024
5	02241892	KEC Make IEVR-2D Suitable for 500KVA, 750V, 50HZ, 385AMP Brushless Alternator Frame	50 Nos.	09.08.2024
6	09242384	Load Sensing Valve Type-VTA For BLC Wagon	7853 Nos.	13.08.2024
7	01241778	Structure Bond 40MM x 6 MM	5929 Nos.	09.09.2024
8	07241356	AIR Spring Assembly (140KN) For ICF Type Bogies	162 Set	10.09.2024
9	07245022	Supply, Installation, Commissioning & Testing of Stainless Steel Tubes	75 Set	11.09.2024
10	07241161	Injection Moulded Silent Block	3002 Nos.	14.10.2024
11	07243466	Sealed Glass Unit For LHB Fixed Window	10103 Nos.	16.10.2024
12	07240090	Safety Wire Rope For Brake Beam	24994 Nos.	17.10.2024
13	07241514	Bulb Type Split Cotter	599165 Nos.	24.10.2024
14	07241158A	Sleeve Complete For Centre Pivot Arrangement	2797 Nos.	24.10.2024
15	07241168A	Anchor Link	2358 Nos.	30.10.2024
16	09242386	Automatic Twist Lock (Complete Assembly) With Steel Spring For BLC Wagon	4329 Nos.	01.11.2024
17	09242282	Flap Door Arrangement for Box Wagon	2130 Nos.	28.11.2024

Note: 1. Vendors may view the ireps website i.e. https://ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained.
Tender Notice No.: 32/2024-25 Dated: 12.07.2024 2137/2024
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED
See Section 82 Cr. P.C.
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Kailash, S/o Moti Ram Phool Singh, R/o H.No. A-752, J.J. Colony, Madipur, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in a FIR No. 294/17 U/s 308, 34 IPC at P.S. Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Kailash** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Kailash** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).
Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Kailash of FIR No. 294/17 U/s 308, 34 IPC at P.S. Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi** required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **29.08.2024**.
By order
Ms. Shefali Barnala Tandon
Addl. Session Judge-05
West Tis Hazari Court, Delhi
DP/9055/WD/2024(Court Matter)

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED
General public is hereby informed that this Girl (depicted in the photo) namely **Shivani D/o Prem Sagar R/o 2/119, Harijan Basti, Gali No. 1, New Rohtak Road, Delhi** has been missing/kidnaped from her house since **03.07.2024**. In this regard a FIR No. 389/2024 Dated 03.07.2024 has been registered at **PS Sarai Rohilla, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out this girl but no clue has come to light so far.
Her physical description is as under:-
Sex: Female, Age: 17 yrs., Height: 4' 5" ft., Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Build: Medium, Wearing: Pink Checked Colour Suit with Creamy Salwar and White Waist Coat.
Any person is having information or clue about this missing/kidnaped girl may kindly inform to the following:-
SHO
Website: http://cbi.nic.in PS: Sarai Rohilla, Delhi
E-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in Ph: 011-23691335, 23691106
Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641 Mobile: 8750870133
Fax No.: 011-24368639 DP/8728/N/2024

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
(See Section 82 Cr.PC)
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Surinder Kapoor Prop. of M/s Bharti Printers and Packers R/o C-19, Ground Floor, Vijeta Vihar, Sec-13, Rohini, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **Case No.512179/16, Case No.514238/16, Case No.514428/16, Case No.517259/16, Case No.514426/16 and Case No.514427/16 u/s 138 NI Act, P.S. Karol Bagh, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Surinder Kapoor** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Surinder Kapoor** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).
Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Surinder Kapoor of Case No.512179/16, Case No.514238/16, Case No.514428/16, Case No.517259/16, Case No.514426/16 and Case No.514427/16 u/s 138 NI Act, P.S. Karol Bagh, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **14.08.2024**.
By Order,
Nishit Kumar Sharma
Metropolitan Magistrate-01, NI Act, Room No.201,
CBA-II, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi
DP/9094/CD/2024

PUNJAB REMOTE SENSING CENTRE
(A Government of Punjab Enterprise)
PAU Campus, Ludhiana 141004 www.prsc.gov.in
(Advertisement No. 04/2024 dated 14.07.2024)
Applications are invited for the posts of Mobile App. Developer, Java Web Application Developer, Junior Research Fellow on contractual basis for a period of six months likely to be extended based on candidate's performance review and Project Scheme/Centre's requirements. For further details visit website www.prsc.gov.in. Sd/- Director

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED
General Public is hereby informed that one girl **Namely: Pushpa, D/o: Smt. Lunganshri, R/o: Jhuggi No. 28, BG-6, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi, Sex: Female, Age: 14 Years, Height: 5'0", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Identification Mark: Cut mark on chin, Wearing: Black Colour Suit & Lower and Slippers in Feet** has been missing/kidnaped since 05.07.2024 from her residence. In this regard FIR No. 435/24, U/s 137(2) BNS, Dated: 07.07.2024 has been lodged at P.S.: Paschim Vihar East, New Delhi.
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnaped girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing/kidnaped girl. Please inform to the following.
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Website: http://cbi.nic.in SHO
E-Mail Id: cbc@cbi.gov.in P.S.: Paschim Vihar East, New Delhi
Fax: 011-24368639 Ph: 7065036131, 7877505842
DP/9107/OD/2024

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, NAGAR PANCHAYAT, SHRI BANSHIDHAR NAGAR
Request for Proposal/E-Procurement Notice
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NO. UDD/NPSBN/05/2024-25 Date: 12-07-24
Request for Proposal are invited on behalf of SHRI BANSHIDHAR NAGAR, NAGAR PANCHAYAT (NPSBN), Jharkhand for work on DBOT basis from reputed and eligible companies / firm/ Consortium/Joint Ventures having sound Technical and Financial capability for the following works:

No.	Description of Package	Estimated Capital & O&M Cost (Rs. in lac)	Earnest Money (Rs in lac)	Tender Fee (Rs.)	Completion Period
1	Door to Door Collection & Source Segregation of Municipal Solid Waste, setting up & operation of Material Recovery facility, Transfer Station & Transportation Facility, Developing & Operating a Wet & Dry Waste Processing Facility and Engineered Sanitary Landfill Facility in municipal area as per SWM Rules 2016 & SBM 2.0 guidelines, for Nagar Panchayat, Shri Banshidhar Nagar, Garhwa in Jharkhand, on a long-term Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) basis with 20 years O&M	950.65 & 6064.07	9.50	25000.00	16 Month Construction & 20 Yrs O&M
2	Publication of Tender on Website			13.07.2024	
3	Last date for receiving queries			13.07.2024	
4	Pre bid meeting			20.07.2024	
5	Last Date/Time for Receipt of bid Online			30.07.2024 By 3:00 PM	
6	Opening of technical bid			31.07.2024 By 4:00 PM	
7	Official Inviting Tender			Administrator, NP, Shri Banshidhar Nagar	
8	Mobile Number			9771198870	
9	E-mail			npsbnagar@gmail.com	
10	Helpline Number of E-Procurement Cell				

Only e-tenders are acceptable. Further details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in
2. Contractor should be registered in appropriate class as per NIT.
3. Estimated cost/ Quantity may vary.
Administrator, NP, S.B. Nagar.
PR 329527 Urban Development(24-25)#D

WESTERN RAILWAY
Material Management Department
VARIOUS MATERIALS SUPPLY
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No. S/34/2024 Date 12.07.2024

S.N.	Short Description of Items	Quantity	T.O.D.
463	PAD FOR SECONDARY SUSPENSION	2762 Nos	09-Aug-24
464	TWIN BEAM LED HEADLIGHT	800 Sets	09-Aug-24
465	SMOKE GREY	26272 Ltr	10-Aug-24
466	4.5 KW UNDERSLUNG CONSTANT	68 Nos.	10-Aug-24
467	K TYPE NON ASBESTOS COMPOSITE BRAKE BLOCKS	90471 Nos	12-Aug-24
468	PRIMARY VERTICAL DAMPER	6299 Nos	12-Aug-24
469	DISTRIBUTOR VALVE TYPE	660 Nos	12-Aug-24
470	LOCK FOR UPGRADED HIGH TENSILE CBC	6086 Nos	12-Aug-24

Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website www.ireps.gov.in and www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in 0337
Like us on: Facebook.com/WesternRly - Follow us on: Twitter.com/WesternRly

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
See Section 82 Cr.P.C.
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Chhotey Lal Yadav S/o Muggon Yadav R/o C-253, PH-1 Qutub Vihar Road, Goyla Dairy, New Delhi**, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 375/2018 U/s 279/337/304A/34 IPC P.S.: Kirti Nagar Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Chhotey Lal Yadav**, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Chhotey Lal Yadav**, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).
Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Chhotey Lal Yadav, accused of FIR No. 375/2018 U/s 279/337/304A/34 IPC P.S.: Kirti Nagar Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **06.09.2024**.
By Order
Ms. Sonam Gupta
CJM West Dist.
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi
DP/8993/WD/2024 (Court Matter)

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-Open Tender
Open E-Tender Notice No. L-Open-24-25-11, Dt 11.07.2024
The Divl. Rly Manager (Elect/G)/Sonpur for and behalf of the president of India invites "Open E-Tender" for following works. The last date of online E-Tendering is 12.08.2024 up to 12:30 Hrs. All Information and tender documents related to E-Tender is available on website www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. No. (1) Name of work : (i) Improvement of 33/11 KV sub station by providing 22 & 11 KV VCB 1HJPMFP & BJU (ii) Improvement of power supply arrangement by providing of stand by D.G. Set & AT at HJ, MFP & BJU .
Approx. Cost (in Rs.): 1,94,69,385.92
Earnest Money (in Rs.): 2,47,400.00
Cost of Tender document (in Rs.) (Non-ref



"On Sunday, all of us will run through brick walls, do anything to win this game. Whether that's in 90 minutes, 120, we'll give it absolutely everything. That's all we can ask of each other."

