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# THE WORLD

## US journalist Gershkovich among 26 freed in biggest swap with Russia since Cold War

REUTERS  
ANKARA, MOSCOW, AUGUST 1

JAILED US Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich and ex-US Marine Paul Whelan were among two dozen detainees from the United States, Russia and a number of their allies freed on Thursday in the biggest prisoner exchange since the Cold War.

The White House said the US had negotiated the complex trade with Russia and other countries. It said eight prisoners held in the West were being sent back to Russia. Germany confirmed that they included Vadim Krasikov, a colonel in the Russian FSB security service convicted of murdering an exiled dissident in Berlin.

Turkey, which coordinated the exchange, said 10 prisoners, including two minors, had been moved to Russia, 13 to Germany and 3 to the US. Also involved in the swap were Poland, Slovenia, Norway and Belarus.

"After the completion of the ratification procedures of the



A Russian government plane at Esenboga Airport in Ankara on Thursday. Reuters



Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich; US Marine Paul Whelan

Yashin, Turkey said.

Whelan and Vladimir Kara-Murza, a Russian-British dissident, both jailed in Russia, had suddenly disappeared from view in recent days, according to their lawyers. A lawyer for Alexander Vinnik, a Russian held in the US, declined on Wednesday to confirm the whereabouts of his client to the state RIA news agency.

RIA had also reported that four Russians jailed in the US had disappeared from a database of prisoners operated by the US Bureau of Prisons. It named them as Vinnik, Maxim Marchenko, Vadim Konoshchenok and Vladislav Klyushin.

parties, the health checks ... the prisoners were placed on the planes of the countries to which they would be travelling," the National Intelligence Agency said in a statement.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry

Peskov did not specifically confirm a swap but was quoted by news agency TASS as saying, in principle, "all our enemies should stay there, and all those who are not our enemies should return".

Rico Krieger, a German sen-

tenced to death in Belarus on terrorism charges, was pardoned on Tuesday by President Alexander Lukashenko, a close Putin ally. He was also among those released, along with Russian opposition politician Ilya

## MADURO SAYS HE REJECTS THREATS INCLUDING POSSIBLE SANCTIONS TENSION OVER POLL RESULTS RISES IN VENEZUELA

Shops and public transport across Venezuela shut down on Wednesday as tensions over a fiercely disputed presidential election and rumors of more opposition arrests and sporadic violence kept many people home. In remarks on state television Wednesday, President Maduro said he rejected all threats, including possible U.S. sanctions.

REUTERS

## IRAN, MILITIAS TO DISCUSS 'REVENGE ON ISRAEL' Israel confirms killing Hamas military chief Deif in July Gaza strike

Khamenei leads Haniyeh funeral at Tehran University

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
JERUSALEM, AUGUST 1

THE ISRAELI military said Thursday that it has confirmed that the head of Hamas' military wing, Mohammed Deif, was killed in an airstrike in Gaza in July.

Israel targeted Deif in a July 13 strike that hit a compound on the outskirts of the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis, but the military said for weeks it was working to determine if he died in the blast. Hamas has denied he was killed. More than 90 other people, including displaced civilians in nearby tents, were killed in the strike, Gaza health officials said at the time.

In a statement Thursday, the Israeli military said that "following an intelligence assessment, it can be confirmed that Mohammed Deif was eliminated in the strike." There was no immediate comment from Hamas.

The Israeli confirmation came a day after an apparent Israeli airstrike in Tehran killed Hamas' top political leader, Ismail Haniyeh. Israel has not confirmed or denied being behind the attack, but Iran has vowed retaliation. Along with Deif and Haniyeh, Israel has vowed to eliminate Hamas' top leader in Gaza, Yahya Sinwar, but he has so far remained elusive.

Israel says Sinwar and Deif were the masterminds of the October 7 attack in which



Ayatollah Ali Khamenei leads a prayer over the coffins of Ismail Haniyeh and his bodyguard in Tehran on Thursday. AP

Hamas-led militants rampaged in southern Israeli communities, killing around 1,200 people and taking some 250 others hostage.

Deif was one of the founders of Hamas' military wing, the Qassam Brigades, in the 1990s and led the unit for decades. Under his command, it carried out dozens of suicide bombings against Israelis on buses and at cafes and built up a formidable arsenal of rockets that could strike deep into Israel and often did.

In Iran, Supreme Leader Khamenei and representatives of Palestinian militias he backs prayed Thursday over the coffins of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh and his bodyguard who were killed in a shocking assassination blamed on Israel that risked esca-

lating into an all-out regional war.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei prayed over Haniyeh's coffin at Tehran University while President Masoud Pezeshkian stood next to him. State television later showed the coffins placed in a truck and moved on the street toward Azadi Square in Tehran and people throwing flowers at them. After the funeral services in Tehran, Haniyeh's body is to be transferred to Qatar for burial Friday.

Meanwhile, top Iranian officials will meet the representatives of Iran's regional allies from Lebanon, Iraq and Yemen on Thursday to discuss potential retaliation against Israel after the killing of the Hamas leader in Tehran, five sources told Reuters.

WITH REUTERS INPUTS

### BRIEFLY

#### UNITED KINGDOM Teen boy charged with murder over Southport attack

Southport: A 17-year-old boy appeared in an English court on Thursday charged with the murder of three young girls in a knife attack at a summer dance class that has shocked the nation and sparked two nights of protests. He is charged with three counts of murder, 10 counts of attempted murder and one of possession of a bladed article. His case was later heard at Liverpool Crown Court, where he sat in the dock covering his face with a grey sweatshirt and did not speak to confirm his name. Police have said the attack was not terrorism-related and that the suspect was born in Britain, quashing speculation on his origins.

REUTERS

#### PAKISTAN UK journalist who sought to meet Imran deported

Islamabad: A 73-year-old British-American author and journalist, who sought an interview with Pakistan's jailed former premier Imran Khan, has been deported after his tourist visa was revoked, a media report said on Thursday. Charles Glass, an author, journalist, broadcaster, and publisher who specialises in the Middle East, was told by law enforcement agencies on Wednesday that his visa had been cancelled and he had five hours to leave the country, the Dawn newspaper reported. Glass has served prominent organisations such as Newsweek, ABC-TV, and The Telegraph, among others.

PTI

#### SOUTH KOREA Seoul offers aid to North Korea after rain, flood

Seoul: South Korea is ready to provide North Korea with relief supplies for damage caused by recent heavy rainfall, South Korea's Red Cross said on Thursday, marking a rare outreach to its neighbour. Authorities in the South were ready to discuss the relief supplies needed, the scale of aid and how to transfer it and looked forward to a swift response from Pyongyang, the Red Cross said. The statement was issued by the South's Unification Ministry. The Red Cross has taken the lead in carrying out projects between the Koreans in the past, including reunions of separated families.

REUTERS

## 'SHE WAS INDIAN ALL THE WAY... ALL OF A SUDDEN... SHE BECAME A BLACK PERSON': TRUMP

### Trump questions Harris identity at journalist meet: Is she Indian or Black?



REUTERS  
CHICAGO, AUGUST 1

U.S. REPUBLICAN presidential candidate Donald Trump falsely suggested to the country's largest annual gathering of Black journalists on Wednesday that his Democratic rival Kamala Harris had previously downplayed her Black heritage.

"She was always of Indian heritage, and she was only promoting Indian heritage. I didn't know she was Black, until a number of years ago, when she happened to turn Black, and now she wants to be known as Black," Trump said, drawing jeers from an audience of about 1,000 people.

"So I don't know, is she Indian



Harris said Trump's remarks were 'yet another reminder' of what the four years under him looked like. Reuters

or is she Black?" Trump continued. "But you know what, I respect either one, but she obviously doesn't, because she was Indian all the way, and then all of a sudden she made a turn, and she went - became a Black person."

Harris, who is of Indian and Jamaican heritage, has long self-identified as both Black and Asian. She is the first Black person and Asian American person to serve as vice president. Hours after

Trump's comments, Harris told members of the historically Black sorority Sigma Gamma Rho gathered in Houston that his remarks were "yet another reminder" of what the four years under the former president looked like.

Since launching her White House campaign earlier this month, Harris has faced a barrage of sexist and racist attacks online, with some far-right accounts questioning her racial identity.

## Xi calls for use of hi-tech 'smart system' to meet 'new challenges' at China border

K J M VARMA  
BEIJING, AUGUST 1

CHINESE PRESIDENT Xi Jinping has called for greater use of technology and the deployment of a "smart system" for border defence to meet "new opportunities and challenges", amidst Beijing's unresolved land and maritime territorial disputes with its neighbours.

The instructions were made during a study session Tuesday attended by the Communist Party's Politburo, its 24-member top body. Xi highlighted the need to "strengthen technological empowerment" in border defence,



Xi Jinping made the instructions at a Politburo study session

"enhance the development of new methods and conditions for border, maritime, and air defence, and build a comprehensive and smart management and control system," *South China Morning Post* reported Thursday. Xi called for efforts to build a "strong, stable, and modern" border defence, as well as air and sea defence, to safeguard the country's national security. "As the

world undergoes a century of accelerating changes, the influencing factors have become increasingly complex. The construction of... defence faces new opportunities and challenges," Xi said.

China is facing tensions on multiple fronts, including the military standoff with India in eastern Ladakh since May 2020 after Chinese troops aggressively moved closer to the LAC. Since then the two sides have so far held 21 rounds of Corps Commander-level talks to resolve the standoff. The two sides so far agreed to disengage from four points: the Galwan Valley, the Pangong Lake, Hot Springs, and Jianan Daban (Gogra) in eastern Ladakh.

### EXPLAINED Modernisation goal for 2027

THIS ALIGNS with Xi's repeated calls to improve the use of advanced technology in the armed forces to meet modernisation goals by 2027 and achieve the goal of building a world-class military by 2050. An article published last year in the *PLA Daily* said technological advancements included modernised surveillance, and warning networks as well as unmanned weapons using AI.

## MUCH OF THE NETHERLANDS IS BUILT ON PEAT MARSH, BUT GOUDA IS SINKING CONSTANTLY UNDER ITS OWN WEIGHT

### Dutch city that gives Gouda cheese its name faces threat of sinking

NINA SIEGAL  
GOUDA, AUGUST 1

ON A recent morning in Gouda, a small city in the Netherlands, hundreds of wheels of yellow cheese lay out in rows on the cobblestones of the town square, a backdrop to the city's cheese market, which dates to the Middle Ages.

Ad van Kluijve, a farmer, haggled with a buyer over the price of his latest batch of "jong belegen," famous for its mild caramel flavor. In the rest of the world, it is one of many cheeses named after the city in which it is traded.

The haggling is largely a per-

formance for tourists as the actual price negotiations take place elsewhere. The cheese industry in the region is very real, accounting for about 60 percent of the national cheese production, with an export value of \$1.7 billion annually, according to ZuivelNL, which represents the Dutch dairy sector.

But it's unlikely the cheese market will be here in 50 to 100 years because of a confluence of a few factors, experts say: The city, built on peat marsh, has always been vulnerable to sinking, and that risk is now greater because increased rainfall and rising sea levels — a consequence of climate change — threaten to flood the



Oldest parts of Gouda sinks at a rate of about 3 to 6 millimeters each year, but newer parts sink by 1 to 2 centimeters. NYT

river delta in which it sits.

Jan Rotmans, a professor at Erasmus University Rotterdam and the author of *Embracing Chaos: How to Deal With a World in Crisis?*, has made projections of rising sea levels in the region and predicts that the Green Heart, as the Gouda region is known, will be inundated, or built on floating cities, by century's end. "I wouldn't expect much cheese from Gouda anymore in 100 years," he said. "If the land turns into water and the cows disappear, the cheese will have to come from the eastern part of the country, and it won't be Gouda anymore."

Much of the Netherlands was

built centuries ago on peat marsh, a spongy soil that compresses easily. In Gouda, it is constantly subsiding under the weight of the city, said Michel Klijmij-van der Laan, a city alderman who focuses on sustainability and subsidence issues.

The oldest part of the city center subsides at a rate of about 3 to 6 millimeters each year, he said, and newer parts sink by 1 to 2 centimeters, or about half an inch, he said. "We have until 2040 or 2050 to come up with a new plan," Klijmij-van der Laan said. "We have to find new solutions, because the solutions we've always used are not future proof. Just con-

tinuing to pump water out isn't practical, because eventually it will become too expensive."

In an effort to tackle the problem, Gouda, which has about 75,000 residents, is spending more than \$22 million a year on water mitigation efforts. Klijmij-van der Laan said that amount is expected to rise exponentially.

But Jan Rotmans, an Erasmus University professor, said the country needed to develop a radical new approach within 10 years, adding that he was frustrated by the lack of urgency given that the region is low-lying and has such a high density of people, cows and industry.

