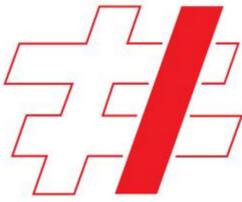


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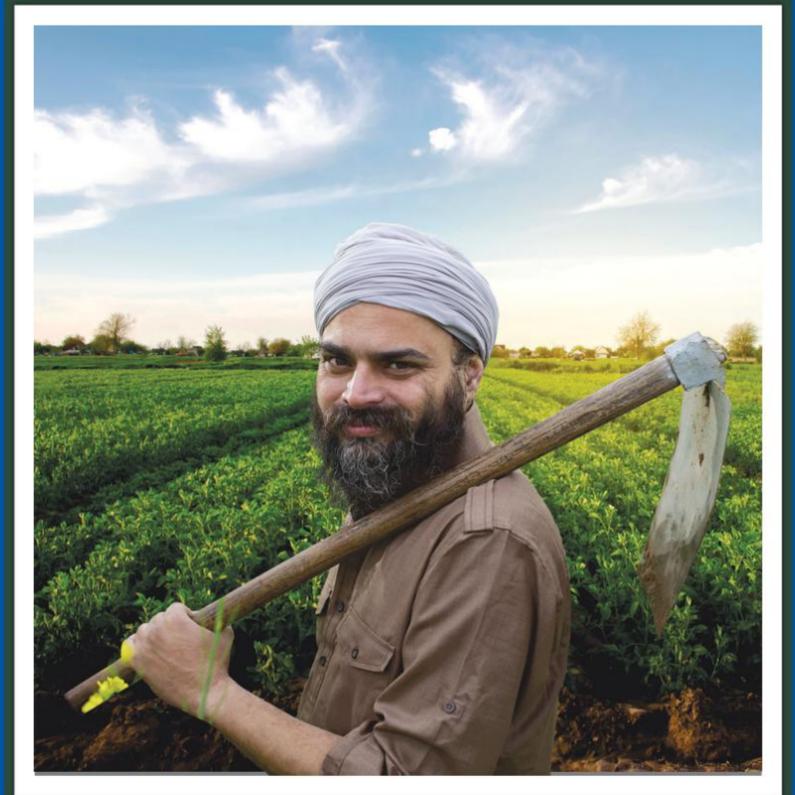
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Bhagwant Singh Mann
Chief Minister, Punjab



Information and Public Relations Department, Punjab



MUDA 'SCAM'
JD(S) pulls support for BJP's padayatra
STATES » PAGE 6



SHARP DECLINE
Core sector growth slips to 20-month low of 4%
BUSINESS » PAGE 15



MINERAL TAX JUDGMENT
Is verdict prospective? SC reserves order
NEWS » PAGE 12



LOKNITI-CSDS STUDY
How the Capital maintains its pull on aspirants
Delhi is a popular hub for UPSC preparation
TEXT & CONTEXT » PAGE 11



SAD DEMISE
Gaekwad, 71, loses battle with cancer
SPORT » PAGE 18

IN BRIEF



Akali Dal patron revokes expulsion of eight rebels

CHANDIGARH
Shiromani Akali Dal party patron Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa on Wednesday revoked the expulsion of eight rebels and a few other leaders from the primary membership of the party, alleging that the move was "against the party constitution". » Page 4

'Govt. refuses to learn from its decline in LS poll'

NEW DELHI
The BJP government continues to be "self-delusional" even as crores of families are "devastated by mounting unemployment", Congress leader Sonia Gandhi said on Wednesday. » Page 13

Wayanad death toll crosses 200; slush, debris slow down search

As many as 191 persons reported missing; harsh terrain comes in the way of rescue efforts by personnel of various forces; 1,592 persons rescued from the ravaged sites in two days and moved to various hospitals; 99 persons are under treatment

The Hindu Bureau
KALPETTA/
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The death toll in the landslides that devastated the Chooralmala and Mundakkai areas near Meppadi in Wayanad district of Kerala crossed 200 as the search and rescue operations gained momentum on Wednesday, Revenue Department officials said.

Personnel of the Army, Defence Security Corps, National Disaster Response Force, Forest Department and Fire and Rescue Service picked through the debris strewn across the affected areas with the help of volunteers and rescue equipment, including earthmovers. Searing visuals of bodies being pulled out of the rubble,



Tough call: A body being transported across a stream using a rope and a pulley by the rescue personnel at the landslide-hit Chooralmala on Wednesday. THULASI KAKKAT

people desperately searching for their loved ones and terrified survivors recounting their ordeal filled television screens and social media platforms.

A total of 174 bodies and 61 body parts were re-

trieved by Wednesday evening; 191 persons were missing. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said 1,592 persons were rescued from the ravaged sites in two days and moved to various hospitals. Ninety-nine per-

sons were undergoing treatment, the rest were shifted to relief camps.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12
UNNATURAL DISASTER
» PAGE 8

Row erupts over disaster warning

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan took issue with Home Minister Amit Shah for saying Kerala did not do enough despite Centre's warning. He said the Centre had dispatched the NDRF teams at Kerala's behest, not on its own volition. » Page 6

Wayanad high on landslide atlas

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
Wayanad was among many places in Kerala that featured high on a national database by ISRO in 2023 based on exposure to landslides in terms of "key socio-economic parameters". » Page 6

Ismail Haniyeh of Hamas killed in Iran

Associated Press
BEIRUT

Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh was killed in a pre-dawn air strike in the Iranian capital, Tehran, on Wednesday, Iran and the militant group said, blaming Israel for a shock assassination that risks escalating the conflict even as the U.S. and other nations were scrambling to prevent an all-out regional war. Iran's supreme leader vowed revenge against Israel, which has pledged to kill Haniyeh and other Hamas leaders over the October 7 attack on southern Israel.

The strike came just after Haniyeh had attended the inauguration of Iran's new President in Tehran. "We consider his revenge as our duty," Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said in a statement on his official website. He said Israel had "prepared a harsh punish-



Ismail Haniyeh

ment for itself" by killing "a dear guest in our home".

Haniyeh's killing could also prompt Hamas to pull out of ceasefire negotiations and hostage release deal in the war in Gaza, which U.S. mediators had said were making progress.

On Tuesday, Israel carried out a rare strike in the Lebanese capital that it said killed a top Hezbollah commander allegedly behind the rocket strike.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12
MORE REPORTS ON
» PAGE 16

Fighting a deadly virus



A health worker fumigates a slum in Ahmedabad on Wednesday to prevent the spread of the Chandipura virus, named after a small town in Maharashtra where it was first discovered. Gujarat recorded 56 deaths from encephalitis due to the infection in the past month. REUTERS

Row over expunging MP's remark; privilege notice against PM for video

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha was adjourned on Wednesday amid an uproar by Opposition MPs over BJP MP Anurag Thakur's remarks on caste made in the House during the debate on the Union Budget on Tuesday. Despite assurances, his remarks were not expunged from the parliamentary record.

This became clear after Congress MP and former Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi submitted a breach-of-privilege notice to the Lok Sabha Speaker against Prime Minister Narendra Modi for posting a link to Mr. Thakur's speech on his X account. The Congress



Anurag Thakur

said the linked video included the "expunged" portions of the speech.

While Jagdambika Pal, who was in the Chair at the time the remarks were made, had said the remarks would be expunged, later releases by the Lok Sabha did not do so. The debates on the Lok Sabha's website, however, show the assurance of expung-

ing was present in the text of the proceedings.

Combative mood

The Opposition's protests began as the Lok Sabha convened on Wednesday, with Congress MPs storming into the Well of the House, raising slogans like "shame, shame" against Mr. Thakur and the rest of the ruling party MPs.

The Treasury benches were also in a combative mood, with Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju noting that the Opposition, including Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, "keep saying caste, caste, caste, but here they raise questions on asking about caste". He accused the Congress of acting to weaken the country, by ques-

tioning the armed forces, and "incitement to violence".

In his speech on Tuesday, Mr. Thakur said, without specifically naming anyone, that those who had no idea of their own caste were asking for a caste census. Mr. Gandhi had responded to the remarks by stating that though he had been insulted, he would press ahead with his claims for a caste census across the country. The spillover of this controversy into the next day saw protests erupting within the House, during which Speaker Om Birla adjourned the proceedings till noon.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

UPSC cancels Puja's candidature, debars her from future exams

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) said on Wednesday that it had cancelled the candidature of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) probationer Puja Khedkar and permanently debarred her from all future examinations and selections of the commission.

She was found "guilty of acting in contravention of the provisions of the Civil Services Examination-2022 Rules", it said. Regarding the submission of false certificates by candidates, specifically those of Other Backward Classes (OBC) and Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PwBD),



Puja Khedkar

the UPSC said that it "neither has the mandate nor the wherewithal to check the veracity of thousands of certificates submitted by the candidates every year".

Earlier in July, Ms. Khedkar, posted as Assistant Collector in Pune, was transferred to Washim, Maharashtra, following

complaints of misuse of power by a senior officer. She allegedly demanded special privileges such as a separate office, house, car, and staff, which she was not entitled to. It soon transpired that she allegedly submitted fake PwBD and OBC certificates to clear the civil services exam.

The UPSC also said that Ms. Khedkar had failed to respond to the show-cause notice issued to her on July 18 "for fraudulently availing attempts beyond the permissible limit provided in the Examination Rules by faking her identity".

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» PAGE 12
COURT RESERVES ORDER
» PAGE 7

Atishi, Delhi L-G meet protesting students, announce plans to overhaul coaching institutes

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Four days after three Civil Services aspirants died in the basement of a coaching centre in Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi Revenue Minister Atishi and Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena on Wednesday met student protesters outside the institute and announced their own plans to fix systemic issues.

Students have been protesting outside Rau's IAS Study Circle since July 27, when Shreya Yadav from Uttar Pradesh, Tanya Soni from Telangana, and Nevin Dalvin from Kerala died in the basement of the coaching centre, which got

flooded with rainwater. The protesters's demands include an impartial probe into the incident and higher compensation for the families of the deceased, among others.

While the Minister said the Delhi government will bring a new law to regulate all coaching institutes in the city, Mr. Saxena formed a committee headed by the Chief Secretary to relocate coaching institutes running in various parts of Delhi to an education hub.

Talking about the proposed law, Ms. Atishi said it would specify the infrastructural requirements that a coaching institute must have. She added,



Delhi L-G V.K. Saxena. FILE PHOTO

"Teachers' qualifications will be specified, fees will be regulated, and coaching centres will be stopped from disseminating misleading information. This won't be a one-time process, and there will be regular inspections."

She also said that the basements of 30 coaching centres have been sealed over the past three days and that notices had been issued to 200 other coaching centres in Delhi over violating provisions of the Master Plan for Delhi 2021, which permits basements to be used only as storage, parking, and utility areas.

Later in the day, Raj Niwas shared a communication from the L-G's Principal Secretary to Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar directing the formation of the committee to look into long-term and short-term action plans.

According to the communication, the Chief Secretary-headed panel will

address issues related to the regulation of rents, fire clearances, desilting of drains, and other immediate needs of the students at the current locations of coaching centres. It will also look at gradually shifting all coaching institutes to a "coaching hub" likely in Narela or Rohini.

'Overcrowded ghettos'
Raj Niwas officials said Mr. Saxena had observed that the coaching institutes in various parts of the city, such as Old Rajinder Nagar, Mukherjee Nagar, Ber Sarai, and Kalu Sarai, among others, have turned into "overcrowded ghettos."

STUDENTS WRITE TO MURMU
» PAGE 2

Basement deaths: students write to Murmu for independent probe

Incident a failure of civic body, we should've done our duty better, says senior MCD official while interacting with students; Municipal Commissioner says residential areas need to be decongested; stir is being 'hijacked' by outsiders, claim protesters

Satvika Mahajan
NEW DELHI

Civil Services aspirants continued their protest near Rau's IAS Study Circle in Old Rajinder Nagar, where three students died on Saturday after rainwater flooded the basement of the coaching institute.

A group of Civil Services aspirants also wrote to President Droupadi Murmu, seeking an independent inquiry into the tragic incident.

"We demand accountability from senior officials responsible for maintaining drainage and sewage systems," stated the letter.

Several senior bureaucrats and political leaders visited the protest spot to meet the students who have been demanding ₹1 crore compensation for the kin of each victim, infrastructural overhaul of coaching centres and a cap on their fees as well as rent charged by paying guest facilities.

Delhi Finance Minister Atishi and area MLA Durgesh Pathak (AAP), along with Mayor Shelly Oberoi, met the protesters and assured them that all measures to ensure their safety will be undertaken.

Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) Additional Commissioner Tariq Thomas was among the first officials to interact with the students. He said the drowning of the three students in the basement was a "failure" of the civic body and that the civic body officials should have done their duty better.



Speaking aloud: Protesting Civil Services aspirants are seeking action against the guilty officials, an infrastructural overhaul of coaching centres and a cap on their fee structure. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

"I accept that it is a failure of all of us, including me," said Mr. Thomas, adding that an inquiry is taking place and that action will be taken against those found guilty.

The official said the city's population has grown exponentially over the past few decades. "We have structural issues as you said, and they need to be addressed in a systematic way; that is my solution," he said, addressing the students.

A 28-member student committee also met MCD Commissioner Ashwani Kumar and flagged the poor safety measures at several coaching centres across the city. Mr. Kumar stressed the urgency of decongesting residential areas, which he said are turning into ghettos, so

that students do not face infrastructural bottlenecks in pursuing their dreams.

Meanwhile, several Civil Services aspirants in Old Rajinder Nagar accused student groups from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and Delhi University (DU) of "hijacking" their fight for justice.

'Apolitical' protest

They said that even as they wanted to keep the protest apolitical, "outsiders" were raising political slogans at the protest site.

Vaibhav Singh Chauhan, a Civil Services aspirant from Lucknow, said, "We have been protesting since the night of July 27. Leaders from various students' unions in JNU and DU have joined us for publicity. This is taking away attention from our core demands."

The police also removed a few "outsiders" from the

protest site. However, one of the detainees, Hardik, told *The Hindu* that he was removed from the protest site despite being a Civil Services aspirant enrolled with a coaching centre in Old Rajinder Nagar.

Safety at schools

The Directorate of Education on Wednesday asked city schools to ensure that their basements, if any, are only used for permissible activities. "Delhi has recently experienced unfortunate incidents in which three Civil Services aspirants drowned in the basement of a coaching institute and one aspirant lost his life due to electrocution. It is imperative that all schools ensure safety and security of students, and have requisite infrastructure in place to avoid any untoward incident," its circular read.



A woman being assisted by a police officer through a waterlogged road near Old Rajinder Nagar. PTI

Four days after the tragedy, coaching hub flooded again

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Old Rajinder Nagar was flooded again following a spell of heavy rain on Wednesday. Protesting students were seen taking shelter in nearby restaurants and eateries. A student from Maharashtra said it was shameful that even after four days of the tragic incident, waterlogging persisted in the area. "In a matter of minutes, the entire area was flooded with rainwater. What are they [MCD officials] doing?" he said.

RAIN CHAOS IN DELHI
» PAGE 7

HC: govt. freebies left MCD bankrupt, took toll on infrastructure

Soibam Rocky Singh
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday took a swipe at the Delhi government's "freebie culture" while hearing a plea over the drowning of the three Civil Services aspirants in the basement of a coaching centre.

The plea sought the formation of a high-level committee to probe the circumstances, which led to the July 27 incident.

The court said the civic authorities have been left "bankrupt" with no money at their disposal to upgrade the city's infrastructure.

"You want a freebie culture, where there are no taxes, no levy. When you are not collecting any money, you cannot spend any money. There is a larger malice over here," it remarked.

"If you don't have money to even pay salaries, how would you improve the infrastructure of the city? The administrators have to be awake to this," the court said.

A Bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela also pulled up the police over its investigation into the incident, asking why they have not arrested any MCD official in the case till now.

"What are police doing?" "What are the Delhi police doing? They have arrested some person who was driving a car over there. It seems that someone has lost it. The police officials who are probing this... what are they doing?" said the Bench.

The court also came

'You want a freebie culture, where there are no taxes, no levy... There is a larger malice over here,' the court said

down heavily on the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) officials for their "criminal neglect" over the years and said they did not move out of their air-conditioned offices to inspect buildings and check violations.

'Daily occurrences'

"These incidents are happening every day. It has become a joke. The MCD just doesn't bother. Your officials are not accountable at the end of the day. It seems to us that they believe there is no point following the orders. There are more gains by not following the orders and the risk is worth taking," the court said.

The court summoned the MCD Commissioner, the area Deputy Commissioner of Police, as well as the investigating officer and asked them to appear before it with the relevant documents on Friday.

The court also took note of the non-constitution of the MCD Standing Committee since the Aam Aadmi Party came to power in December 2022. It wondered how the MCD proposed to discharge its duties when it can't sanction projects worth over ₹5 crore in the absence of the crucial panel.

"Who sanctioned this (Rau's IAS Study Circle) building plan? Has he been hauled up," it asked.

Court denies bail to SUV driver, owners of basement

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Delhi Court on Wednesday denied bail to an SUV driver and four owners of the basement at Rau's IAS Study Circle in Old Rajinder Nagar.

SUV driver Manoj Kathuria and basement owners Tejinder Singh, Parvinder Singh, Harvinder Singh and Sarabjit Singh are among seven people arrested after three students drowned at the coaching institute. The other two are the institute's owner Abhishek Gupta and coordinator Deshpal Singh.

Mr. Kathuria has been accused of driving his SUV through the street that was flooded by rainwater, causing the water to swell and breach the gates of the institute and inundate its basement.

'Allegations serious'

While denying bail to the basement owners, the court said the lease deed of the coaching centre shows that its premises was being used for commercial purposes contrary to the conditions of the completion-occupancy certificate issued by the civic body. "The allegations against the accused persons are serious in nature," it said.

On Mr. Kathuria's bail plea, the court said from the perusal of the CCTV footage, it was found that he was driving on a heavily waterlogged road at a speed that caused a large displacement of water.

It said this led to the gate of the premises giving way and water gushing into the basement, leading to the loss of lives.

झारखण्ड सरकार
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
कम्बाईड बिल्डींग, ओल्ड चास कोट एरिया, बोकारो

ई- निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई-निविदा संख्या :- 14/2024-25/RWD/EE/BOKARO दिनांक - 31.07.2024
कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, बोकारो द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र० सं०	आइडेंटिफिकेशन संख्या / पैकेज संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्राकृतिक राशि (रुपये में)		कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	टेण्डर कोल नं०
			अंक में	अक्षर में		
1	RWD/EE/BOKARO/DMFT/01/2024-25	जरीडीह प्रखंड अन्तर्गत बाराडीह पंचायत टीला में बाराडीह एवं पारटॉड तक पथ निर्माण।	2,04,24,500.00	दो करोड़ चार लाख चौबीस हजार पाँच सौ रूपी मात्र	12 माह	प्रथम

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि:- 10.08.2024
3. ई-निविदा प्राप्त की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :- 21.08.2024 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक।
4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- 23.08.2024 अपराह्न 03.30 बजे।
5. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :- कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, बोकारो, कम्बाईड बिल्डींग, सिविल एस०डी०ओ०, ऑफिस ओल्ड चास कोट एरिया, चास बोकारो, झारखंड, पिन-827013
6. ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं०- 9431060119
विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, बोकारो
PR 331334 Rural Work Department(24-25)#D

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only through kpp portal)

BWSSB invites tenders in Two cover system from eligible tenderers for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560 009.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Amount put to tender
		EMD Amount
No. BWSSB/EIC/CE(E)/ACE(E)-2/DCE(M)-1/TA(E)/1941/2024-25		Date: 29.07.2024
1	Providing, laying, linking of 600mm dia, 200mm dia MS pipe line and 150mm dia DI pipe line from Mother Theresa road to Old Race Course road (From Richmond road to Lower Agram road) for BBMP White Topping work coming under Johnson Market service station of AESEE-1 sub division.	Rs.383.42 Lakhs Rs.5.75 Lakhs
2	Replacement of 400mm, 300mm, 150mm dia DI pipe line by MS pipe line and DI pipe line at Swamy Vivekananda road coming under Halasuru service station of AESEE-2 sub division.	Rs.196.78 Lakhs Rs.3.48 Lakhs
3	Providing, laying and linking of 300mm, 200mm dia MS and 150mm dia DI pipe line at Lower Agram road from ASC junction to Ejjipura main road for BBMP White Topping work coming under CLR service station of AESEE-1 sub division.	Rs.169.62 Lakhs Rs.3.00 Lakhs
4	Providing, laying and linking of 300mm, 200mm dia MS water supply line and 150mm dia DI pipe line at Ejjipura main road (from SWD Ejjipura to IRR) for BBMP White Topping Work coming under CLR service station of AESEE-1 sub division.	Rs.181.78 Lakhs Rs.2.73 Lakhs
5	Providing and laying of 300mm dia RCC line in place of 225mm dia SW silted up and damaged line with construction of new machine holes at Palm Groove road, KH Rehman road from Victoria road to Military Bazaar Street for proposed White Topping Work coming under CLR service station of AESEE-1 sub division.	Rs.150.99 Lakhs Rs.2.67 Lakhs

The last date for submission of completed tender document is on 14.08.2024 upto 16.00 hrs. and the bids will be opened on 16.08.2024 after 11.00 hrs.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (East)

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to <https://kpp.karnataka.gov.in>. For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/1191/AKAR/2024-25

Government of Himachal Pradesh
Himachal Pradesh Forest Department
HP Integrated Development Project (HPIDP) For Source Sustainability and Climate Resilient Rain-fed Agriculture, HPIDP Head Office, Forest Road, Solan-173212

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR HIRING INTERNAL AUDITOR FOR VERIFICATION OF UTILIZATION OF GRANTS UNDER THE MATCHING GRANT SCHEME OF HPIDP

HPIDP, Solan Himachal Pradesh invites Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) from audit agencies/firms/organization for conducting Internal Audit for Verification of Grants Utilization under the Matching Grant Scheme of Himachal Pradesh Integrated Development Project.

The REOI document containing the details of qualification criteria, submission requirement, brief objective & scope of work as per Term of Reference (ToR) and evaluation criteria, etc. can be downloaded from the project website www.hpdp.org

Last date for submission of REOI is 16/08/2024 up to 03:00 PM.

Executive Director
Integrated Development Project,
Forest Road, Solan-173212 (H.P.)

मुख्य निर्माण विभाग कार्यपालक, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कम्बाईड बिल्डींग, बोकारो

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERAHPUR

(E-Mail:- serwbrpr2004@yahoo.com; Tel/FAX:- 0680-2404287)

NOTICE

FOR PM-JANMAN UNDER PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY) NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH "e"- Procurement

Bid identification No. Online Tender/07-2024-25/PMGSY/BPR

The Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Berhampur on behalf of Odisha State Rural Road Agency invites the percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of Roads / Bridges under PRADHAN MANTRI JANJATI ADIVASI NYAYA MAHA ABHIYAN (PM-JANMAN Batch-I & II/2023-24) under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in the districts of Ganjam for 03 (Three) number of packages with estimated cost totalling to **Rs. 10.64 Cr. (Approximate)** including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors registered with State PWD / CPWD / MES / Railways. The registered bidder of outside Odisha, can also participate in this process, but shall have to subsequently undergo registration with the appropriate authority of the State Govt. preferably within a month of the deadline for bid submission, but prior to signing of the contract.

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement : Dtd. **03.08.2024**

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and should be submitted online in www.pmgstenders.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (a) (ii) of ITB with Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Berhampur // Superintending Engineer of the Concerned divisions on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.

Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement : 17.08.2024 upto 5.30 P.M

For further details and corrigendum (if any) please log on to www.pmgstenders.gov.in.

Chief Engineer, R.W.Circle, Berhampur
O-155: OPR-25071/11/01010/2425

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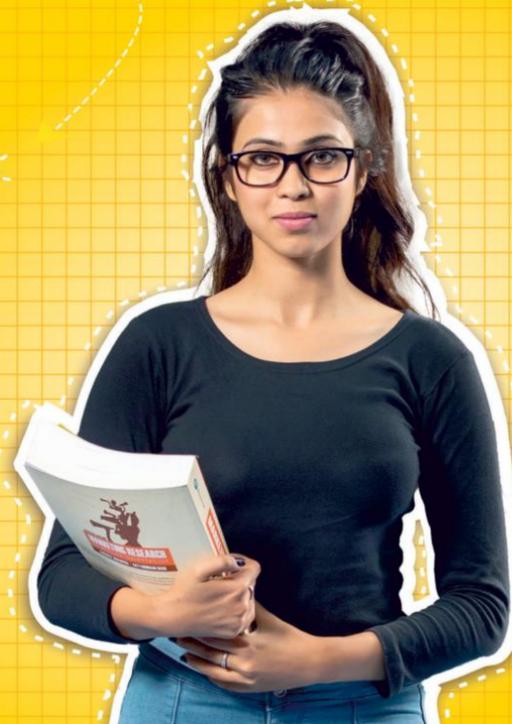


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IN BRIEF



Haribhau Kisanrao Bagde takes oath as Rajasthan Governor

Former Maharashtra Assembly Speaker and veteran Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh leader Haribhau Kisanrao Bagde was sworn in as the Governor of Rajasthan here on Wednesday. Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court Manindra Mohan Shrivastava administered the oath of office to Mr. Bagde at a ceremony held on the lawns of Raj Bhavan. Mr. Bagde, 78, took the oath in the name of God in Hindi after Chief Secretary Sudhanshu Pant read out the warrant of his appointment issued by the President. Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma and Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani were among those present.

BJD MP Mamata Mohanta resigns from Rajya Sabha

BJD MP Mamata Mohanta has tendered her resignation from Rajya Sabha on Wednesday. The move is seen as the first significant setback to the regional party which lost power in Odisha after 24 years. Ms. Mohanta has resigned from her primary membership in the BJD, sparking speculation about her next move. Her resignation was accepted and the number of BJD members in the Rajya Sabha decreased from nine to eight. In her resignation letter, Ms. Mohanta expressed her gratitude for opportunities given to her to raise issues of public importance in the House. Ms. Mohanta, 48, was elected to the Rajya Sabha on April 3, 2020, with her term set to conclude on April 2026.

U.P. CM escorted through alternative route as House complex inundated after rain

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Heavy rains in Lucknow on Wednesday led to severe waterlogging with water even entering the Legislative Assembly complex from where Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had to be escorted through a different route.

A video of Mr. Adityanath being evacuated from a different gate also went viral on social media.

The video shows the adverse condition of waterlogging in the Vidhan Sabha complex.

Dozens of workers could be seen collecting water inside the building in buckets and throwing it outside.

Heavy rainfall of three hours led to waterlogging in other parts of Lucknow causing inconvenience to the residents with people criticising the infrastruc-



Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly workers clear rainwater from Assembly premises in Lucknow on Wednesday. PTI

ture and the municipal corporation for the mess in the State capital.

The Opposition also lashed out at the U.P. government with Samajwadi Party (SP) general secretary Shivpal Singh Yadav demanding more budget allocation for the State Assembly, adding that if such heavy rains can affect the

Akali Dal patron revokes expulsion of eight rebels

Removal of senior leaders is against party constitution, says Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa; calls for removal of Sukhbir Singh Badal as SAD chief; rebels misled cadre, worked against party: Bhunder

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) party patron Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa on Wednesday revoked the expulsion of eight rebels and a few other leaders from the primary membership of the party, alleging that the move was "against the party constitution".

The eight rebels, who had been expelled from the party on Tuesday for indulging in "anti-party activities", had accused party chief Sukhbir Singh Badal of "compromising on Panth (Sikh community) sentiments for political gains and not representing the sentiments of the community".

"We reject this decision [to expel the eight leaders]. The right to expel anyone lies with the working committee, not the disciplinary committee," said Mr. Dhindsa.

He added that he would write to Mr. Badal to seek a reply on the move, and would call a general house meeting to elect a new party president.



Party patron Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa; (right) SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal. FILE PHOTOS

"Sukhbir Singh Badal is not fit to remain party president," Mr. Dhindsa said.

The expelled leaders include ex-MLA Gurbartap Singh Wadala, ex-Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee chief Bibi Jagir Kaur, former MP Prem Singh Chandumajra, and former State Ministers Parminder Singh Dhindsa, Sikanter Singh Maluka, and Surjit Singh Rakhra. Surinder Singh Thekedar and Charanjit Singh Brar were also shown the door.

The rebel leaders had earlier this month appeared before the Akal Takht - the highest Sikh temporal seat in Amritsar - and submitted a letter to

apologise and seek forgiveness for the mistakes their party made while it was in power in Punjab between 2007 and 2017. They held Mr. Badal, who was the Deputy Chief Minister at that time, responsible for the "mistakes".

Mr. Wadala called the move to expel him unconstitutional, saying no notice was issued to him or the other leaders. Mr. Chandumajra, while questioning the action, asked if making efforts to revive the party was seen as "indiscipline".

'No authority'
SAD leader Balwinder Bhunder, who led the disciplinary committee that ex-

pelled the rebels, said Mr. Dhindsa had "no authority" to stay the proceedings of the committee.

"Mr. Dhindsa is a senior leader and should know that the party patron cannot overrule any party decisions," he said, adding that it was unfortunate that instead of advising the party rank and file not to indulge in anti-party activities, Mr. Dhindsa had chosen to lead the team of expelled leaders and was acting like a "self-styled dictator by trying to override decisions" taken as per the party's constitution.

Mr. Bhunder also asserted that action had been taken against the rebels after they did not heed the resolution passed by the working committee on June 26, which had appealed to them to discuss their misgivings in the party forum.

He said the expelled leaders had made their intention to work against the party clear by forming a parallel organisation without the approval of Mr. Badal. and with the sole aim of misleading the cadre.

(With inputs from PTI)

Eye on Sirsa, Saini hints at alliance with Kanda's party

The Hindu Bureau
GURUGRAM



Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Wednesday hinted at a possible alliance with former minister Gopal Kanda's Haryana Lokhit Party, a National Democratic Alliance partner, for the upcoming Assembly poll. He said that the co-operation between the two parties would be taken forward.

Mr. Saini's remarks came a fortnight after Mr. Kanda met Bharatiya Janata Party's Haryana election in-charge and Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan to discuss the strategy for the Assembly polls.

"We will together take it forward with strength and win all the seats in Sirsa," said Mr. Saini, in reply to a question on the co-operation between the two parties for the upcoming Vidhan Sabha poll.

The Chief Minister was in Sirsa to attend a religious programme organised by Mr. Kanda, the MLA from Sirsa.

Though there is no official word on the seat-sharing formula between the two parties, Mr. Kanda, the lone party MLA, could be

eyeing at least six Assembly seats in the Sirsa Lok Sabha constituency - Sirsa, Ellenabad, Fatehabad, Rania, Kalanwali and Dabwali.

Acquitted in the high-profile Geetika Sharma suicide case last year, Mr. Kanda could help the BJP find a foothold in Sirsa district.

Of the five Assembly seats in Sirsa district, two are held by the Congress and one each by Indian National Lok Dal, Haryana Lokhit Party and an Independent, with the BJP drawing a blank.

BJP's Ashok Tanwar had also recently lost the Sirsa Lok Sabha seat to Congress' Kumari Selja with a margin of over 2.5 lakh votes. Mr. Kanda's elder brother Gobind had joined the BJP in 2021.

Bengali film industry lockdown ends after CM's intervention

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

The Bengali film industry ended two days of lockdown on Wednesday after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee met all parties concerned. Shoots were halted due to an impasse between directors, producers, and technicians.

Ms. Banerjee held a meeting with actor Prasennjit Chatterjee, veteran director Goutam Ghose, TMC MP and actor Dev, and TMC MLA Aroop Biswas on Tuesday evening and put an end to the lockdown. Shooting restarted on Wednesday morning.

The lockdown impacted the whole industry, especially technicians who work on a no-work, no-pay basis.

After the meeting, Mr. Ghose said, "All stakeholders - from directors to light boys, sound recordists to hairdressers and spot

The lockdown impacted the whole industry, especially technicians who work on a no-work, no-pay basis

boys - will act in cohesion as [though] part of an orchestra."

Mr. Dev welcomed Ms. Banerjee's intervention. The CM understood and appreciated our problems. She left it to us to sort out. She wanted us to ensure that the rights of everyone are protected," he said.