DECLAN RICE,
ENGLAND MIDFIELDER

BRIEFLY

Uruguay coach Bielsa launches scathing tirade

Charlotte: Uruguay coach Marcelo Bielsa thinks his players deserve an apology, not sanctions, for going into the stands at Bank of America Stadium and participating in a fight with Colombia fans following his team's 1-0 Copa America semifinal loss. An angry Bielsa criticised tournament organizers for not doing enough to protect the families of players seated behind the Uruguay bench and he justified players taking matters into their own hands to protect their loved ones. "We are in the United States, the country of security," Bielsa said through an interpreter during an emotional 45-minute news conference Friday. "How can you not defend your mother, your sister, a baby? If they did not do it, they would have been condemned by all of us." CONMEBOL, South American soccer's governing body, said on Thursday its disciplinary committee opened an investigation. Asked if he feared sanctions for his team, Bielsa grew irate. "The sanction does not have to be for the footballers, but for those who forced them to act like this. This is a witch hunt. It is a shame." AP

Khatua's name missing from WA list

New Delhi: Shot putter Abha Khatua's name was surprisingly missing from the Indian athletics team's list of Olympic participants published by World Athletics, even as she currently trains in Poland ahead of the Paris Games. Khatua, who qualified for the Olympics through world ranking route, left the country for Spala in Poland on Thursday, along with other track and field athletes. Mysteriously enough, the World Athletics' list of participants for the Paris Games published on Friday night had only 29 Indian track and field athletes, instead of 30 names entered by AFI through the Indian Olympic Association, with Khatua's name missing. AFI officials and Khatua weren't available for a response on Saturday. PTI

Antim, Aman seeded 4th and 6th

New Delhi: World Championships bronze medalist Antim Panghal (women's 53kg) and immensely talented Aman Sehrawat (men's freestyle 57kg) have been seeded fourth and sixth in their respective weight categories which should help them avoid tough rivals in the initial bouts of the wrestling competition at the Paris Olympics. Vinesh Phogat, who will compete in the women's 50kg weight class, and rest of the Indian contingent are unseeded and will be placed randomly in the draw closer to their events. PTI

Head Coach Ponting leaves Delhi Capitals

New Delhi: Delhi Capitals on Saturday parted ways with head coach Ricky Ponting after seven unsuccessful years in their quest for an elusive IPL silverware, the franchise announced on social media. While it is still early days, there is every possibility that Sourav Ganguly, the current Team Director of DC, could double up as the head coach next season. "As you move on as our head coach, we are finding it incredibly difficult to put it down in words. The four things that you told us about in every huddle—care, commitment, attitude and effort, they sum up our seven years together," DC posted on their official 'X' handle. PTI

PREVIEW: EURO FINAL

Blue chip vs blue-collar

Spain's exhilarating and eye-catching game goes up against England's scrape-and-grind approach in the final at Berlin

SANDIP G
JULY 13

FOR AGES, Spain and England embodied the contrasting philosophies of football. Short, intricate passing game pitched against long-ball hoofing trial and error, organised build-up meeting a kick-and-rush charge.

But over the years, with the influx of Spanish managers in the premier league—three of the top four teams last season were helmed by Spaniards—their worlds gravitated. Hence, viewing the Spain-England Euro final through the conventional prism is counter-intuitive. Rather, at the heart of the encounter is a bigger and older debate that has piqued the deepest of its thinkers.

What works in a tournament conquest? Playing beautiful football or a scrape-and-grind approach? Is it better to be a beautiful loser than a boring winner? Could idealism defeat utilitarianism?

Spain has produced the most exhilarating brand of football since the first batch of Tiki Taka-ians; their rhythmic, synchronised movements, the sudden explosions of pace on the wings, the sense of self-expression, the serendipitous midfield, their sophisticated interlocking, the unfazed backline. Luis de la Fuente's men have re-instilled beauty into tournament football.

Spain seemed to exist in a parallel universe, a rarefied space of excellence, immune to fickleness of form and fortune, freezing every adversary in the square light of their technical shine. It's not that they have won seven games that matter, but how they won, with an aura, with an invincibility.

The path to the final could not have been more different for England.

Spain sped through a six-lane highway; England dragged through hairpin bends and muddy lanes. Without moments of sheer individual brilliance, England would have bitten the dust. The stoppage time goals against Slovakia, the magnificence of Jude Bellingham, the assuredness of Jordan Pickford against Switzerland, Bukayo Saka's wispiness; Ollie Watkins' added-time opportunism. England's existence in the tournament has been shaky; watching them toil was frustrating; caution remained the un-



Spain's wonder kid Lamine Yamal (L) and teammates have a lighter moment during training on the eve of the final. Reuters

derlying theme, even though their play was not been cynical or negative.

It was just that they struggled to ignite, not for the dearth of talented individuals or an ordinary set of coaches. But just that they could not knit together extraordinary individual skill to create something more majestic than they had exhibited so far.

Green shoots

There are green shoots of hope—the 35 minutes against Netherlands in the first half, the enhanced mobility of Harry Kane, the growing influence of Declan Rice.

But fate has bunched both in the final in Berlin, where the route they traversed would matter less than the destination. "We are here, and that's what matters," coach Gareth Southgate would chirp after edging past the Netherlands.

He pointed to the reality of England improving with every game and peaking towards the end game, or that timely contributions have arrived from various players. That's what it is all about—unlike season-long leagues that require sustained domination, one good/bad/fortunate/unfortunate evening could change the outcome of the final.

The past offers valuable lessons, and optimism for England.

It's not always that the best team in the final wins; Portugal in the 2016 edition didn't win a single game in the group stages, scratched through the final, where an obscure forward's hit-and-hope 25-yarder decided the title. On such accidents of fate, sometimes, hinge the destiny of a tournament. Or the more extreme instance of Greece's march in 2004. The forces that control it are different to those that govern league football. And England, for all their mediocrity in the campaign, possess elite tal-

ents, on the field and the bench.

They have illustrated grit and resolve to remain immune to criticisms, found a way to overturn deficits and to summon a spirit of indefatigability in duress, bound by a sense of siege mentality. Evident is an if-not-now-never sentiment.

Since Southgate assumed the office, England shed their underachieving millstone. Two finals, a semifinal and a quarter-final, he has achieved more success than any other English coach since Alf Ramsey, orchestrator of their lone World Cup success. None of the tournaments began with England as favourites; even in the knockout games they eventually lost, they were seldom the irrepressible champions-in-waiting, but equals or even marginal underdogs. Here, though, they are certainly, and that could be a blessing. And a fitting end to an era where England were un-hyped but punched above their weight. None would begrudge if England resist Spain.

Start of an era

Contrastingly, it's the start of an era for Spain. Easily the best team in a tournament where most teams looked cagey and conscious, lacking in peaks of extreme quality, Spain was the kiss of god, a breath of fresh air, the force that masked the fatigue of a turgid tournament.

This Spanish team is worth living and dying for, except that they need to prove they are resistant to the fluctuating fortunes of a knockout game.

They need the stamp of greatness, which only silverwares could validate. They wouldn't want the fate of Socrates' romantics of 1982 or Ferenc Puskas's Magic Magyars of 1954 to befriend them. They wouldn't want to be remembered as beautiful losers like Johan Cruyff's Total Football.

It's their chance to prove that beauty and utility could coexist in the sport, that great teams win no matter what. Whatever happens, this would be defined as Spain's Euro, or that of its wondrous star, Lamine Yamal, but the final would be about how they would be remembered. Spain as beautiful losers or England as scrappy winners?

A debate as old as the game, and still no closer to finding the answer.

Spain has had 9 goalscorers but England can 'bring it home'

SANDIP G
JULY 13

FROM AN overload on the left, to pacy wingers on both flanks, to a midfield metronome, England have a lot to deal with against Spain in the final of the European Championship. But can they find a way?

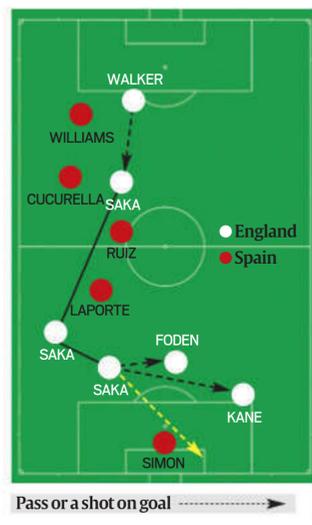
Attack Spain's vulnerable left

Marc Cucurella is energetic and dogged, but he is not super quick in getting back to his defensive zone. He often overlaps and underlaps Williams upfield, an effective combination on the attacking front, but less so when defending. A lot of times Spain overloads on the left, a triangle of Rodri, Fabian Ruiz and either Cucurella or Nico Williams. So if England could dispossess them, they could quickly maraud forward, as Spain take time when transitioning from offence to defence, and they often hold a high line.

This could open up spaces behind the curly-haired full-back for Bukayo Saka to exploit. Saka has been their most potent forward (18 shot-creating actions, most by an England player) and he had skinned Cucurella several times in the Premier League. His crosses—and Kyle Walker's—could trouble Spain, as they are relatively slack in defending back-post crosses. The goal France scored was a classic instance, and there were numerous other instances when they have lived on the edge. Germany too exploited the space but were undone by clumsy finishing.

In general, Spain's backline is not as impreg-

HOW ENGLAND COULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SPAIN'S HIGH LINE



WALKER TO SAKA... SAKA FLIES

Right back Kyle Walker can win the ball and pass the ball quickly to right winger Bukayo Saka, who could ratchet up the pace and storm past Marc Cucurella and Aymeric Laporte, as Spain usually play a high line and are relatively slower in transition.

SAKA CUTS IN SHOTS/PASSES

Saka could then cut in, pass the ball to Phil Foden in the centre, or Harry Kane on his left or take a long shot on goal himself. The idea is to catch Spain napping in defensive transitions.

nable as the number of goals they have conceded suggest. They have shipped in just three goals in seven games, but both Croatia and Germany were hideously wasteful, with Kai Havertz, Niclas Fullkrug and Thomas Muller all spurning good chances. Their expected goals against total was 6.2, which is higher than

England's 5.7. But England have to latch onto their chances. Coincidentally, England's strong suit is their right-side, all of their goals from open play coming through the right.

The peculiar vulnerability of Spain could tempt Southgate to start Ollie Watkins (possibly for Harry Kane), as he is adept at run-

ning behind the defenders and finding pockets of space.

Cutting the wings

Reducing the influence of Spain's fleet-footed wingers, Lamine Yamal especially, would be England's primary endeavour. A three-man defence with wingers falling back looks resourceful on paper. But it is far more complicated, because they are not dealing with two headless chicken wingers. Yamal and Williams have pace to burn, tricks to navigate narrow alleyways, expertise to keep the ball and intelligence to compute the best possible scenario. The dilemmas are many. If you overload one avenue, the escape route presents through the other flank.

Most of Spain's excursions have arrived through the left (46 percent as opposed to 31 through the right). It's a deliberate ploy to facilitate space for Yamal to swing his devastating left-foot. No Spaniard had matched his chances created (16) since Xavi Hernandez's haul at Euro 2012. He is many players in one: creator, provider and destroyer. The speedy pair account for 46 percent of Spain's total attempted take-ons, and passing to each other has been a common feature too. England would likely man-mark Yamal, the sturdy Marc Guéhi the likeliest candidate, but it has to be a collective effort.

Possibly, England would start with the specialist left-back Luke Shaw, who offers more offensive threat than Kieran Trippier. The hour has arrived for Declan Rice to revive his Arsenal touch.

At the same time, England cannot afford

over-committing because the threats could arrive from different zones. Apart from the flanks, they are schooled in moving the ball through the central channels and have an imperious forward in Dani Olmo, whose svelte movements could penetrate low blocks and breach lines with a swordsman's precision. The midfield duo of Rodri and Fabian Ruiz are pass-masters who could weave spaces and thread perfectly-constructed balls. Not to discount the long-ball serving of goalkeeper Unai Simón. Or the nugget that Spain had nine different goal scorers.

Stifle Rodri

"The computer," is what coach Luis de la Fuente calls Rodri. It's hard to define one stand-out gift of his, because he is a sum of everything. How many times has he scored stoppage time winners for Manchester City, not to forget the clincher in City's maiden Champions League final. Every move passes through him. He was involved in 30 attacking build-ups this Euro. Handing him the powers to conduct the game is as good as drowning in the water. England could take a leaf out of Arsenal's manual when the two teams last met. In that game, Rice and Martin Odegaard tightly marked him, pressing him relentlessly and disrupting the great disruptor. Rice would have to avail the services of Rodri's club colleague, Phil Foden, whose work rate off the ball would be as valuable.