NYT

**BUSINESS AS USUAL**

By UNNY



**The Indian EXPRESS AQDA**



**'WE HAD TO FIGURE THINGS OUT ON OUR OWN. IF THINGS HAD IMPROVED FOR THE NEXT GENERATION, WONDERFUL'**  
PAGES 20 & 21

**Mathura: HC says suits are maintainable, mosque panel to move SC**



The disputed site in Mathura on Thursday. PTI

**BHUPENDRA PANDEY & ASAD REHMAN**  
LUCKNOW, NEW DELHI, AUG 1

CLEARING THE decks for hearing the dispute over the Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Masjid in Mathura, the Allahabad High Court Thursday dismissed the mosque committee's plea challenging the maintainability of 18 suits filed on behalf of the deity and Hindu worshippers.

The single-judge bench of Justice Mayank Kumar Jain, upholding the maintainability of the suits, had reserved the verdict on June 6 after hearing arguments of the two sides.

"On reading of the plaints as a whole and in a meaningful manner, perusal of the material placed on records, consideration of the arguments advanced by the rival parties, and settled legal propositions, I conclude that the plaints in all the suits of the plaintiffs disclose a cause of action and they do not appear to be barred by any provisions of the Waqf Act, 1995; the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991; the Specific Relief Act, 1963; the Limitation Act, 1963 and Order XIII Rule 3A of the Code of Civil Procedure Code, 1908," the bench said.

It said the applications for rejection of plaints moved in respective suits are liable to be rejected.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**6-1 MAJORITY RULING OVERTURNS 2004 VERDICT BY 5-JUDGE BENCH**

## Milestone after Mandal: Supreme Court allows new quotas within SC/ST quota

States can decide weak groups; four judges for creamy layer exclusion



The Bench of (from left) Justices Manoj Misra, Bela M Trivedi, B R Gavai, CJI D Y Chandrachud, Vikram Nath, Pankaj Mithal and Satish Chandra Sharma. MORE REPORTS, PAGES 13 & 17

**ANANTHAKRISHNAN G**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

IN A landmark 6-1 majority ruling Thursday, a seven-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court held that Scheduled Castes do not constitute a socially homogeneous class and can be sub-classified by States for the purpose of providing reservation to the less privileged among them.

It said there must be a "rational principle" for such differentiation and the principle must have "a nexus with the purpose of sub-classification". Four of the majority ruling judges also favoured excluding the creamy layer from SCs and STs.

The majority verdict by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Use data, reason, don't split to keep out: Apex court lays down red lines

**APURVA VISHWANATH**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

**EXPLAINED** EMPIRICAL DATA, "reasonable" grounds that will be subject to judicial scrutiny, avoiding the perils of "micro-classification" — this is how the Supreme Court, in its

**THE EDITORIAL PAGE**

**DEEPENING JUSTICE** Allowing quotas within quotas for SC/STs, apex court expands constitutional guarantee of equality. Now politics has to mediate  
PAGE 14

verdict allowing sub-classification within Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes quotas, has underlined the principles that will operationalise the new framework. "It is not sufficient if the principle underlying the classification is relevant or shares a nexus to the purpose. The principle underlying the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE TODAY**

## Delhi wants Raj Bhavans pro-active, share views when states-Centre differ

One of Centre's suggestions before conference chaired by President

**HARIKISHAN SHARMA**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

AT A time when several Governors are locked in conflict with their respective state governments, the Centre has urged them to be more pro-active on social media, connect with the public, and promptly share their views especially when there are differences of opinion between the Centre and the states on policy, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

This is one of a set of suggestions that reportedly finds mention in an official agenda note in the run-up to the two-day Conference of Governors beginning August 2. President Droupadi Murmu will preside over the conference at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Another suggestion, it is learnt, flags the role of Governors in improving coordination between various Central agencies

**INSIDE**

**KARNATAKA GOVT LOCKS HORNS WITH GOVERNOR OVER NOTICE TO CM** PAGE 9

and organisations in the state so that they don't work in silos. Raj Bhavan can help ensure cooperation between these organisations that could make a difference in key aspects of governance including generation of jobs, education, skilling, services and growth, according to the suggestion.

The two-day conference will be the first Conference of Governors to be presided over by Murmu. According to an official statement issued by the President's Secretariat, Governors of all States will attend the Conference. Also

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Dalit voices air dissent, fear quota fallout, flag social bias

**SHUBHANGI KHAPRE & DEEPTIMAN TIWARY**  
MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

VANCHIT BAHUJAN Aghadi (VBA)'s president Prakash Ambedkar has criticised the Supreme Court's judgment allowing states to sub-classify the Scheduled Castes (SCs) / Scheduled Tribes (STs) to ensure grant of quota to more backward castes in these groups, saying the ruling "goes against the letter and spirit of reservation enshrined in the Constitution".

Prakash Ambedkar, the grandson of Dr B R Ambedkar, said if any sub-classification of these reserved groups has to be carried out, then it must be done by Parliament. Warning about

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Shooting delivers third medal for India as Swapnil strikes bronze



**MIHIR VASAVDA**  
CHATEAUX, AUGUST 1

ON A rainy match-day morning, Indian rifle shooter Swapnil Kusale fixed himself a cup of hot tea but couldn't soak in the delightful weather. "I woke up with butterflies in my stomach," he said. "I love tea, and hoped it would calm me down."

He wasn't alone in grappling with anxiety. Far away from the Olympics shooting venue at



Swapnil Kusale after winning the bronze in the 50m rifle 3-position event at Chateaux on Thursday. PTI

Chateaux, in New Delhi's CR Park, Kusale's coach Deepali Deshpande was consoling another ward of hers, Arjun Babuta, who had returned from Paris after experiencing one of Olympics' cruellest fates: missing a medal

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Army personnel assemble a Bailey bridge to connect Mundakkai and Chooralmala, the two worst-hit villages in Wayanad. PTI

## Wayanad girl's story on nature's fury turns real: Her father among dead

**SHAJU PHILIP**  
MEPPADI (WAYANAD), AUG 1

IN HER school magazine last year, Class 8 student Laya wrote a story about a girl who drowns in a waterfall but comes back as a bird to warn her village about the dangers of going too close to the water body.

In Laya's short story — written for the Government Vocational Higher Secondary School in Chooralmala's Vellarmala — the bird tells the villagers: "Children, escape from here (the village). It's dangerous up ahead." The children run away but when they look back at the hill, they see rain water flowing down the hill. And they see

the bird transform into a beautiful girl who has returned to warn them against meeting the same fate as her.

**EXPRESS NETWORK**



**A SEARCH FOR KIN: 'HOPE TO FIND AT LEAST THEIR BODIES'**  
PAGE 8

Today, Chooralmala has been

## Himachal cloudbursts: Five dead, 50 missing, road to Manali damaged

**SAURABH PARASHAR**  
SHIMLA, AUGUST 1

FIVE PERSONS were killed and around 50 went missing in the past 24 hours in Himachal Pradesh following a series of five cloudburst incidents, which triggered flash floods that washed away several buildings, bridges and roads, officials said Thursday.

Portions of the Manali-Chandigarh National Highway were damaged at many places due to landslides and gushing waters of the river Beas, they said.

The cloudbursts were reported in Malana, Sainj and Nirmal areas of Kullu, Rampur in state capital Shimla, and Padhar in Mandi district.



The damaged highway from Manali to Chandigarh in Kullu district, Thursday. PTI

A cloudburst at Rajban village in Padhar subdivision of Mandi late Wednesday left three persons, including two women,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Bomb smuggled into Iran guesthouse months ago killed Haniyeh of Hamas when he came visiting

**PAGE 1 ANCHOR**

**RONEN BERGMAN, MARK MAZZETTI & FARNAZ FASSIHI**  
TEL AVIV, WASHINGTON DC, AUGUST 1



Middle Eastern officials, including two Iranians, and a US official. The bomb had been hidden approximately two months ago in the guesthouse, according to five of the Middle Eastern officials. The guesthouse is run and



A July 25 satellite photo of the Tehran guesthouse where Ismail Haniyeh (left) stayed during his visit to Iran. NYT

protected by Iran's Revolutionary Guard and is part of a large compound, known as Neshat, in an upscale neighborhood of northern Tehran.

Haniyeh was in Iran's capital for the presidential inauguration. The bomb was detonated remotely, the five officials said, once it was confirmed that he was inside his room at the guesthouse. The blast also killed a bodyguard.

The explosion shook the building, shattered some windows and caused the partial

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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FROM PAGE ONE FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Top court allows new quotas within SC/ST quota

and Justices B R Gavai, Vikram Nath, Pankaj Mithal, Satish Chandra Sharma and Manoj Misra overruled the 2004 judgement in E V Chinniah vs State of Andhra Pradesh, wherein it was held that Scheduled Castes constituted a homogeneous group and cannot be sub-categorised.

Justice Bela M Trivedi was the lone dissenter who, in her verdict, said Scheduled Castes constituted a homogeneous class and "cannot be tinkered with by the States".

The matter reached the 7-judge Bench after a 5-judge Bench, on August 27, 2020, in the State of Punjab vs Davinder Singh, said the judgement in Chinniah requires to be revisited by a larger Bench since it had failed to consider significant aspects with a bearing on the issue.

The majority rejected the argument that once enumerated in the Presidential List under Article 341 of the Constitution, the Scheduled Castes constitute a homogeneous class, which is incapable of further subdivision/sub-classification and that any attempt to sub-categorise them would amount to tinkering with the Presidential List, in violation of Article 341 (2) and Article 14 of the Constitution.

Writing for himself and Justice Misra, CJI Chandrachud said Article 341 does not create an integrated homogeneous class. "Empirical evidence indicates that there is inequality even within the Scheduled Castes. The Scheduled Castes are not a homogeneous integrated class," he said.

The ruling said "the power of Parliament to vary the list includes not merely the power to exclude or include any caste, race or tribe but also the power to exclude or include parts of or groups within any caste, race or tribe... Article 341(2) bars the State Legislature

from removing or adding castes from and to the List respectively. Sub-classification within the Scheduled Castes for the purposes of affirmative action, including reservation, does not include or exclude any caste or group from the List".

It said "the State, in exercise of its power under Articles 15 and 16, is free to identify the different degrees of social backwardness and provide special provisions (such as reservation) to achieve the specific degree of harm identified...".

"While the State may embark on an exercise of sub-classification, it must do so on the basis of quantifiable and demonstrable data bearing on levels of backwardness and representation in the services of the State. It cannot in other words merely act on its whims or as a matter of political expediency. The decision of the State is amenable to judicial review," it said.

The CJI said while the State can sub-classify based on inadequate representation of certain castes, it "must establish that the inadequacy of representation of a caste/group is because of its backwardness". For this, the State must collect data on the inadequacy of representation in the "services of the State", he said, adding "if the objective of Article 16 (4) is to be achieved in the truest sense, the inadequacy of representation must not be determined only on the basis of the total number of members of the backward class in the services of the State but by assessing the representation of the class across various posts".

The ruling also pointed out that the inference in the M Nagaraj & Others vs Union Of India & Others, October 2006 case, "that caste must be taken as the unit to determine inadequacy of representation ... is misplaced". It said

"the cadre as a unit was considered only for the purpose of preparation of rosters to draw a balance between the reserved and open seats".

In a separate concurring judgement, Justice Gavai said, "I find that the attitude of the categories in the Presidential List opposing such a sub-classification is that of a person in the general compartment of the train. Firstly, the persons outside the compartment struggle to get into the general compartment. However, once they get inside it, they make every attempt possible to prevent the persons outside such a compartment from entering it."

He said "in fact, what the people belonging to the categories who are availing of large chunk of reservations and denying a special treatment to the less privileged among them are doing, is what the people from the higher castes have done to these people for centuries as a result of which backward classes were kept away from the mainstream of society for ages, for no fault of theirs".

Justice Gavai said "the categories in the Presidential List who have already enjoyed a major chunk of reservation should not object to the State providing a special treatment to those who have been deprived of such a benefit and particularly when such a benefit is not being taken away from them. Only part of that benefit is being reserved for percolating the same to the more disadvantaged and less represented".

He said "to achieve real equality as envisaged by this Court in various judicial pronouncements, sub-classification amongst the Scheduled Castes for giving more beneficial treatment is wholly permissible under the Constitution".

Justice Gavai said he is "there-

fore of the view that the State must evolve a policy for identifying the creamy layer even from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes so as to exclude them from the benefit of affirmative action. In my view, only this and this alone can achieve the real equality as enshrined under the Constitution".

Concurring with the majority view, Justice Mithal, in a separate judgement, called for a "fresh relook" at the existing reservation policy "and evolution of other methods for helping and uplifting the depressed class or the downtrodden or the persons belonging to SC/ST/OBC communities". Until then, he said, "the system of reservation as prevailing may continue to occupy the field with power to permit sub-classification of a class particularly Scheduled Caste as I would not be suggesting dismantling of an existing building without erecting a new one in its place which may prove to be more useful".