The whole impasse started when director Raahool Mukherjee was banned for three months by the technician's federation for violating their rules and conducting his own shoot secretly in Bangladesh. The ban was later lifted but technicians refused to work if Mr. Mukherjee stayed on as director.

Privilege breach proceedings against MLAs can continue in next Assembly: Madras HC

Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Wednesday held that the breach of privilege proceedings initiated against Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) could continue even after the dissolution of the Assembly to which they had been elected and such incomplete proceedings could not be considered to have lapsed after the election of the next Assembly.

Justices S.M. Subramaniam and C. Kumarappan said the purpose of granting certain privileges to the House would become meaningless if the proceedings had to be considered to have lapsed along with the completion of the tenure of a particular Assembly. They also said the MLAs might not take the privileges seriously if the law was interpreted in such a manner.



Landmark ruling: The powers of the Committee of Privileges and those of the Speaker of the House will not lapse merely on account of change of government, the Madras High Court has said. THE HINDU

The court made the observations while allowing writ appeals filed in 2021 by the then Legislative Assembly Secretary as well as the then chairman of the Committee of Privileges against a single judge's order in 2020, quashing the show cause notices issued to the incumbent Chief Minister, M.K. Stalin, and 17 other DMK MLAs for having displayed 'gutkha' sachets in the Assembly in July 2017.

The Division Bench held that the single judge ought not to have "assumed the role of the Speaker" and interfered at the very preliminary stage itself by quashing the show cause notices issued by the Privileges Committee to the DMK MLAs. It remitted the matter back to the present Speaker as well as the Committee of Privileges for continuing the proceedings and taking a final decision on merits.

Resolution moved in W.B. House for review of new criminal laws

Press Trust of India
KOLKATA

A resolution moved by West Bengal Law Minister Moloy Ghatak and others in the State Assembly on Wednesday sought a review of the three new criminal laws by the Centre.

Opposing the resolution, BJP members said that the new laws were brought into force after due deliberations in various sections of the society and that the TMC members moved it with a political motive.

The resolution urged the Union government through the West Bengal

government to review the new laws to evolve consensus views of jurists, social activists and citizens in the interest of good governance and to protect the principles of fundamental rights and natural justice.

New laws

The three new criminal laws - Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam - came into effect across the country from July 1, replacing the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) and Indian Evidence Act, respectively.

Several violations found at Patna institute of 'Khan Sir'

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

The survey of coaching institutes initiated by the District Magistrate in Patna in the wake of three deaths due to flooding of the basement of Rau's IAS Study Circle in the national capital on July 27 has found several instances of violations, including at the Khan GS Research Centre run by educator Faizal Khan aka "Khan Sir".

A six-member team of officials surveyed over a dozen coaching institutes on Wednesday and has instructed the violators flouting norms for the safety and security of students studying there time to comply. Patna has over 3,000 coaching centres mostly concentrated in



Police at the site of Rau's IAS Study Circle in New Delhi where three students drowned over the weekend. FILE PHOTO

Mushallapur, Mahendru, Bikhana Pahadi, Khazanchi Road and Kankerbagh areas.

"We surveyed the coaching institutes for absence of registration, non-compliance of fire safety, proper exit passage and other building regulations. Several of them found

flouting the norms and we'll serve notices to them soon," said senior district official Shrikant Kundlik Khandekar.

Following the survey by the probe team members, the Khan GS Research Centre was closed on Wednesday. "The number of students at the coaching

centre exceeded the available space," Mr. Khandekar said.

The official said that according to the Bihar Coaching Institute (Control & Regulation) Act, 2010, if a coaching institute breaches any provision, or notification under this Act, it will face a fine of ₹25,000 for the first violation and ₹1,00,000 for the second one. "In case of further offences, the registration of the coaching institute may be revoked following a show-cause notice," he said, adding that coaching centre registrations must be renewed every three years.

Survey to continue
Another official who is part of the probe team said that more coaching institutes

are likely to be surveyed over the next few days. "Before taking action against them, they will be given time to explain their position and adhere to the specified norms and regulations for operation," the official said on condition of anonymity.

Patna District Magistrate Chandrasekhar Singh met representatives of the coaching institutes on Wednesday to discuss norms to be followed for the safety and security of students. "Keeping the Delhi incident in mind, we have directed officials in all sub-divisions to verify documents of coaching centres, including mandatory permission and necessary no-objection certificates," he said.

(With inputs from PTI)

ED raids in Maharashtra in PMLA violation case

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) carried out search operations in Maharashtra on Wednesday in connection with alleged violations of provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

The case pertains to loan fraud case involving Shree Shiv Parvati Sakhar Karkhana Limited, Hitech Engineering Corporation India Pvt. Ltd. and their directors.

Searches were conducted in Mumbai, Karjat, Baramati and Pune.



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Shah, Pinarayi spar over disaster warning

Shah says Kerala government did not gauge the severity of the situation despite warnings from Centre and failed to evacuate people ahead of the disaster; Kerala CM says forecasts by Central agencies were off the mark; Kerala MP moves privilege notice alleging Shah has misled the Upper House

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre and Kerala crossed swords on Wednesday over advance weather warnings for the State and the disaster response in the wake of the catastrophic landslide that claimed over 200 lives and levelled three villages in Vythiri taluk of Wayanad district a day earlier.

In Parliament, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the Kerala government did not gauge the severity of the situation accurately despite the Centre despatching nine National Disaster Response Force teams to the State on July 23. "Had those blaming the [Central] government read the warnings, the situation would have been different," he said.

In Kerala, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan took issue with Mr. Shah's statement, asserting that the Centre dispatched the NDRF teams at the State government's behest, given the intensifying monsoon, and not on its own volition. The State government moved an NDRF unit to Wayanad well in advance, he said.

Answering a Calling Attention Motion in Rajya Sabha, Mr. Shah said the Centre issued the first warning on July 23 and repeated it on the next three days. Citing the examples of Odisha and Gujarat where "zero-casualty disaster management" was done, he asked why the Kerala government did not evacuate people from the



Path to safety: People stranded at Attamala after a massive landslide in Wayanad cross the temporary bridge on Wednesday. THULASI KAKKAT

vulnerable areas. "...I would like to specify that on July 23, the Kerala government was given an early warning by the Central government," the Home Minister said.

"On July 26, it [Kerala] was informed that there will be heavy rainfall of more than 20 centimetres, there is a possibility of a landslide, there could be a rush of mud and people could even die by getting buried beneath it," he said.

Three CPI(M) MPs in Rajya Sabha from Kerala — John Brittas, A.A. Rahim and V. Sivadasan — later approached Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar requesting him to direct Mr. Shah to clarify his statement. Separately, Mr. Sivadasan moved a privilege notice with the Rajya Sabha Secretary-General alleging Mr. Shah has misled the Upper House.

At a press conference in

Thiruvananthapuram, Mr. Vijayan suggested that the forecasts by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Geological Survey of India (GSI) and Central Water Commission were wide off the mark. "None of the agencies had issued a red alert for Wayanad ahead of the July 30 landslides," he said.

"The rainfall far exceeded the initial warning. However, the agencies issued a red alert at 6 a.m. [on July 30] after the disaster struck," he said.

He said the GSI issued a green alert for July 30 and 31, indicating minor landslides or rock bursts. "The Union Minister has presented information in Parliament that is inconsistent with facts," Mr. Vijayan, however, reiterated that now was not the time for a blame game.

(With inputs from Thiruvananthapuram)

Tamil Nadu relief team, assistance reach Kerala

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Minister for Public Works E.V. Velu handed over a cheque for ₹5 crore to Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday towards relief operations.

Meanwhile, the relief team from Tamil Nadu reached the disaster-hit Wayanad district.

Later in the day, AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami announced that his party would contribute ₹1 crore towards relief operations in the affected region.

Wayanad ranked fifth in Kerala on ISRO's landslide atlas

Tiki Rajwi
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Wayanad, which is grappling with the horror of Tuesday's deadly landslide disaster, was among several places in Kerala that had been featured high on a national-level database created by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in 2023 based on exposure to landslides in terms of "key socio-economic parameters".

Among 147 districts in 17 States and two Union Territories, Wayanad is ranked 13th, while Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram and Kozhikode are ranked third, fifth, seventh and 10th, respectively, in the Landslide Atlas of India prepared by the National Remote Sensing Centre, one of the ISRO centres, in February 2023.

Rudraprayag in Uttarakhand was ranked first in the landslide atlas, which specifically looked at landslide-prone Western Ghats and Himalayan regions.

"The vulnerability of the inhabitants and households is more significant in the Western Ghats due to the very high population and household density, especially in Kerala, even when fewer landslides exist than in the Himalayan regions," the document said. It further noted that

A recent CAG report has noted the extent of fragmentation of the forestland in Wayanad

the "steep escarpments of the Western Ghats record occurrences of landslides, but however, these are primarily controlled by the soil cover on the slopes."

A recent report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, while examining human-wildlife conflict in the State, had noted the extent of the fragmentation of forestland in Wayanad district.

"As per the Management Plan of the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, forestland of Wayanad district in 1950 was 1,811.35 sq km, which was reduced to 863.86 sq km in 2021," the Compliance Audit Report of the CAG for the year ended March 31, 2022 tabled in the Assembly on July 11 observed.

The ISRO database covered "seasonal, event-based and route-wise" landslide inventories for the 1998-2022 period. The event-based component looked at some of the major disasters that had occurred across India, including the 2021 landslide at Puthumala in Wayanad.

Delhi University UG admissions begin after month-long wait

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Delhi University opened its Common Seat Allocation System (CSAS) portal on Wednesday, paving the way for admissions to undergraduate programmes through the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) scores for the third consecutive year.

The results, which were scheduled to be announced on June 30, were declared after a month-long delay on July 28, ending the prolonged wait for students looking to secure a seat in Delhi University.

The university officials said students can now start registering on the CSAS portal. The candidates have to initially apply to the university and later enter preferences for various programmes and colleges.

DU Registrar Vikas Gupta said, "Students have started registering on the portal. From Thursday onwards, they will be able to fill in their preferences as well."

Process to be sped up
A university official said while the admission process takes around a month, they will try to speed it up this year on account of delays caused by the late declaration of the CUET results. Once the registrations are closed, students will be allocated the best possible option based on their preferences, performance, and availability of seats.

The application fee for

DU's undergraduate programmes for candidates from the unreserved, Other Backward Classes-Non-Creamy Layer, and Economically Weaker Section categories is ₹250 while students from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Persons with Benchmark Disabilities have to pay ₹100.

'End to anxiety'

With uncertainty over the announcement of CUET results by the National Testing Agency, which has been grappling with paper leak allegations involving NEET-UG, UGC-NET, and CSIR-UGC-NET exams, many students who were looking forward to getting into DU had started applying to private universities.

One such aspirant, a resident of Noida, said, "Because of the delay, I decided to secure a seat at Jai Hind College in Mumbai."

After she received a score of 750, which is considered to be competitive, the student is now hopeful of realising her dreams of studying at DU.

Satya Prakash Pandey, the father of a DU aspirant, said his daughter had been anxiously waiting for DU to begin its admission process as she had made up her mind to go to St. Stephen's College and had not applied elsewhere.

Meanwhile, professors have been saying that the delay in the admission process will affect the academic calendar of first-year students and lead to teachers getting overburdened.

Revant's comments on women MLAs of BRS lead to protests

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

A remark made by Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy against Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) members P. Sabitha Indra Reddy and V. Sunita Lakshma Reddy led to a furor in the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday.

The Chief Minister, who intervened while BRS member K.T. Rama Rao was speaking on the Appropriation Bill, advised him not to trust the "sisters" (Ms. Sabitha Indra Reddy and Ms. Sunita Lakshma Reddy). He recalled how Ms. Sabitha Indra Reddy invited him to join the Congress ahead of

2019 Lok Sabha elections and assured her support to him. However, she joined the BRS for Ministerial berth.

Enraged over this, Ms. Sabitha recalled how she conveyed her wishes to Mr. Revanth Reddy asserting that he was hope of the Congress and had scope of becoming the Chief Minister too if he joined the Congress.

The BRS members led by Ms. Sabitha Indra Reddy and K.T. Rama Rao trooped into the Well of the House demanding apologies from the Chief Minister for his comments against her. The members stayed put raising slogans against the ruling party.

Setback for BJP as JD(S) withdraws support to padayatra over MUDA 'scam'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In what has exposed cracks in the alliance between the BJP and the Janata Dal (Secular) over the handling of the alleged irregularities in the distribution of sites to Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's family by Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA), Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy on Wednesday announced that the JD (S) would pull out of the planned Bengaluru-Mysuru padayatra of the BJP and questioned the need for it now.

The Union Minister, who attended a coordination meeting on Sunday over the issue, said on Wednesday:



Union Minister of Major Industries and Steel, H.D. Kumaraswamy, addressing the media in New Delhi on Wednesday.

"We have withdrawn from padayatra since we feel it is not the right time to undertake it. However, the BJP is making preparations to go ahead with it."

The JD(S) core committee, which met on Tuesday, had said that the time was not right for the pa-

dayatra given the rain situation, and that it could be taken up after sometime.

'No moral support'

"We will not even give moral support to the padayatra. The issue can be fought legally. If we undertake the padayatra now, people may question us,"

Mr. Kumaraswamy said.

This has exposed the differences between the NDA partners over handling the issue of alleged irregularities in allotment of MUDA sites to the wife of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, in lieu of land taken from her to create a layout by the authority.

The core committee of the JD(S) had expressed reservations about supporting the padayatra in the light of rains, sowing season, lack of preparation, inability of Mr. Kumaraswamy to participate in the padayatra and the perceived "internal rift" within the BJP over the programme.

The padayatra was planned for launch on August 3.

Karnataka Governor gives notice to CM on MUDA 'scam'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a major political development, Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot is learnt to have issued a "show cause notice" to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah seeking more explanation from him on the alleged irregularities in allotment of sites by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) to his wife.

Incidentally the Governor was in New Delhi on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Mr. Siddaramaiah has convened a breakfast meeting with his Ministerial colleagues at his residence on Thursday,

ahead of a Cabinet meeting, to discuss the notice issued by the Governor, sources told *The Hindu*.

The MUDA had allotted 14 sites to Mr. Siddaramaiah's wife, Parvathi, in lieu of her land "illegally" acquired by it.

A few days ago, Mr. Siddaramaiah had called on the Governor at Raj Bhavan and reportedly discussed the MUDA issue. Raj Bhavan also wrote to the Chief Secretary, seeking details about the alleged irregularities.

The State government has set up a one-man commission of inquiry under retired High Court Judge P.N. Desai to probe the alleged MUDA scam.

Telangana CM announces ambitious plans to develop a city with all facilities at Mucherla

M. Rajeev
HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has unveiled the Congress government's plan to develop a fourth city after Hyderabad, Secunderabad and Cyberabad, with all facilities claiming it will be the future city of the State.

The venue for the proposed city will be Mucherla where huge lands are acquired for developing pharma city. The government plans to set up its brainchild the Young India Skills University at Mucherla and shift the National Academy of Construction there to provide skill train-

ing to aspiring youth so that they are ready to work anywhere within the country and abroad.

Health City

Along with the Skills University, it is proposed to develop a health city in 1,000 acres in the pharma city to make the city a healthcare hub in the coming days. "There has been constant rise in the footfall into Hyderabad for medical requirements from other States as well as Middle East and other countries," he said.

The government will focus on development of sports infrastructure on the pharma city land by

constructing a world class stadium for hosting international matches. The Chief Minister recalled how the infrastructure created for hosting the Afro Asian Games was lying idle and said his government was committed to improve the infrastructure to ensure world class sportspersons emerge from here. The government was in talks with the Board of Cricket Control in India for hosting international cricket tournaments in the proposed stadium.

An Artificial Intelligence hub would be established in the same vicinity that would be spread over 200 acres, he said.

Hema panel report: Kerala HC extends stay on SIC order

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Wednesday extended till August 6 the stay on a State Information Commission (SIC) order directing the State government to disclose the K. Hema Committee report on the working conditions of women in the film industry with limited redactions.

The court passed the order when a writ petition filed by film producer Sajimon Parayil challenging the SIC order came up for hearing.

According to the petitioner, making public the report would violate the

fundamental and privacy rights and breach the confidentiality of the witnesses who deposed before the committee. The petitioner feared that making the report public could lead to identification of the witnesses, potentially exposing them to retaliation or further harassment.

The Hema committee constituted in the aftermath of a case of sexual assault on an actor in 2017, had submitted the report to the Chief Minister on December 31, 2019. Despite repeated demands over the years from various stakeholders, the report had remained shrouded in secrecy.

Outflow from KRS, Kabini dams stepped up; officials sound alert for people living downstream

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Incessant rain in the Cauvery catchment areas has forced the authorities to step up the outflow from the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) and Kabini dams in Karnataka. A fresh flood warning has been issued for people living downstream of the two dams.

The low-lying areas are in the districts of Mandya, Mysuru, and Chamarajanagar, and people living along the riverbanks have been asked to relocate to safer places.

The outflow from KRS, which had increased to 1.5 lakh cusecs on Tuesday



A late evening alert said that the discharge from Krishnaraja Sagar dam had been increased to 1.7 lakh cusecs. M.A. SRIRAM

night, was reduced to 1.07 lakh cusecs by Wednesday morning. But a late evening alert said that the discharge from KRS had been increased to 1.7 lakh cusecs.

The cumulative outflow from KRS and the Kabini

reservoirs was in excess of 2.4 lakh cusecs on Wednesday evening.

The Kabini joins the Cauvery at T. Narsipur and the villages downstream from this confluence point will feel the brunt of the discharge.

Heavy evening rainfall causes chaos, brings Delhi to its knees

Schools to remain closed today amid heavy waterlogging, traffic snarls; weather department issues red alert, warns of wet spell continuing till August 5; flights diverted, houses flooded; AAP's failure to desilt drains led to crisis again, charges BJP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Heavy rainfall brought the national capital to a screeching halt on Wednesday evening, inundating large parts of the city, choking key stretches with unending traffic, and leaving people stranded as roads turned into rivers.

Education Minister Atishi said that schools would remain shut on Thursday. "In light of very heavy rainfall today evening and forecast of heavy rainfall tomorrow, all schools - government and private - will remain closed tomorrow, 1st August," she posted on X late Wednesday night.

Waterlogging was reported at several locations including Pul Prahladpur Railway Underpass, Zakhira Underpass, Okhla Underpass, IP Marg, Minto Bridge, Moolchand, Chatra Rail Chowk, and Nigam Bodh Ghat, leading to traffic snarls across the Capital, according to the Delhi Traffic Police.

'Red' alert
The torrential downpour prompted the India Meteorological Department (IMD) to issue its highest 'red' alert warning for the



Road turns to river: Waterlogging was reported at several places in the Capital, causing hours-long traffic snarls and widespread flooding in commercial and residential areas. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Capital. The National Flash Flood Guidance Bulletin also included Delhi in its list of "areas of concern", and advised people to remain indoors, secure windows and doors, and refrain from unnecessary travel. The wet spell is expected to last till August 5, according to the IMD.

Data from the weather office showed that the city's primary weather station Safdarjung recorded 79.2 mm of downpour between 5.30 p.m. and 8.30 p.m.; Mayur Vihar 119 mm; Delhi University 77.5 mm; Pusa 66.5 mm; and the Palam observatory

43.7 mm. Waist-deep water was also reported from outside the building in Old Rajinder Nagar where three UPSC aspirants drowned in their flooded basement on July 27.

Delhi's Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena appealed to all city officials to remain vigilant in light of the heavy rainfall. "Apart from ensuring minimum inconvenience to people in general, officials are advised to specifically address issues at sites prone to waterlogging, including coaching centres," read his post on X.

A house collapsed in north Delhi's Sabzi Mandi area, the Delhi Fire Services said, adding that five fire tenders were rushed to the site after the call was received around 9 p.m. The Public Works Department (PWD) control room received 35 calls reporting waterlogging from areas including ITO, Zakir Road, Seelampur, Tri-lokpur, Laxmi Nagar, and Peeragarhi.

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi also received four complaints of waterlogging and three of felled trees.

At least 10 flights sche-

duled to land at the Indira Gandhi International Airport were diverted - eight to Jaipur and two to Lucknow - due to the inclement weather conditions. Several airlines also warned of the possibility of more flight disruptions. "Guests are advised to start early for the airport, as slow traffic and waterlogging may delay movement," Air India said in a statement.

'Corrupt govt.'
Meanwhile, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said the drainage system of Delhi had collapsed due to the "corruption and callousness" of the Aam Aadmi Party-led government.

"The corruption-tainted Delhi government has totally failed to desilt the drains of Delhi; as a result, sewers in colonies have no exit points, leading to waterlogging across the city after a few minutes of rain," he said.

The New Delhi Traders Association also complained that several showrooms were damaged in the rain as water flooded the Connaught Place area.

They blamed the New Delhi Municipal Council for a "lack of control" over the situation.

(With inputs from PTI)

BJP MLAs protest against Soren govt. by spending night in Jharkhand House

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

The Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and All Jharkhand Students' Union (AJSU) MLAs on Wednesday staged a protest inside the State Assembly till late night and threatened to stay there overnight in protest against Chief Minister Hemant Soren's "refusal to reply to their questions on key issues" raised in the Assembly.

Mr. Soren said he would reply to all the questions with "proper statistics" on Thursday or Friday. But the Opposition MLAs refused to budge even after power supply inside the Assembly was switched off after the House was adjourned for the day.

House adjourned
Earlier, Speaker Rabintra Nath Mahto had adjourned the House till 11 a.m. on Thursday. The Opposition MLAs continued their protest while staging sit-in in the Well of the House.

"It's a murder of democracy as the government did not reply to questions by our MLAs. We will not move from here even at night," Jharkhand BJP in-charge Laxmikant Bajpai told journalists.

"The Opposition legislators, in fact, have been held hostage inside the Assem-



Jharkhand BJP MLAs holding a massive banner to protest against the State government in Ranchi on Wednesday. ANI

ly as lights and air conditioners have been switched off and drinking water supply too was cut off. The MLAs are sitting on protest in the dark," Mr. Bajpai added.

When Mr. Soren visited the Assembly to meet protesting legislators, they refused to budge and continued their protest.

The BJP has 21 MLAs while two belong to AJSU. BJP chief whip Biranchi Narayan came out of the House for sometime and told media persons, "We placed our demands before the Chief Minister and sought his assurance for reply. But the CM said he would reply on the issues on Friday. We want his reply on Thursday, as those are related to people and the government's promises."

Mr. Narayan asserted that "they would stay inside the House through the night".

'Childish obstinacy'
However, legislator Mithilesh Thakur of the ruling Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) termed the protest as *baal hath* (childish obstinacy) and added that they were setting a wrong precedent.

"Opposition members cannot decide how the Assembly should run; it is the prerogative of the Speaker. They're protesting as this is an election year in the State and such acts are expected from the Opposition," said Dipika Pandey Singh of the Congress, JMM's ally in government.

Assembly elections for the 81 seats in Jharkhand are due later this year.

NIA prepares chargesheet on illegal arms trafficker

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday chargesheeted an accused in a pan-India illegal arms and ammunition trafficking case linked to the Myanmar-based insurgent groups.

The chargesheet against Lalngaihwama was filed before a special NIA court in Delhi under various provisions of the erstwhile Indian Penal Code, Arms Act, Explosive Substances Act, and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. He has been accused of active involvement in the network operating in the northeast, and other parts of the country.

The NIA had registered the case on December 26, 2023, against Lalngaihwama and others on the basis of inputs that some Mizoram-based entities were engaged in the illegal trafficking of arms, ammunition, explosives, etc. in the northeastern region.

Court reserves order on Puja Khedkar's anticipatory bail plea

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Wednesday reserved order on an anticipatory bail application moved by former trainee Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Puja Khedkar, who is accused of using fraudulent means to pass the Civil Services Examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

The public prosecutor argued that custodial interrogation of Ms. Khed-

kar was necessary as she had duped the system and society.

Counsel representing Ms. Khedkar claimed that she was being targeted after she lodged a harassment complaint against the Pune Collector.

The Delhi Police have booked Ms. Khedkar for fraudulently availing the reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBC) and Persons with Benchmark Disabilities to clear the examination.

As per a communique

from the UPSC, Ms. Khedkar deceitfully availed attempts beyond the permissible limit under the examination rules by faking her identity, changing her and her parents' name along with her photograph, signature, email ID, mobile number, and address.

The Delhi Police told the court that Ms. Khedkar would not cooperate in the investigation if given bail.

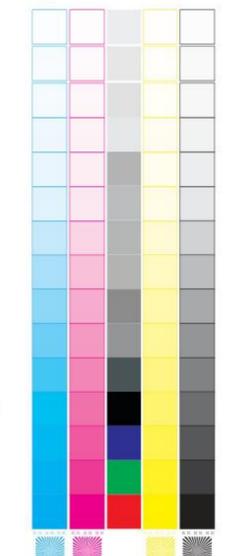
Additional sessions judge Devender Kumar

Jangala of Patiala House Court will pronounce the order on Ms. Khedkar's bail on Thursday.

Senior advocate Naresh Kaushik, for the UPSC, argued that Ms. Khedkar abused the process of law. The court questioned UPSC's apparent failure in the case as it allowed the frauds to happen.

"The UPSC is not an investigating agency, and the ways used by Ms. Khedkar cannot be verified by the system," Mr. Kaushik responded.

THE HINDU
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WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice Civil Engineering
No-W.623/15 Date: 29.07.2024

Sr. Divisional Engineer (Coordination), West Central Railway, Kota for and on behalf of President of India invites following open E. tenders.

Tender No.: 136/2024, **Description of work:** Sewar(SWAR): Supply of Clean potable water per day 25000 liter at SWAR station (for 730 Day)..
Approx. Cost: 682185.00, **Earnest Money:** 13700.00, **Tender No.:** 137/2024, **Description of work:** Kota Division: Construction of S&T service buildings- Relay room, IPS room, Battery room & ESM Duty room with ESM store room in connection with Provision of Electronic Interlocking & Replacement of indoor signalling gears on age-cum condition basis for ensuring safety of trains at 04 stations (Pingora, Sewar, Jajampur and Murhesi Rampur in jurisdiction of DEN/N section)..
Approx. Cost: 12265007.19, **Earnest Money:** 211300.00, **Tender No.:** 138/2024, **Description of work:** Kota Division: Repairs to existing shed with provision of all side covering, repairs to pathways, providing false ceiling & other miscellaneous Works at scout & guide office.. **Approx. Cost:** 1305168.29, **Earnest Money:** 26100.00, **Tender No.:** 139/2024, **Description of work:** Kota Division: Construction of S&T service buildings- Relay room, IPS room, Battery room & ESM Duty room with ESM store room in connection with Provision of Electronic Interlocking & Replacement of indoor signalling gears on age-cum condition basis for ensuring safety of trains at 03 stations (Vikramgarh Aloi, Morak, Alniya in jurisdiction of Sr DEN/S section).. **Approx. Cost:** 9198755.40, **Earnest Money:** 184000.00, **Tender No.:** 140/2024, **Description of work:** KOTA-GGC Section: Balance work drainage improvement for LHS at LC No: 129, 140, 142, 143, 145, 150, 153, 155 & 157 under ADEN-SW.. **Approx. Cost:** 13020057.73, **Earnest Money:** 215100.00, **Tender No.:** 141/2024, **Description of work:** NAGDA-KOTA Section -TWR -127.662 Kms. **Approx. Cost:** 143418062.78, **Earnest Money:** 867100.00, **Tender No.:** 142/2024, **Description of work:** KOTA-MATHURA & KOTA-CHITTORGARH Section - TWR-90.171 Kms. **Approx. Cost:** 102310468.90, **Earnest Money:** 661600.00, **For All above Tenders Last date & Time of submission of tender:** 15.30 Hrs. On dt 21.08.2024. Complete details are available in the E-tender notice uploaded on the railway website www.ireps.gov.in and also placed on the notice board of the Sr. Divisional Engineer (Coordination), DRM Office, West Central Railway Kota's office.

Sr. Divisional Engineer (Coordination), WCR, Kota

स्वच्छ भारत अभियान एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

MAHANAGAR TELEPHONE NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Eastern Court, Janpath, New Delhi-110001

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that I, Prabhakar Brahmarishi, SDO, MTNL Delhi inform that MTNL, Delhi is the allottee of built up space at Shahdara Telephone Exchange (Old building) having area of 1050 SQ Meter (Possession -1950). The original documents of the above said property have been lost or misplaced and are not traceable in spite of my best efforts. An FIR to this effects has been lodged vide LR no. 1408181/2024 dated 04.02.2024. Any person(s) found in possession of original documents may write/contact with above named person at below address/phone no. 9013136786 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Shri Prabhakar Brahmarishi
Sub Divisional officer
O/o Area Manager (Shahdara)
MTNL, Room No. 2, Dilshad Garden
telephone exchange, Delhi 110095

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कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, धनबाद।

शुद्धि पत्र

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि इस कार्यालय के ई-अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या 06/RWD/DHANBAD/24-25 दिनांक 22.07.2024 जिसका पी0आर0 330412 Rural Works Department (24-25) उक्त निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना को ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना पढ़ा जाये तथा तिथि में सुधार की जाती है, जो निम्न प्रकार है :-

- वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि:- 06.08.2024
- ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय:- 27.08.2024 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक।
- निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय:- 29.08.2024 अपराह्न 3.30 बजे।

शेष सभी शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।
कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग,
कार्य प्रमण्डल, धनबाद।
PR 331392 (Rural Development) 24-25 (D)

PUNE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Tender Cell Department
Tender Notice - New Work

TENDER SALE DATE -	1/8/2024 TO 26/08/2024	AFTERNOON 2.30 PM
TENDER ACCEPTED DATE -	1/8/2024 TO 26/08/2024	AFTERNOON 3.30 PM
TECHNICAL BID OPENING PROCESS DATE -	27/08/2024	AFTERNOON 3.30 PM

SR. NO.	TENDER NO.	DEPARTMENT NAME	WORK DISCRPTION	TENDER SET PRICE RS	ESTIMATED PRICE RS	EMD RS.	WORK PERIOD	TENDER RELATED RESPONSIBLE PERSON
1	PMC/VEHICLE / 2024 / 62	VEHICLE DEPARTMENT	SUPPLY OF DRIVERS ON CONTRACT BASIS TO DRIVE GARBAGE VEHICLES OF PMC	29679	334044868	1670224	1 YEAR / TILL THE TENDER AMOUNT EXHAUSTS	MR. RISHIKESH CHAVAN 9689931899 MR. PRAMOD PAYGUDE 9689931593
2	PMC/VEHICLE / 2024 / 155	MOTOR VEHICLE DEPARTMENT	PROCUREMENT OF SMALL BELL TRUCK FOR GARBAGE TRANSPORTATION OF PUNE CITY FROM 15TH FC FUNDS	17,879/-	7,15,32,720/-	3,57,663.60	90 Days	Bhagyashree Telang 7447472118

- Govt approved / P.M.C. approved experienced Tenderer needed for this work. (Pre qualification conditions are given in tender set)
- Terms & conditions & other details for completing the above work are mentioned in Tender set and tender set is available on www.mahatenders.gov.in Tender sale and acceptance are to be done by online and 2 packets only
- All information of tender is available on above mentioned website
- As per order by circular No. Addmc (sp)/32, dated 22/04/2016 EMD Is accepted E.C.S./R.T.G.S./NEFT

Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MOTOR VEHICLE DEPARTMENT
PUNE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

ADVT No: 3/345, Date: 31/07/2024

Government of Jharkhand
JHARKHAND FLYING INSTITUTE
(A Society Registered under Dept. of Cabinet Secretariat and Vigilance (Civil Aviation Division), Jharkhand
STATE HANGAR, BIRSA MUNDA AIRPORT ROAD, HINOO, RANCHI-2
Email - jfi.govtfly@gmail.com, Telefax:- 0651-2250319, 2251090

Advertisement for Hiring of Quality Manager
ADV Ref. No.- ADVQM/41/2024/JFI-189 Date:- 31.07.2024

Jharkhand Flying Institute, Birsa Munda Airport, State Hanger, Hinoo, Ranchi invites application from Quality Manager for DGCA CAR145, on a contractual basis for maintenance of Govt. Aircraft airworthiness. For Details, the interested Candidates are requested to visit the IPRD Website <http://www.prdjharkhand.in/iprd>, for details of Advertisement.