To an extent Germany, too, succeeded in limiting him by asphyxiating him in his own half, forcing the defenders and goalkeeper to ping long balls over the midfield to the advanced wing-men.

INDIA VS ZIMBABWE T20IS

Jaiswal justifies opening slot spot with a stroke-filled 93; India win series

VINAYAKK MOHANARANGAN
JULY 13

TWO SATURDAYS apart, the mood couldn't have been more different in Harare. After being bowled out for 102 while chasing 116 in the first T20I, India overpowered Zimbabwe in the fourth match, winning by 10 wickets to clinch the series 3-1. Sure, it was on a fresh pitch—one where the ball came along quite nicely with the new ball especially—but it still underscored how India have managed to turn things around after that rusty start.

And leading that charge was Yashasvi Jaiswal. How do you tell an opener who just smashed a 47-ball 100 with 10 sixes that you have to bat at No 3 immediately from the next match? Suppose it becomes easier to explain when the player replacing you at the top is someone as talented as Jaiswal. Abhishek Sharma's stunning century in the second match notwithstanding, India went with Jaiswal as Shubman Gill's opening partner the

moment the Mumbaikar was available to play and he offered up a reminder that he deserved that every bit with a boundary-filled 53-ball 93. India scored 156/0 to canter home after arguably Zimbabwe's best batting performance in the series wasn't nearly enough.

Sample this for his dominance: Zimbabwe hit 10 fours in their 20 overs as they made a fairly solid 152/7. But the Indian openers hit 10 fours in the first 4 overs, with Jaiswal racing off the blocks to hit 8 of those himself. He finished with three fours more than Zimbabwe (13) and one fewer six (2) as India broke the run-chase early to cruise through to the finish line.

It wasn't all bad from Sikandar Raza's men though. Having been asked to bat first, they had their best start to a batting innings this series. Their highest opening partnership before this match was 9. But after a couple of superb deliveries from Khaleel Ahmed to start the match, Wessly Madhevere and Tadiwanashe Marumani found some early momentum. An overthrow for four, balls



Yashasvi Jaiswal celebrates on reaching his half-century in Harare. PTI

Sample this for his dominance: Zimbabwe hit 10 fours in their 20 overs as they made a fairly solid 152/7. But the Indian openers hit 10 fours in the first 4 overs, with Jaiswal racing off the blocks to hit 8 of those himself.

strayed on the pads, and a dropped catch (albeit a tough one) by Shivam Dube all played a part as India struggled to breakthrough.

But an impressive 63-run partnership came to an end thanks to India's part-timers. Marumani was playing well but as it happens against a non-regular bowler, a not-so-great ball ended up resulting in a wicket. Abhishek, who didn't get to bat but showed once more that he is a handy bowler in a T20 set-up, struck first with a short ball but benefited due to the longer boundary on one

side. Zimbabwe's next wicket would fall the same way, as Shivam Dube too got in on the act the very next over to dismiss Madhevere.

India applied the brakes just enough before Raza's fireworks. Speaking at the toss, captain Gill identified death overs bowling as an area of concern for this Indian bowling unit. Death bowling is not supposed to be easy. If it were, cricket would perhaps use a less ominous phrase to describe it. And so India leaked some runs in the backend, thanks mainly to the aggressive approach of Raza.

Washington Sundar, who has otherwise had a fine series with the ball so far, was hit over midwicket on the longer side by a brilliant Raza slog. Khaleel Ahmed went for 18 runs in an expensive 17th over. Ravi Bishnoi conceded five wides with a wild delivery in the 18th. But Tushar Deshpande, expensive on debut, dismissed Raza and Khaleel closed out with a double-wicket 20th over as India ended up conceding 54 runs off the last 30 balls.

A target of 153 did however feel sub-par despite Raza hoping the pitch would slow

down further. The key to the chase was the start Jaiswal provided, racing to a 29-ball half-century, while Gill took his time. The skipper was on 15 off 16, then smashed a six over extra cover off Raza for a shot-of-the-series contender. In the very next over, he slapped two forehand square cuts for two fours, and followed by a punch past mid-off. His strike rate went from below 100 to 160 in the space of 2 overs and he finished unbeaten on a 39-ball 58.

"Today you just have to hold up our hands and say they batted us out of this game," Raza said at the end. "We weren't able to chase in the first match, so very pleasing to do that today." Gill added. In the end, it was a one-sided contest just a week after a famous Zimbabwe win set up the series quite fascinatingly. **BRIEF SCORES: Zimbabwe:** 152 for 7 in 20 overs (Wessly Madhevere 25, Tadiwanashe Marumani 32, Sikandar Raza 46; Khaleel Ahmed 2/32) lost to **India:** 156 for no loss in 15.2 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 93 not out, Shubman Gill 58 not out).

Barbora Czechs in at SW19

MEN'S FINAL: DJOKOVIC VS ALCARAZ

Players in opposite ends of their careers eye history

Krejcikova defeats Paolini, to emulate idol Novotna and add to an already impressive trophy collection

NAMIT KUMAR
JULY 13

NOT MERELY is Barbora Krejcikova a former World No. 2 and Grand Slam singles champion, but with a total tally of 10 doubles Majors and an Olympic gold, she has already racked up a near-Hall of Fame career this decade.

Despite that, as a new crop of young, attacking champions – the likes of Iga Swiatek, Coco Gauff and Aryna Sabalenka – have risen to prominence, Krejcikova has remained one of the under-appreciated recent Major winners. All that should now change.

On a tense afternoon at Centre Court, Krejcikova defeated Jasmine Paolini, the spirited seventh seed from Italy, 6-2, 2-6, 6-4 in a final of sometimes top-tier tennis, and sometimes nerve-jangling, to win the Wimbledon title. She became the fourth Czech woman, after Marketa Vondrousova (2023), Petra Kvitova (2011, 2014), and her inspiration and mentor, Jana Novotna (1998), to do so. "I think that nobody could have believed it... that I could get to the final and then win Wimbledon. I still cannot believe it," Krejcikova said on court after the final.

As the 31st seed, few (including herself) would have given her a chance at the start of the tournament, and even less so after she just about edged Veronika Kudermetova in the first round in a three-hour long marathon. "It's definitely the best day of my tennis career, what just happened. The best day of my life," she added, holding the Venus Rosewater dish aloft. "It was a great final, and in the end, I was the lucky one."

Paolini may have been swept aside by World No. 1 Swiatek in last month's French Open final, but she found herself to be a resilient, threatening presence in a knife-edged final. It could have easily gone her way had it not been for two critical errors that came off the Italian's racquet late in the third set.

After each splitting the first two sets, rallies were tightened and nerves caught up in the decider. Krejcikova mixed in variety and patience to fashion a break point opportunity in the seventh game which Paolini admirably defended. But the Italian gifted the initiative with a double fault.

Proceedings threatened to turn one last time with Krejcikova feeling the heat while serving for the Championships and Paolini



Barbora Krejcikova defeated Jasmine Paolini 6-2, 2-6, 6-4 to lift the trophy. Reuters

sniffing blood. The Italian saved two match points and momentum was flowing her way. But she netted a simple putaway second serve return and Krejcikova found a big first serve to close out the match. Paolini had come ever so close, but Krejcikova had lifted her game on the bigger points, and escaped with the title.

Krejcikova's playing style is a departure from the hardline attacking baseliners that dominate the women's game today. All timing and variation, she brings plenty of craftiness from her great doubles career. Her formidable backhand slice sucks the pace out of the baseline exchanges. Earlier this week, she expertly neutralised hard hitters like Elena Rybakina and Jelena Ostapenko.

The more defensive-minded Paolini was expected to be a different kind of challenge, but Krejcikova's greatest strengths had her fully on top in the opening exchanges. The Czech could not have played a better first set – making 90% of her first serves, winning 84%

of the points behind it, fashioning four break points, and converting two.

She used her variety and precise groundstrokes to disrupt her opponent's rhythm and extract errors. The scoreline suggests a washout but many of the games were decided on points that went above 15 shots, Krejcikova giving Paolini no pace to redirect and spread her around the court before finding the right opportunity to strike. The Italian was found to be too tentative, her serve lacking bite.

Yet, the momentum ebbed in the second set, Paolini found another gear. Instead of waiting to redirect pace from the other side of the net, she injected more pace into her own groundstrokes and took the initiative. In the blink of an eye, the Italian found an early break and stayed on top to level the match.

Krejcikova looked rattled and panicked with Paolini's newfound aggression. The Czech had hit 10 winners and eight unforced

IN ELITE COMPANY

2 Barbora Krejcikova becomes one of only two active female players, the other being Simona Halep, to have won both Wimbledon and the French Open.

32 As World No. 32, Krejcikova is the second-lowest ranked Wimbledon champion. The lowest was last year's winner and her compatriot Market Vondrousova, who was unseeded and World No. 42.

2 Beseated by injury, Krejcikova had won only two singles matches in the five months between the end of the Australian Open and the start of Wimbledon.

errors in the first set. Those numbers stood at four and 14 respectively in the second.

Paolini's comeback was unquestionably in the ascendancy at the start of the third set. The match had a different flow to it and the games were moving at a much quicker speed than Krejcikova would prefer.

Yet, the Czech was able to lock in on serve and stay focused on the important points. Even as she was gifted the crucial break-through, with Paolini's ill-timed double fault giving her the break, she needed to find her very best serving form to stave away a late lapse and coast to the trophy.

It is worth remembering the summer belongs to Paolini. At 28, she is a late bloomer. But this year, with a WTA 1000 title in Dubai and back-to-back French Open and Wimbledon finals (the first to do so since Serena Williams in 2016), she has proven her all-surface pedigree that even the top-ranked players on the tour have not. Eyes will be firmly planted on whether she can reset from the two disappointments and keep her momentum going. But the day and glory belongs to Krejcikova, who emulated her idol's dream with an emotional run.

NAMIT KUMAR
JULY 13

ON SUNDAY, Novak Djokovic will play his 37th Major final. Carlos Alcaraz will play his fourth.

Djokovic will be vying for an all-time record-setting (man or woman) 25th Grand Slam singles title. Alcaraz will be vying for his fourth. Djokovic aims to equal Roger Federer's tally of eight Wimbledon titles. Alcaraz hopes to become just the sixth man to win the French Open and Wimbledon in the same year in the Open Era.

It remains astonishingly rare for two players on opposite ends of their careers and opposite ends of making history – one flourishing in his many firsts, the other prolonging his lasts – to meet in a high-stakes occasion like this. Yet for the second successive summer, Wimbledon will have the fortune of hosting the tennis spectacle of the year.

The circumstances since last year's final, in which Alcaraz beat Djokovic in a five-set thriller, have changed drastically. Question marks surround both; margins are expected to be razor thin.

Slow starts, serving slump

Alcaraz has learned to deal with the momentum shifts of best-of-five sets tennis and raise his game when it matters most. Last year, he walked into the final with ghosts of a capitulation against the same opponent at the French Open. This year, he has come into it with the Roland Garros trophy.

