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US VP Kamala Harris says she intends to earn & win Democratic Party nomination for presidency even after endorsement by Prez Biden. Former speaker Nancy Pelosi too declares support for Harris to replace Biden in Nov election, P 17

Billionaire Elon Musk and venture capitalist Vinod Khosla slug it out over Trump's candidature. Khosla says Trump has 'no values, lies, cheats, rapes, demeanes women', and 'hates immigrants' like him. Musk says Trump 'doesn't hate you. Meet him...' P 17

A Bangladeshi student group that is leading demonstrations that have spiralled into deadly violence suspends protests for 48 hrs, with its head saying they do not want reform 'at the expense of so much blood', P 17

Coach Gambhir says his relationship with Virat Kohli is 'one between mature individuals, not for public consumption. adds Virat and Rohit have 'lots of cricket left in them', P 18

BJP backs move to end ban on govt staffers-RSS link

The govt and BJP put up a strong defence of the decision lifting the ban on govt employees' participation in the RSS activities, while the saffron fountainhead welcomed the move, saying the previous ban was imposed for political reasons. The opposition, however, suggested that the decision was motivated to appease the Sangh. As TOI reported in its July 22 edition, a notification to this effect was issued on July 9, sources said. **PAGE OPP**

Bengal buys potato directly from farmers

Bengal govt on Monday bought 750 tonnes of potato directly from Hooghly farmers and sent the stock to Kolkata markets. This was meant to blunt a strike by potato traders and curb middlemen's influence. **P 2**

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WEATHER
Max 30.8°C (-1.2) Min 26.5°C (0) Sunrise: Wednesday 5:05am
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SC seeks IIT's expert help on NEET-UG physics question

Four Marks At Stake May Alter Test Rankings

Dhananjay Mahapatra @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Monday sought help from experts in IIT-Delhi to determine which of the two answers approved by National Testing Agency to an elementary question on atomic theory is to be deemed correct, even as it told

All NTA staff on contract or outsourced, P 20

petitioners that they were yet to provide evidence to support their allegation that the sanctity of the entire NEET-UG 2024 had been compromised.

With a single mark's difference leading to variance of several notches in the rankings

'SUBMIT OPINION BY NOON TODAY'

> An MCQ on atomic theory had 2 statements and candidates were asked which of the 2, both or neither was the correct answer

> Petitioner tells SC one statement is correct as per new NCERT course and other was also held to be right as per books prescribed prior to 2019

> SG Tushar Mehta says over 9 lakh students chose correct option as per new syllabus and 4.2 lakh chose answer deemed

Will NEET-UG merit list change a 3rd time? P 20

of over 13 lakh students vying for MBBS admissions, SC's decision to enlist experts from IIT could reshuffle the order of successful candidates.

Raising the issue, advocate Suriti Chowdhury told SC that for a question on atomic theory,

correct as per old textbooks. NTA gave marks to both

> The petitioner, who scored 715/720 marks, didn't attempt this question as options were 'ambiguous'. Demands either the question be scrapped or marks be given only for correct answer

> SC asks IIT Delhi to form 3-member panel to decide on which answer is correct and give its opinion preferably by noon on Tuesday

Raj SOG quizzes suspect in cheating case, P 20

ry, the NEET-UG exam paper had provided two statements: "a) Atoms are electrically neutral as they contain equal number of positive and negative charges; and b) Atoms of each element are stable and emit their characteristic spec-

After TN, K'taka cabinet moves to pull out of NEET

Karnataka cabinet passed a resolution asking Centre to scrap NEET for state-specific assessments for admissions to medical colleges. It will be tabled in the assembly Tuesday or Wednesday. If cleared, Karnataka will become the second state after TN to pass such a resolution. The state plans to reintroduce the old system of admissions to engineering and medical colleges through a common test. **P 20**

'Where's the proof?', P 20

Survey upbeat on economy, backs more freedom for biz

Flags Climate Change, AI As Challenges

TEAM TOI

Five years ago, when Nir-mala Sitharaman took over as finance minister, she appeared uncertain amid criticism of waning growth, resulting in a series of post-Budget announce-

FULL COVERAGE: P 12, 15, 16

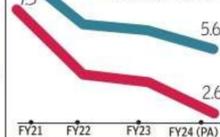
ments, including a massive cut in corporate tax. As she presents a record seventh straight budget, the Modi govt's report card presented an economy which is on a strong footing — projecting 6.5%-7% growth this year — with robust public finances, high tax collections and improved quality of spending.

The contrast could not have been sharper, and has been laid out vividly in the Economic Survey 2023-24 tabled in Parliament on Monday. It did flag the challenges

ECONOMY IS GROWING AT A HEALTHY RATE...



...AND GOVT'S DEFICIT HAS BEEN FALLING...



Licensing, inspection & compliance requirements that all levels of govt continue to impose on businesses is an onerous burden. Relative to history, the burden has lightened. Relative to where it ought to be, it's still a lot heavier —Eco Survey

'Must create 78.5L jobs a year till 2030'

India needs to generate 78.5 lakh jobs a year on average until 2030 in the non-farm sector to cater to the rising workforce, Economic Survey estimated, urging the private sector to contribute. **P 16**

—from the geopolitical situation resulting in greater protectionism, to climate change and impact of AI — but sounded more comfortable with

Quality, timely data must, says Survey

Economic Survey has said statistics ministry must be equipped to produce and integrate data with the desired quality and timelines, for formulating policy and timely decision-making. **P 16**

the inflation trajectory. It also underlined the need of "letting go for good governance".

Survey flags need... P 13

Rahul says entire exam system is a 'fraud'; 'We have nothing to hide,' replies Pradhan

Akhilesh Singh @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The first Question Hour of the 18th Lok Sabha witnessed a combative education minister, Dharmendra Pradhan, facing off with leader of the opposition Rahul Gandhi and decrying as "sad" and "condemnable" the latter's statement that the "entire exam system of the country has become a fraud and is paid".

"The minister has blamed everybody except himself. I don't think he understands the fundamentals of what is going on here," Rahul said during a

Oppn tried to suppress my voice: PM in Parl

Go to the battlefields of the election in 2029. Till then, the only priority should be the country, its poor, farmers, women and youth," PM Modi told opposition Monday. "We have fought a full-throttle battle since Jan. But that phase is over, the countrymen have given their verdict. Now we have to fight for the country and fight by being noble... rising above party lines," he said. Referring to opposition sloganeering during his reply to the Motion of Thanks on the President's address, Modi said, "An effort was made to suffocate the PM and suppress his voice. This has no place in democratic traditions." **P 9**

discussion on the NEET row.

Pradhan replied govt had nothing to hide and investigations over the paper leak were on in a transparent manner.

"SC is hearing the case... let's wait and watch. Govt will abide by SC judgment," he said.

'Here at mercy of...', P 20

Govt rules out Bihar spl status sought by JD(U)

BJP-led central govt has ruled out special category status for Bihar, turning down the demand of ally JD(U), a decision which will have implications for a similar demand from another ally, TDP, for Andhra Pradesh.

The stand was conveyed by junior finance minister Pankaj Chaudhary in a written reply to JD(U) MP Rampreet Mandal. Calling "special category" a Planning Commission term, Shambhavi Choudhary of LJP said states had benefited from special packages instead. **P 6**

Fire & firefight damage warship, sailor missing

New Delhi/Mumbai: A frontline Indian frigate, INS Brahmaputra, suffered extensive damage after a major blaze erupted on board and the warship keeled over due to flooding during firefighting operations at the naval dockyard in Mumbai on Sunday, report Rajat Pandit & V Narayan.

A junior sailor is missing after the mishap, which has once again raised questions on the planning and management of refits at naval dock-



INS Brahmaputra was undergoing a refit at Mumbai dockyard

ards and the "watertight integrity and air-pressure tests" conducted on warships.

'Tough to salvage', P 8

Soldier, civilian wounded in Rajouri attack

A soldier and a civilian were wounded when terrorists simultaneously attacked the house of a civilian Shaurya Chakra awardee and an adjacent security post in Gundah village of Budhal in J&K's Rajouri at 3.10am on Monday, 24 hours after Army chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi's Jammu visit.

Retaliation by the Army forced the terrorists to retreat, sources said, reports Sanjay Khajuria. **P 11**

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State Bypasses Striking Traders, Keeps Supply Line Intact

Govt procures potato directly from farmers

Falguni Banerjee & Krishnendu Bandyopadhyay | TNN

Hooghly/Kolkata: In the backdrop of an ongoing strike by a section of potato traders, the state govt on Monday directly procured 750 tonnes from the farmers in Hooghly and sent the stock to Kolkata markets to tide over any impending stock crisis.

Taking on the striking traders and to curb the influence of middlemen, the state has also decided to financially back self-help groups (SLGs) to do the last-mile trade of potatoes that farmers have kept in cold storages to sell but have to bank on traders to send the produce to the markets.

Junior agriculture marketing and panchayat minister Becharam Manna said: "The govt procured 15,000 bags, each containing 50 kg of potatoes, from cold storages and sent them to Kolkata markets. Similar actions will be taken in the future to ensure the supply line does not dry up."

Manna also indicated that the state will financially help SHGs to buy bonds to directly procure potatoes from cold storages. While Manna did not spell it out, sources indicated the state measure was aimed at loosening the stranglehold of the traders for the last-mile trade.

Meanwhile, the strike by potato traders protesting the govt's ban on inter-state movement of potatoes continued on Monday. Sukumar Samanta, secretary of the Progressive Potato Traders' Association, said: "We have failed to make the administration understand that the potatoes we send to neighboring states are not consumed by the people of Bengal. Without the inter-state

FOCUS ON LAST-MILE TRADE



The state's focus is to keep the supply line smooth

Bengal's production	TOI JULY 22, 2024
2024	90 lakh tonnes
2023	1.2 crore tonnes
2022	80 lakh tonnes
2021	1.1 crore tonnes
2020	85 lakh tonnes

Concern over potato supply to city as traders' body calls strike

movement of potatoes, a large amount will be left to rot." Lalu Mukhopadhyay, the association president, added: "About 80,000 potato traders in the state have joined the strike." The strike did not affect the cold storages in and around Hooghly's Ratanpur — among the biggest potato trading hubs in Bengal. Prahlad Mandal, joint secretary of the Singur-Ratanpur Potato Traders' Association, said: "We support the strike but we kept the market open for the sake of common people. Otherwise, potato prices would have skyrocketed. The govt should intervene to solve the issue and arrange for the release of the trucks that are being held."

But impacts were felt in other

districts that provide the bulk of potatoes. Navkumar Bhuiya, president of the Salboni branch of the Potato Traders' Association in West Midnapore, said: "The strike has started in the stores. Potatoes have not been taken out of the cold storages." East Burdwan DM K Radhika Aiyar said: "We have already opened Sufal Bangla stalls in various places in the district." Regarding the demand for sending potato trucks to other states, the DM said: "We are acting according to the state's regulations."

For the past few days, Jyoti potatoes have been selling for Rs 33 per kg and the Chandramukhi variety for around Rs 40 per kg in the open markets.

Kolkata's CNG pain to ease in 2 months: Min

Krishnendu Bandyopadhyay | timesofindia.com



Kolkata: The CNG supply to Kolkata is expected to ease within two months, according to transport minister Snehasis Chakraborty. The govt has reportedly made significant progress in laying a 250m CNG pipeline in Galsi, which will facilitate an uninterrupted supply to Kalyani. From there, Bengal Gas Company Ltd (BGCL) will be able to supply 51 tonnes of gas to Kolkata daily.

"We have managed to register a breakthrough in laying the CNG pipeline at Galsi. We expect to have the supply to Kalyani in two months. BGCL officials told us that it will facilitate them to supply 51 tonnes of CNG to the city daily," Chakraborty told TOI.

Currently, BGCL manages to supply only 16 tonnes of CNG to the city using caskets on trucks, which leaves a significant gap between demand and supply. Kolkata's

NEW PIPELINE AT GALSI

CNG demand now stands at 51 tonnes. By the end of this year, the CNG supply through the pipeline can be expected, according to a senior state official.

Meanwhile, Chakraborty on Monday met representatives from app-cab aggregators such as Uber, Ola, InDrive and Rapido, along with operator unions who requested the govt to establish fixed fares for the benefit of both the riders as well as the operators.

However, the transport department clarified to the operators that the app-cab mechanism cannot be altered and that it cannot interfere in their system. "They provide a system which is extremely useful to riders. It is driven by market mechanisms," the department stated.

Despite this, the transport minister urged the app-cab aggregators to be more judicious in blocking the registration of driver partners. The meeting reflects the govt's effort to balance market-driven services with regulatory oversight to protect the interests of both consumers and operators.

Ballygunge dhobi's son irons out odds, now a CA

Debojyoti Shome



Aman Kumar (right) with his father, Raj Kishore Rajak, and mother, Anju Devi, at Ballygunge's Sunny Towers

Srishti Lakhota | timesofindia.com

Every time my father returned to Muzaffarpur, he would talk to me about the CA course. He had learnt about the profession from his customers in Kolkata

Aman Kumar | CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

Kolkata: The unflinching determination of a *dhobi* in Ballygunge — despite financial challenges — contributed to the success of his 22-year-old son, Aman Kumar, who had cleared CA-final from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) in May this year.

Aman's father, Raj Kishore Rajak, has been running a laundry service at the basement of Sunny Towers in Ballygunge since 1999. Raj had learnt about CA as a profession from his customers.

Back in Bihar's Muzaffarpur, his relatives discouraged him — warning him of the hurdles — but Raj stood his ground and fuelled the dreams of Aman. Life in the metro city had its own share of

challenges. But Raj left behind farming and his ancestral home in Bihar to ensure his children dream big.

After Aman completed his high school studies in Bihar under the state board there in 2019, Raj shifted his entire family to Kolkata.

With the money he had saved over the years, Raj bought an one-bedroom house in Kasba for Rs 3.5 lakh so that

Aman could chase his dreams in the city.

"Every time my father would return home to Muzaffarpur, he would talk to me about the CA course. Over the years working at Sunny Towers, he had gathered information regarding the course and had started saving money for coaching classes and buying me books," he said, adding his father had spent more than a lakh for him to pursue the CA courses.

Though Aman was good at mathematics and science and his teachers suggested him to pursue a career in engineering, he passed the CA foundation course in 2019 and its intermediate level in Nov, 2020. Later, he completed the three-year CA articleship training at a multinational company. His internship was completed in March this year.

Scurry for budget hotels in Kol's Mini Bangladesh

Zeeshan Jawed & Biplob Bhattacharjee | TNN

Kolkata: Demand for rooms in the budget hotels in Mirza Ghalib Street-Marquis Street pocket — an area often referred to as mini Bangladesh — surged on Monday with at least four buses arriving from the protest-hit neighbouring country. Several Bangladeshi tourists, already staying in Kolkata, had also postponed their departure. Hotel owners in the area said the occupancy has gone up by about 30% in the past couple of days.

For instance, Mohammad Suman Hussain — a Bangladeshi native — had to extend his stay in Kolkata after subsequent trains to Bangladesh got cancelled. He had to vacate his room in a Mirza Ghalib Street hotel on Monday morning as it was already booked by other tourists, arriving from Kustia. He checked into a different hotel in the evening.

Similarly, a Bangladeshi family of eight, who reached Kolkata from Vellore in Ta-



A family that arrived from Bangladesh on Monday for treatment

mil Nadu in the morning, had to wait for over two hours before they could manage to get hotel rooms. They are scheduled to leave for Dhaka on Tuesday afternoon. "Majority of the hotels we visited had said they didn't have enough vacant rooms," said Mohammad Arshad Danish, a member of the family.

Nazim Ahmed of Golden Apple Hotel on Tottie Lane near Sunder Street claimed that several tourists have postponed their travel back to Bangladesh due to the unrest. Owners of Hotel Afsha on

Marquis Street said new guests had arrived on Monday while those staying with them had postponed their check-out. "Several tourists have been enquiring about rooms," said the staffer at the reception at the hotel.

Mini Bangladesh has close to 150 hotels and lodges, mostly occupied by people from Bangladesh. "We expect the situation to get better in the next week as normalcy returns to the country," said Harmit Singh, president of Central Kolkata Hotel Owners' Association.

305 km from Dhaka, Bangladesh protest heat sings business in New Market

Subhro Niyogi | timesofindia.com

Kolkata: The upheaval in Bangladesh has dealt a debilitating blow to 4,500 shops in and around New Market. Bangladeshis, who comprise a bulk of customers at shops in the belt, have disappeared since Saturday, leading to a business loss of nearly Rs 6.5 crore so far.

All markets in the zone wore a deserted look on Monday evening. Shops that were busy attending to customers and doing roaring business till Friday had hardly any walk-ins on Monday. "The markets in this area, including New Market, are completely dependent on Bangladeshi customers who make up nearly 55%-60% of the footfall and contribute to nearly 70% of the turnover. Troubled by the violence back home, they have suddenly stopped coming to the markets. It almost feels like a rerun of 2021 when Bangladeshis were unable to travel due to Covid," said SS Hogg Market Traders Association general secretary Uday Kumar Shao.

COUNTING LOSSES



Markets	No. of shops	Loss in 2 days
New Market	2,700	₹3.8cr
Shreeram Arcade	300	₹42L
Simpark Mall	202	₹29L
Treasure Island	170	₹24L
Globe Mall	100	₹14L



(Left) A deserted New Market on Monday; Wahid Masudinar (above) from Dhaka, the only Bangladeshi TOI could find in New Market between 3pm and 4pm on Monday

However, unlike the situation three years ago when there were hardly any Bangladeshis in Kolkata due to travel restrictions, a few thousand Bangladeshis are in the city at present, a majority of them stranded due to lack of travel options after most of the flights and buses and all train services between Dhaka and

Kolkata were suspended. But with uncertainty looming large over when the situation will improve in the country, they have become cautious about spending.

Wahid Masudinar from Dhaka's Mohamadpur, the only Bangladeshi TOI could find in New Market between 3pm and 4pm on Monday, ex-

plained that it was not just the gloom that had prompted Bangladeshis to stay away from markets, there was also the uncertainty over how long they would have to stay and the limited cash at their disposal.

"I came to Kolkata around 10 days ago. We were scheduled to return on Monday but are unable to. There is no certain-

ty when the situation will improve and transport services will resume. Till then, we have to put up in hotels and pay in cash as credit card transactions are not going through as we cannot get OTP on mail due to the internet blackout in Bangladesh," said Masudinar.

Shops that sell dry fruits, chocolates, cosmetics, luggage and garments are the worst affected as Bangladeshis shop for these products for not only themselves but also carry home stuff ordered by friends and relatives. With dry fruits, chocolates, cosmetics and luggage categorised as luxury items and attracting 300% GST in Bangladesh, it makes sense to buy them in India despite the lower exchange rate.

"We usually sell dry fruits, chocolates, cosmetics and whole spices in huge quantities to Bangladeshi shoppers daily. Though we knew trouble was brewing in the country, it seemed business as usual till Friday. But since Saturday, there has hardly been any business," said Md Shabbuddin of the Choconut store in New Market.

Epar-Opar Bangla film collabs suffer a jolt as violence puts promotions, dubbing on hold

Priyanka Dasgupta | timesofindia.com

Kolkata: A little more than a week ago, renowned Bangladeshi actor Chanchal Chowdhury started promoting his forthcoming Indian film — Srijit Mukherji's highly-anticipated 'Padatik' — on various social media platforms. The cinematic venture — an homage to legendary director Mrinal Sen with Chowdhury portraying the iconic filmmaker — is slated to release simultaneously in both nations on Aug 15. However, given the current turbulent situation in Bangladesh, the prospects of the film's promotional activities have now become ambiguous. For film-makers who have been collaborating with Bangladeshi stars in recent times, the circumstances are somewhat precarious with a few of them having to stall their dubbing process.

'Padatik' producer Firdausul Hasan told TOI that his Bangladeshi distributors are in a wait-and-watch mode now. "If the situation doesn't im-

PLANS IN LIMBO



Our promotional plans are supposed to begin from July 25. We will be affected if the situation doesn't improve by then — Srijit Mukherji | DIRECTOR



I shudder to think of the consequences had we scheduled the shooting during this tumultuous period — Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury | DIRECTOR

(Far left) Chanchal Chowdhury in 'Padatik'; Ziaul Faruq Apurba in 'Chalchitra'

prove, we will have to think of push back the Bangladeshi release to a later date. But that is not something we want to do." Mukherji's wife, actress Rafiath Rashid Mithila, and daughter Ayra, are currently in Bangladesh. On a personal level, there is stress since he hasn't been able to connect with them in the past two days. The other issue is the promotion of his forthcoming movie.

"We can't do any online promotions now since there will be no reach. Luckily, our promotional plans are supposed to begin from July 25. We will be affected if the situation doesn't improve after July 25," Mukherji said.

Loss of a single day's promotion for a Bengali film like 'Padatik', which has a box office clash with Amar Kaushik-helmed horror comedy 'Street

2' and John Abraham-starrer 'Vedaa', can be a big setback.

At least two film-makers from Kolkata are facing issues with dubbing. Director Anik Dutta's 'Joto Kando Kolkata' has Bangladeshi star Quazi Nawshaba Ahmed. "Dubbing is yet to start in full swing. Under the current circumstances, there is a slight apprehension about travelling from Bangladesh to India. We too

are wondering if she will get a visa. I will be having a word with my producer next week to find out what we will be doing," Dutta told TOI.

It is a similar problem for Pratik D Gupta who has Bangladeshi star Ziaul Faruq Apurba in his next film titled 'Chalchitra'. Originally planned for a Puja release, the film is still not ready. Dubbing with Apurba was supposed to be done in Kolkata during Aug. "This is not the perfect climate to ask an actor to come from Dhaka and dub for a film. It can't be a priority for a sensitive human being," the director said.

Director Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury is among the privileged few to have finished the filming. His new film 'Dear Maa' features Bangladeshi actor Jaya Ahsaan. "I shudder to think of the consequences had we scheduled the shooting during this tumultuous period. We would have been compelled to postpone the filming indefinitely. Fortunately, the movie is currently being edited by Arghyakamal Mitra," Roy Chowdhury

225 more students return home from stir-hit B'desh

Tamaghna Banerjee | timesofindia.com

Kolkata: The Border Security Force (BSF) assisted 225 more Indian and Nepalese students, studying in Bangladesh, to return home after they crossed the Indo-Bangla border on Monday. In the past four days, 1,419 students had crossed the border.

On Monday, 134 Indian and 29 Nepalese students crossed the border at Petrapole, while another 42 Indians and 6 Nepalese crossed the border at Gede. There were no fresh crossovers along the border at Mahadipur and Ghodajanga.

"On reaching the border, the South Bengal Frontier of BSF is conducting medical check-ups to ensure the health and well-being of the students. Understanding the impact of the turmoil on their mental state, we have also arranged counselling sessions with doctors to help them deal with anxiety and fear," said AK Arya, DIG and BSF South Bengal Frontier's spokesperson.

The officer said all of them were provided with fresh meals and refreshments at the border before being transported to their respective destinations in BSF vehicles.

"Border Guard Bangladesh safely escorted the students to the border after which the BSF took over," he said.

So far, more than 4,500 Indians have returned home from Bangladesh as the neighbouring country continues to reel under violent clashes that have killed over 100 people.



So far, more than 4,500 Indians have returned home from trouble-torn Bangladesh

Meanwhile, cross-border trade through land ports remained suspended for the second day in a row on Monday, as violence continued to disrupt normal operations.

According to officials, the movement of goods trucks has been halted since Sunday, with the Bangladeshi side of the Petrapole land port remaining closed due to a government-declared holiday and only emergency services functioning. At present, about 800 trucks carrying various goods are stuck in parking lots, officials said.

Monsoon pain: Traffic police struggle to keep city moving

Breakdowns And Rain Bring Down Kol Speed

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@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Traffic snarls are back in the city with the onset of monsoon, the first working day on Monday morning witnessing one of the slowest movements of traffic in recent weeks.

Cops attributed multiple reasons behind this — general slowing down of vehicles due to rains, vehicles breaking down in the middle of the road that included buses, construction work and deteriorating road conditions besides the spurt of private vehicles in the school sector. Attempts by passers-by and bikers to escape the rains and hence blocking traffic under flyovers, all added to the problems.

CHOCK-A-BLOCK

Reasons for traffic snarls

- General slowing down of vehicles due to rain, vehicles breaking down in the middle of the road, construction work and deteriorating road conditions besides the spurt of private vehicles in the school sector
- Attempts by passers-by and bikers to escape the rain and blocking traffic under flyovers added to the problems

Trouble Spots

- Bentinck Street, where the Shahid Diwas rally took place, was reopened to traffic but had to be regulated multiple times to allow trucks to remove the dais and open all lanes
- A hawkers' rally that blocked the Lenin Sarani-CR Avenue crossing



Traffic jam on Shakespeare Sarani on Monday

- Traffic moved at a snail's pace between Maa flyover up to New Town due to craters
- Traffic was slow between Pathakpara and Alipore zoo after a bus broke down

Bentinck Street, where the Shahid Diwas rally took place, was reopened to traffic early on Monday morning but had to be regulated multiple times to allow trucks to remove the dais items and open all lanes of the road for traffic. However, what came as the biggest stumbling block in central Kolkata was a rally led by hawkers that blocked the Lenin Sarani-CR Avenue crossing

Lenin Sarani-CR Avenue crossing and then moved towards Moulali.

Traffic moved at a snail's pace between Maa flyover and all the way up to New Town. Bidhannagar Police said it was not before 1pm that traffic police could normalize the situation. Traffic was extremely slow between Behala Pathakpara and Alipore zoo too

after a bus broke down on Burdwan Road, adding to the perils due to metro construction at Mominpore (waterlogging slowing down traffic).

Cops said they were forced to turn off automated signaling at multiple crossings and follow the manual mode. School traffic too made its contribution. "School gates got clogged with a much higher

number of privately owned two-wheeler and four-wheeler vehicles," said an East Traffic Guard officer.

Kolkata Traffic Police said that multiple measures have been planned to counter the increasing number of breakdowns. "We have set up new cut outs to place broken down vehicles. We are helping KMDA clean up the road in the wee hours to remove all nails and other items from the road that can lead to punctures. This exercise will be done regularly from now," said an officer from the east guard. WBTC has been asked to create breakdown repair teams and station them across the city rather than depend on particular WBTC depots.

Cops have also decided to use alternate routes to push out vehicles whenever they stagnate. "Just like we push vehicles onto PC connector when Maa flyover chokes, we have decided to use alternate routes like Wood Street, Pretoria Street and Lord Sinha Road to drain out the smaller vehicles," said an officer.

Cops foil robbery, two Bangla men among 4 held

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Kolkata: Cops from the Anandapur police station foiled a robbery at a marble shop off E M Bypass and arrested four persons, including two Bangladeshis who had crossed over the international border illegally. The arrest was carried out around 2pm on Sunday.

MARBLE SHOP

"We received a tip-off about four persons loitering in front of Bhowmik Marbles in Anandapur, possibly planning to commit a crime. Upon reaching the spot, four persons were found trying to flee in a car. Since their behaviour was suspicious, we decided to question them," said additional CP (I) Murlidhar Sharma. During questioning, found two of them—Sobuj Kundu (28) and Rahul Sk (27)—were from Nakashipara in Nadia. The other two, said police, were from Rajbari in Bangladesh. The two, Mijan Sk (38) and Rubel Sk (27), could not show any valid identity document or any paper for their India stay. Police said the two confessed to have entered India illegally. They were arrested under section 14A(b) of the Foreigner Act.

Tree topples in Ekbalpore

Kolkata: A full-grown mahogany tree uprooted in an Ekbalpore neighbourhood on Monday morning.

A Kolkata Municipal Corporation official said the adjacent land was being dug up for drainage upgrade work and it might have led to the uprooting of the tree.

Though residents of the area claimed that a man was injured when the tree toppled, a KMC official said no such information had reached the civic headquarters.

The uprooted tree was sawed and removed by afternoon. TNN

Chunk falls off six-storey bldg

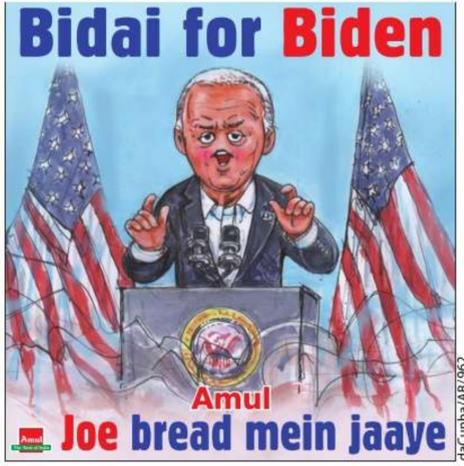
Kolkata: The balcony of a six-storey building on Satyen Roy Road in Behala collapsed around 11.15 am on Monday during the morning rain. Police said a passer-by had a narrow escape and no one was injured in the incident.

An officer said, "The chunk was around 10 feet by 4 feet and fell off the fifth floor." A case has been lodged. TNN

JJ Board summons student, parents

Kolkata: The Juvenile Justice Board has summoned the Class X boy who had used an AI app to create objectionable images of Class XI and XII girls of the same school. The parents will accompany the student to the counselling session organised by the JJ Board.

DCP (Behala) Rahul De confirmed a complaint was received and that they informed the JJ Board about it. TNN



Molested in auto, woman hauls co-passenger to cops

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Kolkata: A woman, travelling in an auto with her husband, was allegedly molested by a co-passenger, twice, on Saturday night. Even as the accused denied the charge and started arguing with the couple, the woman spotted a policeman on the road and sought his help.

Based on the woman's complaint, the accused, Sanjib Dutta, was arrested by the

ON WAY TO ULTADANGA

Jorabagan police. He confessed to the crime, police said.

According to police, the woman and her husband boarded the auto from Jorabagan around 9pm and were on their way to Ultadanga. Dutta boarded the auto from the same place and sat next to the woman. In her complaint, the woman stated that Dutta touched her inappropriately after the auto reached Ahiritoila. When she protested, Dutta claimed his action was not intentional and that he had brushed against her as he could not keep his balance with the auto travelling through a rough stretch of road, police said. When the auto reached Sovabazar, Dutta allegedly molested the woman again. This time, the woman stood up against Dutta, and her husband also protested.

A senior officer said, "On reaching Hatibagan, the woman forced the accused to get off the auto and reported the incident to a policeman on the road. He took all three to Jorabagan police station. Based on the woman's complaint, the accused was arrested. Dutta works at a clothing store in Jorabagan and the incident occurred while he was returning home from work."

Dutta was presented in Bankshall Court on Sunday. The defence lawyer pleaded for bail but the public prosecutor opposed it, stating the woman's confidential statement had not yet been taken. If released, the accused might intimidate the woman. The court sent Dutta to police custody.

Diamond Harbour biker dies in S Kol accident

Sarthak.G@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: A 39-year-old resident of Diamond Harbour, Badal Halder, died after his bike was hit by a truck on Prince Anwar Shah Road near a shopping mall on Sunday night.

In the impact of the truck hitting his bike, Halder was thrown to the ground. He was taken to SSKM Hospital, where he was declared dead.

Inter-state racket in RBU mobile theft

Kolkata: While investigating a case of cellphone thefts from two examinees at the Rabindra Bharati University campus in Salt Lake last week, cops have come across an inter-state crime racket. Two persons have been arrested so far. A probe is on to arrest the rest of the gang. TNN

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Showers over 3 days reduce July rain deficit to 10% in Kolkata

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'Silted pores on brick sewer flooded metro station'

Aijanta Chakraborty & Saikat Ray | TNN

Kolkata: Metro Railway said on Monday that it has investigated and found out the actual reasons behind the flooding at Park Street metro station on May 28, when Cyclone Remal lashed the city.

"The century-old KMC brick sewer line has pores which were silted up in the past few weeks. The manhole wall also has holes, which led to the water seepage into the station. These holes are being plugged now with grouting. In fact, grouting is being done at different locations of Park Street metro station and cement injected inside the diaphragm wall to prevent water seepage in future," a Metro spokesperson said on Monday. In a statement released on Monday, the carrier said that between May 28 and July 15, 645 bags of cement have been injected into the diaphragm wall.

Asked to comment, a KMC engineer told TOI, "We don't quite agree with Metro's findings. We have also inspected the site and found that water was seeping through the diaphragm or diaphragm wall of the station box."

Another engineer added, "Even if, for the sake of argument, one is ready to agree with Metro Railway that it is the KMC sewer that needs to be repaired to address the waterlogging that had occurred inside Park Street metro station, why are they (metro) injecting grout into the diaphragm walls?"

Kolkata: Frequent spells of drizzles since Saturday have narrowed down the July rain deficit in Kolkata to a mere 10%, though the deficit remains a wider 28% in Gangetic West Bengal or south Bengal. The seasonal deficit in Kolkata is 30% which could get reduced by the month end, said weather scientists at Regional Meteorological Centre, Alipore. In south Bengal, the seasonal deficit stood at 48% on Monday. Kolkata had a deficit of 49% in June.

The city has received 242.8 mm rain between July 1 and 22 against a normal count of 269.1 mm. "This is taken as normal rain since a deficit or surplus of up to 19% is taken to be within the acceptable range. Since the city is now getting regular showers, the rain count could rise fast. One heavy spell could wipe out the narrow deficit and take the count beyond the normal mark," said RMC weather scientists HR Biswas.

But the seasonal deficit for Kolkata remains wider. The period for the seasonal count begins from June 1, though the official date for onset of monsoon in Kolkata and south Bengal is June 11. This year, monsoon had set in Kolkata on June 22. "While monsoon arrived late, the monsoon trough remained weak and often moved away from south Bengal and remained stationed across north Bengal triggering heavy rain there. There were few low-pressure systems over Bay of Bengal that could trigger consistent rain, keeping the rain

MONSOON STATS

- Kolkata has a rain deficit of 10% in July
- The deficit remains a wider 28% in Gangetic West Bengal
- Kolkata had a deficit of 49% in June
- Between June 1 and July 22, Kolkata received 386 mm rain against a normal count of 552 mm, a deficit of 30%
- Seasonal deficit in south Bengal is 48%
- Normal rain in June and July: 522.1 mm
- Normal rain in July in



Kolkata has been getting frequent showers since Saturday

- Kolkata: 361 mm
- Normal between July 1 and 22: 269.1 mm
- Kolkata has received 242.8 mm

count low. Now, we are having more frequent low-pressure systems that have started pushing the count up," explained Biswas.

Between June 1 and July 22, Kolkata has received 386 mm rain against a normal count of 552 mm, a deficit of 30%. Like Kolkata, the July deficit in south Bengal has come down to 28%. July is the rainiest monsoon month in Bengal.

Between 2010 and 2017, Kolkata received less than

₹3.6cr approved for Sec VI connectivity

Suman.Chakraborty
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Kolkata: The state urban development department on Monday approved a funding of Rs 3.6 crore to the Sector VI (Bantala) industrial township authority under the Development of Municipal Area scheme for setting

up new roads and repairing the existing bituminous road to improve the connectivity of the area with the city.

A new bituminous road has been planned to be constructed beside 10A zone of Kolkata Leather Complex, Bantala, for which around Rs 1.4 crore has been approved. Another new road is planned from SLF gate to ESR site for which Rs 98.5 lakh has been approved. The existing bituminous road from Bastu Bihar to Ashram More crossing at Bhatipota mouza will also be repaired and restored for which Rs 1.2 crore has been approved. The total fund will be disbursed in four phases till the fi-

nancial year of 2026-27.

Sector VI Industrial Township Authority was formed in 2015 where Bantala was included to function under the urban development department's purview like Sector V's IT hub that functions under the purview of Nabadiganta Industrial Township Authority.

GATE-CRASH

Sudipto Das

A huge bamboo scaffolding gate collapsed on Monday evening when a bus bound for Bihar hit it. Traffic on the busy S N Banerjee Road came to a standstill for over half an hour. DMG personnel rushed to the spot to ease the situation

'Skulls, bone in Kasba belong to 3 women'

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Kolkata: The Kasba Police has now received a report that the two skulls and the bone of a hand that were recovered from an under-construction site at Haltu in Kasba on July 18 belonged to three women.

The entire postmortem and forensic reports are still awaited, but cops have confirmed that only the two skulls were that of women. Suggestions that they were used for black magic has also gained credence. Cops have also ruled out any homicidal chance in

two of the three human body parts recovered thus far.

According to police, the area from where the human parts were recovered is filled with alcohol bottles, suggesting that the accused could have been meeting there regularly. Cops are now ascertaining if there was any illegal digging in the nearby graveyard. "We have not yet ruled out the possibility of these human parts were being dug from nearby spots," said an officer.

Cops said they will carry out DNA profiling of the skeletal parts and the process will be videographed.

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YOUR TRAVEL PLANS IN 2024

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CHANGE Begins Here

Reach out to 'missing' UG students to fill admission gap: Govt to colleges

Upgrade Round To Start Tomorrow

Poulami.Roy@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: The state higher education department has asked colleges to contact students, who have been allotted undergraduate seats through the centralised portal but have not yet paid the fees or taken admission. The department has shared the list of applicants with the institutes so that the authorities can get in touch with them, clear their confusion about seat selections if any, help them rectify any mistake in the application forms, promote their campuses and convince them to participate in

1.6L SEATS UP FOR GRABS

Total applications: 5.2 lakh
Seats allotted: 4.2 lakh
No. of candidates who took admission: 3.6 lakh
Seats vacant: 1.6L
Upgrade round: July 24 to July 28

We expect around 25,000 students to opt for upgrade, but we want to reach out to as many applicants as possible and so, we need support from college authorities, too. We will share the list of candidates with the colleges
— A state edu dept official

the upgrade round from Wednesday so that they can take admission in courses and colleges of their choice.

The state higher education department conducted a virtual meeting with nodal officers of colleges on Monday to guide them about how to help out candidates before starting the upgrade round. Of the 4.2 lakh seats that

were allotted to candidates through the centralised admission portal, 3.6 lakh students have taken admission. At the end of the first round of the admission, around 60,000 seats were found vacant though those were allotted to candidates based on their first preference. Moreover, 1 lakh-odd candidates have been put on wait list as so-

me had mistakenly marked their preferred courses and institutes as second or third choices, some had made errors in application processes and some could not be allotted their preferred courses in colleges of choice. So far, of the 4.2 lakh seats, 1.6 lakh were vacant, said an official.

The upgrade round will start on Wednesday and will continue till Sunday (July 28).

At the meeting, state officials asked colleges to promote their institutes before the upgrade round started. The admission nodal officer of a college said, "The education department officials told us to reach out to listed candidates and convince them to take admission. We have been as-

ked to make calls to the candidates within this two-day gap before the upgrade process starts." The nodal officer of another college said, "We were asked to reach out to candidates who marked our institute as a second or third choice. We are supposed to promote our campus and courses so that the candidates can get a clear knowledge before finalising their admission."

A higher education department official said, "We expect around 25,000 students to opt for upgrade, but we want to reach out to as many applicants as possible and so, we need support from college authorities, too. We will share the list of candidates with the colleges."



Metro eye on budget today for city project push

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Kolkata: The Airport-New Metro, which received the highest allocation of Rs 1,791 crore in the interim budget may get more funds in the general budget on Tuesday. The Orange Line aims to extend the service 8 km beyond Ruby crossing till Metropolitan by Dec. All eyes will be trained on East-West Metro, which is expected to complete the 16km corridor with services at either end being bridged after trains start plying between Sealdah and Esplanade. The Salt Lake-Howrah Maidan Green Line had received an allocation of Rs 900 crore.

The East-West Metro, which currently operates in two disjointed stretches, one between Sector V and Sealdah and the other between Esplanade and Howrah Maidan, has an interface with the Orange Line at Sector V. When E-W's 2.5km Esplanade-Sealdah section is completed, passengers can board the metro from Howrah Maidan, cover 16km under the Hooghly to Sector V, switch over to the Orange Line and alight at any of the stations on Salt Lake bypass and EM Bypass.