The Interested Candidates must Submit the application along with their Resume, Xerox copies of relevant certificates to the office of the Managing Director, Jharkhand Flying Institute, Birsa Munda Airport, State Hanger, Hinoo, Ranchi by speed post/courier/e-mail by hand Latest by 16/08/2024 at 5 P.M.

Jharkhand Flying Institute reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications without assigning any reason. JFI also reserves the right to cancel at any stage without assigning any reason.

Sd/-
Managing Director
Jharkhand Flying Institute

PR 331401 Civil Aviation(24-25).D

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PWD
GUWAHATI BUILDING CIRCLE-II, CHANDMARI, GUWAHATI-3

PRESS NOTICE

The Superintending Engineer, P.W.D, Guwahati Building Circle-II, Chandmari, Guwahati-3 on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites bids for the following work having experience of similar nature of work from APWD registered contractors. Details of the bids may be seen at e-procurement portal website: www.assamtenders.gov.in and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours. The bidders must be enrolled in www.assamtenders.gov.in for participating in the bidding process.

Name of work	Approx. Value of Work (Rs.)	Category of APWD (B) registered contractor
Strengthening, Renovation and Up gradation works in the Govt. Residential Qtr. No. M-9 at Minister Colony, Dispur, Ghy-06	1,25,15,548/-	Class-I (A/ B/ C)

Note:-
1. Any modification of tender may be seen in the portal www.assamtenders.gov.in.
2. The prospective bidder must visit the work site before submission of tender.

Superintending Engineer, P.W.D.
Janasanyog /C/1765/ 24/1-Aug-24
Guwahati Building Circle-II



Unnatural disaster

Kerala must restore denuded flora and rehabilitate people in vulnerable areas

Climate change can encourage unprecedented weather, precipitating natural disasters of magnitudes that may surprise local responders. The calamitous landslides in Wayanad district in Kerala on July 30 are not necessarily such disasters. Parts of Kerala have been bearing the brunt of heavy rains during the southwest monsoon and landslides are a yearly affair. But deadly landslides are new. This week, heavy rains triggered multiple landslides that have killed 200 people and laid waste to a few villages. The region is a tourist destination and incentivises infrastructure development to maximise revenue potential. The Chaliyar river here springs from an altitude of around 2 km and flows in a sheer path down towards Vellarmala, bringing fast waters that also sweep relatively more sediment downstream. The rains this year further increased the river's volume and force, which swept up debris and deposited it in the villages settled on less steep land where many of the deaths have been reported. But the tragedy is compounded by the fact that heavy rains here in 2020 had caused the Chaliyar to strip swathes of its upstream areas of plant cover, leaving more rocks and humus vulnerable to being displaced.

The geographical peculiarities of landslide-prone Idukki, Kottayam, Malappuram, and Wayanad have been evident for years; they also feature prominently on landslide risk maps. Blame for the landslides' deadly recurrence must thus be shared by climate change and a State that has been repeatedly caught off-guard. A recurring issue is an abject lack of advance warning and emergency preparedness. Landslides are more common in ecologically fragile areas. The monsoons have been producing more short bursts of intense rain, resulting in some soil types becoming easier to dislodge while quarrying; linear infrastructure development, construction activities, and monocropping have compromised ecosystems' ability to cope with changing natural conditions. For these reasons, patterns of land use must not change and the State must restore denuded flora and rehabilitate people in these areas to ensure they have other opportunities for their welfare. As recommended by the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel, Kerala must also decline engineering projects in ecologically sensitive areas and their surroundings, and constitute, equip, staff, and empower expert committees that deliberate the feasibility of other projects here. Indeed, the panel's recommendations were designed to tame the effects of unpredictable weather without also denting economic growth, but Kerala today is sliding past the point of having an option to balance development needs with environmental concerns.

Problem power

Small modular reactors must deal with the cost of proliferation resistance

The Indian government is planning to team up with the private sector to study and test small modular reactors (SMRs). Nuclear energy is an important power source in the world's energy mix as it waits for the development and maturation of (other) renewable energy technologies while fossil-fuel-based sources, especially coal, continue to remain relevant and more affordable. Nuclear power offers a sufficiently high and sustainable power output, even if externalised costs like those of building safe and reliable reactors and handling spent nuclear fuel complicate this calculus. Indeed, cost and time estimates that expand to nearly twice as much as at the point of a project's commissioning are not unheard of. The nuclear power tariff is thus higher from 'younger' facilities, even if they also fill gaps that haunt power from renewable sources. SMRs, of 10 MWe-300 MWe each, are smaller versions of their conventional counterparts. They aspire to be safer without compromising commercial feasibility by leveraging the higher energy content of nuclear fuel, a modular design, a smaller operational surface area, and lower capital costs. But the challenge is to have this aspiration survive SMRs' external costs.

The government's privatisation of nuclear power generation will also increase the demand for regulatory safeguards against radioactive material being diverted for military use. The first-generation SMRs are expected to use low-enriched uranium in facilities assembled on-site with factory-made parts, to produce waste that can be handled using existing technologies and power that can be sold at economical rates. But the reactor will need frequent refuelling and will yield a consequential amount of plutonium; both outcomes will stress proliferation resistance. The IAEA has touted the use of 'safeguardable' reactor designs but such solutions will increase capital costs. Subsequent SMR generations may also require more enriched uranium, especially if their feasibility is pegged on longer periods of continuous generation, or more sophisticated systems to increase fuel-use efficiency, which would increase the operational surface area and the generation cost. In fact, nuclear reactors have a fixed baseline cost and safety expectations that do not change with energy output, which means SMR-based tariffs need not automatically be lower. This is why the Department of Atomic Energy increased its reactors' capacity from 220 MW to 700 MW. SMRs' ability to bolster the prospects of nuclear power in India will thus depend on their commercial viability – and in turn on the availability of less uncertain market conditions, stable grids, and opportunities to mass-produce parts – and the price of proliferation resistance.

The global struggle for a pandemic treaty

After great fanfare and over two years of political negotiations, 194 World Health Organization (WHO) member states failed to finalise a historic Pandemic Agreement, an international treaty designed to fortify global pandemic preparedness, implement mechanisms for prevention of the same, and reduce unconscionable inequities that were painfully obvious during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 77th World Health Assembly, or WHA (May 27-June 1, 2024), in Geneva, witnessed two significant developments for global health governance. First, it agreed on a package of amendments to the International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005, drawn from 300 proposals for reform by governments of both the global north and south, and extensively negotiated over the last two years. The IHR amendments aim to enhance the ability of countries to prepare for and respond to Public Health Emergencies of International Concern (PHEIC) and introduce a new category for urgent international response – a Pandemic Emergency (PE). The amendments aim to ensure equitable access to health products during health emergencies and to mobilise financial resources to support developing countries in building and maintaining core health system capacities required under the IHR. Notably, the amendments emphasise solidarity and equity, while mandating the creation of a National IHR Authority for better coordination.

Second, the 77th WHA extended the mandate of the Pandemic Treaty negotiating body, namely, the intergovernmental negotiating body (INB), stipulating that the proposed WHO Pandemic Agreement must be completed as soon as possible. The outcome should be submitted for consideration at the 78th World Health Assembly in May 2025, or earlier if possible, at a Special Session of the World Health Assembly in 2024.

Pathogen Access and Benefit Sharing

Three key contentious issues in the latest draft of the Pandemic Agreement remain significant obstacles to its adoption: a pathogen access and benefit sharing (PABS) mechanism; technology transfer, local production, and intellectual property; and the One Health approach which emphasises coordinated public health measures based on animal, human, and environmental health. These core provisions, which are fundamental to achieving a safer and fairer world, are stalled due to geopolitical discord and competing interests between higher- and lower-income countries. Skilled diplomats and political leaders must understand that international cooperation and mutual solidarity are a win-win for global health security.

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The most contentious issue in the pandemic agreement negotiations has been the Pathogen Access and Benefit Sharing (PABS) system in Article 12, often seen as the "heart" of the agreement. The imperative for PABS emerged in response to the gross inequities in treatment access and vaccine distribution witnessed during the COVID-19 pandemic. The PABS system aims to ensure that genetic resources and pathogen samples shared from developing countries (which are the most likely sources for such pathogens), are reciprocated with corresponding benefits such as vaccines and diagnostics that result from research and development on samples and data provided from the Global South. The latest proposal suggests that manufacturers of vaccines and diagnostics – primarily based in wealthy countries – using genetic information from pathogens in low- and middle-income countries, would commit to donating a portion of their products to WHO for global distribution based on the principles of need and effectiveness.

Low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) are pushing for a guarantee of at least 20% of shared pandemic products, while many high-income countries argue that 20% should be the maximum limit, and some rich countries will not even agree to 20%.

Technology transfer, intellectual property

Intellectual property protections, rich-world hoarding, export restrictions, and manufacturing limitations all contributed to vaccine inequity during the COVID-19 pandemic. The transfer of technology, know-how, and skills is often a crucial step toward preparing for and responding to pandemics. Strong provisions for technology transfers and local production could potentially compensate for the failures in PABS negotiations. Above all, technology transfer and intellectual property waivers are needed to ensure diverse manufacturing capacities globally so that LMICs are no longer reliant on "charity" from high-income countries and can maintain self-sufficiency.

Next to PABS, the fierce division over governance of production and technology transfer, and its implications on intellectual property, outlined in Articles 10 and 11, has significantly delayed negotiations. The central issue is the conditions for technology transfer to "facilitate sustainable and geographically diversified production" through mechanisms such as product information sharing and use of WTO- Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) flexibilities such as compulsory licensing. There remains a lack of consensus on the transfer of 'know-how' and the binding nature of these transfers.

The world must strive to overcome the obstacles as the treaty is a blueprint for a more equitable and resilient global health system

AI needs cultural policies, not just regulation

The future of Artificial Intelligence (AI) will not be secured by regulation alone. To ensure safe and trustworthy AI for all, we must balance regulation with policies which promote high-quality data as a public good. This approach is crucial for fostering transparency, creating a level playing field, and building public trust. Only by giving fair and wide access to data can we realise AI's full potential and distribute its benefits equitably.

Data are the lifeblood of AI. In this regard, the laws of neural scaling are simple: the more, the better. The more volume and diversity of human-generated text is available for unsupervised learning, for example, the better the performance of Large Language Models (LLMs) will be. Alongside computing power and algorithmic innovations, data arguably are the most important driver of progress in the field.

A data race at the expense of ethics

But there is a problem. Humans do not produce enough digital content to feed these ever-growing beasts. Current training datasets are already huge: Meta's Llama 3, for example, is trained on 15 trillion tokens, equivalent to over 10 times the British Library's book collection. According to a recent study, the demand for pristine text is such that we might reach something akin to 'peak data' before 2030. Other papers caution against the dangers of public data contamination by LLMs themselves, causing feedback loops that amplify biases and deplete diversity.

Fears of an 'AI winter' reflect the relentless race for data in which researchers and industry players are engaged, sometimes at the expense of quality and ethics. A prime example is 'Books3', a trove of pirated books widely believed to feed leading LLMs. Whether such practice falls under fair-use policy is a debate for lawyers. What is more disturbing is that these books are being hoarded without any clear guiding principle.



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Even if progress is being made, notably thanks to regulation, LLMs are still largely trained on an inscrutable morass of licensed content, 'publicly available data', and 'social media interactions'. However, studies show that these data reflect, and sometimes even exacerbate, the current distortions of our cyberspace: an overwhelmingly anglophone and presentist world.

The absence of primary sources

The notion that LLMs are trained on a universal compendium of human knowledge is a fanciful delusion. Current LLMs are far from the universal library envisioned by the likes of Leibniz and Borges. While stashes of stolen scriptures like 'Books3' may include some scholarly works, these are largely secondary sources written in English: commentaries that merely skim the surface of human culture. Conspicuously absent are the primary sources and their myriad tongues: the archival documents, oral traditions, forgotten tomes in public depositories, inscriptions etched in stone – the very raw materials of our cultural heritage.

These documents represent an untapped reservoir of linguistic data. Consider Italy. The State Archives of this nation alone harbour no less than 1,500 kilometres of shelved documents (in terms of linear measurement) – excluding the vast holdings of the Vatican. Estimating the total volume of tokens that could be derived from this heritage is difficult. However, if we include the hundreds of archives spreading across our five continents, it is reasonable to believe that they could reach, if not surpass, the magnitude of data currently used to train LLMs.

If harnessed, these data would not only enrich AI's understanding of humanity's cultural wealth but also make it more accessible to the world. They could revolutionise our understanding of history, while safeguarding the world's cultural heritage from negligence, war, and climate

change. They also promise significant economic benefits. As well as helping neural networks scale up, their release into the public domain would mean that smaller companies, startups, and the open-source AI community could use those large pools of free and transparent data to develop their own applications, levelling the playing field against Big Tech while fostering innovation on a global scale.

High-income countries advocate for Voluntary and Mutually Agreed Terms (VMAT), but the use of VMAT language could discourage countries, particularly LMICs, from adopting mandatory approaches recognised under the TRIPS Agreement.

Disagreement also mounts over the so-called 'peace clause' which requires member states to respect the use of the TRIPS flexibilities and not exercise any direct or indirect pressure to discourage the use of such flexibilities.

One Health

The draft Agreement requires member states to adopt a pandemic preparedness and surveillance approach that recognises the interconnection between the health of people, animals, and the environment and promotes a coherent, integrated, coordinated, and collaborative effort among all relevant organisations, sectors, and actors, as appropriate. High-income countries, particularly the European Union, strongly support One Health. However, LMICs view it as an unfunded mandate that imposes an additional burden on their already strained resources.

The enduring obstacle in international law is its enforcement. Given the lack of robust compliance mechanism and, consequently, the lack of real accountability in International Health Regulations (IHR), implementation of the Pandemic Agreement remains a critical concern. The proposed Conference of Parties (COP) will play a crucial role in this regard by taking stock of its implementation and reviewing its functioning every five years. The latest draft of the agreement has proposed the COP to consider establishing, at its first meeting, an inclusive, transparent, and effective monitoring and evaluation system, in a manner consistent with the IHR. In the forthcoming negotiations, it remains to be seen how countries, especially wealthy nations, respond to this proposal.

A core aim of the Pandemic Agreement – beyond ensuring the immediate availability of medical products during emergencies – should be to promote long-term and sustainable access to these products by diversifying production and enhancing regional manufacturing capabilities. Issues of pathogen access and technology transfer are not mere technicalities; they are essential to the success of the pandemic agreement once it is adopted. With the recent amendments to the IHR and the ongoing Pandemic Agreement negotiations, the world has already made unprecedented strides in international law. The coming months of negotiations are crucial. This treaty is not just for the next pandemic but also serves as a blueprint for a more equitable and resilient global health system.

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Examples from Italy and Canada

Advances in the digital humanities, notably thanks to AI, have drastically reduced the cost of digitisation, enabling us to extract text from printed and manuscript documents with unprecedented accuracy and speed. Italy recognised this potential, earmarking €500 million of its 'Next Generation EU' package for the 'Digital Library' project. Unfortunately, this ambitious initiative, aimed at making Italy's rich heritage accessible as open data, has since been deprioritised and restructured. Short-sightedness prevailed.

Canada's Official Languages Act offers an instructive lesson in this regard. Long derided as wasteful, this policy requiring bilingual institutions eventually yielded one of the most valuable datasets for training translation software.

However, recent debates about adopting regional languages in the Spanish Cortes and European Union institutions have overlooked this key point. Even advocates have failed to recognise the cultural, economic, and technological benefits of promoting the digitisation of low-resource languages as complementary.

As we accelerate the digital transition, we must not overlook the immense potential of our world's cultural heritage. Its digitisation is key to preserving history, democratising knowledge, and unleashing truly inclusive AI innovation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A stark reminder

The Wayanad tragedy is a stark reminder that things cannot continue as usual as far as the hills are concerned. That there has been a huge loss of life in Wayanad points to the need for expanded thinking. Wayanad is extremely vulnerable to landslides and soil erosion. Just as in the Himalayas, the Western Ghats have a few similarities in extreme vulnerabilities. The Himalayas faced the brunt

last year where more than 400 people died in Himachal Pradesh and there was a loss of ₹12,000 crore in terms of assets. Another point is that in the hills, once water reaches a level of sequestration, slides are bound to happen even if there is 100% tree canopy. This was pointed out by the anthropologist Michael Thomson in the 1970s in a co-authored work, *Uncertainty on a Himalayan Scale: An Institutional Theory of*

Environmental Perception and a Strategic Framework for the Sustainable Development of the Himalayas. The IPCC VI has pointed out that extreme weather events are bound to be more frequent. Hence, adaptation is the only way to preserve lives in the mountains. Adaptation would start by mapping every patch of land. 'No means no' should be the development dictum in landslide-prone zones.

Remote-sensing technology is required. Stay away from vulnerable zones. Enhancing the capacities of early warning systems and integration of institutions are a must. Local governance institutions

must ensure that they have and are aware of a climate atlas for their regions.

Tikender Panwar,
New Delhi

Gubernatorial office
Preventing Governors from

Corrections & Clarifications

The photograph published along with the lead report, "122 dead as landslides flatten Wayanad villages" (July 31, 2024), was issued by the National Disaster Response Force as that of rescue operations in an area affected by the Wayanad landslide. It is a photograph of the year 2020, from a disaster site in Idukki district.

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Early detection of lung cancer can save lives

The insidious nature of lung cancer has made it one of the most formidable public health challenges of our time. Lung cancer was first discovered in the early 1900s in autopsies. Later advances in imaging technologies, bronchoscopy, and molecular diagnostics helped diagnose it more frequently and reliably in the 20th century. As we confront this growing epidemic on August 1, observed as World Lung Cancer Day, understanding the multifaceted aspects of lung cancer – from its risk factors to the critical importance of early detection – becomes paramount.



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screening is an encouraging sign. The increasing prevalence of lung cancer is attributed not only to smoking but also to rising levels of air pollution. Alarming, the number of lung cancer deaths attributed to air pollution has surged by nearly 30% since 2007. When a large number of harmful substances accumulate in the air, such as particulate matter (PM10, PM2.5, toxic metals) and gases (sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide), they can cause detrimental effects on lung health, resulting in lung cancer.

Smoking tobacco (including cigarettes, beedis, cigars, and pipes) is the primary risk factor for lung cancer. Factors affecting non-smokers include exposure to second-hand smoke, occupational hazards (such as asbestos, radon and certain chemicals), air pollution, hereditary cancer syndromes, and previous chronic lung diseases. Notably, about 40% of lung cancer patients in north India are non-smokers. This underlines the need for broader awareness and preventive measures. Often, a combination of factors contributes to lung cancer among non-smokers. One of the strongest predictors can be genetic mutation. Lung cancers associated with non-smokers often affect younger individuals and show distinct genetic changes compared to smoker-related cancers.

Importance of early detection
The high rate of disability-adjusted life years due to lung cancer in India underscores the critical need for early detection, which is vital to improving lung cancer outcomes. Despite having a considerable burden of lung cancer, India does not have a systematic lung cancer screening programme because of cost and logistical constraints, and concerns regarding high false-positive rates owing to the TB burden. Although newer medications may extend life in advanced stage lung cancer, these are often expensive. It is better to

prevent and detect it early. When detected early enough, lung cancer is curable. Lung cancer can be diagnosed by imaging methods such as Chest X-ray and CT scan. Chest X-rays typically only pick up nodules or masses which are either greater than 2 cm in size or closer to the chest wall (<2.5 cm), and so may not detect early-stage lung cancer effectively. There are no blood biomarkers for lung cancer yet, although active investigation into various techniques including exhaled breath analysis is ongoing.

In recent times, the Low-Dose Computed Tomography (LDCT) has emerged as a game-changer. This scan uses five times less radiation than a conventional CT scan and has become the first choice for early lung cancer screening. It is currently being recommended in the United States and Europe for routine lung cancer screening. Since LDCT uses a much lower dose of radiation, the test can be done periodically and sometimes even annually in certain groups.

Studies have shown that LDCT can lower the mortality rate from lung cancer by 20% compared to detection with Chest X-rays and by 24% compared to no screening at all. Although LDCT uses lower radiation, the sensitivity allows detection of potentially cancerous nodules or lesions within the lungs years before the onset of symptoms, improving both the range of possible therapies and treatment.

Lung cancer is a serious problem that demands a concerted effort from individuals, healthcare providers, and policymakers to raise awareness, implement smoking cessation programmes as well as safety measures for occupational exposures. In addition, research into better diagnostic technologies and treatment modalities for the Indian population, alongside a national lung cancer screening programme, will be required to combat this silent epidemic and ensure better survival rates.

Despite having a considerable burden of lung cancer, India does not yet have a systematic screening programme

A silently growing concern
Lung cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer and the leading cause of cancer-related deaths globally. As per the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the incidence of lung cancer is rising rapidly every year in India, and contributes to 10% of cancer deaths. India ranks fourth globally in terms of the absolute number of lung cancer cases, with 81,000 cases and 75,000 deaths reported in 2022. This is expected to double by 2025.

Currently, lung cancer is most often detected in Indians only at Stage 3 or 4, by which time it is no longer curable, leading to poor survival rates. Over half of the patients present with distant metastasis at diagnosis. This delay is often due to inadequate screening, resource constraints, lack of a structured referral system, and a high burden of tuberculosis (TB). Primary care physicians may not recognise lung cancer due to these factors. So, an augmented intelligence system to suggest diagnoses based on imaging or history may help.

While India has developed frameworks for different cancer screening programmes, lung cancer is yet to be included. The recent ICMR call to researchers for a rigorous evaluation of population health to set the appropriate guidelines for

The BJP's factionalism problem in Kerala

Poor leadership and the absence of an intellectual wing are affecting the party

STATE OF PLAY

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The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ended its electoral drought in Kerala when actor-politician Suresh Gopi won from Thrissur in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Following the celebrations, the party has realised that the road ahead is full of challenges.

Although the victory of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) was confined to only one seat, its vote share increased from 15.64% in 2019 to 19.25% in 2024. The party also established leads in 11 Assembly segments across the State and secured the second position in nine others. The ruling Communist Party of India (Marxist)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) in the State, which won only one seat, had secured 36.29% in 2019; this time, it secured 33.36%. The Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF), which won the remaining 18 out of 20 seats, also experienced a decline in vote share from 47.48% in 2019 to 45.21% in 2024. In 90 of the 140 Assembly segments, the Congress's votes decreased by more than 10,000.

The impressive performances of BJP candidates Rajeev Chandrasekhar in Thiruvananthapuram, former State president V. Muraliedharan in Attingal, and State vice-president Shobha Surendran in Alappuzha showed that the party's influence is growing in areas that were traditionally dominated by Congress and CPI(M).

The factors contributing to the BJP's increased vote share this time can be understood by examining the different phases of the party's growth in Kerala. Usually, the BJP's vote share

hovered around 8% in general elections. In 2014, soon after the party came to power at the Centre, it began attracting a segment of the Nair votes. This community was traditionally aligned with the Congress. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP expanded its base by drawing voters from both the Congress and the CPI(M). In the 2024 elections, there was a significant erosion of the CPI(M)'s votebank among the Hindu Ezhava/Thiyya community, which benefited the BJP. The party began to get support from Christians too. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's frequent visits to the State played a crucial role in the BJP's improved performance this time.

But the BJP faces multiple challenges. The first is the deep-rooted factionalism in the party that even its parent organisation, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), struggled to address. The RSS unexpectedly recalled *pracharak* K. Subhash from his role as organisational general secretary late last month. Mr. Subhash was reportedly dissatisfied with the party's leadership. It is unclear whether the RSS will assign a new *pracharak* for the post.

To achieve its goal of navigating the politically bipolar landscape dominated by the LDF and UDF in the State, the BJP Central leadership needs to revitalise its State leadership and focus on long-term electo-

ral strategies. Generally, leaders from the two factions of the party contest elections to either the Lok Sabha or the Assembly from constituencies where the BJP's vote share increased in the previous election. The party is yet to learn from the fruitless practice of rotating leaders among constituencies in each election cycle.

Many within the party believe that it is time to elect a more effective leader for the State unit. The State president, K. Surendran, has been given an extended tenure. There are many leaders in the party who are vying for his post. The two factions of the party are led by former State BJP presidents V. Muraliedharan and P.K. Krishnadas, who both seem determined to secure this position for their affiliates.

The BJP also lacks an intellectual and publicity wing to forcefully counter criticisms that come its way, and shape the political discourse. The absence of writers, historians, thinkers, and social and cultural leaders in the party negatively impacts its identity. Establishing a think tank focused on Kerala-specific policies could help the BJP. This is especially important considering the criticism it has received over the Union Budget. The government offered little to Kerala and did not mention the long-awaited All India Institute of Medical Sciences in the Budget. The arguments of the two Union Ministers of State from Kerala, Mr. Gopi and George Kurian, defending the Budget, were unconvincing.

A strategic selection of candidates for the upcoming by-polls in the Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency and the Palakkad and Chelakkara Assembly segments could perhaps brighten the party's prospects in the local body elections next year.

The middle class, which moved away from BJP, is upset with Budget

The BJP's support from the middle class came down in the Lok Sabha polls. The party is facing further disillusionment from this section after the Budget

DATA POINT

Sanjay Kumar

The middle class seems upset with the Union Budget, presented on July 23. Many said that the government did not provide them any relief. The middle class constitutes nearly 31% of India's population. Not many Budgets paid a great deal of attention to the demands and needs of the middle class either. But given the shift of the middle class away from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, this section, which has been the backbone of the BJP for decades, perhaps hoped that it would be offered more in the Budget.

The Finance Minister acknowledged the challenges of the middle class and emphasised the government's efforts to provide relief through tax adjustments despite limitations. Tax is a major concern for the middle class; most taxpayers belong to the middle class.

Budgetary provisions

The proposed increase in Long Term Capital Gains (LTCG) tax from 10% to 12.5% and Short Term Capital Gains (STCG) tax from 15% to 20% affects those who invest in mutual funds and shares. This means that a large number of people belonging to the middle class, who invest in these financial instruments, may see a higher tax burden on their returns. This makes investments less attractive and reduces their potential gains.

The removal of indexation benefits, which adjust for inflation, for individuals selling properties is also going to hurt the middle class to a great extent. This change will result in higher taxable gains on the sale of properties, thereby increasing the tax liability for middle-class individuals. This could significantly impact those who rely on property sales for financial gains or retirement planning. The deduction limit under Sec-

tion 80D in the Income Tax Act has remained static for nearly a decade. Middle-class families, who often rely on tax deductions to manage their finances, face higher out-of-pocket healthcare expenses as the benefits of this deduction have not kept pace with rising medical costs. This stagnation reduces the real value of the deduction over time, placing a greater financial burden on the middle class. Collectively, these budgetary provisions are likely to contribute to a sense of dissatisfaction and impose a financial strain on the middle class, who feel that their significant contributions have not been acknowledged and challenges not adequately addressed.

The BJP's losses and gains

The BJP has suffered losses in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections compared to the 2019 elections. The unhappiness of the middle class was one of the many reasons for its losses. Data from the post-poll survey by Lokniti-Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) confirm that there was a shift among middle and upper middle classes voters away from the BJP.

Table 1 shows that there was a 3% point shift among middle class voters away from the BJP – from 38% in 2019 to 35% in 2024. Though the Congress did not gain from middle class voters, the INDIA bloc, of which it is a part, secured a 3-point increase in vote share from middle class voters in 2024 compared to 2019.

The BJP also lost votes from upper middle class voters. During 2019, 44% of the upper middle class voters chose the BJP; this declined to 41% in 2024. This reduced share also affected the vote share of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), of which the BJP is a part, in 2024.

On the other hand, there was a 2-point gain in vote share for the Congress from upper middle class voters in 2024. The party's allies gained much more from upper middle class voters. Among the

upper middle class voters, 27% voted for the United Progressive Alliance (UPA)/INDIA bloc in 2019 and 32% voted in 2024 (**Table 2**).

The BJP held on to its support from the lower income groups. In 2019, 35% of the voters from lower income groups chose the BJP. This was the case in 2024 too.

The INDIA bloc managed to secure a 7-point increase from voters belonging to lower income groups compared to 2019. While in 2019, 28% of the lower income voters chose the UPA; this increased to 35% for the INDIA bloc in 2024 (**Table 3**).

Voters belonging to the lowest income groups voted for the Congress and INDIA bloc in a substantial way (21% for the Congress and 34% for the INDIA bloc) in 2024. It is important to note that the BJP's support base increased marginally among the voters from the lowest income groups. During 2019, 36% of the voters from the lowest income groups voted for the BJP. This increased to 37% in 2024.

The pattern seems to be clear. The higher the income category, the higher the losses for the BJP in 2024 compared to 2019. The BJP lost popularity among the middle and upper middle classes, maintained its support base among the lower income class, and marginally got more support from among the poorer classes.

The BJP's increased popularity among the lowest category of voters can be attributed to the free rations that the government distributes to a large section of voters who mostly belong to these income categories; and various other welfare schemes. But the decline in the BJP's support base among the middle and the upper middle classes is clear. It is time for the BJP to re-think how it is going to appease both the poor and the middle classes at the same time. Can it afford to ignore the middle class at the cost of appeasing the poor?

Sanjay Kumar is Professor and Co-director Lokniti-CSDS

Wavering support

The data for the tables were sourced from the National Election Study 2014-24, conducted by Lokniti-CSDS. All figures are in percentage.



Table 1: The shift among middle class voters in the LS elections (2014-24)

Election year	Congress	UPA/INDIA bloc	BJP	NDA	Others
2014	20	23	32	39	38
2019	21	29	38	46	25
2024	20	32	35	43	25

Table 2: The upper middle class vote in the LS elections (2014-24)

Election year	Congress	UPA/INDIA bloc	BJP	NDA	Others
2014	17	20	38	44	36
2019	20	27	44	51	22
2024	22	32	41	48	20

Table 3: The lower income group vote: LS elections (2014-24)

Election year	Congress	UPA/INDIA bloc	BJP	NDA	Others
2014	19	23	31	39	38
2019	21	28	35	42	30
2024	22	35	35	42	23

Table 4: The lowest income group vote in the LS elections (2014-24)

Election year	Congress	UPA/INDIA bloc	BJP	NDA	Others
2014	20	24	24	32	44
2019	17	23	36	43	34
2024	21	34	37	43	23

■ The BJP has suffered more losses in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections when compared to the 2019 elections. The unhappiness of the middle class was one of the many reasons. Data from the post-poll survey by Lokniti-Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) confirm that there was a shift away from the BJP among middle and upper middle classes voters.

■ Voters from the lowest income groups voted for the Congress and INDIA bloc in a substantial way (21% for the Congress and 34% for the INDIA bloc) in 2024.

■ It is important to note that the BJP's support base rose marginally among voters from the lowest income groups, from 36% in 2019 to 37% in 2024.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The *Hindu*

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 1, 1974

New security zones to be set up in Cyprus

London, July 31: The first stage of the tripartite peace conference on Cyprus ended in Geneva last night when the Foreign Ministers of Britain, Greece and Turkey signed the "Declaration of Geneva." The declaration mainly deals with the establishment of principles of a ceasefire, but sets August 8 as the date for resumption of ministerial talks which will begin to approach the island's constitutional issues.

The declaration states that there shall be no further territorial gains either by the Greek or the Turkish forces in Cyprus as of 11 p.m. on Tuesday. It calls on all forces, including irregular forces, to desist from offensive or hostile activities. New security zones will be established in Cyprus "at the limit of the areas occupied by Turkish forces." The size and character of this zone have not been determined, but to-day, at dawn, the British, Greek and Turkish officers in Cyprus began detailed work of mapping out this security zone. They are accompanied by representatives of the United Nations. Orders have gone out to all parties to give them every possible assistance. The crux of the agreement is that hostilities on the island have ceased without a call for Turkish withdrawal.