Still, at present, his form is not touching the sky-high heights it was coming into the final 12 months ago. Through the French Open and Wimbledon, he has developed a pattern of starting matches slowly. He has lost the first set in three of his six matches at SW19, and he was taken to the wire in five sets by Frances Tiafoe in the third round.

His sluggish starts show he takes time to work himself into an encounter, and his average serving record does not allow him to win free points; on the contrary, it is an area that opponents attack. Through his six matches so far, Alcaraz has won about 72.16

percent of the points on his first serve, slightly below the tournament average of 74 percent. But when he starts matches tentatively, he either misses too many first serves, or does not back them up well enough. In each of the sets he has lost at SW19 this fortnight, he has won only about half (58 percent) the points behind his first serve.

His opponent has been serving a lot more ruthlessly. Djokovic has won 81.66 percent of the points on his first serve and 60 percent of his second (compared to Alcaraz's 56 percent). It is an area the Serb will look to target to establish a fast start, especially since he remains an eliter returner of serve, even on one leg.

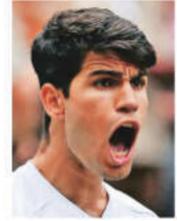
Physical test

Only 39 days ago, Djokovic underwent

prompt knee surgery after tearing his right meniscus and withdrawing from the French Open. As always, he has shown his mastery over the grass courts of SW19 as he has marched through the draw. But Djokovic is yet to be tested to the degree that Alcaraz may – he got a walkover in the quarterfinal and his highest-ranked opponent in six matches has been the World No. 15 Holger Rune.

Djokovic has also been in something of a slump all year. This is his first final since November last year and there have been some unexpected defeats. In terms of match fitness and sharpness, Alcaraz is red hot and Djokovic lukewarm. That may be the Serb's greatest challenge. Alcaraz's recent performances show that even when his serve goes missing and his play becomes streaky, he bides his time and raises his level. Once his groundstrokes find more sting, he takes control from the baseline using his drop shots and slices too, making opponents scurry and slide side-to-side in a way that Djokovic, and his dodgy knee, have not quite faced this week.

This contest may come down to the finer details. The frequency and success with which Djokovic comes to the net will play a role in disrupting Alcaraz's baseline rhythm. The Serb's crosscourt backhand may also be key, if he drops it short and high too often, Alcaraz will run around it to bludgeon forehands and take control.



Wimbledon, do cheer the young champ but also love the G.O.A.T

SANDEEP DWIVEDI
JULY 13

IT'S Carlos Alcaraz vs Novak Djokovic on the final Sunday of the Wimbledon once again. Last time Djokovic tried but failed to win the title or the hearts of the fans. He gave his best, played his part in making it an epic, said the right things after the loss and even shed tears. Still it wasn't enough to win over the strawberry-cream consuming regulars.

There was one touching moment from that match. It was when Djokovic got the microphone in hand. "I have to move on and be stronger hopefully," he said just before his eyes fell on his eight-year-old son Stefan in the box. "My son, he is still smiling," he said and he broke down. "I love you... thank you for supporting me... I will give you a big hug." It was actually the father who needed the hug. Djokovic couldn't have said the same to the majority in the stands. Stefan, his mother and sister, and the few others around him were maybe the only ones who wanted Djokovic to beat the 20-year-old Spaniard.

This Sunday, on the same stage, the very same cast will again converge. For the sequel, there is a slight change in the look of the lead character. Djokovic wears a knee cap, a prominent reminder of the knee surgery he had 25 days back. On sporting fields such storylines draw sympathy. But not if you are called Novak Djokovic. The script too is expected to be the same, though a new twist to the climax can't be ruled out. Djokovic can be the winner but he surely wouldn't be a popular one.

In his Round of 16 match, he felt he was booed. There are many who say he read the crowd wrong. In the semi-final win over Lorenzo Musetti, he had a wry smile on his face when someone in the crowd let out a shout to distract him during rallies and again when he was about to serve. "I hope Djokovic doesn't take this personally," said a scared commentator. Djokovic's "Goodnight" taunt after the "Booooo" has made the Wimbledon stake-holders nervous. The Gentlemen were called unfair, how could that be fair?

Djokovic didn't wish them Goodnight again but did use his racket and play the violin. The Serb has done it before, he said the play acting was for his daughter, who has found a liking for the instrument. Others say he was giving a sad background score for the gloom around the court, setting the mood for the ones not happy with him winning. Boos would be heard again. Djokovic, like the conductor, would coordinate the cat calls.

The English press say Djokovic has embraced the role of Wimbledon's pantomime villain. It's actually a headline in a leading national newspaper. He is being called over-insensitive, blamed for turning everything into



Novak Djokovic acts as if he is playing the violin, his daughter's favourite instrument but it has been seen as him dissing his haters after a win. AP

a 'Him vs The World' tirade, seen as someone needy, trying too hard to get love and adoration.

He is even being compared to Elon Musk, the egoist tycoon who "craves recognition of his successes in the form of public adoration". Brutal conclusions follow this bizarre comparison. The article ends with a profound line that goes thus – "You can't buy love. You can't bully your way to it either." They say he hears voices. When they say Ruuuu, he hears Booo. Maybe, if one has walked in Djokovic's shoes for the past 37 years, you do.

If he wins the final on Sunday, Djokovic will have 8 Wimbledon titles, same as Federer. But will that make him more popular than the Swiss? Never. It's the same story at the French Open where Rafael Nadal will rule forever. What about the US Open? Here's a short story that will help.

A Roddick-US Open backstory

After losing to him in the 2008 US Open quarter-finals, Andy Roddick had pushed Djokovic against the changing room's metal locker and threatened violence. The two had a running verbal battle throughout the tournament and now it had come to this.

Roddick was the one who started it. Before the match, at the press conference, the American had ridiculed the Serb's frequent injuries. "It could be bird flu, anthrax... it could be anything," he had said. The reporters had chuckled. Djokovic didn't like it. At the post-match on-court interview he said, "it wasn't nice to say that I was faking injury".

Now, Roddick was peeved and he wanted to settle the matters like thugs do. It was the sudden appearance of the Serb's intimidatingly burly fitness trainer that separated the two. He didn't suffer physical harm but Djokovic was hurt. Did it heal with time? Not exactly. After many years, as recently, as last

year, when Djokovic won his record 24th Grand Slam title at the US Open, who did the organisers call to hand over the trophy? Andy Roddick. And then they say he was over-reacting.

The mystery of why "they say Ruuuu and he hears Booo" starts from the days a young Djokovic's ear drums had vibrated to the sound of screaming F-117s bombers in the late 90s. Even after he travelled the world and became a tennis pro the anger of those days stayed with him. He has said in interviews how he could never understand why NATO nations joined together to bomb the streets of his tiny nation.

Spiritual path

With time those wounds healed, he took a spiritual path, his faith taught him to forgive and forget. He understood that he would always be the third-wheel in the Nadal-Federer era but what has perplexed him was the indifference and hate that he evoked even after they left the scene.

He has tried to find peace but the quest is far from over. Mark Hodgkinson's intriguing book Searching for Novak: The Man behind the enigma, mentions the tennis great's close bond with the late basketball legend Kobe Bryant. He writes how the two shared experiences of handling ups and downs.

This week at Wimbledon the GOATs would have spoken a lot. And Kobe would have reminded Djokovic of one of his quotes he really liked. "Haters are a good problem to have. Nobody hates the good ones. They hate the great ones." Kobe would often say, Wimbledon this Sunday needs to be kind to the champion player who has given the world endless entertainment. They can attempt to prove Kobe wrong.

They can cheer for Alcaraz but also try loving the great Djokovic.

Presents

The Indian EXPRESS AQDA

Viswanathan Anand

Aruna Anand

Arjun Erigaisi

in conversation with

Anant Goenka
Executive Director
The Indian Express Group

Amit Kamath
Assistant Editor, Sports
The Indian Express

Associate Partner

University Partner

THE SUNDAY EXPRESS MAGAZINE

eye

Heena Khandelwal

REKHA AND Raghav Subramaniam were childhood sweethearts. They grew up in the same neighbourhood, attended the same school and their families, too, knew each other. Their love blossomed into marriage in their early 20s, after five years of courtship.

Their relationship was idyllic to outsiders but behind closed doors, it was far from perfect. Despite being devoted parents and deeply connected to their families — taking on the responsibility of raising the daughter of Raghav's sister because of her untimely passing — they shared no intimacy. After spending nearly a quarter of a century together, they decided to separate, filing for divorce by mutual consent about four years ago.

"Once our daughters were ready for college, Raghav suggested we separate," says Rekha, 50. This saddened her because she thought life would continue in this home even if they didn't live like husband and wife. He moved out into a different apartment in the same complex and Rekha even helped him set up his new home. They continued to share the same domestic worker and driver, but when Raghav fell in love with a friend, she moved to Chennai and started life anew. Rekha now has a fulfilling career as a special educator and runs a sari business.

Reflecting on their relationship, Raghav, 52, says, "A courtship is like an interview where you put your best foot forward. You don't get to see each other's dark sides. Very early on, even before our first child was born, I had called off the marriage. But then the family stepped in and we decided to make an honest attempt, it didn't work out. I wish we had gone for counselling, but back then you would go to a psychiatrist only if something was really wrong with you as a person."

Rekha, however, struggles to pinpoint the cause of their marital discord. She ponders the emotional disconnect in their marriage. "There was no love or intimacy after the first few years. He is a good man; the only abuse, I would say, was emotional. It was challenging to live under the same roof and not have him there, for me, as my husband," she says. While she has nothing negative to say about him, there is a lot of anger within her now. "Why me? Why didn't I get love? I am all alone in my life. And while I have a really fulfilling career, there is no one to hand me a glass of water when I am sick. I am grateful for everything but I don't have love. Maybe I wasn't meant to have it."

Rekha and Raghav are not alone in their need to sever ties at a later age. Mumbai-based Bharti Maniar, too, decided to call it quits after nearly five decades of bearing with domestic violence in her marriage. Bharti was nearing her mid-20s when her family started looking for a suitable boy. So, when a colleague proposed marriage, they tied the knot after three years of courtship. She was 27 then. "I noticed his anger issues but never thought he could resort to violence," says Bharti.

Things became worse after she quit work to be with the children. "My husband wasn't happy with my decision. I was earning about Rs 1,000 a month, which was a lot of money in those days. The fights became worse," she says. Soon Bharti, who had five years of experience working at a chartered accountancy firm, joined her husband and handled tasks like filing income tax returns and other accounting duties. "All my earnings went to him. Even earlier, I was giving all my salary at home. So even though I was working, there was no financial security," she says. She endured it, including years of domestic abuse and, later, infidelity, because "everybody advised me to stay put till my daughters got married." However, it was her younger daughter who intervened, announcing that she wouldn't get married until her mother ended the relationship. Bharti moved out in 2009 and the divorce came through in 2011. She relocated to another part of the city and started working again. "I now manage mutual fund accounts and trade in the stock market. Finally, my money is my own," says Bharti, 72.

Bharti, Raghav and Rekha represent the generation that has knocked on the court's doors asking for a dissolution of their marriage. Their experiences underscore the global trend of increased marital dissolution among older couples, typically after the age of 50, also referred to as 'grey divorces' or 'silver splitters'.