The 3km Noapara-Dum Dum Cantonment section or Phase 1 of the Yellow Line under safety checks in March. "We expect the section to

INTERIM BUDGET ALLOCATIONS

New Garia-Airport (29km): ₹1,791.3 cr against last year's ₹1,700 cr
Joka-Esplanade (14km): ₹1,208.61 cr against last year's ₹1,350 cr
East-West Metro (16km): ₹900 cr against last year's ₹1,000 cr
Noapara-Barasat via Airport (18km): ₹200 cr against last year's ₹650 cr



The Airport-New Garia Metro is expected to extend the service 8 km beyond Ruby crossing till Metropolitan by Dec

be launched any time," a railway official said. The 16km Noapara-Barasat Metro or the Yellow Line received a paltry Rs 200 crore because of land logjams beyond airport. But the airport 'Jai Hind' station was shaping up fast and might be connected to the Yellow Line in the next few months, an official said. He said more funds might be allocated for the Yellow Line in the budget as a major hurdle in the way of the airport-New Barrackpore section had been cleared with Airports Authority of India allowing the use of 18m-tall cranes at the construction site. AAI has also given the NOC to Metro Railway to work outside the air-

port and Micheal Nagar. Commuters can ride all the way from Ruby crossing (Orange Line) to Dum Dum Cantonment because the 5.5km New Garia-Ruby line has an interchange with the North-South or Blue Line at New Garia. Once the Yellow Line opens, Noapara will have two metro lines—the existing Blue Line that terminates at Dakshineswar and the new Yellow Line that will go up to Dum Dum Cantonment. Hectic work is on in the 5km underground section of the Joka-Esplanade or Purple Line, which received Rs 1,200 crore in Feb. Construction of the Victoria Metro station has started.

22 airport touts nabbed in 3 days

Tamagna Banerjee & Mayukh Sengupta | TNN

Kolkata: Airport cops have arrested 22 touts in the past three days. TOI had written on July 19 how taxi touts were back at Kolkata airport, cashing in on a spike in domestic passenger footfall owing to a rise in business traffic and because of many students traversing in and out of the city in the admission season. During multiple visits, touts and drivers were found standing outside gates 1A/B, 2A/B and 4A/B, approaching passengers and following them even when many declined their services.

Following the crackdown, TOI found the number of touts diminishing sharply and passengers enjoying a peaceful exit out of the integrated terminal. While some touts were still spotted approaching passengers near the taxi kiosks, most flyers heaved a sigh of relief.

"We have intensified our drive against touts and the arrests will continue on a regular basis till touting is eliminated from the airport premises," said an officer.

According to sources, cops had arrested nine men on July 19, six on July 20 and seven on July 21.

Along with touts, cops have also started booking app bikers who have been found picking up passengers from outside the airport's arrival zone. "While app bikes are permitted to drop off passengers at the airport, they are not allowed to enter the facility to pick up riders since there is an absence of a system to collect access fees from the bikers," the officer said.

Frequent flyers appreciated the cop drive and urged them to continue the same. "An airport is the most prominent and prestigious gateway to the city and the presence of touts approaching passengers the moment they come out of the terminal tarnishes the city's image. We are accustomed to such scenes at railway stations but such menace at airports should not be tolerated. The cops are taking the right step and should continue with the drive to erase the menace," said Dwaipayan Roy, a frequent flyer of Behala who frequently flies between Kolkata and Delhi.



TOI JULY 19, 2024

HC lawyers protest after cop assault in S 24 Pgns

Subrata Chattoraj | TNN

Kolkata: Business in the Calcutta High Court came to a halt on Monday due to lawyers' protest following an assault on a high court advocate at the Nepalganj police outpost under Bishnupur police station in South 24 Parganas on Sunday.

The incident had happened when lawyer Sourav Mandal accompanied his client to the Nepalganj police outpost over a land dispute.

Calcutta High Court lawyers stayed away from the court rooms following a resolution adopted by the Calcutta High Court Bar Association. Association secretary Sanjay Prasad Dalapati drew the attention of the chief justice of the Calcutta High Court on this matter.

The association chose to do a rethink only after senior police officers came to the high court on Monday afternoon and tendered a written apology for what had happened on Sunday. The association, however, did not immediately withdraw its strike and said it will meet again at 10.30 am on Tuesday.



The daylong cease-work on Monday will impact the case disposal in Calcutta High Court

Diamond Harbour SP Rahul Goswami also served a show-cause notice to sub-inspector Sudipto Sanyal on Monday and sought a reply on the same day. The SP in the show-cause, wanted an explanation from the sub-inspector on the unlikely behaviour of one of the members of the "disciplined force". Cops ordered an inquiry into the incident.

Advocate Sourav Mandal complained that police officer on duty Sudipta Sanyal

had joined the discussion drunk and started abusing the lawyer and his client. Mandal, in his written complaint to the director general of police, stated that Sanyal had dragged the lawyer to the floor and beat him mercilessly. Mandal was injured and had to be rushed to Amtala rural hospital.

The high court advocate appealed to the police brass for preserving the CCTV footage at the Nepalganj police outpost on Sunday. Mandal also complained that the sub-inspector had threatened the advocate saying that he would be implicated in a narcotics case.

The day-long cease-work will impact the case disposal in Calcutta High Court. The HC has 1.6 lakh pending cases in the appellate side and another 16,720 cases pending in its original side, according to the National Judicial Data Grid. In June, the HC's appellate side was able to dispose 4,267 cases and the original side was able to dispose 212 cases. The HC now has 34 permanent judges and 10 additional judges. The sanctioned strength of the HC is 72.

Civic waste sliding down Darj hill slopes

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Kolkata: An expert committee formed by the NGT bench of Justice B Amit Shalekar and Arun Verma has found huge dumping of municipal solid waste at Amar Jyoti Gram in Darjeeling by the Darjeeling Municipality. The waste has been sliding down the mountain slope nearly 100 meters, confirming the concerns raised by green activist Subhas Datta.

During consultations with Darjeeling Municipality officials, the committee discovered

NGT PANEL

plans for a scientific waste collection and disposal system. A new segregation and processing unit is being developed near Mukti Dham, 100 meters downhill from the current dumping site.

The panel recommended an immediate halt to MSW dumping at Amar Jyoti to comply with the Solid Waste Management Rules. They also warned that the accumulated waste could release large amount of methane, posing fire risk.

'Italian cuisine is gaining popularity'

Continued from P 1

Pizza, pasta, risotto and lasagna were now as popular in Kolkata as Chinese fried rice and chilli chicken, said Hrishi Bajoria, owner of Chillis Grill & Bar, which has several Italian dishes on its menu. "Till recently, eating out would mean ordering Chinese and Mughlai, but now an Italian spread is

Italian cuisine, we have seen a consistent spurt in demand every year," said Anjan Chatterjee, chairman, Speciality Restaurants. He added that pizza and pasta had graduated from being fast food to fine-dine choices.

Pradip Rozario, owner of KK's Fusion, said when he introduced Italian cuisine 25 years ago, there were not many takers. "There were hard-

WHERE KOLKATA DINES

Fine-dining restaurants | 33%
Quick service | 21%
Casual dining | 17%
Food courts | 12%
Cafes | 6%
Others | 11%



just as popular," he added. Places like Café Mezzuna, Serafina, Chillis Grill & Bar, Sorano, Beanshot, Pepe Rosa and Makati are now serving dishes like pizza Carbonara, pasta Aglio e Olio or ravioli flying off shelves. Even cafes that have sprung up in residential neighbourhoods thrive on Italian orders. "At Café Mezzuna, which serves

any Italian restaurants in the city then. But now, at KK's, the demand for Italian food is increasing," he said. Most restaurateurs feel Chinese cuisine will never lose its popularity in Kolkata. "Italian is growing in popularity, but Chinese food retains its hold," said Bajoria, who opened Royal China four years ago.

6 brain-eating amoeba cases in a year

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Kolkata: Institute of Neurosciences Kolkata (INK) has detected six cases within a year of an infection where a rare amoeba eats into the human brain. One patient is still under treatment. Doctors wondered if immunological changes due to Covid-19 have pushed this amoeba to infect humans more often.

The brain-eating amoeba causes a condition called Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM) with 90% mortality. Kolkata reported the first PAM case in 2015, in which a teenager succumbed during treatment. Another case was reported in SSKM this Jan, which TOI reported.

90% MORTALITY

The amoeba causes a neurological condition called PAM, which has 90% mortality
Found in fresh warm water, it enters the body through the nose, enters the brain and feeds on cerebral tissues, destroying the central nervous system
Symptoms include fever, headache, vomiting, convulsions, disorientation and unconsciousness

Now, there have been six cases in a single hospital in a span of a year.

"In 2023, we got two cases which we reported in the Indian Academy of Neurology

and we detected four in the past few months. We need to have an epidemiological study to search for the reason behind the spurt," said neurologist A Shobhana, senior consultant in critical care, stroke, and tropical neurology, INK.

While immunocompromised individuals are susceptible to infection, some patients at the Park Circus hospital were seemingly healthy ones. According to experts, there are four genera of such amoebas: Naegleria, Acanthamoeba, Balamuthia and Sappinia, all of which cause central nervous system (CNS) infections. Transmission to humans occurs through inhalation of infested water. Although risk of infections has been reported to be high in re-

creational water sports, the Indian subcontinent has reported cases in people not involved in such activities as well. "In 20% cases, no clear source of infection may be detected. Out of the six cases in our hospital, only one had exposure to a swimming pool," Shobhana said.

Treatment includes administering medicines inside the fluid-containing areas in the brain. Some may require surgery for complications, like hydrocephalus. While fever, headache, vomiting, alteration in sensorium and convulsions are common manifestations, classic symptoms may be absent, especially in the elderly, who may exhibit change in behaviour, memory loss or locomotor problems.

BMC puts up notices banning fire for cooking inside mkts

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Kolkata: Following a decision taken by Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation (BMC) last Dec, prohibiting use of fire for cooking on the premises of stand-alone community markets in Salt Lake, BMC has started putting up notices at all the markets on the same.

"Action will be taken against those who flout the rule," said BMCMMIC (markets) Rajesh Chirimar. The civic body



One of the notices at a market

will also send a list of repeat offenders to the fire and emergency services department.

The decision to ban use of fire to cook inside markets was taken after one person died and 14 were injured after a gas cylinder in a road side eatery exploded in the Kestopur Rabindrapalli locality. This year, too, a fire incident occurred in a Salt Lake market.

Officials said other cooking methods, like induction cookers, could be allowed.

Most of the shopkeepers running eateries or pice hotels in the markets said BMC should arrange for some alternative space nearby for them to cook. "For food like chowmein or rolls, customers don't like them pre-made. And these can't be prepared on induction cookers," said an eatery staffer at a market.

Russel St hawkers to get stalls at street-food hub

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Kolkata: The Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) has decided to accommodate food hawkers of Russel Street in the newly built street-food stalls. These food hawkers are currently encroaching on the carriageway, which is not permissible according to Town Vending Committee rules. If everything goes according to plan, KMC will open these stalls by the middle of Aug.

According to a KMC official, since the civic body has constructed 32 food stalls under a scheme to set up street-food hubs in the city, it will be easier for them to rehabilitate the hawkers there. "We ha-



TOI JULY 15, 2024

ve decided to make the best use of the newly constructed food stalls for the rehabilitation of food hawkers who have been facing an eviction threat, especially after a city-wide drive against encroachment of public property," the civic official said.

According to a KMC official, this is the first rehabilitation package being offered to the city's food hawkers after the anti-encroachment drive was launched more than three weeks ago. The street-food stalls have been built by the KMC slum development department.

The food hawkers on Russel Street offer office-goers a variety of street food, ranging from masala muri to chowmein, and from kichu-

32 STALLS BUILT



The hawkers on Russel Street will be relocated to the new stalls by the middle of Aug

The KMC scheme is quite lucrative — we will be accommodated at the new stalls and the KMC won't charge us for that

Makhanlal Das | FOOD HAWKER

We have identified 32 hawkers at the food zone and accordingly built the same number of stalls for their rehabilitation

A KMC official

ri to sweets. According to Makhanlal Das, a food hawker on Russel Street who supplies lunch to office-goers, the hawkers were told to apply for possession of stalls by producing documents that would establish the hawker's rights and make him eligible for the stall. "The scheme that the KMC has offered is quite lucrative. We will be accommodated at the new stalls and the KMC won't charge us for that," said Shaw.

Binod Das, who sells south Indian dishes, said he was apprehensive of being ousted after the KMC-cop joint drive against encroachment on carriageways three weeks ago. "I was tense till the KMC officials visited my stall on the carriageway and assured me that I would be given a space on the pavement. I hope the distribution of stalls begins as soon as possible," Das said. According to a KMC official, the civic body has conducted a survey on the existing nature of food business on Russel Street and will draw lots for distribution of the stalls soon. "We have identified 32 hawkers at the food zone and accordingly built the same number of stalls for their rehabilitation," the official said.

S and N 24 Pgns, Darj have most bird species with declining population trend

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Kolkata: South 24 Parganas, Darjeeling and North 24 Parganas have the most number of high-priority bird species in Bengal. The state is home to 895 bird species, spread over 88,752 square kilometres, said the Bengal State of State of India's Bird (SOIB) Report, 2023, that was released during the Bengal Birders' Meet in the city on Monday. It was also announced that this winter, the state may kick off a project to map distribution and abundance of birds for the first time to prepare a bird atlas.

According to the SOIB report, baya weaver (baya tanti), pied cuckoo (chatak) and house sparrow numbers are declining in Bengal compared to the national trend over the last eight years. "While South 24 Parganas

BENGAL HIGHLIGHTS

895 species in 88,752 sq-km habitat
S 24 Pgns, N 24 Pgns, Darj have most high-priority species, like brown-winged kingfisher, rufous-necked hornbill & great parrotbill
Baya weaver, pied cuckoo & house sparrow populations declining compared to national trend



Brown-winged kingfisher

has 59 high-priority species, Darjeeling has 50 and North 24 Parganas has 48," the report said. High-priority species are those whose population shows a trend of decline during the exercise.

However, Ashwin Vishwanathan of Nature Conservation Foundation's (NCF) bird monitoring team said the baya weaver, pied cuckoo and house sparrow are not on the priority list in Bengal as they still have a large and diverse

range across India. The report also highlighted district-wise high-priority species, like brown-winged kingfisher in South 24 Parganas, rufous-necked hornbill in Alipurduar and Darjeeling and the great parrotbill in Darjeeling. According to the report, North and South Dinajpur and Cooch Behar need more birding as the lowest number of bird lists were uploaded from there. Talking about the bird at-

las, Birdwatchers' Society (BWS) secretary Sujan Chatterjee said the initiative is likely to span three years and will focus on covering at least 50% of the habitat across the state by then.

The state will be divided into 6-km grids, each segmented into 36 sub-grids of 1 sq-km. These sub-cells will be monitored four times annually, in summer, monsoon, winter and spring, to map the nature of habitats and record bird species found in them, said Chatterjee on the sidelines of the meet, a collaborative effort by Birdwatchers' Society, eBird and Bird Count India.

According to Praveen J of NCF's bird monitoring team, each sub-grid will be surveyed with a focus on recording the species, their migratory or passage migratory status, and whether they are juvenile or breeding.



SHARAD PAWAR MEETS MAHA CM EKNATH SHINDE, DISCUSSES MARATHA-OBC QUOTA ISSUE

INDEPENDENT LS SEAT RIVAL WHO LOST CHALLENGES AMRITPAL VICTORY IN HC, SAYS HE CONCEALED INFO



B'luru police slap FIR on 2 ED officials for 'bid to frame CM'

Complaint By State Official Gives Tribal Fund Scam New Turn

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@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: The tribal fund scam in Karnataka took a new turn on Monday as Bengaluru city police registered an FIR against two top Enforcement Directorate officials based on a complaint filed by a social welfare department officer accusing ED officials of pressuring him to implicate the chief minister, finance department and former minister B Nagendra in the scam.

Kallesh B, additional director of the department, stated in his complaint that ED had summoned him over the phone on July 16 for investigation into the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation.

Wilson Garden police registered a case under BNS for



criminal intimidation, intentional insult, and criminal liability when two or more individuals act with common intention. They mentioned an official identified only by his surname Mittal as accused No. 1 and one Muruli Kannan as accused No. 2 in the FIR.

Kallesh said, "I appeared before ED assistant director Muruli Kannan, who asked

Additional director of social welfare department Kallesh B claimed before police that he was pressured to implicate Siddaramaiah (in pic), ex-minister B Nagendra and the department in the tribal welfare fund scam

me 17 questions. I answered all the questions except three, for which I sought time as I had to source documents and check with my subordinates. Kannan agreed and asked me to appear before him for questioning at 2pm on July 18."

Kallesh alleged the ED official did not give any endorsement for his statements. "However, he started to ask questions orally. He told me

that transferring the corporation fund to the MG Road branch was wrong. So I clarified that I had transferred the money according to a govt order on March 25, and the illegal transfer of the fund was done on March 5. I did not commit any mistake. After my clarification, he threatened he would arrest me and I would not get bail for two years," Kallesh stated.

He claimed Kannan had assured him that ED would help him if he confessed that there was an instruction from former minister Nagendra and the finance department. Kallesh said that Kannan sent him to Mittal, an IRS officer in the ED office. "Mittal abused and pressured me (to make statements against CM and Nagendra)," Kallesh said, requesting police to take action against the ED officials.

Suraj Revanna granted bail in two cases, set to walk out of prison today

Bengaluru: JD(S) MLC Suraj Revanna, who was arrested over allegations of unnatural sex, was granted conditional bail in both the cases registered against him, by a special court in Bengaluru on Monday.

In the first case, filed by a 27-year-old JD(S) functionary at Holenarasipura Rural police station in Hassan district of Karnataka, Suraj got regular bail, while in the second case filed by the MLC's 30-year-old close aide at the same police station, he got anticipatory bail.

According to sources, Suraj may be released from the Central Prison, Parappana Agrahara, on Tuesday. The bail conditions stipulate that Suraj must not threaten prosecution witnesses or complainants, tamper with evidence or meet the victims directly or indirectly. He was told to submit his passport and was also barred from leaving the state without obtaining a written permission from the court.

The MLC was directed to appear before the investigating officer (IO) on every second Sunday of the month between 9 am and 5 pm for the next six months or until a chargesheet is filed. Additionally, he is required to appear before the IO whenever called for the purpose of the probe. **TNN**

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Punjab man gets 70-year jail term for triple murder

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Patiala: A district and sessions court in Ropar, Punjab, has sentenced a man from Morinda town to 70 years in jail for the murder of his wife, sister-in-law and wife's nephew, besides injuring another nephew.

District and sessions judge Ramesh Kumari agreed with the additional public prosecutor that the convict, Alam, was guilty of both murder and attempt to murder. He was awarded three life sentences of 20 years each for the triple murder and a 10-year jail term for the attempt to murder. The order, pronounced Saturday, made it clear that the sentences will run consecutively.

On the night of June 3, 2020, Alam had hacked to death his wife Kajal, sister-in-law Jaspreet Kaur and Jaspreet's son Sahil, with an axe, while they were asleep at his wife's parental house. He also attacked and tried to kill Jaspreet's second son, Bobby, but he survived.

In Feb 2021, police framed charges against Alam, and the trial concluded on July 20, 2024.

Assam cash-for-job scam: APSC ex-chief among 32 convicted

Mukut.Das@timesofindia.com

Guwahati: A former chairperson of Assam Public Service Commission (APSC) and 29 agricultural development officers appointed during his stint were among 32 people convicted Monday by a special court in a 2014 jobs-for-cash scam that was under probe for eight years. Special judge Dipak Thakuria acquitted 11 people, seven of them officers whose appointments were under a cloud.

The court held ex-APSC chief Rakesh Kumar Paul, two former members of the commission Samedur Rahman and Basanta Kumar Doley and the 29 officers who bribed their way to govt jobs guilty of cheating, criminal conspiracy and forgery under sections of IPC and Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

Special judge Thakuria said Paul violated the Assam Agriculture Service Rules, 1980, by injudiciously awarding marks to the beneficiary candidates for "additional qualification and experience".

"The convicted APSC trio also did not allow principal controller of examina-



tions to perform his duty. In the name of selecting right candidates, they (commission) selected their favoured candidates."

The judge said that some deserving candidates were disqualified in the bargain by unfairly reducing their marks while publishing the merit list. "The entire interview process was a mockery of procedure."

The court ordered the convicts be taken into judicial custody till their sentencing. It said the onus was now on the state govt to build public confidence in the recruitment process.

Court rejects Khedkar mom's bail plea in murder bid case

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Pune: A magisterial court on Monday rejected the bail plea of **Manorama Khedkar**, mother of probationary IAS officer Pujja Khedkar, in an attempted murder, rioting, threatening, and Arms Act violation case.

Pune Rural police's local crime branch produced Manorama before the magistrate following the end of her extended police remand. The court ordered her remand in magisterial custody for 14 days as the police did not press for further custodial questioning.

The police in Paud had registered a case against Manorama, her husband Dilip, and five others on July 12 after a video showing her brandishing a licensed pistol at some farmers during an argument on June 5, 2023, over a land ownership dispute at Dhadhawali village in Mulshi taluka went viral.

One of the farmers, Pandharinath Pasalkar, lodged a complaint in this connection. The crime branch arrested Manorama on July 18 at a private homestay at Hirkaniwadi in Raigad district.

Assistant public prosecutor Amar Nanaware told TOI, "Judicial magistrate first class Sudhir Barde informed the lawyers appearing in the bail matter that the court had no power to grant bail in a non-bailable offence under section 307 (attempted murder) of IPC."

The court also rejected defence lawyer Sudhir Shah's plea to grant interim bail. The plea stated that the court can exercise its discretion for such relief as his client is an elderly person suffering from a medical ailment.

Shah moved the bail application on her behalf on grounds that a woman is entitled to bail as a special privilege under Section 438 of CrP.

However, the court rejected the bail plea. A Pune court has granted Dilip Khedkar interim protection against arrest till July 25, when his anticipatory bail plea is slated for a hearing.

Amid guv stand-off, MLAs to be sworn in by speaker today

Debashis Konar & Krishnendu Bandyopadhyay | TNN

Kolkata: Amid the stand-off with governor CV Ananda Bose over the swearing-in of newly elected MLAs, the state assembly's business advisory committee on Monday decided that the four would be administered oath of office by speaker Biman Banerjee at 1pm on Tuesday.

The decision came hours after Bose wrote to Sayantika Banerjee and Reyat Hossain Sarkar — who were similarly administered oath by speaker Banerjee on July 5 — reminding them of Article 193, which penalises MLAs who have not been administered oath by the governor or his representatives.

Sayantika said: "Being an elected MLA, it was my legitimate right to take oath because I have responsibilities to the people of my constituency. The letter came to me from Raj Bhavan and I conveyed this to the appropriate authority. Now I am waiting to get instructions."

Rule 5 of Chapter II of the rules of business of the assembly, which was cited to administer oaths to Banerjee and Sarkar, would be applied on Tuesday as well, sources said.

The MLAs — Supti Pandey, Mukutmani Adhikari, Krishna Kalyani and Madhuparna Thakur — were elected in the bypoll held on July 10. Parliamentary affairs minister Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay had written to the governor seeking a time for the swearing-in but was not given any. Raj Bhavan, instead, shot back some queries. Chattopadhyay said the speaker was well within his rights to administer oaths to MLAs at the start of a session.

Bose has sent a report to President Droupadi Murmu on the matter. The governor argues that if there is any legal conflict, a constitutional provision that allows him to administer oath should supersede other rules. He has also referred to several judicial orders on the primacy of the governor in certain legislative duties.

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Assembly to table resolutions on NEET, new criminal laws

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: The state assembly will debate resolutions on NEET and the newly passed criminal laws this week.

In the first business advisory committee meeting for the monsoon session on Monday, it was decided that a motion under Rule 169 would be introduced on the NEET issue on Tuesday and a two-hour debate would take place on the topic on Wednesday at 11 am. On Friday, another motion against the new cri-

minal laws will be introduced and debated for an hour-and-a-half.

Speaker Biman Banerjee said the motion, demanding scrapping of NEET and restoration of the previous system of individual state govts conducting such examinations, would be moved on the floor of the House on Tuesday. The second resolution would be on the three new criminal laws introduced in India, he added.

Trinamool has strongly criticised the NEET paper leak and demanded that Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan resign. The party, and CM Mamata Banerjee, have also raised their objections to the hasty implementation of the new criminal laws without adequate consultations, both inside and outside Parliament.

The resolutions, once passed by the assembly, will be sent to President Droupadi Murmu for consideration.

Ex-Union min's son gets regular bail in Kheri violence case

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Monday granted bail to Ashish Mishra, who had been out on interim bail in the Lakhimpur Kheri (Uttar Pradesh) violence case related to the mowing down of five persons in Oct 2021.

A bench of justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan modified the earlier order of the court and made the interim bail order absolute. Mishra, son of former Union minister Ajay Mishra, was granted interim bail last year in Jan.

The apex court, which had barred Ashish Mishra from visiting the state, allowed him to stay in Lucknow after his lawyer told the court that his father was no longer a minister or member of Parliament and he could not influence the trial proceedings in the case. As Lucknow is more than 150 km away from Lakhimpur, the court allowed him to stay at the state capital.

Noting that only seven out of the 117 witnesses have been examined so far, the bench directed the trial court to expedite the proceedings and fix a time frame to wrap up the hearing and deliver the verdict.

"We direct the trial court to fix the schedule, keeping in view the other time-bound or urgent matters that are pending but prioritising the subject trial. The public prosecutor shall inform the trial court of the witnesses (not less than five) who shall be produced on the date fixed. The State shall ensure that all witnesses shall remain present," the bench said.

K'taka HC cites human error, recalls child porn judgment

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Bengaluru: Stating that "fallibility is not alien to the functions" of judges and "to immortalize an error is no heroism", Karnataka HC has recalled its own order in a child-porn case, paving the way for continuation of investigation against an accused person caught watching child porn on a website.

After recalling the order, Justice M Nagaprasanna held a fresh hearing of the petition on Friday and passed an order, observing that investigation against petitioner, M Inayathulla,

should continue as Section 67B (b) of Information Technology Act clearly opens a prosecution against a person who browses child pornographic material.

Police had registered an FIR against Inayathulla, from Hoskote town, for viewing a child pornographic site on his mobile phone in March 2023. He had challenged the action, claiming Section 67B wasn't applicable in the case as he wasn't publishing child-porn content. On July 10 this year, Justice Nagaprasanna had quashed the proceedings, holding Section 67B punishes only those who publish or transmit material

containing child pornography and the allegation against Inayathulla was that he had viewed a website.

However, the state govt submitted an application seeking recall of the order, pointing out that under Section 67B (b) of the Act, even browsing and downloading child pornography were punishable.

The state govt admitted that though an application had been filed before the trial court for invoking provisions of Section 15 of PoCSO against the petitioner, the same was, however, not brought to the notice of the high court.

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NTA has put off 16 exams since its establishment

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: National Testing Agency (NTA) has postponed at least 16 exams, mostly because of Covid since its establishment, said minister of state for education, Sukanta Majumdar.

Detailing reasons for postponement, Majumdar told DMK's Kanimozhi Karunanidhi: "Since most of the examinations conducted by NTA are held in multiple subjects, multiple shifts and span over a number of days, there have been instances due to unforeseen circumstances like Covid-19 pandemic, logistical and technical issues, administrative issues, legal orders, etc, when examination dates initially notified in respect of



DMK MP Kanimozhi shields herself from the rain in New Delhi

specific subjects or shifts could not be adhered to."

Majority of the exams conducted by NTA had to be postponed multiple times due to disruption by the pandemic in 2020 and 2021. NTA was established in 2017 and was delivering various exams from 2018.

Till then, NEET-UG was conducted by CBSE.

The data provided by the minister revealed that four exams — JEE-Main (2020), NEET-UG (2020), JEE-Mains (2021), and NEET-UG (2021) — were postponed due to Covid. Additionally, four other exams, including CSIR UGC-NET (2020), UGC-NET (Dec 2020), UGC-NET (May 2021), and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) AIEEA (2020), were postponed due to a combination of the pandemic and logistical challenges.

Delhi University Entrance Test (DUET) 2020, which was meant for admission to UG, PG, MPhil, and PhD courses, was postponed as the registration process was put on hold by

DU due to Covid. Common Management Admission Test (CMAT)-2021 was postponed due to the revision of the examination pattern by AICTE. All India Ayush Post Graduate Entrance Test (AIAPGET), 2021, and Joint Integrated Programme in Management Admission Test (JIPMAT), 2021, were also postponed due to the pandemic.

In 2022, IGNOU PhD Entrance was postponed due to administrative reasons, while in 2023, Graduate Aptitude Test Biotechnology (GAT-B) was postponed after consultation with regional centres for biotechnology. In 2024, National Common Entrance Test (NCET) was postponed due to technical issues, and CSIR-NET was postponed due to logistical issues.

HC closes PIL seeking probe into IGI canopy collapse

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi High Court on Monday closed proceedings on a PIL seeking an investigation into the recent canopy collapse at IGI airport amid heavy rain that caused the death of a taxi driver.

The court recorded the Centre's stand that a high-level expert committee had been formed to examine the incident. Separately, an FIR has been lodged.

Govt told the bench of acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela that the authorities had taken several steps, such as the registration of an FIR for alleged "death by negligence" and "hurt by an act endangering life or personal safety of others" under the Indian Penal Code.

The petitioner, Civil Safety Council of India, had sought a probe by a "multi-disciplinary special investigation team," headed by expert engineers or an agency such as CBI.



The court recorded Centre's stand that a high-level expert committee had been formed to examine the incident

lighted that within a short span of time, there were three instances of structures collapsing at three airports — in Delhi, Rajkot, and Jabalpur — raising serious concerns regarding the safety of the public and the state of structural integrity of the airports. The plea urged the court to direct that the report of the inquiry be made public.

The court was further told that all airport buildings are built in accordance with standards laid down in the National Building Code or by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), leading the court to end the proceedings.

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Centre rules out spl status for Bihar

Likely To Impact
TDP's Similar
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TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Centre has ruled out special category status for Bihar, turning down the demand of BJP's ally JD(U), a decision which will also have implications for a similar insistence by another coalition partner, TDP, for Andhra Pradesh.

► Related reports, P 9 & 13

Though the decision is significant because of the cruciality of Lok Sabha numbers of TDP and JD(U) for Modi gov't, it is a reiteration of Centre's known stance, was expected, and is unlikely to cause political risks; at least not in the near run.

Centre's stand, conveyed by junior finance minister Pankaj Chaudhary in a written reply to JD(U) member Rampreet Mandal, is based on recommendation of the 14th Finance Commission, which



The meeting saw JD(U) working president and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Jha reiterating Bihar CM Nitish Kumar's demand for special category

had cited the increase in devolution of central funds to states — from 32% to 42% — to call for doing away with the scheme for special category status, a measure devised to support backward states with incentives like tax concessions to industries willing to make investments in their jurisdictions.

Both TDP and JD(U) appear to have factored this in their political calculus. During his interactions with BJP, Andhra CM and TDP chief, N Chandrababu Naidu has

appeared to be more focused on central assistance for projects such as development of Amaravati as the new capital to substitute for Hyderabad and Polavaram dam project. At the all-party meeting on Sunday, TDP representative Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu did not raise the issue, much to the apparent annoyance of Congress, which has appeared to be egging on the party not to lower the ante on the issue.

The same meeting saw JD(U) working president and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Jha reiterating Bihar CM Nitish Kumar's demand for special category, while also showing empathy for Centre's stand and indicating his party could settle down for central assistance for fighting floods. Predictably, Lalu Prasad's RJD seized upon Centre's stand to taunt JD(U). "Nitish Kumar has assured special status for Bihar. Since Centre has refused, he should resign immediately," said Lalu.

Union minister Giriraj Singh retaliated by pointing out that Lalu kept mum when UPA denied special category status to Bihar. "When RJD is raising this issue, it makes me laugh. When Lalu bhैया used to be called a 'kingmaker' and he was playing in the lap of Congress, he could have got the special category status to Bihar," Singh said.

U'khand to split its aid for deceased soldiers between wife, parents

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Dehradun: Uttarakhand gov't is planning to divide the compensation amount offered by the state to the family of fallen soldiers between the wife and parents.

The development has come following a recent row between the wife and mother of Kirti Chakra awardee Captain Anshuman Singh in which his parents alleged that their daughter-in-law took the entire compensation amount provided by gov't and left the house without giving them any share.

If the initiative is implemented, Uttarakhand would become the first state in the country to adopt such a move.

Currently, state gov't adheres to the "next of kin" rule of the armed forces, which stipulates that the compensation is given entirely to the spouse if the fallen soldier was married. If unmarried, the compensation is given to his parents or other dependents.

Ganesh Joshi, minister of soldier welfare in Uttarakhand, said, "A meeting on the issue has been held with a few retired officers and the matter has been discussed in detail."

"At present, the state gov't offers Rs 25 lakh to the next of kin (wife, if the soldier is mar-

ried) as per the norms of the armed forces. We are, however, planning to divide that amount among the wife and parents to prevent any monetary issues in future," Joshi said, adding that a final decision would soon be taken after holding another meeting.

An official of the department mentioned that there had been cases in the past where the soldier's widow left his elderly parents to fend for themselves after receiving the compensation.

"This initiative would prevent such incidents in the future. However, the proportion in which the compensation is to be divided would be decided after contemplating on all the aspects related to the issue," the official said.

Correct flagged mistakes: Delhi HC to Bharti on Swaraj plea

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Pointing out several mistakes in a plea that challenged BJP MP Bansuri Swaraj's election, Delhi High Court on Monday adjourned the petition filed by AAP functionary Somnath Thakur to next month.

Justice Manmeet PS Arora, at the very outset of the hearing, flagged numerous typographical errors that made it difficult to understand the contents of the petition. The court highlighted that the reference to parties arrayed in the petition did not correlate with the respondents mentioned in the memo of parties and synopsis. The court gave Bharti 10 days to file a corrected petition, which will be heard on Aug 14.

When Bharti's counsel urged the court to issue notice to the respondents on the petition, the judge responded, "There are too many mistakes. Correct the petition first. I can't issue notice like this. I will simply adjourn it. Please file a corrected petition."

The petition, filed under the Representation of the People Act, alleges corrupt practices by Swaraj, her election agent, and other individuals. It also claims that former AAP minister Raaj Kumar Anand contested the election on a BSP ticket to aid Swaraj by splitting the vote share.

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Sd/- Leela Rajagopalan

COURT NOTICE

NOTICE My client has entered into an agreement for sale of a plot measuring 4 katha 2 chitak appurtenant to L.R. Dag Nos 407, 408, 414 J.L. no 75 at Mouza Dhamaitala, Touzi No. 3-5, Pargana- Magura, P.S. Sonarpur, being Holding no 39 within Ward No. 25 of Rajpur - Sonarpur Municipality along with easement rights over a 12ft. common passage, from Vendor Mrs. Shiuli Halder, w/o Mr. Narendra Nath Halder residing at Dhamaitala School Road, P.O. South Jagaddal, P.S. Sonarpur, District South 24 Parganas, Pin-700151. If anyone has any claims or objections regarding the said transfer he or she is required to contact the undersigned with proper evidence within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which the said sale transaction will be completed.

PRIYANKAR DEB SARKAR
Advocate
18, Alipore Judges' court Road,
Kolkata - 700027
Contact : 9836058982

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, PAMPA Dey, W/O Arindam Dey R/O of Ganti Saradapally, p.s. Airport, Kol. 700132 shall henceforth be known as PAMPA DEY DUTTA vide affidavit sl. no. 1345, dt. 12.07.2024 sworn before judicial magistrate 1st class at Barasat

I Jotirmoy Nandy & Jyotirmoy Nandy was counted as the same person said Alipore first class judicial Magistrate court Affidavit no:9673.

BE it known to all concerned that I, Smt. Anjali Basak, daughter of Late Gopi Krishna Basak, wife of Birendra Nath Basak residing at 35/1F/3 Umesh Mukherjee Road, Kolkata - 56 have changed my name to Anjana Basak vide Affidavit No.197 on 3rd July 2014 at the office of the First Class Judicial Magistrate in Alipore, Kolkata. Anjali Basak and Anjana Basak are one and the same person

NAME CHANGE

I, SAIMANTIKA SANBUI, daughter of Pijush Kanti Roy, wife of Saikat Sanbui, residing at IA-223, Sector-III, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700097, shall henceforth be known as SAIMANTIKA ROY SANBUI as declared before the First Class Judicial Magistrate Metropolitan Court, Kolkata, West Bengal, vide Affidavit No. 97AB/90589 dated 12.07.2024 (SAIMANTIKA SANBUI) and (SAIMANTIKA ROY SANBUI) both are same and identical person.

GENERAL

I, Pabitra Sahoo, S/o Late Priyanath Sahoo, Kultikri, Jhargram, WB, 721135, declare that my name is wrongly written as Praitra Sahoo in UTI MF being folio no. 105303825 (as a second holder). The actual name of mine is Pabitra Sahoo, which may be amended accordingly.

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Poonawala's plea to hold trial only twice a month rejected

Vineet Upadhyay
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: A Delhi court has dismissed a plea by Aaftab Poonawala, accused of murdering and chopping his live-in partner Shradha Walkar into 35 pieces, seeking only two dates per month in the ongoing trial so his counsel gets suitable time to prepare his defence.

The court of additional sessions judge (fast track court) Manisha Khurana Kakkar, in its order dated July 6, stated that Poonawala was trying to deliberately delay the trial. "The number of prosecution witnesses is excessive and considerable time is required to record the lengthy testimonies of prosecution witnesses, especially police witnesses," it stated. The court further noted that out of the 212 prosecution witnesses, 134 had been examined and consecutive hearings were necessary for examination of outstation witnesses.

The court also refused to immediately release the bones of the victim for her cremation on her father's request, saying they were required for identification by police witnesses. "However, keeping in view the fact that the father of the victim has a right to cremate the bones of his deceased daughter, the matter shall be taken up



Aaftab Poonawala is accused of murdering his live-in partner Shradha Walkar and chopping her body into 35 pieces

expeditiously on consecutive dates of hearing each month in order to conclude the prosecution evidence, after which at least some part of the bones may be released to him for cremation, at an appropriate stage of proceedings," it stated.

"Moreover, the right of the accused to a fair trial cannot be allowed to completely trump the right of the victim to a dignified cremation as well as the right of the surviving heir of the deceased to cremate the body of the deceased with dignity and respect," it added.

The court further said that these rights could not be completely thwarted by slackening the pace of the trial at the whims and fancy of the accused, who had been adequately accommodated on each date of hearing to give him ample opportunity to prepare his defence as well as to cross-examine



Shradha Walkar was the live-in partner of Aaftab Poonawala

the witnesses. Special public prosecutor Amit Prasad earlier submitted before the court that fixing two dates of hearing in a month would "severely prejudice and protract the trial" and significantly delay the trial. Recording the testimony of one police witness, constable Deepak, took seven dates, he recalled.

Walkar was allegedly strangled by Poonawala on May 18, 2022. The 6,629-page chargesheet filed by Delhi Police in Jan 2023 says Poonawala, after chopping her body into pieces, kept them in a fridge and disposed of the pieces in desolate places across the city over several days, which were discovered later. In May last year, the court had framed charges against Poonawala for the offences under sections 302 (murder) and 201 (causing the disappearance of evidence of offense) of the Indian Penal Code, 1860.

Judge recusal delays Khalid's bail plea hearing to July 24

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Former Jawaharlal Nehru University student Umar Khalid's bail plea was renounced for July 24 after one of the judges recused himself from the matter.

Justice Amit Sharma recused himself from hearing Khalid's bail plea in a UAPA case related to the alleged larger conspiracy behind the Feb 2020 riots. The matter was listed for hearing before a bench of justices Prathiba M Singh and Sharma. "This has to go before another bench," Justice Singh said. "List before another bench, of which Justice Amit Sharma is not a member, on July 24," the court ordered.