Justice Mithal said "statistics proves that the deprived and the marginalised persons have not been able to achieve the benefit of reservation which is permissible at higher level as about 50% of the students from the most backward classes drop out of school before Class-V and 75% drop out before Class-VIII" and "only the children of some of the castes, who are already affluent or urbanised, are able to obtain higher education and the benefits of reservation".

The policy, he said, has also "burdened the judiciary at all levels specially the High Courts and the Supreme Courts with enormous litigation" besides leading to agitations in which "the peace and tranquility of the entire country, at times, stood disturbed".

Justice Mithal said that "to my limited understanding of the

scriptures specially the Gita, I am of the firm view that in primitive India there was no existence of any caste system rather there was categorisation of the people according to their profession, talent, qualities and nature" and "the misconstruction of the varna system as a caste system was a social defect that crept in with time and was not considered to be good as it divided the society and brought about discrimination and inequality".

He said "what is conceded once to appease any class cannot be taken back. So are the benefits extended to the reserved category of persons under the Constitution. Each concession once made, just goes on swelling like a raisin/balloon. This actually happened with the policy of reservation also".

Pointing out that reservation is one of the modes of helping or uplifting the status of the OBCs/SCs/STs, he said "anyone who suggests another or a better way of helping the so-called depressed classes or the downtrodden or the marginalised persons of the society is immediately pounced upon as 'Anti Dalit'".

Justice Trivedi, in her dissenting judgement said the law laid down by the 5-judge Bench in Chinniah, "is the correct law and deserves to be confirmed".

She said there was no reason for the Bench in Davinder Singh to make the reference "that too without assigning any reason, much less cogent reason for their disagreement". She said "the etymological and evolutionary history and the background of the nomenclature 'Scheduled Castes', coupled with the Presidential orders published under Article 341 of the Constitution, make the 'Scheduled Castes', a homogeneous class, which cannot be tinkered with by the States".

• Data, reason, don't split to exclude: SC's red lines

classification must be reasonable and rational," CJI Chandrachud said in the 6-1 ruling.

The framers of the Constitution had limited tinkering with the SC/ST lists, annexed to the Constitution, to ensure that affirmative action is not framed in political terms. The power to change that is restricted only to Parliament and the idea of sub-classification raises concerns of its misuse. Addressing these aspects, the SC ruling has drawn the red line on how states cannot sub-classify the 15% SC quota and 7.5% ST quota.

The ruling states that states cannot micro-classify in a way that it would "denude", "rather than promote" the guarantee of equality or in a way that replaces the doctrine of equality with the "doctrine of classification."

"If the law stipulates that the loan of farmers from one specific village in a State will be fully waived, it must prove through the submission of cogent material that there is a rational principle distinguishing one village from other villages in the State. In this context, the State will for example have to prove that location of the land is a rational principle of categorization and then subsequently prove that the village is not similarly situated for the purpose of the law," the CJI said.

Justice BR Gavai, who delivered a separate but concurring opinion, said that for sub-classifying the quota, "state will have to justify that the group for which more beneficial treatment is provided is inadequately represented as compared to the other castes in the said List."

The opinion also explicitly states how states cannot sub-classify the quota. "While providing for sub-classification, the State would not be entitled to reserve 100% seats available for Scheduled Castes in favour of a sub-class to the exclusion of other castes in the List," the ruling stated.

Justice Gavai called for bringing in the "creamy layer" framework even for SC/ST quota, despite warning against exclusion with micro-classification. "I am therefore of the view that the State must evolve a policy for identifying the creamy layer even from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes so as to exclude them from the benefit of affirmative action. In my view, only this and this alone can achieve the real equality as enshrined under the Constitution," Justice Gavai said.

• Dalit voices air dissent, fear quota fallout

the verdict's "adverse implications", he said it is "a Central subject and not a State issue".

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Ambedkar said, "The Supreme Court verdict allowing states to do sub-classification of Scheduled Castes is a victory for those sections seeking it. What is missing in it is the process."

"A state is not a competent authority to undertake sub-classification of SCs. If it is necessary, it should be done only by Parliament," he said. Secondly, he said, "The premise on which this sub-classification is justified is to ensure fair representation (in quota) to sub-castes within SCs, STs and OBCs."

If this is the criteria, he asked, "then how does one address the monopoly of one community in open (general) category". The proposed equitable representation cannot be restricted to sections within the reserved categories alone, he said, adding that the issue must be addressed

across sections including both reserved and general categories.

Bhim Army founder and Aazad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram) MP Chandrashekhar Aazad said, "I am yet to read the full judgement. One judge has dissented, that too needs to be studied. It remains to be seen if Article 341 (which empowers the President to create a list of SC communities) has been violated. I believe doing this without the socio-economic caste survey will not be right. One must read the Constituent Assembly debates. A Dalit's social status does not change by getting a post."

On implications of the ruling for the Dalits, he said: "There has been a policy of divide and rule. After a long time, SCs and STs have come together. I would like to know how many of the judges and the lawyers involved in the case belong to SC/ST communities. Do they understand the pain of discrimination suffered by these communities? Mayawati

was the UP CM, but continues to be known as a Dalit leader. I have great respect for the judges, but I also have a responsibility towards my people." He said, "What needs to be examined is, whether reservation is enough to uplift the socially disadvantaged? I have proposed in Parliament that the government should give Rs 1 lakh every year to 10 crore socially disadvantaged households. If their economic status rises, they will open doors for themselves."

Expressing concern over the verdict, Shambhavi Choudhary, LJP (Ram Vilas) MP, said, "I feel that it is unfair because the concept of creamy layer only stands for OBCs. The reservation in itself was implemented for social representation and not for economic backwardness. So you can't say now that social injustice and economic inequality is the same thing. There can't be subdivision in something which has a different ground."

• Mathura suits maintainable: HC

The mosque committee said it would approach the Supreme Court against the High Court order.

Advocate Mehmood Pracha, who appeared on behalf of the mosque committee, told *The Indian Express* that the order passed by the Allahabad High Court will be challenged in the Supreme Court.

"This is a perverse order which has flouted settled principles of law. We will be challenging it in the Supreme Court in the coming days," Pracha said.

Tanveer Ahmed, Secretary of Shahi Masjid Idgah Committee, told *The Indian Express* that the court had given a judgement that the suits were maintainable. He said the committee had challenged their maintainability citing Places of Worship Act, Limitation Act, Specific Relief Act and Waqf Act.

Ahmed said they would go through the detailed order and approach the Supreme Court challenging the Thursday judgement. He said a hearing in the Supreme Court is also scheduled on August 5 on the committee's plea questioning the hearing of all the suits by the High Court.

(PTI adds: Vishnu Shankar Jain, counsel for the Hindu petitioners, told reporters that with the dismissal of the plea challenging maintainability, the High Court will continue to hear all the cases. He said the Hindu side will next move the Supreme Court, asking it to vacate its stay on an earlier Allahabad High Court order that had allowed a survey of the mosque. "We will also file a caveat regarding today's order in the Supreme Court," Jain said.)

In their pleas, the Hindu petitioners have said Mahmud Ghaznavi and Sikandar Lodi demolished the temple of Lord Shri Krishna in Mathura. According to them, Mughal emperor Aurangzeb constructed a superstructure that was named as a mosque after the partial demolition of the temple there.

On the issue of the suits being

barred by the Paces of Worship Act, the bench said "the religious character of the property can only be determined on the basis of the facts and circumstances of the case and on the basis of the evidence to be led by the parties during the trial".

Observing that the question of religious character of the suit property "is a mixed question of facts and law", the bench said that it can only be decided by framing issues on the basis of the pleadings of the parties and after taking oral and documentary evidence to be led during the trial.

It said it finds substance in the argument of the Hindu plaintiffs that "the principle of 'first in existence' or 'prior in existence' is the determinative factor for deciding the applicability of the provisions of the Act of 1991".

Referring to a notification issued on November 25, 1920 by the Lt Governor of the United Provinces, the bench said it "indicates the existence of a temple of Keshav Dev prior to its demolition".

It also mentioned that "the defendants (Muslim side) did not say anything about the existence of mosque prior to 1669-70", while the (Hindu) plaintiffs said "Sri Brijnabha, the great grandson of Lord Shree Krishna constructed a magnificent temple at the site of Katra Keshav Dev 5000 years ago".

It said "the trust deed dated 9.3.1951 clearly corroborates the existence of the temple of Lord Shree Krishna on the property at the time of the creation of the Janmabhoomi Trust".

"On the suits being barred under the Waqf Act of 1995, the bench said the "defendants have not brought on record any information to corroborate that the suit property was ever called as Idgah Masjid Alamgiri".

"Almost all the plaintiffs have described the defendants to be a trust and not as waqf. Even in their application under Order VII Rule 11 of the CPC, the defendants have not mentioned the waqf number," it said.

• Delhi for pro-active Raj Bhavans

present will be the Vice President; the Prime Minister; Union Ministers of Home Affairs; Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Education; Tribal Affairs; Information and Broadcasting; Environment, Forest and Climate Change; and Youth Affairs and Sports; Vice Chairman and CEO of NITI Aayog and other senior officials from PMO, Cabinet Secretariat, MHA and other Ministries.

According to the statement, the agenda of the conference includes implementation of three criminal laws; reforms in higher education and accreditation of universities; development of focus areas like tribal areas, aspira-

tional districts. Governors are expected to deliberate on these in various breakaway groups and in the concluding session, these groups will make a presentation.

The Centre has also suggested that the Governors regularly hold open forums and roundtable discussions with community leaders, and engage directly with citizens, including reaching out to schools and hospitals.

The conference comes months after the Supreme Court, hearing a plea by the Punjab government, observed that "Governors also cannot be oblivious to the fact that they are not elected representatives of the people."

• Cloudbursts

dead. Officials said seven persons were missing even as two houses were washed away. The bodies of Bajiru Ram (80), Chandni Devi (75) and Chaitri Devi (90) were recovered by rescue workers.

A cloudburst near Shrikhand Mahadev in Rampur sub-division of Shimla triggered flash floods, leaving two persons dead and at least 36 missing, Superintendent of Police Sanjeev Kumar Gandhi said. The cloudburst led to a rise in water level in Samej Khud, a rivulet that divides Shimla and Kullu districts. Officials said the ongoing Srikhand Mahadev Yatra has been put on hold.

Shimla DC Anupam Kashyap said teams from the NDRF, ITBP, State Disaster Response Force, police and home guards were carrying out rescue and relief operations. Drones were pressed into service to trace those missing, he said, adding that four persons have been rescued so far.

Those missing in Rampur include 17 women and 19 men. Four migrant labourers, seven employees of Grico project, 14 people from Samej village and eight from Kandrahad are among those missing. A hydro-electric project situated near Samej Khad was also partially damaged.

Kullu DC Torul S Raveesh said that seven persons were missing in Bhagipul area of Nirmand block, where flood waters washed away nine houses.

CISF personnel and Home Guards have been deputed for search and rescue operations, she said.

"We have rescued more than two dozen people from various locations including Manikaran, Mallana, enroute Shrikhand Mahadev Yatra. Many bridges were washed away and damaged in the cloudburst," she said.

• Swapnil wins bronze, shooting bags third medal

by a margin finer than a pinhead.

In his 10m final earlier in the week, Babuta dropped from the silver medal position to fourth place in the final few shots. When the same happened to Kusale on Thursday, dropping from second place to fourth, Deshpande was bracing for another consolation speech. But it won't be needed. Instead, when Kusale called Deshpande, his "second mother", a few happy tears flowed in between the joyous screams.

Kusale, a railway ticket collector, was now an Olympic medalist. The 28-year-old, who idolises MSDhoni because of a "relatable life story", held his breath and controlling his pounding heart to avoid heartbreak and win a bronze medal in the 50m rifle 3-position — an event dubbed as the "Test match of shooting" because of the wide range of skills it tests.

On a day of mixed fortunes, where medal contenders — Satwiksairaj Rankireddy-Chirag

Shetty in badminton doubles and Nikhat Zareen in boxing fell by the wayside — it was a shooter who took India's medal tally to three bronze.

For Kusale, the journey to the podium hadn't been easy. His father, a school teacher from Kolhapur, had taken a bank loan to support Kusale's sporting dream. The talented shooter with modest means would ration the bullets he used for training, since they cost Rs 120 each and it was "a huge sum" for the family. Now, these are details in the fairytale that Kusale would be asked to repeat once he returns home.

Showing his mastery in shooting from kneeling, prone and standing positions, Kusale tallied a total of 451.4. He finished behind Chinese gold medalist Liu Yukun and Serhiy Kulish, the Ukrainian shooter whose medal hopes in Tokyo three years ago were dashed most bizarrely when he, by mistake, shot someone else's

• Schoolgirl's short story on nature's fury turns true

target. On Thursday, Kulish shot to redemption and Kusale made sure India enjoyed another historic day at the shooting ranges of Chateauroux.