In the US, the rate of grey divorce has doubled since 1990 for Americans aged 50 and older, and tripled for those aged 65 and older. According to a study published in *The Journals of Gerontology*, in 1970, about eight per cent of Americans who divorced were age 50 and older. By 2019, that share had jumped to 36 per cent. About one in 10 people who divorced in 2019 were at least 65 years old. According to a United Nations report titled "Progress of the World's Women 2019-2020: Families in a Changing World", divorce rates in India have doubled since 2000, rising from 0.6 per cent in 2005 to 1.1 per



ILLUSTRATION: SUVAJIT DEY

When Love Stops Being Easy

Couples who have been married long are now parting ways. What has prompted their decision and why are grey divorces on the rise?

cent in 2019, with urban areas making up the largest proportion.

Besides domestic abuse and infidelity, the reasons for separation, both globally and in India, include differences in life goals post-retirement, empty nest syndrome, the desire for a fresh start, ending years of taunts, unresolved issues, neglect and a lack of emotional support and intimacy.

Women also feel that they were in unequal partnerships where they solely took over the domestic load and child-rearing while also experiencing a lack of support, respect and appreciation from their partners. Equally telling is a 2015 research study conducted by the American Sociological Association that highlighted that 69 per cent of all divorce petitions in the US were initiated by women.

Lawyers in India also note a significant rise among senior couples. Mumbai-based lawyers Kranti Sathe and Mrinalini Deshmukh, with decades of experience in family court, shed light on the complexities. "Domestic violence, unless frequent, is often downplayed," says Kranti. "Other forms of neglect and emotional abuse like silent treatment still occur." Mrinalini lists compatibility as the biggest reason. "Many people have teething issues in their marriage but since they have a child within the first few years, they concentrate on raising the child," she says. Other reasons include mid-life crises and a desire for personal freedom or another chance at love.

Both highlight a shift in attitudes towards divorce, stating that earlier there was a hes-

itation, especially among women, to ask for a divorce. But financial insecurity and concern for children, once significant barriers, are now less prohibitive factors.

Zirak Marker, a Mumbai-based family psychiatrist, sees a rise in grey divorces, particularly after the Covid pandemic. He attributes it to prolonged periods of close proximity. Cultural factors often coerce individuals into marriages without their choice, leading to years of duty-bound relationships. As couples reach their 50s, they yearn for personal fulfilment and purpose, especially after experiencing loss and realising life's brevity. Zirak elaborates how people sometimes seek companionship outside their marriages, leading to emotional and sexual affairs.

While most lawyers say that in the metros divorce doesn't carry the stigma it did earlier, the reality is far from it. Shasvathi Siva, an advertisement professional and author of *Divorce Is Normal* (Penguin Random House, 2023), says, "I have seen highly educated families sever ties with their children and relatives without providing them support." Siva, who helms a support group for people going through separation, notes that the main challenge for grey divorces is the fear that they will be alone if they fall ill. "They don't want to be a burden on their children but at the same time, they are not sure of living alone," she says.

Financial management is an oft-repeated concern, too. Agrees Manju Sara Rajan, a Bengaluru-based content and communication consultant with diverse editorial experience. "In the classic structure of Indian marriage, there are a lot of parts that you are not concerned about as a woman, you kind of ignore finances and investments," says the 45-year-old. "Now I have become cognisant of the fact that money is independence." Today, after

two years of being divorced, she finds joy in her ability to support herself and her children. Her parents, who weren't initially happy with her decision, too, didn't stand in her way.

She rebuilt her world, brick by brick. New traditions replaced old ones and supportive friends filled the void. Her biggest discovery has been her resilience. "One day you are at the top of everything and the second day you are not. But the idea that you can find solutions as problems come up, I think that has given me a great deal of reassurance in myself," says Manju.

But divorce is not a struggle for women alone. Men, too, feel they get the short end of the stick. In her book, Shasvathi highlights the male perspective. "Most often, men face issues with child custody. It is a difficult thing because while they might have been bad husbands, they aren't necessarily bad fathers. That differentiation comes in for a few good men also," she says.

For 48-year-old Yogesh Jain, for instance, not just managing finances but also rebuilding his life as a father has been a struggle. His arranged marriage at the age of 22 had fundamental issues early on. Even the six months of counselling didn't help. "Children are predominantly biased towards their mothers. You have to ensure that your children feel secure and you take care of your wife, keeping your ego aside. It is financially challenging. I am taking care of the foreign education for both my children while also running two homes," says Mumbai-based Yogesh.

Like many other men, he feels unheard and marginalised, and laments the lack of avenues for men to voice their grievances, including inside the court. Zirak adds, "Often, men come to me saying they don't know how to be an effective husband."

Ashish Vidyarthi, actor, motivational speaker and now a stand-up comedian, decided to part ways with his wife Rajoshi (Piloo) in 2021, after being married for 22 years. Ashish maintained how the couple, who never fought with one another, found themselves at a crossroads when it came to their visions for the future.

"I had two choices — either to drag it (the marriage) and complain about what wasn't there and slowly let the feelings become vicious to the point that we begin to hate each other or to have a conversation about it."

Even this stage, he says, was preceded by hours, days, weeks and months of going back and making their marriage work, including seeking relationship counselling for a couple of months. "It was a long process and a difficult decision. Who doesn't want to have a regular home where your child can return? But the relationship has changed and while pain is inevitable, suffering is a choice," he says.

The couple was clear on not bringing any animosity between them. "Till a few days before the court granted us divorce, Piloo was handling my bank accounts, and I made sure that she is well taken care of after our divorce," says Ashish, 58, who tied the knot again in 2023.

"Society has a way of looking at divorce as a failure, but it is actually an act of immense bravery because you are completely walking out into the unknown. It's not a failure but a declaration of hope in your own self, in your own abilities, in your own future. It's difficult but not a failure," says Manju.

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PLAYING IT COOL
Camels can strut calmly across burning sands and through the fiery air

Blowing Hot and Cold

Sensors on animals help them tell the temperature

AS THE heatwave sears the country, I wonder how animals like the camel can strut across burning sands and through the fiery air, their sardonic, supercilious grins intact, implying, 'Heat? What heat?!' And at the other end of the spectrum, how birds like the Emperor Penguin are happy to stick around (albeit in a permanent group hug) as a -40-degree Celsius blizzard howls around them. Why don't they waddle off somewhere warmer and why doesn't the camel hotfoot to the nearest AC tent?

We know that many animals hibernate in winter — they slow their metabolism to nearly zero so that their body temperature is that of their icy surroundings — and stay that way for months. But scientists tell us that hibernation is not sleeping. To sleep, animals need to raise their body temperature to near normal and to achieve hibernation, they must first survive the freezing temperatures. So how do they (and we) do it?

Our bodies are riddled with various temperature sensors — a group of proteins called transient receptor potential (TRP) channels located on sensory neurons all over our and animals' bodies. Each is tuned to a specific temperature and opens when that temperature is reached; the sensory neurons immediately send signals to the brain, telling it whether it's getting too hot, too cold, or when it is just right. The TRP channels are tuned specifically for the comfort of each animal. In warm-blooded animals, the channel TRP8 triggers if it begins getting too cold, for us that trigger point is around 24 degrees Celsius. (Which, is probably why it is recommended for ACs) but for something like a frog, it may be 14 degrees Celsius. Some fish that swim happily in near-freezing water may not have a TRP8 channel at all, so that they are unaware of the icy water!

The TRP6 channel also alerts us if we are in danger of burning up. For us and mice, the upper limit is 42 degrees Celsius and 38 degrees C for frogs. Some animals, like the 13-striped ground squirrel of the US, have a huge tolerance range: They can withstand both icy con-

Wearing My Heart on My Sleeve

The more I wear Indian cuts and silhouettes, the more I appreciate their deep relationship with my country, climate and traditions

SLICE OF LIFE



Suvir Saran
Suvir Saran is a chef, author, educator and world traveller

WHY AM I a foreigner or the other everywhere I set up home? Why can't I fit in and be one of the crowd, go unnoticed, make mistakes, have my share of victories and achievements and have nothing to prove to others? Why does my English or Hindi sound foreign to people I have come of age with, to strangers in my land of birth and wherever I set forth outside of it? Why does my carriage of clothes seem remarkably different to everyone?

Debates at our dining table where my Papa



Modern Culinary Playbook

Chefs are drawing from indigenous recipes and ingredients across India to redefine our palate

Vernika Awal

IT WAS a day like any other in Delhi, a midsummer lull as the city awaited the monsoon. Inside Indian Accent, the restaurant synonymous with the portrait of a modern India to the world, the staff prepared for their afternoon service — veteran chef Manish Mehrotra's collaboration with chef Prateek Sadhu of Naar, an ingredient-forward venture, that celebrates the hills.

The two chefs are united by a core philosophy of making indigenous ingredients and techniques the hero. Mehrotra takes a page from the common man's palate, while Sadhu focuses on mountain-sourced native ingredients. This climaxed in the dishes they put out, which celebrated the local, the modern and the native. One of the dishes was Sundarkala — a type of pasta, with eggplant and tomato mince in a Sinki broth. While Sinki, a fermented radish base, is served in soups in Bhutan and Nepal, Sundarkala noodles are typically made of finger millets or *madua*. The latter are native to Uttarakhand, and was an unlikely poster candidate at such a fine dining platform until now.

What we witnessed was a rising trend of chefs bringing to the table items and ingredients that were so far considered to be too mundane. With that, some of India's most famous restaurants and chefs are going back to their roots, bringing unlikely dishes that are far from rare, but definitely unexpected. Mehrotra, for instance, served a piquant *aam panna*, along with *urad daal* pakodis, sliced melons and ice apples. The epicentre of this dish, pakodis, are hardly fine dining fare, but here it felt right in place.

The NCR isn't the only place where efforts to bring back the core soul of many a subdivision of the vast Indian cuisine is taking place. In February this year, Mumbai-based



BURST OF FLAVOURS
(Clockwise from top left) Askalu at Naar; What The Duck at Papa's Mumbai; Hussain Shahzad, executive chef, O Pedro

Hunger Inc Hospitality — the parent firm of The Bombay Canteen and O Pedro — opened doors to a 12-seater experiential dining cave: Papa's. Since then, Papa's has generated enough buzz to have a months-long wait list, less than six months since it opened. Amid the intimate, unexpected dining setup, the group's executive chef Hussain Shahzad served clarified *rasam*. The *rasam* was poured over Parsi *topli* paneer made with almond milk, hidden under thinly-sliced watermelon, topped with a lime-leaf oil. Not only did Shahzad's creative kaleidoscope make the most of a staple dish, it also served as the chef's ode to his time in Chennai. His food antics further brought to the fore the philosophy of the Bohris — that of serving the *kharas* (savoury) first, and the *mithas* (sweets) later.

Speaking about bringing the as-yet non-commercial items into the menu, Shahzad said, "The dishes that we do here help us tell the stories about ourselves through the food. I grew up in a Bohri-Muslim household in Chennai, and it was only when I shifted to Mumbai did I realise how different and influenced the food of my house was from the region we were in, compared to the Bohri-

Muslim food here in Mumbai. That part of my childhood is something that the diner gets to taste here."