A durable and permanent solution of the crisis in Cyprus is still a long way off.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 1, 1924

Calcutta High Court

A case of infringement of Trade-Mark and Registered Patent Right was settled by the infringers, Messrs. Mullick and Co. of Calcutta, consenting to a decree in the Calcutta High Court. The plaintiffs were Messrs. The Dunlop Rubber Co. Ltd., who are the owners of the Roadster cycle tyre with distinctive marks and a device consisting of embossed studs and lines forming the tread. Evidence was given by members of the tyre trade supporting the plaintiffs' contention that the tyres in question styled the 'Pacific' were a close copy of the Roadster tyre and were sufficient to deceive unwary purchasers. Under these circumstances, the decree restricted Messrs. Mullick and Co. from selling or disposing of any cycle tyres marked 'Pacific' and bearing a tread which is a colourable representation of Messrs. Dunlop's Roadster cycle tyre.

Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Palestinians who died in Israeli detention since October 7

53 The UN Human Rights office said in a report that thousands of Palestinians — including medics, patients, residents — have been detained in Israel. The detainees had been held in secret. AFP

The financial assistance to Georgia halted by the U.S.

95 in \$ million. This decision was triggered by Georgia's recent "anti-democratic actions" which did not align with the EU's and NATO's membership norms, according to Secretary of State Antony Blinken. REUTERS

Complaints of child porn, rape received on NCRP portal

1.94 In lakh. The National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP) has received 16.18 crore visitors till April 30, according to Women and Children Development Minister Annapurna Devi. PTI

The World Bank's rescue package to Ethiopia

1.50 In \$ billion. The financial package aims to support Ethiopia's economic reform programme. The decision comes after it broke with decades of managing the birr (local currency). AFP

State of emergency extended by the Myanmar Junta

6 months. The country has been in turmoil since the February 2021 coup which ended a 10-year experiment with democracy and sparked protests and a crackdown on dissent. AFP
COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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On discarding indexation for LTCG

Why has the Union Finance Minister done away with indexation for computing long-term capital gains (LTCG) tax? What is indexation and how does it help in tax savings? What has been the feedback from corporates and industry regarding the move?

EXPLAINER

Saptaparno Ghosh

The story so far:

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's announcement in the Union Budget about doing away with indexation for computing long-term capital gains (LTCG) tax has not drawn much enthusiasm. She had proposed that long-term gains on all financial and non-financial assets would now be taxed at 12.5% instead of a tiered structure, albeit abandoning indexation. A memorandum explaining the provisions of the Finance Bill (2024), stated that this was to "ease computation of capital gains for the taxpayer and tax administration".

What purpose does indexation serve?

Imagine, an individual buys a house for ₹10 lakh in 2001. For reasons such as inflation and/or a vibrant property market, they are able to sell the same property in 2021 at ₹75 lakh. Here, it may appear that they gained ₹65 lakh and should be taxed accordingly.

However, the figure does not consider the price levels prevailing at the time of sale with that of purchase. This is where the Cost Inflation Index (CII) comes in. Indexation ensures that taxpayers are taxed on real gains than gains at prevailing prices, which are a result of general increase in prices, and not economic growth, during the course.

In the stated example, the CII for 2021 (that is, 317) would be divided by that for the base year 2001 (100) to derive a number. It would then be multiplied with the purchase price (that is, ₹10 lakh). Thus, the indexed cost becomes ₹31.7 lakhs and the individual's taxable gain is revised downwards to ₹43.3 lakhs. At the erstwhile 20% rate, they would now be required to pay a long-term capital gains tax of approximately ₹8.7 lakhs. With the new system however, the ₹65 lakh would be taxed at a lower 12.5%. Thus, a tax liability of ₹8.13 lakh.



GETTY IMAGES

What is the issue?

Abhijit Mukhopadhyay, consulting economist at the Secretariat explained to *The Hindu* that the eventual tax liability is broadly determined by two factors, that is, the rate on return and the subjected time-period.

In this light, it is essential to note that not all assets may experience the same exponential growth as in the example above. This could be because of a flat market or a temporary period of slump. This is primarily where the indexation turns out to be more favourable. To illustrate, let us say that in 2021 instead of ₹75 lakh, the house is sold for ₹40 lakh. When adjusted with indexation, the tax liability is ₹1.66 lakh against ₹3.75 lakh without indexation.

Furthermore, a BankBazaar study, basing an assessment from the RBI's House Price Index, observed that without

indexation, LTCG tax went up about three times on properties purchased after 2010. Keeping its base year as FY 2010-11, the study noted a "severe loss of tax savings" especially in the years from 2016-17. "From zero tax liability across the board, we see significant liabilities arising for these years (since 2016-17)," the study found. The Income Tax department, however, estimates that real estate returns (12-16% per annum) are much higher than indexation for inflation (4-5%), depending on the period of holding. Therefore, it predicts "substantial tax savings" to a "vast majority" of taxpayers.

According to Mr Mukhopadhyay, an individual stands to benefit more from the revised provisions if they sell the assets expeditiously (say, 3-4 years) instead of holding it for a longer-time period (say, 10 years or more). Furthermore, he explained that with the change,

real-estate investment trusts (REITs) and infrastructure funds stand to suffer because they "do not have the same high rate of returns as an equity market". With respect to bonds, Anil Talreja, Partner at Deloitte India, held that feedback has been "a bit muted" given the lack of indexation. "Hence this may impact the popularity of the instrument," he said.

What does this mean for assets?

According to Mr. Talreja, whilst the removal of indexation is "adding dampness" to the overall sentiment, the reduction of the base rate of tax was providing "balance to the dampness". He explains, "A lot depends on the nature of the asset, the time when the asset was purchased (during the price boom or otherwise). Based on this, it would continue to lead to different reactions from various sections of the society."

For real estate, Mr Mukhopadhyay observes that those looking to buy a second house for the purpose of investment may potentially refrain from doing so. "They would have to sell off quickly to profit from the revised provisions," he explains. The paradigm however is potentially minimised, according to him, for those who intend to buy a house to reside themselves. Pertinent to note here, the Income Tax department clarified that for assets acquired before April 1, 2001, the individual would have the option to choose between fair market value as on that date (April 1, 2001) and the actual cost of acquiring the asset as the basis to compute the capital gain on sale. This paves the way for an indexation cushion for pre-2001 acquisitions.

The other set of concerns as also pointed out by AAP MP Raghav Chadha in the Rajya Sabha, entail potential sale of properties at circle rates (minimum price at which a real estate is to be sold) only. Undervaluing the real estate helps furbish lower capital gains, thus, lesser taxation. Further, Mr Chadha also warned about increased black money transactions in the sector — another means to hide gains.

THE GIST

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's announcement in the Union Budget about doing away with indexation for computing long-term capital gains (LTCG) tax has not drawn much enthusiasm.

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Why have violent protests in Kenya continued?

Why was the financial Bill so controversial? Why are people protesting even after the Bill was withdrawn by Kenyan President William Ruto? What does this mean for the region at large?

Anu Maria Joseph

The story so far:

On June 25, protests turned violent in Kenya when lawmakers passed a controversial financial Bill. Although President William Ruto withdrew the Bill the next day, protests continued. According to the Kenya National Human Rights Commission (KNHRC), over 50 people have been killed and 628 were arrested in the violence.

What did the Bill entail?

The Bill was introduced in May and imposed a 16% Value-Added Tax (VAT) on bread, 25% excise duty on cooking oil, 5% tax on digital monetary transactions, an annual 2.5% tax on vehicles, an eco-tax on plastic goods, a 16% tax on goods and services for the construction and equipping of specialised hospitals and an increase in import tax from two to three per cent. The government dropped a few

of them after the initial round of protests. The state's larger objective is to collect \$2.7 billion in taxes to pay off the debt of \$80 billion, which is 68% of Kenya's GDP. The Bill caused public distress due to the increasing cost of living.

Why are protests continuing?

Mr. Ruto withdrew the controversial Bill on June 26 following country-wide violent protests, and when his use of force and the death of the protesters drew global criticism. The protest has since then expanded on its causes, demands, geography and intensity.

The protests were an expression of long-standing discontent over Mr. Ruto's administration and financial management. For example, a month after coming to power, Mr. Ruto scrapped fuel subsidies. The July 2023 protests against another Bill, which introduced a 5% housing levy and a 16% tax on petroleum products, killed 23 people. And thus, the initial intentions behind the protests

diverted after the President withdrew the Bill as the use of force, live ammunition and deaths angered the protesters. The second phase of protests was against police brutality. By the third week, it had evolved into anti-government protests over unaddressed public grievances, corruption, mis-governance, and a demand for Mr. Ruto's resignation.

Moreover, the immediate success of the protests encouraged Kenyans to join the masses against all public grievances. Mr. Ruto came to power in September 2022 promising to address unemployment and poverty. However, he failed to maintain the popularity he received during the elections. The trading economics website recorded Kenya's inflation rate at 5.1% in May. The World Bank reported that although Kenya is one of the most developing countries in Africa, a third of its 52 million people live in poverty and that 5.7% of the labour force is unemployed, which is the highest in East Africa.

According to Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index 2023, Kenya ranks 126 out of 180.

What next?

Mr. Ruto sacked his cabinet and announced a new one on July 19. While the inclusion of four opposition figures into the cabinet might hold the opposition party from joining the protests, it is less likely to slow down the protests. While the country plunges into a debt crisis, any further financial reforms in the near future would trigger a similar response, implying that Mr. Ruto's administration is in crisis.

Several other African countries are also vulnerable to similar instabilities due to the debt crisis. According to the World Bank, nine African countries face a debt crisis in 2024, and 15 among them are at risk of distress. They depend on regular borrowing, doubling the total debt. The debt burden often forces the governments to either increase the taxes or wait for a debt reconstruction.

However, the Kenyan protests have influenced the African youth and their potential to mobilise the masses. Ugandan youth have followed Kenya, protesting against corruption on July 23. Several other illiberal democracies in Africa are likely to follow Kenya and Uganda. Chosen the same method, protests would trigger violence across the region.

The author is a Research Associate with Africa Studies at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru.

THE GIST

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LOKNITI-CSDS

The civil services dream: how Delhi maintains a pull on UPSC aspirants

UPSC preparation is often long and difficult. Students prepare and take exams multiple times due to limited seats and high numbers of applicants. Delhi is a popular hub for UPSC preparation because of its prestigious coaching facilities and highly competitive atmosphere

Sanjay Kumar
Sandeep Shastri
Iyoti Mishra

On July 27, three students died in a flooded basement, which was being used as a library by Rau's IAS Study Circle. Due to heavy rains, the basement of the building got filled with water, and many students who were in the library were trapped inside. This incident led to massive protests and strong public outrage. It drew attention to how building rules and safety measures in Delhi's coaching centres are flouted and ignored. Delhi, being a hub for UPSC coaching institutes, attracts and motivates many aspirants to prepare for the civil services. A study conducted by Lokniti-CSDS among 1,003 UPSC aspirants in Delhi just a week before this mishap indicates that the city's renowned coaching institutes and its competitive environment attracts students from all over the country to fulfil their dreams in the bustling capital. We summarise the reasons for the pull Delhi holds and the sometimes dreamy but often gory implications.

Why Delhi? Delhi has a well-established reputation as being the hub for UPSC coaching, and this was the main attraction for close to six of every 10 (58%) surveyed students who came to Delhi for coaching. This is not merely a perception – some of the most prestigious coaching institutes are based in Delhi. These include Chanakya IAS Academy, Rau's IAS Study Circle, and Vajiram and Ravi, to name a few. With their reputation and acclaimed facilities, such as a well-trained and experienced faculty, enriched study materials, and a systematic approach to preparing students, these institutes instil confidence in the students to succeed.

Additionally, the competitive atmosphere in Delhi gives students the right ambience to prepare for the examinations with all seriousness. It is motivating to be surrounded by thousands of like-minded, ambitious, and focused people who share similar goals and aspirations. In the study, one seventh (14%) of the students stated that they came to Delhi because they wanted to be in the city's competitive environment for UPSC preparation. However, one in every 10 (11%) came to Delhi for preparation on the recommendation of friends, family, or teachers. Only a few based their choice on the coaching centres (Table 1).

Delhi coaching centres attract students not only from Delhi but also from other States like Uttar Pradesh (24%), Bihar (12%), Haryana (7%), and Rajasthan (7%). States like Madhya Pradesh (6%) and Maharashtra (4%) too account for a small but significant chunk of students (Table 2). Examining the residential backgrounds of these candidates, it was discovered that, in addition to the students from cities (50%), there are also students from small towns (25%) and villages (25%) who come to Delhi to prepare for UPSC. This indicates that civil services and the idea of training in Delhi are widely popular throughout various geographical areas.

Away from home
One of the significant challenges for these

Built on hope and dreams

While aspirants' commitment and persistence are more than evident, they also need strong support networks and safer surroundings to guarantee their well-being

Table 1: Reasons for taking coaching classes in Delhi

	%
Reputation of Delhi's coaching institutes	58
To get exposure to the competitive environment	14
Friends, teachers or family recommended it to me	11
I reviewed the success rates	4
Other reasons	13

Question asked: What was the main reason you started taking coaching classes in Delhi?

Table 2: The geographical pool of UPSC aspirants in Delhi

	%
Uttar Pradesh	24
Bihar	12
Haryana	7
Rajasthan	7
Madhya Pradesh	6
Maharashtra	4
Other States	16
From Delhi	24

Question asked: Which State are you from?

Table 3: The current living arrangements of UPSC aspirants in Delhi

	%
Living with family	33
Living with friends	22
Living alone	45

Question asked: With whom do you live with in your current place of residence in Delhi?

aspirants is living away from their families. While one in three surveyed aspirants stay with family (parents or siblings), nearly two in five (22%) live with their friends.

A large proportion of aspirants, close to a half (45%), live alone (Table 3). This physical isolation often leads to homesickness, with varying degrees of frequency. Three in five (60%) aspirants coming from other States, feel homesick often or sometimes, compared to one in five who never feel homesick. To cope with this, students frequently meet their parents. While one in 10 (12%) meet their parents once a month, others do so less frequently. Three in 10 stated that they meet their parents quarterly, and nearly a similar proportion (27%) meet their parents only twice a year. A notable portion (9%) had not met their parents since coming to Delhi (Table 4).

Living alone in an unknown city without the immediate support of family can increase feelings of stress and anxiety. However, the demanding nature of UPSC preparation makes it necessary to give more time to study than to recreational or leisure activities.

Staunch dedication
A UPSC aspirant's journey is often long and difficult. Students prepare and take

exams multiple times due to limited seats and high numbers of applicants. For nearly three in five (58%) aspirants from the study, it is their first attempt, while one in five (20%) students are trying for the second time. The success rates are daunting, with a small percentage clearing the prelims, even fewer the mains, and a minuscule number, the interview (Table 5).

The motivations for opting for civil services are varied among aspirants. Serving the nation is the primary motivation for many aspirants, as stated by 26% of the students. Career stability and security are also important motivations for pursuing civil services, with 17% of the surveyed aspirants motivated by this factor. Other factors, such as personal interest (15%) and the prestige and respect (14%) associated with these jobs, have also motivated the youth towards civil services. Notably, one in 10 (10%) wanted to carry forward their family tradition as their family members were employed in government jobs. Although a good salary is typically the primary motivation for getting any kind of job, only 7% say they want to get into administrative services due to the good salary (Table 6).

Cracking the UPSC exam is seen as a milestone in an aspirant's life as it confers

respect in society and improves their standard of living. Past studies by the CSDS-Lokniti have also indicated the strong preference for government jobs (Youth Studies 2016, 2022, 2023). The pursuit of civil services is also significantly influenced by factors such as career stability and security. In India, government employment is renowned for its retirement benefits, attractive perks, and job security. A reliable job is greatly desired in a nation where unemployment and economic instability are pervasive.

Delhi is a popular hub for UPSC preparation because of its prestigious coaching facilities and highly competitive atmosphere. The youth put in a lot of effort to pass the UPSC exam despite the challenges of living away from home and the psychological costs of homesickness. However, the recent incident at Rau's IAS Study Circle highlights how crucial it is to address infrastructure requirements and safety regulations in coaching centres. It emphasises the need for stronger support networks and safer surroundings to guarantee their well-being.

Sanjay Kumar is professor and co-director Lokniti-CSDS, Sandeep Shastri is Director-Academics, NITTE Education Trust and the national coordinator of the Lokniti Network and Iyoti Mishra is researcher at Lokniti-CSDS.

Table 4: The frequency with which aspirants meet their parents

Frequency of meeting parents	%
Once a month	12
Once every 3 months	30
Once every 6 months	27
Once a year	15
I haven't met them since I came to Delhi	9

Note: Those who live with their parents are set as missing. Rest either did not respond or gave other responses.

Question asked: How often do you meet your parents in a year?



Table 5: Attempts and success rate

Numbers of attempts	%
First attempt	58
Second attempt	20
Third attempt	12
More than three attempts	10
Success rate at different stages of exam	
Cleared prelims	11
Cleared mains	2
Cleared interview	<1

Question asked: How many times have you appeared for the civil service exam?

Table 6: The reason behind choosing civil services

	%
Want to serve the nation	26
Career stability and security	17
Interest in this job	15
Prestige and respect	14
Family tradition	10
Good salary	7
Any other	10

Question asked: What is the main motivation for choosing this field?

Method Note: The findings presented here are from a recent study conducted by Lokniti-CSDS with a sample size of 1,003 students preparing for UPSC in Delhi. The survey was carried out at three locations—Old Rajendra Nagar, Mukherjee Nagar, and Karol Bagh—between the second and third weeks of July 2024. The research team included Rishikesh, Deepa T, Tarini Sharma, Yashodhara Ranjana, Ganesh R. Kulkarni, Shuchita Singh, Vrinda Deshmukh, Kairavi, Naman Jaju, Samyak, Divyansh, and Vithi. The survey was conducted face-to-face using a structured questionnaire, with each interview lasting 15-20 minutes. A similar study conducted in Kota had its findings published in *The Hindu* in a three-part series on November 6, 9, and 11, 2023.

THE DAILY QUIZ

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1

What term is used for the 26 member states of the Swiss Confederation?

QUESTION 2

Which famous line also attributed to the protagonists in Alexander Dumas' *The Three Musketeers* is considered Switzerland's un-official motto?

QUESTION 3

The Swiss Flag is one of the two National Flags that is square in shape. Name the other State.

QUESTION 4

Of the four official languages of Switzerland, three are German, French, and Italian. Name the

fourth.

QUESTION 5

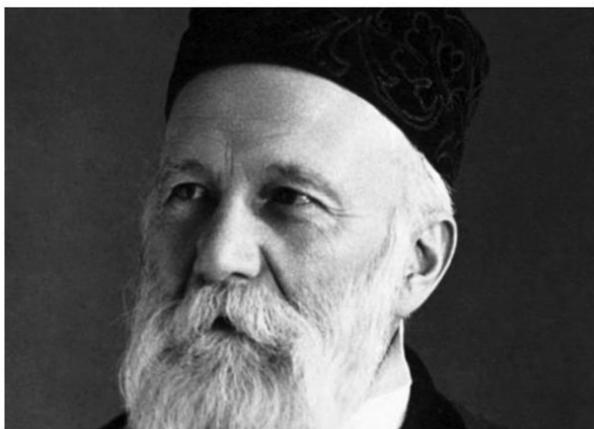
If Indian postage stamps have 'Bharat' written on them, what traditional name of Switzerland is mentioned on its postage stamps?

QUESTION 6

Switzerland hosts the headquarters of many international institutions. So, in which cities are the HQ of the International Olympic Committee and World Health Organisation?

QUESTION 7

Name the festival held in Interlaken, once in 12 years, which features competitions of stone throwing, wrestling, and yodelling.



Visual question:

Name this Swiss humanitarian whose work earned him the first Nobel Peace Prize in 1901.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:

- Rowling gave this fictional character her own birth date of July 31. **Ans: Harry Potter**
 - After the success of the Harry Potter series, she wrote this novel for adults. **Ans: Casual Vacancy**
 - This literary creation in the Harry Potter series is about Rowling's mother's death. **Ans: The Mirror of Erised**
 - This play written by Rowling, Jack Thorne and John Tiffany premiered in 2016. **Ans: Harry Potter and the Cursed Child**
 - This English novelist is described by Rowling as her "favourite author of all time". **Ans: Jane Austen**
- Visual: The relationship between this author and Rowling. **Ans: Rowling wrote a series of crime fiction novels called *Cormoran Strike*, under the pseudonym Robert Galbraith.**
- Early Birds:** Archisha Prachij| Seema Das| Bharath Viswanathan| Debarati Kar| Abhijith Nayak



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Perfunctorily (A. C. Sunil Shekar, Shimoga)."

"There are days when you see your neighbour and you don't feel like greeting him. But force of habit makes you give him a quick smile, an artificial one. This kind of action, which is done as a sort of duty and without any enthusiasm, is called 'perfunctory'. It is a formal word and is defined as an action 'done as a duty or routine, without care or interest.' He saluted his Manager perfunctorily. The Customs Officer examined our luggage perfunctorily.

The first 'r' is silent. The 'per' sounds like the 'per' in the word 'permission,' 'func' rhymes with 'skunk,' 'bunk,' 'tori' is pronounced like the 'tary' in 'voluntary.' The final 'ly' is pronounced like the 'ly' in 'hotly,' 'costly.' The stress is on the second syllable of the word."

"Collage (T. Kaushik, Madras)."
"A collage is a 'picture made by sticking various materials or objects onto a surface.' The materials that are used for making the picture can be anything – paper, cloth, wood, metal, etc. Amrit made a beautiful collage using matchsticks and paper napkins.

The word now has taken on a wider meaning. It can refer to anything that is made by bringing together a number of very different things. Usha's paper is a collage of interesting ideas.

The 'c' in the word is pronounced 'k'; the 'o' is pronounced like the 'o' in 'hot,' the 'a' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'path,' 'age' is pronounced like the 'z' in 'measure,' 'pleasure.' The stress is on the first syllable. In American English, the 'o' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'India.' The stress is on the second syllable."

"Fogy (K. K. Nambiar, Thalasserry)."
"A foggy is 'a person with old-fashioned ideas which he is unwilling to change.' Politicians think he is an old foggy because he has principles!

The 'o' in the word is pronounced like the 'o' in 'home,' 'bone'; the 'g' is pronounced like the 'g' in 'give,' the 'y' is pronounced 'i' as in 'ink.' The stress is on the first syllable. The word is also spelt 'fogy.' The plural of the word is 'fogies' or 'fogs.' Please note that 'foggy' is a different word. It is not in any way related to 'fogy'.

"Robust (Anita Kohll, Chandigarh)."
"Robust' means 'strong and sturdy, vigorous.'

He is a robust young man. It also means 'suited to or requiring physical strength or stamina.' It involves robust work. You can't do it. It also means 'not refined, coarse, boisterous.'

He has a robust sense of humour. There is no subtlety in it. The word 'robust' is from Latin 'robur' oak, strength. When you 'corroborate' a statement, you give strength to it, the strength of an oak. The word 'robur' is in the word 'corroborate.' The 'o' in the word is pronounced like the 'o' in 'bone' and the 'u' like the 'u' in 'must'. The stress is on the second syllable. Published in *The Hindu* on November 3, 1992.

Word of the day

Debris:

the remains of something that has been destroyed or broken up; loose material (stone fragments and silt etc.) that is worn away from rocks

Synonyms: junk, detritus, dust, rubble

Usage: The victims were hit by debris from shattered windows.

Pronunciation: bit.ly/debrispro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈdeɪbrɪ/, /ˈdɛɪbrɪ/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to letters@thehindu.co.in with the subject 'Text & Context'

From Page One

Death toll in Wayanad landslide crosses 200

The heavy layer of slush and the slippery terrain adversely affected the progress of the search on Wednesday. A makeshift bridge, constructed by soldiers, to cross the river for rescue operations was submerged in rainwater by evening. Meanwhile, the Army started building a 190-metre Bailey bridge across the Punna river, a tributary of the Chaliyar river, to connect the affected areas. The bridge would have a carrying capacity of 20 tonnes and the construction would be completed by Friday evening.

Kerala and Karnataka sub-area General Officer Commanding (GOC) Major-General V.T. Mathew, who was coordinating the Army's rescue operations, said 100 more soldiers and three sniffer dogs would soon join the rescue operations at Chooralmala.

The district administration is considering the feasibility of modern techniques such as ground mapping and use of the ground penetrating radar to retrieve the bodies buried deep in the debris.

Mr. Vijayan told presspersons in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday before leaving for Wayanad that efforts were on to relocate citizens, including tribal people, from landslide-prone areas.

Ismail Haniyeh of Hamas killed in Iran

Hezbollah, which denied any role in the Golan strike, said on Wednesday that it was still searching for the body of Fouad Shukur in the rubble of the building that was hit in a Beirut suburb, killing two women and two children, according to the Lebanese Health Ministry.

Asked about Haniyeh's killing during a visit to Singapore, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said, "This is something we were not aware of or involved in."

In Manila, U.S. Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin said he still had hopes for a diplomatic solution on the Israeli-Lebanon border.

But international diplomats trying to defuse tensions were alarmed. One Western diplomat, whose country has worked to prevent an Israeli-Hezbollah escalation, said the double strikes in Beirut and Tehran have "almost killed" hopes for a Gaza ceasefire and could push West Asia into a "devastating regional war".

In a statement by his office, Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said Israel does not want war after its strike on the Hezbollah commander in Beirut, "but we are preparing for all possibilities". He did not mention the Haniyeh killing.

Cong. submits privilege notice against PM Modi

Mr. Channi then submitted his breach-of-privilege notice against Mr. Modi. In his letter, he said, "It is, however, shocking to note that these expunged portions had been tweeted by the Prime Minister on X along with whole speech video." Arguing that it was a violation of the laid-down rules and procedures of Parliament and a contempt of the House, Mr. Channi added, "I, therefore, contemplate to move a privilege motion against Prime Minister and request you to please admit my motion and permit me to move the same."

The issue continued to rage for most of the day even outside Parliament. Attacking Mr. Thakur, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge told the media, "In Parliament, one doesn't ask about one's caste. He [Mr. Thakur] knows which caste he [Mr. Gandhi] belongs to. This was done purposely to insult him. The comment was immature but what was needed for the Prime Minister to tweet this speech? I condemn such things."

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh questioned why *Sansad TV*, which broadcasts the live proceedings from both Houses of Parliament, had uploaded the entire speech – including the expunged portions – on its website.

UPSC cancels IAS candidature of Khedkar

"She was to submit her response by July 25. However, she requested for further time till August 4 so that she could gather the necessary documents for her response. The UPSC carefully considered the request and granted time till 3.30 p.m. of July 30. Despite extension in time allowed to her, she failed to submit her explanation within the prescribed time," the UPSC said.

"The UPSC is in the process of further strengthening the SOP to ensure that such a case does not recur in the future," it added.

The UPSC said it only does a preliminary scrutiny of the certificates – whether the certificate has been issued by the competent authority, the year to which the certificate pertains, issuing date of the certificate, whether there is any overwriting on the certificate, format of the certificate, etc. "Generally, the certificate is taken as genuine, if it has been issued by the competent authority. The UPSC neither has the mandate nor the wherewithal to check the veracity of thousands of certificates submitted by the candidates every year. However, it is understood that scrutiny and verification of genuineness of certificates is carried out by the authorities mandated with this task," it said.

Haniyeh killing: India maintains silence

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

India maintained a studied silence after the political head of Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, was killed in Tehran in an early morning attack on Wednesday. Sources here indicated that the issue is sensitive because of India's close relations with both Iran and Israel and also because Iranian authorities are yet to reveal details of the incident that led to the death of Haniyeh.

Haniyeh's death came hours after he participated in the swearing-in of new Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari was also present at the ceremony along with international dignitaries.

Officials here declined to comment if the presence of Haniyeh and figures from Hezbollah, the Houthis, and the Islamic Jihad posed a security concern for the Indian side, indicating that the guests were invited by the Government of Iran and therefore were not a concern for the Indian authorities.

SC to decide if States can take retrospective taxes on mines

Solicitor-General says allowing States to demand retrospective taxes will have cascading effects, which will ultimately impact common man; top court reserves order on query raised by Centre

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A nine-judge Bench of the Supreme Court on Wednesday reserved orders for a query raised by the Centre on whether its July 25 judgment upholding the power of State legislatures to tax mines and mineral rights would be applied retrospectively.

Appearing before the Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta urged the court to clarify that the judgment would only apply prospectively, that is, from July 25, and not prior.

Mr. Mehta said allowing States to demand retrospective taxes on mines and mineral rights would have "cascading effects", which would ultimately impact the common man.

He said industries, including public sector undertakings (PSUs) involved in the manufacture of steel, relied on mines



The July 25 judgment freed States from restrictions of the Centre and is in tune with the federalist principles of governance. REUTERS

The mines were leased out in public auctions based on the terms of the 2015 amendments made to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulations) Act of 1957. The bids were formulated according to the then-existing rates. Retrospective evaluation of tax would lead to a heavy load, which could crush these sectors.

"Lordships may consider stating that neither the State may demand any levy retrospectively nor the private parties or PSUs

who have paid would seek any refund of the money," Mr. Mehta submitted.

Bankruptcy risk
Senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing for Mahanadi Coalfields Limited, submitted that past levy demands may be more than the net worth of many companies. Retrospective implementation of the judgment ran the risk of bankrupting these companies.

On July 25, the Constitution Bench, in a majority

judgment of 8:1 had held that the power of State legislatures to tax mineral-bearing lands and quarries could not be limited by Parliament.

The judgment freed States from the restrictions of the Centre and is in tune with the federalist principles of governance.

"Fiscal federalism entails that the power of the States to levy taxes within the legislative domain carved out to them and subject to the limitations laid down by the Constitution must be secured from unconstitutional interference by Parliament," Chief Justice Chandrachud had laid down in the judgment.

The verdict noted how mineral-rich States like Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Odisha continue to have per capita income below national averages and trail in economic development. The court had further held that royalty paid to States by mining lease holders was not tax.

Preeti Sudan appointed Chairperson of UPSC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Former Union Health Secretary Preeti Sudan was appointed Chairperson of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) after Manoj Soni resigned from the post earlier this month, according to an official order. She would take the oath of office on Thursday.

Ms. Sudan, currently a member of the UPSC, will take charge on Thursday and will have a tenure till April 29, 2025 or till further orders. She will turn 65 in April next year.

Ms. Sudan is only the second woman to head the UPSC since R.M. Bathew served as the chairperson from 1992 to 1996.

"The President has approved the appointment of Preeti Sudan, Member, UPSC for performing the duties of Chairman, UPSC with effect from August 1, 2024," a July 29 letter said.

The Hindu reported on July 19 that Mr. Soni resigned for "personal reasons," almost five years before his tenure ends in 2029.

Judiciary can direct the govt. to conduct audit of laws, says SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has upheld "the power, nay the duty" of the judiciary to direct the government to conduct a "performance audit" of its statutory laws to assess their actual impact on the ground.

A Bench of Justices P.S. Narasimha and Aravind Kumar, in a judgment, said the court could direct the government to review the working of the statutes and audit their impact if, among other situations, there was demonstrable judicial data or other cogent material to prove that the laws have failed to ameliorate the conditions of their intended beneficiaries.

The judgment, delivered on July 30 but pub-

lished on Wednesday, followed an appeal concerning the working of the Maharashtra Slum Areas (Improvement, Clearance and Redevelopment) Act, 1971, which has led to multiple litigation over the years. The court said the graph of the law was "worsome" and requested the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court to constitute a Bench to initiate *suo motu* proceedings for reviewing the working of the statute and identify the cause of the problems.

Justice Narasimha, who wrote the judgment, said the government has a constitutional duty to ensure that the purpose and object of a statute is accomplished while implementing it. It has the additional duty to closely monitor the working of a statute.

At BJP-RSS meeting on Haryana poll, clarity sought on ticket for leaders' kin

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

Office-bearers of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) held a five-hour meeting on Monday evening on the upcoming Assembly election in Haryana in order to synergise efforts after the recent difficulties that were seen in the relationship between the two organisations, and to get clarity on issues, including whether to give ticket to relatives of BJP leaders.