Earlier, Justice Sharma had recused himself from hearing a batch of petitions on the



2019 Jamia Millia Islamia violence, as well as the NIA's appeal seeking death sentence against terrorist Yasin Malik. Khalid, who was arrested by Delhi Police in Sept 2020, has challenged a recent trial court order that refused to grant him bail in the case. Khalid, Sharjeel Imam, and several others have been charged under the anti-terror law Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and provisions of the Indian Penal Code for allegedly being the "masterminds" of the Feb 2020 riots in the national capital, which left 53 people dead and over 700 injured.

The violence erupted during the protests against Citi-

zenship Amendment Act and National Register of Citizens.

On May 28, the trial court rejected Khalid's plea seeking regular bail for the second time, stating its previous order dismissing his first bail application had attained finality.

"When Delhi High Court has already dismissed the criminal appeal of the applicant (Khalid) vide order dated Oct 18, 2022, and thereafter, the applicant approached the Supreme Court and withdrew his petition, the order of this court as passed on March 24, 2022 (on the first bail plea), has attained finality, and now, in no stretch of imagination, this court can make an analysis of the facts of the case as desired by the applicant and consider the relief as prayed by him," the trial court had said.

Teacher locks up, beats Dalit boy for not plucking fruit

Bareilly: A student of Class 4 was "punished" by his primary school teacher for refusing to pluck fruits for her at Kuladia in Bareilly, police said. Parents alleged that their 9-year-old son was locked in a "classroom and mercilessly beaten by his teacher". Bareilly's Basic Shiksha Adhikari (BSA) suspended the teacher on Monday evening, reports Kanwardeep Singh.

Bhanwati, a daily-wage worker who lives in Biharipur Abdul Rahman village with her husband and minor son, told police her child returned home with several injuries on his shoulder and back on Saturday. Bhanwati said, "My son was crying and told me that his teacher Rani Gangwar was forcing him to climb up a 'jamun' tree and pluck fruits for her. When he refused, she locked him inside the classroom and thrashed him continuously for nearly two hours."

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GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
North Bengal Development Department
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
E.E., NBDD, invites online e-Tender vide e-NIT No. 15 (SI/No. 01 to 03) of 2024-25 of E.E. NBDD. Details will be seen from the Office of the Executive Engineer, North Bengal Development Department, at the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in and www.wbndtenders.gov.in.
ICA-T12015(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
North Bengal Development Department
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
E.E., NBDD, invites online e-Tender vide e-NIT No. 14 of 2024-25 of E.E. NBDD. Details will be seen from the Office of the Executive Engineer, North Bengal Development Department, at the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in and www.wbndtenders.gov.in.
ICA-T12014(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
North Bengal Development Department
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
E.E., NBDD, invites online e-Tender vide e-NIT No. 16 (SI/No. 01 to 03) of 2024-25 of E.E. NBDD. Details will be seen from the Office of the Executive Engineer, North Bengal Development Department, at the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in and www.wbndtenders.gov.in.
ICA-T12016(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
North Bengal Development Department
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
E.E., NBDD, invites online e-Tender vide e-NIT No. 13 (SI/No. 01 to 03) of 2024-25 of E.E. NBDD. Details will be seen from the Office of the Executive Engineer, North Bengal Development Department, at the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in and www.wbndtenders.gov.in.
ICA-T12013(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Notice Inviting e-Quotation
NIEQ No. PHE/NTK/SC/NE/Q/01/2024-25-CORRIDGEM AND ADDENDUM NO-1 is uploaded by the Superintending Engineer, New Town Kolkata W/S Circle, PHE Dte. Details information about the corrigendum is available in the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in
ICA-T12048(3)/2024

e-Tender Notice
Hooghly Zilla R.M.C. invites e-Tender vide N.I.T. No. 33/R1/HZRM/SL/1/2024-2025 Date : 22.07.2024. Last date of submission is 23.07.2024 upto 11.00 P.M. The details of the e-Tenders are available on the website <https://www.wbtenders.gov.in>
Secretary
Hooghly Zilla R.M.C.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
West Bengal State Warehousing Corporation
TENDER NOTICE
Tender ID: 2024_WBSCW_716801_1
WBSCW invites e-tenders from professionally qualified and reputed supply oriented agency for on-site supply of Quality Control Equipment at the godowns located at several places of West Bengal under WBSCW. For details, please visit the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in and www.wbndtenders.gov.in.
Closing Date: 10/08/2024 upto 16:00 Hrs. Sd/- Managing Director, WBSCW.
ICA-T12006(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
WBAGR/SC/JAL/NIT(e)-1/24-25, dated-15/07/2024
<https://wbtenders.gov.in>
E-Tender is invited by the Percentage of Rate basis for the execution of Soil Conservation Works under RAD CC during 2024-25, in three clusters of Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar and Siliguri. Last date of application for Tender Paper is 03.08.2024 up to 15:00 hours. For details, visit the site or Office of the Asst. DA (Admin), Soil Conservation, Jalpaiguri 735101. Sd/- Director of Agriculture, West Bengal.
ICA-T12004(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
e-Tenders is invited by the Commissioner of Police, Kolkata Supply & Installation of 2000 mtrs. Speed Retarder for Traffic Vign of Kolkata Police. The last date for submission of the tender is on 06.08.2024 up to 15.00 hours. The NIT Document and other details will be available in the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in and www.wbndtenders.gov.in.
ICA-T12018(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
e-Tender is hereby invited by the Assistant Engineer, RCFA Division-I, PHE Dte. Vivekananda Pali, Ismile West, Asansol-1, for 28(Twenty-Eight) nos. of works of different water supply scheme under RCFA Division-I, PHE Dte. (As per the attached schedule of work e-NIT). NIT No. 02/2024-25/AE/IR/RC/ID/PHE Dte. (Memo No. 1757/RC/ID dt. 18.07.2024). Last date of Bid Submission:-31.07.2024, Ph-0341-2284210. For details visit www.wbtenders.gov.in
ICA-T12045(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
On behalf of the Governor of West Bengal, E-Tender is invited by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Diamond Harbour Health District, South 24 Parganas, Pin-743331 for Repair & Renovation works to set up X-Ray rooms at Kulpri RH, Magrahat RH & Sagar RH under PHMD from resourceful eligible agency having experience in similar nature of works. Technical & Financial Bid Submission Closing Date: 30.07.2024 upto 5.00 P.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in website. Please visit the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in or the Office of the Undersigned. Sd/-CMOH, Dh/24 Parganas.
ICA-T12042(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
Superintending Engineer, Western Electrical Circle, PHE Dte, invites online e-Tender for the work of Repair and Renovation of CBS(Ortho) including all adjoining rooms and corridor and toilets under PHMD from resourceful eligible agency having experience in similar nature of works. Technical & Financial Bid Submission Closing Date: 30.07.2024 upto 5.00 P.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of N.I.Q. and Tender documents may be downloaded from: <http://www.wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- S.K. Biswas, Superintending Engineer, P.W.D. Western Electrical Circle.
ICA-T12073(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
e-NIT No. WBW/EE/KID/IVISION/e-NIT-03 (e)/2024-25 under Kaldwip Irrigation Division, Kaldwip
Online e-tender is being invited for the undersigned for (a) four nos. of work amounting to tender value ranging from Rs.2.48 Lakh to Rs.9.74 Lakh. Last date of submission of online bid 30.07.2024 upto 12:00 Hrs. All necessary details may be obtained from West Bengal Government e-Tender portal www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- E.E., KID.
ICA-T11987(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE OF WEST BENGAL STATE WAREHOUSING CORPORATION (A STATUTORY CORPORATION) OF SE. WB. Sd/-
NIT No. 09/2ND CALL of 2024-25 of WBSCW
WBAGR/SC/JAL/NIT(e)-1/24-25, dated-15/07/2024
REPAIR OF WEIGH BRIDGE RAMP APPROACH ROAD AT DUBRAJPUR RIDE (WBAGR/SC/JAL/NIT(e)-1/24-25) OF SUBMISSION- 29.07.2024. For details, visit the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in and www.wbndtenders.gov.in.
ICA-T12007(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-NIT No. WBW/EE/NDID/e-NIT-3 of 2024-25
Executive Engineer, North Dinajpur Irrigation Division, Raiganj Uttar Dinajpur invites e-Tender (online) for Eight nos. of works vide e-NIT No. WBW/EE/NDID/e-NIT-3 of 2024-25. Notice Memo No-345 dated. 16.07.2024 of the EE/NDID. Document Download start date is 23/07/2024 at 11:00 hours. Bid submission start date is 29/07/2024 at 17:00 hours. For details visit the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in and www.wbndtenders.gov.in.
ICA-T12025(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (N.I.T. No. 07/2024-25) (Abridged e-Tender)
E-Tender, in prescribed form in two parts viz. Technical & Financial Bids is invited for the work: 1. Re-furbishment / Repair of D.H.FWS/PHED/2024-25 of Jetty including Link Platform, Passenger waiting Area and lighting arrangement with Solar system for the jetty, at Burul Ferry Ghat in the District of South 24 Parganas. For details visit the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Superintending Engineer, WBTDIC Ltd.
ICA-T12021(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
On behalf of the Governor of West Bengal, E-Tender is invited by the CMOH, Dakshin Dinajpur for following e-tender: 1. Tender No. DHFWS/PHED/2024-25 dated 18.07.2024 for Selection of Agency for distribution of free spectacles, from resourceful, eligible agency having experience in similar nature of works. Bid Submission Closing Date: 12.08.2024 upto 5.00 P.M. Corrigendum (e-tender), Please visit the website www.wbtenders.gov.in or the Office of the Undersigned. Sd/-CMOH, D/Dinajpur
ICA-T12035(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
On behalf of the Governor of West Bengal, E-Tender is invited by the CMOH, Dakshin Dinajpur for following e-tender: 1. Tender No. DHFWS/PHED/2024-25 dated 18.07.2024 from resourceful, eligible agency having experience in similar nature of works. Bid Submission Closing Date: 30.07.2024 at 04.00 P.M. For Detail (e-tender), Please visit the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in or the Office of the Undersigned. Sd/-CMOH, D/Dinajpur
ICA-T12040(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTIFICATION REGARDING e-TENDER
Quotations along with necessary testimonials are invited in prescribed form for participation in e-TENDER process published on 16/07/2024 in the website <http://www.wbtenders.gov.in> for purchasing laboratory instrument and equipments for Soil Testing Laboratory, WRMS, Ranaghat, Nadia under Soil Health and Fertility Scheme, 2023-24 and 2024-25. The last date for participation in the e-TENDER process, 29/07/2024. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Office Joint Director of Agriculture, Water Management Research Station, Ranaghat, Nadia. ICA-T11991(1)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
Dy. Director of Agriculture(Admin), Purba Medinipur invites item rate tender of different Micro Nutrients against tender No. WBAGR/DDA (ADMN)/PUBRA MED/NE/01/2024-25 (2nd Call) and WBAGR/DDA (ADMN)/PUBRA MED/NE/02/2024-25 (2nd Call). Details of work and office hours or in website: <https://wbtenders.gov.in> Publishing date: 22.07.2024 at 16:00 hrs. Bid submission start date is 29.07.2024 at 11:00 hrs. Bid submission end Dt. - 12.08.2024 at 15:00 hrs. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Sunderbans Delta Project Research Institute, Hiji, Kharagpur. ICA-T12001(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Office of the Deputy Director of Agriculture (S&W), Birbhum
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
NIT No. 03/PIA/PMSV/WDC/2/2024-25, Dated: 15.07.2024 for supply of Mixed Horticultural Orchards (16 Nos.) at different places of Suri-I Block, Birbhum District under PMSV WDC 2.0. Details of work and office hours or in website: <https://wbtenders.gov.in> Publishing date: 22.07.2024 at 16:00 hrs. Bid submission start date is 29.07.2024 at 11:00 hrs. Bid submission end Dt. - 12.08.2024 at 15:00 hrs. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Sunderbans Delta Project Research Institute, Hiji, Kharagpur. ICA-T11999(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Office of the CMOH, DH&FWS, Purba Medinipur
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
NIT No. 02/2024-25, HFW, 715488-1
NIT Memo No. CMOH/PHMD/4239/2024-25 Dt. 16.07.2024
e-Tenders are invited for supply of "Working Tea Tiffin Lunch" by the CMOH & Secretary, DH&FWS, Purba Medinipur. Technical & Financial Bid Submission Closing Date: 30.07.2024 at 3.00 P.M. For Detail, Please visit the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in and www.wbndtenders.gov.in or the Office of the Undersigned. Sd/- Chief Officer of Health, Purba Medinipur. ICA-T12037(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
e-Tender of NIT No. 05 of 2024-25 by the E.E./Diamond Harbour Highway Division, EE, Diamond Harbour Hwy Div, Dakshin Haat, Diamond Harbour 743331 invites on line percentage rate tender whose ID No. 2024_S1/21366-2. The details can be obtained from the website <https://wbtenders.gov.in> or office notice board. Corrigendum or Addendum if issued will be published only on website previously mentioned. Documents download end date (online) & Bid submission start date (online) is 07.08.2024 upto 14.00 Hrs. Sd/- EE, Diamond Harbour Highway Division P.W.(Roads) Directorate, Govt. of WB ICA-T12064(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
e-N.I.T. No. WBW/EE/KCD/2/eNIT-04/2024-25(2ND CALL), On behalf of the Governor of WB, the Executive Engineer, Kangsabati Canals Division-I, Khata invites online e-tender. Online bid submission end date: 30.07.2024 till 11:00 Hrs IST. Details may be seen in the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Kangsabati Canals Division-I, Khata. ICA-T12047(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Abridged Notice Inviting e-Tender
NIT No. WBFO/DIR-SFTI/HULI/e-NIT 13/SPAP of 2024-25 and WBFO/DIR-SFTI/HULI/e-NIT 14/SPAP of 2024-25
Director, State Forest Training Institute, Hiji invites Tenders from eligible bidders/suppliers having similar work experience for "12th Batch (1)One) Month Promotee Frontline Staff Training Course (FG) at SFTI, Hiji". Interested bidder may visit the website: www.westbengalforest.gov.in or www.wbtenders.gov.in or the office of the undersigned for more details and the last date for online bid submission is 30.07.2024 upto 3:00 p.m. Sd/- Forest Officer, WBFS, State Forest Training Institute, Hiji, Kharagpur. ICA-T12005(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
i. WBSD/EE/CE/II/ NIT-01(e)/2024-25
ii. WBSD/EE/CE/II/ NIT-02(e)/2024-25
e-Tenders are invited by the Executive Engineer, Civil Engineering Division-1, Sundarban Development Board from the reliable bonafide resourceful contractors for the Construction of Concrete Road, Water and Bridge in Sagar, Kaldwip, & Patanchima Block of South 24 Pargana, West Bengal. Details may be had from the office of the Executive Engineer, Civil Engineering Division-1, Sundarban Development Board, at the office hours or in website: <https://wbtenders.gov.in> Publishing date: 22.07.2024 at 16:00 hrs. Bid submission start date is 29.07.2024 at 11:00 hrs. Bid submission end Dt. - 12.08.2024 at 15:00 hrs. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Civil Engineering Division-1, Sundarban Development Board. ICA-T11985(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
No-WBWI/EE/SDF/RR/eNIT-03/2024-25
E-Tender is hereby invited by the Executive Engineer, SDF/RR for the eligible bonafide contractor for the SURVEY WORK: 1. Various types of meteorological data collection and dissemination such as rainfall data, wind direction data, humidity, sea wave data, water level data, sediment sample & water sample etc in the District Purba Medinipur under River Research Institute, Sunderbans Delta Project Research Institute, Hiji, Kharagpur. ICA-T11992(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No. WBW/EE/MBD/ NIT No-02(e) of 2024-25
On behalf of the Governor of West Bengal, e-tender is invited by the undersigned for 02(two) no. of works under Mahananda Barrage Division, I & W Dte. Online Bid Submission closing date is 30.07.2024 at 17:30 Hrs. Other details of work and office hours or in website: www.wbtenders.gov.in and www.wbndtenders.gov.in. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Mahananda Barrage Division, Tinbati More, Siliguri. ICA-T12027(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
Executive Engineer, Birbhum Highway Division II, P.W. (Roads) Directorate invites online e-tender for the work of 1) Boring and sinking of submersible pump for water supply to the Bolpur Inspection Bungalow and the office of Bolpur Highway Division-I, under the Birbhum Highway Division-I in the District of Birbhum during 2024-2025 (3rd call). Estimated Amount :- 1) Rs. 801622.00 e-NIT No. 3, S.I-1 of 2024-25. Details of work and office hours or in website: <https://wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer, Birbhum Highway Division II, P.W. (Roads) Directorate, Govt. of WB ICA-T12063(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
Executive Engineer, Bishnupur Division, PWD invites online Tender for the work of 1. Mending of cracks & pores and through water proofing of the roof of Post Office Sub-Divisional Court House under Bishnupur Division, PWD in the District of Bankura during the year of 2024-25. Amount Put to Tender Rs. 1369193.00. Tender ID : 2024_WBPD/PHED/704954-1. NIT No. 02 of 2024-25 of EE/BD/PWD. Bid submission closing date 29.07.2024 upto 12.00 pm. corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details only. Details of NIT and Tender documents may be downloaded from: <http://www.wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer, Bishnupur Division, P.W.Dte. ICA-T12065(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
IRIGATION AND WATERWAYS DIRECTORATE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MAYURAKSHI HEAD QUARTERS DIVISION SURI, BIRBHUM
ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No. WBW/EE/MHQD/2-13-02/2024-25
e-Tender is invited by the undersigned from the eligible bonafide contractors for 6 (Six) nos. works under Mayurakshi Head Quarters Division under SDS Plan Maintenance 2024-25. Last date & time of downloading of tender documents is 31.08.2024 up to 15:00 hrs. Other details of work and office hours or in website: <https://wbtenders.gov.in> and <http://www.wbndtenders.gov.in>. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Mayurakshi Head Quarters Division, Suri, Birbhum. ICA-T11984(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No. WBW/EE/FCB/e-NIT-04/2024-25
Open Tenders are invited by the Executive Engineer, Cooch Behar Irrigation Division on behalf of the Governor of West Bengal for 10 nos maintenance and repair works under Mayurakshi Head Quarters Division having sufficient credential & financial capacity for execution of work of similar nature. Details of NIT & Tender documents may be downloaded from the website: <http://www.wbtenders.gov.in> and <http://www.wbndtenders.gov.in>. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Cooch Behar Irrigation Division, Debari, Cooch Behar. ICA-T11984(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-NOICE INVITED QUOTATION
Notice inviting Re-tender vide Tender No. 396/1/NIT/Re-e-Tender/2024-25 dated 16/07/2024 for analysis of Pesticide and other Chemicals Residue in Organic produce by NABL accredited Laboratories under PKV by the Office of the Deputy Director of Agriculture (S&W), West Bengal, 230A, N.S.C. Bose Road, Kolkata-700 040 under West Bengal State Seed & Organic Certification Agency during the financial year 2024-25. Tender Papers containing all the terms & conditions can be obtained from the website: <https://wbtenders.gov.in> Last date of submission of tender paper is 30.07.2024 upto 5:00 p.m. on 05/08/2024/2024 will be opened on 06/08/2024 at 11:00 p.m. Sd/- Dr. S. Karmakar, Deputy Director of Agriculture. ICA-T12003(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Short Notice Inviting Tender
e-NIT No. WBW/EE/BD/ e-SNIT-10(e)/2024-25
On behalf of the Governor of West Bengal, e-tender is invited by the Executive Engineer Bidadyari Drainage Division, from the eligible reliable, bonafide & resourceful contractors for 01 (One) no. Work amounting Rs. 4.58 Lakh (approx). All necessary details may be had in Govt. website www.wbtenders.gov.in or <http://www.wbndtenders.gov.in> Publishing date: 22.07.2024 at 17:00 Hrs. Bid submission Start Date: 22.07.2024 from 17:30 Hrs. Bid submission end date: 26.07.2024 till 17:00 Hrs. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Bidadyari Drainage Division, Taki Road Barasat, Kol-700124. ICA-T12026(3)/2024

SOUTH 24 PARGANAS ZILLA PARISHAD
NIT - 12 of 2024-25 for e-Tendering (Various Calls)
e-Tenders are invited by the District Engineer for 15 (fifteen) nos. various works of different blocks under South 24 Parganas. Last date of online submission of Tender Document : up to 2:00 PM on 07.08.2024 Details informations may be obtained from the website : zps24p.gov.in & wbtenders.gov.in

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING RE-TENDER
NIT No. WBW/EE/MHQD/2-13-02/2024-25
Re e-Tender for procurement of drug items listed under table-A, for two years from the date of Award of Contract (AOC) is invited from the Bidders. Interested bidders may visit the website: <https://wbtenders.gov.in> or <http://www.wbndtenders.gov.in> for further details. Bid submission start date (online): 31.07.2024; Bid submission closing date (online): 14.08.2024; Bid submission end date (online): 14.08.2024. Sd/- D.D.H.S. (E&S), WB. ICA-T12038(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
NIT No. WBW/EE/BU/004/e-NIT-03/2024-25
Above mentioned e-Tender is hereby invited by the undersigned from eligible contractors having sufficient credential and financial capacity for the Electrical work at Kanainath Purba Bardhaman. Tender ID: 2024_WJD_717596-1. Last date of online submission of the bid: 30.07.2024, 17:00 Hrs. The other details may be seen from the website: <https://www.wbtenders.gov.in> and <http://www.wbndtenders.gov.in>. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Kanainath Purba Bardhaman, I&W Dte. ICA-T12009(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
EE, Kalimpong Electrical Division, PWD invites online e-Tender for the work of "Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 58.5 KV Silent D.G set at Kalimpong, Govt. Polytechnic, Kalimpong, Tender Ref. No. WBWPD/EE/KED/NIQ/09 of 2023-24 (4th Call) Tender ID: 2024_WPD_71790-1. Bid submission Opening date(online): 19-7-2024, 05:15 PM Closing date (online): 01-08-2024 06:45 PM Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of N.I.Q and Tender document may be downloaded from: <http://wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- EE, Kalimpong Electrical Division, PWDte, Sd/- Executive Engineer, Kalimpong Electrical Division, PWDte Kalimpong ICA-T12057(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Office of the Deputy Director of Agriculture (Administration), Uttar Dinajpur
Tender Notice (E-Tender Mode Only)
Procurement Rate contract for input as per requirement of (Sd/-) (Mkharjee). Deputy Director of Agriculture (Administration), Uttar Dinajpur. The item to be supplied to different blocks of Agriculture, (Blocks) of Uttar Dinajpur district. Tender Reference No. AGR/UD/e-NIT/04/2024-25 Pesticide, dated 12/07/2024 (Estimated input procurement value is Rs. 32.50 lakhs approximately). Last date of submission of the e-tender is 02/08/2024. Corrigendum (if any) will be published/uploaded in <http://wbtenders.gov.in> only. All details will be available at <http://wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- Deputy Director of Agriculture (Admin), Uttar Dinajpur District. ICA-T12000(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
ABRIDGED NOTICE INVITING TENDER
On behalf of the Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal, online e-Tenders are invited from bonafide contractors for following e-NIT - e-NIT No. WBW/EE/WMD/e-NIT-03e/2024-25. For total Sixteen Nos. of work and amount Minimum Rs. 1.25 Lakh & Maximum of Rs. 2.66 Lakh. Bid submission start date: 22.07.2024 at 10:00 Hrs. Last date of bid submission: 05.08.2024 up to 17:30 Hrs. Further details may be obtained from the Office of Executive Engineer, West Midnapore Division or from the Departmental website: www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer (I&W Dte.), West Midnapore Division, Midnapore, Paschim Medinipur. ICA-T12012(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
ABRIDGED NOTICE INVITING TENDER
NIT No. WBW/EE/NDID/e-NIT-3 of 2024-25
Executive Engineer-II, Canals Division, Sector, Seban, Salt Lake, Sector-III, Kolkata-700106, invites online tender for the work "Construction of cement concrete block piling (length-826 M) and diaphrag wall (length-80 M) in between 0.0 m to 1.0 m. of Keorapukur khal within Ward Nos. 114, 115 of KMC area, P.S.-Regent Park, District - Kolkata. Amount Put to Tender is Rs-30.40 Lakh. Tender forms and other details may be obtained from the departmental website www.wbwd.gov.in and <http://www.wbndtenders.gov.in> (direct site). Last date of submission of e-bid online is 05.08.2024 upto 16:00 Hrs. Sd/- Executive Engineer-II, Canals Division I & W Directorate. ICA-T11993(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING RE-TENDER
NIT No. WBW/EE/BU/004/e-NIT-03/2024-25
Re e-Tender for procurement of drug items listed under table-A, for two years from the date of Award of Contract (AOC) is invited from the Bidders. Interested bidders may visit the website: <https://wbtenders.gov.in> or <http://www.wbndtenders.gov.in> for further details. Bid submission start date (online): 31.07.2024; Bid submission closing date (online): 14.08.2024; Bid submission end date (online): 14.08.2024. Sd/- D.D.H.S. (E&S), WB. ICA-T12038(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
WRIADD, e-NIT
Executive Engineer (A-M), Balurghat (A-M) Division invites e-tender for Turkey basis works of Enerigisation, Renovation of WTA along with all necessary supply of materials, Construction of Pump House and Electrical connection to Motor & Internal wiring of Pump House at Hossainpur-II Major RL schemes in the District of Dakshin Dinajpur under Balurghat (A-M) Division under CORE SECTOR Programme in the FY 2024-25 vide e-NIT No-01/2024-25, Tender ID: 2024_WRDD_717920-1, estimated value Rs.73,05,233.00 and last date of Bid submission - 06.08.2024 up to 4 PM. Intending bidders are requested to visit the website <http://wbtenders.gov.in> for details. Sd/- Executive Engineer (A-M) Balurghat (A-M) Division ICA-T12076(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
NIT No. WBFO/RFD/NIT/01/2024-24 (ONLINE e-TENDER FOR CREATION OF PLANTATION (COMPENSATORY AFFORESTATION))
The Divisional Forest Officer, Kalimpong Forest Division invites 1nos of Tender for upgrading and creation of 10000 sq.m of compensatory afforestation) under Kalimpong Forest Division as per schedule of work. Details of the e-Tender Notice, Terms & Condition and BOQ will be available for the website <http://wbtenders.gov.in> and <http://www.wbndtenders.gov.in> and also from the office of the undersigned on any working days. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Durgapur Mechanical & Electrical Division Durgapur, Paschim Bardhaman, I&W Dte. ICA-T12009(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Office of the Deputy Director of Agriculture (Administration), Uttar Dinajpur
Tender Notice (E-Tender Mode Only)
Procurement Rate contract for input as per requirement of (Sd/-) (Mkharjee). Deputy Director of Agriculture (Administration), Uttar Dinajpur. The item to be supplied to different blocks of Agriculture, (Blocks) of Uttar Dinajpur district. Tender Reference No. AGR/UD/e-NIT/04/2024-25 Pesticide, dated 12/07/2024 (Estimated input procurement value is Rs. 32.50 lakhs approximately). Last date of submission of the e-tender is 02/08/2024. Corrigendum (if any) will be published/uploaded in <http://wbtenders.gov.in> only. All details will be available at <http://wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- Deputy Director of Agriculture (Admin), Uttar Dinajpur District. ICA-T12000(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
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NIT No. WBW/EE/NDID/e-NIT-3 of 2024-25
Executive Engineer-II, Canals Division, Sector, Seban, Salt Lake, Sector-III, Kolkata-700106, invites online tender for the work "Construction of cement concrete block piling (length-826 M) and diaphrag wall (length-80 M) in between 0.0 m to 1.0 m. of Keorapukur khal within Ward Nos. 114, 115 of KMC area, P.S.-Regent Park, District - Kolkata. Amount Put to Tender is Rs-30.40 Lakh. Tender forms and other details may be obtained from the departmental website www.wbwd.gov.in and

PM to oppn: Welcome to fight in '29 but respect '24 mandate

'Don't Let Work Of House Suffer For Partisan Purposes'

Akhilesh Singh
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: An aggressive PM Narendra Modi on Monday said while opposition parties are welcome to fight the 2029 elections with full vigour, they should respect the mandate of the last polls and not let the functioning of Parliament suffer because of partisan purposes.

"Go to the battlefields of election in Jan 2029. Till then, the only priority should be the country, its poor, farmers, women and the youth," PM said in his address to media ahead of Parliament session.

Modi said the "negative" tactics of many Parliamentarians in the last session deprived many MPs of valuable opportunity to raise the concerns of their constituents.



We have fought a full-throttle battle since last Jan. But now that phase is over, the countrymen have given their verdict, PM said

"I urge all the MPs, no matter which party they belong to... I want to say emphatically that we have fought a full throttle battle since last Jan. We have told whatever we had to tell the public. Some tried to show the way, some tried to mislead. But now that phase is over, the countrymen have given their verdict," PM said.

"It is the duty of all elected MPs, it is the special responsibility of all political parties that we have fought all the battles we had to fight for the party, now for the

coming five years we have to fight for the country and we have to fight by being noble. Let us use this dignified platform of Parliament for the coming four and a half years by rising above the party lines and dedicating ourselves only to the country," he further added.

Modi referred to heckling by Congress during his reply to debate on motion of thanks to President. "Nation witnessed how an undemocratic effort was made to muzzle a democratically elected govt. For over two-and-half hours, an effort was made to suffo-

cate PM of the country and suppress his voice. This has no place in democratic traditions," the PM asserted, referring to the opposition's slogan shouting when he delivered his speech on vote of thanks on the President's speech during the recent LS session.

The PM reminded the Parliamentarians that people of the country have given their mandate to serve the country and not the agendas of political parties.

"This House is not meant for political parties, this House is meant for the country. It is not meant to serve the Parliamentarians but 140 crore citizens of India," Modi further added.

He highlighted that India is the fastest growing country among the major economies with about 8% growth in the last three consecutive years. Today, opportunities are at the peak due to positive outlook, investment and performance, he said.

Concluding the address, the PM expressed the belief that all Members of Parliament will contribute to towards fruitful discussions.

FM to present Budget today; LS, RS to have 20-hr debates

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha are each likely to have a 20-hour discussion on the Union Budget, which finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman



will present on Tuesday, with the Lower House expected to have separate debates covering ministries of railways, education, health, MSME and food processing.

The business advisory committees (BAC) — which have representatives from different parties — of the two Houses met on Monday to finalise the agenda for the session. Govt, however, is entitled to introduce any new item, depending upon exigencies, with the permission of the Chair.

In Rajya Sabha, sources said, a discussion for eight hours is likely to be scheduled on appropriation and finance bills, and a four-hour debate each on four ministries, which are yet to be identified.

A Congress MP said his party highlighted its demand for short-duration discussions on issues like Agnipath scheme and NEET row during Lok Sabha BAC meeting.

A govt source said a 20-hour time slot for the general discussion on Budget will also provide different parties an opportunity to raise their issues.

'No info to prove exit polls used to manipulate mkts'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Minister of state for finance Pankaj Chaudhary on Monday said that those who alleged that exit polls were used to manipulate markets have failed to back their charge with specific information.

"Though SEBI has received representations on the above stock market movements, no specific information on any unfair trading has been provided," said Chaudhary, in a written reply in Lok Sabha in response to questions by members.

He was asked whether it is a fact that there was an unprecedented fall of stock prices amounting to a loss of Rs 30 lakh crore to investors immediately on June 4.

Indian stocks witnessed a bloodbath on the day Lok Sabha results were announced, where incumbent BJP performed below par and seemed set to fall well short of exit poll predictions and the majority mark on its own.

Trinamool Rajya Sabha member Saket Gokhale had written a letter to financial market regulator SEBI, seeking a probe into the stock market activity ahead of the declaration of Lok Sabha election results. He had alleged "manipulation" in trading activities, a day after exit polls were announced. Earlier, Congress leader Ra-



The indices recovered within three days and have reached record levels since June 4, 2024, MoS finance Pankaj Chaudhary said on Monday

hul Gandhi had alleged a Rs 30 lakh crore stock market scam due to "fake" exit polls and sought an investigation into the role of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, home minister Amit Shah and finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman alleging they gave investment advice to people ahead of poll results.

Sensex declined by 4,389.73 points and Nifty by 1,379.40 points on June 4. "The indices recovered within three days and have reached record levels since 4th June 2024, registering an increase of 12.9 per cent and 13.3 per cent respectively as on 18th July, 2024," the minister said. The decrease of around Rs 30 lakh crore in market capitalisation of companies listed on NSE and BSE on June 4, 2024 was recovered within a period of five days and it has increased by around Rs 59 lakh crore since then as on July 18, 2024, the minister added.

UK foreign secy visiting India this week, FTA tops agenda

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: UK secretary of state for foreign affairs David Lammy will visit India this week for what he said will be the first high level engagement between India and the new Labour govt in the UK.



The visit is expected to see both sides reaffirming commitment to a mutually beneficial FTA, while also discussing other bilateral issues, including the Indian govt's case for action against separatists who continue to target Indian interests in Britain.

Lammy will hold talks with his counterpart S Jaishankar on Thursday

will hold talks with minister S Jaishankar on Thursday and also meet commerce minister Piyush Goyal to discuss progress in efforts to conclude negotiations for the FTA. UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer told his counterpart Narendra Modi in their conversation earlier this month he stood ready to conclude a deal that worked for both sides.

In the talks, both agreed there was a wide range of areas across defence and security, critical and emerging technology, and climate change, for the two countries to deepen cooperation on. Just before the elections in UK, Lammy had criticised the then ruling Conservative govt for failing to close the trade deal and said he intended to get it done as soon as possible.

"My message to finance minister Sitharaman and minister Goyal is that Labour is ready to go. Let's finally get our free trade deal done and move on," he said.

The Daily Telegraph quoted a source in New Delhi as saying the Indian side would seek clarity on whether the Labour govt intends to pick things up from where they were left off or start afresh in some way.

BJD ups ante on spl status for Odisha

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The all-party meeting on Sunday set the ground, and the Upper House on the first day of the budget session got a glimpse of what lies ahead, as BJD made a vociferous demand during zero hour for special status for Odisha, citing the state's vulnerabilities in the face of cyclones and other concerns.

Raising the issue in zero hour, BJD member Muzibulla Khan said that during his tenure as Odisha chief minister, Naveen Patnaik wrote repeatedly to Centre but the govt did not address the issue. Even BJD MPs have been raising this issue in Parliament but no one has paid heed, he added.

Khan said that the party

is aware that there are certain criteria for granting the status but for the welfare of people the laws can be amended and demanded that changes should be made taking into view of the vulnerabilities faced by the state. BJD's Sasmit Patra backed the demand.

Meanwhile, RJD member Manoj Jha too raised the demand for special status and special package for Bihar, asserting the need for stepping up the development of the state.

Patra said that his party will play the role of a strong opposition on the floor of the House. He underlined that his party was neither with the opposition INDIA bloc nor the govt.

Oppn's timing poser as LS talks Olympics

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Lok Sabha on Monday took up a discussion on India's preparedness for the Paris Olympics with opposition members questioning the timing of the debate on the Games that begin later this week.

During the discussion, Congress member Deepender Hooda raked up the issue of alleged sexual harassment by former BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. Though he did not name Singh, Hooda said a situation should not come when players have to fight their own govt and the system.

Parliamentary affairs minister Kiren Rijju, who had earlier held charge of the sports ministry, inter-

ned to say that members should avoid raising "federation fights" in the House.

Initiating the discussion, BJP's Sanjay Jaiswal said the opposition finds the discussion on sports irrelevant. He said the govt has invested over Rs 400 crore for 16 disciplines and is making all-out efforts to ensure athletes get the best training and facilities.

The discussion was included through a supplementary agenda. When Speaker Om Birla asked the House to take up the discussion, RSP's N K Premchandran questioned the timing and asked what suggestions could the House offer when the Indian team has already left for the Olympics beginning July 26.



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DAY SHIFT

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- 4 years BBA (Hons. & Hons. with Research)
- 4 years B.Sc (Hons. & Hons. with Research)

Major Subjects -

- Microbiology ✓ Botany ✓ Computer Science
- Food & Nutrition ✓ Zoology ✓ Geography

4 years B.A (Hons. & Hons. with Research)

Major Subjects -

- English ✓ Geography ✓ Hindi
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The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Bakreswar Thermal Power Station
P.O. Tribeni, Dist. - Hooghly, Pin - 712503

Notice Inviting E-Tender
Ref. No.: WBPDDL/Tend-Adv/24-25/BT/PS-C-2059 Date: 16.07.2024
NIT No.: WBPDDL/BT/PS/NIT/E2422/24-25

E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtdenders.gov.in by the General Manager, WBPDDL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 (two) Part bid system for Procurement of 500KV, 3.3kV/433V, Dyn11, Oil Cooled, Transformer for SSI Sub-Station under CAPEX-2024-25. Tender Document Download Start Date: 24.07.2024 at 15:00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 16.08.2024 at 15:00 hrs. Contact Person: Mrs. Ranjana Bhaduri, Add. General Manager (M&C), Phone: 033 2681 2311. E-mail: purchase_wbpdcl@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: https://wbtdenders.gov.in ICA-T12073(3)/2024

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Sagarighi Thermal Power Project
P.O. Monigram, P.S. Sagarighi, Dist. - Murshidabad, Pin - 742237

Notice Inviting E-Tender
Ref. No.: WBPDDL/Tend-Adv/24-25/SgTTP/C-2061 Date: 16.07.2024
NIT No.: WBPDDL/SGTTP/NIT/E2717/23-24 Dated: 04.01.2024

E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtdenders.gov.in by the General Manager, SgTTP, WBPDDL from eligible Agencies/Companies in three (03) Part bid system for Refractory & Insulation Work during Overhauling of Unit-4, SgTTP. Tender Document Download Start Date: 23.07.2024 at 10:00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 31.01.2024 at 15:00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. Manas Mallick, AGM (M&C), Mobile: 8336903847. E-mail: m.mallick@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: https://wbtdenders.gov.in ICA-T12043(2)/2024

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Bakreswar Thermal Power Project
P.O. BKTPP, Dist. - Birbhum, Pin - 731104

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
Ref. No.: WBPDDL/Tend-Adv/24-25/BKTPP/C-2066 Date: 16.07.2024
NIT No.: WBPDDL/BKTPP/NIT/E3140/24-25

E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtdenders.gov.in by the General Manager - BKTPP, WBPDDL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for Procurement of 33kV Potential Transformer for Tilpara Double Circuit Line at BKTPP Switchyard under EM-OPH Deptt.. Tender Document Download Start Date: 15.07.2024 at 13:00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 05.08.2024 at 14:00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. Sumit Dasgupta, Dy. General Manager, HOD (Purchase Deptt.), BKTPP, Mobile: 8336903911. E-mail: s.dasgupta@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: https://wbtdenders.gov.in ICA-T12029(2)/2024

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Bakreswar Thermal Power Project
P.O. BKTPP, Dist. - Birbhum, Pin - 731104

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
Ref. No.: WBPDDL/Tend-Adv/24-25/BKTPP/C-2065 Date: 16.07.2024
NIT No.: WBPDDL/BKTPP/NIT/E3171/24-25

E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtdenders.gov.in by the General Manager - BKTPP, WBPDDL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for Procurement of Spare Motors (415V, 160KW) for Fire Hydrant Spray Pumps of BKTPP Stage-18-2. Tender Document Download Start Date: 16.07.2024 at 14:00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 06.08.2024 at 12:00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. Sumit Dasgupta, Dy. General Manager, HOD (Purchase Deptt.), BKTPP, Mobile: 8336903911. E-mail: s.dasgupta@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: https://wbtdenders.gov.in ICA-T12080(3)/2024

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी विभाग क्षेत्र उदयपुर
दूरभाष - 0294 - 2481538 ई-मेल - ace.uda.phed@rajasthan.gov.in
क्रमांक - अ.स.अ./अर/अके./2024-25/ 3728-35-3737 दिनांक - 15/07/2024

ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 21/2024-25

जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी विभाग क्षेत्र उदयपुर के अधीन निम्न लिखित कार्य में "फोरोजिड वर्क" के तहत पंचसाल योजना के कार्यों अर्थात् अतिरिक्त विद्युत इन्क्यूबेटर वाइरिंग ई-निविदा संख्या 21/2024-25 दिनांक 18-07-2024 प्रातः 10:00 बजे से दिनांक 16-08-2024 सायं 6:00 बजे तक ऑनलाइन की जाती है। बिड से संबंधित समस्त जानकारी प्रोकरमेंट पोर्टल <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> पर देखी जा सकती है।

यू.जी.एन. नम्बर:- (मोहन लाल सैनी)
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी विभाग क्षेत्र उदयपुर

NIT No. 21/24-25/UBN No. PHE2425WLB082891
DIPRC/6277/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PASCHIM BANGA GO-SAMPAD BIKASH SANSTHA
(A GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL ORGANIZATION)

e-Tenders are invited by the Chief Executive Officer, PBGSBS, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700106 for the following:

Sl. No.	Description of Items / Works	Bid submission Starts on	Bid submission Closes on
1.	Supply of Digital Autoclave, Digital Hot Air Oven & Incubator at Regional Semen production Laboratory for Goat at Haringhata, Nadia.	23.07.2024	30.07.2024
2.	Supply of pH Meter, Digital Weighing Balance, Magnetic Stirrer & Air Sterilizer at Regional Semen production Laboratory for Goat at Haringhata, Nadia.	23.07.2024	30.07.2024
3.	Supply and installation of Laminar Air Flow at Regional Semen production Laboratory for Goat at Haringhata, Nadia.	23.07.2024	30.07.2024
4.	Supply and installation of Dynamic & Static Pass Box at Regional Semen production Laboratory for Goat at Haringhata, Nadia.	23.07.2024	30.07.2024
5.	Supply of Phase Contrast Microscope with Hot Plate at Regional Semen production Laboratory for Goat at Haringhata, Nadia.	23.07.2024	06.08.2024

The detailed e-NIT may be obtained from the e-Tender Portal: <http://wbtdenders.gov.in> Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, P.B.G.S.B. ICA-T11995(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
O/O the Superintending Engineer, PWD
South Eastern Electrical Circle
Sahid Mangal Pandey Sarani, Midnapur-721101

NOTICE INVITING E-QUOTATION
No. - WBPWD/SE/SWEC/NIQ23/2024-25 Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_717232_1 Last date of submission of bid: 27.07.2024 up to 12:00hrs. Name of Work: S/T of silent DG set, UPS and AC machines alongwith related EI work within the campus of Government Fish Technology Station (G.F.T.S) at Junpur in the dist of Purba Medinipur-- Electrical installation with allied works & Notice Inviting e-Quotation No. - WBPWD/SE/SWEC/NIQ24/2024-25 Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_717234_1 Last date of submission of bid: 27.07.2024 up to 12:00hrs. Name of Work: S/T of silent DG set, UPS and AC machines alongwith related EI work within the campus of Government Fish Technology Station (G.F.T.S) at Junpur in the dist of Purba Medinipur-- S/T of Air-Conditioning machines & Notice Inviting e-Quotation No. - WBPWD/SE/SWEC/NIQ25/2024-25 Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_717235_1 Last date of submission of bid: 27.07.2024 up to 12:00hrs. Name of Work: S/T of silent DG set, UPS and AC machines alongwith related EI work within the campus of Government Fish Technology Station (G.F.T.S) at Junpur in the dist of Purba Medinipur-- S/T of UPS Further details can be seen in the above mentioned office during working hours or in Official Website www.pwdwb.gov.in For all details and online tender submission visit <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> Sd/- SE, SWEC, PWDE. ICA-T12072(3)/2024

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Regd. Office: Vidyut Bhawan, Block-B, Sector-1, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700 091
CN: U40109WB2007SGC13473, www.wbsecl.co.in

WBSECL invites e-Tenders as follows:

1) NIT No.: BHND/E-TENDER/24-25/566. Dt.: 15.07.2024 of the Divisional Manager, Bhanagar Division, WBSECL. Estimated Cost: Rs. 38,23,469.65 for Taping and dressing of 11kV 3X300 sq. mm. XLPE cable for draw of new 11 kV feeder for providing quality power to P.C. Office, Traffic Guard Office & Traffic Signal of Kolkata Police Sub-Station under Bhanagar Division, WBSECL.