Mumbai, in fact, even has its first ingredient-forward restaurant today — Ekaa, by chef Niyati Rao. Located in the ever-charming Fort area, Ekaa is located inside a 130-year-old building. The place does not stick to any particular cuisine, instead it is driven by seasonality and produce. One particular dish that will stay with diners is the 'Pickle sandwich'. The latter uses a croustade, along with pickled cucumber, peanut brittle and a cheese foam topping. Rao said that the dish was inspired by the combination of having peanut butter with pickled cucumbers in the same dish, but, somehow, it worked like magic. It was inspired by a childhood memory of one of her chefs.

Each of these experiences adds up to define how such everyday, at-home items are being championed across some of India's best restaurants. Food consultant Nikhil Merchant underlined that the trend originated as a necessity when in 2020, global free trade was suspended to tackle the pandemic. This was further exacerbated by external factors. "The world is changing, with issues such

as climate change and the overconsumption patterns of the West affecting our lives. It's only a matter of time before the food industry realises the importance of capitalising on local resources rather than spending money and compromising quality on ingredients that are not locally sourced," he says.

Merchant added that the pandemic restrictions "made the use of local ingredients paramount in menus. It's a domino effect that has ultimately been beneficial."

Beyond the technical necessities, chefs believe that there is a strong personal correlation in presenting everyday courses in fine dining. Speaking about why items such as pickled cucumbers and *madua* would make it to professional menus, Rao said, "We want to make people feel comfortable when they taste the food. We like it when people have a tactile experience"

For long, India, represented around the world by some of the greatest chefs, has echoed soulfulness. The modern Indian culinary playbook is heightening this even further — for while the soul of the food remains, what has evolved are the ideas. Diners, too, reflect growing maturity especially in the metros, where they are receptive to new forms of presentation and finding humble, everyday ingredients instead of the deliberately cream and spice-stuffed fare.

For instance, at Ekaa, Rao runs an open kitchen where the diners can walk in and interact with the chefs — or simply observe the journey of the food from the kitchen to their tables. This helps in instilling curiosity towards the process. Similarly, Papa's is reminiscent of Mumbai's famed Prithvi Theatre. The chefs are actors who put up a delicious show, hooking audiences to their every movement and facial gestures. Diners are encouraged to be a part of the show, and after the final act, the dinner itself feels like an interactive play. Today, modern Indian cuisines are no longer only about traditions — they are an eclectic combination of what a chef envisions their dish to be and the stories they wish to weave.

Vernika Awal is a Delhi-based food and lifestyle journalist

and his bestie, Ajay Uncle, would take every side of an argument, mostly to educate us children and, perhaps, as a release of their days' frustrations. This is the education through reading and living that, perhaps, accounts for me having a different way of speaking a language I share with billions.

Dadi, my paternal grandmother, spoke a Hindi that was Purabiya in its dialect and that was used to carry on the functions of our household staff. To the rest of us, she spoke her impeccable Hindustani, a wonderful *zabaan* that was with *nazaakat* (refinement) that made even the toughest of conversations elegant and graceful. This is my Hindi, which I have been told numerous times is very "old world" and elegant. This description is never meant as a compliment. If speaking correctly makes me elitist, then I stand guilty, but it isn't by choice that I speak as I do. It is the accident of my birth that gave me the speech, diction and cadence to absorb, and then put forth, myself.

Fluent in English, Hindi and Urdu, I arrived in the United States at age 20 to find myself very different from the majority. It didn't matter that I dressed the same way, spoke the same language, worked just as smart or better at times, that I was swift on my feet and self-effacing to not create more drama than I already had to endure; I was still a foreigner, immigrant, resident alien, other and one to be shunned. Western clothes are what I wore and English was the language I spoke so I could fit in as best as possible. This was not enough, however. My accent, my skin colour, the qual-



AN INDEPENDENT MIND
Baring one's soul could well bring disapproval and disdain

ity and texture of my hair, its sheen, its weight, its thickness — these made me the object of curiosity, of awe and of disdain. I couldn't change my skin colour or my hair quality and colour, and so I made my peace with it and learned to take the omnipresent stares coming my way in my stride.

Now home in India, becoming one with the land of my birth after having left it for three decades, I see my people call their own native garb "ethnic clothing," and for that reason, I have chosen to start wearing Indian outfits, even though a shirt and trouser remain my favourite attire. Always a trailblazer, even

when there isn't any compunction to do so, I find myself wanting to unshackle India, a land of 1.4 billion people, from the colonial mindset that the British left behind after tyrannous rule. My dressing, like I am one of the mythical gods one finds in Hindu imagery, is my way of normalising Indian fashion as being "fashion" that doesn't need the prefix "ethnic" to it. Why do we Indians and just about every other people of the Global South allow a Western construct of terminology and ideology to rule over us even as we have gained independence?

Dressed in salwar and harem pants, kurtas and angarkhas, chogas and gharaaras, with opulent jewels and shimmering and copious dupattas (shawls), I am working to bring Indian fashion back to its roots, a place that is totally in sync with the Gen Z desire to make fashion and couture free of gender limitations. Even though I was very comfortable in Western garb, the more I wear Indian cuts and silhouettes, the more I appreciate their deep relationship with my country, its topography, climate, traditions, sensibilities and how they give employment to countless of my fellow citizens. Each garment connects me to my land in ways most rich and fascinating. Do you find me a challenge and the face of a world gone crazy? Think again — mine is fashion worn by the gods worshipped by a billion-plus people and is as Indian as Indian can be.

The acts of civil disobedience that I first studied when we learned about Mahatma Gandhi and later realised were his learnings

from Thoreau, the man I struggled to keep up with as a pre-teen but who made me whole and complete at 21 in Manhattan, have taught me to be as my Papa suggested I be. When I was given a placement to cook my lamb and parmigiano burger on the *Today Show* in Manhattan, Papa suggested I speak about food and my passion, not about myself, as the anchors and the screen would be sharing my credentials. Papa said that when given a microphone and the pulpit from which to address crowds, one ought to think bigger than self, share lofty ideals, give thought and care to the afflictions of those who have been forgotten and ignored, and to use that opportunity for the betterment of all in our human compendium.

I was barely 30 years old when Papa gave me this advice. Advice that few elders would give their child — the tutelage to bare one's soul, an act that could well bring them disapproval and disdain. Papa has now been gone over a dozen years, but his words make me defiant and a troublemaker, in the ilk of that which Thoreau also suggested and Gandhi too, and so I speak as I know, not as might be popular. I dress not as I wish, but to show the masses that their attire isn't any more ethnic than Western attire and ought to be just as accepted in the land of its origin. I tease and please through naughty actions and reactions that come from a place of good intentions and a bigger vision than myself, in hopes that if even one person can see the hidden commentary in their intent, the world will surely go in a progressive direction where we celebrate the past, live harmoniously in our present, and keep the world a sustainable, happy and safe place for all in the future.

'It may feel like it's doomsday for the Hindi film industry but this is the time to restructure'

Filmmaker Imtiaz Ali and actor Taapsee Pannu on the current slump in the Hindi film industry and why formulas don't work. The conversation was moderated by Justin Rao, Deputy Copy Editor, and Aakash Joshi, Deputy Associate Editor, *The Indian Express*

JUSTIN RAO: We are six months down the year and many big Hindi films have not done as well as expected.

IMTIAZ ALI: When I joined the film industry, people were saying this is the worst time in the industry. And then we came in and said, 'Arrey, we know. We should make *Socha Na Tha...* a *Black Friday*.' There were around seven to 10 filmmakers who came in at that point of time. So, I think what is supposed to be a crisis ultimately turns out to be a great thing. I feel that this particular phase that we are in, where many movies have not done well, will turn out to be a very positive thing. Because we filmmakers will have to leave some old habits behind. It is disconcerting but unless we do that, no new creativity can spawn.

JUSTIN RAO: What are the old habits you have to leave?

IMTIAZ: It's just that we make projects in a certain way. We feel that we need to have a certain mathematical equation, that there is an algorithm. But you can make two films with the same actors and director and the outcome financially won't be the same. So there is always that X factor. And you've got to focus on that, which is really the essence of storytelling and filmmaking.

TAAPSEE PANNU: I think when redundancy sets in, there needs to be a sort of restructuring. I think this is that phase, which happens after every five or six years, because you're following the same formula and there comes a point where that formula stops working. So you feel it's doomsday for the industry (but) it's only time to restructure.

AAKASH JOSHI: Are we heading for a time when the theatre will be for spectacles, star-driven films like *Baahubali* and *Kalki* and OTT platforms will be the space for more cerebral, experimental cinema like your *Amar Singh Chamkila*?

IMTIAZ: The honest answer is that we don't know. As filmmakers, we are not here to conjecture. We are here to find an opportunity to tell the stories that we have to tell. And I feel that it will not be as simplistic. Almost the same things seem to be working on OTT as they do on the big screen, so how do you differentiate?

TAAPSEE: I have a very simple calculation — some things are for a community viewing experience and some things are for watching one-to-one. So that's how I have started remarketing.

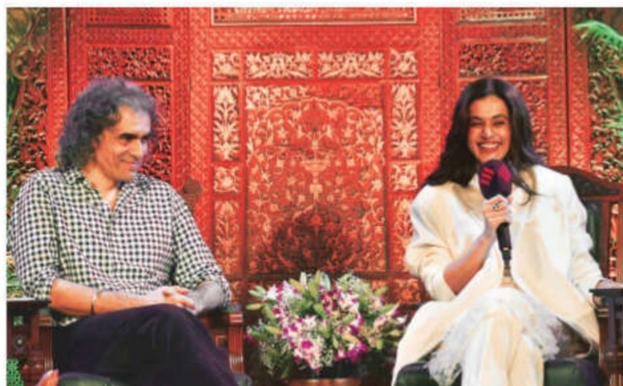
AAKASH JOSHI: Imtiaz, I'd like to take you to *Chamkila*. It is very rare to have a Dalit protagonist. When you're having that discussion on the way to tell his story, how is that creative choice made for a very recent historical figure?

IMTIAZ: Yes, you have to go back to the reason why you're making the film. Is it because he was Dalit? Was he unique because he was Dalit? If I stress on the fact again and again that he was a Dalit, am I doing service to the caste system, per se? Am I trying to also put him into a box which had actually afflicted him? I wanted the story to be free of something that he was not free of.

JUSTIN RAO: Taapsee, you are one of the most vocal female stars in the film industry. Is there a price to pay for speaking up?

TAAPSEE: I've been cancelled multiple times. But as I said, I am still happy and proud of what I have said — good, bad, ugly — because I know I've not really targeted anyone. I'll keep paying the price for being the person I am. I'm okay with that.

JUSTIN RAO: Taapsee, will you ever take up *Animal* or a film which doesn't necessarily align with your gender politics, even if it gives you a tremendous scope to perform as an actor?



AT THE TALKIES

(Clockwise from top) Imtiaz Ali and Taapsee Pannu; Imtiaz with his daughter Ida; Imtiaz and Taapsee at the second edition of Expresso at the Taj Falaknuma Palace, Hyderabad

TAAPSEE: Had I read the script of *Animal*, I would have said yes. I would want to do it but what I saw was a little strange — to hear cheers and whistles at certain moments. At certain points, I wouldn't have liked the BGM (background music) to grow like that, where the audience is forced to cheer and clap.