Staunch stand
The BJP and the RSS have taken a staunch stand against dynastic politics, but have always made exceptions in giving ticket, stating that the winnability criterion is also important. In Haryana, the BJP is facing demands from a



Nayab Singh Saini

number of leaders seeking ticket for their relatives. Many of them are in a strong position in their local areas in an election that is likely to be closely contested.

According to senior party sources, the meeting was attended by RSS *sarkaryavah* Arun Kumar; Chief Minister of Haryana Nayab Singh Saini; his predecessor and Union Minister M.L. Khattar; Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who is the party's in-

charge for the Haryana election; Lok Sabha member Biplab Deb; and BJP general secretary (organisation) B.L. Santhosh.

"Narratives and organisational dexterity were discussed during the meeting, and how best to synergise between the RSS and BJP. Also, clarity was attempted to be created on how to deal with demands made by leaders for ticket for their kith and kin, as well as how to explain the same to the party and outside," a senior party source said.

Many contenders
Among party leaders seeking ticket for their relatives are Union Minister Rao Indrajit Singh, who is seeking ticket for his daughter Arati Rao; MP Dharamveer, who wants ticket either for his brother or son; Union Minister Krishan Pal Gurrar, whose son, Devendra

Pal Chaudhary, is in the fray; senior Haryana leader Kuldeep Bishnoi, who needs to be accommodated, as does his son; former MP Ramesh Kaushik, who is seeking ticket for his brother Devinder Kaushik; and Assembly Speaker Gyanchand Gupta, who wants to field his nephew on BJP ticket from Panchkula.

Cohesive view
"This will be a closely fought election, and denying ticket to relatives of our leaders who are in a good position to win may not be the best strategy. Therefore, there has to be a cohesive view on the whole thing," the source said.

The RSS will have to be taken into confidence as the organisation plays a crucial role in managing the party's cadre and keeping the morale high.

Centre plans stricter norms for disability certificates; activists fear fresh hurdles

Abhinav Lakshman
NEW DELHI

In a bid to tighten the requirements for obtaining a disability certificate, the Union government on Wednesday published draft amendments to the Rules of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPwD Act) of 2016.

The proposed changes – including mandatory identity proof, medical authority involvement, and a longer process – come in the wake of the row over Puja Khedkar, a dismissed IAS probationer accused of faking her disability certificate, among other transgressions. Government sources told *The Hindu* that this controversy was among the factors considered while drafting the amendments.

The amended Rules will require people with disabilities to mandatorily submit proof of identity, a photo not older than six months, and an Aadhaar

The draft suggests that the time taken to process each application should be increased

card. The draft amendments propose that only medical authorities be considered competent to receive and process applications for disability certificates, further suggesting that the time taken to process each application should be increased from one to three months.

Experts and activists in the disability sector said that these proposed amendments will not do much to tackle the menace of fake disability certificates, which they argued was a result of systemic corruption. Instead, they said, the potential new Rules will make it harder for genuine applicants to get through the system.

These amendments to the Rules governing the

RPwD Act, 2016 were published by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in The Gazette of India as a draft and made public on Wednesday for objections and suggestions. Comments must be sent to Vineet Singhal, Director, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in 30 days.

V. Muralidharan of the National Platform of the Rights of the Disabled told *The Hindu*, "These amendments would not help cut the corruption that leads to fake certificates, no amount of rules might help this. It will only make things unnecessarily complex and difficult for genuine applicants to obtain their disability certificates."

He added that the colour-coding of Unique Disability Identity (UDID) cards was another redundant proposal that will most likely add to hostility and harassment faced by people with disabilities.

India, China hold 30th round of border talks; both agree to uphold peace, tranquillity

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India and China on Wednesday held the 30th meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) in New Delhi during which the discussion was "in-depth, constructive and forward-looking", and both sides agreed to maintain the momentum through established diplomatic and military channels, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

The talks come amid indications that the two countries are making efforts to resolve the stand-off along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

"Further to discussions between the two Foreign Ministers in their recent meetings at Astana [in Kazakhstan] and Vientiane [in Laos], the two sides reviewed the current situation along the LAC with a



Tough stance: Armoured vehicles of the Indian Army at a military camp in eastern Ladakh. AFP

view to finding an early resolution of the outstanding issues. Restoration of peace and tranquillity, and respect for the LAC are an essential basis for restoration of normalcy in bilateral relations," the MEA said in a statement. The 29th WMCC meeting was held on March 24 in Beijing.

Economic restrictions
Both sides agreed on the need to jointly uphold peace and tranquillity on the ground in the border

areas in accordance with bilateral agreements and protocols reached between the two governments, the statement added.

This also comes amid speculation that the government is considering relaxing some of its economic restrictions on Chinese companies following the recommendations of the latest Economic Survey, which called for more Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from China.

Kharge asks to expunge a comment by BJP MP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Taking umbrage to remarks by BJP MP Ghanashyam Tiwari labelling him a "political dynasty", Congress president and the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge urged the Chair to expunge the comment. During an exchange with Vice-President and Rajya Sabha Chairperson Jagdeep Dhankhar, Mr. Kharge went on to say that he did not "wish to live for long in this environment". "He made a comment regarding 'parivarvaad'. I request that this should be expunged [from the records]," Mr. Kharge said. Mr. Dhankhar said he did not think the BJP leader had meant to convey anything wrong, but promised that he would examine the records.

Allegations on neglecting States are Opposition propaganda: Nirmala

The transfer of resources to the States is going unhindered, says the Union Finance Minister; she adds that the Narendra Modi-led government implemented the concept of cooperative federalism by giving due share to all States

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Replying to the debate on the Union Budget in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday, in which more than 80 MPs participated, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the transfer of resources to the States is going unhindered and the inferences that she mentioned just two States in the Budget was propaganda created by the INDIA bloc to mislead the people. "If a State has not been mentioned in the speech, it does not mean there is no allocation for it," she said. Comparing the allocation to various social sectors and the devolution of taxes to the States under



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman speaks in the Rajya Sabha, in New Delhi on Wednesday. ANI

the UPA and NDA regimes, she said the Narendra Modi-led government implemented the concept of cooperative federalism by giving due share to all States. Ms. Sitharaman said it was wrong to calculate devolution based on gross tax receipts, and then allege

that the Centre is devolving less than what is suggested by the Finance Commission. "The total resources proposed to be transferred to the States in 2024-25 are estimated at ₹22.91 lakh crore. This actually entails an increase of ₹2.49 lakh crore over 2023-24," she said.

Ms. Sitharaman said the capital expenditure too increased manifold during the last 10 years. The capital expenditure, she said, is estimated at ₹11.11 lakh crore. "This is the biggest ever allocation for capital expenditure and it shows an increase of about 17% over the revised estimates and provisional actuals of 2023-24," she said and added that during the 10 years of the UPA, it was ₹13.19 lakh crore. "Whereas during our tenure from 2014 to 2024, the allocation for capex has been ₹43.82 lakh crore from 2014-15 to 2023-24," she said. Replying to the discussion on the Budget of Jammu and Kashmir, she said the financial condition of the Union Territory has im-

proved in the past two years. Earlier practices of running 'hundis' and overdrafts from J&K Bank have been discontinued and the day-to-day cash management is much healthier than in the past, she said. On the conduct of NEET for medical admission, she said the entrance examination has ensured cost-effective medical education for families. On the Agnipath scheme, the Minister said the scheme will ensure that India has younger soldiers who are on the frontline. "And I don't think there is a need for us to unnecessarily worry that this is causing some kind of distortion. It is with the acceptance of the armed forces that it has been brought in," she added.

Modi govt. refuses to learn from its decline in LS polls, says Sonia

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Sonia Gandhi

The Narendra Modi government continues to be "self-delusional" even as crores of families are "devastated by mounting unemployment and price rise", Sonia Gandhi, chairperson of the Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP), said on Wednesday.

Addressing a meeting of party MPs in the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan (the old Parliament House), Ms. Gandhi said the Modi government had refused to learn lessons from its "significant decline" in the Lok Sabha election and was "persisting with their policy of dividing communities and spreading an atmosphere of fear and animosity".

The Congress leader also mentioned how the Centre had allowed the bureaucracy to participate in the activities of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh.

Speaking of the upcoming Assembly elections in four States, Ms. Gandhi told her party colleagues that although the "mahaul" (atmosphere) favoured them, they should work unitedly and not be complacent or overconfident. "I dare say that if we perform well, reflecting the trend that we witnessed in the Lok Sabha election, national politics will undergo a transformation," she said.

The meeting started with a moment of silence for the lives lost in the Wayanad landslide, and the deaths of three students preparing for the Union Public Service Commission's Civil Services Examination in Delhi. The CPP chairperson said education had been amongst "the worst casualties" in the past years, and the way competitive exams were being conducted had "destroyed the faith of lakhs of youth and dealt their future a body blow". The professional character and autonomy of organisations, and even of Constitutional bodies such as the UPSC have been all but destroyed, Ms. Gandhi alleged. Congratulating the Leaders of the Opposition in both Houses for their interventions, she noted that many Opposition MPs had brought out the Budget's inadequacies in addressing urgent economic and social challenges. "Pressing demands of farmers and youth, in particular, have been ignored. Allocations in a number of vital sectors have not done justice to the tasks required to be fulfilled," she said.

Home Ministry, DoPT portals display order lifting curbs on RSS

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs and the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) on Wednesday displayed on their websites, an official memorandum lifting restrictions on government officials being associated with the "Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (R.S.S.S)" for public "knowledge". The move followed a direction by the Madhya Pradesh High Court on July 25 while disposing of a writ petition filed by Purushottam Gupta, a retired Central government employee,

who had approached the court in September 2023 against the ban. The court said that it had taken the Union government "five decades to realise its mistake; to acknowledge that an internationally renowned organisation like Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh [RSS] was wrongly placed amongst the banned organisations of the country and that its removal therefrom is quintessential". It added, "Aspirations of many Central government employees of serving the country in many ways, therefore got diminished in these five decades because of this ban."

RSS has all the right to participate in developmental journey: Dhankhar

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar, during Question Hour on Wednesday, ruled that the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) is "an organisation that has a full constitutional right to participate in the

developmental journey of the nation" and has "unimpeachable credentials". The ruling came in response to remarks by Samajwadi Party's Ramji Lal Suman. While posing a supplementary question, to a query by Shiv Sena (UBT) MP on "poor handling of entrance exams by

the National Testing Agency", Mr. Suman said, "For them [BJP] the only criterion to assess a person is whether he or she is from the RSS or not...". Leader of the Opposition and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, supporting Mr. Suman, said his allegation was cor-

rect and that the Chair should not intervene till the member violates a rule. Mr. Dhankhar retorted by saying, "The member was not transgressing rules, he was trampling the Constitution of India." The Opposition, objecting to Mr. Dhankhar's remarks, staged a walkout.

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WBSETCL
E-TENDER FOR THE FOLLOWING WORKS ARE INVITED FROM ELIGIBLE BIDDERS HAVING EXPERIENCE IN SIMILAR NATURE OF WORK:-

- NIT No.: CE(P)/WBSETCL/MOOSE CONDUCTOR/24-25/02
Date: 01.08.2024
- Supply of 100 Kms ACSR Moose Conductor (NIT 02). Bids shall be submitted online up to 04:00 P.M., 02.09.2024.
- NIT No.: CE(Procurement)/WBSETCL/SST/2024-25/03
Date: 01.08.2024
- Supply of 21 nos. Station Service Transformers (NIT 03). Bids shall be submitted online up to 04:00 P.M., 03.09.2024.

BID documents can be downloaded from 01.08.2024, 11:00 A.M. Visit the following websites:- www.wbtenders.gov.in, www.wbsetcl.in for details. ICA-1128763/2024

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No: e-Tender No:18/2024-25/SE/PHC/ALP/RC, Jala Jeevan Mission - WSS Ala, Pullyur, Budhanur, Pandanad, Mulakuzha Chengannur Municipality - Construction of OHSR and Pipeline Works in Zone 12.
EMD : Rs. 5,00,000, Tender fee : Rs. 19,518, Last Date for submitting Tender : 12-08-2024 02:00pm, Phone : 0477-2237954
Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Superintending Engineer
PH circle, Alappuzha
KWA-JB-GL-6-316-2024-25

ANDHRA PRADESH POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED
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APGENCO invites Online tenders for "NSRCPH (3X30MW) - Supply, fabrication, Erection, testing and commissioning of fixed wheel type vertical lift Penstock Service Gate, duly dismantling of damaged gate including repairs to grooves and embedded parts of Unit-III"
Schedule available date & time: from 14:00 Hrs onwards 30.07.2024. Bid Submission closing date & time: Upto 15:00 Hrs on 14.08.2024. For further details visit: www.apgenco.gov.in Phone: (0866) 2526411, 2526839. DIPR 3102PP/CL, Dt.31/07/2024

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT Building Organisation
FORM OF CONTRACT: LUMP SUM (Two Cover System)
Short Term E-TENDER NOTICE NO.11/TVM-CLE/2024-2025/Dated : 30.07.2024

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu E-Tenders are invited by the Superintending Engineer, PWD., Buildings (Construction and Maintenance) Circle, Tiruvannamalai - 4, for the following work from the eligible contractors registered in Public Works Department of Government of Tamil Nadu, upto 3.00 p.m. as per server clock on 21.08.2024 under two cover system (Pre qualification and Price E-tender). The last date and time for submission of E-Tender document upto 3.00 p.m. as per server clock on 21.08.2024. The E-tender schedule can be downloaded at free of cost and submit from 01.08.2024 to 21.08.2024 upto 3.00 p.m. from the Govt. designated website (viz) <https://tntenders.gov.in>. The Prequalification cover (Cover I) alone will be opened on 21.08.2024 at 4.00 p.m. by the Superintending Engineer, PWD., Buildings (C&M) Circle, Tiruvannamalai - 4, through online.

Sl No	Name of Work	Approximate Value of Work including GST (Rs.in Lakhs)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (in Rupees)	Period of Completion (including monsoon period)
1	Construction of New Collectorate and other Office Buildings in Master Plan Complex at Veeracholapuram in Kallakurichi District	12810.00	Rs.64,15,000/-	18 Months

Eligible Class of Contractor : Class-IA
The Earnest Money Deposit should be paid only through online. The Price Adjustment Clause is applicable for the above work. The date and time of opening of Price tender will be intimated to the Prequalified contractors separately through online.
Further details can be had from the web site: <https://tntenders.gov.in>.
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PWD., (I/C) BUILDINGS (C & M) CIRCLE, TIRUVANNAMALAI - 4
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OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL S.M.S. MEDICAL COLLEGE & CONTROLLER OF THE ATTACHED HOSPITALS, JAIPUR
No-F/MC/Store/2024-25/STORE-PROC/SMSMC-23/00101/2024 Dated:- 29/7/2024

Notice Inviting Bid
BID for various services at various destinations of SMS Medical College, Jaipur, are invited from interested bidders upto 20.08.2024 at 11:00 AM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>), <https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in> of the state; and SMS Medical College, Jaipur department website.
UBN SMS24-25SSOB00115 to SMS24-25SSOB00122
DIPRC/6819/2024 PRINCIPAL & CONTROLLER

IndianOil
Marketing Division Southern Region
Notification for Engagement of 400 Apprentices in Southern Region under the Apprentices Act 1961

Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation Ltd.
Nagarabhivruddhi Bhavan, #22, 17th 'F' Cross, Old Madras Road, Indiranagar 2nd Stage, Near BMTCL Bus Depot, Bengaluru-560 038. Telephone No: 91-80-25196100, 25196124 Fax: 080-25196110 Website: www.kuidfc.com e-mail: info@kuidfc.com

No: KUIDFC/UWM/24/HUB/2024-25/06 Date: 29-07-2024

Short Term e-Tender Notification
KUIDFC invites tenders under NGT and SBM (U) -2.0 for below mentioned projects from the eligible Contractors. The tender document will be available on KPP portal of GoK (<https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>)

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to Tender (Incl GST) Rs. in Crore	Earnest Money Deposit Rs. in Lakhs
1	Construction of Upgradation of sewerage system for the Hubballi-Dharwad Municipal Corporation (HDMC) under NGT Environmental Compensation fund on DBOT Model. Call-2	62.94	63.00

1) Tender Publish Date: 30.07.2024. 2) Pre-bid meeting Date & Time: 05.08.2024 Time: 11.30 AM. 3) Last Date & Time for Bid submission: 20.08.2024 Time: 5.30 PM. 4) Date & Time of Opening of Technical bid: 22.08.2024 Time: 11.30 AM. 5) Date & Time of Opening of Financial bid: 29.08.2024 Time: 11.30 AM.
Interested bidders may view, download & upload the tenders only through KPP portal. Any further notification will be through KPP portal and KUIDFC official website only.
Sd/-
Task-Manager, Project Monitoring Unit, UWM-KUIDFC, Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/1167/MAA/2024-25

SANJAY GANDHI INSTITUTE OF TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS
(Government of Karnataka Autonomous Institution)
Byrasandra, Jayanagar East, Bangalore - 560011. Ph: 080-26564516 Tele/Fax: 080-26565222 E-mail: sitodirector@gmail.com

No: SGIT&O/ACD/FC/08/2024-25 Date: 30.07.2024

NOTIFICATION
Application are invited for Fellowship Programmes for the academic year 2024-25 in Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Trauma and Orthopaedics, Bengaluru as per the guidelines and calendar of events issued by Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bengaluru vide Notification No: RGUHS/MEDICAL/FELLOW/COE/2024-25, Dated: 13.06.2024. The details are as here under :-

Sl. No.	Subject	Duration in Months	Number of Admissions
1 Details, Duration and intake for the course	1 Sports Injury & Arthroscopy	18	04
	2 Arthroplasty	18	04
	3 Spine Surgery	18	04
	4 Advanced Orthopaedic Trauma	18	04
	5 Maxillofacial Trauma	18	04
	6 Ultrasound & Image Guided Advanced Nerve Blocks	12	04
2 Eligibility	Candidate with NMC/MCI Recognized Post Graduate Degree in concerned speciality.		
	Candidates with NMC/MCI Recognized Post Graduate Diploma in concerned speciality with three years experience (Copies to be enclosed)		
3 Stipend	DM/MCH/DNB in concerned speciality		
	1. For Maxillofacial Trauma qualification - required MDS DMFS/Oral Maxillofacial Surgery 2. For Ultrasound & Image Guided Advanced Nerve Blocks - qualification required is MD/DNB Anaesthesia		
4	Institutional / In-service candidates should send their applications through proper channel		
5	For application format visit website www.sgito.org apply with Bio-data and relevant certificates. The duly filled in application should reach through by Registered post or Inperson to this institute in scaled cover within Date: 07.08.2024. The candidate should super scribe on the envelope as "Application for fellowship programme in the subject of _____ for the year 2024-25"		
6	Application fee of Rs.4,000/- (for each subject) made by online payment to the following Account Director, Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Trauma & Orthopaedics, Bangalore - 560011, Account No - 10313054855, IFSC Code SBIN0004926, State Bank of India, Jayanagar 4 th 'T' Block, Bangalore and online payment Receipt should enclose along with Application form.		
7	Date and Place of Examination	13.08.2024, 02.30 pm to 03.30 pm	at Examination Building, Library Block, 1 st floor, Bangalore Medical College & Research Institute, Bengaluru - 560002
8	The selected In-service candidates shall execute a bond in Form No.19 appended to KCSR and other private candidates shall deposit their original marks cards, Degree certificates, (UG & PG), Experience Certificate etc. In case the candidates fails to complete or withdraw from the fellowship programme before joining the course during the course he/she shall pay a fine of Rs.10,000-00 and the entire stipend amount, if any, drawn in respect of any fellowship programme will have to be repaid.		
9	Course Fees Rs. 34,840/- + University fee (Non refundable)		

Sd/- DIRECTOR

Indian Oil, Marketing Division, Southern Region, as a measure of Skill Development Initiative for the Nation invites applications for Engagement of 400 Trade Apprentices (Trade Apprentice - IT/Technician Apprentice- Diploma/Trade Apprentice /Graduate Apprentice) for the year 2024-25 at its Locations in the States of Tamil Nadu & Puduchery, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh & Telangana.
Full text of the Advertisement including eligibility criteria of age, qualification and details of stipend, relaxations, concessions, reservations, etc. will be hosted in our Corporate website <https://www.iocl.com/apprenticeships> from 02nd August 2024 @ 10:00 hrs.
How to apply: Interested candidates meeting the prescribed eligibility criteria may apply through the above-mentioned website from 02nd August 2024 @ 10:00 hrs onwards. Closing date for online submission of Application is 19th August 2024 @ 23:55 hrs.
Any subsequent notification/amendment in the matter shall be notified in www.iocl.com only.
Note: The Corporation shall have no obligation to give regular employment to Apprentices. The Apprentices shall have no right to claim regular employment from the Corporation on the basis of this Apprenticeship at any point of time. This Apprenticeship shall not create any liability on IOCL for providing any job to the Apprentice.
Advertisement No. IOCL/MKTG/APPR/2024-25

BANGALORE MEDICAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(An Autonomous Institute of Govt. of Karnataka)
Office of the Director cum Dean, Fort, K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560 002. Telephone: 080-26700810, Tele Fax: 080-26704342 E-mail: director_bmcrl@yahoo.co.in

No: BMCRI/PG/Fellow/87/2024-25 Dated: 31-07-2024

NOTIFICATION
Applications are invited from NMC / MCI recognized MS / MD / DNB / MCh / Diploma Qualified candidates for Fellowship Programmes in Various Subjects at BMC&RI, Bengaluru for the Academic Year 2024-25.
The Last Date for Submission of Application is 08-08-2024 along with Application Fee of Rs. 4,000/- (for each subject) made on Online Payment to the following Account Director cum Dean, BMCRI, Bengaluru Account No: 32021549335, IFSC Code: SBIN0070242, State Bank of India, TSP Branch, Bengaluru and online Payment Receipt enclosed along with Application form.
The objective type (MCQ) Entrance examination will be conducted on 13-08-2024 at BMC&RI Examination Hall, First Floor near Library Block from 10.30 AM to 11.30 AM.
For further information visit the Institution's Website: <https://bmcribengaluru.karnataka.gov.in>
Sd/- Director cum Dean, BMCRI, Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/1188/Advt/2024-25

IN BRIEF



Farmers' leader trying to form third alliance in Maharashtra

Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana chief Raju Shetti is trying to form a third political alliance ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly poll, scheduled to be held later this year. Mr. Shetti is bringing together all small parties that emerged from civil movements to form the Parivartan Aghadi, which aims to be an alternative to the two major alliances – the ruling *Mahayuti* and the opposition *Maha Vikas Aghadi* (MVA). The farmers' leader has toured the Marathwada region and has met Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange-Patil, former MP of Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar (Aurangabad) and AIMIM leader Imtiyaz Jaleel Syed and other leaders.

ED searches 19 spots in fake Ayushman Bharat cards case

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is conducting searches at 19 locations in Delhi, Chandigarh, Punjab, and Himachal Pradesh, in a case related to the alleged generation of fake Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) ID cards. "During investigation, as many as 373 fake Ayushman cards were identified, wherein claims of about ₹40,68,150 were made for reimbursement from the government in the name of treatments given to the said beneficiaries," an official said. A probe is on against several top hospitals who are alleged to have generated medical bills on such fake cards and without providing treatment.

Five-year-old boy shoots schoolmate in Bihar

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

A five-year-old boy shot at a Class 3 student with a revolver at a school in Supaul district of Bihar on Wednesday. The older child sustained injuries in his arm and is undergoing treatment at a hospital. "I was on my way to the classroom when he took out a gun from his bag and fired at me. I ducked but the bullet injured my arm," the 10-year-old is heard saying in a video. The police have taken the principal into custody and launched an investigation. They said the nursery student had gone to school with the gun hidden in his bag. "The incident took place after assembly session at 9 a.m.," said senior district police official Shaishav Yadav.

Gadkari urges Nirmala to withdraw insurance GST

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has written to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, requesting her to withdraw the 18% goods and services tax (GST) on life and medical insurance premiums. In a letter dated July 28, Mr. Gadkari raised the concerns of the Nagpur Division Life Insurance Corporation Employees Union, which had submitted a memorandum to him regarding the issues of the insurance industry. He said, "Levying GST on life insurance premiums amounts to levying tax on the uncertainties of life." Both life insurance and medical insurance premiums are subject to an 18% GST rate. "Similarly, the 18 per cent GST on medical insurance premiums is proving to be a deterrent for the growth of this segment of business which is socially necessary. In view of the above, you are requested to consider the suggestion of withdrawal of GST on life and medical insurance premiums on priority as it becomes cumbersome for senior citizens as per rules with due verification," he wrote in his letter.

Railways forms panel to decide on working hours of loco pilots

High-level committee to review rest period and facilities for employees; move comes after a series of major train accidents across the country

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

The Railways has constituted a high-level committee to decide on the working and rest hours of loco pilots and assistant loco pilots. The move comes against the backdrop of a series of train accidents resulting in the deaths of several passengers and railway employees across the country. In many cases, the loco pilots were accused of violating safety rules and held responsible for the accidents. The issue gained momentum after Congress MP and Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi met members of the All India Loco Running Staff Association (AILRSA) in New Delhi and Sultanpur railway stations and assured them that he would take up their grievances, especially the poor facilities in locomotives and rest houses. On Friday, the Railway Board issued orders constituting a high-level committee comprising the Principal Executive Director



Looking into: Loco pilots have complained of poor infrastructure in locomotives and rest houses. GETTY IMAGES

MPs raise issue in Parliament

NEW DELHI
During the discussion on the Budget in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, MPs raised concerns over the "rising number of rail accidents", and called for wider implementation of safety mechanisms and improved infrastructure.

(Traffic), Additional Member (Staff) and Additional Member (Traction) to examine "the implementation and compliance of accept-

ed recommendations of High Power Committee (HPC) with special focus on outstation rest, headquarter rest, periodical rest, working hours and compliance of Hours of Employment Rules (HOER)." The committee to be headquartered in Delhi was asked to submit its report within one month. Besides, the Railway Board also instructed senior officers across its network to inspect locomotives and rest houses of loco running staff to check availability of basic amenities, sources in Southern Railway told *The Hindu* on Wednesday.

Bill to replace Aircraft Act tabled in Lok Sabha amid protest

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

In what is likely to bring relief to aspiring pilots and other aviation personnel, the Civil Aviation Ministry has proposed in the new *Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak*, 2024 to bring the examination used to test the use of radio communication equipment on aircraft within the ambit of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). The Bill, which seeks to replace the Aircraft Act of 1934, was tabled in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday. It was tabled by Civil Aviation Minister K. Ram-mohan Naidu amid protest by Kerala MP N.K. Prema-chandran, who questioned why the name of the statute was in Hindi alone. He said the Constitution mandated that Bills brought to Parliament should be in English. "For people from South India, it is very difficult to even pronounce *Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak*. What is the logical reason behind this? I am questioning the legislative competence of the Bill," the MP said. The Statement of Objects and Reasons states that the Bill is being introduced because the 90-year-old Aircraft Act has been amended several

It intends to bring radio telephone operator restricted certificate test within the DGCA ambit

times and "a need is felt to address the ambiguities and confusion experienced by the stakeholders, to remove redundancies, to enable ease of doing business and to provide for manufacture and maintenance in the aviation sector". The proposed legislation will bring the radio telephone operator restricted (RTR) certificate and licence from the Department of Telecom to the DGCA, and ease the process for pilots as they can secure all their certificates from one authority, a senior official of the Civil Aviation Ministry said. The exam is also conducted for aircraft maintenance engineers and flight dispatchers. It is an open secret in the industry that the RTR exam is the toughest to crack due to allegedly widespread corruption. Aspiring pilots said that if the proposal came through, they would be able to appear for the RTR exam in any of the DGCA's 14 exam centres.

IAF's largest multilateral exercise to begin this month

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is all set to host its largest multilateral exercise, *Tarang Shakti*, in two phases in August and September. Eighteen countries, 10 of them with air assets, will join the exercise, which will see a total of 150 aircraft, both foreign and IAF, soar into the skies over Sullur and Jodhpur. The exercise will be a landmark event and has no particular nation or theme "in mind", Air Marshal A.P. Singh, Vice-Chief of the Air Staff, said on Wednesday. "Invitations have been extended to 51 countries. Ten countries will be participating with assets and 18 as observers with one more country likely to join," Air Marshal Singh said while briefing the media. "The aim is to foster interoperability and share



A.P. Singh

best practices and also to showcase indigenous defence industry." Besides the observer countries, Germany, France, Spain, and the U.K. are scheduled to take part in Phase-1, while Phase-2 will see participation of Australia, Bangladesh, Greece, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates and the U.S. Given the diverse participation and to cater to the requirements of friendly foreign countries, the IAF has decided to do it in two phases, the Vice-Chief ex-

plained. Several countries which are taking part in the multilateral exercise *Pitch Black* in Australia will join the exercise on their return leg. Each phase of the exercise will see participation of 70-80 air assets. Phase-1 will be held from August 6-14 at Sullur in Tamil Nadu, and see participation of 32 foreign aircraft, Exercise Director Air Vice-Marshal Rajat Mohan said. Similarly, Phase-2, to be held from September 1-14 at Jodhpur, will see participation of 27 fighters, two refuelling aircraft, two airborne early warning aircraft, and four C-130 Special Forces aircraft from foreign countries, Phase-2 Director Air Commodore S.K. Taliyan said. The IAF will field over 40 aircraft each in both the phases. The Indian Navy will participate in Phase-1 with its MiG-29K carrier borne fighters.

Ransomware attack halts services at small banks

Press Trust of India
AHMEDABAD/MUMBAI

Customers of around 300 small-sized lenders across the country have not been able to access payments services such as withdrawing cash at ATMs or using UPI due to a ransomware attack at technology service provider (TSP) C-Edge Technologies. The impact was felt by customers of cooperative banks and regional rural banks which depend on C-Edge, a joint venture between the SBI and TCS, officials said. Other banking services were normal, they said. The issues are being faced for the past two days after the discovery of a breach of the system at C-Edge, they said, adding that precautions had to be taken to protect the larger payments system.

In 3 years, power cuts in India will rise, says report

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

India's rising electricity needs will likely be accompanied by increasing evening power cuts by 2027 because of insufficient renewable energy-powered back-up, says a research report from the India Energy and Climate Centre, University of California (Berkeley). This scenario is likely even if all the planned coal plants and thermal power assets were to be fully functional by that year. India has an installed electric capacity of 446 GW, with 211 GW coming in from coal, 195 GW from renewable energy sources, and the rest from gas and nuclear energy. However not all of this capacity is available all the time. Therefore, a heat-wave that lasts all day and



Power source: India has an installed electric capacity of 446 GW, with 211 GW coming in from coal. FILE PHOTO

whose impact can linger through the night will elicit high electricity demand even at night from air conditioners. Unlike in the day when spikes in demand can be met by solar energy, this is not possible at night. On May 30, peak power demand touched 250 GW at 3 p.m. and estimates are that it hovered around 225 GW at night, suggesting that this demand cannot be met by coal, India's most reliable power (or firm power) source, on its own. The way out, said the researchers associated with the study, would be to have more utility-scale solar plants alongside battery storage, which can store the solar energy made during the day. Moreover solar plants and batteries can be deployed much faster than coal and hydropower plants.