2) NIT No.: RMDRO/ETENDER/2024-25/02. Dt.: 11.07.2024 of the Regional Manager, Dakshin Dinajpur Region, WBSECL. Estimated Cost: ₹ 19,13,050/- for Construction of approach road from the outside (NH-512) main road to the internal approach way towards Buniapur Divisional Office Campus along with providing arrangement of culvert along the (newly created) entrance gateway to Buniapur Divisional Office Campus, construction of security goomty, car parking space and other allied civil works on the premises of Buniapur 33/11kV Sub-Station under Buniapur Division, WBSECL.

3) NIT No.: DDRO/E-TENDER/2024-25/02. Dt.: 12.07.2024 of the Regional Manager, Dakshin Dinajpur Region, WBSECL. Estimated Cost: ₹ 1,37,833/- for 2" Zall for conversion of H10H 33 kV & 11 kV feeder network into underground system on the premises of Buniapur 33/11 kV Sub-Station under Buniapur Division, WBSECL.

4) NIT No.: BHND/E-TENDER/2024-25/576. Dt.: 16.07.2024 of the Divisional Manager, Bhanagar Division, WBSECL. Estimated Cost: ₹ 18,30,000/- for Supply & delivery of 350 nos. GI 11kV V-bracket for PCC pole 9m long, 350 nos. GI 11kV top adapter for PCC pole 9m long, 250 nos. GI 11kV V-bracket for PCC pole 9m long & 150 nos. GI 11kV top adapter for PCC pole 9m long to Bhanagar Division, WBSECL. ICA-T12020(1)/2024

For details, visit: <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> & www.wbsecl.in

VAISHAL PATILPUTRA DUGH UTPADAK SANKARI SANGH LIMITED
(Patna Dairy Project)
Feeder Balancing Dairy Complex, PHULWARISHARIF, Patna, 801505
(Phones: 2252553, 2252542, 2251622. Fax: 0612-2250 325
E-Mail: vpdm.engg@gmail.com | GST No. 10AAAVN946381ZV

Notice Inviting Tender
(Through e-tendering mode only on website- www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) Date: 20.07.2024

NIT No.: VPMU/ENG/2024-25/001

1.0 Name & address of advertiser: Managing Director, VAISHAL PATILPUTRA DUGH UTPADAK SANKARI SANGH LTD. (VPMU), Patna Dairy Project, Feeder Balancing Dairy Complex, PHULWARISHARIF, Patna-801505. 2.0 Start date of bid submission: 15.07.2024 (Thursday) through e-procurement. 3.0 Date & time of pre bid meeting: 15.07.2024 (Thursday) from 11:00 AM up to 17:00 hrs at VAISHAL PATILPUTRA DUGH UTPADAK SANKARI SANGH LTD. Patna Dairy Project, Feeder Balancing Dairy Complex, PHULWARISHARIF, Patna-801505. 4.0 Date & time of opening of Techno commercial bid (Bid Part-1): 19.08.2024 (Monday) up to 15:00 hrs. on www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in. 5.0 Date & time of opening of Price bid: Date & time will be communicated later subsequent to approval of techno commercial bid. Place: www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in. 6.0 Bid validity: 180 Days (One hundred eighty days). 9.0 Details of work is as given below:

Sl. No.	Name of the work/Item	Estimated amount	Cost of tender document to be paid through bank line (Non refundable)	Earnest money to be deposited	Bid processing fee to be paid through bank line (Non refundable)	Completion Period
A	Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of C-rate washer with drier of 1200 CPH capacity as per technical specification.	Rs. 15.75 Lakh	Rs. 5000.00	Rs. 32000.00	As per Eproc2 website	6 (Six) Months

11.0 For participation in the above e-tender process the bidders are required to get themselves registered as per details given on www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in that the user ID, Password and digital signatures are issued to them. 12.0 Tender documents can be seen and purchased on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in. Any modification/ amendment in tender will be notified on a separate. The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

Managing Director

कार्यालय अधिशाषी अभियन्ता, सा.नि.वि. खण्ड कोटडा, उदयपुर
क्रमांक :- 261 NIT No. 04/2024-25 दिनांक :- 12.07.2024
Notice Inviting Bid

Bids for "Various Roads & Building Construction, Renewal, Strengthening Works in various schemes in District Udaipur (Raj.) are invited from interested bidders upto 6.00 PM, Dated 08.08.2024. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>) or (<http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the Rajasthan and <http://pwr.rajasthan.gov.in> website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 867.00 Lacs.

WB - PWD2425WLB0739
UBN No. 1 - (PWD2425WLB082825)
UBN No. 2 - (PWD2425WLB082826)
UBN No. 3 - (PWD2425WLB082827)
UBN No. 4 - (PWD2425WLB082828)
UBN No. 5 - (PWD2425WLB082829)
DIPRC/6165/2024

Your's faithfully
Sd/-
(Kapil Kumar Awasthy)
Executive Engineer,
Public Works Department
Dn. Kotra Udaipur

Additional Chief Engineer P.W.D. Zone-II, Jaipur
PWD Campus, 226B5 Road, Jaipur
File No-982 Phone 0141-2266377 Ex:-299 Date- 16/07/24
Short-Term NIB NO-04/PMG5Y/2024-25

Bids for 01- No. Package for Renewal of Rural Roads Jaipur District are invited from interested bidders upto 12-00 Noon on 29-07-2024 Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>) or (<http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the State; and DI PR departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 397.795 lacs.

UBN No.: PWD2425WLB02992
DIPRC/6296/2024

Sd/-
Add. Chief Engineer
PWD Zone-II, Jaipur

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, PWD, Zone, Ajmer
No.-ACE/AJ/TECH/F2(30A-NIT)/2024-2025/D-1245 Date:-15.07.2024
NIB No.-PWD2425A0727

Notice Inviting Bid No. 04/2024-2025

Bids for 01 No. ROB Work (EPC MODE) are invited from interested bidders upto 6.00 PM on Tuesday 06 AUGUST 2024. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>) or (<http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the State; and DI PR departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 3614.06 Lacs.

UBN No.: PWD2425WLB02784
DIPRC/6131/2024

Sd/-
(V. Saini),
Additional Chief Engineer,
PWD, Zone, Ajmer.

म.प्र. स्टेट सिविल सप्लाइज कार्पो. लि.
सामाजिक न्याय एवं विद्यमान सशक्तिकरण संवधानालय
लिंक रोड नं. 3, पत्रकार कॉलोनी के सामने, भोपाल
वेबसाइट : www.mpssc.mp.gov.in
ई-मेल : mpssc@gmail.com

क्रमांक/शकूर-निविदा/2024-25/387 भोपाल, दिनांक 21.07.2024

शकूर क्रय हेतु अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना

मध्यप्रदेश के समस्त जिलों के निर्धारित प्रदाय केंद्रों पर ISS ग्रेड शकूर S-30/31 लगभग 8000 मेट्रन प्रदाय किए जाने हेतु पात्र तथा इच्छुक निविदाकारों से ऑनलाइन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रत्र, अर्हताएं एवं शर्तें इत्यादि जानकारी <http://mpscenders.gov.in> पर देखी जा सकती है। ऑनलाइन निविदा क्रय करने की अंतिम तिथि 12.08.2024 अपरान्ह 3 बजे तक तथा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि 12.08.2024 सायं 5 बजे तक रहेगी। निविदा कार्यक्रम एवं पूर्ण दस्तावेज कारपोरेशन की वेबसाइट www.mpssc.mp.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। निविदा दस्तावेज एवं निविदा प्रक्रिया ऑनलाइन करने हेतु संबंधित तकनीकी सहमति व स्पष्टीकरण के लिए फोन नंबर 0755-2677847 पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।

म.प्र. माध्यम/115477/2024 महाप्रबंधक (शकूर)

RASHTRIYA RAKSHA UNIVERSITY
(An Institution of National Importance)
Pioneering National Security and Police University of India

NOTICE FOR E-TENDER OF Construction of Artificial Climbing and Rappelling Wall

The Rashtriya Raksha University is inviting E-Tender for Construction of Artificial Climbing and Rappelling Wall from interested bidders (From all over India) vide this advertisement. Interested bidders from all over India can download and submit tender document from the website <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/> app from Dt. 18/07/2024 at 14:00 hrs. Any other mode of submission shall not be entertained.

INF-559-2024-25 - Registrar

EASTERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING E-AUCTION

E-Auction Notice No. COM/UPB/HWH/RDN/LOCO, dated : 19.07.2024. E-Auction is invited by Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah, 4th Floor, Rail Yatri Niwas Building, near Howrah station, Howrah-711101 for awarding contract of Commercial Publicity Rights : Category No. : HWH-RDN-LOCO-4. Auction Start Date & Time : 05.08.2024 at 11.00 hrs. Seq. No.; Lot No, and Description are as follows

• AA/1; ADVT-HWH-HWH-OSD-94-23-1 and Installation, operation and maintenance of Digital Passenger Reservation Chart Board Kiosk at Howrah Station (PF-9) with scope of commercial advertisements on 50:50 time/space sharing basis for a period of five (05) years. AA/2; ADVT-HWH-LLH-OSD-119-24-1 and Awarding contract for supply, installation, operation and maintenance of Dual Display Fare Repeater system (DDFRS) at Passenger Reservation System (PRS) counters & Unreserved Ticketing system (UTS) counters with provision of Dynamic BHIM UPI QR code at Stations under Cluster - 1 (Liluah, Belur, Bally, Dankuni, Uttarpara, Konnagar, Rishra & Sriampur as detailed in Annexure - I) of Howrah Division with scope of commercial advertisements for a period of three (03) years. AA/3; ADVT-HWH-SHE-OSD-120-24-1 and Awarding contract for supply, installation, operation and maintenance of Dual Display Fare Repeater System (DDFRS) at Passenger Reservation System (PRS) counters & Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) counters with provision of Dynamic BHIM UPI QR code at Stations under Cluster - 2 (Sheoraphuli, Baidyabati, Bhadreswar, Mankundu, Chandannagar, Chuchura & Tarakeswar as detailed in Annexure - I) of Howrah Division with scope of commercial advertisements for a period of three (03) years. AA/4; ADVT-HWH-BDC-OSD-121-24-1 and Awarding contract for supply, installation, operation and maintenance of Dual Display Fare Repeater System (DDFRS) at Passenger Reservation System (PRS) counters & Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) counters with provision of Dynamic BHIM UPI QR code at Stations under Cluster - 3 (Bandel, Nabadwip Dham & Katwa as detailed in Annexure-I) of Howrah Division with scope of commercial advertisements for a period of three (03) years. AA/5; ADVT-HWH-PDA-OSD-122-24-1 and Awarding contract for supply, installation, operation and maintenance of Dual Display Fare Repeater System (DDFRS) at Passenger Reservation System (PRS) counters & Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) counters with provision of Dynamic BHIM UPI QR code at Stations under Cluster-4 (Pandooh, Memari, Bardhaman, Bolpur & Rampurhat as detailed in Annexure-I) of Howrah Division with scope of commercial advertisements for a period of three (03) years. AB/1; ADVT-HWH-HWH-OSN-123-24-1 and Awarding contract for Commercial Publicity Right through LED FLANGE at platform no.1 to 7 & platform no. 17 to 23 of Howrah Railway Station for a period of 03 years. AB/2; ADVT-HWH-BZL-OSN-22-22-1 and Awarding contract of Commercial Publicity Rights at Belanagar Station. AB/3; ADVT-HWH-DNHL-OSN-35-22-1 and Awarding contract of Commercial Publicity Rights at DHANIKAHALI HALT Station. AB/4; ADVT-HWH-GRAE-OSN-38-23-1 and Awarding contract of Commercial Publicity Rights at Gurap station. AB/5; ADVT-HWH-KCY-OSN-52-22-1, and Awarding contract of Commercial Publicity Rights at Kaicha station. For AC/1; ADVT-LOCO-HWH-HWH-95-23-1, AC/2; ADVT-LOCO-HWH-HWH-96-23-1, AC/3; ADVT-LOCO-HWH-HWH-97-23-1, AC/4; ADVT-LOCO-HWH-HWH-98-23-1, AC/5; ADVT-LOCO-HWH-HWH-99-23-1, AC/6; ADVT-LOCO-HWH-HWH-100-23-1, AC/7; ADVT-LOCO-HWH-HWH-101-23-1, AC/8; ADVT-LOCO-HWH-BWN-102-23-1, AC/9; ADVT-LOCO-HWH-HWH-104-23-1, AC/10; ADVT-LOCO-HWH-BWN-105-23-1, AC/11; ADVT-LOCO-HWH-BWN-106-23-1, AC/12; ADVT-LOCO-HWH-BWN-107-23-1. Advertisement Rights for displaying of Commercial Advertisement by way of Branding (by the mean of PU painting) on the exterior surface of Electric Locomotive (WAP-4) primarily maintained by Howrah Division (Howrah Diesel shed depot) for a period of 03 years. For AC/13; ADVT-LOCO-HWH-BWN-108-23-1, AC/14; ADVT-LOCO-HWH-BWN-109-23-1, AC/15; ADVT-LOCO-HWH-BWN-110-23-1, AC/16; ADVT-LOCO-HWH-BWN-111-23-1, AC/17; ADVT-LOCO-HWH-BWN-112-23-1, AC/18; ADVT-LOCO-HWH-BWN-113-23-1, AC/19; ADVT-LOCO-HWH-BWN-114-23-1, AC/20; ADVT-LOCO-HWH-BWN-115-23-1, AC/21; ADVT-LOCO-HWH-BWN-116-23-1, AC/22; ADVT-LOCO-HWH-BWN-117-23-1. Advertisement Rights for displaying of Commercial Advertisement by way of Branding (by the mean of PU painting) on the exterior surface of Electric Locomotive (WAG-9) primarily maintained by Howrah Division (Bardhaman Diesel shed depot) for a period of 03 years.

Tender Notices are also available at Website www.indianrailways.gov.in / www.reps.gov.in
Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

HOOGHLY RIVER BRIDGE COMMISSIONERS
St. Georges Gate Road, Kolkata-21
Telefax no : 033-2248-6787

Abridged N.I.eT NO.: HRBC/JPMW/KR/03/24-25

Online bid is invited by J.P.M (Works), HRBC for 01 (One) No work for 1) Repair, replacement & maintenance of gap slab of Vidyasagar Setu. Bid submission starting will be on 23/07/2024 at 01.00 PM. Last date of submission of bid (online) will be on 07/08/2024 at 12:30 PM. Other details may be seen from the website <http://tenderer.wb.nic.in> & www.hrbc.in.

Sd/-
Joint Project Manager (Works)

Metro Railway, Kolkata

E-Tender Notice is invited by Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/RS/C, Dum Dum Car Depot Complex, Metro Railway, Kolkata-700 090 for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work: Name of work: Blowing of Equipment by outside agency in BHEL Make AC (MR300) Rakes during schedule inspection for two years. Tender Value: ₹ 3,19,745.40; Earnest Money: ₹ 6,400/-; Date and Time of closing: Up to 15.00 hrs. (IST) of 28.08.2024. Notice Board Address: Office of the Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/RS/C, at the above mentioned address. Website particulars: <https://www.reps.gov.in>. E-Tender No. MR-EL-RS-NOA-OT-23-24-06R1

Follow us at: @metrorailwaykol @metrorailkolkata

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
E-Tender Notice
Reference No. (STM/OT/01)/E-TENDER-59/24/2024 & Tender ID : 2024_HFW_715918_1 Dated-23.07.2024) is invited by the Director, School of Tropical Medicine, 108 C R Avenue, Kolkata-700073 for the Procurement of Vaccine for Department of ID&AM, STM, Technical & Financial Bid Submission Closing Date: 20/08/2024 at 12:00 PM. For details please visit : www.wbtdenders.gov.in / www.health.gov.in Sd/- Director, School of Tropical Medicine, Kolkata ICA-T11997(3)/2024

CORRIGENDUM-I AGAINST TENDER NOTICE NO. CON/2024/ MAY/03 DATED: 13-05-2024

Corrigendum-1 has been issued against Tender No. CE/CON/NJP/BLT/2024/07. For details please visit www.reps.gov.in

Chief Engineer/Con. 5
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
(Construction Organisation)
Serving Customers With A Smile

TENDER NOTICE

Quotations are invited (<http://www.buruniv.ac.in>) for research consumables from SERB project, PI, Dept. of Biotech, Burdwan Univ.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
Superintending Engineer, Southern Circle, Social Sector, P.W. Dept. invites online e-tender for the work of "New Construction (Civil Work) of (G+3) building for NTS, Ashokenagar State General Hospital, North 24 Parganas Fire fighting with sprinkler and hydrant system." eNIT No. 05/SESSCP/WD/2024-25. Tender ID : 2024_WBPWD_717431_1. Bid Submission Start Date (online): 26.07.2024 at 03.00p.m. Bid Submission Closing Date (online): 16.08.2024 upto 03.00p.m. Corrigendum if any will be published in the website only. Details of N.I.T. and Tender Documents may be downloaded from <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> Sd/- SE SC 55 PWDtE. ICA-T12067(3)/2024

Government of West Bengal
Sumangalam Home for Boys
Bishnupur, Bankura
Nlet No. 01/E/SKH/2024 Dt. 22/07/2024 under Sumangalam Home for Boys

Sealed e-Tenders are invited by the Superintendent, Sumangalam Home for supplying of Dietary, Clothing, Bedding and such other articles to Sumangalam Home for Boys for the period of one year. Other details will be available in the office of the undersigned on any working days and also in the website www.bankura.gov.in. For further details please visit the Government Website: <http://wbtdenders.gov.in>. Sd/- Superintendent, Sumangalam Home for Boys Khariakuli, Morar, Bankura Memo No-447133/ADVIC/08/BNK Dt-22.07.2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Notice Inviting e-Tender

The District Information & Cultural Officer, North 24 Parganas, under the Dept. of I&CA, Govt. of West Bengal invites e-tender for (1) Publicity through Permanent Hoarding (vide NIT no. 2340/DICO/N24/ps Dt. 22.07.2024, Tender ID : 2024_ICAD_718938_1. Bid submission will be started on 23.07.2024 (from 12.00 PM) and will be closed on 07.08.2024 (up to 3 PM). Details may be obtained from the Website: www.wbtdenders.gov.in. Sd/- District Information & Cultural Officer, North 24 Parganas Memo No: 2341(3)/DICON24/ps. Dt. 22.07.2024

EASTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No.: Engg/Storm/Water/24-25/LNH. E-Tenders are invited by Chief Works Manager, C & W Workshop, Eastern Railway, Liluah, Howrah-711204 from reputed approved and eligible contractors of Railways and those of appropriate list of Dept. of Govt./Public sector undertaking for the under mentioned works: Name of work: Open e-tender for Balance work of Improvement of drainage system of Liluah Workshop in connection with underground storm water drainage system to prevent flooding (Phase-I) in C&W Workshop, Eastern Railway, Liluah. Tender value: Rs. 1,80,000/- Earnest Money: Rs. 24,000/- Cost of Tender Document: Nil. Completion period: 270 days. Date and time of closing of tender: 12.08.2024 up to 12.00 hrs. The details of tender are available at website <https://www.reps.gov.in> Tenderers are requested to submit their offer on line on the above website. No manual offer will be accepted. MISC-109/2024-25

Tender Notices are also available at Website www.indianrailways.gov.in / www.reps.gov.in
Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Indira Circle, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur-302004
No.: JDA/EE-9/2024-25/757 Date : 20.07.2024

NOTICE INVITING BID
NIB No.: JDA/EE-9/03/2024-25

Online Bids are invited up to 06:00 PM of 29.07.2024 for "Road side plantation including 2 years maintenance in zone 9, 10, 14, JDA Jaipur". Estimated cost Rs. 236.00 Lacs. Details may be seen in the Bidding Document at our office or the website of State Public Procurement Portal www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and www.jda.rajasthan.gov.in. UBN No.: JDA2425WLB00170

To participate in the bid, bidder has to be:-
A. Registered on JDA website www.jda.rajasthan.gov.in. For participating in the Bid, the Bidder has to apply for the Bid and pay the Bidding Document Fee & RSL Processing Fee online only and Bid Security declaration stamp.
B. Registered on e-Procurement Portal of Government of Rajasthan www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in for online e-Bid submission.
Raj. Samwad/C/2024-25/2614 Executive Engineer-9

TAMIL NADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Tamilnadu Undertaking)
No.417, Pantheon Road, Egmore, Chennai-600008. Phone:28191890/28190259; Fax: 044 -28190636

Sl. No.	Online Tender No. / Rate Contract (RC) No. / Item with qty./ Document Cost	Start Period	Pre bid	Last date Submission	Opening
1	Tender No E1185/VEN/KCSSH/TNMSC/ENGG/2024, dt:19.07.2024- Pulmonary Ventilator Parameter Monitoring System (10) & High End ICU Ventilator (25) - Rs.5.725/-	23.07.2024 to 27.07.2024	30.07.2024 11.00 AM	08.08.2024 11	

Terror hit on Shaurya Chakra winner's home

J&K Security Post Attacked, 2 Injured In Strikes

Sanjay Khajuria | TNN

Jammu: A soldier and a civilian were wounded when terrorists simultaneously attacked the house of a civilian Shaurya Chakra awardee and an adjacent security post in Gundah village of Budhal in J&K's Rajouri around 3.10am Monday, barely 24 hours after Army chief Gen Uday Kumar's stocktaking visit to flashpoint Jammu. Instant retaliation by the Army forced the terrorists to retreat, official sources said.

The attack was the second pre-dawn terrorist strike on a security camp in Jammu division in less than a week. Two soldiers were wounded last Thursday when armed men attacked the camp housed in a govt school at Kastigarh in Doda, the epicentre of J&K's latest spurt of terrorism-linked violence, including the July 15 shootout in which four Rashtriya Rifles personnel were killed.



Army vehicles patrol Gundah area of Rajouri district after an encounter between security forces and terrorists on Monday

played in the vicinity of the village rushed to the spot and foiled the attack...A cordon-and-search was then launched to track down the terrorists, triggering a gunfight," an Army source said. "Three to four militants are still trapped in the area."

Civilian Vijay Kumar, a relative of the Shaurya Chakra awardee, was wounded in the shootout along with a soldier whose identity wasn't disclosed. Both are in hospital but out of danger, sources said. Unconfirmed reports said one of the terrorists injured in the gunfight may have died.

A spokesperson for White Knight Corps said late Monday that the combing operation was underway.

Operations spearheaded by the Army and involving J&K Police and the Central Armed Police Forces are also continuing in parts of Doda, Udhampur, Reasi, Kathua and Poonch districts.

The Army's Udhampur-based Northern Command said the ongoing offensive was meant to eliminate all "foreign terrorists" who recently infiltrated the Jammu region.

Sources said terrorist outfits were now increasingly targeting security posts between midnight and dawn as part of a new strategy. Barring the Billawer Kathua ambush, all recent attacks have occurred in the dead of night.

In the past 32 months, 48 security personnel have been killed in terrorist strikes within Jammu division.

4 Bihar youths drown in Ganga

Bhagalpur: In a tragic incident, four youths drowned in a swollen Ganga at Madhurapur Jahaz Ghat in Nau-gachhia subdivision of Bihar's Bhagalpur district on Monday morning, reports Kumar Rajesh.

A joint team of police and SDRF, with the help of local divers and boatmen, recovered the bodies of Alok Kumar, Shivam Kumar, Sonu Kumar and Sanju Kumar.

Police said the deceased went midstream while taking bath, and were swept away by the strong currents.

OFFICE OF THE DEAN
उद्यान महाविद्यालय, केंद्रीय कृषि विश्वविद्यालय,
COLLEGE OF HORTICULTURE
CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY
थेनजौल, मिजोरम - 796 186
THENZAWL, MIZORAM - 796 186
E-mail: dean_cohmz@yahoo.com

Date: 20th July, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

Selection of exam centre for various non-teaching posts advertised under Central Agricultural University (Imphal)

It is hereby notified to all the candidates applied for the upcoming various non-teaching posts advertised by Central Agricultural University, Imphal to select their preferred exam centre. (Advertisement No.13/2023 dated 5th December, 2023).

Note: Candidates are advised to visit CAU website: www.cau.ac.in to select their exam centre carefully, as changes will not be entertained later. The exam centre once selected will be final and binding. The Last date for selection of exam centre is 27.07.2024.

Registrar

TOI History Meets AI JULY 23
AI VISUALISATION OF HISTORICAL EVENTS

The Ford Motor Company sold its first car, the Model A, to a Chicago dentist for around \$850 on this day in 1903

HC asks Swamy, Gandhis to file notes in National Herald case

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi High Court on Monday asked BJP MP Subramanian Swamy and Congress's Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi to file short notes on submissions in the National Herald case.

Justice Neena Bansal Krishna gave them four weeks to file the notes but added that if they were filed later, they would be accepted only with costs of Rs 15,000. The HC then listed the matter for Oct 29.

The high court is dealing with a plea by Swamy against a trial court's refusal in Feb 2021 to allow him to lead evi-

dence to prosecute the Gandhis and others in the case.

In 2021, it had issued a notice to the Gandhis and some others— including the late AICC general secretary Oscar Fernandes, Suman Dubey, Sam Pitroda and the entity Young India (YI)—to spell out their stand on Swamy's plea and stayed proceedings in the case. On Monday, the HC extended its stay until the next hearing.

In his plea, Swamy has sought summoning of some witnesses with directions to prove certain documents. The witnesses include secretary general (registry officer) of the Supreme Court, a deputy land and development officer, and a deputy commissioner of the income-tax department.

In a private criminal complaint in the trial court, Swamy accused the Gandhis and the others of conspiring to misappropriate funds of the entity that ran the National Herald newspaper.

Swamy claimed they paid only Rs 50 lakh, through which Young Indian Private Ltd (YI) obtained the right to recover Rs 90.25 crore that Associate Journals Ltd—the owner of National Herald newspaper—owed Congress. All accused had denied the allegations.

उत्तर-पूर्वी अंतरिक्ष उपयोग केंद्र /North Eastern Space Applications Centre
भारत सरकार /Government of India, अंतरिक्ष विभाग /Dept. of Space
उमियम /Umiyam - 793103, मेघालय/Meghalaya
दूरभाष /Tel : 0364-2570140

Advt. No. NESAC/RMT-TEMP/WI-01/2024 Date: 23 July 2024

North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC) invites eligible candidates to attend "Walk-in-Interview" for the positions of Research Scientist and Junior Research Fellow on temporary Project Basis at NESAC, Umiyam on 05th & 06th August 2024 at 08:30 AM (Reporting Time).

For detailed advertisement, kindly visit NESAC Website: www.nesac.gov.in. Corrigendum/addendum, if any, will be published only in the NESAC website.

Sd/-
Director, NESAC

ADVERTORIAL

DEAR WEEKLY LOTTERY

₹1 CRORE WON BY

NORTH 24 PARGANAS RESIDENT

held on 25.05.2024. His winning ticket number is 69H 83510. He has submitted his prize-winning ticket along with the prize claim form to the Nodal Officer, Nagaland State Lotteries located at Kolkata.

"This occasion could be the happiest moment in my life. I have never expected that I could become a Crorepati. Dear Lottery has lightened my life's journey with a prize money of One Crore rupees. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Dear Lottery and Nagaland State Lotteries for this golden opportunity," said the winner.

Mr. MANOJ BAIRAGI from NORTH 24 PARGANAS, WEST BENGAL has won Rs. 1 Crore as first prize in Dear Weekly Lottery in the draw

75
BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS
EASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE
Advertisement No. ERO/02(STC-SP)/2024
Requirement of Consultant

1. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), a Statutory Body under the administrative control of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Govt. of India, is the National Standards Body of India and is responsible for activities in the field of Standardization, Product and System Certification, Hallmarking, Laboratory Testing etc., in the country

2. BIS offers excellent opportunities to Indian nationals with proven academic credentials, professional achievements, good working knowledge of Marketing strong communication, interpersonal skills and leadership qualities for engaging with BIS as Consultants on short-term basis (six months) for Standards Promotion for our seven branch offices under Bureau of Indian Standards Eastern Regional Office. The details of the advertisement are as follow

Sl. No.	Particulars	Description	Remuneration
01.	No. of Positions	2 for each branch office (Kolkata Branch Office-I, Kolkata Branch Office-II, Jamshedpur Branch Office, Guwahati Branch Office, Bhubaneswar Branch Office, Raipur Branch Office & Patna Branch Office).	A Consolidated Monthly Remuneration of Rs. 50000- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only)
02.	Method of Recruitment	Through Interview at our respective branch offices.	
03.	Educational Qualifications	a) Essential Qualification required: M.B.A. (Marketing) or equivalent degree in Mass Communication or Masters in Social Work (MSW) b) Desirable: i. Proficiency with IT tools (e.g. MS Office). ii. Fluency in written and oral English, Hindi and Local Language. c) Experience required: Two years of experience in marketing and mass communication, preferably in Central Govt./State Govt./PSU/Autonomous Organizations.	
04.	Job Description	(Please see detailed Advertisement at our website- www.bis.gov.in)	
05.	Last date for submission of application.	12.08.2024	
06.	Dates of interview	At Jamshedpur Branch Office & Guwahati Branch Office - 20.08.2024 At Kolkata Branch Office-I, Patna Branch Office & Bhubaneswar Branch Office - 22.08.2024 At Kolkata Branch Office-II & Raipur Branch Office - 21.08.2024	

For detailed Advertisement and applying for the post, please visit BIS website www.bis.gov.in
Interested candidates may apply through the below mentioned link along with Bio-Data.
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1v4ZqYbs-QUWM-QIQXbvHhOsHKKi8DNluc3NhwZrZkl/edit>

Sd/-
Asst. Director (A&F), ERO
E-mail : adminero@bis.gov.in

GARTEX TEXPROCESS INDIA 2024

Biggest show on garment and textile value chain

Gartex Texprocess India 2024 promises attendees a comprehensive business experience featuring specialised exhibitions, insightful seminars, and interactive workshops on garment manufacturing industry and textile technologies

Gartex Texprocess India 2024, scheduled from August 1 to 3, 2024, at Yashobhoomi (India International Convention and Expo Centre), renowned for its state-of-the-art facilities and modern infrastructure, Dwarka, New Delhi, is set to redefine the textile technologies and garment manufacturing industry landscape. Organised jointly by MEX Exhibitions Pvt Ltd. and Messe Frankfurt Trade Fairs India Pvt Ltd., this prestigious expo is supported by the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, highlighting



its pivotal role in the industry. In collaboration with association partners such as the Garment Exporters Association of Rajasthan and the Noida Apparel Export Cluster, Gartex Texprocess India 2024 brings together more than 200 exhibitors and more than 600 leading brands encompassing cutting-edge solutions in garmenting and apparel machinery, fabrics, trims and accessories, denim fabrics and

manufacturing value chain, automation software and services/ CAD-CAM, screen printing technology, laundry and finishing technologies, knitting machinery, embroidery machinery and technology, digital textile printing machinery, sewing machines, and allied industries. Gartex Texprocess India presents an exclusive opportunity to connect and engage with the entire manufacturing value chain through its co-located show, the Denim Show (India's premier exhibition on the entire denim value chain), and also the inclusion of zones on fabrics and trims and a special zone for Screen Print India. Gartex Talks @Gartex Texprocess India features conferences and workshops that

enhance understanding of the latest industry trends and innovations in garment and textile manufacturing. The sessions provide insights into sustainable practices, advanced machinery, and the future of textile industry. Experts will share their knowledge, helping participants stay ahead in a rapidly evolving market. Incorporating Denim

Show brings together suppliers, manufacturers, distributors, retailers, designers, and more, creating a dynamic space for exploring the denim manufacturing trends and innovations. A specially curated section, Denim Trends, highlights the latest trends, technologies, designs, and fabrics in the denim industry. Denim Talks presents conferences and workshops dedicated to enhancing the understanding of developments in the denim sector.

India's textile and garment industry holds a pivotal position in the global market, projected to reach USD 350 billion by 2024. The industry's diverse landscape and robust growth underscore its importance as a key contributor to the economy, driving employment and export revenues. Gartex Texprocess India 2024 promises attendees a comprehensive business experience featuring specialised exhibitions, insightful seminars, and interactive workshops.

For editorial queries, contact: Resp.Edit@timesgroup.com

VISIT India's Premier Exhibition on Entire Denim Value Chain

Denim SHOW

01 - 03 AUGUST, 2024
Yashobhoomi (IICC) Dwarka
Delhi, India

Time: 10:00am to 6:30pm
Hall : 01
Children below 18 years are not allowed

Metro station entry/exit leads to registration counter
Pedestrian entry and cab drop at Gate No. 6
Visitor/Exhibitor car parking from Gate No. 8A

Supported By: Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India
In Association with: Noida Apparel Export Cluster
Platinum Partner: creora
Gold Partner: JINDAL Textiles
Silver Partners: LION FABRICS, SHIREJI TEXTILE, ANUBHA
Trend Zone Partners: Arvind, Raymond, UCO

This is a B2B trade exhibition | www.denimshow.com

VISIT Integrated Expo on Garment Manufacturing & Textile Technologies

GARTEX texprocess INDIA

01 | 02 | 03
AUGUST, 2024
Yashobhoomi (IICC) Dwarka
Delhi, India
Time: 10:00am to 6:30pm

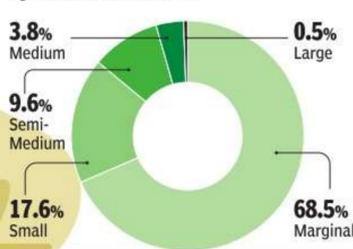
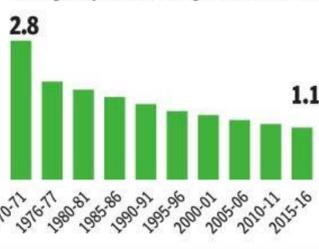
www.gartexindia.com

Supported By: Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India
In Association with: Noida Apparel Export Cluster
Association Partners: GEAR, NAEC
Incorporating: Denim SHOW
Featured Zones: Fabrics, Trims Show, screen print, textile

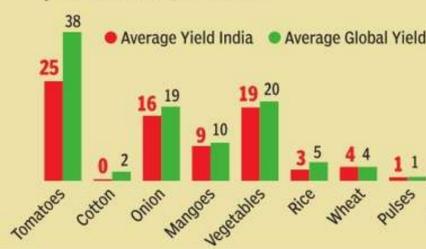
Visitor/Exhibitor car parking from Gate No. 8A | Pedestrian entry and cab drop at Gate No. 6
This is a B2B trade exhibition | Children below 18 years are not allowed

SEEDING
GROWTH

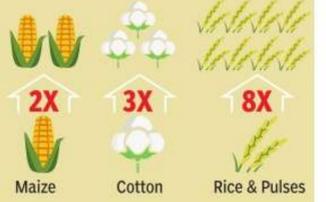
Land Consolidation Is A Key To Boosting Agricultural Yields

Number of Holdings operated in India as per
Agriculture Census 2015-16Average size (in hectare) of operational
holdings as per different Agriculture Censuses

Maximizing Yields To Boost India's Agricultural Potential

Average yield comparison for major agricultural
products (2021-22), tons/hectare

Raising yields would boost production



Source: Agriculture Statistics at a Glance- 2022, Dept. of Agriculture and Family Welfare for India Average yields; FAO for Global Yields

FM's roadmap: Keep options open for futures in agri mkt

Reversing Export Bans, More Pvt Investment Among Proposals

TEAM TOI

New Delhi: The Economic Survey on Monday emphasised on the pressing need for comprehensive reforms in India's agricultural sector and recommended five policy points to ensure that the markets function in the interest of the farmer. It also pitched for striking a delicate balance between incentivising farmers to increase production and keeping food prices within acceptable limits, and suggested addressing the issue of land fragmentation.