Last Sunday, Manu Bhaker became the first Indian woman shooter to win a medal at the Olympics. A couple of days later, the 22-year-old became the first Indian since Independence to win two medals at the same Olympics. Kusale's bronze will also go down as one for the history books — for the first time, India has won three medals in one sport at the same Olympics.

It's fitting that it was shooting that achieved this record — India's medal rush in this century was started by shooters, who have also now redeemed themselves at the Paris Games, returning with three medals after back-to-back ducks in Rio and Tokyo. That Kusale would be among those to stand on the podium was a pleasant surprise.

• Bomb smuggled into Iran guesthouse months ago killed Haniyeh of Hamas when he came visiting

flattened by massive landslides that claimed hundreds of lives — including Laya's father Lenin. The GVHSS Vellarmala lost 32 of its 497 students. Two students have lost their parents and siblings.

The official death toll in the twin Wayanad landslides currently stands at 189, with the Kerala government confirming on Thursday that "all those who are alive" at the landslide-hit villages have been rescued. Around 160-odd people are still missing.

The school at Chooralmala is now badly damaged, with the river flowing nearby washing into its vast grounds and classrooms and damaging its infrastructure.

At the village, the school headmaster, V Unnikrishnan,

and his colleagues in the teaching staff feel they had a narrow escape.

"We five teachers are staying in rented quarters at Chooralmala, with a steep hill behind it. A week ago, it was raining heavily and we decided to stay the night at the school fearing a landslide. But we returned home last Friday. The landslide did not happen behind our quarters as we feared. Instead, it came through the river and hit the school. If we had been there, we would have perished," he told *The Indian Express*.

A teacher for 18 years now, Unnikrishnan remembers the village as a lively, friendly and welcoming place that mostly comprised workers employed at the local cardamom and tea

plantations. It was with them that Unnikrishnan, who's originally from Alappuzha district, and his colleagues socialised.

"Over the years, many youths in the village got educated and built careers beyond the plantations. Their world was washed away in a few seconds that night," he says.

Unnikrishnan and his colleagues now face the challenging task of helping their students get back to normalcy. A Class 12 student is still missing, Rejin, a teacher at GVHSS, said.

"Alternate arrangements have to be made for the students. Many are in shock over the loss of their friends," he said.

At Mundakkai, teachers at a government lower primary school have found that 11 of its

students are missing.

With the village being completely cut off following the rain and landslide, contact with it has so far been difficult. According to school headmistress Mercy Thomas, teachers have been frantically trying to track down students and their families.

"They (the missing students) are all from the village, which is no more. I don't know the condition of the school building. So far, we haven't been able to go near the village because there's no bridge to reach it," she said.

Apart from the confirmed deaths, rescue workers have fished out 92 body parts, mainly from the Chaliyur river in Malappuram's Nilambur region. As many as 252 post-mortems, including of the body parts, have been conducted, officials said.

Forty-four children are miss-

ing from two schools in the region — Mundakkai's government lower primary school and Chooralmala's GVHSS, including in its higher secondary section.

After a review meeting at Kalpetta in Wayanad, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan told the media that "all those who are alive have been saved in the last three days".

"It is assumed that nobody is left to be saved in the villages of Mundakkai, Chooralmala and Attamala. Rescue workers are looking into whether anyone got stranded individually. What is left is to retrieve bodies from the area," he said.

Vijayan also visited Chooralmala, where the Army constructed a Bailey bridge to reach Mundakkai village, where scores of bodies are yet to be recovered.

• Bomb smuggled into Iran guesthouse months ago killed Haniyeh of Hamas when he came visiting

Middle Eastern officials, including the Iranians. Started building staff members, the officials said, ran to find the source of the tremendous noise, leading them to the room where Haniyeh was staying with a bodyguard.

The compound is staffed with a medical team which rushed to the room immediately after the explosion. The team declared that Haniyeh had died immediately. The team tried to revive the bodyguard, but he, too, was dead.

The leader of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Ziyad al-Nakhlah, was staying next door, two of the Iranian officials said. His room was not badly damaged, suggesting precise planning in the targeting of Haniyeh.

Khalil al-Hayya, the deputy commander of Hamas in Gaza who was also in Tehran, arrived at the scene and saw his colleague's

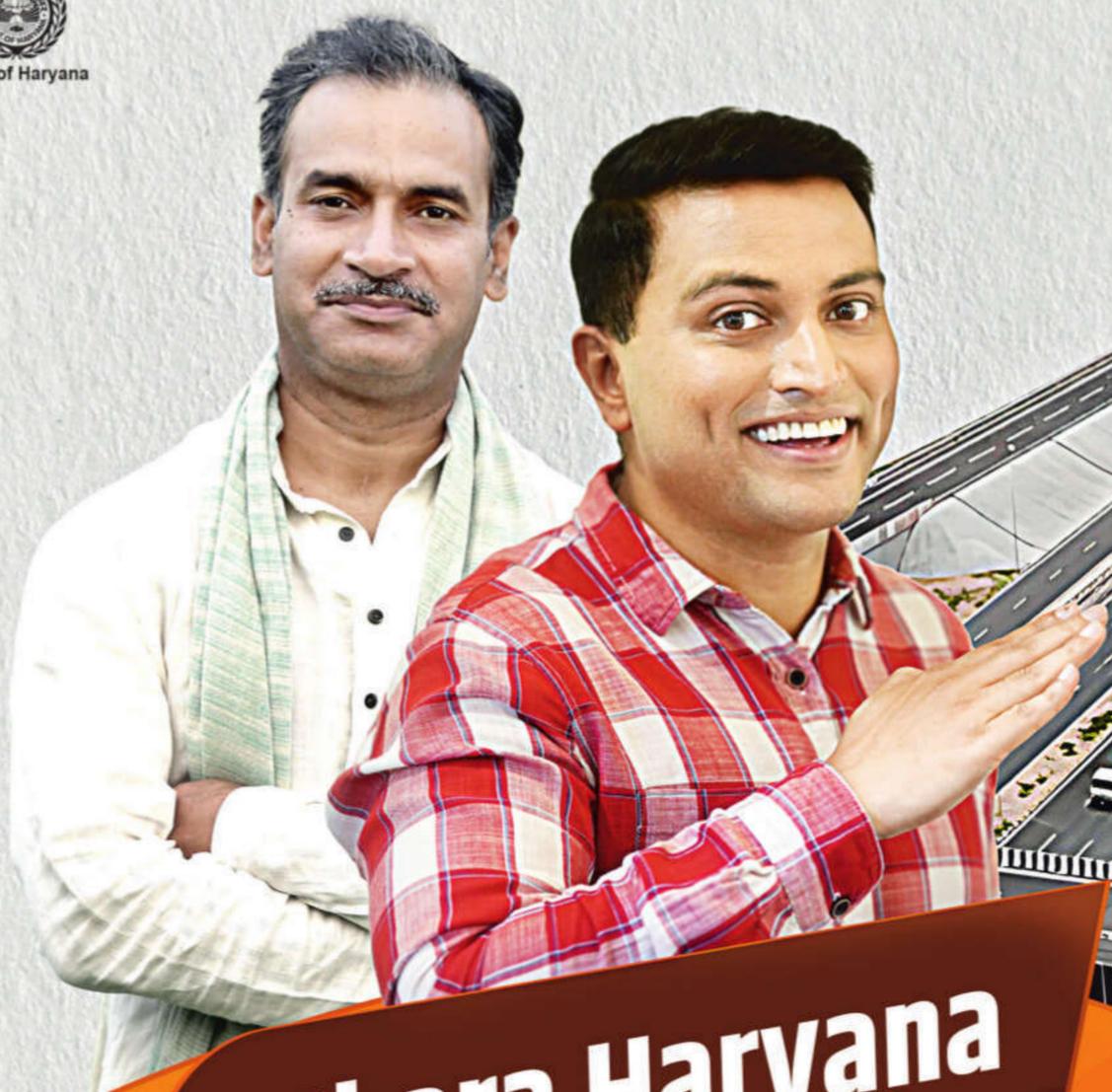
body, according to the five Middle Eastern officials.

Among the people immediately notified, said the three Iranian officials, was Gen. Ismail Ghaani, the commander in chief of the Quds Force, the overseas arm of the Revolutionary Guard, which works closely with Iranian allies in the region, including Hamas and Hezbollah. He notified Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in the middle of the night, the officials said.

Four hours after the blast, the Revolutionary Guard issued a statement that Haniyeh had been killed. By 7 am, Khamenei had summoned the members of Iran's Supreme National Security Council to his compound for an emergency meeting, at which he issued an order to strike Israel in retaliation, according to the three Iranian officials. —NYT



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# 4 THE CITY MONSOON FURY

## RAIN WREAKS HAVOC, 9 LIVES SNUFFED OUT IN UNDER 24 HOURS

- 18** year-old ragpicker dies in South Delhi's Sangam Vihar. Police said prima facie it is suspected to be a case of electrocution
- 12** year-old boy electrocuted in Southwest Delhi's Bindapur. At the spot, police found 2 pipes with disconnected electric cables tied to wall
- 28** year-old, son of a policeman, electrocuted at the terrace of his home in Southeast Delhi's Meethapur. Exact cause being verified: Police
- 62** year-old man dies in a building collapse in North Delhi's Sabzi Mandi. He was inside the premises at the time of the incident
- 23** year-old woman and her three-year-old son slipped and drowned in an open drain near East Delhi's Khoda Colony
- 3** men wading through waterlogged footpath to reach Gurgaon's IFFCO Chowk Metro station electrocuted. A live wire was later found in the water

### MOTHER-SON DROWN IN EAST DELHI DRAIN

# 'She was holding her son when her body was found'

Residents claim drain was never closed; AAP, BJP take potshots

PRAGYNESH NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

A DAY after the deaths of a 23-year-old woman and her three-year-old son, who drowned in an open drain in East Delhi's Khoda Colony, residents Thursday alleged the drain was never closed and the road was flooded due to heavy rain. The incident also prompted a blame game between the AAP and BJP.

On Wednesday evening, Tanuja Bisht and her son Priyansh set out from their home in Khoda to buy groceries from the weekly Budh Bazaar (Wednesday market). It began raining soon after.

As they neared the bazaar, her son suddenly fell into the drain. Vendors, who had set up their shops in a line close by, immediately rushed to help. "Tanuja jumped in to save her son, desperately trying to hold onto him. Her sister-in-law, who was also with them, jumped in too but we immediately pulled her out," said Savita, 40, one of the vendors.

Bharat, a tomato vendor, said police soon arrived and put ropes with hooks into the water to search for them. "The bodies were found later — half a km away from where they fell," he said.

"She was holding her son in her arms when her body was found. His hair... was stuck to her fingers," said Sarita, a neighbour.

The bodies were found in a drain just outside Khoda Colony, opposite a CNG pump. Tanuja is survived by her husband, Gaurav (29), who works at a private diagnostic centre in Noida, and father Digambar Singh. They lived at her father's house in Khoda Colony. The couple got married in 2018, said a relative. The family hails from Chaukhutia, Almora, in Uttarakhand.

The drain measures about 15 feet in depth and 6 feet in width. Shambhu Pandey, who has been living in Khoda for the last



The open drain in Ghazipur, East Delhi, where the victims fell in. *Abhinav Saha*

six years, said: "When it rains, the road and drain become one. Two years ago, they laid the road. Now it has again developed cracks and has potholes."

Sarita chimed in: "Now they have started some construction... Just a week ago, a boy had fallen into the drain. But since he was rescued, no one talked about it."

"Her landlord saw her (Tanuja) in the market and told her not to go towards the drain. But as the water was waist high, she couldn't see it..." she added.

Earlier in the day, Patparganj councillor, BJP's Ravi Negi visited the spot and blamed the AAP-led government for negligence: "The PWD is responsible for this incident. This is a bloodbath going on under the AAP government."

The AAP, meanwhile, demanded action against the DDA

and the L-G's resignation. "Ravi Negi doesn't know which drain is being maintained by whom," said AAP's Rohit Kumar, the Trilokpuri MLA. "The DDA comes under the L-G... We demand that strict action be taken against the officials responsible and compensation be provided to the deceased's family," he added.

The DDA, in a statement, said 1,000 metres of the 1,350-metre-long drain was handed over to the MCD, adding that the section that came under it was covered. "Additionally, a screen was installed at the junction point of the MCD and DDA drains to prevent the flow of garbage into it... It is pertinent to note that the 350-metre section of the drain under the DDA's jurisdiction is fully covered," it said.

The MCD, however, denied the drain was under its jurisdiction.

## AAP, BJP, Cong spar over desilting

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

FROM DESILTING to the maintenance of national assets such as the Parliament, the AAP, BJP and Congress Thursday pointed fingers at each other over the Capital's infrastructure.