THE CROSSWORD+ 14242 (set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get access to our crossword site. @ <https://qrqo.page.link/jjpTn>

Across

- 9 Rest may be found in a reference book briefly on field strength (7)
- 10 Fun city, loves to host Republican state (7)
- 11 Beginning with one point rise (7)
- 12 Abnormal reduction, gets through (7)
- 13 Her warnings were treated as canards (9)

Down

- 1 Charlie can go up for a drink (6)
- 2 Takes it easy, that said, takes it by force (6)
- 3 Worst years, some of them painful (4)
- 4 It's indeed rough, polished (6)
- 5 Valiant to confront thick heavy set character (8)
- 6 Split? Problem is the temporary tie-up (5,5)
- 7 Tailing at sea, retrieves a sunken design (8)
- 8 Herb's my co-star, perhaps (8)
- 14 A beautiful fish, less than right in a way (5,5)
- 16 Current map drawn and two times overlapped (8)
- 17 Turn left and exit - used for storage of information (4,4)
- 18 Sent away? Left in the middle of work (8)
- 22 Bomb, one picked up by hand (6)
- 23 Coal if left out will catch fire (6)
- 24 Won a point and Arden lost (6)
- 27 Blocks head of government entering house of a star (4)

SUDOKU

					5	2		
2		4	9	8				
9					6		8	3
		2					1	8
			8	5	3			
8	9					4		
6	5		4					1
				3	9	8		4
		9	5					

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

P	N	S	R	S	C	S
I	D	E	A	L	E	L
C	C	A	V	S	I	X
N	O	T	A	B	L	E
I	A	N	U	U	W	I
C	A	R	P	E	N	T
D	E	P	I	C	T	S
T	R	A	E	E	X	T
A	R	E	L	T	H	R
G	N	Y	A	A	R	O
R	E	C	I	P	E	S
A	E	T	I	A	H	K
M	I	S	G	U	I	D
S	S	S	E	E	D	Y

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	5	2	1	9	8	7	3	6
7	3	1	4	6	2	9	5	8
9	6	8	7	3	5	2	1	4
8	2	6	3	4	9	1	7	5
5	9	3	8	7	1	6	4	2
1	4	7	2	5	6	8	9	3
6	1	9	5	2	4	3	8	7
3	8	4	6	1	7	5	2	9
2	7	5	9	8	3	4	6	1

MADGALDEEP SCENT 3in1

FAITH

Sri Vaikuntha, for eternal joy

A person has to find a way to attain every goal of his. Cows go in search of pastures, because grass is their food. Lions go in search of prey. Devas wanted nectar and got it when the ocean was churned. Human beings need to work for their upkeep. But our occupations are to do with sustenance of the body. Is the body all there is to a human being? We identify ourselves by the names given to us. The name is given to the body that an *atma* inhabits. But the body is not what we call "I", said Kazhiyur B. Devarajan in a discourse.

Our sense organs or the brain or *manas* do not constitute "I". It is the imperishable *atma* which is important. The *atma* has *ananda* and *jnana*. What gives *ananda* (joy)? A child has pleasure in playing with a toy. That is not eternal joy. The child will soon tire of the toy, and seek something else. The old toy no longer pleases it. So, such pleasures cannot be termed eternal joy. At different stages in our lives, different things interest us. We can experience joy without a break only in Sri Vaikuntha. If something gave us permanent happiness, why would we move away from it? But we do move away from a lot of things we once enjoyed. We no longer find them appealing. One must aspire to reach Sri Vaikuntha to serve Him there. All *atmas* are Lord Narayana's *dasas*, and must serve Him gladly.

IN BRIEF



M&M Q1 consolidated net profit drops 6% to ₹3,283 cr.

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. reported first-quarter consolidated net profit declined 6% to ₹3,283 crore from ₹3,508 crore in the year-earlier period. Consolidated revenue for the quarter ended June 30 increased 10% to ₹37,218 crore from the year-earlier period. On a standalone basis, M&M reported a 5% drop in net profit to ₹2,613 crore from the year earlier. Auto business reported 14% growth in sales at 2,11,550 units. Tractor sales increased 5% to 1,20,492 units.

Ambuja Cements Q1 net profit declines to ₹789.63 crore

Adani Group firm Ambuja Cements Ltd. on Wednesday reported a consolidated net profit of ₹789.63 crore for the first quarter ended June 2024. The company had reported a net profit of ₹1,135.46 crore in the April-June period a year earlier, according to a regulatory filing by Ambuja Cements Ltd. (ACL). Revenue from operations was at ₹8,311.48 crore during the June quarter compared with ₹8,712.90 crore in the corresponding period last fiscal. PTI

BHEL Q1 consolidated net loss widens to ₹211.4 crore

State-owned BHEL on Wednesday reported the widening of its consolidated net loss to ₹211.40 crore for the June quarter, on account of higher expenses. BHEL had clocked ₹204.70 crore loss for the April-June period of the preceding 2023-24 fiscal, the company said in an exchange filing. The company's total income rose to ₹5,581.78 crore from ₹5,117.20 crore in the year-earlier quarter. Expenses stood at ₹5,874.98 crore as against ₹5,409.47 crore a year earlier. PTI

SFL Q1 standalone net rises 17% to ₹132 crore

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Sundram Fasteners Ltd. (SFL) reported first-quarter standalone net profit rose almost 17% year-on-year to ₹132 crore, helped by robust export performance, stable commodity prices and a favourable product mix.



Arathi Krishna

The company reported its highest-ever quarterly revenue from operations of ₹1,310 crore (₹1,217 crore), of which domestic sales accounted for ₹856 crore (₹824 crore). Export sales grew by 21.5% to ₹423 crore, SFL said in a statement.

Consolidated revenue from operations rose to a record ₹1,498 crore, while consolidated net profit grew by 11% to ₹143 crore.

"We have commenced the FY25 with strong numbers and are pleased to report highest-ever revenue from operations and profit before tax, demonstrating the resilience of our business model and the strong demand for our products," said MD Arathi Krishna.

"We remain committed to delivering value to our stakeholders and driving sustainable growth," Ms. Krishna added.

Ind-Ra raises FY25 growth forecast to 7.5% on Budget

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

India Ratings upgraded India's FY25 GDP growth projection to 7.5% from an earlier estimate of 7.1%, citing growth momentum set in motion by announcements in the Union Budget. The revised number exceeds RBI's expectation of 7.2% for the fiscal.

The agency cited Budget announcements on spending on agriculture and rural economy and MSMEs for boosting demand. "Ind-Ra expects private final consumption expenditure to grow 7.4% yoy in FY25 (FY24: 4%), a 3-year high" said India Ratings.

Average cost of data breach hit all-time high of ₹195 mn in 2024: IBM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The average cost of a data breach in India reached an all-time high of ₹195 million in 2024, IBM reported in its annual Cost of a Data Breach Report on Tuesday.

The most common initial attack types in India were phishing and stolen or compromised credentials, accounting for 18% of incidents each, followed by cloud misconfiguration (12%). Business email compromise was the costliest root cause at an average total cost of ₹215 million per breach, followed by social engineering (₹213 million) and phishing (₹209 mil-

June core sector growth slows to 4%

Most sectors, barring coal, record sharp slide in output growth; steel production growth slides to 27-month low, while expansion in natural gas output dips to a 13-month-low pace; coal production expands by 14.8%, the fastest in 8 months

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Growth in India's eight core sectors slipped to a 20-month low of 4% in June from an upgraded 6.4% rise in May, with most sectors barring coal recording a sharp slide in output growth, steel production at a 7-month low, and refinery products slipping into contraction for first time in five months.

Coal output grew 14.8%, the fastest pace in eight months, with production levels at a three-month high. However, electricity generation slipped to a four-month low of 7.7% in

Slackening pace

Growth in India's 8 core sectors slid to a 20-month low from an upgraded 6.4% rise in May

■ Cement production recovered to rise 1.9%, while steel output rose by just 2.7%

■ Deceleration in the 2 sectors likely on slack public capex due to polls



■ Electricity generation growth slowed to a four-month low of 7.7%

June, with output 3.6% below May's all-time high levels, amid a heat wave in many parts of the country.

Cement, steel tepid
Cement production recovered mildly to rise 1.9% af-

ter two months of contraction while steel production grew just 2.7%, the slowest in 27 months. The deceleration in the two sectors could be linked to a slowdown in public capital expenditure on account of

the general election.

Natural gas production grew 3.3%, the slowest pace in 13 months while fertilizer output recovered after five months of contraction to log 2.4% uptick. However, production levels of refinery products slid 1.5%, while contraction in crude oil deepened to 2.6% from 1.1% in May.

'IIP may decelerate'

The Index of Core Industries, which constitutes a little more than 40% of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), was 3.2% below May's level. Industrial output had grown at a seven-month high pace of 5.9% in May but is expected to de-

celerate in June.

"With the dip in the core sector growth, we expect the IIP to post a rise of 3.5% to 5% in June," observed Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ICRA.

Lower public capex

"The decline in core sectors' growth during June could possibly be attributed to lower spending on Government capex before the General Elections and the slowdown in construction activity which has led to a temporary slack in demand for steel and cement," said Suman Chowdhury, chief economist and head of research at Acuite Ratings & Research.

MSIL Q1 net surges 47% to ₹3,650 crore

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. (MSIL) said first-quarter net profit surged 47% to ₹3,649.9 crore, from ₹2,485.1 crore in the year-earlier period. "This was broadly on account of cost reduction efforts, favourable commodity prices and foreign exchange," the car-maker said in a statement.

During the quarter, MSIL registered net sales of ₹33,875.3 crore, as against ₹30,845.2 crore in the same period last year.

For the quarter ended June 30, 2024, the compa-



ny sold a total of 5,21,868 vehicles, an increase of 4.8% from the corresponding period last year.

The sales in the domestic market stood at 4,51,308 units, up 3.8% over the year-earlier period. Export sales were at 70,560 units, a growth of 11.6% year-on-year.

'April-June fiscal deficit stands at 8.1% of FY25 target'

Reuters
NEW DELHI

India's fiscal deficit for the first quarter of FY25 was ₹1.36 trillion, or 8.1% of the estimate for the whole year, government data showed.

Net tax receipts were ₹5.5 trillion, or 21% of the annual target compared with ₹4.34 trillion in the same period last year.

Total government expenditure was ₹9.7 trillion, or about 20.4% of the annual goal, lower than the ₹10.51 trillion a year earlier.

BoB Q1 net profit rises 9.5% to ₹4,458 crore

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Bank of Baroda reported first-quarter standalone net profit grew 9.5% to ₹4,458 crore from the year-earlier period, driven by lower credit cost.

Net interest income (NII) rose 5% year-on-year (YoY) to ₹11,600 crore, the bank said in a filing. Net interest margin (NIM) stood at 3.18% in Q1 FY25, the lender added.

"The focus in the quarter was on the liability management side," MD & CEO Debadatta Chand said in a conference call. "We protected the margins



through liability management and we had control on the cost of deposits [sequentially]," he added.

Return on assets (ROA) during the quarter ended June 30, 2024 remained consistently above 1% for 8 quarters and stood at 1.13% for Q1 FY25, he added.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	83,741	0.35
US Dollar	83.72	0.01
Gold	71,950	0.48
Brent oil	80.70	2.34

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3169.40	40.65
Adani Ports	1569.90	23.65
Apollo Hosp	6615.30	-25.70
Asian Paints	3084.45	79.40
Axis Bank	1166.10	-3.90
Bajaj Auto	9664.20	99.85
Bajaj Finserv	1651.65	9.00
Bajaj Finance	6806.95	-16.65
Bharti Airtel	1493.55	21.20
BPCL	350.05	1.85
Britannia Ind	5784.45	-57.75
Cipla	1244.30	15.40
Coal India	522.20	2.85
Divis Lab	4923.20	10.85
Dr Reddys Lab	6750.50	-53.65
Eicher Motors	4962.70	10.85
Grasim Ind.	2776.75	-14.15
HCL Tech	1642.60	12.35
HDFC Bank	1615.75	0.20
HDFC Life	715.50	18.30
Hero MotoCorp	5488.45	44.15
Hindalco	669.60	9.10
Hind Unilever	2705.65	14.25
ICI Bank	1214.90	5.45
IndusInd Bank	1427.80	-1.90
Infosys	1868.25	-8.90
ITC	495.35	5.45
JSW Steel	928.25	26.15
Kotak Bank	1807.90	21.80
L&T	3815.00	30.35
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5658.15	-14.35
M&M	2907.80	-14.30
Maruti Suzuki	13115.80	242.15
NestleIndia	2456.35	-1.30
NTPC	416.00	9.05
ONGC	334.20	2.30
PowerGrid Corp	348.20	-1.60
Reliance Ind	3010.85	-15.45
SBI Life	1753.65	32.60
State Bank	872.40	-0.40
Shriram Finance	2931.95	19.90
Sun Pharma	1719.35	17.75
TataConsumerPro	1188.95	-5.95
Tata Motors	1156.65	-5.20
Tata Steel	165.33	1.26
TCS	4385.35	20.00
Tech Mahindra	1554.40	16.35
Titan	3458.95	-9.30
UltraTech Cement	11887.20	80.75
Wipro	522.00	0.50

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on July 31

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.52	83.84
Euro	90.49	90.84
British Pound	107.25	107.66
Japanese Yen (100)	55.48	55.70
Chinese Yuan	11.57	11.61
Swiss Franc	94.84	95.21
Singapore Dollar	62.40	62.65
Canadian Dollar	60.36	60.60
Malaysian Ringgit	18.19	18.27
Australian Dollar	54.31	54.52

Source: Indian Bank

RBI proposes regulation for safer digital payments

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a draft circular proposing an Alternative Factor Authentication for all transactions to boost digital-payment security.

As per the draft, an additional factor of authentication was mandatory,

must be robust and one of them dynamically created, that is a factor is generated and can be used only once.

In addition, the banking regulator also said the factor should be determined by a host of parameters, including a risk profile of the customer and transaction value, among others. The RBI has also mandated

compulsory customer consent before a new factor of authentication in addition to choice to withdraw consent and de-register.

Contactless cards with a value lower than ₹5,000 per transaction, insurance premium, credit card payments above ₹1 lakh and other categories up to ₹15,000 are exempted.

The RBI also released another draft circular proposing due diligence to be undertaken by banks to verify Aadhar-enabled Payment System (AePS) touch-point operators.

The notification is as per RBI's Know Your Customer Master Direction 2016. The RBI proposed KYC update to be carried out for op-

erators who had not undertaken any financial transaction for six months straight, before further enabling the operator. Also, the operators must be monitored on an ongoing basis by banks that acquired them and all agents must adhere to the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) regulations.

Sundram Fasteners Limited

CIN: L35999TN1962PLC004943

Registered & Corporate Office: 98-A, VII Floor, Dr Radhakrishnan Salai, Mylapore, Chennai - 600 004

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Email: investorshelpdesk@sfl.co.in | Website: www.sundram.com

STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS

FOR THE QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

(₹ in Crores)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Standalone			Consolidated		
		Quarter ended		Year ended	Quarter ended		Year ended
		30.06.2024	30.06.2023	31.03.2024	30.06.2024	30.06.2023	31.03.2024
		(Unaudited)	(Audited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)		
1	Total Revenue from Operations	1,310.33	1,216.95	4,905.65	1,497.67	1,410.76	5,666.31
2	Net Profit for the period (before tax and exceptional items)	177.19	150.86	639.07	191.61	169.39	695.54
3	Net Profit for the period (before tax)	177.19	150.86	639.07	191.61	169.39	695.54
4	Net Profit for the period (after tax)	131.64	112.78	479.71	142.69	128.74	525.64
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	134.39	123.28	493.17	145.60	127.34	529.43
6	Equity Share Capital (Face Value of Re 1 each fully paid up)	21.01	21.01	21.01	21.01	21.01	21.01
7	Earnings Per Share (EPS) (for continuing and discontinued operations) (Face value of Re 1/- each) (not annualised) (in Rs.)						
	(a) Basic	6.26	5.37	22.83*	6.75	6.07	24.83*
	(b) Diluted	6.26	5.37	22.83*	6.75	6.07	24.83*

* Annualised

Notes:

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of the standalone and consolidated financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites, www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com and on the Company's website www.sundram.com.
- The Statutory Auditors have carried out a limited review for the quarter ended June 30, 2024 and have issued an unmodified report thereon.

For Sundram Fasteners Limited

Suresh Krishna
Chairman

Place : Chennai
Date : July 31, 2024

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

India Ratings upgraded India's FY25 GDP growth projection to 7.5% from an earlier estimate of 7.1%, citing growth momentum set in motion by announcements in the Union Budget. The revised number exceeds RBI's expectation of 7.2% for the fiscal.

The agency cited Budget announcements on spending on agriculture and rural economy and MSMEs for boosting demand. "Ind-Ra expects private final consumption expenditure to grow 7.4% yoy in FY25 (FY24: 4%), a 3-year high" said India Ratings.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The average cost of a data breach in India reached an all-time high of ₹195 million in 2024, IBM reported in its annual Cost of a Data Breach Report on Tuesday.

The most common initial attack types in India were phishing and stolen or compromised credentials, accounting for 18% of incidents each, followed by cloud misconfiguration (12%). Business email compromise was the costliest root cause at an average total cost of ₹215 million per breach, followed by social engineering (₹213 million) and phishing (₹209 mil-

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

lion) as the next highest costs, IBM said in the report. According to the report, breach costs jumped 39% since 2020 and 9% from the prior year, as breaches grow more disruptive and further expand demands on cyber teams.

Lost business and notification costs drove the year-over-year cost spike in India, as the collateral damage from data breaches had only intensified.

BAGHDAD

U.S. forces carry out 'defensive' air strike, killing four in Iraq



REUTERS

U.S. forces carried out a "defensive" air strike on combatants attempting to launch drones deemed a threat to American and allied troops. The strike — which left four dead — was the first by U.S. troops in Iraq since February, when it killed a pro-Iran commander involved in attacks on the country's troops. AFP

ISLAMABAD

Former Pakistan PM Imran Khan ready to hold talks with military



AFP

Pakistan's jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan said his PTI party is ready to hold "conditional negotiations" with the country's powerful military and has appointed a representative for the talks. "We will hold conditional negotiations if the military leadership appoints its representative," Mr. Khan wrote on X. REUTERS

LONDON

Ex-BBC anchor Edwards pleads guilty in indecent child image case



AFP

Former BBC news anchor Huw Edwards pleaded guilty on Wednesday to three counts of making indecent images of children. The 62-year-old, who resigned from the BBC in April on "medical advice", six months after he was arrested, faces a maximum prison sentence of 10 years and a minimum of 12 months. AFP

RIVNE

'Whole world' wants Russia at next peace summit, says Zelenskyy



AFP

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the "whole world", including Ukraine, wants Russia to participate at a second summit on ending the conflict between the neighbours. "The majority of the world today says that Russia must be represented at the second summit, otherwise we will not achieve meaningful results," he said. AFP

What does Haniyeh's death mean for Israel and Iran

By killing the Hamas leader, Israel has dealt a blow to both the militant group and the Gaza ceasefire talks; and by carrying out the attack in Tehran, where Haniyeh was a guest, Tel Aviv has both embarrassed the Islamic Republic and exposed its intelligence and security vulnerabilities; Iran, which attacked Israel in April, has vowed revenge

NEWS ANALYSIS

Stanly Johny

On July 20, Israel carried out a massive air strike on Hodeidah, the Red Sea port city in Yemen, that is controlled by the Houthis militia, in response to a drone attack by the Houthis that had hit Tel Aviv. On July 30, Israel carried out an air strike in Lebanon's capital Beirut, targeting Fuad Shukr, a top commander of Hezbollah, three days after a rocket attack killed 12 young people in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. On the same day, Ismail Haniyeh, the political chief of Hamas, was killed at his residence in Tehran.

Haniyeh, who was living in exile in Qatar, travelled to Iran to attend the inauguration of Masoud Pezeshkian, the Islamic Republic's new President. In Majlis,

Iran's parliament, Haniyeh hugged Mr. Pezeshkian, while lawmakers chanted "Death to Israel". Before dawn, Haniyeh was killed. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and Hamas have blamed Israel for the killing. The common factor that connects all three groups — Yemen's Houthis (Shia), Lebanon's Hezbollah (Shia), and Palestine's Hamas (Sunni) — is Iran. By targeting all three in a matter of days, Israel has dealt a blow to Iran's influence in West Asia. Of these three strikes, the killing of Haniyeh would particularly be seen as a victory by the Israelis.

After the October 7, 2023 attack by Hamas in Israel, in which some 1,200 people were killed, the Israelis vowed that they would target all Hamas leaders.

Haniyeh was safe while he was in Qatar, an American ally. But when he went to Iran, his biggest backer,



In memoriam: Hamas members hold a poster of Ismail Haniyeh at a protest to condemn his killing in Lebanon on Wednesday. AP

the Israelis went after him.

Death by Israel

Haniyeh was arguably the most powerful leader of Hamas after Sheikh Ahmed Yassin and Abdel Aziz al-Rantisi. The wheelchair-bound, half-blind Yassin, the spiritual and organisational founder of Hamas, was killed by an Israeli missile in March 2004. Rantisi, who was appointed his successor, was also killed

by the Israelis within a month. Haniyeh, who was the head of the office of Sheikh Yassin, emerged to occupy the vacuum left by the departure of the two leaders.

He played a key role in mainstreaming Hamas, which was till then seen as a radical resistance militia, among the Palestinians. In 2006, Haniyeh led the group to victory in parliamentary elections in the

West Bank and Gaza. As the leader of the Hamas parliamentary party, Haniyeh was invited to form the government in the Palestinian Authority (PA).

But he faced two challenges. One, the PA's international backers, mainly in the West, were not ready to accept a government run by Hamas. Two, Palestine President Mahmoud Abbas and his Fatah party were unhappy with a Hamas Prime Minister. Mr. Abbas dissolved the Hamas government. This led to civil strife between the two Palestinian factions, with Fatah expelling Hamas from the West Bank and Hamas capturing Gaza and expelling Fatah from the enclave.

Haniyeh would lead the Hamas government in Gaza before stepping aside in 2017 and elevating Yahya Sinwar. In the same year, Haniyeh relocated to Doha, while Sinwar and Mohammed Deif, the military chief of Hamas, ran Gaza

from within the enclave. Ever since, Haniyeh had been the face of Hamas's regional and international presence. By killing him, Israel has dealt a blow to both the militant group and the Gaza ceasefire talks. Will Hamas now accept a hostage deal with Israel which killed its top leader?

And by killing Haniyeh in Iran, where he was a guest, Israel has both embarrassed Iran and exposed its intelligence and security vulnerabilities.

Iran's next move

In April, when Israel bombed the Iranian embassy complex in Damascus, Tehran launched a massive missile and drone attack towards Israel. Iran was sending a clear message to the Israelis — attacks on Iranian officers would not go unpunished. Ever since, Israel has not targeted Iranian officers or its missions. But now Israel

is slowly changing the rules again.

By carrying out back-to-back attacks against three Iran-aligned militias, Israel is ramping up pressure on the Islamic Republic. And the assassination of Haniyeh also showed Israel's capabilities deep inside Iran. Iran retaliated in April when its embassy complex in Syria was attacked. Now, its sovereignty has been breached. Can Tehran afford not to retaliate this time? Highly unlikely.

The fact that the IRGC blamed Israel for the attack itself is indicative that Iran would retaliate. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has also vowed revenge. Tensions on Israel's northern border are already high with Hezbollah's attacks. What is to be seen is what Iran and Hezbollah are going to do and what Israel would do in response. West Asia is dangerously close to an all-out war.

Body of slain Hezbollah commander found

Agence France-Presse
BEIRUT

The body of top Hezbollah commander Fuad Shukr was recovered on Wednesday from the rubble of an Israeli strike in south Beirut, a source close to the group said, as fears mounted of a wider war.

The raid on the Beirut suburb, an overcrowded residential area that is also a Hezbollah bastion, killed five civilians — three women and two children.

The source, who requested anonymity, said "Shukr's body has been found under the rubble of the targeted building," after Israel's military said it had killed the commander on Tuesday.

The Israeli military said its strike had "eliminated" Shukr, who it blamed for carrying out a weekend rocket attack on the annexed Golan Heights that killed 12 children in a Druze Arab town.

Junta extends state of emergency by six months in Myanmar

Agence France-Presse
YANGON

Myanmar's junta on Wednesday extended the state of emergency by six months, again delaying fresh polls it has promised to hold as it battles opposition to its coup.

The Southeast Asian nation has been in turmoil since the February 2021 coup which ended a 10-year experiment with democracy and sparked mass protests and a crackdown on dissent.

String of losses

Three-and-a-half years later, the junta is struggling to crush widespread armed opposition and recently suffered a series of stunning losses to an

The extension is 'to prepare ballots' for the election the junta has promised to hold possibly in 2025

liance of ethnic minority armed groups.

The junta had been unable to hold fresh polls as planned following an initial two-year state of emergency "due to the terrorist acts" by its opponents, broadcaster MRTV reported.

Junta chief Min Aung Hlaing had proposed the current extension "in order to prepare valid and accurate ballots" for the election the junta has promised to hold, possibly in 2025.

Venezuelans persist with protests a day after 12 died

Agence France-Presse
CARACAS

Thousands of Venezuelans gathered on Tuesday in a peaceful show of opposition support a day after 12 persons died and hundreds were arrested during protests against President Nicolas Maduro's disputed presidential election victory.

They chanted "Freedom! Freedom!" and "We are not afraid!" at a mass rally in the capital Caracas, where opposition leaders insisted they had the numbers for a convincing victory.

International calls mounted for the Maduro-aligned National Electoral Council (CNE) to release a detailed vote breakdown to back its awarding of Sunday's election to him.



Unrelenting spirit: The police arrest an opponent of Nicolas Maduro taking part in a demonstration in Caracas on Tuesday. AFP

Mr. Maduro said the opposition would be held responsible for "criminal violence... the wounded, the dead, the destruction" associated with protests.

The Foro Penal human rights NGO said at least 11 persons — two of them minors — had died in what its head Alfredo Romero described as "a crisis of hu-

man rights." Dozens more were injured, and at least 177 arrested, he said, while authorities reported more than 700 arrests.

Security forces fired tear gas and rubber bullets on Monday at protesters who claimed the election was stolen and flooded the streets.

Bangladeshis protest authorities' excessive use of force

Agencies
DHAKA

The police in Bangladesh fired tear gas and stun grenades to disperse people who were demonstrating on Wednesday against the excessive use of force by authorities during protests earlier in July that left at least 150 dead.

The unrest is the biggest test facing Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, 76, since she won a fourth term in January elections boycotted by the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party, which were also marred by deadly protests.



Escalating situation: People scuffle with security personnel outside the High Court building in Dhaka on Wednesday. AFP

Ms. Hasina on Wednesday sought cooperation from the United Nations and other international organisations to conduct a

proper investigation into the nationwide violence during the anti-quota agitation. "We are seeking UN and

other international organisations' cooperation for a fair investigation into the matter," Ms. Hasina said.

"Because I have no negligence to this end," she was quoted as saying by the Dhaka Tribune newspaper.

Police said they used force on Wednesday when people in the northeastern district of Sylhet broke through barricades to march towards for the courts.

"We requested the protesters to move from the road, but they did not listen and instead attacked the police, forcing us to dis-

perse them with tear gas and stun grenades," said regional deputy commissioner Azbahar Ali Sheikh.

Police and protesters scuffled in Dhaka and the southern port city of Chittagong.

Ten injured

At least 10 persons, including four journalists, were injured in Barishal district, where police used batons to disperse protesters.

Police detained at least seven students in Dhaka near the high court, where lawyers and university teachers joined the demonstrators.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
Office of The Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invite tenders in Two Stage Tender System from Eligible Contractors for the below mentioned works.

Sl No.	Name of Work	Amount Put to Tender
		EMD
		Date: 29.07.2024
No: BWSSB/EIC/CE(E)/ACE(E)-2/DCE(M)-JTA(E)/1892/2024-25		
1.	Providing and laying of 200mm dia DI and 100mm dia DI water supply line pertaining to Govindapura road Veerannapalya service road junction to HBR 1st main service road (ORR) HBR service station of AEE(E)-2-1 sub division.	Rs. 315.14 lakhs Rs. 5.58 lakhs
2.	Providing and laying of 450mm dia MS & 300mm dia DI water supply line pertaining to Govindapura road Veerannapalya service road junction to HBR 1st main service road (ORR) HBR service station of AEE(E)-2-1 sub division.	Rs. 370.74 lakhs Rs. 6.56 lakhs
3.	Providing and laying of 450mm dia MS, 300mm dia DI water supply line at Nagawara main road from ORR to Shampur road junction pertaining to AEE(E)-2-1 sub division	Rs. 296.03 lakhs Rs. 5.23 lakhs
4.	Providing and laying of 200mm dia DI & 100mm dia DI water supply line pertaining to Kammanahalli road: 10C flyover to ORR service station of AEE(E)-2-1 sub division	Rs. 167.09 lakhs Rs. 2.95 lakhs
5.	Providing and laying of 300mm dia RCC sewer line from Hennur junction ORR to Lingarajapura flyover pertaining to Lingarajapura S/s of AEE(E)-2-2 sub division	Rs. 113.31 lakhs Rs. 2.01 lakhs
For the above works Last date and time for Receipt of tenders will be on 16.08.2024 upto 16.00 hrs. The bids will be opened on : 18.08.2024 after 11.00 hrs.		
No: BWSSB/EIC/CE(E)/ACE(E)-2/DCE(M)-JTA(E)/1943/2024-25		Date: 29.07.2024
1.	Providing and laying and linking of 600mm dia, 200mm dia MS pipe and 100mm dia DI pipe line from Anepalya main road to NGV storm water drain for BBMP White Topping Work coming under Johnson Market service station of AESEE-1 Sub division	Rs. 313.10 lakhs Rs. 4.70 lakhs
2.	Providing, laying and linking of 300mm dia MS and 150mm dia DI water supply pipe line at MG Road from Anil Kumble Circle to Trinity Circle junction for proposed BBMP White Topping Work coming under CLR service station of AESEE-1 sub division	Rs. 255.47 lakhs Rs. 4.2 lakhs
3.	Providing, laying and linking of 300mm dia, 200mm dia MS pipe line and 100mm dia DI pipe line from Anepalya main road to Masjid road (Bazaar street) to Hosur road for BBMP White Topping Work coming under Johnson market service station of AESEE-1 Sub division.	Rs. 219.22 lakhs Rs. 3.29 lakhs
4.	Replacement of 400mm dia CI pipe line by MS pipe line and 100mm dia CI pipe line by 100mm dia DI pipe line at MG Road coming under Halasuru service station of AESEE-2 sub division.	Rs. 261.58 lakhs Rs. 4.63 lakhs
5.	Providing and laying of 300mm dia RCC line in place of 225mm dia SW silted up and damaged line with construction of new machine holes at MG Road (RHS side) from Anil Kumble circle to Trinity Circle for proposed White Topping Work coming under CLR service station of AESEE-1 sub division	Rs. 134.05 lakhs Rs. 2.37 lakhs
For the above works Last date and time for Receipt of tenders will be on 16.08.2024 upto 16.00 hrs. The bids will be opened on : 17.08.2024 after 17.00 hrs.		
Sd/- Chief Engineer (East)		
The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in . For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.		
DIPR/CP/1179/Zen/2024-25		

DRAMATIC FINISH

Yee gets the better of Wilde to win the delayed men's triathlon



Getty Images

Britain's Alex Yee won the men's triathlon on Wednesday, passing New Zealand's Hayden Wilde in the final stretch, in a dramatic finish to the delayed event. Yee, who won silver in Tokyo, caught his great rival on one of the last corners of the 10km run, while France's Leo Bergere came in third.

DELIGHTING HOME FANS

Beaugrand gives France its first ever Olympic medal in triathlon



AP

Cassandre Beaugrand won the women's triathlon, after the race was given the green light following pollution tests, to clinch France's first ever Olympic medal in the event. Switzerland's Julie Derron, who had led for most of the run stage, won silver and Great Britain's Beth Potter, considered a top contender for gold, took bronze.

THREE EVENTS

Sifan Hassan to run 5,000m, 10,000m and the marathon



FILE PHOTO

Sifan Hassan of Netherlands will defend her 5,000m and 10,000m titles and take on the marathon in Paris, she said on Wednesday, dropping 1,500m from her programme. Sifan, who was initially registered to compete in all four events, attempted an unprecedented Tokyo treble three years ago.

NO SPRINT DOUBLE

200m World champion Jackson to skip the 100m in Paris Games



AFP

Jamaica's twice 200 metres World champion Shericka Jackson will not contest the sprint double after dropping the 100 from her programme. "I'm only running the 200m here," said Jackson, who has won silvers in the 100m in the last two World championships and the 100m bronze at the Tokyo Games.

Sensational Lakshya shocks Christie, advances to the pre-quarterfinals

The 22-year-old Indian utilises the drift to his advantage against the favoured Indonesian; Sindhu progresses after breezing past Estonia's Kuuba



Jonathan Selvaraj
PARIS

Jonathan Christie might have been forgiven for thinking he'd won the point.

Down 18-19 in the first game in his Group L men's singles match against Lakshya Sen, Christie would have thought he'd just pulled level.