Elaborating on five policy recommendations, the survey, tabled by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Parliament, suggested not opting to ban 'futures or options' at the first sign of price spikes. Other

INFLATION MENU CARD

Contribution (%) of food items to food inflation

FY23 FY24

Cereals

Vegetables

Spices

Milk

Pulses

Elevated inflation rate (%) in vegetables, pulses and spices

FY23 FY24

Cereals

Vegetables

Spices

Milk

Pulses

four suggestions include in-

volving export bans only under

exceptional circumstances, re-

examining the inflation-tar-

geting framework, increasing

the total net irrigated area, and

making farming consistent with

climate considerations.

It said the agri sector re-

quires structural transforma-

tion due to challenges of water scarcity and climate change. The survey called for enhancing private sector investment in agriculture saying it is vital for impetus. It said investments in production methods, marketing infrastructure, technology and reduction in post-harvest losses need to be scaled up.

Chief economic adviser V Anantha Nageswaran in the preface to the survey highlighted the need for policy re-orientation despite existing subsidies and support measures. The survey noted that the sector provides livelihood support to 42.3% of the population and has a share of 18.2% in GDP at current prices. The sector has seen average annual growth rate of 4.1% at constant prices over last five years.

'Go digital to put infra projects in fast lane'

TEAM TOI

New Delhi: With land acquisition issues delaying infrastructure projects, particularly highways, airports and power, the Economic Survey has called for faster onboarding of digital land records and obtaining clearances.

The report highlights that despite the large build-up of connectivity infrastructure and energy-related assets, both sectors are hit by delays in land acquisition. The govt is tackling it by focusing on developing access-controlled NHs and upgrading existing ones. "Implementing single-window clearances is crucial for enhancing roadway services' efficiency and effectiveness in India's transportation network," it said.

The report also said that India needs more private participation in building infrastructure, along with more data about investments and assets in the sector, instead of relying on public expenditure. Private sector participation is not forthcoming to the extent desired, it says.

"For India to continue building quality infrastructure, a higher level of private sector financing and resource mobilisation from new sources will be crucial. Facilitating this would not only require policy and institutional support from the Centre, but state and local govt would have to play an equally important role," the survey said.

Blatant lies on poverty: Cong attacks govt on Survey

TEAM TOI

New Delhi: Congress on Monday said that the Economic Survey presents an "illusion" and that India's economy is "at its most precarious" in years.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge hit out at PM Narendra Modi, posting on X, "You were lamenting today about being 'throttled for two-and-a-half hours', but the truth is that your govt has crushed the aspirations of 140 crore Indians in 10 years! The Economic Survey tells a blatant lie by claiming that poverty has almost been eradicated. The truth is that the gap between rich and poor is highest in 100 years." Kharge also highlighted unemployment as a serious concern.

Deputy leader of opposition in Lok Sabha, Gaurav Gogoi, said the Economic Survey is an "example of the illusion that everything is fine". "The PM is always concerned about himself, when the fact is that the common man, students, poor, labourers are being strangled by this govt."

Congress will raise farm issues, joblessness, Agniveer, the advisory on Kanwar Yatra, NEET exams and Manipur violence in Parliament.

Richer states like TN, Kerala corner more NREGS funds

TEAM TOI

New Delhi: The Economic Survey has questioned the conclusions that higher work generation and fund use under the job scheme implies rural distress, arguing that if it was so, then poorer states with higher unemployment should be leading the performance in MGNREGA as against the fact that richer states have a better record of tapping the scheme. The survey raised the possibility that there may be a correlation between MGNREGA fund usage and reduced unemployment, in what appears to argue that the job scheme is mitigating joblessness.

The survey stated that in 2023-24, Tamil Nadu, which

HAVES & NOTS

Ratio of proportion of MGNREGS fund released to states and proportion of poor population

TOP 5

Kerala

Mizoram

Tamil Nadu

Sikkim

Ladakh

BOTTOM 5

Jharkhand

Gujarat

Haryana

Uttar Pradesh

Bihar

has less than 1% of country's

poor population, accounted

for 15% of MGNREGS funds

released, while Kerala with

just 0.1% of poor population used 4% of MGNREGS funds. TN and Kerala together generated 51 crore persondays of work.

In contrast, Bihar and UP with 45% of poor population accounted for only 17% of the scheme's funds and generated 53 crore persondays of work.

The survey further added that "states with highest rural unemployment rates did not necessarily use the most MGNREGS funds."

The survey also noted that irregularities and leakages also result in higher fund usage, and the funds do not reach the intended beneficiaries, which makes "demand an unreliable distress indicator". It said Rs 935 crore over four years was found to have been misappropriated, as per social audit units.

Climate change fight smart tactic in geopolitics

TEAM TOI

New Delhi: An active role in fighting climate change also makes for good geopolitics.

This is what the Economic Survey says, pointing out that by helping small island nations, most vulnerable to climate change, building disaster resilient infrastructure is helping India build a network of allies in the Indo Pacific region, where China has increasingly been aggressive and expanding.

India's contributions through its International Solar Alliance (ISA), Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), creation of LeadIT, Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS), and Big Cat Alliance are significant, the survey said.

The India-headquartered International Solar Alliance (ISA), an inter-governmental body of 110 countries, has the potential of unlocking \$1 trillion of investments by 2030, creating a market system to tap the benefits of solar power. The ISA is an Indian initiative, launched in 2017.

India's quest for global leadership roles also saw the launch of New Delhi-based CDRI, which works for sharing of expertise to build disaster resilient infrastructure across the globe. CDRI was launched by PM Narendra Modi in 2019 at the UN climate summit in New York and has 33 countries, multilateral banks, UN agencies and many international financial institutions as its members.

Recently, CDRI invited proposals for funding of \$8 million to develop resilient infrastructure as part of its Infrastructure for Resilient Island States Programme (IRIS), which has financial commitments of \$40 million from Australia, the European Union, India and the UK.

Obesity, fatty foods threat to healthy & wealthy India

TEAM TOI

New Delhi: Excessive use of social media, screen time, sedentary habits, and unhealthy food don't just raise the risk of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, heart diseases and certain types of cancer. The Economic Survey 2023-24 has warned that the lethal mix of these lifestyle-related factors that is highly prevalent among India's working-age population also poses a threat to the country's economic potential.

"For India's working-age population to be gainfully employed, they need skills and good health," the survey says, adding that the private sector has made substantial contributions to this toxic mix of habits.



LIFESTYLE REBOOT

The survey recommends Indian businesses embrace traditional lifestyle and recipes. "India's traditional lifestyle, food and recipes have shown how to live healthily and in harmony with nature and the environment...it makes commercial sense for Indian businesses to...embrace them," the survey says.

Nearly 56% of the disease

burden in India is due to unhealthy diets, according to the latest dietary guidelines for Indians published by the Indian Council for Medical Research. The survey cites this data and says a surge in the consumption of highly processed foods laden with sugars and fat, coupled with reduced physical activity and limited access to diverse foods, may add to the crisis as it would exacerbate micronutrient deficiencies and overweight/obesity problems.

Excess weight and obesity, two common lifestyle problems that plague nearly 17% of India's population, are costing the country 1.02% of its GDP, the World Obesity Federation and the RTI International had said in a report published in BMJ Global Health in 2022.

Just skill it: Incentivise job creation to meet global needs

TEAM TOI

New Delhi: The Economic Survey 2023-24 highlighted the need to equip India's workforce with employable skills and knowledge to meet the demands of the global labour market.

With only 4.4% of the young workforce formally skilled, the survey suggested linking skill development initiatives with Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) and employment-linked incentive schemes in high-growth potential sectors such as toys, apparels, tourism, logistics, and textiles. This approach would facilitate the upgrading of skills as production moves up the value chain.

Currently, the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme is available for 14 sectors. Industry bodies have



HIRING SQUAD

been demanding introduction of an employment-linked incentive scheme to promote job creation in the economy, in the face of a growing young population amidst concerns about joblessness.

The survey emphasised the importance of maximising the outcomes from skill-linked initiatives by promoting convergence and utilising synergies with other employ-

ment-centric programmes. The govt is actively partnering with the industry to enhance skilling and employability, ensuring that job and entrepreneurial opportunities align with the aspirations and abilities of youth.

"Measures are being taken by govt to translate India's demographic dividend into a productivity dividend by enabling job and entrepreneurial opportunities that are in sync with the aspirations and abilities of India's youth. It is partnering with the industry to enhance skilling with employability," said the Survey.

By linking skill development with PLI schemes and employment-linked incentive schemes in high-growth sectors, the govt aims to support the upgrading of skills as production advances along the value chain.

Rubbing the wrong way: Toilet paper doesn't wash with planners

TEAM TOI

New Delhi: The Economic Survey focuses on the excessive use of toilet paper by the West and the need for a behavioural change.

"The entire developed world uses toilet paper made of 'virgin wood' for the most regular body activity, every single day, multiple times over. Making one single roll of toilet paper uses 1.5 pounds of wood, 37 gallons of water and 1.3kwh of electricity," the survey quotes a report.

It suggests that advanced countries learn from some of the poor and developing nations in Asia where they have adopted a more nature friend-



DUMP IT

ly lifestyle when it comes to maintaining basic hygiene.

"Many Asian countries provide valuable lessons around these, yet their non-capitalist strategies often re-

main excluded from mainstream discussions because behavioural and lifestyle change seems to be more difficult than climate change," the published report said.

It also points out how the developed world is reluctant to focus on the impact of their 'consumption-oriented lifestyle'. Growing red meat for consumption in these countries, which has a large impact on climate change, is one example. The OECD Environmental Policies and Individual Behaviour Change survey of 2022 said that 43% of respondents reported regular consumption of red meat and showed resistance to change this lifestyle.

No more red cards for 'motherhood penalty'

TEAM TOI

New Delhi: The Economic Survey calls for strategic reforms to create a robust care economy in India to not only address the expected rise in demand for such services but also address the challenge of 'motherhood penalty'.

Childbearing and childcare is found to have a significant financial impact on women's careers. "Motherhood penalty" shows up as a drop in 'female labour force participation rate' during child-bearing years and resultant loss of income.

"The economic value of developing a care sector is two-fold—increasing female labour force participation rate and promoting a promising sector for output and job



GREAT EXPECTATIONS

creation," the survey said. According to the Indian Labour Organisation (ILO), the care sector is one of the fastest-growing sectors globally, and investments in care

services sector are estimated to generate 475 million jobs globally by 2030.

In India, direct public investment equivalent to 2% of GDP has the potential to gen-

erate around 11 million jobs, nearly 70% of which will go to women.

According to the ILO, care work consists of activities involved in meeting the physical, psychological, and emotional needs of adults and children, old and young, frail and able-bodied.

"India's care needs are slated to expand significantly in the next 25 years, as an ageing population follows demographic transition while the population of children stays relatively sizeable. Thus compared to 50.7 crore persons in 2022, the country would need to care for 64.7 crore persons in 2050," the survey said.

The report asserted that the additional requirements for care would be further up-scaled as more women partici-

pate in paid work with prevalence of nuclear families increasing.

In a section on social and economic empowerment of women, the survey calls for measures to enhance asset ownership among women and normalising female property rights. "For development to be led by women, it will also have to be 'owned' by them," the report said.

On financial inclusion, it has pointed out that the PM Jan Dhan Yojana has facilitated the opening of 52.3 crore bank accounts, of which around 56% of account holders are women, as of May 2024. This is accompanied by a rise in average deposits by nearly four times, from Rs 1,065 in March 2015 to Rs 4,398 in May 2024.

Police can't usurp authorities' powers without legal basis: SC

Continued from P 1

The court prima facie agreed with the arguments put forth by senior advocates Abhishek Manu Singhvi, C.U. Singh and Huzefa Ahmadi, who submitted that kanwar yatra had been going on since pre-independence but no such directive was ever issued which is against constitutional provisions and secularism and it was meant for social and economic boycott of a community.

At the outset of the hearing, the bench asked whether some formal order had been passed by govt or it was just voluntary for shopowners to display the names. Senior advocate Singh, who along with lawyer Fauzia Shakil appeared for the Association for Protection of Civil Rights, told SC that coercion was in the nature of the order as a fine was being imposed by state police on shopkeepers. He claimed a bulldozer was being deployed for its compliance.

Singhvi, appearing for Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra, submitted that the purpose behind the directive was exclusion by identity, which is not envisaged by the Constitution. He said people of all religions, including Muslims, help kanwariyas on their way, and added that it was a double whammy for shopkeepers —

TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL SANDEEP ADHWARYU



if they disclose they are damned, if they don't then also they are damned. In both cases there is exclusion and hundreds from the Muslim community are losing jobs, he told the bench.

Examining the issue, the bench also raised questions on the need and expectation of yatrias who take vegetarian food during the pilgrimage. It asked whether it was needed that food be cooked and served by a member of a particular community and whether the farming of the grain was also

to be done by a member of the same community.

Emphasising that cleanliness and hygiene is more important than who cooks or serves food, Justice Bhatti shared his experience when he was in Kerala. He said that there were two vegetarian restaurants side by side — one run by a Hindu and other by a Muslim and he went to the latter because of its hygiene standards and the owner, who was a Dubai returnee, had displayed everything about cleanliness, safety and

Hope & relief for traders on 'kanwar highway'

Sandeep Rai, Mohd Dilshad & Deepak Lavania | TNN

Meerut/Muzaffarnagar/Agra: A wave of hope and jubilation spread across owners and employees of Muslim-run fruit carts, tea stalls, tiny dhabas and restaurants dotted along highways and roads that are part of the kanwar yatra route that leads from UP to Uttarakhand.

"Once again, the court has come to our rescue. We can heave a sigh of relief, at least for now," said Mohammed Nisar as he took down a poster that read 'Nisar Phal (fruits)'. "I was petrified my sales would plummet. We eagerly wait for this yatra the

entire year and welcome kanwariyas like our brothers."

Rizwan Chaudhary, owner of Tiranga dhaba in Kairana, was elated. Chaudhary said, "I was asked to shut down my eatery by the police. I'm sure this will make them reconsider. The moment the SC order came, I rushed to open my shop."

Bijnor-based trader Waseem Ahmed said: "The administration's move would've had a debilitating impact on the local economy. I run an outlet by the name of Saini dhaba because all my employees and managers are from the Saini caste... Now if my name is put on display, it would jeopardise our business."

standard of food on a board. Ahmadi, appearing for Apoorvanand Jha and activist Aakar Patel of Association for Protection of Civil Rights, said the directives were discriminatory and would further the cause of untouchability and violative of Article 14, 15(1), 17 and 19(1)(g) of the Constitution. He said that requiring vendors to display the names of the owners and staff cannot by itself be read as a measure to ensure vegetarian food.

Prima facie not agreeing

with the directives, the bench said, "It is permissible for the authorities to ensure that the kanwariyas are served vegetarian food conforming to the preferences and also ensure hygienic standards. In furtherance to this, the competent authority may perhaps issue orders under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the Street Vendors Act, 2014. However, the legal powers vested on the competent authority cannot be usurped by police without legal foundation."

Survey flags need to create 78.5L non-farm jobs annually till 2030

Continued from P 1

The Economic Survey, meant to be a comprehensive official account of the financial year gone by, said on inflation, India had handled the price situation better than peers and the short-term outlook was benign.

"The Economic Survey highlights the prevailing strengths of our economy and also showcases the outcomes of the various reforms our govt has brought. It also identifies areas for further growth and progress as we move towards building a Viksit Bharat," said PM Modi on X.

Of course, employment has been identified as a challenge, with the document underlining the need to create 78.5 lakh non-farm jobs annually until 2030, while suggesting that the Centre alone cannot deal with the issue. "It is worth reiterating that job creation happens mainly in the private sector. Second, many (not all) of the issues that influence economic growth, job creation and productivity and the actions to be taken therein are in the domain of the state govts."

Chief economic adviser V Anantha Nageswaran, also waded into the debate on inequality by citing data to argue that as India's GDP expanded 12 times since 1993, per capita income also increased sevenfold between FY1990 and FY2024: a pointed rebuttal to Thomas Piketty and his acolytes. Nageswaran is confident about the trend continuing as

he projected a healthy growth rate up to 2047.

However, he also signalled his sensitivity to the rich-poor gap, flagging the role of tax policies as a possible solution, and AI as a disruptor which could add to the challenge. "Tax policies on the treatment of capital and labour incomes will likely play a more important role in the coming years, especially since the deployment of technology like AI may have a more deleterious impact on employment and income."

The Survey stood out from its predecessors in its candid acknowledgement of several bumps that the govt needs to navigate to ensure sustained growth over a quarter century. It highlighted how compliance burden and approvals were hobbling economic activity.

"The Indian state can free up its capacity and enhance its capability to focus on areas where it has to by letting go of its grip in areas where it does not have to. The licensing, inspection and compliance requirements that all levels of the government continue to impose on businesses is an onerous burden. Relative to history, the burden has lightened. Relative to where it ought to be, it is still a lot heavier. The burden is felt more acutely by those least equipped to bear it — small and medium enterprises. It holds them back, leashes their aspirations, and, in the process, holds the country back," Nageswaran said in the preface of the sedate economic analysis. The compliance bur-

den on SMEs is seen to be particularly heavy.

Apart from jobs, inequality and deregulation, the nine-point policy thrust for the short- and medium-term — some of which may be addressed by Sitharaman in the budget on Tuesday — included a focus on skilling as just around half the youth is deemed employable.

It also called for tapping the full potential of the farm sector by targeting higher yields and land consolidation, crop diversification and better price discovery.

Besides, it sought to draw attention to the policy on China, where govt has imposed restrictions, arguing that boosting FDI from the neighboring nation with which India is engaged in a border dispute, could help bridge the mounting trade deficit and also integrate domestic companies into the global value chain. The observation came in the backdrop of slowing FDI inflows.

On the critical issue of energy transition, the Survey recommended an India-specific approach and also cautioned about protectionism in climate change policies in the developed world.

"Over the last 10 years, the visionary policies of Modi Ji have placed Bharat at the pinnacle of economic growth. The survey documents Bharat's rise to the pedestal of the fastest-growing major economy while prominently outlining its future trajectory to emerge as a developed nation," home minister Amit Shah tweeted.

4 ministers from BJP allies get Lutyens' bungalows

New Delhi: In the first lot of official accommodation, for ministers in Lutyens' Delhi, four cabinet ministers from BJP allies have been allotted bungalows falling under the biggest category of type-VIII.

While civil aviation minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu from TDP has been allotted 22, Akbar Road, heavy industries minister H D Kumaraswamy from JD(S) has been allotted 6, Kushak Road. Food processing minister from LJP (Ram Vilas) Chirag Paswan and HAM leader and MSME minister Jitan Ram Manjhi got 1, Sunehri Bagh and 7B, Janpath respectively. TNN



Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav along with MPs of other opposition parties outside the Parliament on the first day of monsoon session in New Delhi on Monday

4 hurt as drunk driver rams Audi into 2 autos

Mumbai: A speeding Audi car, driven by a man allegedly in an inebriated state, rams into two stationary autorickshaws in Mumbai's Mulund area on Monday, leaving four persons injured, police said.

Police have arrested the accused, Dattatray Gore, 43, a resident of Kanjurmarg, from his sister's house after he fled the scene, leaving the vehicle behind, an official said.

The incident occurred at around 6.15 am on Dumping Road, and the police officials later impounded the high-end car, he said. The car had rams into two stationary autorickshaws, injuring two drivers and as many passengers. Their

condition is said to be stable, the official said.

Police have collected the accused's blood sample and sent it to Kalina Forensic Science Laboratory. It was found that he was under the influence of alcohol

MUM HIT & RUN

at the time of the accident, the official added.

A case has been registered under relevant provisions of Bhartiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS) and Motor Vehicle Act (MVA), the official said.

This incident follows a recent accident in Worli, where a BMW fatally struck a woman riding as a pillion on a two-wheeler. PTI

'Guj razed 503 illegal religious structures'

Ahmedabad: State govt on Monday informed the Gujarat High Court that 503 religious structures, illegally constructed on public places, were removed across state in the last one month.

The HC and Supreme Court have ordered the removal of all religious constructions, illegally put up on public places.

This was in response to a photograph of a temple in Ahmedabad published by TOI in 2006 after riots broke out in Vadodara, when three mazzars were razed by the civic body. The govt submitted that out of 503 religious structures that were demolished, 263 structures were in district areas and 267 in municipal corporation areas. TNN

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
TENDER ID : 2024_WBP_716608
_1 DATED 18/07/2024, WORK TITLE: RENOVATION OF FLOOR AND CEILING WITH ATTACHED TOILET OF S.P. CHAMBER AT KHARAGPUR GRP UNDER THE S.P. G.R.P. KHARAGPUR. BID CLOSING DATE: 02/08/24 FOR MORE DETAILS LOG ON TO : www.wbtenders.gov.in
Sd/-
Superintendent of Police
Government Railway Police,
Kharagpur ICA-T12044(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Abridged Tender Notice
Niet No. 06 OF EE/NACD-II OF 2024-2025 is hereby invited for various works. Last date of submission: 31/07/2024 up to 16.00 p.m. For Niet documents & other details visit: www.wbtenders.gov.in & www.wbphed.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Nadia Arsenic Civil Division-II, P.H.E. Dte. ICA-T12032(3)/2024

Office of the District Magistrate & Collector Paschim Bardhaman
e-tender no. 06/2024-2025/Nez. II. 22.07.2024
Online (e-tender) tender in two bid system is hereby invited for supply of furniture for official use of the Office of the District Magistrate, Paschim Bardhaman. Date of starting bids: 22.07.2024 from 6.00 p.m. Last Date of submission of bids: 06.08.2024 at 6.00 p.m. For details visit wbtenders.gov.in and the office Notice Board. Tender ID: 2024_DMPBSB_71904_1.
Sd/-
For District Magistrate
Paschim Bardhaman

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Bakreswar Thermal Power Project
P.O. BKTPP, Dist. - Birbhum, Pin - 731104
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
Ref No.: WBPDC/ Tend-Adv/24-25/BKTPP/CC-2064 Date: 16.07.2024
NIT No.: WBPDC/ BKTPP/NIT/E3167/24-25
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtdenders.gov.in by the General Manager - BKTPP, WBPDC, from eligible Agencies/ Companies in 2 Part bid system for "Procurement of P.Way materials for Inside Railway at BKTPP". Tender Document Download Start Date: 19.07.2024 at 14.00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 10.08.2024 at 12.00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. Sumit Dasgupta, Dy. General Manager, HOD (Purchase Deptt.), BKTPP, WBPDC. Mobile: 8336903911. E-mail: s.dasgupta@wbpdcl.co.in/purchase_bktps@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: https://wbtdenders.gov.in ICA-T12079(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
West Bengal State Health & Family Welfare Samiti
Swasthya Bhawan, Wing-'B', 3rd Floor
GN-29, Sector-V, Bidhannagar Kolkata - 700 091
Brief Recruitment Notice
West Bengal State Health & Family Welfare Samiti intends to engage on contract basis for the position of **State Consultant (Climate Change) under National Health Mission, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal.** Details of the position are as follows:

Sl. No	NAME OF CONTRACTUAL POSITION	NUMBER OF VACANCIES	PLACE OF POSTING
1	State Consultant (Climate Change)	2 (UR-I, Sc-I)	State Head Quarter

Eligible candidates should apply online in the prescribed format as given in the Department's website for the mentioned position. Visit www.wbhealth.gov.in at the link "Recruitment" for details. Starting date of online application is 24th July, 2024 and the last date of completing the online application is 7th August, 2024.
Sd/-
Executive Director
WB SH & FW Samiti
ICA-N340(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
West Bengal State Health & Family Welfare Samiti
Swasthya Bhawan, Wing-'B', 3rd Floor
GN-29, Sector-V, Bidhannagar Kolkata-700 091
Brief Recruitment Notice
West Bengal State Health & Family Welfare Samiti intends to engage on contract basis for the position of **Programme Co-ordinator-Oral Health under National Health Mission, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal.** Details of the position are as follows:

Sl. No	NAME OF CONTRACTUAL POSITION	NUMBER OF VACANCY	PLACE OF POSTING
1	Programme Co-ordinator- Oral Health	1	State Head Quarters

Eligible candidates should apply online in the prescribed format as given in the Department's website for the mentioned position. Visit www.wbhealth.gov.in at the link "Recruitment" for details. Starting date of online application is 22nd July, 2024 and the last date of completing the online application is 5th August, 2024.
Sd/-
Executive Director
WB SH & FW Samiti
ICA-N343(2)/2024

Ex-soldier kills 6 family members over land dispute

Jaskaran Singh | TNN

Ambala: A retired soldier allegedly axed to death five members of his extended family, two of them children, and set ablaze an injured child over a property dispute in their native village of Punjab's Ambala district late Sunday.

Bhushan Kumar also attempted to burn the bodies of his mother, brother, sister-in-law and two of the slain child after the frenzied burst of

killings across the wall of his house near Rataur village of Naraingarh block, police said on Monday.

Surti Devi (60), her son Harish (35), the latter's wife Sonia (32) and the couple's children Taru (5), and Mayank (5 months) were apparently the first victims. Bhushan and Harish's wounded father Om Prakash (65) resounded a grand-daughter, Pari (7), from a water tank into which she had jumped after being set ablaze. She

died Monday evening at Chandigarh's PGIMER.

Bhushan, who retired from the Army about seven years ago, lives with his wife and two sons on the other side of their divided ancestral property's shared wall.

Ambala SP Surender Singh Bhoria said that based on Om Prakash's statement, police arrested Bhushan, his wife Ponam, two brothers-in-law — Amal 'Tony' and Manish 'Jony' of Manglai village — his

sons Makhan and Prince, and sister-in-law Baby.

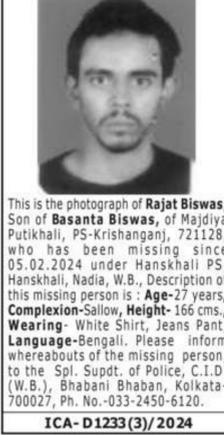
Survivor Om Prakash told police, "The dispute is over two acres that my wife and I had split between our sons. For a long time, Bhushan and his in-laws were forcing us to transfer the entire land to him." He said Bhushan first struck Surti Devi and swung his axe at him. "I managed to block the blow. He then entered Harish's house and, one by one, targeted his family."

INFORMATION WANTED



This is the photograph of Asraf Sk, Son of Lt. Humayun Kobir, of Villi-Raghu Nathpur, PS-Murari, PO-Beliapala, 731219, who has been missing since 03.07.2024 from Residence, Margram, Birbhum, W.B., Description of this missing person is: Age-14 years, Complexion-Fair, Height-153 cms., Wearing- Black Punjabi, Black Pajama, Blue and Black Bag, Language-Bengali. Please inform whereabouts of the missing person, to the Spl. Supdt. of Police, C.I.D. (W.B.), Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120. ICA-D1236(3)/2024

INFORMATION WANTED



This is the photograph of Rajat Biswas, Son of Basanta Biswas, of Majdiya Putkhal, PS-Krishanganj, 721128, who has been missing since 05.02.2024 under Hanskhali PS, Hanskhali, Nadia, W.B., Description of this missing person is: Age-27 years, Complexion-Sallow, Height-166 cms., Wearing- White Shirt, Jeans Pant, Language-Bengali. Please inform whereabouts of the missing person, to the Spl. Supdt. of Police, C.I.D. (W.B.), Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120. ICA-D1233(3)/2024

INFORMATION WANTED



This is the photograph of missing person Swapna Dutta, wife of Tapan Dutta of 42/10, Vidyasagar Sarani, Kolkata - 700008, who has been missing since 07.05.2017 from her residence. Description of this missing person is: Age - 60 Years, Height - 4'0" Complexion - Black, Built - Medium, Wearing - Red and white printed saree, Peculiarity if any - Mentally Challenged, please inform whereabouts of the missing person, contact to the O.C., Missing Persons Squad, Detective Department, Kolkata Police, Lalbazar, Kolkata - 700001. (Telephone No.033 - 2214-1835, 9874902710). ICA-01242(2)/2024

CANCELLATION OF MAITREE EXPRESS
Due to operational reasons, 13110 Dhaka - Kolkata Maitree Express, scheduled to arrive at Kolkata on 24.07.2024 and 13108 Kolkata - Dhaka Maitree Express, scheduled to depart from Kolkata on 24.07.2024, both will remain cancelled. Inconvenience to be caused to the passengers deeply regretted.
Chief Passenger Transportation Manager
EASTERN RAILWAY
Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
NIZAM SUGARS LIMITED (NSL)
5-10-174, Shakar Bhavan, Fateh Maidan Road, Basheerbagh, Hyderabad-500 004. Telangana. Ph.No.: +91-040-23237386, E-mail: nizamsugars@gmail.com, Website: https://tender.telangana.gov.in
CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR REVIVAL OF NIZAM SUGARS LTD., (NSL) UNITS IN TELANGANA STATE
The Consultancy Services invited vide Ref.No.: NSL/HO/REVIVAL/RFP/01, Dated : 03.07.2024.
"Submission of bids has been extended up to 05:00 PM of 30th July 2024".
Sd/-
R.O. No.: 203-PP/IC-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25
MANAGING DIRECTOR

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
West Bengal State Health & Family Welfare Samiti
Swasthya Bhawan, Wing-'B', 3rd Floor
GN-29, Sector-V, Bidhannagar Kolkata - 700 091
Brief Recruitment Notice
West Bengal State Health & Family Welfare Samiti will engage personnel for various positions as listed below on contract basis under **National Health Mission, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal.** Details of the position are as follows:

Sl. No	NAME OF CONTRACTUAL POSITION	NUMBER OF VACANCY	PLACE OF POSTING
1	State Consultant - Patient Care Services	1	State Head Quarters
2	Co-ordinator- Patient Care Services	1	State Head Quarters

Eligible candidates should apply online in the prescribed format as given in the Department's website for the mentioned positions. Visit www.wbhealth.gov.in at the link "Recruitment" for details. Starting date of online application is 24th July, 2024 and the last date of completing the online application is 7th August, 2024.
Sd/-
Executive Director, WB SH & FW Samiti
ICA-N342(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
West Bengal State Health & Family Welfare Samiti
Swasthya Bhawan, Wing-'B', 3rd Floor
GN-29, Sector-V, Bidhannagar Kolkata - 700 091
Brief Recruitment Notice
West Bengal State Health & Family Welfare Samiti will engage personnel on contract basis for the position under **National Health Mission, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal.** Details of the position are as follows:

Sl. No	NAME OF CONTRACTUAL POSITION	NUMBER OF VACANCY	PLACE OF POSTING
1	State Consultant - Nutrition	01 (Unreserved)	State Head Quarters

Eligible candidates should apply online in the prescribed format as given in the Department's website for the mentioned position. Visit www.wbhealth.gov.in at the link "Recruitment" for details. Starting date of online application is 24th July, 2024 and end date of completing the application is 7th August, 2024.
Sd/-
Executive Director, WB SH & FW Samiti
ICA-N341(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT LAND & LAND REFORMS OFFICER
MURSHIDABAD
NOTICE
Applications are invited for Engagement of 40 (Forty) "DEO Contractual" in this District under DL & LRO Setup.
Detailed information and application form are available in the website www.murshidabad.gov.in. Last date for submission of applications is 13.08.2024.
ADM(LR) & DL & LRO
Murshidabad
Memo No. 242/(2)inf/Murshidabad
Date: 22.07.2024

পিতা-মাতা/অভিভাবকের অনুসন্ধানের জন্য বিজ্ঞপ্তি

শিশুর বিবরণ
নাম: কুবলি বসু; ১৫ বছর, লিঙ্গ: স্ত্রী, প্রাপ্তির দিন: ০৮.০৪.২০২৪, বর্তমান অবস্থান: আশা ভবন সেন্টার সি.ডব্লিউ.এস.এন. গার্লস হোম, ক্যাণ্ডিডাডা, বেতবেড়িয়া, বিষ্ণুপুর, দক্ষিণ ২৪ পরগনা, উচ্চতা: ৪'১১"; গায়ের রং: গোখলি, পরনের পোশাক: লাল নাইট, থানা ও তারিখ সহ জি.ডি.ই নম্বর: খান্না ঠাকুরপুকুর; জি.ডি.ই নম্বর: ৭০৭, ২০/১৫২; তারিখ: ০৭.০৪.২০২৪। যোগাযোগের বিশদ বিবরণ: ডি.সি.পি.ইউ., কলকাতা, পিন: ৭০০০১১; সিস্টেম: শুল্ক বিজ্ঞি (সেফা ত্রা), ডি.এই-৯, সেক্টর-১, সফিক, কলকাতা-৭০০০৬৪
আইসিএ-৪২২-৪১২(৩)/২০২৪

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Office of the District Magistrate & Collector, Birbhum, Establishment Section.
Pin 731101
NOTICE
Application are invited form eligible qualified candidates for the post of 01 (One) vacant Data Entry Operator for Birbhum Treasury-II having minimum qualification in graduation with At least "O" level certificate in computer application from DOEAC(erstwhile) or from NIELIT. Higher qualification A/B/C level or Diploma Engineer with computer or IT, BCA/B.Tech/ B.Sc(Hons.) in computer or equivalent between the age limit 18 years to 40 years as on 01.07.2024 as per G.O 2500-(F) dated 20.03.2015. Application format and other details are available from Establishment Section, Birbhum Collectorate on any working day and also at District website www.birbhum.gov.in. Application will be accepted from 23.07.2024 and the last date of submission of application from 12.08.2024 at 04:00 P.M.
Sd/-
District Magistrate & Collector, Birbhum
Memo No.: 95/(2)inf(adv)Bir. Dt: 22.07.2024



A thought for today

To do the useful thing, to say the courageous thing, to contemplate the beautiful thing; that is enough for one man's life

TS ELIOT

Biden/Caesar

How an American president has played out a classical tragedy, palace coup included

Every tragedy falls into two parts, a complication is followed by an unraveling or a denouement. Aristotle said this 23 centuries ago. The 46th American president is living this now. The Biden-Trump debate was watched by 51mn Americans on TV alone. In Biden's telling, he just had a bad night. For too many others, it meant that he would for sure have a super bad election day. And it isn't just Americans who have been weighing in on the matter. First, because of how consequential this election is for the world. Second, because its theatricality is riveting. Global interest has only intensified after the failed assassination of Trump. So, when Biden stepped down from his re-election bid this weekend, the denouement of the political crisis triggered by his debate performance, it sure vibed like classical tragedy: Beware the Ides of July.

The classical tragic hero, "highly renowned and prosperous", is not downed by vice or depravity, but by some error or frailty. This, too, describes Biden's situation well - he was brought down by nothing but "biological dynamics". A sitting American president dropping out of the race so late in the election cycle, is historic. It's really an unprecedented offering for "party and the country".



Republicans, of course, have a darker spin on his fate. That it is something like a palace coup. But talk of Biden being Julius Caesared is actually bipartisan. There are Democratic voices that are uncomfortable with the way in which long-time supporters and donors stepped away from Biden in recent weeks. When Shakespeare's Caesar went down with, "Et tu, Brute?", Antony called it "the most unkindest cut of all". This is echoed by some Democrats, who accuse Obama and Pelosi, who did not stage their disaffection publicly, of brutal betrayal. The theatre was all the more riveting because Biden didn't move towards denouement meekly. He resisted for days. So did his loyalists. There was no better demonstration of this than his continuing to claim until hours before he quit the race that, Hollywoodised American style, "I'm the guy."

So, yes, Biden has walked into what he and his cohort see as early, unwanted and unwarranted retirement. His critics in America's liberal establishment, in and outside the Democratic party, reckon he left it too late. But even if those critics are right, in this epic political drama, Biden is a bit of a tragic hero.

LOTUS FIGHTS TO BE POTUS

The battle for America's soul will be fought between Kamala Harris, who represents a changing country, and Donald Trump, who pushes a quasi-isolationist agenda

Chidanand Rajghatta



A week is a long time in politics, a British politician once said, but he was speaking well before the arrival of the internet and the age of social media, when even 24 hours is now an eternity. How things have changed in the hours after Biden bowed out - or was hustled out - of the US presidential election race, endorsing his VP Kamala Harris as the Democratic nominee.

Suddenly, she is poised to fight the oldest nominee for president in US history. It's not Biden's senility or infirmity in question now. It's Trump's age (78), fitness, and mental acuity. The tables have turned.

Trump and his MAGA constituency's immediate response to the development has been to resume and ramp up attacks on a person they see as an interloper. The crazies are crawling out of the woodwork, over-running moderate Republicans legitimately opposing Kamala on political and ideological grounds.

Birthright conspiracies have taken on new life. Far-right maggots festering with resentment at a black-brown woman taking on white supremacy among other issues are questioning her eligibility to run for White House because she is an "anchor baby" - born to parents when they were foreign students in US. Typical of their ignorance, they're unaware that parental status is irrelevant; she was born in America and that's what matters.

Expect more such attacks and vilification in the coming days in a deeply polarised country, including edited mishmash of her word salads (still not a patch on Trump's actual blather) and sexist denigration of the way she dresses, moves and laughs. Patriarchy and misogyny still rule in conservative America, illustrated by the continuing

efforts by old white men to regulate the uterus of women, but who resist regulation of deadly assault weapons.

Kamala may or may not be the right answer to America's problems, but she has every right to have a fair shot at White House.

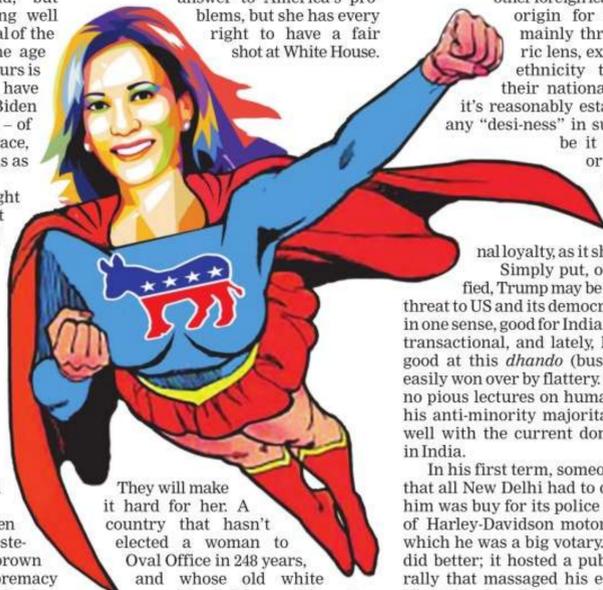
towards authoritarianism will delight demagogues and dictators all over the world.

Indians tend to see Kamala, or any other foreign leader of Indian origin for that matter, mainly through diasporic lens, expecting their ethnicity to supersede their nationality. By now it's reasonably established that any "desi-ness" in such leaders - be it Rishi Sunak or Kamala - is secondary and subservient to their national loyalty, as it should be.

Simply put, or oversimplified, Trump may be an existential threat to US and its democracy, but he is, in one sense, good for India because he is transactional, and lately, New Delhi is good at this dhandu (business). He is easily won over by flattery. There will be no pious lectures on human rights and his anti-minority majoritarianism sits well with the current dominant mood in India.

In his first term, someone suggested that all New Delhi had to do to appease him was buy for its police forces plenty of Harley-Davidson motorcycles, of which he was a big votary. India did better; it hosted a public rally that massaged his ego. His jettisoning of an Atlanticist outlook, his prospective diminution of Nato, and his more agreeable engagement with Russia (at the risk of being branded Putin's puppet) while seeking to counter China, will also be pleasing to New Delhi. Trump sees India in favourable terms, much more than Kamala. Small wonder he has growing support in India.

In any case, even an improbable Kamala victory will be questioned, challenged, and possibly overturned. A preview of the methods was demonstrated on



They will make it hard for her. A country that hasn't elected a woman to Oval Office in 248 years, and whose old white guard denied the presidency to a white woman (Hillary Clinton) through electoral college caprice (even though she won 3mn more popular votes than the winner in 2016) is hardly likely to entertain the prospect of a black-brown woman in White House. Her getting within a heartbeat of the presidency was enough to trigger them.

How does all this matter to the world and specifically to India? For all its flaws, US still remains the shining city on the hill, a political, social, and economic trendsetter. The fallout of what happens in America will affect not just the global order, but domestic politics everywhere. Any diminution of democracy and move

Jan 6, 2021 when the loser tried to usurp power through violence and intimidation trending to insurrection. The stage has already been set and the acoustics tested for a repeat performance. Trump has, in effect, said only a result that shows him winning will be valid. An outcome where he loses can only be because there was cheating and the election was stolen.