Demanding a CBI inquiry in the matter, the Delhi BJP alleged a scam in desilting of the city's drains, alleging that the sewerage system and stormwater drainage network had "completely collapsed" in the last few years.

The Congress, in addition to demanding resignations of the AAP government's ministers concerned, also questioned the role of consecutive BJP MPs when it came to improving the city's infrastructure.

On its part, the AAP accused Delhi Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar of failing to ensure the

court-mandated third-party audit of desilting efforts in the city.

"In the past two years, waterlogging has been observed on both main roads and colony streets alike... it is clear that a scam worth hundreds of crores has occurred in the desilting of drains," Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva alleged.

"The Chief Minister, ministers, MLAs, contractors, and some lower-level officials of the Delhi government are all involved, and a CBI investigation is necessary. This corruption has culminated in the Rajinder Nagar incident," he added.

Delhi Congress president Devender Yadav said it was "unfortunate and irresponsible" on the part of Delhi's ministers that they were still indulging in blame games, instead of taking emergency steps to prevent the recurrence of flooding after the first two heavy monsoon spells had

triggered waterlogging in the city.

"It is shocking that even the new Parliament House, constructed at a staggering cost of Rs 1,200 crore, the rather posh NDMC areas, underpasses, the Bharat Mandapam and underpasses at Pragati Maidan were affected by waterlogging, exposing the huge corruption that had taken place in the name of desilting of drains," he alleged.

Training his guns at the BJP, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said if the Parliament was not able to bear the brunt of the first rainfall in the city, the "depth of corruption" needed to be thought about. "The BJP is completely immersed in corruption from the head to toe. They want bribes in every place, in every construction project. They gave tenders worth about Rs 3.2 lakh crore to those companies which bribed the BJP through electoral bonds," he alleged.

## Capital State of Play



Local shop owners and residents near the debris of the house that collapsed due to heavy rain in Sabzi Mandi area, Thursday. *PTI*

### COMPLAINTS POUR IN

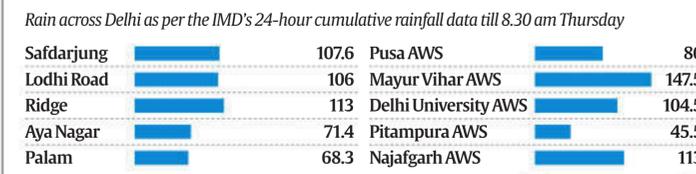
Incident	No. of calls (July 31)	No. of calls (August 1*)	Total calls
Traffic jam	2,727	218	2,945
Waterlogging	119	8	127
Building collapse	26	1	27
Fallen trees	35	15	50

(from 12-7 am)\*

### BUILDING COLLAPSE INCIDENTS

Police station	Dead/Injured
Shastri Park	2 injured
Sabzi Mandi	1 dead
Defence Colony	1 injured

### WHAT IMD DATA SHOWS



Most of the rainfall took place from 5.30 pm to 11.30 pm on July 31 after a dry day. Light-moderate spells of rainfall also lasted till 2.30 am Thursday.

**203.7 mm**  
Total rainfall for the month

## Six electrocuted in Gurgaon, Delhi

AISWARYA RAJ GURGAON, AUGUST 1

AROUND 4 pm Wednesday, telecom operator Devesh Vajpayi (34) left his office in Manesar to head to his home in Uttar Pradesh's Unnao — only to end up stranded in traffic in Gurgaon, which was inundated after heavy rain. A bus dropped him 100 metres from IFFCO Chowk Metro station around 9.30 pm.

Wasi Uz Zama (55), an engineer heading a firm in Manesar, had taken the bus from there and was dropped off near the same station; he was to take the train home to Delhi's Sangam Vihar.

Jaipal Yadav (32), who worked with a Korean firm as a driver, had parked his car and was walking towards the Metro to hail an autorickshaw to go to his home in Wazirabad.

They never reached the station. The three men were crossing a waterlogged footpath when they were electrocuted.

At the spot Thursday, many wires were sticking out. An uprooted tree lay on the footpath a few feet away. Police said they received information around 9.45 pm and found that due to rainwater accumulation, the tree had fallen, bringing down an electric wire. "This caused the water to become electrically charged," said a police spokesperson.

P K Chauhan, Superintending Engineer with the Dakshin Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam, however, said the insulation of underground cables of a streetlight, maintained by the MCG, came in contact with the water. "When the tree fell, the cables' insulation snapped. We cut the connection to the area after the information from the fire department," he said.

Police said no FIR was registered, but inquest proceedings have been initiated under Section 194 of the BNS.

Vajpayi worked for a Swiss-based firm, Huber+Suhrner. His colleagues reached the police station after their company manager informed them of his death.

One of them, Inderpal, said: "Devesh was going home to take

his final semester LLB exam. He was a loving father and a helpful friend. It was his son's third birthday on Tuesday and he celebrated by giving us sweets."

Zama's family was distraught. Asad Ahmed, his father-in-law, said the family grew anxious when he didn't return home by 10 pm. His two sons, in their early 20s, started calling him. "But the calls went unanswered. They went to his workplace in Manesar, but couldn't find him. After repeated calls, around 4 am, police picked up and they were informed of the incident," he said.

Yadav, who had been living in Gurgaon for 10 years, is survived by his wife and four-year-old daughter. Inderjeet, his older brother, who lives with their mother in Nangal Chaudhary, said: "He would come every 15 days to see our mother and call every day. She is devastated."

Meanwhile, in Delhi, three deaths due to electrocution were reported Wednesday after an intense spell of rain.

In the first case, a 12-year-old boy died when he was returning home from tuition in Dwarka's Bindapur. At the site, police found two plastic pipes containing disconnected electric cables tied to a wall. In Jaitpur, police said Prabhat (28), son of a sub-inspector, died due to electrocution at the terrace of his home in Meethapur. "He probably came in contact with the water tank alarm system. The exact cause is being verified," said DCP (Southeast) Rajesh Deo. In Sangam Vihar, Anil, a ragpicker, was returning to his rented house when he suddenly fell. Police prima facie said it is suspected to be a case of electrocution.

BSES officials said the Meethapur incident was a result of electrical current leakage from a water tank alarm system installed on the terrace. They added that at Bindapur, power supply was shut off in the area due to waterlogging. The cause is yet to be ascertained. In Sangam Vihar, it said the area was flooded with 2 feet of water and that the discom's network was not involved in this incident.

## Delhi saw one-fifth of its 3-month rainfall on July 31

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

FOLLOWING THE downpour Wednesday, Delhi received 107.6 mm of rainfall — equivalent to one-fifth of its average three-month rainfall (July-September) of 549.3 mm — in just 24 hours.

Six weather stations saw rainfall over 100 mm.

Earlier, an orange alert (be prepared) was issued for Thursday but it was changed to a yellow (be aware) warning until Friday, after which there is no warning as per the IMD's seven-day forecast.

The water level in the Yamuna remains below the warning level. At 8 am Thursday, the level at the

Old Railway Bridge was 202.24 metres, as per data from the Central Water Commission's flood forecasting station. The warning mark is 204.5 metres; the danger level is 205.33 metres. Last year, the water level reached 208.66 metres, the highest recorded since 1978 which resulted in the worst-ever floods in 45 years.

Over the week, the maximum temperature and minimum temperature are predicted to fall below normal at 34 and 26 degrees Celsius respectively.

As per the Commission for Air Quality Management, lowest ever AQI for any day since 2019 (barring two days in Covid-affected July, 2020) was recorded this July. The AQI was 56 on July 7 and 8.

### LOCALITY SAW HIGHEST RAINFALL ON WEDNESDAY

# Shop waterlogged, home flooded: In Mayur Vihar, families pick up the pieces

SOPHIYA MATHEW NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

AT 7 pm Wednesday, 15-year-old Utkarsh got a call from his grandmother. She was alone at their family-run photocopy and lamination shop in Harijan Basti, Mayur Vihar Phase I, where they also held tuition for students.

She told him, "We need to pick up the dariya (carpet), it will get ruined. Tell the tuition students not to come." It soon began to rain heavily, leading to the street in

front of Utkarsh's house getting waterlogged for three-four hours.

"The water level was five-six inches high inside the shop last night. Every time, during the rainy season, a little bit of water always gets inside. The *nallah* remains choked... Water seeps through the floor in the shop and the walls of the tuition class," said Utkarsh's father, Sachin Chaudhary, 38, who owns the shop.

Mayur Vihar saw the highest rainfall across Delhi Wednesday — the weather station at SPS Mayur Vihar had recorded 119

mm of rain.

Outside Utkarsh's house, a board read — 'A-One Classes', 'A-One Stationery- Photocopy, Lamination... The shop is in the basement. A room adjacent to it is where tuition classes are held in three batches. On Thursday, around 20 children were studying on spread-out *dariyas*, which did little to hide the signs of damage due to seepage on the floor.

Utkarsh said it took three people to remove the water using buckets and mugs. "Once, I tried using a motor to pump out



the water and got a minor electric shock. After that, we were afraid," he added.

The family said their photostat machine was damaged six years ago when water entered their home after heavy rain. "Now, we put all items in the shop on the upper shelves," said a family member, who looks after the shop and did not want to be named.

Around 5 km away, in an

Water inside a photocopy shop in Harijan Basti. *Express*

unauthorised colony near Shashi Garden, Mayur Vihar Phase I, Rekha (23) managed to sleep only after 3 pm. She and her family — her elder brother and his wife — spent hours collecting water in buckets, containers, and mugs after the nearby drain flowed into their two-storey home.

"If we had not done this, our home would have been under water. The mattresses got soaked... I kept them away and slept on the floor... which too was completely wet, but I had no other option," said Rekha.

Her relative, 25-year-old Pinky, who lives upstairs, also faced similar difficulties on Wednesday night. "Water trickled down from the roof... we kept utensils in 6-7 different places."

The issue of the *nallah* overflowing during the rain, and then entering homes, has plagued at least four more houses in the camp, the family said.

"No one who comes and cleans the *nallah*... all these years that I have lived here, I've only seen it happen once," said Kajal (24), a relative.

SWATI MALIWAL ASSAULT CASE

# SC questions CM aide Bibhav Kumar's conduct: '... power has gone to his head?'

ANANTHAKRISHNAN  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

THE SUPREME COURT Thursday came down heavily on Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's aide Bibhav Kumar, who has been accused of physically assaulting AAP Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal at the former's official residence, asking "what he thinks" of himself and whether "power has gone to his head".

Issuing notice on his bail plea, a bench of Justices Surya Kant, Dipankar Datta and Ujjal Bhuyan said the fact that Maliwal called the emergency number "immediately after the incident... belies" Kumar's "story she subsequently concocted the allegations".

"What (does) he think... the power has gone into his head?... We are shocked... She is in a particular physical condition at that time. She is crying that I am in such and such physical condition... We don't want to read in the open court... she tells him that please stop because of this

physical condition and this man continues," said Justice Kant, asking if Kumar did not "feel ashamed of doing it to a young woman?"

Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for Kumar, said these were the allegations in the FIR which was registered three days later and that they were a matter of trial. "This is a matter of trial... FIR is a version of a person who makes it three days later with a friendly police under a friendly Lieutenant Governor. My complaint on the same day is not registered," said Singhvi.

But the court was not impressed. "These are all your internal political affairs. We are only examining the law and the criminal allegations," added Justice Kant.

Justice Datta asked Singhvi if Kumar was secretary to the chief minister or ex-secretary to the chief minister on May 13, 2024, the date of the alleged incident.

Singhvi said he was the political secretary, mostly handling appointments and rendering some political



Bibhav Kumar has been accused of physically assaulting AAP Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal. File

advice. Justice Kant said, "You are not a political secretary, you are a government official, probably..."

Singhvi submitted that Kumar has a case going on in the Central Administrative Tribunal and is currently out of service. He, however, reiterated that Kumar was political secretary to Kejriwal.

Justice Datta pointed out from documents that he was an ex-private secretary to the chief minister

and asked, "If you are an ex-private secretary, then what authority do you have per se in the chief minister's residence?"

As Singhvi sought to defend Kumar, Justice Kant said, "You are saying as if some goon has gone inside the house, and you want to protect...". Singhvi cited the Medico Legal Case (MLC) report and said it states there were "only two injuries, one to the right cheek and one to the thigh" and that they were "simple and non-dangerous" which is "totally contrary to her allegation".

The "FIR is lodged on May 16, and the story, which is put up with FIR, according to me is very strange... that I (Maliwal) was so traumatised that I took three days..." He added, "She went the first day to the police station. She did not lodge an FIR in the police station, came back, and after three days" lodged the FIR.

Justice Kant pointed out that "she also called 112". He added, "The point is if she called up immediately after the incident, the emergency call, it showed what?... That belies

your story that she subsequently concocted the allegations."

Singhvi said that Maliwal "came to this house". "Nobody went to her house. She waited in the waiting room," he added.