After a furious flat exchange, he'd caught the Indian in a bad position and powered a drive to the wrong side of the right-handed Indian.

Christie had almost started celebrating as the shuttle nearly passed the 22-year-old Indian when at the last minute Lakshya whipped his racquet behind his back and returned the shot.

Christie was rushed into a shot and ended up hitting out. By conventional logic, Lakshya should not have won this point. Game point down soon became a game down. Lakshya would make the most of the opening as he wrapped the second game in double quick



Contrasting victories: With the first game on the line, Lakshya pulled off a terrific behind-the-back return while Sindhu won at a canter. RITU RAJ KONWAR

time to win 21-18, 21-12. The Indonesian — who got off to a storming start, winning the first five points — walked off the court head bowed in disbelief.

Figuring it out

"I couldn't figure out the drift in the first few minutes. The drift was coming in from behind me and Christie was just trying to pin me to the back. But once I got used to the conditions, it was a lot easier," Lakshya said.

Indeed that moment of brilliance aside, Lakshya wasn't trying to do anything

spectacular, playing well within his means and waiting for his opponent to make the errors.

"The preparation and the strategy were in place and we didn't do anything extra. My coaches (Prakash Padukone and Vimal Kumar) were constantly encouraging me and that made it easier for me."

It's hard to call this win an upset — Lakshya is a former world bronze medalist after all. But he was also not the favourite to beat Christie.

The pair had played each other five times before, with the Indonesian

winning the last four times from the start of the last season.

Lakshya was only getting his season back on track this year after a dismal run in the second half of the previous season.

Christie, meanwhile, was coming into Paris in red-hot form as the reigning Asian and All England champion.

If there was ever a time to overcome a streak, it was on Wednesday at the Arena Porte de La Chapelle. The two had been unexpectedly paired together in the league phase. With only the winner of

the group going through to the round-of-16, the match was a must-win encounter for both players.

Now that he has made his place in the last-16, Lakshya has all the momentum he could hope for. "I think it was a tough group. I had to be at my best from day one. (Beating a player like Christie) gives you a lot of confidence."

"I haven't done well against him in our last few matches. They've been close and I've played well, but I've not closed them out. I'm happy with the way the momentum is go-

ing and I would love to continue this," he said.

Earlier, P.V. Sindhu dispatched Kristin Kuuba of Estonia 21-5, 21-10 in 34 minutes to confirm her place in the last-16.

"Criticism is always there. It's all about how you take it. Even though so many people are saying things, I know what I am. I know how it is to play on court," Sindhu said.

Meanwhile, the Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will face Malaysia's Aaron Chia and Wooi Yik Soh in the quarterfinals.

Sindhu wishes Manu the best for a third

Jonathan Selvaraj

A day after Manu Bhaker told *The Hindu* how she had made a fake social media profile in order to discreetly defend two time Olympic medallist P.V. Sindhu from online abuse, the Indian badminton player admitted that it was inevitable to have to deal with criticism of her performance on social media.

"Criticism is always there. (What matters) is just how you take it," she told reporters on Wednesday.

"And for me personally, even though there are so many people (who might criticise me), I know what I am and I know how it is to compete, how hard it is when we play on court, how hard it is when we lose and how bad we feel when that happens," Sindhu said.

"We do have bad days and I don't deny that but it's important to bounce back stronger and just keep fighting hard and keep working hard."

"There are times you keep losing in your first

round and however much ever you try, you might not be able to move forward but that is the time you have to stay positive and you need to have positive people around you and just keep backing yourself up," she said.

"I have always appreciated Neeraj and Sindhu for their hard work. There was this one time when I made a fake profile to defend Sindhu. Some haters commented, and I got so triggered that I made a fake account to defend her," Manu had told *The Hindu* following her second bronze medal. "What a sweetheart! Welcome to the two-medal club," Sindhu then posted on 'X' in response to Manu.

Sindhu also wished Manu the best as both of them chased the very same goal of three Olympic medals.

"I couldn't talk to Manu yesterday because I also had a match today but I obviously congratulated her. She's done a great job and I wish her all the very best in her upcoming event. She's put on an amazing show," Sindhu said.

INDIANS IN ACTION

A look at some Indian players/team who will compete on Thursday (all times IST):
Athletics: 20km race walk: Men's final (Akshdeep, Paramjeet, Vikash), 11 a.m.; Women's final (Priyanka), 12.50 p.m.
Archery: Men's Individual (1/32 elimination): Pravin vs Kao (Chn), 2.30 p.m.
Boxing: Women's 50kg (round-of-16): Nikhat vs Wu (Chn), 2.30 p.m.

Golf: Men's Individual Stroke Play: Round 1 (Gaganjeet, Shubhankar), 12.30 p.m.
Hockey: Men (Pool B): vs Belgium (1.30 p.m.).
Sailing: Men's Dinghy (Vishnu Saravanan), 3.45 p.m.; Women's Dinghy (Nethra), 7.05 p.m.
Shooting: 50m Rifle 3 Positions: Men's final (Swapnil), 1 p.m.; Women's qualification (Sift, Anjum), 3.30 p.m.

Deepika progresses; Tarundeep exits

Y.B. Sarangi
PARIS

The seasoned Deepika Kumari got past two opponents to reach the women's individual pre-quarterfinals in the archery competitions at the Invalides arena here on Wednesday.

Deepika, ranked 23rd in the ranking rounds, overcame her inconsistency to beat Estonia's Reena Parnat 6-5 (29-28, 26-27, 27-27, 24-27, 30-27, shoot-off: 9-8) in a round of 32 contest.

Getting past Quinty

Later, she defeated Netherlands' Quinty Roeffen 6-2 (29-28, 27-29, 25-17, 28-23) in the round of 16.

Bhajan Kaur has already secured a place in the pre-quarterfinals.

Tarundeep Rai's journey ended in the men's individual round of 32 as he lost to Great Britain's Tom Hall 6-4 (27-27, 28-27, 25-28, 29-28, 29-29).

Lovlina blanks Hofstad, gears up for Li test in style

Y.B. Sarangi
PARIS

World champion Lovlina Borgohain executed her plan well to record a comprehensive 5-0 win over 2022 World junior champion Sunniva Hofstad of Norway in a round-of-16 boxing match of the Olympics at the North Paris Arena here on Wednesday.

A big test awaits Lovlina, a 69kg bronze medallist in the Tokyo Olympics, as she takes on old rival and top-seeded Chinese star Li Qian, a double Olympic medallist, a triple World Championships medallist and the current Asian Games champion, in a crucial quarterfinal contest on Sunday.

Presenting an improved version of her game, the eighth-seeded Lovlina, who had a lower back issue during the pre-Olympics camp in Saarbrücken, showed no signs of discomfort as she jogged, smiling, to the blue corner and looked eager to



No looking back: With clarity of thought and a confident demeanour, Lovlina launched regular attacks. RITU RAJ KONWAR

get on with her first fight.

With clarity of thought and a confident demeanour, the Indian launched attacks to take an early advantage.

Her left-right combinations put pressure on the Norwegian, who tried to land some counters to tackle the lanky Indian.

After claiming the first round with clean shots, Lovlina maintained her long range and made effective use of her precise left jab, which has gained pow-

er over time, to keep Hofstad at a safe distance.

For Lovlina, the second round was more about balancing her attack and defence. Her movement and evading tactics helped her stay out of the Norwegian's grasp and consolidate her lead.

Even as Hofstad tried to bridge the gap between the two, Lovlina continued to hit and move in the final round before getting a step closer to securing her second medal.

Manika's remarkable run ends; Sreeja shines brighter than Sun

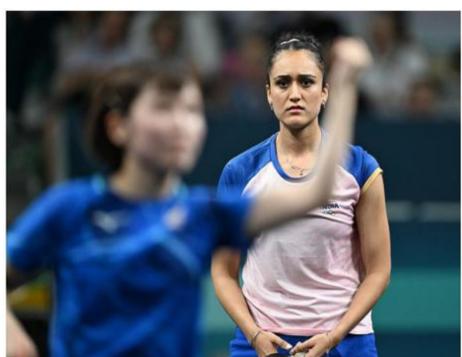
Y.B. Sarangi
PARIS

Manika Batra's historic run ended in the pre-quarterfinals as she lost to 13th-ranked Japanese Hirano Miu — an Olympic team silver and World Championships medallist — 1-4 (6-11, 9-11, 14-12, 8-11, 6-11) in the women's singles table tennis competition of the Olympics at the South Paris Arena here on Wednesday.

Earlier, Sreeja Akula got the better of Singapore's Jian Zeng 4-2 (9-11, 12-10, 11-4, 11-5, 10-12, 12-10) in 51 minutes to set up a round-of-16 clash with China's Sun Yingsha.

Manika did not have a good start as she hit the net often to see Hirano, who serves with a noticeable thumping right leg, secure the first game in six minutes.

Manika began well in the second game, taking an early 5-1 lead. However, the gritty Japanese fought back



It was not to be: Manika is distraught after going down to Hirano in the round-of-16. RITU RAJ KONWAR

to level the scores at 6-6 and went on to pocket the game as the Indian struggled to keep the ball on the table on several occasions.

In a thrilling third game that lasted 12 minutes, Manika took a five-point lead before Hirano benefitted from the Indian's mistakes to secure game points twice.

But the Indian did not give up and won the game

THE INDIA SHOW

A look at some of the Indian performances on Wednesday:
Archery: Individual: Women: 1/16 elimination: Deepika bt Roeffen (Ned) 6-2; 1/32: Deepika bt Parnat (Est) 6-5; Men: 1/32 elimination: Tarundeep lost to Hall (GBR) 4-6.
Badminton: Group stage: Women: Sindhu bt Kuuba (Est) 21-5, 21-10; Men: Lakshya bt Christie (Ina) 21-18, 21-12; Prannoy bt Le (Vie) 16-21, 21-11, 21-12.
Boxing: Women (round-of-16): 75kg: Lovlina bt Hofstad (Nor) 5-0; 54kg: Preeti lost to Castaneda (Col) 2-3.

Equestrian: Dressage Grand Prix: Individual qualifier: Anush (Ninth in group E, DNQ for final).
Rowing: Men's Single Sculls (semifinal C/D 1): 6. Balraj (will compete for positions 19 to 24).
Shooting: 50m Rifle 3 Positions: Men's qualification: 7. Swapnil (qualifies for final), 11. Aishwary Pratap, DNQ; Trap: Women's qualification: 22. Rajeshwari and 23. Shreyasi, DNQ for final.
Table tennis: Women: Round-of-16: Manika lost to Hirano (Jpn) 6-11, 9-11, 14-12, 8-11, 6-11; Round-of-32: Sreeja bt Zeng (Sgp) 9-11, 12-10, 11-4, 11-5, 10-12, 12-10.

IN BRIEF



Wiffen makes Irish history with 800m freestyle gold

Daniel Wiffen became the first Irishman to win an Olympic swimming gold medal on Tuesday when he powered home first in the men's 800m freestyle. The 23-year-old hit the wall in 7min 38.19sec, the fifth fastest of all time, ahead of American defending champion Bobby Finke (7:38.75) and Italian Gregorio Paltrinieri (7:39.38).



McKeown pips Smith to retain 100m backstroke crown

Australia's Kaylee McKeown retained her Olympic crown in the women's 100m backstroke, producing a blistering second lap to beat world record holder Regan Smith of the USA. McKeown won with a time of 57.33sec while Smith was 57.66. USA's Katharine Berkoff (57.98) took bronze.



Great Britain defends men's 4x200m freestyle title

A British team anchored by Duncan Scott stormed to victory in the men's Olympic 4x200m freestyle relay Tuesday to successfully defend its title. Led off by James Guy and brought home by Scott, with Tom Dean and Matt Richards in the middle legs, it touched in 6mins 59.43secs ahead of the United States and Australia.



Sjöström sprints to women's 100m freestyle gold

Sweden's Sarah Sjöström won the women's 100 metres freestyle gold medal on Wednesday. The evergreen Sjöström, who holds the World record, touched the wall in 52.16 seconds at La Defense Arena, 0.13 seconds ahead of American silver medalist Torri Huske. Siobhan Haughey took bronze for Hong Kong.

Marchand claims men's 200m butterfly for a second gold

France's Leon Marchand won his second gold medal at the Paris Games with a brilliant final lap to clinch the men's 200m butterfly. World record holder and defending champion Kristof Milak of Hungary had led until midway through the final stages when Marchand, who already has gold from the 400m medley, made his dramatic late surge, roared on by the home crowd.

GOING FOR GOLD

- Artistic Gymnastics:** Women's All-Around
- Athletics:** Men's and Women's 20km Walk
- Canoe Slalom:** Men's Kayak Single
- Fencing:** Women's Foil Team
- Judo:** Men's -100kg, Women's -78kg
- Rowing:** Women's & Men's Double Sculls, Women's and Men's Four
- Sailing:** Women's and Men's Skiff Medal race
- Shooting:** Men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions
- Swimming:** Women's 200m Butterfly, Men's 200m Backstroke, Women's 200m Breaststroke, Women's 4x200m Freestyle Relay

Djokovic and Alcaraz stay on course

The Serb breezes into the quarterfinals to set up a clash with Tsitsipas; Spaniard also makes the last eight; Swiatek enters the semifinals



Red hot! Djokovic made the last eight for a record fourth time. GETTY IMAGES



Medals table

Country	G	S	B	T
1 China	8	7	3	18
2 Japan	8	3	4	15
3 France	7	9	8	24
4 Australia	7	4	3	14
5 Great Britain	6	6	5	17
6 Korea	5	3	3	11
7 USA	4	13	12	29
8 Italy	3	6	4	13
9 Canada	2	2	3	7
10 Germany	2	2	1	5
39 India	0	0	2	2

Novak Djokovic and Carlos Alcaraz overcame crushing humidity on Wednesday to stay on course for an Olympic final showdown as Iga Swiatek shrugged off a blow to the chest to reach the semifinals.

Djokovic, seeking a first Olympic title to add to his record-breaking collection, defeated German left-hander Dominik Koepfer 7-5, 6-3, becoming the first man to reach four singles quarterfinals at the Games.

The 37-year-old Djokovic has only ever collected a bronze at the Olympics, at Beijing 16 years ago, but he was rarely troubled by his 70th-ranked opponent. "I'm soaking wet, honestly," said Djokovic, who has won three of his 24 Grand Slam crowns on Paris's famous red clay.

"It's a very, very humid day as it was yesterday. But you have to accept and em-

brace the conditions and try to make the best out of it."

Djokovic, who had breezed past old rival Rafael Nadal in the second round, goes on to face 11th-ranked Stefanos Tsitsipas, who got past Argentina's Sebastian Baez 7-5, 6-1.

Alcaraz brushed aside Roman Safiullin, the Russian playing in Paris as a neutral, 6-4, 6-2.

Up next for Alcaraz is Tommy Paul, the American he defeated in the Wimbledon quarterfinals.

Medvedev ousted Russia's Daniil Medvedev, also appearing as a neutral and seeded to face Alcaraz in the semifinals, was defeated 6-3, 7-6(5) by Felix

Auger-Aliassime.

In women's singles, World No.1 Swiatek progressed when Danielle Collins retired injured in the final set.

She will face China's Zheng Qinwen, who ended the career of former World No. 1 and three-time Major winner Angelique Kerber.

Four-time French Open winner Swiatek racked up her 25th successive win on the clay courts of Paris but only after being pole-axed by a fierce backhand from Collins in the first game of the deciding set.

Swiatek next faces Australian Open runner-up Zheng, who became the first Chinese woman since Li Na in 2008 to reach the semifinals with a 6-7(4), 6-4, 7-6(6) win over Kerber. Slovakia's Anna Karolina Schmiedlova became the first Slovakian player to make the semifinals since Miloslav Mecir won the men's title at Seoul in 1988.

The 67th-ranked Schmiedlova stunned Wimbledon champion Barbora Krejčíková 6-4, 6-2.

Nadal-Alcaraz duo exits Meanwhile in doubles, Rafael Nadal and Carlos Alcaraz were dumped out by Austin Krajicek and Rajeev Ram. The Spanish dream team lost 6-2, 6-4 to the US fourth seeds, who progressed to the semifinals.

Gaekwad, 71, passes away

1952-2024

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Former India cricketer Aunshuman Gaekwad passed away on Wednesday after a long battle with cancer. He was 71.

Gaekwad played 40 Tests and 15 ODIs for India. He was also the coach of the Indian team that finished runner-up at the 2000 ICC Champions Trophy. Gaekwad was undergoing treatment for blood cancer at the King's College Hospital in London before returning back to the country last month.

The BCCI gave ₹ 1 crore for Gaekwad's treatment and members of the 1983 World Cup-winning team also did their bit to help the cricketer.

Gaekwad has also played 205 First Class matches in a career span-



Aunshuman Gaekwad's career in numbers

	M	Inns	Runs	HS	Avg	100s/50s
Tests	40	70	1,985	201	30.07	2/10
ODIs	15	14	269	78*	20.69	0/1

ning 22 years.

He later took over as coach of the Indian team. His glorious moments came at Sharjah in 1998

and in a Test match at Ferozeshah Kotla when Anil Kumble took all 10 wickets in an innings against Pakistan in 1999.

A picture of steely calm

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
CHENNAI

Countering the fiercest pace bowlers in their prime, Aunshuman Gaekwad was always a picture of steely calm. Later as a coach, the former India opener was full of grace, empathy and laughter with the last-mentioned attribute in full evidence when Anil Kumble got his 'perfect 10' against Pakistan at Delhi in 1999.

However, in his battle against cancer, Gaekwad, Baroda's mainstay and one of Sunil Gavaskar's steady opening colleagues, had to play second-fiddle. Gaekwad, aged 71, passed away on Wednesday, leaving behind a grief-stricken cricketing fraternity. A recent stint in London hospitals while his former teammates Gavaskar and Kapil Dev rallied around him is both a tribute to the way he was loved and the enduring friendships he forged.

Another maestro must be grieving now as the great G.R. Viswanath was one of Gaekwad's closest buddies. In his prime, the bespectacled Gaekwad was an immovable object against the fastest of bowlers, including Michael Holding.

His 1985 Test runs from 40 matches may not fully reveal the quality he possessed but there was no limit to his stone-walling technique that was evident in the 201 he scored against Pakistan at Jalandhar in 1983.

His 81 against the West Indies at Kingston's Sabina



Resolute: Gaekwad, in his prime, was an immovable object against the fastest of bowlers. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Park during the 1976 tour, is the stuff of legend, and it is an innings that Holding, Gaekwad's then tormentor, always remembers. Forced to retire hurt following a gruesome injury, the opener was resigned to seeing India lose to the Caribbean men in a Test marred by blood spilled on the turf. This was a new-age 'bodyline' and more vicious in its intent.

Having played for India for more than a decade, Gaekwad continued as a First Class cricketer till the 1991-92 season before seamlessly moving into coaching, selection and administration. Soft-spoken

and with an easy smile, he was always accessible to the media while his close pals called him Anshu and relished their evenings of nostalgia and banter with him.

Recently Kapil released a video, imploring Gaekwad to fight back like he always had done. By the time the appeal concluded, one of India's greatest cricketers was in tears, such was Gaekwad's deep emotional impact on all those he interacted with in a storied career. India has lost a fine cricketer, and for all those he played with and coached, this loss is personal.

Franchise owners divided over the mega auction

IPL

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

The annual meeting between the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) officials and the Indian Premier League (IPL) franchisees on Wednesday was expected to exchange views on player retentions, use of right to match cards, auction purse and the impact player rule.

However, the meeting took an interesting turn when at least two franchisees sought doing away with the mega auction, or at least postponing it by a year. *The Hindu* understands that three team owners were at the forefront of having a smaller auction - meaning optimum player retentions -



Differing views: While SRH owner Kavaya preferred to not have the mega auction, DC's Jindal was for it. BCCI secretary Jay Shah termed the meeting a "constructive dialogue". EMMANUEL YOGINI

rather than forcing a major makeover in all the squads. "We do not want the mega auction this year - we would prefer a mini-auction this year. It takes a lot of time to build a squad and takes quite a bit of time and investment for

the younger players to mature," Kavaya Maran of Sunrisers Hyderabad said after the meeting. "For example, it has taken Abhishek Sharma three years to become consistent with his performances. You would agree that there are many

such examples in other teams too."

The suggestion came as a surprise to most in the enclosure and led to a prolonged debate between two team owners. "I was surprised (with the debate). Some didn't want big

auctions, stating there should be only smaller auctions," Parth Jindal, the Delhi Capitals co-owner, said.

"I am not in that camp, as it (mega auction) evens out the playing field. It makes the IPL competitive. It makes the IPL what it is. It makes it competitive."

Referring to the meeting as a "constructive dialogue", BCCI secretary Jay Shah said the owners' feedback will be considered while finalising player regulations.

"The franchise owners tabled feedback on player regulations and other commercial aspects, including central merchandising, licensing, and gaming. The BCCI will now take these recommendations to the IPL Governing Council for further deliberation and evaluation before formu-

lating the IPL player regulations," Shah said in a statement.

Jindal hoped that the BCCI will finalise the player regulations by August end. As per the IPL regulations, despite seeking the franchisee feedback, the IPL governing council does not involve the team owners in its final decision-making.

It is understood that the house was divided over the number of retentions. From no retentions to 10, the number varied. Similarly, the enclosure was divided over the need to have right to match cards. The auction purse may be increased from the existing Rs. 100 crore to Rs. 125 crore.

The franchisees also sought clarity about overseas players' availability while building the squad for the next full cycle.

Viksit Bharat, Sashakt Uttarakhand

State top performer in SDG India Index 2023-24

Driven by the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the state of Uttarakhand, led by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama, has demonstrated tremendous achievement in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as depicted in the **SDG India Index 2023-24**

PIC: DIPR, UTTARAKHAND GOVERNMENT



CM Pushkar Singh Dhama gifting 'Grain of Uttarakhand' to Prime Minister Narendra Modi

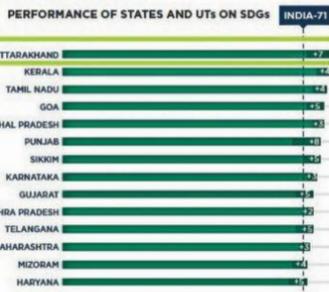
important landmarks in lessening poverty levels, assuring financial security for its citizens, and implementing comprehensive social security programmes. The exhaustive strategy of the state contains targeted initiatives for the marginalised, livelihood generation agendas, and improving access to fundamental needs such as housing, education, and healthcare. These endeavours have collectively contributed to the top-tier ranking of the state in eliminating poverty.

PROMOTING HEALTH AND WELL-BEING FOR ALL

The state of Uttarakhand has exhibited remarkable advancement in boosting health and well-being. The healthcare system of the state has demonstrated outstanding progress in different health indicators, including mother and child health, immunisation coverage, and the management of infectious and

non-communicable diseases. The focus of the government has been on bolstering healthcare infrastructure, extending the coverage of health

SDG INDIA INDEX 23-24



Uttarakhand has set a standard by leading in essential domains including healthcare, clean energy, reduction in poverty, urban sustainability, and environmental protection

benefits to remote places, and improving the quality of care. Ingenious health agendas and expanded investment in public health have additionally strengthened the ranking of Uttarakhand, positioning it among the highest achievers in this crucial domain.

PROVIDING AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY SOLUTIONS

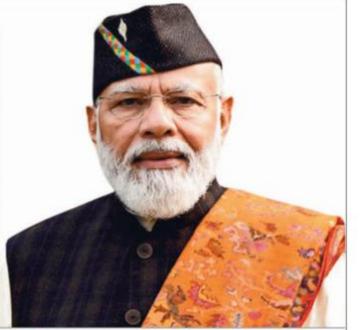
The accomplishments of Uttarakhand in the SDG India Index emphasise its adherence to assuring access to affordable, trustworthy, sustainable, and contemporary energy for everybody. The state has taken noteworthy steps in boosting renewable energy capability, especially in harnessing its hydroelectric potential. Further, Uttarakhand has concentrated on enhancing energy efficiency and extending the electricity grid to rural and isolated regions, assuring overall access to clean energy. These measures have improved energy security as well as contributed to environmental sustainability, making the state achieve a leading position in this classification.

CREATING INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE URBAN COMMUNITIES

The state has undertaken several metropolitan expansion to enhance infrastructure and improve various public services. Introduction of smart cities concept, affordable accommodation schemes, and integration of disaster threat reduction efforts into urban planning have greatly enhanced the quality of life for urban citizens.

CONSERVING TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY

The commitment of Uttarakhand towards



I congratulate the Uttarakhand government on the remarkable progress achieved in the last few years. This has been made possible by sustained policy push and focus on key sectors such as tourism and renewable energy. Alongside, the state has made significant strides in infrastructure development, setting new benchmarks for sustainable growth. Uttarakhand's commitment to harnessing its natural resources and promoting tourism has not only bolstered its economy but also showcased its potential on the global stage. I applaud the state's dedication to inclusive development and look forward to its continued success in the years ahead.

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

maintaining the ecosystem and biodiversity is illustrated in its high ranking in the SDG India Index. The state has launched strong efforts to save and revive forests, conserve wilderness, and fight land degradation.

The rich biodiversity and vast forest cover of Uttarakhand are important assets that the state preserves via different environmental approaches and community-based conservation agendas. Measures to foster sustainable farming and forestry techniques have additionally bolstered the ecological harmony of the state, assuring the long-term health of its natural resources.

The holistic strategy of Uttarakhand for growth, incorporating financial development with social inclusion and environmental administration, illustrates the regulations of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we are committed to the holistic development of our state, leveraging its natural beauty, rich cultural heritage, and immense potential. Through sustainable policies and strategic initiatives, we aim to foster economic growth, improve infrastructure, and enhance the quality of life for all our citizens. Our goal is to make Uttarakhand a model of progress, where tradition meets innovation, and every individual can thrive in a conducive environment for prosperity and well-being.

Pushkar Singh Dhama
Chief Minister

Uttarakhand has emerged as a top performer in the recently released SDG India Index 2023-24, ranking alongside Kerala with an impressive score of 79. Under the able leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama, the state has worked on comprehensive development, promoting renewable energy, augmenting healthcare infrastructure, evolving urban surroundings, and preserving biodiversity, underlining its dedication to sustainable evolution and effective policy execution, thus attaining a spot among the top five states in several SDG goals.

ALLEVIATING POVERTY AND SAFEGUARDING FINANCIAL SECURITY

The performance of Devbhoomi Uttarakhand in alleviating poverty is admirable, illustrating the state's victorious measures in its mitigation. The SDG India Index underscores that Uttarakhand has attained

Uttarakhand has undertaken a historic step to introduce the Gross Environmental Product (GEP) Index, becoming the first Indian state to introduce such a pioneering endeavour that connects ecology with the economy

U'khand aces in the introduction of gross environmental product index

The Gross Environmental Product (GEP) Index, was recently launched by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama and it evaluates the environmental health of the state based on the quality of four essential elements, viz. air, water, forest, and soil. The GEP shows

relative data from 2020 to 2022, indicating a 0.9% growth, signalling favourable environmental trends amid expansion.

CM Dhama highlighted the importance of this endeavour in facilitating a balance between financial growth and ecological

PIC: DIPR, UTTARAKHAND GOVERNMENT



Uttarakhand strives to lead by example with the introduction of the GEP Index, in balancing growth with environmental sustainability

conservation. The GEP Index will act as a vital instrument in forming prospective environmental conservation objectives and raising public understanding about the significance of protecting natural resources. The Chief Minister, while emphasising the rich natural legacy of Uttarakhand, highlighted the necessity for effective utilisation

of forest wealth and the revitalisation of water sources via comprehensive plantation of trees and water conservation measures.

The concept of GEP was envisioned by environmentalist Dr Anil Prakash Joshi. It allocates an economic worth to environmental services, providing a tangible standard of ecological influence. Uttarakhand strives to lead by example with the introduction of the GEP Index in balancing growth with environmental sustainability. This assures a brighter tomorrow for its residents and establishing a standard for other states to pursue.



Under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi, the 'One District Two Products' scheme launched by CM Pushkar Singh Dhama aims to promote local products and create self-employment opportunities across all 13 districts of the state

ODTP Scheme: A step towards local economic empowerment

Uttarakhand's 'One District Two Products' (ODTP) Scheme is an innovative initiative launched by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama in October 2021. The scheme aims to promote local products and create self-employment opportunities across all 13 districts of the state.

EMPLOYMENT IMPACT

One of the key aspects of the ODTP scheme is its potential to generate employment opportunities at the local level. By developing products based on market demand and utilising modern technology, the scheme creates jobs in various sectors, including packaging, testing, and logistics. The increase in business and export opportunities is expected to further bolster employment, benefiting local farmers, artisans, and craftsmen.

Notable products from various regions include Almora's tweed and Bal Mithai, Bageshwar's copper craft and Manduwa biscuits, Champawat's iron crafts and handwoven products, Chamoli's



CM Pushkar Singh Dhama inquiring about the products made by local artisans

handlooms, handicrafts, and aromatic herbs, Dehradun's bakery and mushroom products, Haridwar's jaggery and honey, Nainital's Aipan art and candle craft, Pauri's herbal products and wooden furniture, Pithoragarh's woolen carpet and Munsiyari rajma, Rudrapur's handicrafts temple shapes and prasads products, Tehri's natural fiber and Tehri Nath, Udham Singh Nagar's mentha oil and Moonj grass products, and Uttarkashi's woolen handicrafts and apple-based products.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Skill development and design enhancement are also crucial components of the implementation strategy. By equipping local artisans and craftsmen with modern skills and design techniques, the scheme ensures that the products meet contemporary market demands.

MARKET & EXPORT POTENTIAL

The ODTP scheme aims to position Uttarakhand's local products in both domestic and international markets.

By promoting these products on a larger scale, the scheme seeks to enhance their visibility and demand. The government's efforts to improve packaging, branding, and marketing are expected to play a significant role in this endeavour. Tourism is also expected to play a significant role in the ODTP scheme's market strategy. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has encouraged tourists to spend at least 5% of their total expenditure on local products. This initiative not only boosts the local economy, but also promotes state's cultural heritage.

FUTURE PROSPECTS

The ODTP scheme is a promising step towards the sustainable economic development of Uttarakhand. By focusing on local products and creating self-employment opportunities, the scheme aims to foster economic resilience in the state's rural areas. The successful implementation of this scheme could serve as a model for other states to follow, highlighting the potential of local industries to drive economic growth.

District-wide crafts get recognition

Local products find national & global platforms



PM Narendra Modi interacting with women entrepreneurs (SHG) during Uttarakhand Investor Summit 2023

The 'One District One Product' (ODOP) scheme is an endeavour under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, striving to boost regional products and promote financial evolution in districts across India. By recognising and sustaining outstanding products from each district, the scheme seeks to facilitate manufacturing, help regional craftspeople, and furnish a forum for these products in nationwide and global markets. Recently, Uttarakhand and its border district, Uttarkashi, obtained nationwide acclaim under this scheme, marking a notable accomplishment for the state.

The state's commendation came during the Atmanirbhar Bharat Utsav 2024 awards, where Uttarkashi district

States (Category B)		
Rank	State	Award
1.	J&K	Gold
2.	Uttarakhand	Silver
3.	Meghalaya	Bronze
4.	Sikkim	Bronze

won the second award for its production of Red Rice in the agriculture category.

Different districts in Uttarakhand have been recognised with special products under the ODOP scheme, including Almora's apricot-based products, Bageshwar's kiwi-based products, Chamoli's fish-based products, Champawat's tejpatta and spices, Dehradun's bakery products, Haridwar's mushrooms, Nainital's fruit juice and squash (peach, etc), Pauri's citrus-based products (Malta), Pithoragarh's turmeric-based products, Rudrapur's amaranth-based products, Udham Singh Nagar's mango-based products, and Uttarkashi's apple-based products.

This is supported by the Common Facility Centre (CFC) Scheme, which furnishes up to 90 percent of the project expenditure in economic aid. This allows local producers to improve their production establishments and enhance their product quality. The Marketing Development Assistance Scheme presents economic support to participants of nationwide and multinational exhibits and fairs, letting them demonstrate and market their ODOP-selected products. Further, the Finance Assistance Scheme (Margin Money Scheme) offers assistance to set up projects, assuring that financial limitations do not restrict the development of local enterprises.