AAKASH JOSHI: How much responsibility do you now take on yourself as an artiste, as an actor, as a producer, for your film?

TAAPSEE: I need to understand what my takeaway is as an audience... an Indian audience who watches *Tere Naam* starts copying the hairstyle of the hero. You can see the amount of influence we have on our audience. So let's not run away from that.

IMTIAZ: I think films have a lot of power. Films for me are a medium of entertainment. There are other ways to tell society about social responsibility. But within this entertainment, if like in *Sholay*, there is some aspect of social responsibility and unity of a village, etc, that can come through, it's excellent.

For instance, *Water for People* is an organisation that I've recently been involved with. I feel if you give water and education to people, then they'll do the rest for themselves on their own. So, if in some film, say like *Swades*, there is something that you can show, then you will inspire a lot of people.

panchagam (five aspects of her beauty) — hair, eyes, face, breasts and feet. The twitches of the eyebrows and the hand and feet move in tandem with the *mizhavu*, elaborating the fifth act of Sanskrit writer Shaktibhadra's play, *Ascharyachoodamani*. Unlike the older days when the audience could understand spoken Sanskrit, modern-day performances, like Madhu's, come with screen translations.

"The fifth act is special and complex because the story is not moving forward. It's all about Ravana's passion for Sita and the actor has to express this at different levels. I think it's the most difficult act for any Koodiyattam performance and usually takes 16 days to perform. To present it for a couple of hours, I took a small segment from it — one scene from three scenes that are presented," says 68-year-old Madhu, one of the foremost practitioners of the art form. He has been intrigued by the

QUICK QUESTIONS TAAPSEE PANNU

One myth about the film industry most commonly assumed is true, but it isn't. And one myth that is actually true.

That there is no unity — it is true. And one myth that is not true is that actors aren't educated and they choose films because they didn't have an option.

True or false — the nepotism debate has lost nuance.

Yes, because people are using it, overusing it, at the wrong time, wrong instances, for wrong reasons.

How many takes did you need on your first-ever film shot?

On the first day, it happened in two takes but, generally, I would have taken some 20-25 odd takes to get my Tamil lines right. That was tough.

Do you watch your own films? Do you enjoy them? Is there a performance you would like to go back and correct?

I can find flaws in every film. I want to correct all of them.

Box office numbers are real and not

manipulated.

No, of course they are manipulated, like everything else.

Actors only wear rented clothes.

Sometimes we wear our own clothes also.

One female actor besides you who you think has pushed for feminism in story-telling.

Vidya Balan.

One thing that the South Indian film industry has that the Hindi film industry doesn't.

Hero worship.

One thing that the Hindi film industry has, which the South Indian film industry doesn't.

To address the elephant in the room or topics that are a little awkward to talk about, especially regarding women.

One thing about marriage which you have learnt after getting married.

That it's not that bad.

QUICK QUESTIONS IMTIAZ ALI

We're going to list a few films of yours and you need to tell us what went wrong with them.

■ *Jab We Met*

Once I spoke to Shahid and Kareena, they said they were on but had dates only then. So I had to start the shoot only 21 days after that day. There was no pre-production, no script, no dialogue, no music and there was no location. That's what went wrong.

■ *Tamasha*

The publicity of *Tamasha* went wrong. I think we somehow ended up projecting the wrong image of the film to the audience.

■ *Rockstar*

I think we got too involved with the story. We just became crazily emotional, for some reason, while filming.

What's the craziest, most random place where you have been pitched a script by a writer?

While walking into an event like this.

What do you say to your critics who say you keep going back to similar things

Audience Questions

Krishna Ella, Executive Chairman, Bharat Biotech: Imtiaz, do you feel South Indians are less intellectual, is that why you don't want to make a movie for South Indians? And Taapsee, we have seen you do glamour roles in south Indian films. And then you went to Mumbai, and you are totally different. What changed?

IMTIAZ: The fact of the matter is that I make movies in Hindi because I don't know any South Indian language fluently. So I'll be unable to make a movie. Although I watch South Indian films and I have a lot of South Indian friends.

TAAPSEE: I think, for me, at the beginning of my career I didn't know any better and people did not probably think that they were on the same page as me. They also thought that I don't know any better. So might as well make her look good and like a heroine... glam and be fancy. Then in Mumbai, I realised that there are way too many beautiful and glamorous women who are doing this brilliantly. If I have to compete with them, there is no way I'm gonna have a career. So I have to shift my focus to acting. And I did that.

Aman Purohit, Lead Company Secretary, Patil Group: All the characters in your movies have a certain angst against society. But I have heard that you didn't personally have that angst against society. So how do filmmakers portray what they haven't experienced?

IMTIAZ: This whole *Sadda Haq* kind of 'I'll change society', maybe it was there in my very early days, but not to that extent, you know, and I don't know where it comes from. This eagerness to break out of the social set up, I don't know where it comes from, but I do see it in my films as well.

in your films?

I'll take a moment and think about it. And I'll figure out if they are right because nobody is completely wrong either.

After all these years, how and where do you think these characters of yours would be — Geet and Aditya from *Jab We Met*.

At a divorce lawyer's.

Jordan from *Rockstar*.

He'd have his own company and he'd be completely fake and corrupt.

Ved and Tara from *Tamasha*.

I think they'd be doing shows together. You know, the ideal ending of *Tamasha* would have been if they hadn't gotten together.

What is the one space in Indian cinema that you think is still opaque? What are the genres and the themes that haven't been tackled yet that need to be?

I feel what really is exciting for me is a mixture of things. Very different and opposite genres should meet.

A Moment in Time

Koodiyattam exponent Margi Madhu on the survival and democratisation of the art form

Suanshu Khurana and Aditya Vaddepalli

AN ORCHESTRAL fury created on two *mizhavu* (large percussion copper drums) by Nepathya Jinesh and Kalamandalam Manikandan accompanies the arrival of Koodiyattam exponent Margi Madhu to the proscenium at Delhi's CD Deshmukh Auditorium, India International Centre. While the drums fervently thump and throb, Madhu walks in, hidden behind a white screen. And as the curtain drops, Ravana is revealed — dressed in flourishing red and white, with a green-painted face — he is under Sita's spell.

After abducting her and bringing her to Lanka, a smitten Ravana sits, almost in a trance in the Ashok Vatika, meticulously pouring his emotions over her beauty. He focuses on the



STEP BY STEP

Margi Madhu plays Ravana at Delhi's India International Centre

character of Ravana since a young age; mainly because of the versatility of the role, leaving enough space for a performer to present a

gamut of emotions.

Madhu comes from a rich lineage of Koodiyattam performers and is the son of

Moozhikkulam Kochukuttan Chakyar and nephew to Ammannoor Madhava Chakyar — two of the more illustrious names in the world of the 2,000-year-old ancient Sanskrit theatre tradition from Kerala.

Koodiyattam, which also means combined acting, is a dramatised performance that was presented in *koothambalams* (temple theatres) for centuries. The art form was then the preserve of the upper castes — the Chakyars (the actors) and the Nambiaris (the drummers). This parochialism and ritualistic nature of the system may have allowed for the conservation of the art form over centuries but the caste segregation also led to a lack of interest, thus taking Koodiyattam to a point-of-dying fall at one point. In 2001, Koodiyattam was recognised by UNESCO as an intangible cultural heritage.

Before UNESCO stepped in, visionary performer Painkulam Raman Chakyar, too, helped in changing things with the institutionalising of Koodiyattam. He began heading Kalamandalam, the government institution created in 1965. He brought the art form out of the temples, admitted anyone keen to learn irrespective of one's caste. However, one has continued to hear of performers of marginalised castes not being allowed to do the ritual

performances. But Madhu feels that things have changed. "The caste issue isn't there anymore. There is a lot of harmony," says Madhu.

Margi, an organisation dedicated to the revival of Kathakali and Koodiyattam, was established in Thiruvananthapuram in 1981 by D Appukkuttan Nair, a retired government chief engineer and an expert at Koodiyattam. Madhu's father was invited to join the faculty while his uncle joined as a visiting professor. "The system of learning was not very different from that of a *gurukul*. Kalamandalam had a syllabus. We didn't," says Madhu.

Madhu was keen to join his father and uncle at Margi, "mainly because I wanted to see the big town". But after two years at Margi, Madhu wanted to join a college and study something alongside. Nair wouldn't allow but finally agreed on typing and shorthand, "if I was to be a clerk," says Madhu.

But, now that he himself is a teacher, he says that now students don't have as much time. "From morning to night, this is all we did. Now, students learn for a few hours and also do other things. While it has taken away depth from this vast repertoire, the students now have recordings. They can see the masters perform on YouTube. After imitating for a while, they will find their way," says Madhu.

Let me live my life the way I want to

A palliative cancer care centre in Gujarat is enhancing the quality of patients' lives with home care and grief counselling for their kin

Sohini Ghosh

END-OF-LIFE SCENARIOS inevitably tend to focus on death. But they are as much about life and continuity, something that helps terminal patients live their last moments with dignity and guides their families to make peace with the inevitable and move on. Ask Seema Mehta,* sister of Nitin, who passed away at 21 because of bone cancer, just when he had completed his engineering degree and was hoping to secure a future with his start-up. "While she was very much a part of her brother's palliative care, she needed long-term grief counselling after his death to get back on her feet," says a counsellor at the Gujarat Cancer & Research Institute (GCRI) in Ahmedabad.

A partly government-run institution, it provides palliative care, which is holistic therapy and disease management aimed at optimising quality of life among people with serious, complex and often terminal illnesses. But what sets it apart from most government institutions is that it sends a specialist team for home care and in terminal cases, offers bereavement counselling to family members. Set up in 2010, it also provides OPD and hospice services at a community centre, breaking the barrier of accessibility and giving patients agency in end-of-life scenarios.

END-OF-LIFE CARE & BEYOND

Once doctors told Nitin that his case was terminal and should, therefore, consider palliative treatment, he opted for home care in September 2022. Ten months later, he succumbed to cancer but not before he and his family had been thoroughly counselled on what to expect as he was nearing the end of his life and encouraged to make the most of his good days with therapy. A team of doctors and nurses would visit him once every 15 days and would be on call for emergency situations. Nitin also had periodic consultations

with a dietician and counsellor, the diet being readjusted to what and how much he could eat per meal. Seema was 18 when Nitin passed away and being the primary caregiver, was taught how to feed and turn her bedridden brother to avoid bed sores. Says the nurse who cared for Nitin, "He had a strained relationship with his father and until his last breath, he only worried about his sister, regretting that he could not do enough. We counselled his sister to hold herself up before him to ease his anxieties. But when he did pass away, Seema couldn't contain her emotions. She was very attached to him and no matter how much we prepare the kin, processing death when it happens is tough. We counselled her for months. Our responsibility doesn't end with death till we help those living to reconcile to a life without their favourite person."