Justice Kant asked if he was trying to say that the chief minister's official residence was a private residence. "... is it a private residence?... The chief minister's official bungalow is a private residence?" Singhvi said Kumar had been denied bail on the ground that he could tamper with evidence and wondered how he could do that, but Justice Kant countered, "If this kind of person can't influence witnesses, who else will do?"

Singhvi said the chargesheet had been filed and said the court even grants bail in murder cases.

"In murder cases, robbery cases, dacoity cases, every day we grant bail. But the manner in which the occurrence takes place, that really sometimes... We grant even to contract killers, but look at the way..." said Justice Kant.

DELHI BASEMENT FLOODING DEATHS: COURT SAYS MAN 'IMPLICATED BY POLICE IN OVER-ENTHUSIASM'

# Businessman who drove SUV past Rau's gets bail

NIRBHAY THAKUR  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

STATING THAT he was implicated by the Delhi Police in "over-enthusiasm", a Delhi court on Thursday granted bail to Manuj Kathuria, the 50-year-old businessman who drove his SUV in a waterlogged lane past Rau's IAS Study Circle in Old Rajinder Nagar last week where three civil service aspirants drowned and died.

He was accused of forcing a wave of water that breached the entrance of the coaching centre and led to flooding in the basement.

A sessions court granted him bail on Thursday, a day after the Magistrate Court in Tis Hazari denied him bail. The Delhi Police told the sessions court that they have decided



Father of Nevin Dalvin, one of the three students who died at Rau's, addresses protesters; (right) gate of the coaching centre being taken to forensic analysis, in Old Rajinder Nagar, Thursday. Amit Mehra

to drop the harsher charge of culpable homicide not amounting to murder against Kathuria (section 105 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita or BNS). In its reply to the bail plea, police

said that the main offence against Kathuria was "rash driving on a public way" (section 281 of the BNS).

"In view of the submissions

made by the State through their reply, since offence under Section 105 of BNS, 2023, which is non-bailable is not made out at this stage, the rest of the Sections are bailable in na-

ture," said Additional Sessions Judge Rakesh Kumar of Tis Hazari Court while granting Kathuria bail. This comes a day after the Delhi High Court pulled up the Delhi Police for its "strange probe" after they arrested the driver of the vehicle and not any Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) official.

The businessman had argued in a Delhi court on Tuesday that civic authorities were the real culprits behind the incident. Advocate Rakesh Malhotra, representing him, said it isn't possible to drive a car at a high speed in a waterlogged area and the speed of the vehicle was just 15 km per hour. "How would I have known that my car would produce such momentum that kids inside would drown because of the gate collapsing?" he said.

# Cong set to launch 'biggest-ever' outreach programme in Delhi

JATIN ANAND  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

WITH AN eye on next year's Assembly elections in Delhi, Congress is set to launch — in what has been described by insiders — its biggest outreach programme in the city yet. Issues related to Delhi's students, including civil services aspirants, will be in special focus as part of the mega outreach,

sources added. Almost 16 to 18 committees — which will cover issues including infrastructure, health, education, unauthorised colonies, and slums — with a domain expert, alongside the members of the Indian Youth Congress, National Students Union of India (NSUI), the party's student wing, and the Delhi unit will hit the ground to seek suggestions for the party's manifesto for the 2025 polls from next week, insiders said.

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## Growing Bilateral Relations Between Vietnam and India: From Historical Solidarity to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

*The Vietnamese PM's India visit marked a significant milestone in the longstanding bilateral ties between the world's biggest democracy, India, and its Act East policy's key pillar, Vietnam.*

**V**ETNAM, the vibrant Southeast Asian nation of breathtaking natural beauty, rich cultural heritage, and dynamic economic growth is renowned for its resilient spirit, industrious populace and a culture characterized by hospitality. Owing to its strategic location, the Communist Party of Vietnam's (CPV) exemplary leadership, its young and skilled workforce and the government's focus on economic reforms and global integration, Vietnam has emerged as a significant player on the global stage, boasting impressive economic growth as one of the fastest-growing economies in the region.

**VIETNAM'S REMARKABLE STRIDES UNDER THE CPV LEADERSHIP**

Southeast Asia's Marxist-Leninist, one-party state, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam has made remarkable strides in various sectors under the visionary leadership of the CPV, which came into being on 3 February 1930 and ushered in a transformative phase of progress and development for the nation caught in the upheavals of patriotic uprisings. As Vietnam braved prolonged warfare in the 20th century, the CPV's prudent leadership and political acumen led the nation to its decisive victories in each of these wars.

The victory of Vietnam in 1945's August Revolution, spearheaded by the communist revolutionary Ho Chi Minh, won the nation its hard-fought independence and paved the way for establishing the Democratic Republic of Vietnam - Southeast Asia's first workers' and farmers' state. Under the CPV, Vietnam dealt a crushing blow to French colonialists' plans of invasion and France's aspiration to

reclaim colonial power in Vietnam after World War II. Vietnam's resounding triumph in the Winter-Spring battle of 1953-1954, with its epoch-making Dien Bien Phu victory, brought a definitive end to French colonialists' attempts to invade Vietnam.

The Ho Chi Minh Campaign, with the 1975 General Offensive and Uprising as its pinnacle, was a historic milestone in the resistance war against the American imperialists, that earned South Vietnam its liberation in April 1975 and led to national reunification as a unitary socialist state under the competent leadership of the CPV.

The advent of the comprehensive national Doi Moi (Renewal) policy in 1986, in alignment with the 6th National Party Congress putting forth the guideline for it, and its successful implementation marked the pivotal shift from a centrally planned economy to a socialist-oriented market economy. This has led to substantial economic growth, increased foreign direct investment, and improved living standards for Vietnamese citizens ever since.

Significant progress has been made in education and healthcare, with the government focusing on improving literacy rates, expanding access to healthcare services, and enhancing the overall quality of life. The CPV's strategic direction and progressive policies have driven Vietnam's socio-economic development, lifted millions out of poverty, and transformed the country into one of the fastest-growing economies in Southeast Asia.

**BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH STRATEGIC FOREIGN POLICY**

Vietnam's foreign policy is centered

on the principles of independence, self-reliance, and multilateralism. This approach is rooted in the nation's historical experience of foreign invasions on its soil and the valuable lessons learnt therein alongside the Vietnamese people's indomitable independent spirit and their deep desire to maintain sovereignty and peace while doing away with external dependencies.

Since its reunification in 1975, and especially since Doi Moi, Vietnam's diplomacy has focused on cultivating a peaceful and stable environment favorable for fostering Doi Moi and boosting national industrialization and modernization.

Developing diverse and dynamic bilateral relations with countries from across the globe, Vietnam has established fruitful ties with the world's major powers, politico-economic centers, and industrialized countries while prioritizing relations with neighboring and regional nations. Pursuing a foreign policy

guideline of independence, self-reliance, peace, cooperation and development characterized by openness, diversification and multi-lateralization of international relations, Vietnam has been proactively engaged in expanding its international relations while developing mutually beneficial partnerships and cooperative friendly ties with all countries, territories and international organizations.

By engaging in multilateral diplomacy and joining international organizations such as the United Nations, ASEAN, ASEM, APEC and the World Trade Organization, Vietnam has strengthened its global standing and contributed to regional and global stability.

Alongside fostering peaceful and cooperative relationships with all countries while protecting national interests, Vietnam's foreign policy emphasizes economic diplomacy, attracting foreign investment and enhancing trade relations. Vietnam has signed multiple free trade agree-

ments (FTAs) with key partners, which have opened new markets for Vietnamese goods and services and facilitated economic growth. This strategic approach has allowed Vietnam to navigate complex international relations effectively and maintain its autonomy on the global stage.

**VIETNAM AND INDIA'S FRUITFUL BILATERAL RELATIONS**

Vietnam and India, with a shared history of solidarity rooted in their struggles for independence, established full diplomatic relations on 7 January 1972, which was boosted further through the close 'Strategic Partnership' formed in July 2007 that was subsequently raised to the level of a 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership' during Indian PM Modi's visit to Vietnam in 2016. The diplomatic ties have been strengthened by regular high-level visits, strategic dialogues, cooperative efforts on regional and global platforms and a

commitment to fostering peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region.

Trade between Vietnam and India has seen significant growth, with bilateral trade volumes reaching new heights annually, from a meager USD 200 million in 2000 to USD 14.36 billion in 2023. In FY 2023-2024, for India, Vietnam was the 21st largest trading partner and 22nd largest export destination globally. For Vietnam, India was its 7th largest trading partner, 7th biggest importer of Vietnam's products and 11th biggest import source of Vietnam during the same period. While Indian companies are exploring Vietnam as a manufacturing hub, Vietnamese enterprises view India's vast consumer market as an avenue for expanding their footprint, wherein IT, textiles, pharmaceuticals, and agriculture sectors have witnessed several successful partnerships.

Guided by a "Joint Vision for Peace, Prosperity and People" since December 2020, India-Vietnam relations span growing development cooperation alongside collaboration on defense and security matters. Regular educational exchanges and cultural programs have reinforced further the people-to-people connections between the two nations, fostering mutual understanding and cooperation while enriching the cultural fabric of both nations.

**VIETNAM'S PM PHAM MINH CHINH'S INDIA VISIT**

Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh's three-day visit to India, which commenced on 31 July, accompanied by a high-level delegation, which included several ministers, deputy ministers and business leaders held a special significance as

it underscored both nations' steadfast commitment to deepening bilateral relations and exploring new avenues for collaboration.

The visit was a resounding success in boosting further the comprehensive strategic partnership between Vietnam and India, with its focus on strengthening traditional areas of cooperation while expanding cooperation's ambit into new promising sectors - digital economy, telecommunications, information technology, infrastructure, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and renewable energy. The first visit by a Vietnamese premier to India in a decade witnessed the signing of several agreements following the talks between the leaders of both countries and bolstered support for each other on regional and international issues, and at multilateral forums.

The visit served to reinforce both nations' partnership and address mutual strategic interests alongside reaffirming their shared commitment to peace, stability, development and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region, thereby contributing to regional and global stability. By strengthening bilateral ties, Vietnam and India aim to address collectively common challenges and seize new opportunities for growth and development.

Poised for a promising future, driven by its dynamic economy, innovative strides, robust foreign policy, and strategic global partnerships, particularly with nations like India, Vietnam is set to continue its impressive growth trajectory, contributing significantly to regional and global stability and prosperity.

This advertisement is released by Voice of Vietnam

# GOVT SHELTER FOR MENTALLY-CHALLENGED Minor among 14 dead in a month at Asha Kiran

ANKITA UPADHYAY  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

MORE THAN 14 deaths have been reported in a month at Asha Kiran, the Delhi government's "home for the mentally challenged" in Rohini. One minor and six women are among those who died at the shelter. An inquiry commission was set up last week to probe the matter, and its report is awaited, said officials.

"Three deaths were reported in January, two in February, one in March, three in April and zero in May. However, the numbers shot up alarmingly in June and July," a government official said.

According to official sources, a majority of inmates who died were aged between 20 and 30, and the cause of death was reported to be various health issues, including lung infections, tuberculosis, and pneumonia. The postmortem of two bodies is yet to be conducted at the Delhi government-run Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital in Rohini, said sources.

"There were also cases of inmates who showed symptoms of malnourishment," said an official source.

The reports from the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) are also awaited to rule out food poisoning.

The tests include viscera and histopathology tests. In the vis-



Between 2011 and 2017, 123 male and 73 female inmates died in Asha Kiran. File

cera test, the internal organs of the body, mainly in the cavities of the body are examined thoroughly to ascertain the cause of death under suspicious circumstances when autopsies are unconvincing. The histopathology test is done to examine human tissue for signs of health disorders, internal damage, or any abnormal traits in tissues.

"We will get a clear picture in 1-2 months when we have all the reports," said an official source. The shelter — run by the Delhi government's Social Welfare Department — was set up in 1989 in Rohini's Sector 1 with a capacity to accommodate 350 people. At the time, it was the sole government-run residential facility for the mentally challenged in the whole of north

India.

However, Asha Kiran has been embroiled in controversies over the years due to the deaths of the inmates. Between 2011 and 2017, 123 male and 73 female inmates died in Asha Kiran, records show. In 2008-09, there were 16 deaths in November and December. A total of 23 inmates died between December and January 2009-10; nine between August and September 2012-13; 13 in October and November 2013-14; 11 in April-May 2014-15; and 13 in November-December 2015-16. In 2017-18, there were seven deaths in the November-December period.

After each death is reported, the local district magistrate has to send a report to the National Human Rights Commission.

# L-G was not told Supreme Court nod needed to cut trees, say affidavits by Delhi officers

MALLICA JOSHI  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

AFFIDAVITS FILED by senior Delhi government officers in the Delhi Ridge tree felling matter — which is being heard by the Supreme Court — state that Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena was not informed that the permission of the apex court was mandatory to cut trees.