AYUSH POLICY: TOWARDS WELLNESS



PM Narendra Modi's fondness for yoga and meditation has immensely increased the popularity of these age-old practices, especially in Uttarakhand

The AYUSH Policy of Uttarakhand summarises enterprising strategies to incorporate conventional healthcare procedures with contemporary methods, striving for holistic wellness and financial development.

The policy strives to capitalise on this legacy by enabling the cultivation of over 1,000 rare medicinal plants native to the area. Endeavours such as the Chief Minister Medicinal Plant Development Programme are set to involve 50,000 farmers in growing these plants, promoting sustainable farming approaches, and augmenting regional revenues. In the domain of AYUSH production, Uttarakhand already has a strong drive, backed by ample raw materials and promising business necessities. The state hosts multiple GMP-certified manufacturing departments making a vast array of AYUSH medicines and consumer items. Under the new policy, more incentives and assistance will be

offered to enable more units to attain WHO GMP certification and adhere to global quality norms. This action is anticipated to greatly improve the sector's contribution to the state's GDP, presently evaluated at Rs 4,000-5,000 crore.

The policy encapsulates strategies to credit all specified government AYUSH healthcare centers under the NABH (National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers) within five years.

#ExploreUttarakhand



@DIPR_UK

IN BRIEF



Breton Diaz moves to Southampton from Villarreal

Southampton completed the signing on Tuesday of forward Ben Breton Diaz from Villarreal on a four-year contract. The 25-year-old Chile international swapped Blackburn for Spain last summer and went on to spend the second half of last season on loan at Sheffield United, where he scored six goals in 14 top-flight appearances in England. Diaz has now made a permanent move to the Premier League by joining Southampton for a reported initial outlay of \$9 million.

Everton signs up centreback O'Brien from Lyon

Everton strengthened its defence with the signing of Ireland centre back Jake O'Brien from French side Lyon on Tuesday. The 23-year-old defender moved to the Premier League club in a four-year deal worth \$21 million, Lyon said. He is Everton's fifth signing of the summer, following the loan return of Leeds winger Jack Harrison and arrivals of midfielder Tim Iroegbunam and forwards Iliman Ndiaye and Jesper Lindstrom.

Veteran jockey-turned-trainer Karan Singh passes away

Veteran jockey-turned-trainer Karan Singh (80) passed away in Bengaluru on Tuesday night. As a jockey, he achieved the 1000 winners' milestone during a more than three-decades career. After his retirement, he became a trainer for M.A.M. Ramaswamy in Bengaluru.

LIVE TELECAST

Olympics 2024: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 11 a.m. onwards
Football: Durand Cup: Sony Sports Ten 2 (& LIV, 6.30 p.m.)

Suryakumar's left-field bowling choices stun Lanka

For three-quarters of the third T20I or more, Sri Lanka dominated proceedings before the Indian skipper ripped the manual apart and did something that defied logic

CRICKET

Pranay Rajiv
PALLEKELE

If a rulebook on cricketing conventions ever existed, you would probably find it torn to pieces and scattered across the Pallekele Stadium in Kandy.

For on Tuesday, Indian skipper Suryakumar Yadav ripped that manual apart and tossed it aside to mastermind a come-from-behind win against Sri Lanka in the final T20I between the two sides.

For three-quarters of the third T20I or more, Sri Lanka dominated proceedings. With nine runs needed from the last two overs and an easy-striking Kusal Perera in the middle, the Lankan fans were finally singing in joy as a rare win against India seemed in sight.

A gamble

But then, Suryakumar did something that defied logic at that point – a gamble which would have put Sri Lanka's casino hoppers to shame.

Despite pacers Khaleel Ahmed and Mohammed Siraj being available, Suryakumar tossed the penultimate over to Rinku Singh and bowled the final one himself, even though the two had never bowled in a T20I before.

The element of surprise from the Indian skipper proved to be too much for a Sri Lankan middle order



Working his magic: The element of surprise from Suryakumar proves to be too much for the opposition. PTI

bereft of runs and confidence. The Lankan batters managed just eight runs in the last two overs, losing four wickets. India took the game to a Super Over and coasted to an easy win, with Suryakumar nailing the winning strike.

Fizz

The Indian captain's left-field bowling choices were an output of a crumbling Pallekele surface that of-

fered a new-found fizz for the spinners. With all his lead spinners exhausting their quotas, his options were narrowed down to his part-timers.

Eventually, Suryakumar's deductive thinking worked out pretty well for India. Suryakumar though undermined his death-over punt and emphasised the temperament shown by his ward in the low-scoring match.

"More than the last over, I feel when we were around 30 for 4 and 48 for 5, how the boys showed character in the middle and took the game away from them. I felt 140 was a par score on that track.

"When we were going in I told them I had seen such games and if we put our heart in, we can pull it off," said Suryakumar at the post-match presentation ceremony.



Bunny in the hat moment: Suryakumar's ploy to bring in Rinku at a crucial juncture is testimony of his captaincy skills. AP

Washington effusive in praise of Suryakumar's leadership

Pranay Rajiv
PALLEKELE

All-rounder Washington Sundar was all praise for the way skipper Suryakumar Yadav led India from the jaws of defeat to a memorable Super Over win against Sri Lanka in the third and final T20I here on Tuesday.

"Honestly, his leadership skills were amazing. With nine needed off 12 to win, for him to bring Rinku in, with Kusal Perera batting and then for Rinku to get him out. It is amazing," said Washington during the post-match press conference. "Then Surya himself came in the last over and almost won the game. We all know he has a big heart when he goes out to bat. But he also has [proven that] he has a big heart when it comes to leadership skills."

Washington, who was the man of the match on Tuesday for his 18-ball 25 with the bat and 2/23 with the ball, admitted that his team never lost hope even

when Sri Lanka looked in absolute control during the 138-run chase.

"Surya kept telling us one or two wickets would change the game. In these kinds of low-scoring games, even a run-a-ball situation puts pressure on the batsman, especially when there is something on the pitch for the bowler.

"So, Surya kept telling that and that is exactly what happened. I hope the audience enjoyed the game because we won't see such games every now and then," added Washington.

Sri Lankan captain Charith Asalanka was quick to admit the failure of the team's middle order, including himself, which denied his side a consolation win in the third T20I.

"What went wrong for us was bad shot selection, particularly in the middle order, including me. We didn't do particularly well after the 15th over. We should have done way better in that phase," said Asalanka after the game.

Bengaluru makes emphatic start, Indian Army stuns Chennaiyin

DURAND CUP

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

Argentine striker Jorge Pereyra Diaz found the target twice to help Bengaluru FC prevail over a 10-man Indian Navy 4-0 in a Group B league match of the 133rd Durand Cup football at the Salt Lake Stadium here on Wednesday.

Rahul Bheke opened the scoring process before captain Sunil Chhetri doubled the lead off a penalty to have Bengaluru leading 2-0 at half time.

Diaz came in as a late substitute to score two quick goals.

Liton Shil struck late in the opening half to help Indian Army surprise former



Job done: Bengaluru FC players after their winning effort against Indian Navy. DEBASISH BHADURI

ISL champion Chennaiyin FC by a solitary goal in a Group D encounter at the JRD Tata Sports Complex, Jamshedpur.

The win saw Indian Army join host Jamshedpur FC on top of the group

standings with three points.

The results: Group B: Bengaluru FC 4 (Bheke 10, Chhetri 41-pen, Diaz 79, 90) bt Indian Navy FT 0.

Group D: Indian Army FT 1 (Liton Shil 42) bt Chennaiyin FC 0.

That's it for me as a coach: Klopp

Agence France-Presse
BERLIN

Jurgen Klopp has ruled out a return to coaching in the near future, including for the vacant England job. "As of today, that's it for me as a coach," Klopp said on Wednesday.

Speaking at a German Football Coaches Association meeting in Wuerzburg, the former Liverpool and Borussia Dortmund gaffer said: "I didn't decide to stop on a whim, it was a general decision."

Klopp stood down as Liverpool boss at the end of the 2023-24 season citing



Klopp. GETTY IMAGES

exhaustion after 23 years in club management.

The 57-year-old was almost immediately linked to several vacant jobs, including as England coach. "I'm looking for peace

and quiet, I'm 100 per cent in the here and now and I'm enjoying it. It was just time to step aside and put the whole thing to rest," said Klopp, adding making a special exception for a club or country "would be a great loss of face."

The coach said he was enjoying retirement but would work again in football at some point, even if his days in the dugout were over. "Will I be a coach again? I would actually rule that out at the moment. Let's see how it looks in a few months. At the moment, there's nothing in the pipeline."

Afsal runs to a new 800m mark; Jabir wins 400mh

ATHLETICS

Sports Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Asian Games silver medalist Mohammed Afsal (Air Force) broke the 800m meet record, clocking 1:47.06s, in the 73rd Services athletics championships at the SAI-LNCP Stadium on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Indian Navy's former Asian bronze medalist M.P. Jabir won the 400m hurdles in 49.99s.

Army Red and Navy were on top of the points

table with 55 points each with Air Force (32) in the third spot at the end of day three.

The results: 800m: 1. Mohammed Afsal (AF) 1:47.06s (MR, OR: 1:48.02), 2. Prakash Gadaade (AR) 1:47.93 BR, 3. Parvej Khan (IN) 1:48.19.

400m hurdles: 1. M.P. Jabir (IN) 49.99s, 2. Dhaval Utekar (AF) 50.34, 3. Nikhil Bhardwaj (IN) 50.63.

Pole vault: 1. R. Yugendran (IN) 5.00m, 2. Rambeer Singh (AG) 5.00, 3. Gaurav (AG) 4.80.

Discus: 1. Gagandeep Singh (IN) 55.57m, 2. P. Malik (AF) 55.08, 3. Praveen Kumar (AR) 51.43.

Decathlon: 1. S. Stalin Joes (AR) 6859 pts, 2. K.R. Gokul (IN) 6777, 3. Kamal Singh (AG) 6750.

Niki Poonacha enters the quarterfinals in doubles

TENNIS

Sports Bureau

Niki Poonacha and Hans Verdugo defeated Govind Nanda and Cooper Williams 6-3, 6-4 in the doubles pre-quarterfinals of the \$82,000 Challenger tennis in Lexington, USA.

At the \$25,000 ITF men's event in Taipei, S. Mukund advanced to the second round after his opponent Chung Yun Seong of Korea retired in the second set.

The results: \$82,000 Challenger, Lexington: Doubles, pre-quarterfinals: Hans Verdugo (Mex) & Niki

Poonacha bt Govind Nanda & Cooper Williams (USA) 6-3, 6-4.

\$25,000 ITF men, Taipei: First round: S. Mukund bt Chung Yun Seong (Kor) 6-1, 2-1 (retired).

Doubles, pre-quarterfinals: Sai Karteek Reddy & Wishaya Trongcharoenchaikul (Tha) bt Takuya Kumasaka & Taiyo Yamanaka (Jpn) 6-1, 6-3.

\$25,000 ITF men, Brazzaville, Congo: First round: Dev Javia bt Anurag Agarwal 6-1, 6-0; Aayush Bhat ((USA) bt Rishi Reddy 4-6, 7-5, 7-6(8); Eric Vanshelboim (Ukr) bt Aditya Balsekar 6-2, 6-0; Yuvan Nandal bt Harry Thursfield (GBR) 7-5, 7-5.

\$15,000 ITF men, Monastir: First round: Theo Herrmann (Fra) bt Chirag Duhan 6-4, 6-4.

\$75,000 ITF women, Lexington: First round: Iryna Shymanovich bt Sahaja Yamalalpalli 7-5, 6-4; **Doubles, pre-quarterfinals:** Shrivalli

Bhמידipaty & Mananchaya Sawangaew (Tha) bt Destanee Aiava (Aus) & Dalayna Hewitt (USA) 6-3, 6-4.

\$25,000 ITF women, Roehampton, Britain: First round: Eri Shimizu (Jpn) bt Anikita Raina 6-4, 5-7, 6-3.

\$25,000 ITF women, Mohammedia, Morocco: Doubles, pre-quarterfinals: Vaishnavi Adkar & Rinko Matsuda (Jpn) bt Chelsea Fontenel (Sui) & Sandra Samir 5-2 (retired).

\$15,000 ITF women, Ust-Kamenogorsk, Kazakhstan: First round: Vaidehi Chaudhari bt Anastasiya Krymkova (Kaz) 6-0, 6-2.

\$15,000 ITF women, Tbilisi, Georgia: Pre-quarterfinals: Haine Ogata (Jpn) bt Saumya Vig 6-1, 6-3; **Doubles, pre-quarters:** Selina Atay (Tur) & Haine Ogata (Jpn) bt Shria Atturu (USA) & Smriti Bhasin 6-3, 6-3.

Subroto Cup football in Delhi, Bengaluru from August 5

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

The 63rd Subroto Cup football tournament will start with the junior girls' event in the National Capital Region (NCR) from August 5 to 14.

Four grounds, including the iconic Ambedkar Stadium, will be used for the tournament.

It will be followed by the sub-juniors boys competition in Bengaluru from August 19 to 28.

The junior boys event is scheduled to be played in Delhi NCR from September 2 to 11.

A record 111 teams are expected to participate

from across the country, apart from outfits from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal.

Exposure

The best players from the junior boys and girls' sections will be given exposure at the Indian Football Centre in Austria/ Germany.

"The Indian Air Force (IAF) is committed to make the tournament bigger and better every year and provide a platform for the young players to take the next step in their budding career," Air Marshal R.K. Anand said while addressing the media on Wednesday.

THE HINDU AT THE GAMES PHOTO CONTEST

Identify this most decorated athlete in Olympic history with 28 medals, including a record 23 golds, and the first to win eight golds at a single Olympics in 2008.

Scan QR code or visit newsth.hindu.com/THOPH to take the quiz. Top 3 winners* every day win gift vouchers.

Answer to yesterday's quiz: Nadia Comăneci

Gill's progression – from missing the T20 WC to a future captain

At 24, the world is his oyster, the batter has all the tools to excel on the international stage, the season ahead would be crucial for him as he looks to realise his full potential who is touted to be India's next leader



R. Kaushik
COLOMBO

Subman Gill played himself out of India's 15 for the T20 World Cup with a series of underwhelming performances for the country in the months leading up to the selection of the squad. In eight innings between August 2023 and this January, the right-handed opener mustered a meagre 133 runs at an unedifying average of 16.63, and even that largely because of a sparkling 77 against West Indies in Lauderhill in August.

Once it was decided that Virat Kohli would partner Rohit Sharma at the top of the batting tree in the Americas, Gill's best bet was to sneak in as reserve opener, ahead of Yashasvi Jaiswal. But the left-hander made his inclusion a no-brainer with a century against Nepal in the Asian Games in October, followed by fifty-plus scores against Australia, South Africa and Afghanistan.

Setting the tempo

Now, following the retirements from Twenty20 Internationals of Rohit and Kohli, Gill and Jaiswal have come together to open the batting and set the tempo for the muscular middle order to build on. The right-handed Gill and Jaiswal complement rather than compete with each other, the former a master at silken stroke-play and the latter a robust ball-smasher who loves sending the little sphere deep into the stands.

With Ravindra Jadeja following Rohit and Kohli into T20I sunset, Gill is one of the few all-format players left in the Indian set-up. His pre-eminence within the ranks has been recognised by the conferring of the vice-captaincy in both white-ball formats; Gill was deputy to Suryakumar Yadav in the just-concluded T20I series against Sri Lanka, a role he will reprise when Rohit retakes charge during the three-match One-Day International beginning in Colombo on Friday. Clearly, the 24-year-old is being groomed for a leadership role going forward.

Gill played under Prithvi Shaw at the Under-19 World Cup in New Zealand in early 2018, but their careers have taken vastly different paths in the last six and a half years. Shaw was the first to break into the senior side, announcing his arrival with a century on Test debut

against West Indies in Rajkot in October 2018. But a lack of discipline, fitness concerns and more than one injury have left the former Under-19 skipper at a crossroads. Shaw hasn't played for India for more than three years, his international appearances restricted to 12 games. In the five and a half years since his first India cap, in January 2019, Gill has played 90 matches, has multiple centuries in Tests and ODIs (including a monumental 208 against New Zealand) and boasts a three-figure knock in T20Is too.

It's safe to say that in the battle of the two right-handers, Gill has stolen a clear march. That hasn't come about by accident. Where Shaw has a penchant for the good life, Gill is disciplined and tunnel-visioned, his commitment to fitness and to constantly keep improving catching the eye of successive coaches as well as chairmen of selection panels.

Gill, of course, has a long way to go, but the fact that he is already being looked at as a potential leader in the not-too-distant future is a vote of confidence he will cherish. Soft-spoken and well liked within the changing room, his captaincy skills are still a work in progress. He is, though, fortunate to be able to witness first-hand how Rohit and Suryakumar's minds function; in his early days with the Indian team, he was privy to how Kohli went about his business. His propensity to soak in information and to then make his own decisions should stand Gill in good stead, as should the experience of leading Gujarat Titans in the Indian Premier League.

Got what it takes

Gill has all the attributes needed to be a long-term success in all formats. Primarily a back-foot player, he is strong square of the wicket on both sides, short-arm jabs rather than full flourishes his calling card. On the bouncer tracks in Australia when he cut his teeth in Test cricket in December 2020, Gill looked completely at home, making 45 and 35 not out in India's victory in Melbourne, backing those up with an even 50 in the next Test in Sydney and breezing to 91 in the second innings of the final game in Brisbane when India rewrote the history books by hunting down 328 in the fourth innings.

Like all top-notch players, Gill had time to spare even at that early stage of his career. Equally impressive was his

composure and his intelligent decision-making. Australia is the hardest place for a youngster to make his debut, but Gill was unfazed in the face of verbals or a barrage of short deliveries from Mitchell Starc, Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood. It didn't take long for Australia's gun pace attack to figure out that they would be better off trying to drag Gill on to the front foot than bounce him out, such was the felicity with which he handled the short stuff.

Respecting the ball

His ability to adjust to conditions is one of Gill's massive strengths. In Test cricket, he is willing to give the ball the respect it deserves, though he isn't averse to punishing even the first delivery of the match if he believes it is there to be hit. In the two limited-overs versions, he is more attacking. At one stage primarily a four-hitter, he has worked tirelessly to expand his repertoire and is now a consummate clearer of the boundary ropes. His driving over the top to the straight field is a thing of beauty, but because he also plays the pull stroke with such authority and isn't chary of cutting the ball aerially over and behind point, it's hard to tie him down when he is firing on all cylinders.

The 50-over format has been his most rewarding; he averages 61.37 and strikes at 103.46 in 44 matches, six hundreds contributing heavily to his considerable tally of 2,271 runs. His T20I career is still in its infancy; 21 games is hardly anything in an era where 20-over encounters are dime a dozen, but now that he has the security of the vice-captaincy to fall back on, he is certain to double that tally in quick time. In the IPL, Gill is a prolific scorer - in 2023, for instance, he made back-to-back hundreds in the league phase during a breakout year that yielded him 890 runs and even in the 2024 season, which he approached on the back of a lean run in internationals, he amassed 426 runs - and over the last month, he has shown that he isn't far away from extending that form to country vs country battle too.

It's in the five-day format that India will hope Gill continues to develop and perform. In the West Indies last year, Rohit and then head coach Rahul Dravid acquiesced in his request to drop down to No. 3. In his first ten innings at that new position, he had a highest of 36, but since breaking through with 104 against

England in Visakhapatnam in February, he has stacked up subsequent scores of 91, 38, 52 not out and 110. It's the kind of consistency that will hearten Rohit and new head coach Gautam Gambhir, given that India have five-Test away tours of Australia and England lined up over the next 12 months. Gill has admitted to being excited at the prospect of a return to Australia, where he made his Test debut; he also has a point to prove in England where in six innings thus far, his highest is 28.

Apart from his elegance at the batting crease, Gill possesses exceptional hands in the slip cordon. India's pacers - led by Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami and Mohammed Siraj - are adept at finding the edges. For a long time, they were helped in the cause by Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane, expert catchers close-in. Gill is an able successor to that duo, which magnifies the significance of his permanence in the landscape of Test cricket.

For now, the world is Gill's oyster. At 24, he still has the exuberance and intrepidity of youth, but he has also been around long enough to have matured and understood his place in the larger scheme of things. He knows that barring the unforeseen, he has a long career ahead of him, much of that as captain in at least one, if not all formats. It's a great position to be in; not even some of the greatest names in Indian cricket have enjoyed that luxury, so it's now entirely up to Gill how he plays this from here onwards. There is no reason to fear, given the wares he has displayed so far, that Gill will stray from the beaten path.

His adaptability and situational awareness were on show during the T20I series against Sri Lanka in Pallekele. In the first match, on an absolute belter, Gill took the attack to the bowling, smashing six fours and a six on his way to a 16-ball 34. Three nights later, on an entirely different surface that discouraged extravagant stroke-play, Gill sized up the conditions superbly and ground out a 37-ball 39, unglamorous but vitally significant in the final analysis. By subjugating his ego and showing that he is capable of batting at the gear that the conditions demand, Gill's versatility revealed itself. It's precisely this trait, as batter, catcher and leader, that Gill will seek to maximise over the next several years.

THE GIST

▼ Apart from his elegance at the batting crease, Gill possesses exceptional hands in the slip cordon

▼ As openers in T20I, Gill and Jaiswal complement rather than compete with each other

▼ Gill is one of the few all-format players left in the Indian set-up

▼ His adaptability and situational awareness are huge strengths

'Zombies' in our genes helped us evolve, and could help fight cancers

Scientists may soon uncover more insights into the evolutionary significance of ERVs and their contribution to human biology. This will lead to breakthroughs in regenerative medicine, cancer therapies, and personalised medicine, enhancing our understanding of human health and evolution

Sridhar Sivasubbu
Vinod Scaria

Viruses are ubiquitous entities that have long plagued humans, often presenting in pesky, self-limiting infections, like a bout of the common cold. While most viral encounters are transient and merely inconvenient, some can have devastating or chronic consequences, leading to severe disease or even death. The recent COVID-19 pandemic and other emerging infectious diseases around us are good examples.

However, this battle between host and pathogen churns up a fascinating question: could viral infections have reshaped the human genome in the process?

A unique enzyme

Most viruses can't really affect the genome. However, retroviruses buck this trend: they are a group of viruses that can integrate and reshape the genomes of the hosts they infect. Retroviruses have an RNA genome; can reverse-transcribe it to DNA and thus insert it into the host's genome.

Their name comes from a unique enzyme they possess, called reverse transcriptase. It's the one with the ability to convert the virus's RNA into a corresponding DNA sequence. Teams led by Howard Temin at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and David Baltimore at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology reported its discovery in 1971. It spawned a widespread search for viruses that have this enzyme.

The knowledge that these viruses could cause cancer was even then well-known, even if the mechanism wasn't clear until the 1971 teams' reports. Oluf Bang and Wilhelm Ellermann had discovered the viral cause of chicken leukaemia back in 1908 while Ludwik Gross isolated a leukaemia-causing virus in mice in 1957.

The discovery of HIV

But it wasn't until 1980 that researchers – Robert C. Gallo & co. – found the first human retrovirus. Dr. Gallo had extensively worked on the human T lymphotropic virus (HTLV) and his group isolated it from a patient with cutaneous T-cell lymphoma. This work was later published in the *Proceedings of The National Academy of Sciences*.

As if in quick succession, in 1983, Françoise Barré-Sinoussi, working closely with Luc Montagnier at the Institut Pasteur in Paris, reported the discovery of a retrovirus from the lymph node of a patient suffering from acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

French researchers initially called the virus the lymphadenopathy-associated virus (LAV) while American researchers called it HTLV-3. Both these names were superseded by the name 'human immunodeficiency virus' (HIV) in 1986. For their discovery, Dr. Barré-Sinoussi and Dr. Montagnier were awarded the medicine Nobel Prize in 2008.

Genomic elements left behind

In the life cycle of a retrovirus, the reverse-transcribed DNA is integrated into the host's DNA along with another enzyme called integrase, which acts like glue to bind the two DNA genomes. Once bound, the viral DNA is called a provirus, and is complete with all the ingredients it



While most viral encounters are transient and merely inconvenient, some can have devastating or chronic consequences, leading to severe disease or even death. The recent COVID-19 pandemic and other emerging infectious diseases around us are good examples. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

needs to be functional. At the end of this process, the virus practically hijacks human cells and turns them into virus-making factories.

It's typically not possible for a person to inherit retrovirus infections or even the provirus because these integrations usually damage only a subset of cells. However, such genome invasions can sometimes mess up the integration process, causing 'zombie' regions in the host's genome. These parts are called endogenous retroviruses (ERVs). ERVs usually can't replicate and produce functional proteins since they lack their regulatory regions.

If the abortive integrations involve the germ cells – i.e. those that produce the gametes, sperm cells and ova – the host will be able to transmit its ERVs to its offspring. This happens in rare instances. This said, over the tens of thousands of years of mammalian evolution, many retroviruses have left a number of genomic elements in the genome, sort of the genetic fossils of early infections. These elements have long lost the potential to produce viruses but researchers believe they have played a big hand in the evolution of their hosts. In fact, research strongly suggests around 8% of the human genome is composed of ERVs.

Biomarker for preeclampsia?

A good example of their influence are the syncytins, a class of genes thought to be descended from an ERV. That is, these genes originally came from viruses and were acquired by chance as the mammalian host evolved. But at some point they became essential for the host because they helped create the placenta, an organ that became crucial to support a growing baby.

This change is thought to have been



Most viruses can't affect the genome. However, retroviruses are a group of viruses that can integrate and reshape the genomes of the hosts. Retroviruses have an RNA genome. They can reverse-transcribe it to DNA and thus insert it into the host's genome

important for the evolution of mammals with placentas from their egg-laying ancestors. Over time, the original ERV's envelope gene (*env*) was thought to be modified or replaced by new versions, forming the syncytin genes as we see today in different mammal species.

Syncytins are important genes involved in placental development; many ERVs are also highly expressed in the placenta. In a recent paper in the *Proceedings of The National Academy of Sciences*, researchers from Sun Yat Sen University in China reported that a particular RNA was dysregulated in early-onset preeclampsia – a condition during pregnancy where the blood pressure shoots up. This RNA was derived from an ERV. The study also suggested that the presence of this RNA could be used as a biomarker for the condition.

Tumours in colorectal cancer

ERVs are also involved in cell-type differentiation. In the early stages of embryo development, cells transition from totipotency (the ability to become any cell type) to pluripotency (the ability to become the three primary germ cell types). This transition is important because it produces pluripotent stem cells that can form different cell types.

Scientists recently discovered a protein called MERVL-gag derived from an ERV. They found MERVL-gag plays a key role in controlling some other proteins during this transition. They also found MERVL-gag works closely with another protein called URI, which helps the embryo transition from totipotency to pluripotency. Their results were published recently in the journal *Science Advances*.

In another recent paper in the same journal, researchers at the University of Colorado, Boulder, suggested that one human ERV element – or a portion of its DNA – called LTR10 significantly affects the formation of tumours in colorectal cancer. The LTR10 retroelement seems to have been integrated into the genome some 30 million years ago. The authors found conclusive evidence that among humans, different cancers could regulate LTR10 retroelements differently using specific epigenetic marks in the element.

The study also reported that the retroelement's presence could produce large genomic changes, which could in turn affect the expression of the genes involved in tumour formation.

In future, as research techniques continue to advance, scientists may uncover more wonderful insights into the evolutionary significance of ERVs and their contribution to human biology. Such knowledge will undoubtedly lead to breakthroughs in regenerative medicine, cancer therapies, and personalised medicine, ultimately enhancing our understanding of human health and evolution.

(The authors are senior consultants at Vishwanath Cancer Care Foundation and adjunct professors at IIT Kanpur and Dr. D.Y. Patil Medical College, Hospital & Research Centre, Pune.)



Athletes begin the swimming component of the women's individual triathlon in the Seine River at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games on Wednesday. GETTY IMAGES

Organisers of the Olympics almost lost their bet against climate change

Associated Press

With plans for athletes to swim the Seine River through the heart of Paris, Olympic organisers essentially bet against climate change's extreme weather. For several days it appeared they would lose – by ditching the swimming portion of triathlon races.

It wasn't until early Wednesday, after the men's race had been postponed a day and test events called off, that organisers announced the most recent tests showed the water met standards to allow swimming.

Some scientists and engineers said organisers were taking a gamble at a time when heavy rains have increased with human-caused climate change, especially in Europe. The rains carried run off from the urban environment and contribute to higher bacteria levels in the city's famed river.

"They just gambled, flipped the coin and hope for a dry season and it turned out to be the rainiest in the last 30 years," said Metin Duran, a professor of civil and environmental engineering at Villanova University who has researched stormwater management.

Organisers "had worked through most of the scenarios related to computer hacking and physical threats without fully assessing the implications of extreme events associated with climate," said University of Arizona climate scientist Kathy Jacobs, who directs the Centre for Climate Adaptation Science and Solutions. "It's definitely time to take climate threats seriously."

If any city could be expected to be

Scientists and engineers said organisers took a gamble at a time when heavy rains have increased with human-caused climate change. The rains carried run off from the urban environment into the Seine

mindful of the challenges of climate change, it's Paris. It's where the most significant climate agreement in history was struck almost a decade ago – to try to limit the earth's warming to 1.5 degrees C above pre-industrial levels. And the Paris games aspire to have half the carbon footprint of earlier games held in London and Rio de Janeiro.

Paris, like many older cities around the world, has a combined sewer system, which means that the city's wastewater and stormwater flow through the same pipes.

With heavy or prolonged periods of rain, the pipes' capacity is reached, sending raw wastewater into the river instead of a treatment plant.

Paris spent 1.4 billion euros to improve the water quality in the Seine, including building a giant basin to capture excess rainwater and keep wastewater from entering the river, renovating sewer infrastructure and upgrading wastewater treatment plants.

But persistent rains, which dampened the opening ceremonies and temporarily gave way to a heat warning on Tuesday, worked against that.

Tuesday's men's triathlon was postponed to Wednesday. The city has had at least 80 rainy days in Paris so far this year, about two-and-a-half weeks more than normal, according to the French meteorological office.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

The discovery of oxygen

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

250 years ago, on this day, the English chemist Joseph Priestley published his findings regarding the discovery of what he called "dephlogisticated air," later called oxygen. Name the Swedish chemist who had discovered oxygen a year earlier but hadn't yet published his findings.

QUESTION 2

Name the French nobleman who first identified the object of Priestley's finding as a new chemical element and also gave it the name 'oxygen'.

QUESTION 3

Starting from the work of Philo of Byzantium in ancient Greece until that of Anglo-Irish natural philosopher

Robert Boyle, people realised air was required for combustion. Name the English chemist who identified the part of air required for combustion, which he called "spiritus nitroaereus." He subsequently published an important tract on respiration based on these and other findings.

QUESTION 4

This British physiologist was noted for his studies and theories of the effects of gases, including on the human body, many of which he tested by experimenting on himself and his son. He developed the oxygen tent during World War I to help soldiers affected by poison gases. Name his son.

QUESTION 5

To humans, oxygen becomes _____ when it is supplied at a pressure of more than 50 kilopascal. This is also why the practice

of placing premature babies in oxygen-rich incubators was discontinued. Fill in the blank with an adjective.

Answers to July 30 quiz:

- Part of waves that can travel faster than the same part of light waves in some media – **Ans: Phase**
 - Quantum phenomenon with instantaneous transfer of information – **Ans: Entanglement**
 - Ratio of the speed of light in a vacuum to the speed in a medium – **Ans: Refractive index**
 - Exotic matter states that could reportedly "stop" light – **Ans: Bose-Einstein condensate**
 - Parts of the universe expanding at less than the speed of light – **Ans: Hubble volume**
- Visual: **Cherenkov radiation**
First contact: Seema Das | Irfan Ali | Subhadip Paria | K.N. Viswanathan | Shreya Arora



Visual: These individuals died in a fire that spread rapidly because the capsule they were testing was filled with highly pressurised oxygen. Name the NASA mission for which this crew had been picked. NASA

Please send in your answers to
science@thehindu.co.in

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