So, domestically, the battle for the soul of America that Biden often spoke about has now truly been joined. On the one side stands an old white misogynist speaking in racist undertones who promises to "Make America Great Once Again" with a quasi-isolationist agenda, while making it grate in the four years he was in office. On the other side will likely be a candidate, far from perfect, but more representative of a socially and demographically changing America that will want to remain agreeably engaged with the world. It will be a compelling, tense, and possibly brutal few weeks ahead.

So strap on your seat belts. It's going to be a wild ride till Election Day on Nov 5 and perhaps even after. The pilot in the cockpit has passed out, and the co-pilot and a pilot who was cashiered in 2020 will be making a grab for the controls. There's no telling who will land the plane, how, and in what condition.



Cooking It Just Right

SC order banning display of names at eateries along Kanwar route removes a govt-created blot

The Supreme Court's interim order putting a pause on UP, Uttarakhand and MP govt directives - for food stalls, shacks and eateries along the route of Shiv bhakts' annual trek, 'kanwar yatra', to display their names and their staff's - is a relief for both proprietor and pilgrim. States were wrong to enforce, with gusto and precision, such a measure. As SC said, food laws require that menus be displayed, and food be correctly labelled. People, petitioners argued, visit restaurants basis the menu, not who's serving or cooking - which directly feeds into politics of "untouchability". Thus, the case stood on the trinity of, SC said, "safety, standard and secularism".



Livelihood hit | The measure had a chilling effect with restaurants forced to ask Muslim employees to stand down during the yatra. The workers, largely pasmanda, would thus lose wages, and proprietors, their workers. The kanwar yatra has been the busiest season for decades for these eateries, fruit sellers and food stalls on the 240km odd route with multiple paths, catering to hungry, thirsty, exhausted walkers. The non-compliant would have had to cough up fines. The choice then was between a fine and the possibility of economic boycott. It was unconscionable for states to roll out such a targeted measure that hits livelihoods of certain sections during a certain festival along a certain route - Muslims along UP's districts, and OBC/Dalit-concentrated pockets in districts from UP into Uttarakhand.

Introducing a fault | Any rationale was missing from the word go. Unsurprisingly, directives drew new fault lines. Several kanwars too criticised the directive. There's, after all, also the matter of choice. Peer pressure is big in community activity such as this. If a kanwar were to patronise a restaurant against his group's choice, it might destroy camaraderie within kanwar groups. SC's order rightly brings pause. But these govt directives should be altogether nixed. They speak to poor governance, and poorer politics.

Why La Roja Shines, In White, Black & Brown

That Spain's a major sporting power goes back to 1992 Barcelona Olympics. But immigration is changing the country. Its stars are not all white, whether the far-right likes it or not

Javier Dale



Columnist based in Barcelona

July 14, 2024 will be a date to remember in Spain. Carlos Alcaraz's victory in Wimbledon and the unexpected success of the Spanish squad at the Euros were something more than a breath of fresh air. They also had a message for the world and to Spain itself as a nation.

"I'm Spanish, what do you want me to win?", a successful catchphrase of the early 2010s, got back into circulation on social media. The two victories have also shown Spain as a changing country finding its way to be, while the far-right rises in the Western world.

The two wins' accurate comparison is neither with the 2010 Fifa World Cup, nor Nadal's long run in tennis. Instead, we have to go back 32 years to the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. That was not only a sports success. It was a public demonstration that Spain isn't only about bulls and paella, and that Spaniards aren't short, big-bellied, lazy people, but modern, free, arty and talented citizens of a likeable country.

How did that happen? Was there a sudden explosion of talent? If anything, there was a sudden explosion of method.

Before 1992, sports success in Spain was the result of individual effort. But in 1987, after Barcelona was nominated to host the Olympics, a plan was put in place. Program ADO, a non-profit govt-based institution, gave young sports talents the opportunity to worry about nothing but their careers. Funded with public and private resources, it gave amateur athletes the tools for success: from scholarships that, de facto, equalised their economic situation to that of professional athletes, to medical, psychological and structural aides like CARs (high performance centres). Alcaraz

was trained in former tennis player Juan Carlos Ferrero's academy shaped as a CAR.

Plus, the end of Cold War also brought unexpected assets. Coaches and trainers of the former red bloc could move to Spain to add a key element: technique and expertise.

Those were the facts behind Spain's 1992 success. Not just effort, but method; not just talent, but hard work; not just individuals, but a national goal birthed

per capita in the Eurozone. But the debt crisis broke some basic rules of the welfare state: public expenses for those in need had to be cut. A suddenly impoverished country became the breeding ground for a new kind of far-right, not based in Franco's fascist dictatorship nostalgia, but in a nationalistic, racist endeavour that has seduced thousands of youngsters.

The far-right rise clashed with an undeniable fact - that Spaniards were moving to other countries, fertility (1.16 child per woman) and birth (6.7%) rates were falling, and immigration had become a need. For Spain, and much of Europe, rise of nationalism is based on the vote of a frightened middle class that fears impoverishment without being poor. This comes with the usual fake news that sets crimes as a consequence of immigrants and illegal aliens, a lie that's been repeatedly debunked by official data.

Although the sports method remains unchanged, immigration is changing the skin of Spain. Success has made Spanish sportsmen and sportswomen a valuable - though not always affordable - good for Spanish professional teams. Only three of the 23 players (13%) that won the World Cup in 2010 played for foreign teams. In 2024, this percentage has risen to 26.9%. And some of them, such as Rodri, Fabian and Dani Olmo, have short or no experience in Spanish domestic tournaments; they're migrants themselves.

As it happened in 1992, the response to the existential debate of what we Spaniards are comes from the pitch. Young footballers Lamine Yamal (17) and Nico Williams (22) set the bar; a 17-year-old minor son of migrants and the son of an illegal alien now represent the possibility of a future against racism and warped nostalgia. Spanish society has to choose now. Between its past and its future. Between its angels and its demons.



by public-private joint ventures. Since 1992 until the 2022 Beijing Winter Games, Spanish sportsmen and sportswomen have won 144 summer and winter Olympic medals. From 1896 to 1988, they had won just 27 medals, a number that was almost equalled during the Barcelona Games alone, with 22 medals.

While sports grew in Spain, the country was growing too. During the 1990s and early 2000s, its economy and quality of life saw unprecedented growth. Just before the 2010 debt crisis, it had the 3rd highest GDP

Calvin & Hobbes



Sacredspace



Be not the slave of your own past - plunge into the sublime seas, dive deep, and swim far, so you shall come back with new self-respect, with new power, and with an advanced experience...

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Attention recession

We now read tweets not books, watch reels not movies

Arnab Ray



What's going to kill humanity, even before rising oceans and climate change, is our collective inability to concentrate. Tests became ODIs, ODIs became T20s, long-form magazine articles became blogs, which became tweets, movies became videos became reels, news became debates, and debates devolved into 10-second verbal volleys that became background noise at dinner.

Politics, all over the world, has been drained clean of nuance to be replaced by hype and emotion that target one at the moment and no more. People no longer read books - that's why bookshops now sell more computer games and greeting cards. The collective reservoirs of human dopamine have been depleted, our focus gone, thanks to user-interface designs of social media companies that make us go back to our phones every few seconds, like rats on a wheel, in search of a reward that will never come.

And if I have to see the destruction of civilisation, I only need to look in the mirror: Where once I could consume one massive tome after another, curled up in my bed, I now struggle to make it past two pages without taking a look at my phone. Once upon a time, watching a movie instead of reading a book made me feel as if I had cheated on the world. Now, I cannot watch a film either in one go. I have to pause every now and then and watch a reel, and then one reel leads to another. At some point, I cannot even concentrate on that. Diversion needs a diversion, and I get back to my movie. But not for long. I sleep. And then I wake up and start doom-scrolling through my phone.

It's even worse that I am an author. Every hundred words I write, I need to go to another tab to listen to another song, change my playlist, read a tweet, and write a few before I come back to writing the following sentence. A live conversation with a person sitting opposite me is not enough; I need to look down at my phone, prioritise the message of a college friend I never ever liked, and exchange a stream of texts till I forget that thread, too. The worst of all is that I do not know why I do this while being conscious that I am doing it. I guess I am possessed, just like the rest of you.

Absence Of Doership Promotes Inner Peace

Vijay Vancheswar

The core teaching of Ramana Maharshi focuses on dissolving one's sense of individual volition or doership, kartitva in Sanskrit. The sage mentions that the biggest mental tapas is to subsume one's sense of control and doership. This can be sought either through the path of bhakti, an unconditional acceptance of the will of a higher power, or through the path of jnan, a persistent inquiry into the source of one's thoughts to identify who we are - the query 'Who am I?' According to the sage, all other spiritual paths lead and end only in this quest. The saying 'Not a leaf moves except by His will' expresses this and finds resonance in all faiths. 'Thy Will Be Done' in Christianity and the Urdu phrase 'Manzur-e-Khuda' in Islam imply that acceptance of the will of the

Divine is an essential prerequisite for one's peace and spiritual progress.

What we all unconsciously seek in life is peace. Conflict arises from not meeting our expected outcomes. The singular cause of this distress is our sense of control and volition. The Bhagwad Gita provides a solution: we have the right to actions but not the results. Outcomes are never in our control. Sometimes, great efforts do not produce expected outcomes; at other times, surprisingly pleasing outcomes are attained unexpectedly. However, our persistent and innate nature triggers us to ascribe all our successes primarily to our efforts. In his book 'The Tyranny of Merit', Michael Sandel points out that for all our striving, we are not self-made and self-sufficient. A lively sense of the

contingency of our lot can inspire a certain humility, enabling us to accept that, 'There, but for the grace of God, or the accident of birth, or the mystery of fate, go I'. The wisdom of this understanding humbles us and changes our attitude to life for the better.

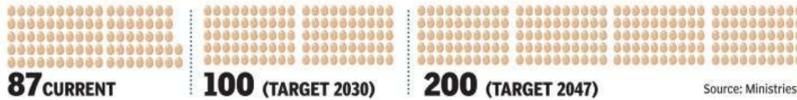
Far from advocating inaction, an absence of doership promotes non-action, a positive trait that focuses on being in the moment. Ramana Maharshi explains this by distinguishing freedom from free will and ego from egoism. Freedom, as Ramana says, is our birthright. We are ever free, more so as we persevere to associate with our true nature or Self. Our sense of illusory free will provokes disharmony, more so when outcomes and expectations are not met. Ramana also distinguishes ego and egoism. A

sage's ego resembles that of a burnt rope, appearing to be independent but incapable of assigning volition to itself, exuding peace and divinity. He likens this to the state of 'wakeful sleep', meaning awake to what happens but without a sense of involvement. Children until around three years old are in this blissful state, with the difference that they are unaware of their innate divinity. Translating this from an intellectual understanding to living by it daily demands reflection and validation of events we experience. As we reflect on the everyday events and actions that we experience and ascribe ownership to, we realise that in almost all cases, our actions involve a thought, a call or an accidental meeting, over none of which we exercise control. Acknowledging this will, over time, help us reduce our entanglement with the sense of doership.



THE SPEAKING TREE

As India aims to be a developed nation by 2047, where will the country be placed in terms of per capita egg availability compared to global benchmarks



GLOBAL BENCHMARK



Biden exit effect: Wall Street picks up after selloff

Wall Street rose on Monday, regaining some ground after the previous week's declines as investors assessed the odds of a second term for Republican nominee Donald Trump in the Nov election after President Joe Biden withdrew from the race. Biden said on Sunday he was opting out and endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris's candidature. Online betting site PredictIT showed pricing for a Donald Trump victory slipped 4 cents to 60 cents, while climbing 12 cents to 39 cents for a Harris win. REUTERS



Oil extends fall, sees biggest drop since June

Oil extended its recent slide as investors weighed the fallout from US President Joe Biden's decision not to seek reelection. Brent slipped under \$82 a barrel after slumping by almost 3% on Friday, the biggest drop since June. BLOOMBERG

CrowdStrike short sellers gain \$461mn

Short sellers piling into bets against CrowdStrike Holdings were rewarded on Friday when a botched software update from the firm sparked a global IT outage and sent shares plunging to their worst day since Nov 2022. BLOOMBERG

PhonePe, Google Pay cede online share

PhonePe and Google Pay saw a marginal decline in their share of total transactions processed through UPI in June as smaller players gained traction. PhonePe's share in total UPI transactions dropped to 48.4% from 48.7% in May. BLOOMBERG

BoE plans expanded repo facilities

London: The Bank of England said on Monday that banks should get ready to make greater use of its repo facilities as it sells down its government holdings and plans a major expansion of its current six-month repo operation. REUTERS

figure it out

\$2.5 million worth of \$10,000 invested in Amazon IPO in 1997



Source: Yahoo Finance (Value on July 6)

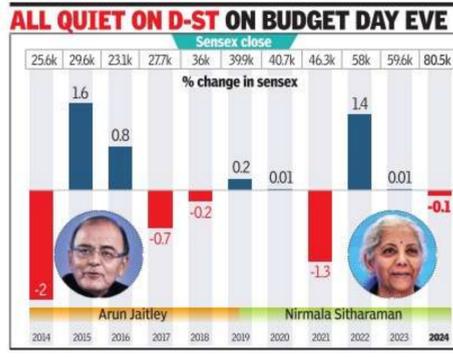
Mid & small-cap indices double since last Budget

Sensex Up 21,000 Pts Or 31%, Market Cap Surges By \$2Tn

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Since finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman's fifth Budget on Feb 1, 2023, Indian investors have become richer by a staggering Rs 174 lakh crore — translating to about \$2.1 trillion at the current rupee-dollar rate. In the same time, the Sensex has risen 31% (nearly 21k points) while Nifty has outperformed its more popular peer with a return of 39%, stock exchange data showed.

Gains in the Sensex and Nifty, however, fade when compared to the returns in mid and small-caps. While BSE's Midcap index rose 92% — nearly doubling investors' money — the small-cap index was slightly behind at a 90% gain. The rise in these indices during the last 18-plus months came on the back of strong buying by both foreign and domestic investors. Mutual funds had net invested Rs 3.4 lakh crore in the equity market,



while FPIs net bought stocks worth Rs 2.1 lakh crore, official data showed. The turnaround in the fortunes of the Indian market since Feb 2023 is remarkable if we look at how the global economy and markets have traded during the same period. Despite fears of rising inflation in the US and the EU, govt and RBI

rates also didn't rise much. Among the highlights of the Indian market was the crash in Adani group shares just around last Budget. After US-based short-seller Hindenburg Research published a damning report on the group on Jan 24, 2023, in about five weeks, the group's total market value crashed by nearly 65% — from Rs 19.2 lakh crore to about Rs 6.5 lakh crore. Since then, the group has recouped most losses and Sebi didn't find any proof backing Hindenburg's allegations of corporate malfeasance by the Indian conglomerate.

The market also discounted the Lok Sabha poll results that saw the BJP's total seats fall from their number five years ago. Even as markets took a tumble as a knee-jerk reaction, they soon recovered to take the Sensex over the 80K mark — which is seen as a major psychological milestone for Dalal Street.

RBI cites Windows outage to flag single vendor risks

Dependence On Third-Parties For Critical Services Can Create Vendor Lock-In Situations: Dy Guv Rao

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: RBI's deputy governor M Rajeshwar Rao cited last week's global Windows outage to highlight the risks of outsourcing and relying on a single vendor for critical services. He also pulled up lenders for partnering digital platforms that do not provide redressal mechanism.

"Last Friday's (incident) essentially reflects the kind of risks which I'm talking about. Third-party dependencies and digital outsourcing have become integral to the operations of financial service entities consequent to the rapidly evolving technology," the deputy governor said in a speech at a BFSI summit organised by ratings agency CareEdge on Monday.

Rao said that dependence on third parties can create vendor lock-in situations where regulated entities become reliant or captured by

a single vendor of critical services. "This lack of vendor diversification can increase dependency risks and limit the flexibility of the entities to adapt to changing market conditions," he added. Rao said that despite regulatory efforts, some entities fall

the kind of mechanism which we thought they would be having," he said. Rao also stressed the importance of transparency and effective mechanisms for handling customer complaints. This includes addressing issues such as hidden fees and aggressive sales tactics.

short in customer service and transparency, which impacts trust and satisfaction. "Guidelines mandate that regulated entities should ensure that the lending service providers engaged by them have suitable grievance redressal mechanisms on their website or apps. A recent study undertaken by us has found that not all of these lending service providers or apps have

the kind of mechanism which we thought they would be having," he said. Rao also stressed the importance of transparency and effective mechanisms for handling customer complaints. This includes addressing issues such as hidden fees and aggressive sales tactics.

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SITHARAMAN'S A-TEAM FOR 7TH B-DAY



ALL SET FOR BUDGET DAY: FM Nirmala Sitharaman and her deputy Pankaj Chaudhary with top finance ministry officials in her North Block office on Monday. (Standing L-R) CBIC chairman Sanjay Kumar Agarwal, revenue secretary Sanjay Malhotra, DIPAM secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey, finance secretary TV Somanathan, economic affairs secretary Ajay Seth, financial services secretary Vivek Joshi, CEA V Anantha Nageswaran and CBDT chairman Ravi Agarwal

CCI sends queries to Reliance, Disney on \$8.5bn merger deal

New Delhi: Antitrust body CCI has asked Reliance Industries and Walt Disney around 100 questions linked to their \$8.5 billion India media assets merger, including details on sports rights as it heightens its scrutiny of the deal, two sources told Reuters.

Antitrust experts had warned that the Reliance and Disney deal, which was announced in Feb, could face intense scrutiny as it will create India's biggest entertainment player with 120 TV channels and two streaming services. The companies will also together own lucrative rights for cricket — India's most popular sport. In a confidential submission to CCI in May, the companies said their merger would not hurt the competition, and argued that cricket rights will expire in 2027 and 2028 and allow bidding by rivals, and advertisers can target cricket-watching consumers on many rival platforms including YouTube, Reuters reported in May. The CCI has sought to know why YouTube — which mostly has free, user-generated content — should be treated in the same market as subscription streaming services like Netflix and Disney. TNN

Baba Kalyani's niece & nephew look to settle family assets matter

Reeba.Zachariah@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Bharat Forge chairman Baba Kalyani's nephew Sameer Hiremath and niece Pallavi Swadi are looking to settle a dispute over a multi-billion dollar estate with their uncle through a court-monitored mediation process. Sameer and Pallavi — grandchildren of forging industry pioneer Neelkanth Kalyani — had moved Pune civil court against their uncle Baba Kalyani in March, seeking division of family assets. They had demanded one-ninth of the family estate including stakes in Bharat Forge and Kalyani Steel as their share. Sameer and Pallavi are children of Baba's sister Sugandha Hiremath, who is also the co-promoter of Hikal, a pharmaceuticals and chemicals company. Separately, Sugandha is in an ownership dispute with Baba over Hikal.

The court on Monday asked the two parties to look at settling their dispute through mediation after Sameer and Pallavi tabled the mediation option before the judicial forum. The siblings told the court that they were willing to mediate with their uncle as they were deeply anguished by mudslinging in court. If Baba agrees to the mediation, then from such date for a period of 60 days the matter will stand adjourned, people familiar with the case said. If mediation fails, the mediator will file a failure report and the dispute will continue at the Pune court.

A Kalyani Group spokesperson said: Having filed a frivolous suit before the Pune local court seeking partition of alleged properties of Kalyani family HUF, both Sameer Hiremath and Pallavi Swadi have now sought permission of the court to permit mediation of the dispute. The proposal to mediate in the pending dispute itself demonstrates that both have no cause of action in filing the partition suit. Both petitioners

Group's Listed Cos Are Worth Over ₹5K Cr

THE BACKSTORY
 > Sameer Hiremath and Pallavi Swadi, the nephew and niece of Kalyani Group chairman Baba Kalyani, have said that Kalyani family assets were created because of the efforts of their great grandfather Annapa
 > The duo sought a division of family assets in March this year
 > They had attached a list of family assets along with the suit. They also wanted other family members to disclose acquisitions over the years using family funds

have been indulging in making malicious attempts to defame certain named family members, the spokesperson said. On Monday, Sameer and Pallavi produced documents that showed the existence of the ANK HUF and the assets that were under its management. Baba had earlier denied the existence of any such HUF and had said that Sameer and Pallavi had no right in the wealth of any Kalyani family HUF since they and Kalyani do not have any common "male" ancestor. The siblings, however, argued that they became coparceners in their own right in the Kalyani family HUF upon the introduction of the amended Section 6 of the Hindu Succession Act 1956, in the year 2005.

In their rejoinder filed on Monday, the siblings said that the wealth was created by their great grandfather, ANK, which led to the growth of the Kalyani family. "Since all these businesses commenced and the investments were made from the said nucleus, all these businesses and investments constituted the properties of the joint family," the duo said in their rejoinder.

Under pressure from IT cos to allow 14hr work days: K'taka min

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Karnataka labour minister Santosh Lad on Monday said that the state govt is under pressure from the IT industry to introduce legislation allowing software professionals to work up to 14 hours a day. He, however, clarified that no final decision has been made as govt is still evaluating the proposal and seeking a thorough debate on the issue.

"The Bill has come to us because of pressure from the IT industry. It is not the IT minister (Priyank Kharge) himself who has come up with this idea but all stakeholders. That's why it has come to us (labour department). I want all major stakeholders to debate this and share their opinions. Based on the feedback, we, as a department, will look into the issue and take it forward," Lad said.

HCLTech's policy linking 'work from office' with leaves 'draconian': IT union

Bengaluru: IT Employees' union Nascent Information Technology Employees Senate (NITES) has criticised HCLTech's policy that links work from home with employee leaves, calling it 'draconian'.

According to the union, the policy requiring employees to work from office for 12 days a month to be eligible for leaves is contrary to the work-life balance concept. Reports suggested that HCLTech has started informing certain teams about this policy. TNN

Regarding concerns about the potential impact on IT employees' personal and social lives, Lad said, "Let IT companies, owners, and directors come forward and discuss whether it is necessary or not. Later, we will take a call."

The state BJP has also slammed the Congress govt, arguing that it should focus on underperforming sectors rather than imposing new policies on the thriving IT industry. "Siddaramaiah's govt itself is in sleeping mode but he plans to propose a bill that will force the IT sector to work for 14 work hours a day, 70 hours a week," Karnataka BJP president BY Vijayendra wrote on X.

Govt's stake in UCO may dip by 2%-3%

Kolkata: The central govt's stake in UCO Bank is likely to come down by 2%-3% in the next two quarters with the city-based public sector lender planning to raise Rs 2,000 crore. Govt's stake in the bank is now 95.4%. This was disclosed by UCO Bank MD & CEO Ashwani Kumar on Monday during an interaction with media after announcement of the bank's Q1 results. UCO has registered 147% growth in net profit in the quarter ended June 30.

According to Kumar, the bank has already received the approval of its board of directors for raising Rs 4,000 crore through QIP or other routes. UCO has also sought govt's permission to raise Rs 2,000 crore. "We shall be raising the capital in tranches. In first tranche, we shall raise Rs 2,000 crore in this quarter or next quarter," Kumar said.

Kumar added that the bank had posted a net profit of Rs 551 crore in the quarter ended June 30, from Rs 223 crore in the same period last year. A bank official said the growth in profit was largely due to an improvement in net interest margin along with a reduction in the cost of deposit and growth in non-interest income. Income from written-off assets has also gone up. TNN

Doting Gen Z 'parents' drive pet care market

Nandini.Sengupta@timesofindia.com

Chennai: Powered by millennial and Gen Z pet owners' search for out-of-the-box products and services for their pets, India's pet care market is all set to jump from \$1 billion in 2022 to \$2.5 billion by 2025 — a CAGR of more than 15%. Pet care marketers say the focus is moving away from the conventional pet food segment to a more varied bouquet of offerings. Shashank Sinha, CEO, Drools Pet Food said, "While pet food is still 65% of the market, the categories of supplements, treats, toys, accessories and bowls are increasing which aligns with the trend observed in mature pet care markets like the US and Europe."

What has changed over time is the profile of pet owners in India. Today's 'pet parents' — many of whom adopted their furry friend during the pandemic — are younger, tech-savvier, and far more invested in looking for specialised solutions and services for their pet care needs. Rashi Narang, founder & CEO of Heads Up For Tails, said, "If we've learnt anything from

Food Biz Key, Accessories Catching Up

India's petcare industry is expected to go from \$1bn in 2022 to \$2.5bn in 2025
 > The market is growing at a CAGR of more than 15%
 > While pet food holds 65% share, other categories like accessories, cosmetics, collars and bowls are growing fast
 > By 2025, 1 in 3 pet parents will be millennial or Gen Z
 > In metros, pet families spend ₹3,000-5,000 per month on petcare
 > About 35% of petcare market will shift online in a few years

the pandemic, it's the power of the pet which also supercharged growth of the pet care e-commerce market." She added that the growth curve is thanks to "digitally savvy millennials and Gen Zs who will account for one in three pet parents by 2025". According to Sinha, India is expected to see its e-commerce share reach 35% within the next few years. For the pet care market, that has meant a sudden spurt in investor interest. Between 2021-22, the industry attracted investments totalling \$77 million, as reported by Venture Intelligence. Already, several pet care startups are offering everything from pet cosmetics to tech-enabled smart collars and pet tracking devices. Take the IIT-Madras incubated Vetinstat Healthcare, which offers devices to track pets' vital statistics. Its founder Vani Aiyar said, "Pet parents today have seen technology deliver across multiple segments like food, banking, travel and health, so they are keen to look at new ideas and new methods of pet care too."

his company Animalia Biogenesis. "We focus on treating severe injuries, arthritis, and kidney issues using stem cells and platelets without side effects of conventional treatments," he said. However, this growing trend of paw-parenting is largely a metro phenomenon. According to Sinha of Drools, "Cities such as Bengaluru and Hyderabad have emerged as prominent markets... Monthly expenses of Rs 5,000 or more on pets are becoming increasingly common, with the average expenditure in Bengaluru estimated at Rs 3,000 per month." Pet parents are also networking using social media and frequently shares tips and complaints. Heads Up For Tails, Narang added, collaborates with these communities along with NGOs, influencers and pet activists to "encourage conversations".

Wednesday, July 24, 5pm to 6pm
 Event page link: https://bit.ly/techieswebinar165
TIMES TECHIES WEBINAR
 Topic: The rise of the GCC ecosystem
TIMES TECHIES WEBINARS
 Session partner: **Optum**
 Uma Ratnam Krishnan, Managing Director, Optum India
 Prashray Kala, Partner, Everest Group

Cash reserves relief can help tackle deposit woes: SBI MD

Mumbai: Lowering the cash deposit/reserve ratio (CRR) or the proportion of deposits banks are mandatorily required to park with RBI will help the lenders facing low deposit growth, SBI managing director Ashwini Kumar Tewari said on Monday. Talks for such a cut are on, he told reporters here, clarifying that the country's largest lender does not need such a reduction as it is well placed on the liquidity front. There has not been any formal request for a CRR

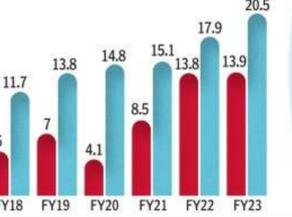
cut made either, he added. Tewari said, "We have to look at various avenues for helping tide over the challenge posed by lower deposit growth." He specifically mentioned a request to get bank deposits at par with capital market investments while referring to CRR and SLR. On whether the bank has sought a CRR cut, he said, "We have not sought any formal dispensation, but it is a conversation we continue to have." AGENCIES

Employment & Wage Gap

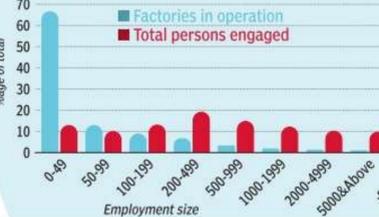
With robust balance sheets at their disposal, the private sector must step up hiring and ensure higher compensation to workers. While employment in organised manufacturing is above pre-Covid levels, there is lot of distance to travel



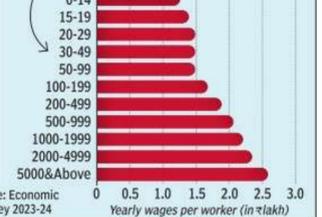
Non Financial Corporate Sector



There is predominance of smaller factories, but larger ones generate more employment...



... and also pay better wages



Domestic Drivers To Support Growth Amid Caution On AI, Market Speculation And Mis-Selling Of Financial Products

AI casts huge uncertainty on jobs

India Inc Should Plan To Augment Labour Rather Than Displace Workers

TEAM TOI

The advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI) casts a "huge pall of uncertainty" when it comes to jobs, considering its impact on workers across all skill levels — low, semi and high, says the Economic Survey. "The biggest disruption for the future of work is the accelerated growth in AI, which is poised to revolutionise the global economy. India would not remain immune to this transformation."

Taking a note of the growing concerns around impact of AI on employment, the survey said technological leap has potential to disrupt growth and thus it requires a concerted effort among Centre, states and even corporates to minimise disruptions.

MAY REDUCE PRODUCTIVITY

Short term challenge | Generative AI could slow BPO sector growth, affecting customer service
Productivity impact | However, AI's emergence might reduce annual productivity growth by approximately 0.3 percentage points in coming years
Long term potential | Broader AI adoption could lead to



significant improvements in healthcare and education, enhancing human capital

"These will create barriers and hurdles to sustained high growth rates for India in the coming years and decades."

To protect jobs, there is a need to quickly adapt to advancements. "With AI taking roots in several spheres of economic activity, job market must adapt, while steering the

technological choices towards collective welfare is key."

It said while AI has a considerable potential for boosting productivity, it can also "disrupt employment" in certain sectors. "As AI systems continue to get smarter and adoption increases, the future of work will be reshaped... Rout-

time tasks, including customer service, will likely witness a high degree of automation, creative sectors will see extensive usage of AI tools for image and video creation, personalised AI tutors can reshape education and sectors like healthcare can witness accelerated drug discovery."

The survey also said India's services exports, primarily the BPO sector, could be badly hit due to the advent of AI, and thus companies should devise strategies to tackle the reversal. "Next wave of technological evolution might bring the curtains down on boom in telecom and rise of internet facilitated BPOs. In this milieu, the corporate sector has a responsibility, as much to itself as it is to society, to think harder about ways AI will augment

labour rather than displace workers." On impact of AI in the services sector, the survey said studies suggest it is likely to "restrain the growth opportunities for business services progressively" and, therefore, poses a challenge to long-term sustainability and job creation.

The survey, however, noted that even while posing challenges to jobs, AI will emerge as an opportunity to create employment. "... India is an attractive destination for AI investment due to its relatively low operating costs and world's second-largest pool of highly skilled AI, machine learning, and big data workers." India — with its vast demographic dividend and a very young population — is "uniquely situated" as AI poses both risks and opportunity.

Check Chinese imports, encourage investments

Boosting FDI Flows Can Reduce Trade Deficit, Integrate Local Cos With Global Value Chains

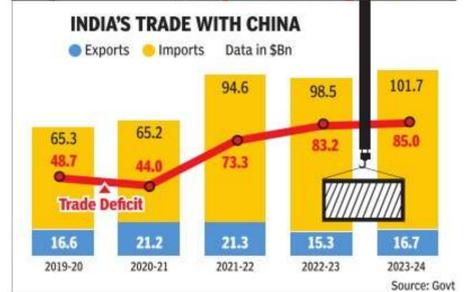
TEAM TOI

Discourage Chinese goods but encourage Chinese capital. This is the twin track approach laid out by the Economic Survey to deal with what it calls the China Conundrum. In a policy prescription aimed at taking advantage of China Plus One strategy, the document suggested a policy rethink, arguing that FDI from India's neighbour will help domestic companies integrate with the global value chain besides checking the widening trade deficit.

"...to boost Indian manufacturing and plug India into the global supply chain, it is inevitable that India plugs itself into China's supply chain. Whether we do so by relying solely on imports or partially through Chinese investments is a choice that India has to make," it said.

Pointing to a recent research note, which cautioned against the risk of coercion due to Chinese dominance in certain segments, the Survey advocated "striking a right balance between importing goods and importing capital" from China. The report had cited how Brazil, Turkey and some European nations had

Imports Rise, Exports Stagnate



raised import duty on electric vehicles, but courted investment from China.

"India has a similar decision to make, given its large bilateral trade deficit with China. It makes India vulnerable to potential abrupt supply disruptions. Replacing some well-chosen imports with investments from China raises the prospect of creating domestic know-how down the road. It may have other risks, but as with many other matters, we don't live in a first-best world. We have to choose between second and third-best choices," it said. Following Covid outbreak, India too

had imposed checks on FDI from neighbouring countries, a move meant to target Chinese companies. It followed it up with import and public procurement curbs, while banning several apps, including Tik Tok, after tension escalated in Ladakh.

Survey argued imports from China are so cheap that "no amount of tariff can reduce their price competitiveness". It cautioned against Chinese goods slipping in through third countries, without getting noticed. Beijing too has responded by blocking India's access to solar parts after gov't launched an anti-dumping probe.

India must labour to generate 78.5L non-farm jobs every year

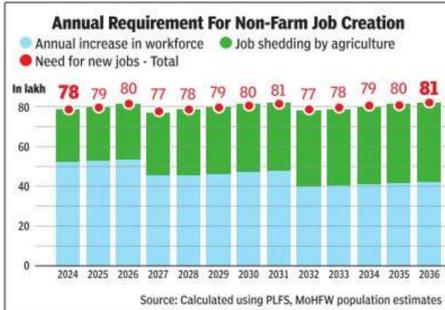
TEAM TOI

The Indian economy needs to generate an average of nearly 78.5 lakh jobs annually until 2030 in the non-farm sector to cater to the rising workforce, the survey has estimated.

It said that to meet the demand of 78.5 lakh jobs in the non-farm sector per year, there is scope to supplement the existing schemes of production linked incentive (60 lakh employment generation over 5 years), MITRA textile scheme (20 lakh employment generation), MUDRA, and others while boosting their implementation.

The survey said that state govts can grease the wheels of hiring by businesses by easing the compliance burden and reforming laws on land, etc. to suit the priorit-

EMPLOYMENT MATRIX



es of development. It said the jobs are created in the private sector and India's corporate sector has never had it so good as now, with profitability at a 15-year high in FY24. Profits had quadrupled bet-

ween FY20 and FY23.

"Businesses have an obligation to themselves to strike the right balance between deployment of capital and deployment of labour. As important, capital and labour

shares of income have to be fair," said the survey.

"In their fascination for AI and fear of erosion of competitiveness, businesses have to bear in mind their responsibility for employment generation and the consequent impact on social stability," it added.

Calling for a rebalancing of labour regulations for generating employment, the survey said current labour regulations have unintended adverse repercussions for the general workforce, and women specifically.

The report showed that a comparison with other countries reveals that India's stricter overtime wage regulations are potentially hindering the growth of the manufacturing sector by driving production to nations with lower overtime costs.

Social security should keep pace with gig eco growth

TEAM TOI

India's gig workforce is expected to expand to 23.5 million by 2029-30, forming an estimated 6.7% of the non-agricultural workforce or 4.1% of total livelihood in the country, which calls for creation of effective social security initiatives for the segment. The gig economy covers online platform workers, freelancers, on-call workers and creative tech talent. Growing consumer adoption of digital services in India has fuelled the growth of the gig economy

GCCs pushing creation of jobs

India's global capability centres (GCCs) have become new growth engine, accelerating the country's economic growth and job creation. The rapid expansion of GCCs has bolstered India's IT services exports, providing a significant boost to the industry.

By 2030, GCCs are projected to contribute a total revenue of \$121 billion, which is approximately 3.5% of India's GDP. Out of this, \$102 billion will represent export earnings. Revenue from GCCs has more than doubled to \$46 billion in 2022-23 from \$19.4 billion in the 2014-15, growing at a compound annual growth rate of 11.4%.

with internet companies deploying a wider delivery fleet on the ground to cater to the rising demand.

"The new Labour Codes now provide social security benefits to gig and platform workers via a social security fund, financed by contributions from the central and state govts, aggregators, CSR etc. Additionally, definition of inter-state migrant labour has been simplified," the survey said.

Gap between 2 NPA cycles should rise

TEAM TOI

The banking industry has been urged to lengthen the gap between two cycles of NPAs. Govt's economic report card has also said that corporate shift to capital market for funding is a positive development in this regard.

These observations come at a time when the asset quality of scheduled commercial banks has improved, with gross NPAs ratio decreasing to 2.8% in March 2024, which is a 12-year low. "Indian financial sector is at a turnpike moment. The dominance of banking support to credit is being reduced and role of capital markets is rising. For a country that aspires to be a developed nation by 2047, this is a long-awaited and welcome development.

No longer an aberration, mis-selling 'too rampant'

TEAM TOI

The Economic Survey has highlighted the malaise of mis-selling in banks and financial services and has said that it is 'too rampant' to be dismissed as an aberration of a few over-enthusiastic sales personnel. "Acknowledgement of mis-selling and misrepresentation and compensating for consequential losses is a good business practice enjoined upon stockbroking, fund management, banking and insurance firms," it said.

This is the first time a govt agency is acknowledging mis-selling as a systemic problem. Previously, regulators viewed mis-selling as isolated instances of mi-

sconduct. The reason why financial institutions get away with mis-selling is that there is no punitive penalties for consequential loss and at best the victims get their money back after they approach the ombudsman, say consumer activists.

SYSTEMIC PROBLEM

"Identifying and correcting mis-selling and misrepresentation and compensating for losses are non-negotiable practices for sectors like banking, insurance and fund management. Stakeholders need to unite in efforts to bring the consumer and the industry on same page to build better trust and transpa-

rency between them," said Sarbvir Singh, joint group CEO, PB Fintech. He added that with tech advancement and rise of AI and ML, it has become a lot easier for the industry to detect and prevent fraud in early stages.

Addressing mis-selling, the survey also raises the issue of regulatory turf. While the insurance regulator recognises banks as corporate agents, banks are regulated by RBI. Similarly, insurance companies offer unit-linked insurance plans (Ulips), promising market returns. Stock markets are regulated by Sebi. In the past, Sebi's attempt to clamp down on returns promised by Ulips had resulted in a turf war, where finance ministry had to intervene.

Fear of losing control helps debt recovery

TEAM TOI

Introduction of insolvency code has changed behaviour of borrowers, with over Rs 10 lakh crore worth of defaults being resolved in pre-admission stage of insolvency proceedings. Borrowers' fear of losing control of their businesses after admission to insolvency prompts them to work towards resolving debt.

"A notable fact is Rs 10.2 lakh crore of underlying defaults were addressed at pre-admission stage. This change in debtor behaviour has been a big boon for banks and other lending institutions. The code has created an optimal incentive-disincentive mix to facilitate above-board and transparent dealings in creditor-debtor relations."

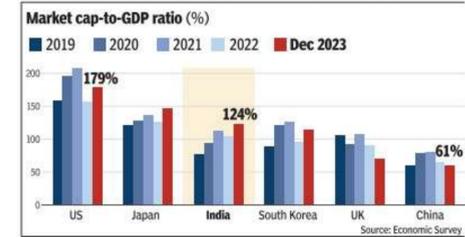
Speculation alert on high retail trade

TEAM TOI

The Eco Survey sounded a cautionary note about huge surge in number of retail investors, who may be coming to the market in search of higher returns and possibility of heightened speculation. It also warned against a runaway stock market with India's market capital-to-GDP ratio at 124% in Dec 2023, the fifth highest in the world. It was 77% in Dec 2019. This indicator says if market cap of a country is growing faster than its economy, it's time to be cautious.

The survey also warned about excessive retail participating in derivatives trading. It said financialisation of economies is a welcome move but in several developed nations, this move has not ended well, with the most recent example being the glo-

Buffett's Indicator Calls For Caution



bal financial crisis of 2008.