Hundreds of trees were cut without permission in the Chhatrapur area to widen the road leading to the South Asian University and Central Armed Police Forces Institute of Medical Sciences (CAPFIMS).

The affidavits give details of Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena's visit to the spot on February 3. Three affidavits filed by government officials, however, differ slightly.

In his affidavit, Delhi Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar, while talking about the Lt. Governor's visit, states, "... Hon'ble Lt. Governor, at the time of visit... is-



The Delhi Ridge is hailed as a geological marvel and 'green lung' of the national capital. Abhinav Saha

sued directions to all the officials concerned to expedite completion of the project, being a project related to medical facilities for the Paramilitary Forces serving the nation... To the best of the knowledge of the undersigned, none of the officers/officials present at the site brought to the notice of the Hon'ble LG the orders (of the Supreme Court)... and/or the requirement of obtaining permission from the Tree Officer."

DDA engineer member Ashok Kumar Gupta, who while tendering an "unconditional and unqualified apology" for the felling of trees, said in his affidavit that the "Lt Governor informed him that the Forest Department had already taken approval from him" for felling trees under the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994" and "directed the officers of the Forest Department to convey the approval to DDA at the earliest".

He also added that "no officer present during the visit... had pointed out to the Hon'ble LG about the requirement for obtaining permission from Hon'ble Supreme Court".

He also stated that trees were cut under the "misplaced notion and understanding of the field Engineers of DDA" that they had obtained the requisite permissions.

The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (APCCF), Sunesh Buxy, in his affidavit, meanwhile stated, "...during the visit of Hon'ble LG, Principal Secretary (Environment and Forest), APCCF/HOD, Conservator of Forests... were present on behalf of Department of Forests and Wildlife... During the visit, the following directions were given to the Forest Department: (a) Forest officials were advised to create water bodies in the low-lying depressions in the ridge area in the vicinity of the CAPFIMS campus to enhance the water table of the area. (b) It was

pointed out that the mandatory permissions of the Forest Department under the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994, and Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 were pending. The Forest Department was advised to expedite the process in this regard." At the core of the controversy is the felling of hundreds of trees in the Southern Ridge without requisite permissions from the top court.

A matter of contempt is being heard by the Supreme Court, which has come down heavily on the L-G, the Delhi Development Authority as well as the Delhi government for lapses. The court has also said that DDA and the government are trying to cover up the truth about who ordered the tree felling. The Chief Secretary, meanwhile, also said in his affidavit that "directions by higher authorities during such visits, to expedite completion of the projects, cannot be considered as directions to overlook/bypass statutory provisions".

# DU kicks off undergraduate admissions Ph-2

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

DELHI UNIVERSITY on Thursday announced the commencement of the second phase of its admissions under the Common Seat Allocation System (Undergraduate) after the declaration of the Common University Entrance Test (CUET-UG) results on Sunday. More than 2.7 lakh candidates have registered in the first phase, as per the university.

In its official statement, DU stated, "Candidates who have still not registered themselves on the CSAS portal will also be able to register as the university has decided to keep both the phases open till 4:59 pm on August 7. The preferences saved or submitted by the candidate will get auto-locked on reaching the deadline — 5 pm, August 9."

"In Phase II, candidates will

**KEY DATES**

- Preference-filling for programme and colleges in CSAS: August 7 (4:59 pm)
- CSAS autolocks the preferences: August 9 (5 pm)
- Declaration of simulated ranks: August 11 (5 pm)
- Preference of change window: August 11 (5pm) till August 12 (11:59 pm)
- Declaration of first CSAS allocation list: August 16 (5 pm)

*At Delhi University. File*

have to map the subjects studied by them in Class XII to those in which they have appeared in CUET 2023. Only those CUET papers will be considered in which the candidates have passed his/her Class XII board exam," the statement further added.

The simulation ranks will be declared at 5 pm on August 11. Simulated ranks are tentative ranks shared with the students based on the scores and preferences submitted by the candidates. Last year too, DU asked the candidates not to read too much

into the simulated ranks.

Following the assessment, students can change their preferences between 5 pm on August 11 and August 12 before the end of the day. The first list of allocation of seats will be declared by the varsity at 5 pm on August 16 and the candidates can accept their seats between 5 pm on August 16 to 4:59 pm on August 18.

Following this, the colleges will verify and approve the online applications of the candidates between 5 pm on August 16. The new session was earlier set to commence on August 1 but was in limbo owing to the delay in the announcement of the CUET result by the NTA amid allegations of discrepancies linked to NEET and UGC-NET. This year, DU has introduced the single girl child quota under its supernumerary category, where a single girl will be admitted under this quota based on merit across programmes.

# HC: UIDAI can be asked to reveal missing person's data in exceptional cases

New Delhi: The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) can be directed to disclose to court the data of a missing person in a sealed cover in exceptional cases, the Delhi HC ruled.

The HC said in a habeas corpus case, there is a sense of urgency with which the court has to act as the missing person could be in danger and under such circumstances, the UIDAI can be directed to provide the data. A habeas corpus petition is filed seeking direction to produce a person who is missing or has been illegally detained. The HC was hearing a plea by a daughter seeking direction to police to produce her mother who is missing since May 2019. PTI

# Nod to upgrade key stretch in Sarita Vihar

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT Minister Atishi has approved the repair, strengthening, and upgradation of a 3-km-long stretch in South East Delhi from Okhla Estate Road between Sarita Vihar underpass and Guru Ravidas Marg T-Point.

It is among the arterial routes that provide connectivity to the densely populated Tughlakabad, Okhla, and Kalkaji. This repair of the stretch is set to benefit thousands of daily commuters who face heavy traffic congestion while travelling to South West and Central Delhi, Badarpur, Noida, and Faridabad.

Currently, the road is in poor shape with huge potholes and

cracks. Before moving the proposal, the department had inspected the road with the help of experts, following which the Minister gave instructions to upgrade the stretch as soon as possible, said officials. "This initiative is part of the vision of CM Arvind Kejriwal to give a better road experience to Delhiites by increasing the overall connectivity of various areas," said Atishi.

## WORKSHOP — SCOPE

A workshop on "The Role of Climate Co-Benefit Methodologies for Strengthening Climate Action by Indian Public Sector Enterprises", organized by SCOPE in association with GLZ was inaugurated by SK Gupta, Chairman, SCOPE & CMD, GAIL in presence of Ms. Taina Dyckhoff, Head of Division Climate & Environment, German Embassy; Atul Sobti, DG, SCOPE & Sujoy Choudhury, Chairman, SCOPE Sustainability Committee & Climate Change & Director, IOCL.



## HANDOVER — RECPDCL

REC Power Development and Consultancy handed over a project specific SPV viz, NERGS-I Power Transmission Ltd. to M/s Techno, Electric & Engineering Company Ltd., formed for establishment of new 400 kV switching station at Bokajan in Assam & LILO of both circuits of Misa New Mariani 400 kV D/c line at Bokajan in Assam.

## MOU — RITES

RITES Ltd. signed an MoU with NHAI recently. This partnership aims to deliver consultancy services for NHAI projects in the areas of highways, bridges & tunnels & road safety audits. Under the terms of the MoU, RITES will conduct external technical audits, infrastructure health monitoring, provide quality assurance and other related services.



## VISIT — UCO BANK

As part of the Disability Awareness & Sensitization Programs, representatives from the All India UCO Bank Divyangjan Employees Welfare Association are visiting various UCO Bank Zones in Bihar to meet the Zonal Heads. These visits aim to engage officials & employees to promote disability awareness while ensuring that the rights & welfare of Divyangjan Employees are upheld.

## EXHIBITION — M/O I&B (CBC)

On the Silver Jubilee of Kargil Vijay Diwas, an exhibition titled, Kargil Vijay Diwas: Rajat Jayanti, was inaugurated at New Delhi's Siri Fort Auditorium. Organized by the Central Bureau of Communication, M/o Information & Broadcasting, the exhibition's inaugural ceremony witnessed the participation of a large number of school students along with other visitors.



## FINANCIAL RESULTS — REC

The Board of Directors of REC approved the limited reviewed standalone & consolidated financial results for the quarter ended 30 June 2024. Operational & Financial Highlights: Q1 FY25 vs Q1 FY24 (Standalone). Total sanctions: Rs. 1,12,791 cr vs. Rs.90,797 cr, up 24%, of which sanctions to renewable sector: Rs. 39,655 cr vs. Rs. 24,985 cr, up 59%. Disbursements: Rs. 43,652 cr vs. Rs. 34,133 cr, up 28%, of which disbursements to renewables constituted major component with YoY increase of 249%.

## INAUGURATION — MCD

In collaboration with the MCD, the 3rd center for the collection & refinement of broken idols of deities, plastic & flowers collected from temples was inaugurated at Ram Park, East Ram Nagar, Ward No. 222 in NE Delhi. The inauguration was carried out by the Addl. Commissioner of the Corporation, Amit Sharma. He was accompanied by Raghvendra Singh, Dir. Horticulture Dept., North Shahdara Zone; Bharat Bhushan (ADH); SO Kishan Pal; Supervisor Jaiveer Singh & other officials.



## LECTURE — MDNIY

Morariji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY) organized a special lecture on the significance of Yoga and Ahaar (diet) by Vaidya Prof. Kamlesh Kumar Sharma, Former Prof, National Institute of Ayurveda (NIA), Jaipur. Dr. Kashinath Samagandi, Director, MDNIY, extended a warm welcome to Prof. Kamlesh Kumar Sharma.



# CORPORATE BRIEFS

## DIPLOMATIC PHOTOGRAPHY PAR EXCELLENCE

Deepak Kapoor, a reputed photographer with Colombian Ambassador & his wife on the occasion of Colombia's National Day reception in Delhi. Photographer Deepak Kapoor specializes in capturing diplomatic events & social lives of diplomats in India's capital Delhi. With a nose for news eye for photographic details, he began his stint in 2003, taking over from his father, BB Kapoor. Operating out of centrally located Khan Market gives an advantage to Deepak, & he is available to the 150 plus diplomatic missions, at a short notice. His studio houses, valuable collections of colour images, capturing the bilateral, multilateral & exclusive diplomacy moments via his Nikon camera.



## PROGRAM — SCOPE

SCOPE organized a session with economic, financial, & taxation experts on 'Decoding the Union Budget 2024' in association with the ICAI & Deloitte. Prof. NR Bhanumurthy, Eminent Economist Atul Sobti, DG, SCOPE; CA Anuj Goyal, Central Council Member, ICAI addressed the program. A detailed presentation on various aspects of the Budget including new provisions & amendments in taxation was made by senior partners & subject matter experts from ICAI & Deloitte. Over 100 participants from different PSEs attended the program through hybrid mode, including SCOPE's various social media platforms.



## VIA APPIA ENTERS INTO UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST

The World Heritage Committee, meeting for its 46th session in New Delhi, inscribed the 'Via Appia. Regina Viarum' in the World Heritage List on July 27th, 2024, making it the 60th Italian site to be recognised by UNESCO. "I would like to express my satisfaction & pride at the great result achieved. The 'Via Appia. Regina Viarum' is now a World Heritage Site. UNESCO has grasped the exceptional universal value of an extraordinary engineering work that over the centuries has been essential for trade, social and cultural exchanges with the Mediterranean & the East. Congratulations to all the institutions & communities that collaborated with the Ministry of Culture to reach this prestigious milestone. It is a recognition of the value of our history & identity, from which a new appreciation can arise that can bring economic benefits to the territories concerned," said the Italian Minister of Culture, Gennaro Sangiuliano.



## DR. NEELAM KLER ON TOP IN THE BOOK "75 AMAZING INDIANS" UNDER MEDICINES CATEGORY

Dr. Neelam Kler is a famous neonatologist working at the Ganga Ram Hospital, Delhi, as Professor & Chairperson of the Neonatology & Paediatrics Department. She has set up a state-of-the-art intensive care and ventilation unit at the hospital where she & her team of doctors tend to young children. She has been able to save several pre-term babies and the department today boasts of a survival rate of children upwards of 90%. Her name has appeared on top under the MEDICINES category in the book "75 Amazing Indians" written by Vishal Gupta & Vishal K Gupta.



**Bank of Baroda** Bank's Net Profit registers a YoY growth of 9.5% reaching a level of INR 4,458 cr, driven by lower credit cost. Return on Assets remains consistently above 1% for 8 quarters & stands at 1.13% for Q1FY25. BOB has witnessed an improvement in its Asset quality with reduction in GNPA by 63 bps YoY to 2.88% from 3.51% in Q1FY24. Bank's NNPA reduced by 9 bps YoY to 0.69% in Q1FY25 as against 0.78% in Q1FY24. Strong capital position with CRAR at 16.82% for Q1FY25.

**Muthoot Group** has inaugurated its first-ever MG George Muthoot Learning Centre at Mahatma Gandhi Centre, Ziro, Arunachal Pradesh. This pioneering initiative aims to uplift underprivileged individuals from 9 remote tribal villages, providing them with access to quality education & skill development programs. Alexander George Muthoot, Joint MD of The Muthoot Group, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, emphasizing the organization's commitment to creating a positive impact on society.