Keeping a tab on patients' kin is something that Dr Priti Sanghavi, HOD and deputy director at GCRI, does meticulously. "We were tracking the wife of a patient who passed away at home. A school teacher, we kept checking on her intermittently, as we do with relatives of all our deceased patients. Six months after her husband's death, she confided that she had stopped working and was suffering from severe depression. Realising she had not processed her pain and was hiding it, we immediately sent her a bereavement counsellor," she says.

BREAKING THE NEWS

Sixty-five-year-old Shankardas*, who was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2020 and is now in terminal stage, is worried about the family he may leave behind – a 65-year-old wife, a son with special needs and another son, who is running a bakery business. "Now he is thinking of a legacy beyond his living years. But breaking the news to him and his family was a difficult process. This is where we deploy a six-step process called the SPIKE protocol. Each letter represents a phase in the six-step sequence. S stands for the right set-



NIRMAL HARINDRAN

LIFE POSITIVE



HELP AT HAND
Dr Priti Sanghavi with a patient

ting. P is for the news receiver's perception. I implies information that the patient and their kin may want, K is for imparting knowledge, E is for empathising with the family and S is for strategy for the road ahead," says Dr Sanghavi. In some cases, relatives may decide not to disclose the disease to the patient. "Then we counsel them further on why it can build disappointment later and disrupt treatment," she adds.

Patients and their relatives go through the entire spectrum of the seven stages of grief. This usually affects both the patient and the caregivers if the patient is young or is the only earning member of the family. "We had a

three-year old girl from Uttar Pradesh whose parents kept blaming themselves for her condition. The elderly often require repeated counselling and a multidisciplinary team. Denial is the dominant emotion with patients searching for a cure. Acceptance takes a long time," says Dr Sanghavi.

PAIN MANAGEMENT & RELIEF

Having palliative specialists at your doorstep also means a doctor can administer narcotics, including opioids like morphine, at your bedside. Patients like Shankardas, whose cancer has reached an advanced stage after radiotherapy and chemotherapy of two years, need

them. He signed up for palliative care in February 2022, became bedridden in April this year but with opioids, has been able to tide over pain and prolong his life.

With medical practitioners now able to administer opioids – thanks to the amendment to the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and the rules for Essential Narcotic Drugs (ENDS) in 2015 – cancer patients can now have a better pain-relieving option.

Still there are challenges in pain management as many choose complementary therapies, including naturopathy, Ayurveda, Siddha medicine and Unani (herbal treatment) because of the unavailability of opioids, services and budgetary constraints.

MAXIMISING LIFE

GCRI's home care patients are identified from OPD cases and have to be residents of Ahmedabad. "Our services extend to a 30-45 km radius. We tend to prioritise those with severe symptoms and emotional anxiety. Then we have a discussion with relatives to understand what else may be required, which may be, for example, counselling services or dieticians, or an increased frequency of visits. Each day, our team makes at least three home visits. Those who have no caregivers are sent to the hospice," Dr Sanghavi explains.

That palliative care is now finding acceptance is evident from the department's expanding services. As Dr Sanghavi says, "In 2011, we used to have half-day OPDs, which became full-day by 2015. From 10 patients a day in 2011, we now see almost 80-100 patients a day."

GCRI was the third cancer institute that offered post-graduation degree course (MD) in palliative medicine in 2019 after Tata Memorial Hospital in Mumbai (2012) and AIIMS, New Delhi (2016). Now the course is available at Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences in Kochi, Kasturba Medical College and Hospital in Manipal, and Mahatma Gandhi Medical College and Hospital and Sawai Man Singh Medical College in Jaipur. Still the concept of palliative care faces challenges like mental and cost barriers, institutional disinterest and skill gaps. "But all that we need to prioritise are the moments of life before that one moment of death," says Dr Sanghavi.

(*Names changed to protect privacy)



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I got married in 2021. Heta and I like many others, had dreamed of a beautiful destination wedding. Add to that, the super large events team at Veena World also wanted to have an 'in-house' destination wedding to plan. So it was always on the cards. However, the pandemic threw a wrench in our plans, and we opted for a smaller, local ceremony here in Mumbai. It was no doubt memorable and beautiful. But today, I'm here to tell you about destination weddings and to also convince you that destinations weddings are in fact more affordable than you might think!

So imagine, you or your loved one exchanging wedding vows under the vibrant colours of a Rajasthani sunset or against the serene backdrop of Kerala's backwaters. Destination weddings in India are a growing trend that's here to stay, offering couples a chance to celebrate their love story in some of the world's most enchanting locations. However, there's a prevailing myth that these fairy-tale weddings come with a hefty price-tag, that may not always be true. So let's dive into the world of Indian destination weddings and uncover how they can be both magical and budget-friendly.

Busting the Myth: Destination Weddings Are NOT Expensive

The notion that destination weddings are exorbitantly expensive is widespread but not entirely accurate. While it's true that a wedding anywhere can rack up costs, it doesn't have to break the bank. In fact, destination weddings can often be more economical than traditional ceremonies due to their typically smaller guest lists and bundled venue packages.

For example, a wedding in Rajasthan's stunning palaces might sound lavish, but many venues offer all-inclusive packages that can end up costing less than hosting a large wedding in a metropolitan city like Mumbai or Delhi. Similarly, choosing an off-season date can significantly reduce expenses as venues and vendors are more likely to offer discounts.

How to Start Planning a Destination Wedding

As our events team always says, planning a destination wedding begins with choosing the right date

and envisioning your dream ceremony. The first step is to pick a date that works for you, your partner, and your closest family and friends. Consider the season and weather conditions of your desired destination to ensure a comfortable and beautiful setting.

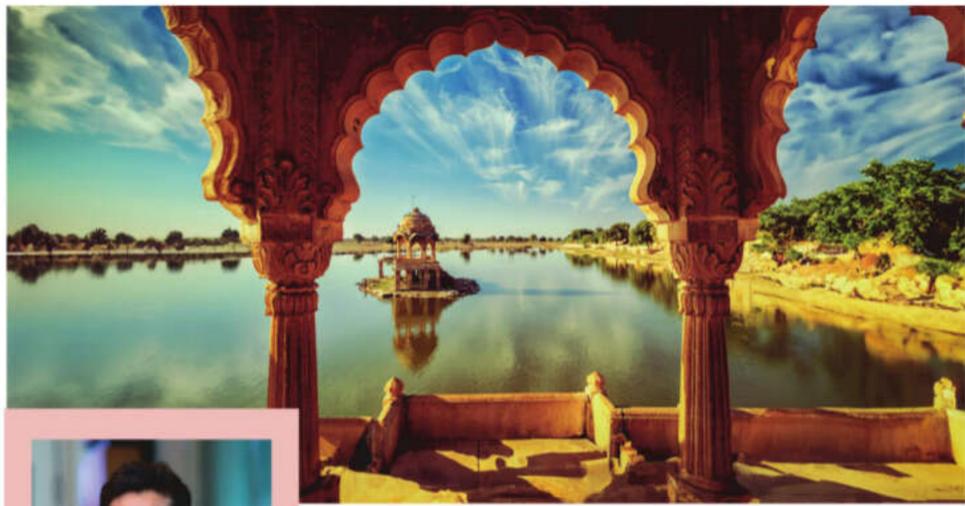
Research is the key – start by exploring various locations and their wedding offerings. Websites of popular venues are a treasure trove of information, showcasing the unique features, amenities, and packages each place provides. Dive into travel blogs and wedding forums where couples share their personal experiences, tips, and reviews about different destinations. These firsthand accounts can provide valuable insights into what to expect and how to prepare.

Consider the overall vibe and setting you want for your wedding. Are you dreaming of a royal affair in a grand palace, a laid-back beach ceremony, or a rustic celebration in the mountains? Each location offers distinct advantages and can influence the style and theme of your wedding. Think about accessibility for your guests, the local culture, and any special attractions that could make your wedding even more memorable.

How to Pick a Theme

The theme of your wedding sets the tone for the entire event. India, with its rich cultural background, offers a plethora of themes to choose from. Beach ceremonies in Goa, rustic hilltop vows in Shimla, royal weddings in Jaipur or Udaipur are just a few options.

When selecting a theme, consider what best reflects your personalities as a couple. Are you both history buffs? A royal theme with traditional attire and palatial decor could be perfect. Nature lovers? A beach or mountain wedding with



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eco-friendly decorations might be ideal. Let the destination guide your theme-the cultural and natural backdrop will enhance the overall aesthetic.

How to Decide on a Budget

Setting a budget is one of the most crucial steps in planning a wedding. Start by identifying the major expenses: venue, travel, accommodation, catering, and decor. Allocate a portion of your budget to each category based on its importance to you.

For instance, if the venue is a

priority, you might choose a less expensive catering option. Always leave a buffer for unexpected costs - about 10% of your total budget. Negotiating with vendors and seeking out package deals can also help keep expenses under control. A sample budget for a destination wedding in India might look like this: - Venue and Decor: 40% - Travel and Accommodation: 30% - Catering: 20% - Miscellaneous (Entertainment, Photography, etc.): 10%.

Things to Keep in Mind

Planning a destination wedding involves several logistical considerations. Guest management is crucial - send out 'save-the-dates' early and provide detailed information about travel and accommodation. Weather is another key factor. Research the best time to visit your chosen destination to avoid extreme weather conditions.

Decide whether to hire local vendors or bring your own. Local vendors can offer insights and

connections that out-of-town vendors might lack, often at a lower cost. Additionally, be mindful of regional customs and traditions that could influence your wedding plans, ensuring your celebration respects and incorporates local culture.

Destination Suggestions

India is a treasure trove of picturesque wedding destinations. Here are some top picks:

1. Udaipur: Known as the City of Lakes, Udaipur offers regal palaces and serene lakesides, perfect for a royal wedding.
2. Goa: Famous for its beaches and vibrant nightlife, Goa is ideal for couples looking for a relaxed yet lively wedding atmosphere.
3. Jaipur: The Pink City, with its majestic forts and palaces, provides a stunning backdrop for a traditional Indian wedding.
4. Kerala: The tranquil backwaters and lush greenery of Kerala offer a serene setting for an intimate and nature-inspired wedding.

ADVERTORIAL

5. Shimla: Nestled in the Himalayas, Shimla's cool climate and scenic beauty make it a perfect choice for a romantic mountain wedding.

For those seeking something offbeat, consider locations like Jodhpur, with its desert charm, or Alleppey, known for its houseboat weddings on Kerala's backwaters.

To sum up, destination weddings in India combine the allure of exotic locales with the intimacy of a close-knit celebration. By busting the myth of high costs, starting your planning early, and keeping a keen eye on budget and logistics, you can craft a wedding that is both enchanting and economical.

Despite the challenges I faced with my wedding plans due to the pandemic, your dream of destination weddings is possible, and the memories will be worth every effort. At Veena World, we specialize in creating unforgettable destination weddings that perfectly capture your vision. So if you want an easy-going memorable stress-free wedding, let us handle the logistics so you can focus on the joy of your special day, surrounded by the people you love in a breathtaking location. Ready to start planning your dream wedding in the Incredible India? Whether you choose a palace in Udaipur, a beach in Goa, or a hillside in Shimla, your big day awaits. So, where will you or your loved one say, 'I do'?

Here is the latest episode in our new video series Travel Explore Celebrate Life



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