Companies in BFSI space have been asked to keep interests of the consumers in mind and improve service quality through fair selling, disclosure, transparency, reliability and responsiveness. "Significant increase in retail investors in stock market calls for careful consideration. This is crucial because

possibility of overconfidence leading to speculation and the expectation of even greater returns, which might not align with real market conditions is a serious concern."

"For a developing economy such as India, the financial sector needs to support the banking sector and fill the gap in capital required for economy's growth," the sur-

Timely, quality data must to improve policy actions

TEAM TOI

Govt's economic report card has called for strengthening the statistical system and said the statistics ministry needs to be equipped fully to produce and integrate all required data with desired quality, regularity and timeliness.

It also said quality and timeliness of administrative and transactional data of the ministries must be brought to levels that facilitate timely course corrections against the backdrop of target of making India a developed nation by 2047.

The need to shore up the statistical system with good data producing capability is also required for formulating policies and timely decision-making to address societal challenges and promoting inclusive growth. In recent years, the quality of

govt data has triggered a debate and there have been calls for an overhaul of data collection and dissemination systems in the country.

The report has highlighted the need to update the base year of important indicators, such as GDP, CPI and IIP to the most recent feasible year at the earliest. It said ministry has undertaken an exercise to change base year of CPI from 2012 to 2024 and has set up an advisory committee on National Accounts Statistics to decide on base year for GDP.

It also flagged the need for high-frequency collection of price monitoring data for essential food items and link them in a way that build-up of prices at each stage from farm gate to the consumer is quantifiable and monitorable. The suggestion comes against the backdrop of stubborn food inflation and the impact of weather related events on vegetab-

les and other products and price spikes, which have confronted policymakers.

The survey has also suggested that if the granular GST data of over 1.3 crore entries is made available, it has potential to analyse the health of businesses, screen applications, provide support for cash flow-based lending and understand the economics of different geographies deeply. It has also called for a regular mechanism to aggregate financial flows to infrastructure and physical progress — sectorally and geographically differentiated — achieved in different infrastructure sectors, at least on an annual basis.

On the infrastructure sector, the report has mentioned that existing databases fall short on assessing the demand for infrastructure and tracking the utilisation of facilities built in the sub-sectors.



'HER LUCKY NO. 13' NOT SO LUCKY! TAYLOR SWIFT'S 12-WEEK REIGN ON US BILLBOARD 200 ENDS AS EMINEM DETHRONES HER FROM TOP SPOT

RYAN REYNOLDS REVEALS HE GAVE UP SALARY FOR 'DEADPOOL' TO COVER SCREENWRITERS' FEES: 'WANTED CO-WRITERS TO BE ON SET'



Kamala Vows To 'Earn' Prez Race Spot

Bigwigs Like Clintons And Pelosi Back Her, But Some Dems Suggest Open Convention

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: US vice-president Kamala Harris said Sunday that she intends to earn and win the Democratic Party nomination for the presidency even after endorsement by Prez Joe Biden and other key figures in the party, amid indications there could be at least one other marginal challenge.

"I am honoured to have the president's endorsement and my intention is to earn and win this nomination. I will do everything in my power to unite the Democratic Party — and unite our nation — to defeat Donald Trump and his extreme Project 2025 agenda," Harris said in a statement, hours after turbulent developments in the Democratic Party led to Prez Biden bowing out of the 2024 presidential election under pressure.

On Monday, Harris paid tribute to Biden at an event for college athletes at the White House, her first public appearance since he dropped out, saying he had "already surpassed the legacy of most presidents who have served two terms in office."

"I am first-hand witness

that every day our president, Joe Biden, fights for the American people, and we are deeply grateful for his service to our nation," Harris said. Biden had originally planned to speak at the event, but remained in Delaware recovering from Covid. Harris subbing in for Biden offered a well-timed glimpse of what she could be like in the job of prez should she win in Nov.

Several Democratic veterans and lawmakers, notably Hillary and Bill Clinton, former House speaker Nancy Pelosi, senator Elizabeth Warren and congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC), backed Harris, with the mainstream in the party appearing to close ranks behind her.

But key party grandee, former US prez Barack Obama, did not directly endorse her, although he has been a close ally. It appears he would like her to go through the nomination process and win the support of majority of delegates, which also is the route she prefers.

Obama conspicuously withheld endorsing Harris, instead alluding to the possibility of an open convention. He expressed



HOLDOUT? Kamala Harris (L) with Joe Biden and Barack Obama

Why Obama hasn't endorsed Harris

Many of the marquee names in Democratic politics began quickly lining up behind Kamala Harris on Sunday, but one towering presence was conspicuously absent: Barack Obama. The former prez has not yet endorsed Harris; in fact, he did not mention her once in his tribute to Prez Joe Biden. "I have extraordinary confidence that the leaders of our party will be able to create a process from which an outstanding nominee emerges," he wrote in the post. Republicans interpreted that as a snub. But people close to Obama, who has positioned himself as an impartial elder statesman above intraparty machinations, said not to read too much into it. Endorsing too early now would fuel criticism that Harris' nomination was a coronation, they said. But there are other more personal considerations. Biden is a deeply proud ally, and he has never fully forgiven Obama for quietly backing Hillary Clinton in the 2016 campaign. Nor was Biden pleased when Obama told him that he should consider sitting out 2020, too, people in his circle have said. Obama wanted Sunday to be about Biden, a celebration of his accomplishments, an ex-White House official said.

confidence in Democratic leaders' ability to "create a process from which an outstanding nominee emerges". One direct challenge to her prospective candidacy came fr-

Musk and Khosla argue over Trump's GOP candidature

New York: Tech billionaire Elon Musk and Indian-American venture capitalist Vinod Khosla were engaged in a war of words on Monday over Republican Donald Trump's candidature for the US presidency.

In a post on X, Khosla said it is hard for him to support someone like Trump, who has "no values, lies, cheats, rapes, demeans women", and "hates immigrants" like him. "He may cut my taxes or reduce some regulation but that is no reason to accept depravity in his personal values. Do you want prez who will set back climate by a decade in his first year?" he asked.

Replying to his post, Musk said Trump "doesn't hate you. In fact, I think he likes you. Meet him and find out for yourself". The Tesla CEO said he is not suggesting that Trump is without flaws, but there should be an administration that is more likely to be meritocratic and promote individual freedoms.

Khosla in his reply said he agreed with that, "but abandon climate and drill baby drill! Be MAGA (Make America Great Again) and abandon Nato and American leadership and moral authority?". The top Silicon Valley investor added: "I was a socially liberal registered fiscal Republican till climate made me switch to Independent."

In support of Trump, Musk said civilisation will continue to need oil and gas. "I don't think we should demonise an industry that is essential for humanity... Sustainable energy production and consumption is growing very rapidly and is tracking to exceed the use of hydrocarbon fuels. That will happen no matter what Trump does."

WILL KAMALA MAKE HISTORY AGAIN?

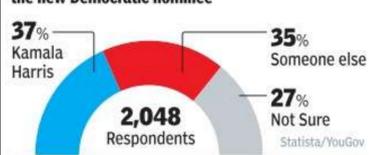
Kamala Harris, the daughter of an Indian mother and a Jamaican father, is a barrier-breaking prez candidate. Now, she is likely to become the first black woman, and first person of South Asian descent to head a major party's presidential ticket

Records to her credit...

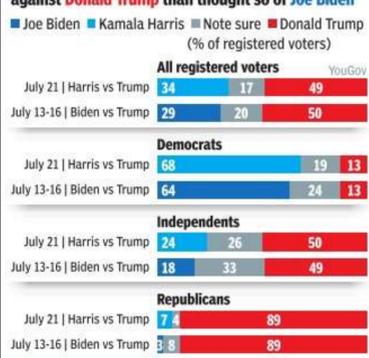
1st woman and 1st person of colour to be vice-prez. 1st woman, and 1st black to serve as California attorney general

In 2016, she became only the second African-American woman to serve in the US senate

Public opinion on who should be the new Democratic nominee



More registered voters expect Kamala Harris to win against Donald Trump than thought so of Joe Biden



Support for Harris among elected Democrats as the party's nominee



Donald Trump polls slightly better against Kamala Harris than he does against Joe Biden

Joe Biden | Kamala Harris | Robert F Kennedy Jr | Other, Note sure, or I would not vote | Donald Trump

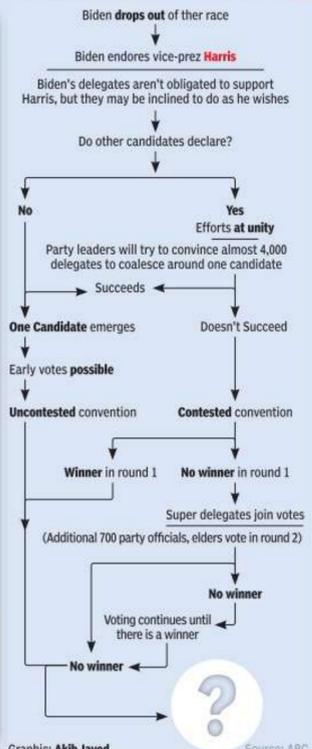


Note: Harris wasn't a choice on the Biden question, and Biden wasn't on the Harris question



Big names among Dems who have not yet endorsed Harris...

Former Prez Barack Obama, Senate majority leader Chuck Schumer, House minority leader Hakeem Jeffries, Ex-speaker Nancy Pelosi backed Harris late on Monday



GOP trying to run Biden out of office, which would put Kamala in WH now

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: Democrats may have bundled US Prez Joe Biden out of the nomination process for the 2024 presidential elections but Republicans are now trying to run him out of office — a prospect that would put Kamala Harris in the Oval Office even before she has been nominated for the race or formally elected to the White House.

Hours after Biden bowed out of the 2024 race, former prez Donald Trump himself led the charge to oust Biden, saying, "If he can't run for office, he can't run our country!!!"

Regardless of his dropping out of the race, Biden is constitutionally mandated to stay in office as president till Jan 2025, when a newly elected prez will take over.

Trump also showed what was transparently phony empathy for Biden, saying the Democratic party "stole the race from Biden after he won it in the primaries," while at the same time trashing the prez, saying he is "going to wake up and forget that he dropped out of the race today!" "Biden never had Covid. He is a threat to Democracy!" Trump wrote on "Truth Social" as more trash talk threatened to engulf the political process already mired in mistrust and misinformation.

Republicans are also reported to be planning to mount a legal challenge questioning the validity of the Biden campaign handing over finances and campaign infrastructure to Harris. The matter could end up before the six-member Federal Election Commission panel that is evenly split between Republicans and Democrats, and if they help to party line, it could further end up in courts, raising visions of the kind of



Hours after Biden bowed out, Trump said, 'If he can't run for office, he can't run our country!!!'

gridlock that occurred during the 2000 elections involving George Bush and Al Gore. Regardless, the Harris campaign is now sending out emails with a "Harris for President" logo, soliciting campaign contributions. On Sunday, the campaign raised almost \$50 million, making it the single

On Sunday, the Harris campaign raised almost \$50m, close to the nearly \$53m that Trump raised in the 24 hours following his criminal conviction

biggest day for online Democratic contributions since the 2020 election. It was close to the nearly \$53 million that Trump raised in the 24 hours following his criminal conviction. The rapid rise in donations indicated that the rank and file of the Democratic Party was coalescing solidly behind Harris.

Meanwhile, Biden's decision to bail out of the race, it is now emerging, was based on diminishing poll numbers rather than any word from "Lord Almighty" which he said would cause him to quit the race. Internal surveys showed him losing in almost every battleground state, making a victory almost impossible, even as big donors began to withhold contributions.

Americans face deluge of trash talk and conspiracy theories in election season

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: A tsunami of trash talk and conspiracy theories is raining down on Americans as MAGA maniacs and radical left loonies are duking it out on social media over their respective leaders' character and merit. The exit of Prez Joe Biden from the 2024 race for the White House and the promotion of Kamala Harris as the prospective Democratic nominee has unleashed a furious assault on everything from her character to her mannerisms.

Trump himself has led the way, gibing about the way she laughs and calling her crazy. "I call her laughing Kamala. You can tell a lot by a laugh. She's crazy. She's nuts," Trump told a rally in Michigan in a meandering speech that led liberal trolls to joke that bats in the animal kingdom were going "Trump-shit crazy" (a play on the expression "batshit crazy").

MAGA activists backed up Trump's jibe by posting an edited mash-up of Harris laughing on different occasions in different settings, and worse, impugning her character by tal-



THE 'COCONUT TREE' MEME

A clip of Kamala Harris from a May 2023 speech quoting her mother often saying, "You think you just fell out of a coconut tree?", has been viral since Prez Biden's disastrous June 27 debate. Harris' supporters, also known as the 'KHive', have been using the coconut tree emoji as the unofficial campaign icon to push for her candidacy as US prez.

Conspiracy theories are also proliferating by the minute. They range from Biden's statement on quitting the race not being on an official letterhead and the signature on it not matching his usual signature (and therefore suspicious), to the familiar birther theory about Harris being born outside the US or being an offspring of foreign student, and therefore not eligible to run for White House.

Activists on both sides also duked it out on her identity — on whether she is African-American or Indian-American, and which heritage she embraces or avoids. Harris is Jamaican-American (from her dad's side) and Indian-American (from her mom's side), and therefore she's black-brown, not strictly African-American in the conventional sense.

She often identifies herself as black but also embraces Indian heritage from her maternal side, growing up closer to her mother, who brought her up as a single mom after her parents divorced when she was six. Trolls also feasted on edited mash-ups of Harris' "rambling word salad", with one right-wing outlet suggesting it "may be a symptom of a little-known but common psychological condition called logorrhoea — also known as verbal diarrhoea".

To be fair, liberal trolls have confected similar mash-ups of Trump (who suffers even more from a similar condition), including parodying his scowls, jowls, and other facial contortions. AI tools are further helping wreak havoc.

B'desh protests halted, govt gets 48 hrs to meet demands, including apology from PM

Dhaka: Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina blamed her political opponents for deadly violence that swept the country during recent student-led protests against quotas in govt jobs. Her comments came a day after the Supreme Court agreed to scrap most quotas in a ruling on Sunday. Hospital data showed at least 147 people were killed.



Bangladesh military patrol the streets in Dhaka on Monday. Internet & mobile data services are still down

"When arson terrorism started, the protesting students said they were not involved in it," Hasina said. "We were forced to impose a curfew to protect the lives and property of the citizens," she said. "We will lift the curfew whenever the situation gets better." Hasina blamed the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami party and its student wing for the violence. The parties did not respond to requests for comment.

The streets appeared calm in Dhaka on Monday. Late on Sunday, protesters gave the govt 48 hours to meet new demands, but most appeared to be obeying the curfew Monday. Tanks were seen stationed at sever-

al places in Dhaka. There were no reports of violence in the country, officials said.

The new demands from protesters included a public apology from Hasina for the violence, restoration of internet connections and reopening of campuses. The Anti-Discrimination Student Movement also called for the resignation of some ministers and university officials and the dismissal of police officers deployed in the areas where students were killed. "We are giving an ultimatum to the govt to fulfil our eight-point demand within 48 hours," one of the Movement's leaders, Hasnat Abdullah, said. He did not say what would happen if the govt did not meet the demands. REUTERS

Anti-terror efforts being made controversial by political mafia: Pak army

Omer Farooq Khan | TNN

Islamabad: The Pakistan army accused its critics of "politicising" its anti-terrorism efforts, including a new military operation, to the detriment of national interests following the arrest on Monday of Raouf Hasan, information secretary of PTI, headed by jailed former PM Imran Khan. The army said the party information secretary was in charge of PTI's digital media cell which, it alleged, was involved in running anti-state propaganda.

Last month PM Shehbaz Sharif had approved a military offensive to counter a spike in terrorist attacks across Pakistan, particularly in volatile NW Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and SW Balochistan provinces, but the idea was criticised by opposition parties, particularly PTI and the rights group Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM). They termed it a ploy against Pashtuns to earn dollars from big powers and exploit resources.

Addressing a presser in the garrison city of Rawalpindi, the military's spokesperson, Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, asked, "Why did a mafia, a political mafia, and an illegal mafia say that they would not let this campaign (Operation Azm-e-Istehkam, or Resolve for Stability) happen?" He added that opponents of the offensive had tried to make it "controversial" and paint it as a purely military operation in which thousands of people would be displaced. He did not name any party or group but called the army's critics "political and illegal mafias", an apparent reference to PTI and PTM. Lt Gen Chaudhry said they were using "fake news and propaganda" to spread lies about the army. "This is digital terrorism," he said.

The party posted on X, saying: "It's absolutely shameful how Islamabad police continues to completely mock and disregard every law in this country. Law of the jungle is reigning over Pakistan!"

US Secret Service boss says attack on Trump major failure, but rejects calls to resign

Washington: Secret Service director Kimberly Cheatle said Monday that her agency failed in its mission to protect ex-prez Donald Trump during a highly contentious congressional hearing with lawmakers of both major political parties demanding she resign over security failures that allowed a gunman to scale a roof and open fire at a campaign rally.

In her first hearing over the July 13 assassination attempt, Cheatle repeatedly angered lawmakers by evading questions, citing ongoing investigations. She called the attempt on Trump's life the Secret Service's "most significant operational failure" in decades.

Cheatle acknowledged that the Secret Service was told about a suspicious person "between two and five times" before the shooting. She also revealed that the roof from which the shooter fired had been identified as a potential vulnerability days before the rally. Cheatle said she apologised to Trump in a phone call after the rally. Despite the failures, Cheatle, who has spent nearly three decades at the Secret Service, remained defiant that she was the "right person" to lead the agency.

Cheatle acknowledged that the shooter, Thomas Matthew Crooks, had been seen by local law enforcement before the shooting with a rangefinder, a small device resembling binoculars. She said the Secret Service would have paused the rally if agents had been told there was an "actual threat", but she said there's a difference between someone identified as suspicious and someone identified as a true threat.

Asked about why there were no agents on the roof, Cheatle said she is still waiting for the investigation to play out, prompting outbursts. The Secret Service has acknowledged it denied some requests by Trump's campaign for increased security at his events in the years before the assassination bid. But Cheatle said that there were "no assets denied" for the rally. AP

AROUND THE WORLD



ADRENALINE RUSH: A person swings 120m above ground at Berlin's Alexanderplatz. The attraction is said to be Europe's highest swing

Who's smiling now? Nirvana, Marc Jacobs settle logo lawsuit

Oh, that lawsuit Nirvana filed against the fashion line Marc Jacobs for using its smiley face logo without permission? Nevermind. After more than a half-decade of litigation, the sides have agreed to settle. The corporate entity representing Nirvana sued Marc Jacobs in 2018 after the fashion line announced it would release a "Bootleg Redux Grunge" collection of clothing that featured a smiley face logo the lawsuit called "virtually identical to Nirvana's copyrighted image". Nirvana's smiley face has an uneven head, X's for eyes and a wavy smile with a tongue

sticking out on the right side of its face. Marc Jacobs' smiley face, which was part of both clothing designs and general marketing promotion for the collection, looks the same but swaps in an "M" and "J" for the X's. The rock band has used its smiley face logo since the early 1990s. The yellow-on-black styling of the logo and the typeface used on the shirts were also too similar to Nirvana's recognizable designs, the band's lawyers argued. In response, Marc Jacobs pursued a counterclaim alleging that the band had not filed proper copyright registration for the logo and questioning its lawyer's story that Nirvana frontman Kurt Cobain had drawn it. The terms of the settlement have not been disclosed in court documents.

'Captain should be on the park more often than not'

Fitness, Not Form, The Reason Behind Surya's Elevation As T20I Skipper Over Hardik, Says Chief Selector Agarkar

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Mumbai: One of the contentious issues after the team for the T20I series against Sri Lanka was announced was the appointment of Suryakumar Yadav as skipper, with rising young batting star Shubman Gill named as his deputy. Hardik Pandya was vice-captain to Rohit Sharma in India's victorious campaign in the T20 World Cup and had a great tournament with bat and ball (144 runs at a strike-rate of 151.57 and 11 wickets at an average of 17.36) and was the hero of the final too against South Africa.

It was expected that Pandya will be the natural successor to Rohit. On Monday, prior to the team's departure to Sri Lanka from Mumbai, Agarkar revealed that Pandya's battles with fitness was the prime reason why the selectors took that call. "The captain should be on the park more often than not," was Agarkar's blunt take on Pandya's demotion.

"Why Surya as captain? Because he is one of the deserving candidates," Agarkar stated.

Growing dressing room respect for the dashing Mumbai batter was also another reason revealed by Agarkar. "He's been around the group over the last year, we get feedback from the dressing room a lot. He has a good cricket brain and is one of the best T20 batters in the world. One of the main issues we discussed was that you want a captain who is likely to play all the games. We think he is a deserving candidate and hopefully we'll see how he develops into the role," Agarkar explained.

Agarkar though was full of praise for Pandya's skillsets and utility he offered to the team.

Why was Rahul overlooked?

KL Rahul, a player who has led India across formats, was another cricketer who could be entrusted with the responsibility of captaincy. But judging by the selectors' calls, one feels that Gill is the chosen one for the future. "KL hasn't been part of T20Is now for a while. We've got



"We haven't discussed Surya for ODIs. Shreyas is back, KL is back. They had great World Cups. Rishabh is back as well, so there is some quality through that middle order. At this point Surya is just a T20 player."

"Now that Rishabh's back, you want to get him around the group again. KL has been terrific in One-day cricket. He had a great World Cup as well. This is a big Test season (10 matches), we obviously feel these two will have a huge role to play." —Ajit Agarkar

a chance to hit the reset button. When Hardik got injured, captaincy became a challenge as Rohit wasn't playing T20Is. Because he was still around, it made our life easier, and he could come and lead. We don't want that situation where suddenly we have to look around for a captain in case there are injuries or loss of form. Shubman has shown decent leadership qualities, and we want him to get experiences."

Why the snubs to Abhishek, Sanju and Rituraj

Agarkar was asked if the calls to drop players like Sanju Samson (dropped for ODIs despite getting a hundred in his last outing vs SA in a series-decider), Abhishek Sharma (dropped from T20Is despite getting a hundred in Zimbabwe) and Rituraj Gaikwad (dropped despite impressing in both ODIs and T20Is) were justified. "Every player who is left out feels hard-done by. Our challenge is to pick only 15. To try and get the best balance possible, someone is likely to miss out. You've got to see who is picked ahead of them (KL Rahul, Shreyas Iyer). Are those guys not deserving?" Agarkar asked.

Jadeja not dropped from ODIs

"We know what Jaddu has done. He's had a terrific 50-over World Cup. He hasn't been dropped. We had Axar Patel in the squad and either of them wouldn't have played all three games if we'd taken both. A big Test season is coming up, where he's likely to feature in a lot of the Tests," said Agarkar.



FIRST TEST: Gautam Gambhir (C) and the Indian team & support staff arrive in Colombo on Monday

A PRIVATE MATTER

Relationship With Virat Not For Public Consumption, Says New Head Coach Gambhir

Ahead Of Team's Departure To SL, Adds Rohit, Kohli Have Plenty Of Cricket Left In Them

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Mumbai: The rumour industry had been working overtime ever since it was announced that former opener Gautam Gambhir will be the head coach for India. His firebrand altercations with batting talisman Virat Kohli in the IPL (2013 KKR vs RCB) and 2023 (LSG vs RCB) were probably the reasons for that.

There was more history. Gambhir was dropped from the side in 2016 after the Rajkot Test against England and KL Rahul, who was reportedly still unfit, made a curious return as opener. Incidentally, Kohli was the captain then.

However, on a rainy Monday in Mumbai, it seemed like plenty of water had flown under the bridge. Ahead of the team's departure to Sri Lanka for a six-match white-ball series (three T20Is and three ODIs), the gritty former left-handed opener put theories that suggested it will be a difficult dressing room with him and Virat in it, to rest.

"What kind of relationship I share with Virat Kohli, I think it is between two mature individuals. It may be good for TRP, but it's not public," Gambhir said and justified the run-ins with the superstar batter by adding, "On the field, everyone has got the right to fight for their own team, their own jersey, and want to come back in a winning dressing room."

Putting his India hat on, Gambhir further stressed, "But you are represent-

ing India and 140 crore Indians now, and I am sure we are going to be on the same page and try and make India proud."

That their relationship was not in cold storage was evident during the 2024 IPL when both met cordially and Kohli, targeting headline seekers, had famously said, "logon ka masala khatam" during an event.

Gambhir was asked if he and Kohli had chatted or exchanged texts after he was named coach and he stressed, "How many chats have I had with him, after my announcement or before my announcement, during the games, after the games... sometimes just because we want headlines... it is not important."

But he reiterated the respect he has for the man who he gave away his man of the match award for after Kohli's first international hundred in 2009 in Kolkata. "He is a thorough professional, a world-class athlete, a world-

class player. I have huge respect for him as a player and it is going to continue. And hopefully we can work together really well."

Another player, Gambhir will have to work closely with is Rohit Sharma, who has retired from T20Is, like Kohli, but will continue to lead India in Tests and ODIs. And he hoped that Rohit and Kohli still have a lot of cricket left in them.

"They have both shown they can deliver on the big stage, be it the T20 World Cup or 50-over World Cup. One thing I can be clear of is that both have a lot of cricket left in them. More importantly, with the Champions Trophy and a big tour of Australia coming up, they would be motivated. If they can keep their fitness, the 2027 ODI World Cup as well."

For the record, Kohli will be 39 in 2027, and Rohit will be 40.

Workload management for someone like Jasprit Bumrah is important. For a batter, if they can play consistently, if they're in good form, might as well just play all the games. Rohit and Virat are not playing T20 cricket. We only have two formats to look after. I'm sure they're going to be available for most of the games."

"A happy dressing room is a winning dressing room."

"It is important to give players freedom and not have a relationship of a head coach and a player. The best relationship is one built on trust."

"Sometimes international cricket can be tough. It can be insecure as well because only 15 can be picked. It is the job of support staff to keep them happy."

—Gautam Gambhir

Dravid to return to RR as head coach?

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Colombo: Team India's former head coach Rahul Dravid is likely to return to the Rajasthan Royals as the IPL franchise's head coach, TOI has learnt. "Talks are going on between RR and Dravid, and an announcement in this regard is round the corner. He is likely to return to RR," a reliable source told this paper. The 51-year-old Dravid, a legendary India batsman, has had a long relationship with the Royals, having been their captain who led them to the Champions League T20 final and IPL playoffs in 2013, before taking on the mentor's role with the Jaipur-based franchise in 2014 & 2015, when they finished third in the IPL. It was in his stint with RR that players like Sanju Samson and Stuart Binny blossomed and eventually went on to play for India.

From 2015, Dravid was associated with the BCCI as the head coach of the India Under-19 and India A teams, then the chairman at the National Cricket Academy, before finally taking over the head coach of the Indian men's team from Oct 2021. It's not clear if the franchise would retain Sri Lankan great Kumar Sangakkara, who has been the Royals' director of cricket since 2021 or relieve him after Dravid comes on board.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka are taking the help of an Indian hand to prepare for a six-match white-ball series (three ODIs and three T20Is) against India, which will commence in Pallekele from July 27.



ROYALS CALLING: DRAVID

Zubin Bharucha, the high-performance director of the Rajasthan Royals, is currently taking a nearly week-long 'batting master class' for Sri Lanka's players here in Colombo.

A former Mumbai batsman, Bharucha is known for his rigorous training methods for the batsmen, which have played a key role in the rapid development of India's talented young batsmen, opener Yashasvi Jaiswal and wicketkeeper-batsman Dhruv Jurel.

"I'm assisting Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) coaches in how they are setting up practice for all their age groups, from the academy to the international players, as well as reviewing the technical aspects of their players across all formats," Bharucha told TOI on Monday.

As the director of cricket at RR, Sangakkara has seen the impressive work put in by Bharucha. "It was Sangakkara who recommended his name," a source informed.

Boycott in hospital after 'turn for worse'

London: England batting great Geoffrey Boycott was on Sunday readmitted to hospital after suffering a setback in his recovery from throat surgery, his family revealing "things have taken a turn for the worse".

The 83-year-old was discharged from hospital only on Friday after a successful operation to remove a cancerous tumour.

However, he has now developed pneumonia. "Thank you all for the well wishes, we've been blown away by the sheer number of them," read a statement from the family on Boycott's X account.

"Unfortunately, things ha-



ve taken a turn for the worse and my father has developed pneumonia and is unable to eat or drink

so is back in hospital on oxygen and a feeding tube for the foreseeable."

Boycott had previously been treated for throat cancer in 2002 with chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

Boycott is one of a select group of cricketers to have scored 100 first-class hundreds. For England, he scored more than 8,000 runs in 108 Tests at an average of nearly 48. AFP

GALLERY

India teams lose in quarters

India's boys and girls lost narrowly in the quarterfinals of the World Junior Squash Championships Team competition in Houston. The sixth-seeded boys went down 1-2 to fourth seed South Korea and the girls lost by an identical margin to third seed Malaysia.

Aditi signs off tied 33rd: Aditi Ashok shot three-over 74 to finish tied 33rd at the LPGA Dana Open in Sylvania, Ohio, on Saturday. Aditi ended up with a four-day aggregate of five-under 279.

England rise three spots: England have moved off the bottom of the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) standings with a comprehensive 241-run victory over the West Indies in the second Test of their series. The victory saw England rise past South Africa, Bangladesh and West Indies into sixth place on the current table. The West Indies fall to ninth on the standings.

Dominant India face minnows Nepal: Buoyant India will look to extend their winning run and seal a semifinal berth when they face Nepal in their final Group A Women's T20 Asia Cup match in Dambulla on Tuesday. Meanwhile Sri Lanka and Bangladesh produced superlative performances to secure victories over Malaysia and Thailand in group B and inch closer to the semifinal berth on Monday. While hosts Sri Lanka thrashed Malaysia by 114 runs, Bangladesh outwitted Thailand by seven wickets.

Nagal triumphs: India's top-ranked tennis player Sumit Nagal on Monday fought back from the brink to defeat Slovakia's Lucas Klein in the opening round of the ATP 250 Kitzbuhel Open in Austria. The Paris Olympics-bound Nagal won 6-4, 1-6, 7-6 (3).

Fils upsets Zverev to win Hamburg Open: France's Arthur Fils came out on top after a three-set encounter with Alexander Zverev to win the Hamburg Open 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (7/1).

Zheng defends Palermo title: China's Zheng Qinwen successfully defended her Palermo clay-court title with a 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 win over Karolina Muchova in a major confidence boost ahead of the Olympics.

Villa sign Everton midfielder Onana: Aston Villa signed Belgium midfielder Amadou Onana from Everton in a deal worth a reported \$64 million on Monday. Onana agreed a five-year contract with Villa.

Spurs star Son's dad accused of abuse: Tottenham Hotspur star Son Heung-min's father has been accused of verbally abusing a young player at his football academy in South Korea, according to a police on Monday. The family of a 12-year-old, identified only as Kim, told police he was the target of foul language at Son Heung-yun, the brother of the Tottenham striker, leaving a large bruise on his left thigh.

ACTION TODAY

CRICKET: Women's Asia Cup T20Is, Pakistan vs UAE, 2 pm; India vs Nepal, 6.30 pm (Star Sports)

ICC forms panel to review conduct of T20 WC

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Colombo: As was widely expected, the International Cricket Council (ICC), soon after the conclusion of its four-day Annual Conference here on Monday, announced that it had formed a three-member committee to "review the delivery" of the T20 World Cup which was co-hosted by the USA and the West Indies last month.

The committee includes three directors-former New Zealand batsman Roger Tose, Lawson Naidoo and Imran Khwaja, who is the deputy chair of the ICC.

"The ICC Board confirmed that there will be a review into the delivery of the ICC T20 World Cup. This will be overseen by three directors, Roger Tose, Lawson Naidoo and Imran Khwaja who will report back to the Board later in the year," the



Rohit Sharma (left) with USA's Harmeet Singh at Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York during the T20 World Cup

ICC stated in a release soon after the conclusion of its Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Reportedly, the ICC has incurred losses over \$20 million for conducting matches in New York, Florida and Dallas. Apparently, the tournament's expenses for the US leg overshoot the allocated budget by a long margin, something that was pointed out by Pankaj Khimji of Oman.

It was reported that the resignation of two ICC officials was

related to the conduct of the World Cup, although a reliable source in the ICC has maintained that both Claire Furlong and Chris Tetley had made up their mind to quit last year itself but were asked to stay back for the Women's T20 World Cup (Furlong), and the Champions Trophy next year (Tetley).

No discussion on India's CT participation: Meanwhile, TOI understands that there was no discussion on the ICC Champions Trophy, to be held in Pakistan in 2025, or India's participation in the tournament.

USA, Chile put on notice and given 1 year for compliance: In what is certainly a big setback for cricket in the United States just a few days after their national team stunned everyone by beating Pakistan and making it

to the T20 World Cup Super 8s, USA Cricket, along with Cricket Chile, has been formally put on notice and given 12 months to comply with ICC's Associate Membership criteria.

Apparently, the USAC has been in breach of Associate Members Protocols on two counts - not having a fulltime CEO and not having recognition of the US Olympic and Paralympic Committee.

Women's T20 World Cup expanded to 16 teams in 2030: The ICC Board has approved an expansion of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup to 16 teams in 2030, aligning with its ongoing commitment to equity between the men's and women's games. The CEC approved the appointment of ex-Australian pacer Paul Reifel to the Cricket Committee as the Elite Panel representative.

EB to be more offensive this season: Cuadrat

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: With reinforcements in key positions and Pep Guardiola's blessings, East Bengal FC are looking to fight for more trophies and strive to scale new heights this season.

The team, backed by investor Emami Group, has roped in Greek striker and Golden Boot winner of last ISL season Dimitrios Diamantakos as well as French playmaker Madih Talal, who had the most assists (10) in the league. India midfielder Jeakson Singh has also joined Carles Cuadrat's team on a four-year contract.

"In my 7 years in Indian football, this is certainly one of the best squads. Of course, we'll be under pressure (of rising expectations), but football is about being under such pressure and accepting the challenges," Cuadrat said during the unveiling of his players at the investor's office in the city on Monday.

The Spanish coach also believed that his team would be more proactive and attacking this season. "Last season, the depth of the squad was not enough to be competitive. So, it was kind of a surprise when we reached the Durand final and won the Super Cup. But it won't be a surprise if we make the final of a competition this time around. Last season, it was more about protecting a goal and winning points. But now we have options and we are going to be more



East Bengal FC's new recruits Dimitrios Diamantakos (left) and Madih Talal on the sidelines of the senior team's unveiling in the city on Monday

offensive and aggressive this season," Cuadrat pointed out.

Last month East Bengal's assistant coach Dimas Delgado met Pep Guardiola at a reunion that was held on the occasion of the current Manchester City manager's 16th anniversary of his first title. Delgado was part of the Barcelona B team in 2007-2008 which was managed by Guardiola before he took charge of the senior team.

"Since he's from City, Mumbai City had come up for discussion as the Premier League club has a tie-up with the ISL team, but we also talked about our project at East Bengal and he wished us luck for the new season," Delgado said. Emami director Aditya Agarwal also hoped to see a different East Bengal. "Keeping the long season in mind, we have tried to forge a squad that can challenge for multiple titles," he said. East Bengal will meet IAF in the Durand Cup on July 29.

Bagan rope in one more Aussie striker in MacLaren

Kolkata: Mohun Bagan SG on Monday announced the signing of Australian striker Jamie MacLaren on a 4-year deal. The 30-year-old will be the third Australian in the Jose Molina-managed squad after Dimitri Petratos and Jason Cummings.

"I've had the luxury of playing alongside and against both (Petratos and Cummings). Dimi is a creator, a player who's very brave on the ball and chooses the right pass for his strikers... About Jase, well he's a left-footed version of myself and we both played for Hibernian and we love being inside the penalty box like any No. 9," MacLaren, a five-time A-League top scorer, said in a statement, issued by the city club.

ECB open to IPL funds in Hundred

Nottingham: English cricket chiefs confirmed on Monday they have held talks with Indian Premier League (IPL) owners about acquiring a stake in their Hundred competition.

The fourth edition of the 100-ball per side tournament, which features eight specially created teams starts on Tuesday.

Its future remains uncertain, with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) looking to secure private investment in a bid to cement its position in the global calendar and boost the finances of the domestic game.

The ECB are trying to balance a desire for a cash injection while retaining control of the Hundred by selling off a 49 per-

cent stake in each team to private investors, with host teams retaining the remaining 51 percent of shares. But the hosts could sell part or all of their shares.

"Control comes at different levels, it comes at team level and it comes at competition level — that's not something we are ceding control of," ECB chief executive Richard Gould told reporters.

"You're right about the strength of the Indian market — it represents probably 90 percent of the revenues coming into the ICC and we have seen the proliferation of IPL teams moving outside of their home market. I think that's to be welcomed," he added.

Randhir all set to head OCA

New Delhi: Former international shooter and veteran sports administrator Randhir Singh is set to become the first Indian president of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) after emerging as the sole candidate for the top post for the September 8 elections.



Randhir Singh

The 77-year-old Singh, a former member of the International Olympic Council (IOC) and ex secretary general of Indian

Olympic Association (IOA), was currently serving as the acting chief of the continental sports apex body. "The OCA election commission can confirm that OCA acting president Randhir Singh is the sole eligible candidate to be nominated for election of the OCA General As-

sembly on 8 September, 2024," the OCA said in a statement.

"The Election Committee, chaired by Justice Rohinton Nariman (former judge of Supreme Court of India), met today to review the CVs and eligibility requirements as per OCA Constitution, the Election Rules and Guidelines, of all nominated candidates submitted by Member NOCs of OCA by 21 July 2024 deadline. PF

Miss Maya bags Cup event

Khainin Haidermota

Kolkata: RS Sequeira-nursed Miss Maya won the first division of Osman Sagar Cup at Malakpet on Monday. The second division saw rank outsider N R I Superpower, also from the stable of RS Sequeira, coming up trumps.

Hyderabad short results 1: (12-5-4) Star Of The Night 1; Nonpariel 2; Desert Hero 3. 2: (4-7-5) Espionage 1; Uchchihshravas 2; Gatiman 3.

RACING CORNER

3: (7-6-2) Duke Of Tuscany 1; Oliver's Mount 2; Warwick 3. 4: (5-3-7) Born Brave 1; Decan Spirit 2; Imperia 3. 5: (6-16-14) Blazing Gun 1; Kalki 2; Encore 3. 6: (8-4-7) N R I Superpower 1; Last Wish 2; Enabling 3. 7: (10-9-1) Miss Maya 1; Maverick 2; Best Buddy 3. 8: (14-13-4) Divine Prophecy 1; Wallop And Gallop 2; Adhbut 3. 9: (3-16-9) American Flame 1; Nav Lakhaa 2; Bein Pensant 3. **Jackpot:** Rs 57,020 c/o. **Mini Jackpot:** Rs 15,420 c/o. **Treble:** (I) Rs 6,190 c/o (II) Rs 3,230 c/o (III) Rs 55.



"If someone told me that I should walk in as flagbearer, it would mean even more to me, to be honest (than winning gold). Leading an entire nation into the Olympics is simply the greatest honour an athlete can receive."

ALEXANDER ZVEREV
GERMAN TENNIS STAR

SREEJESH'S LAST HURRAH

India's Top Hockey Custodian To Retire After Paris Games

Manuja.Veerappa@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: In 2002, a gawky youngster in a netted sleeveless vest and *vesthi* joined the country's junior hockey team probables. He seemed out of place among the boisterous group, his troubles compounded by his language skills, or the lack of them.

He couldn't speak in any language other than Malayalam, his mother tongue. The lanky youngster was mocked by his peers for his appearance — his primitive goalkeeping pads were secured by a rope — and lack of social skills. Although the youngster was close to realising his dream of making it to the Indian team, he yearned for the comfort of his home in Pallikkara, Ernakulam district, Kerala. Every time he decided to pack his bags, he would be reminded of his family's sacrifices. His father, PV Raveendran, a man of modest means but big dreams for his two sons, sold a cow to buy him his first goalkeeping kit.

The youngster would block out the bullying and humiliation and focus on his dreams. On Monday, wearing his first-ever jersey at the Olympic Village in Paris, Parattu Raveendran Sreejesh announced to the world that Paris would be his last dance.

While the announcement was in the offing for a while, when it did materialise, it marked the beginning of the end of one of the most stirring careers in modern Indian hockey. The 36-year-old has been the wall of Indian hockey for over a decade-and-a-half.

Sreejesh is among the very special players to have taken the field for India. His agility and game awareness are his primary strengths and being an ever-dependable team man with the ability to soak up pressure only enhanced his reputation. The call-ups from the Indian junior to the senior team was delayed, but since his international debut in 2006, he has made the opportunities count and has been a crucial cog in many landmark Indian victories, including the bronze medal at the Tokyo Games.

On Monday, overcome by emotions, Sreejesh, eloquent on and off the field, was lost for words. "It was a tough call. I don't



TOKYO, AUG 5, 2021: Sreejesh sits on the goalpost while celebrating India's victory over Germany in the bronze-medal match

know how to put my feelings in words," he said. "Playing hockey is all that I have done in the past 24 years. Post Paris, not going back to playing hockey will be like searching for a path in the dark," he told TOI.

Sreejesh, the FIH best goalkeeper of 2021-22, wanted to set an example to others on the right time to announce retirement. "It was about deciding when the right time was. I believe I've played a crucial role in Indian hockey, and I wanted to finish before I was asked to leave. In Indian hockey, rarely has there been a perfect retire-

ment. I wanted to show youngsters how to say goodbye. There could not have been a better platform than the Olympics." Before making it known to the world, Sreejesh discussed his plans with his family and spoke about it to teammates during their training camp in the Netherlands.

"I've been telling my family for the past eight years that I plan to retire. This time, when they realised I was serious, they agreed it was the right time. In the Netherlands, during a meeting, I told the team about my plans. I also told them I need their help to make my last outing a memorable

one. As I gave it my best one last time, I want them to do the same," said the former India skipper. Coming from a state which doesn't have a hockey culture, Sreejesh, who refers to himself as a '*ottayan*' — a lonely tusker — thrived on self-belief. "People thought a player from Kerala wanting to make it big in the Indian team was a lofty dream. Even my parents thought so, but it didn't hamper me." Among Sreejesh's biggest career regrets is not winning the World Cup despite four appearances in the quadrennial showpiece. He now wants nothing more than a medal in Paris.

GOALKEEPER'S DOSSIER

Full name: Parattu Raveendran Sreejesh
Born in: Pallikkara, Kerala
Age: 36
Position: Goalkeeper
India junior debut: 2004
India senior debut: 2006
Senior caps: 328
Top Achievements
Olympics: 2020 Bronze
Asian Games: 2014 Gold, 2018 Bronze, 2022 Gold
Asia Cup: 2013 Silver
Champions Trophy: 2016 & 2018 Silver
Asian Champions Trophy: 2011, 2016, 2018 & 2023 Gold; 2012 Silver
Commonwealth Games: 2014 & 2022 Silver
Awards
2014 & 2018 Champions Trophy: Best goalkeeper
2015: Arjuna Award
2017: Padma Shri
2021: Khel Ratna
2021-22: FIH best goalkeeper

"Participating in the Olympics is the ultimate pinnacle of achievement for any sports person. I have been lucky enough to represent India in four editions. I am 36. There are youngsters waiting in the wings, and I reckon it's time they take the mantle from me. And there is no better stage to end your career than the Olympics."

"It was in 2004 that my name was tagged with an Indian squad for the first time when I was included in the junior team to tour Australia. After my selection, I was handed the Indian goalkeeper's jersey. I didn't have a mirror in my room and quickly rushed to the washroom. I wore the jersey and looked at myself in the mirror. Time stood still as I saw my name printed on the back of an Indian jersey for the first time. When I came back, I gifted that jersey to my dad, who received it with tears in his eyes."

"Our goal is to do better than last time. We have the team to do that. I don't know what to say. All this while, I knew Paris would be my last tournament in Indian colours. It's just been 10 minutes since I announced my retirement decision. Suddenly, I have gone blank. Let me give myself some time and focus on the job ahead."

—PR Sreejesh
(as told to Prasanth Menon)

SHOOTING LEGEND BINDRA GETS IOC OLYMPIC ORDER

New Delhi: Abhinav Bindra has been awarded with Olympic Order by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for his outstanding services to the Olympic Movement. The award ceremony will be held during the 142nd IOC Session in Paris on Aug 10, a day before the closing of the Games.

"It is with great pleasure that I inform you that the IOC executive board has decided to award you with the Olympic Order for your outstanding services to the Olympic movement," the IOC wrote in a letter addressed to Bindra.

The Olympic Order is the highest award of the IOC, given for distinguished contributions to the Olympic Movement. It is awarded to recognize an individual who has illustrated the Olympic ideal, has achieved remarkable merit in the sporting world or has rendered outstanding services to the Olympic cause. PTI



NADAL UNCOMFORTABLE AHEAD OF GAMES BID

Bastad (Sweden): Rafael Nadal will head to the Paris Olympics chasing a third gold medal but admitted his "level was so far from what it should be" after losing in the Bastad clay-court final on Sunday. The 38-year-old Spanish great went down to a straight-set defeat to Portuguese journeyman Nuno Borges in his first final since capturing a 14th French Open in 2022.

"The level was so far from what it should be. Probably the energy too," said Nadal. "It has been a long week with long matches. Even if my body, I don't have damage, that's important. But mentally and physically, I am not used to playing four days in a row and playing long matches."

Nadal was playing his first tournament since an opening round exit at the French Open in May. He skipped Wimbledon to focus on his clay-court bag of tricks ahead of the Olympics which are being played at Roland Garros, the site of 14 of his 22 Grand Slam triumphs. AFP



SCENIC VIEW AT CHAMP DE MARS: The beach volleyball event will be held under the shadow of the Eiffel Tower



AQUAMEN: Divers take part in a training session in Saint-Denis, north of Paris



GEARING UP FOR JAPAN: Naomi Osaka serves during a training session at Roland Garros

Israeli contingent to get round-the-clock security

Paris: Israeli athletes will receive 24-hour protection during the Paris Olympics. France's interior minister said, after a far-left lawmaker said Israel's delegation was not welcome and called for protests against their participation. The Games begin on Friday amid pronounced security concerns at a time of heightened geopolitical tensions over the wars in Ukraine and Gaza. Israel's war against Hamas has become a lightning rod among France's far left, with some critics accusing pro-Palestinian members of antisemitism.

French interior minister Gerald Darmanin said that Israeli athletes would be protected around the clock during the Games, 52 years after the Munich Olympics massacre in which 11 Israelis were killed by Palestinian militants. Darmanin spoke after far-left France Unbowed party lawmaker Thomas Portes was filmed saying Israel's Olympic athletes were not welcome in France.

On Monday, foreign minister Stéphane Sejourne said in Brussels, "I want to say on behalf of France, to the Israeli delegation, we welcome you to France for these Games."

FRANCE IS READY, SAYS MACRON

Paris: President Emmanuel Macron said on Monday that France was ready to host the Paris Olympics as he visited the athletes' Village four days before the Games begin.

"We are ready and we will be ready throughout the Games," Macron said. "We have been working on these Games for years now and we are at the start of a decisive week which on Friday will see the opening ceremony and then the Olympic which will be held in Paris, 100 years since the last one." He added: "This is the fruit

of an immense amount of work which has profoundly changed the country, in particular the area" of Seine-Saint-Denis, where the Athletes' Village is situated.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach also visited the Village to the north of the French capital, where thousands of athletes and officials are arriving, with up to 14,500 expected there at the peak of the Games. Macron promised the area would not be forgotten after the Olympics. "I will come back after the Games to see how life has changed." AGENCIES

Manu determined to leave Tokyo woes behind

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Pune: In his autobiography, Abhinav Bindra mentioned the importance of detaching oneself from the result, his gold at Beijing being a strong validation. Much younger in age and experience, but maybe not in determination, Manu Bhaker too has started thinking along the same lines as Bindra did before the 2008 Olympics.

The pistol shooter had a forgettable outing in her first Olympics in Tokyo. Yet, it was difficult for her to forget what unfolded at the Asaka Shooting ranges three years ago. Nonetheless, the Haryana girl gathered her thoughts and corrected mistakes made in Tokyo, including getting

back to her former coach, Jaspal Rana, with whom she had a fallout just weeks before the 2021 Games. Manu, 22, insists she has grown wiser as a person and stronger as a shooter.

"I have very bitter memories of Tokyo. Two years ago, when I used to think about it, I used to wonder why it happened to me and what I did wrong. But as 2023 began, I started connecting the dots. I started understanding how everything turned out the way it did. Also, what I could have done to make the results better. After all those thoughts, I am just not willing to make those mistakes again, no matter what the results

are," Manu told TOI after the Olympic trials in Bhopal in May. "We all must make our peace with situations which are not in our hands. We cannot change the past and can't have control over the future. It took me a long time to make peace with my situation. Once I started doing it, things started falling in place," she said.

Talking about her fallout with Jaspal at a crucial juncture of her preparation for the Tokyo Games, Manu agreed that her performance could have been better with her trusted coach by her side.

Going to Paris, Manu doesn't want to sulk over the past. "When someone close to you dies, you cry

for some days and go about your routine after some time. You realize crying won't bring the person back, but remembering good things about the person would make you cherish the time you had together. I think I had a similar feeling about my Tokyo experience. I was sad for some time but now I think of the good things that happened to me then," she said.

She asserted that she has come to a stage where she now only thinks of giving her best and not about the results. The process of detachment has started, and Bindra would approve. "An athlete's life is kind of a rollercoaster as we face a lot in a short span of our short careers. I have been shooting for over eight years now and now I feel I am prepared for everything."

German sports campus boosts Paris hopes & dreams

The Sprawling Facility In Saarland, The Most 'French' State In These Parts, Gives Athletes A Taste Of What To Expect At The Games

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Saarbrücken: It is wrapping up time here at the SportCampus Saar. The sandbags are being unhooked and towed away, weights dismantled from bars and stowed one atop the other, creating a few hundred little pyramids of their own. The heating of the sauna is being brought down a few notches, the hoops and rings being pulled down in the performance halls, hurdles stacked away, badminton nets rolled away. In the cafeteria, there are unspoken instructions to prepare less quantities of food from now on.

Elsewhere, in the residential quarters, athletes are doing their final last-minute packing, looking around their rooms — which they called "home" for the past so many weeks — to see if nothing has been left behind. Maybe they will spot a sweaty, old tee, a broken shoe, or a note from family or one to self tell-

ing the person not to give up, not give in and to go forth and conquer. A sure favourite of Indian athletes — Neeraj Chopra has an apartment reserved for him — the sprawling nine-hectare facility will bear a vacant look from this week on as the festooning moves eastward to Paris. It's a good time for the folk that run the facility at Saarbrücken — 100 heads employed — to sit and look back at what they may have helped shape, even if sometimes recollecting the unusual.

"There was a request once for a saloon from one of the members of a training team here," remembers Johannes Kopkow, chuckling at the strangest request they encountered over the past months.

Teams arrived from over 27 countries from five continents. At one point, there were 401 guests, the highest, training and acclimatizing for the Olympics in Paris, which is just an hour and 48 min-



MODEL OF EFFICIENCY: The SportCampus Saar (above) offers 'unofficial' residential and training facilities in Saarbrücken, Saarland, where Brazil (on the right) beat Germany 3-1 in a volleyball friendly on Sunday

utes away by high-speed train. Or, as Kopkow says, "Just 50 minutes by car and you are in France."

"Saarland is the most French state of Germany," he says, explaining how that proximity is the chief benefit the athletes sought this time. "The weather, the altitude, the cuisine here is so similar to what they will find in France."

Returning to barbershop talk, Kopkow continues, "We found him one in the city, of course, but he would insist that we should accompany him. Strange, but we agreed. But when he met us, he was already clean-shaven! We still cannot understand why he was insisting on a haircut when he had no hair?"

At 41, Kopkow, chief of the SportsCampus, happily reaffirms the old German stereotype of al-



ways needing a mission, to organize and help function like fine machinery. The go-to man, he knows the ins and outs, remembers the little details, even knows those little secrets that visiting athletes know are safe with him. He tells you about that one-hour-long phone call Neeraj received from a higher-up at home, when the time came to take a decision on India's flagbearer for the opening ceremony.

The lockdown and the pandemic forced a reinvention of the facility, and Kopkow too. Looking for a

'mission' after having run one of the biggest sports clubs in the east near Nuremberg, he travelled west here. "We wanted a more local feel to it, so we rechristened it, adding 'Saar' to the title."

Expecting a windfall with the Olympics nearing, Team SportCampus got to work, pumping in nearly two million euros over two years to reach this level of expertise. SportCampus banks on a unique funding concept to keep it running. The trust has 42.5% stake in SaarToto, a regional lottery company based

in Saarland, and one-eighth of the revenue from it (nearly 14 million euros annually) goes for the running of SportCampus.

It doesn't come cheap for the visiting athlete. Depending on the facilities and services they avail, an athlete per head could cost their respective countries anything from between euros 100 to 130 per day. Thereafter, it's an all-access facility with minimal or zero presence of policing. "Everything is free to use, in that sense. That is our philosophy," says Kopkow.

But sometimes, they overreach. Nearly two years ago, they found an army of IOC lawyers at their door. Reason? "We had bought a website domain. 'Paris2020.saarland' for training registration purposes. It cost us just 24 euros, but the Paris organisers would not have any of it. We didn't have the legal means to fight so it was changed to 'trainingcamp.saarland'."

The tiny tweak has worked. "The IOC still doesn't recognize us as an official training facility, but see the results," says a satisfied Kopkow, pointing to the bustling activity in the boxing hall, where over a dozen national teams are training. "We are the busiest training facility closest to Paris. We can already see nearly 40 medals floating here in SportCampus."

Petitioners claim entire NEET exam process flawed. Where's the proof, asks top court

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Pointing to an ambiguity in a physics question in this year's NEET-UG exam, a petitioner said in SC that one of four options in the multiple-choice question was correct as per the new NCERT physics syllabus and another would be held correct as per books prescribed prior to 2019.

Advocate Surti Chowdhury said, since the options were ambiguous, her client, who secured 715 marks, didn't attempt the question. She said the question and four marks allotted to it should be either "completely erased" or "four marks given to those who chose the correct answer".

SG Tushar Mehta said NTA would leave it to the court's discretion to engage any expert to determine which of the two statements is correct. He said over nine lakh students chose the correct option as per the new syllabus, while around 4.2 lakh students chose the answer deemed correct as per the courses studies prior to 2019. However, he said only one of the answers could be correct.

A bench of CJJD Y Chandrachud and Justices JB Paridwala and Manoj Misra chose to take help of three experts from among the biggest academic brains of the country in physics to get the correct option for the elementary atomic theory question.

"In order to resolve the issue as regards the correct answer to the above question, we are of the view that an expert opinion should be sought from IIT-Delhi. We request the director at IIT-Delhi to constitute a team of three experts on the subject. The team is requested to formulate its opinion on the correct option and to remit its opinion to the secretary general of this court, preferably by July 23," it said.

Prior to this, during the day-long inconclusive hearing, senior advocate Narendra Hooda, lead counsel for the petitioners seeking retest of NEET-UG, pointed to the paper leak at Hazaribag and Patna in Bihar, the anomalies in conducting examination at Jhajjar, and the abnormal results in 38 centres at Sikar in Rajasthan and Godhra to argue that the entire exam process was compromised. He also questioned the manner in which the custody of the question papers was entrusted to private school teachers, who are centre superintendents, prior to conducting the test.

However, SC said the petitioners have so far pointed to paper leak at a few places in Bihar and anomalies in other centres but haven't been able to provide evidence as to whether entire process was compromised, affecting sanctity of NEET-UG. The proceedings will resume Tuesday.

WILL MERIT LIST CHANGE A THIRD TIME FOR NEET-UG?

Supreme Court on Monday asked IIT-Delhi to form a panel that will by Tuesday afternoon give its opinion on the correct answer to a physics question in the NEET-UG exam that had an ambiguity in its answer key.

WHAT WAS THE QUESTION?

- Atoms are electrically neutral as they contain equal numbers of positive and negative charges.
- Atoms of each element are stable and emit their characteristic spectrum.

The options were:

- 1 is correct and 2 is incorrect
- 1 is incorrect and 2 is correct
- 1 and 2 are both correct
- 1 and 2 are both incorrect

TOI Explains

WHAT WAS THE AMBIGUITY?

Students who moved court argued there could be two correct answers—option **ii** based on the old NCERT book (pre-2019) and option **iv** according to the new book. As a result, NTA had awarded 4 grace marks to those who went for option **ii**

WILL THE PANEL'S OPINION IMPACT THE MERIT LIST AGAIN?

It could. If IIT Delhi's expert panel confirms that option **iv** is the correct answer, candidates who selected option **ii** will no longer receive 4 marks for this question.

This will lead to a recalculation of scores for these students. (Two merit lists have already been announced.) One on June 4, when the results were declared, followed by June 30 when the retest results for were announced)

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE SCENARIOS?

If the panel decides both are correct, nothing changes in the current merit list. But if it picks either of the two as the correct answer, one set of candidates will lose 4 marks (either grace or awarded for the correct answer)

Recalculation of scores could cause significant shifts in the rankings because a difference of 4 marks can trigger a sharp drop or rise

Qualifying cutoffs could change if the panel recommends scrapping the question altogether. That will bring down NEET-UG exam's assessment score from 720 to 716

WIDER IMPACT

This decision could set a precedent for future disputes regarding exam questions and adherence to latest study material

POLICY REVIEW

NTA might review its policy on study material references and grace marks to avoid such ambiguities in future

Court takes note of CBI chargesheet against Kavitha

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New Delhi: CBI has labelled Bharat Rashtra Samithi's (BRS) K Kavitha as a "key conspirator" in an alleged scam regarding the formulation and implementation of the now-scrapped Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22. In its third supplementary chargesheet, Central Bureau of Investigation has alleged that she played a significant role in the manipulation and tweaking of the policy.

Kavitha "demanded, collected and provided upfront money of Rs 100 crore to Aam Aadmi Party for manipulating and tweaking Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22 in favour of the liquor businessmen of south India", CBI has claimed.

The court of special judge Kaveri Baweja took cognizance of the chargesheet against Kavitha on Monday, directing her production through videoconferencing on July 26.

In June, CBI filed the supplementary chargesheet, claiming there is enough material to prosecute Kavitha.

Special public prosecutor DP Singh, appearing for CBI, told the court that the agency would file the final chargesheet in the corruption case by the

end of the week. Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal may be named in it as CBI earlier said its investigation against all other accused was complete.

Meanwhile, the same court on Monday extended the judicial custody of Kavitha and former Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia till July 26.

CBI has claimed that Kavitha was involved in incorporating favourable provisions, through co-accused Abhishek Boinpally, Arun R Pillai and Butchibabu Gorantla, who had stayed with her at a five-star hotel in Delhi during March 14-17, 2021, the peak period of Covid-19.

It has alleged that the call detail records of many accused during the same period show that accused Vijay Nair visited the hotel, and on March 16, he went to CM's residence in Civil Lines, where Sisodia was also present. On March 19, Nair visited Hyderabad to discuss the policy further. In lieu of the Rs 25-crore payment as upfront money by accused-turned-approver Raghav Magunta to Kavitha through Boinpally and Gorantla, he was given a partnership of 32.5% in the wholesale liquor licensee (LI) firm M/s Indo Spirits under the policy. CBI has alleged.

I'm here at the mercy of my leader, the PM, says Pradhan

Continued from P 1

The exchanges during Question Hour in Lok Sabha saw INDIA bloc members joining forces with Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav in attacking the Centre even as education minister Dharmendra Pradhan held his own and asserted that the govt had nothing to hide and investigations over NEET paper leak were going on in a transparent manner under Supreme Court's supervision.

"The issue is there are millions of students in this country who are extremely concerned about what is going on and who are convinced that the Indian exam system is a fraud. If you are rich and have money, you can buy the Indian examination system," leader of opposition Rahul Gandhi alleged. "As this is a systemic issue, what exactly are you doing to fix this issue at the systemic level?" he asked Pradhan.

The visibly upset minister hit back by reminding opposition that NEET was conceptualised under the UPA govt but was never imple-

mented because of pressure from private medical colleges, which charge hefty capitation fees from students. His reference to "remote-controlled govt" was seen as a suggestion that Rahul, having been the all-powerful figure in the Congress-led coalition, couldn't wash his hands of the policy volte face.

"For the first time, students from ST/SC/OBC categories and from rural areas have performed well... Students from Kerala have also done well... Should we now say that there is some wrongdoing there also?" the education minister questioned. "There is no evidence of paper leaks in the last seven years in any numbers," Pradhan said in response to Congress MP Manickam Tagore mentioning that there have been 70 paper leaks in seven years.

"Supreme Court is hearing the case... let's wait and watch. Govt will abide by the Supreme Court judgment. However, questioning

the entire examination process of the country is very sad and calling it rubbish and fraud is condemnable," Pradhan said and also informed the House that the list of successful students, as directed by the apex court, has been uploaded on the website.

Akhilesh also raised questions about the exam paper leaks and claimed govt will create a record on the issue. Congress MP Hibi Eden called the NEET issue "the biggest scam". RSP MP NK Premchandran demanded a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the issue. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla intervened, saying it was not right to raise questions about all exams and members should discuss the need for developing a better exam system.

Rahul said it was obvious to the whole country that there was a very serious problem in the examination system, not just in NEET but in all major examinations. "Since setting up NTA, more than 240 examinations have been conducted, and more than 4.5 crore students participated in it," the minister retorted.

'Core' exam activities not outsourced: Sukanta

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: All 170 employees of the National Testing Agency are either contractual or outsourced staff, the ministry of education told the Parliament on Monday. It also clarified that "all core activities, including setting up of question papers" for exams conducted by the agency are not outsourced.

This information was shared by junior education minister Sukanta Majumdar in response to a question raised in the Lok Sabha by DMK MP Kanimozhi Karunanidhi. The director general of NTA is appointed by the Centre under the Central Staffing Scheme, the minister said.

Additionally, 22 employees are currently working on deputation in NTA, while 39 are contractual employees and 132 are outsourced staff, he added. One employee has been absorbed in NTA from the parent department, he further said.

Regarding the tasks outsourced by NTA, Majumdar explained that, considering the sensitivity involved in competitive examinations, a range of operational and security measures are undertaken to ensure their smooth and fair conduct.

"Such measures involve engagement of specialised or experienced agencies for providing services like capturing of biometric (data), frisking, CCTV surveillance and AI analytics, with a view to identify any potential impersonation, exam delivery etc."

In a separate question put up jointly by 31 opposition MPs, including Mala Roy (Trinamool Congress),

K'taka cabinet passes resolution to scrap NEET

Congress-led Karnataka cabinet on Monday passed a resolution asking the Centre to scrap NEET for state-specific assessments for admissions to medical colleges. The resolution will be introduced in the assembly on Tuesday or Wednesday. If cleared, Karnataka will become the second state after Tamil Nadu to pass such a resolution.

Following a nationwide outrage over NEET-UG paper leak, Karnataka has alleged that the national entrance test is detrimental to the interests of the poor and rural students.

The state govt has planned to reintroduce the previous system whereby admissions to both engineering and medical colleges were conducted through a common entrance test. TN

Gaurav Gogoi (Congress), Kalandhi Veeraswamy (DMK), Selvaraj V (CPI), Anand Bhadauria (SP), regarding "paper leak", and "workings of NTA", as well as on "scrapping of NEET", Majumdar provided further details. In response to the question on mismanagement and alleged manipulation of NEET results, Majumdar said that the ministry has asked the CBI to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the entire gamut of alleged irregularities. "There is no material on record to indicate any proof of any large-scale breach of confidentiality in this pan India examination," he added.

K'taka cabinet freezes bill for 14-hour workday

Bengaluru: The Congress cabinet in Karnataka on Monday put in cold storage its contentious proposal to increase work timings in the IT sector from a maximum permissible 10 hours to 14 hours a day.

The cabinet also decided to postpone an earlier proposal to move a Bill seeking to introduce job reservation for local candidates in the private sector amid a backlash from captains and associations of industry.

Nasscom, which represents the IT industry, said Saturday that it supported the 48-hour workweek followed across the country and had never asked for a 14-hour workday or a 70-hour workweek.

Labour minister Santosh Lad, too, was apparently not in favour of it. Sources linked his opposition to the proposal to his unhappiness at not receiving support from the govt on proposed job reservation for locals in private sector. TN

Raj police quiz inmate over 2021 SI exam paper leak

Jaipur: Special Operations Group (SOG) of Rajasthan police Monday brought a suspect from Jodhpur jail to Jaipur on production warrant for his alleged involvement in assisting many individuals to cheat in the Sub-Inspector (SI) 2021 exam.

The SOG team led by Additional SP Ram Singh is interrogating the suspect, Om Prakash, alias Fauji, for his alleged role in the paper leak case. Om Prakash was sent to jail in 2020 in connection with a murder case, a senior official who

did not wish to be named told TOI. "The accused was a close aide of paper leak mafia Bhupendra Saran, arrested in the senior teacher recruitment exam paper leak and SI paper leak case," an official said. TN

Amid internet shutdown & curbs, Nuh yatra peaceful

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Nuh: Police pickets on approach roads, vehicle checks after every 3km or so and armed security personnel at key junctions - Nuh resembled a fortress on Monday as hundreds of devotees brought out the annual Brajmandal Jabhishek Yatra amid a mobile internet and bulk SMS shutdown.

On July 31 last year, participants in the yatra were pelted with stones, leading to riots and communal clashes that spread through several districts of south Haryana over the next few days. Six persons died and 88 were injured in these clashes.

So, this year, when Hindu outfits announced they would bring out the rally as usual, it sparked concerns over law and order. Security arrangements were in anticipation of that.

On the way to Nuh from Gurgaon, the first checkpoint was at Sohna - one of the areas that was witness to the clashes last year.

Over the next 18km - till Tauru junction - there



On the way to Nuh from Gurgaon, the first checkpoint was at Sohna - one of the areas that was witness to the clashes last year

were five more checkpoints. At each of them, cops stopped vehicles to check for papers and questioned the occupants about their destinations. At some places, bags were scanned as well.

"Our job is to ensure no unruly element enters Nuh today. So far, we have not come across any suspicious persons. No weapon was found in any of the vehicles either," a policeman at one of the checkpoints told TOI. Inside Nuh town too, there were cops at almost every corner. At Tauru Chowrasta - the epicentre of last year's violence - RAF (Rapid Action Force) personnel were on their toes along with local cops.

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Secret Service chief Kimberly Cheatle, during a congressional hearing, admits that her agency had failed in its mission to protect Trump, P 17

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GOALKEEPER PR SREEJESH, 'WALL OF INDIAN HOCKEY' AND A VETERAN OF 328 INT'L MATCHES, INCLUDING 3 OLYMPICS, WILL RETIRE AFTER PARIS GAMES P19

IN THE COURTS

- > SC grants bail to Ashish, son of ex-Union minister Ajay Mishra, in 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri case, directs trial court to hasten proceedings | P 5
- > HC Judge Amit Sharma recuses from hearing Umar Khalid's bail plea in NE Delhi riots case. He earlier recused from 2019 Jamia violence case and NIA plea seeking death for Yasin Malik | P 6
- > Punjab man gets 3 life terms for murder of his wife, sister-in-law and wife's nephew, jailed for 70 yrs | P 5
- > 'Judges also humans, so are fallible,' says K'taka HC as it recalls own order, restores probe against man for watching child porn | P 5
- > JD(S) MLC Suraj Revanna, arrested over allegations of unnatural sex, granted conditional bail | P 5
- > Ex-chairman of Assam PSC & 31 others convicted in cash-for-job scam | P 5
- > Enough prima facie proof to proceed against 5 Bishnoi aides in Salman Khan firing case: MCOCA court

Kanwar yatra: SC stays order to name owners

Court: Only Kind Of Food Needs To Be Mentioned

AmitAnand.Choudhary @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Monday halted UP, Uttarakhand and other state govts from implementing

EDIT: Cooking It Right their directives to compel shop owners and hawkers along the routes of the kanwar yatra to display their names, along with those of staff members, and said that only the kind of food they serve should be mentioned.

A bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy and S V N Bhatti also suo motu impleaded MP govt after it was brought to its



Following SC's order, owners and employees of Muslim-run fruit carts, tea stalls and eateries on the yatra route heaved a sigh of relief | P 13

notice that Ujjain Municipal Corporation had also passed a similar order against shopkeepers. The court issued notice to UP, MP, Uttarakhand and Delhi govts seeking their response by July 26.

"We deem it appropriate to pass interim order prohibiting the enforcement of the impugned directives. In other words, food sellers (in-

cluding dhaba owners, restaurants, foods and vegetable sellers, hawkers, etc) may be required to display the kind of food that they are serving to the kanwariyas. But they must not be forced to display the name/identity of the owners and the employees," the court ordered.

►'Can't usurp', P 13

B'luru police FIR against ED officials

Bengaluru city police on Monday registered an FIR against two top ED officials on a complaint by a social welfare dept officer that they pressured him to implicate the CM, finance department and former minister B Nagendra in the Karnataka tribal fund scam. P 5

Bareilly admin razes 11 houses

The Bareilly administration on Monday demolished 11 houses of people from a minority community after the death of a person injured in stone-pelting during Muharram. **FLAP INSIDE**

Pasta pizzazz: Chinese tops Kol's dine-out platter, Italian close 2nd

Prithvijit Mitra & Uditprasanna Mukherji | TNN

Kolkata: Kolkata loves its chilli chicken but pizza is not far behind.

Chinese dishes are the most ordered across restaurants in the city but a bigger surprise is that Italian fare, particularly pizza and pasta, has climbed to the second spot, pushing North Indian cuisine and Mughlai down the order, claims a survey by the National Restaurants Association of India (NRAI).

The survey, part of NRAI's annual report, shows 52% of respondents from Kolkata

ON THE MENU

What Kolkata orders most



said they ordered Chinese when eating out, while 45% said their first preference was for Italian.

North Indian dishes ranked third among most preferred options (44%), followed

by Mughlai (42%).

While the city's preference for Chinese is well known, the ascent of Italian cuisine has taken foodies by surprise. Three major Italian food chains have been operating in the city for more than two decades but these are more popular for ordering in, industry insiders say. Over the past decade, multiple Italian restaurants have sprung up in the city, making pepperoni pizza and Spaghetti Bolognese almost as popular as Manchurian chicken and Schezwan fried rice.

►'Gaining popularity', P 4

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It's official: 44-year-old ban on govt staffers joining RSS lifted

Imposed In '66, It Was First Lifted In '77, Then Reimposed In '80

Bharti Jain
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The Centre confirmed Monday that govt employees would no longer be penalised for associating themselves with RSS, ending a prohibition that has been in force since 1966 and which had not been done away with even by previous BJP govts.

As was reported by **TOI** in its July 22 edition, a notification to this effect was issued on July 9, sources said.

The order, which was flagged by Congress to attack govt, may appear to give only a de jure status to the reality of RSS activists occupying senior positions in govt as members of Union cabinet. But its significance is its timing, coming amid a perception in some quarters about Sangh-govt differences. More importantly, it marks another step towards "mainstreaming" of Sangh, which has long faced curbs because of its alleged



The order issued by department of personnel and training, which comes under the charge of PM Modi, for once delinks RSS from Jamaat-e-Islami

Hindu majoritarian agenda. The order issued by DoPT, which comes directly under the charge of PM Narendra Modi, for once delinks RSS from Jamaat-e-Islami.

The first order, issued by the then Congress govt in 1966, had tagged RSS with Jamaat-e-Islami, stating that "govt have (sic) always held the activities of these two organisations to be of such

a nature that participation in them by govt servants would attract the provisions of sub Rule 1 of Rule 5 of Central Civil Services Conduct Rules, 1964". The rule states that no govt servant shall be a member of or be associated with any political party or any organisation which takes part in politics, or shall take part in, subscribe in aid of or assist any politi-

cal movement or activity. Following a ban on RSS after the Emergency clamped by Indira Gandhi govt in 1975, DoPT issued another order on Nov 25 banning RSS, Jamaat-e-Islami, Anand Marg and CPI(M). The ban meant that any person who associates with such organisations could invite up to seven years in jail and/or fine.

Relief for RSS and other organisations, however, came after the Indira govt was dislodged in 1977 by the Janata alliance. A DoPT clarification dated April 23, 1977, stated that consequent upon lifting of the ban on RSS, Jamaat-e-Islami, Anand Marg and CPI(M) etc, the Nov, 1975 OM referred to above relating to the aforesaid organizations may be treated as deleted.

In 1980, however, the Indira regime was back in office and the restrictions on participation of govt employees in RSS and Jamaat-e-Islami activities were back in force.

BJP, RSS & Union ministers hail govt move, say ban was politically driven

Rahul Refuses Comment, Says, 'I'm Focusing On NEET Right Now'

Akhilesh Singh
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New Delhi: Govt and BJP Monday put up a strong defence of the decision lifting the ban on govt employees' participation in RSS activities, while the saffron fountainhead welcomed the move saying the previous ban was imposed for political reasons. The opposition, however, suggested that the decision was motivated to appease Sangh.

The govt decision is appropriate and strengthens the democratic system of India, said RSS media head Sunil Ambekar in a post on X. "Due to its political interests, the then govt had baselessly banned govt employees from participating in the activities of a constructive organisation like Sangh," he said.

The govt move came against the backdrop of a perception of Sangh-govt differences and a few media reports about incoherence

Jairam: Babus can come in knickers

Slamming govt's decision, Cong chief Mallikarjun Kharge claimed PM Modi wants to politicise government offices and employees on an ideological basis. "Sardar Patel banned RSS after Gandhiji's assassination. Modiji has lifted a 1966 ban after 58 years," Kharge said. "The bureaucracy can now come in knickers too, I suppose," added Jairam Ramesh.

between the two in the Lok Sabha polls leading to substantial loss of seats for BJP.

Welcoming the govt move, Union minister Piyush Goyal said opposition parties were only interested in appeasement politics and had displayed a negative attitude towards Hindus. Goyal described RSS as a nationalist organisation whose mem-

Appeasement, say Mayawati, Akhilesh

SP chief Mayawati and SP president Akhilesh Yadav Monday said govt's order was a "politically motivated move to appease the organisation" and demanded its withdrawal. "It is meant to do away with the tension between govt and RSS," Mayawati said. "I hope that intervention by SC (in the Kanwar order) will prompt the govt to withdraw orders like 'lifting ban on other practices' as well," Akhilesh said.

bers were full of patriotism.

Union minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan expressed gratitude to PM Modi, saying, "RSS is not an ordinary organisation, it is a movement for the nation rebuilding..."

Surprisingly, leader of opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi refused to react on the issue unlike his party functionaries Jairam Ra-

mesh and Pawan Khera, who have adopted an aggressive stance. "No no, right now I am focusing on NEET," Rahul said when reporters asked him about the order. Congress's deputy leader in Lok Sabha, Gaurav Gogoi, however, said, "I feel this is a jugal-bandi of RSS-BJP. Govt is taking such a decision to end the resentment of Mohan Bhagwat... Today UPSC, NTA are in such a bad state because RSS people are infiltrating every section of the govt."

ADMIM chief and LS MP Asaduddin Owaisi termed the govt decision totally wrong. "The oath of RSS states that it doesn't believe in pluralism, it talks of Hindu nationalism. Do the NDA allies believe in this decision?" he said.

Minister of social justice and empowerment Ramdas Athawales said, "I think it's not right to discuss such things. All parties have employees who support them, and they do their work within limits."

Migrant worker found living in kennel, Kerala orders probe

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala may be 'God's own country', but for guest workers, it's a dog's life out there. At least, for Shyam Sundar, the expression has been true, quite literally. The 37-year-old migrant worker from Bengal was found living in a kennel, and even paying Rs 500 as monthly rent.

A daily wage, Sundar sought shelter in a kennel on a house compound in Piravom South in Ernakulam district due to financial constraints. As news spread, police visited the spot and took Sundar for a medical checkup. However, cops said no case had been filed against the landowner as the worker said that he preferred to stay in the kennel on his own. Sundar opted for the tiny space as he could not afford the Rs 3,000 monthly rent he was earlier paying for a house nearby.

However, taking note of media reports, state's labour minister Vasudevan Sivan-kutty has sought a report from the labour commissioner.

BULLDOZERS KEEP ROLLING IN UP & RAJ

5 houses flattened, 35 held days after Muharram clash

Bareilly: The administration in Bareilly started razing 11 houses of people belonging to minority community Monday following the death of a man injured in stone pelting during Muharram procession last week when members of two communities targeted each other, reports Kanwardeep Singh.

Bulldozers were brought in hours after Tej Ram, 23, succumbed to injuries sustained during the July 18 fracas. Five houses had already been brought down at the time of filing the report, with the action set to continue Tuesday, confirmed police.

This came even as 35 individuals, all Muslims, were sent to jail following the clash. Violence began when antisocial elements disrupted the Muharram procession as it passed by a temple. It sparked a confrontation that escalated into stone-pelting. Videos of the incident circulated on social media added to the tensions, prompting administrative response. Next day, the groups clashed again, resulting in injuries to several. Police filed an FIR for rioting against several members of the minority community.

The wife of one of the jailed accused told **TOI**, "Police have taken one-sided action. No one is interested in our side of the story."

House of kingpin in police exam paper leak razed

Jaipur: Rajasthan authorities demolished illegal structures in Churu town built at the house of Pankaj Bhambhua alias Unique, the alleged kingpin of a 2021 SI exam paper leak on the run since this Feb after joining as forest ranger. The demolition came amid a continuing wider crackdown on cheating rackets in the desert state. The structures pulled down were allegedly constructed by Bhambhua on two plots in Churu's Poonia Colony.

Investigations indicated that Bhambhua hid inside a school in Jaipur's Hasanpura area where he "discreetly priced open envelopes containing the sub inspector test papers with a cutter and stole them before sealing the envelopes with tape", said sources in Rajasthan Police's special operations group that is handling the leak probes. A hunt is on for Bhambhua, also under the scanner in other paper leaks through which he accumulated significant wealth, sources said.

Bhambhua later passed the forest ranger exam and was undergoing training in Alwar. Sources said he would arrive at the training centre in luxury SUVs, raising eyebrows. On Feb 17, just days after he had arrived, he abruptly applied for leave and left.



MISSION DEMOLITION

Dahi handi goes pro, gets corporate touch

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Mumbai: The stakes have risen at the annual Pro Govinda Dahi Handi competition that is backed by Maharashtra govt. This year, wealthy franchisees are acquiring govinda teams, much like bidders do for individual players in IPL. The difference is that an entire govinda pathak will be hired, not select members.

CM Eknath Shinde made the announcement of Pro Govinda League 2024 Monday. Thirty-two govinda teams have registered for pre-qualifiers that will be held in Thane Jul 27-28. The final shortlisted 16 teams will participate in



A total of 32 govinda teams have registered for pre-qualifiers. Of them, 16 teams will be shortlisted and will participate in the main event on Aug 18

the main event at Dome SVP Stadium in Worli on Aug 18.

Shinde said, "Dahi handi embodies Maharashtra's rich traditions, bringing communities together. Pro Govinda

competition will help us promote this tradition nationwide and encourage players for maximum participation."

Purvash Sarnaik, son of Sena MLA Pratap Sarnaik

who is the founder chairman of Pro Govinda League, is president of the league. He said, "It was my dream to transform dahi handi into a brand recognised nationwide, like the Pro Kabaddi League. We have combined IPL and Pro Kabaddi in the Pro Govinda League."

Purvash said, "Already 12 franchisees have acquired teams. The govinda groups will wear team jerseys and will be known by their new names, say Thane Tigers or Mumbai United, with their old names like Jai Jawan or United Kankan Nagar used as a suffix. Each group will receive a handsome fee running into lakhs of rupees and the prize money is substantial too. CM Shinde will announce the amount."

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