**MAI Labs**, a global pioneer in deep tech innovation renowned for its advancements in immersive and regulatory technologies, unveiled its latest ground breaking initiative: STOEX — S.M.A.R.T Token Exchange. STOEX represents a paradigm shift in the world of asset trading as a regulated, tokenized real-world asset exchange, powered by the Kalp digital public infrastructure, a sophisticated permissioned cross-chain ecosystem. STOEX aims to create an inclusive financial ecosystem by fostering trust, enhancing market liquidity, and promoting sustainable economic growth.

## POWERGRID

announced financial results for Q1FY25. For Q1FY25, on consolidated basis, the company reported PAT of Rs. 3,724 cr & Total Income of Rs. 11,280 cr, registering a YoY growth of 3.52% & 0.20% respectively. On standalone basis, the company reported PAT of Rs. 3,412 cr & Total Income of Rs. 10,850 cr. During Q1FY25, the company incurred a Capital Expenditure of Rs. 4,615 cr & capitalized assets worth Rs. 2,320 cr (excluding FERV) on consolidated basis.

## NTPC

declared unaudited financial results for Q1 FY25 recently. NTPC Group generated ~114 Billion Units in Q1 FY25 as compared to ~104 Billion Units in Q1 FY24. NTPC's standalone gross generation in Q1 FY25 is ~98 billion Units as compared to ~88 Billion Units in the corresponding previous period. On standalone basis, the Total Income of NTPC for Q1 FY25 is Rs. 45,053 crore as against the corresponding previous period Total Income of Rs. 39,681 crore.

## GAIL

reported Revenue from Operations of Rs 33,692 cr in Q1 FY-25 as against Rs 32,227 cr in Q1 FY-24. Profit before Tax in Q1 FY-25 stood at Rs 3,642 cr as against Rs 1,889 cr in Q1 FY-24. Profit after Tax in Q1 FY-25 stood at Rs 2,724 cr as against Rs 1,412 crore in Q1 FY-24. Quarter on Quarter basis, Revenue from Operations was higher at Rs 33,692 cr in Q1 FY-25 as against Rs 32,335 cr in Q4 FY-24. PBT registered a robust growth of 28% to Rs 3,642 cr in Q1 FY-25 as against Rs 2,842 cr during Q4 FY-24. PAT increased by 25% to Rs 2,724 crore in Q1 FY-25 as against Rs 2,177 crore in Q4 FY-24 mainly on account of increased Gas Transmission volumes, increased domestic Natural Gas Marketing volume and improved Natural Gas marketing margins.

## REC

the nodal agency for Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (SAUBHAGAYA), Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana, National Electricity Fund Scheme, village electrification & household electrification, Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme, etc. — is financing the entire Power sector & also Non-Power Infrastructure sectors. REC is PIA for PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. The Loan Book of REC stands at Rs. 5.09 lakh cr & Net Worth at Rs.68,783 cr as on 31 March 2024.

## NBT

Eminent Educationist & the Chairman of NBT, India Prof. Milind Sudhakar Marathe & noted Cricketer & Coach Chandrakant Pandit released the book, The Art & Science of Cricket Commentary, recently at Dr. MK Bhargava Hall located inside Holkar Stadium Complex in Indore. Among the dignitaries who graced the occasion were Sanjay Jagdale, ex-BCCI Secy; Sanjeev Rao, Secretary MP-CA; Deepak Singh, Divisional Commissioner, Indore; and Sushil Doshi, famous cricket commentator. Published by the NBT, the book is on cricket commentary.

## APPOINTMENT

PHDCCI proudly announces the appointment of Dr. Ranjeet Mehta as its new CEO and Secretary General. Dr. Mehta, a Harvard Business School-certified leader and Fellow of the US Government's International Visitors Leadership Program, holds a Ph.D. in Management and has over 34 years of global corporate leadership experience. With over three decades Dr. Mehta is recognized for his pivotal role in numerous initiatives driving impactful initiatives and advocating for policies that encouraged industrial growth, innovation, and sustainability. His leadership is expected to inspire confidence, encourage collaboration, and pave the way for a vibrant economic future and opportunities for the members of PHDCCI.





'ALL PARTIES MUST SHOW RESTRAINT IN SOUTH CHINA SEA' Vietnamese PM by his side, Modi takes dig at China: We don't support expansionism

SHUBHAJIT ROY NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

WITH AN eye on Chinese aggression in the South China Sea, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting Vietnamese PM Pham Minh Chinh Thursday underlined the importance of "non-militarisation and self-restraint in the conduct of all activities" to avoid the escalation of disputes in the region.

With the Vietnamese PM by his side, Modi said India supports development and not expansionism — a thinly-disguised reference to Beijing's belligerence in the Indo-Pacific. More than 55 per cent of world trade crosses through the South China Sea and New Delhi is concerned about potential disruptions.

"In our Act East policy and our Indo-Pacific vision, Vietnam is our important partner... We support development, not expansionism (Hum vistarbad nahi, vikasvad ka samarthan karte hain)," Modi said in Hindi in his statement.

Modi said that they have adopted a new plan of action to strengthen the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

"New steps have been taken for cooperation in the field of Defence and Security... The agree-



PM Narendra Modi with Vietnamese PM Pham Minh Chinh in Rashtrapati Bhavan on Thursday. Anil Sharma

ment on a \$300-million credit line will strengthen Vietnam's maritime security. We have also decided to emphasise cooperation on the issues of terrorism and cyber security," Modi said.

The joint statement said that the leaders, underlining the link between prosperity and security, "reaffirmed the importance of maintaining peace, stability, security and freedom of navigation and overflight in the South China Sea, while pursuing the peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with international law, particularly the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), without re-

sorting to threat or use of force."

"Both leaders underscored the importance of non-militarisation and self-restraint in the conduct of all activities by claimants and all other states, and avoidance of actions that could further complicate the situation or escalate disputes affecting peace and stability. Both leaders emphasised the legal framework set out by the UNCLOS within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out, and that UNCLOS is the basis for determining maritime entitlements, sovereign rights, jurisdiction and legitimate interests over maritime zones," it said.

Rajasthan govt promises UCC Bill, does not specify timeline

Jaipur: The Rajasthan government Thursday formally reiterated its promise of a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill for the state but without specifying a time frame.

When BJP MLA Kalicharan Saraf asked the government during the Question Hour whether it plans to implement Uniform Civil Code "on the lines of Uttarakhand", the state's Cabinet Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Justice Department Jogaram Patel said that the state was "considering" it. "The said Bill will be brought by the government at an appropriate time after considering all the aspects," he said. ENS

BCCI, SAI asked to bar players from promoting tobacco products

New Delhi: The Directorate General of Health Services has written to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and the Sports Authority of India (SAI), saying that it was "disheartening" to see sportspersons directly or indirectly endorsing tobacco products. The letter calls for the authorities to sign an anti-tobacco declaration of intent.

While the letter to BCCI mentions only surrogate advertisement, the letter to SAI makes a mention of both direct and indirect ads by sportspersons. ENS

BJP: Kumaraswamy will be part of march against Karnataka govt

PRESSTrust OF INDIA NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

THE BJP Thursday placated its miffed ally Janata Dal (Secular) into joining its 'padyatra' against the alleged MUDA scam in Karnataka and asserted that the JD(S) leader and Union minister

H D Kumaraswamy will be part of the march starting from Bengaluru on August 3.

This comes a day after the JD(S) pulled out of the march against the alleged irregularities in the distribution of sites by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA), including to Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah's wife.



Form-II REC POWER DEVELOPMENT & CONSULTANCY LIMITED Plot Number I-4, REC World Headquarters, D-Block, Sector 29, Gurugram - 122001, Haryana

Notice under sub-section (2) of Section 15 of the Electricity Act, 2003

1. The REC POWER DEVELOPMENT & CONSULTANCY LIMITED (RECPDCL), a company/applicant is a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 (the applicant) has made an application under sub-section (1) of Section 15 of the Electricity Act, 2003 for grant of Category-I licence for inter State trading in electricity in all regions across India before the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, New Delhi. The necessary details in respect of the applicant are given hereunder:

- i) Authorized, issued, subscribed and paid up capital as on 31st March, 2024: a. Authorised share capital: Rs. 20,05,00,000 b. Issued share capital: Rs. 8,55,000 c. Subscribed share capital: Rs. 8,55,000 d. Paid up share capital: Rs. 8,55,000 ii) Shareholding pattern (indicate the details of the shareholders holding 5% or more shares):

Table with columns: Name of the shareholder, Citizenship, Residential Status, No. of Shares, % of Share of the total paid up capital. Includes REC Limited and Others.

iii) Financial and technical strength: The company has requisite financial strength and experienced team. It has sufficient financial strength to undertake power trading business. The company has full time professionals having industry expertise in the power sector including power trading, regulatory affairs and finance. RECPDCL is well placed to draw on its experience with various stakeholders in the Indian electricity system to build on this opportunity with the help of its organised, skilled and experienced team. RECPDCL is confident that the emerging regulatory and legislative changes in the power sector would enhance the competition which exists in the Indian electricity sector and provide more avenues and opportunities to RECPDCL in the capacity of being a power trader.

iv) Management profile of the applicant including details of past experience of the applicant and/or the persons on the management of the applicant in generation, transmission, distribution and trading of electricity or similar activity:

Shri Vivek Kumar Dewanang, IAS, the Chairman of the applicant company, is an IAS officer with extensive experience in Finance, Power & Energy, and various administrative roles. He holds a B.E. in Electronics from NIT Bhopal and a P.G. in Optoelectronics & Optical Communication from IIT Delhi.

Shri V.K. Singh, Director at RECPDCL, has over 34 years of experience in the power sector, holding a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from IIT, Roorkee. He has expertise in project appraisal, corporate planning, and transmission project management.

Shri Harsh Baweja, Director at RECPDCL, Shri Harsh Baweja, is a Chartered Accountant with over 33 years of experience in financial operations. His expertise includes financial planning, management control systems, and lending operations.

Shri T.S.C. Bosh, CEO of RECPDCL, has 34 years of experience in power sector. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering and a Post Graduate Programme for Senior Executives in Management from ISB Hyderabad. He has played pivotal role in successful implementation of various flagship Villages and Household Electrification programmes of Government of India. Further, he has vast experience in Project Planning, Appraisal and Funding, Implementation and management of Distribution, Transmission and Renewable Energy projects.

v) Volume of electricity intended to be traded during the first year after grant of licence and future plans of the applicant to expand volume of trading: More than 7000 MUs

vi) Geographical areas within which the applicant will undertake trading in electricity: ACROSS INDIA

vii) Net worth as on 31st March of three consecutive years immediately preceding the year of application or for such lesser period as may be applicable and on the date of the special balance sheet accompanying the application:

Table with columns: Date, Net worth (INR Lakhs). Shows data for 30th June 2024, 31st March 2024, 31st March 2023, 31st March 2022.

viii) Year-wise current ratio and liquidity ratio of the applicant for three years preceding the year in which the application is made, or for such lesser period as may be applicable and on the date of the special balance sheet accompanying the application.

Table with columns: Date, Current Ratio, Liquidity Ratio. Shows data for 30th June 2024, 31st March 2024, 31st March 2023, 31st March 2022.

ix) RECPDCL is authorized to undertake the trading in electricity under the Memorandum of Association. The relevant clause of MoA is reproduced below:

3. Purchase and sale of electrical energy and coordinate with other companies. To carry on the business of purchasing, selling, importing, exporting, wheeling trading of power, including finalization of tariff, billing and collection thereof.

x) Details of cases, if any, where the applicant or any of his associates, or partner, or promoters, or Directors has been declared insolvent and has not been discharged: None

xi) Details of cases, if any, in which the Applicant or any of his Associates or partners or promoters or Directors has been convicted of an offence involving moral turpitude, fraud or any economic offence during the previous three years preceding the year of making the application and the year of making the applicant and the date of release of the above person from imprisonment, if any, consequent to such conviction: None

xii) Whether the Applicant or any of his Associates, or partners, or promoters, or Directors was ever refused licence, and if so, the detailed particulars of the application, date of making application, date of order refusing licence and reasons for such refusal: NO

xiii) Whether the Applicant has been granted a licence for transmission of electricity: NO

xiv) Whether an order cancelling the licence of the Applicant, or any of his Associates, or partners, or promoters, or Directors has been passed by the Commission: NO

xv) Whether the Applicant or any of his Associates, or partners, or promoters, or Directors was ever found guilty in any proceedings for contravention non-compliance of any of the provisions of the Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder or an order made by the Appropriate Commission, during the year of making the application or five years immediately preceding that year: NO

2. The application made and other documents filed before the Commission are available for inspection by any person with Sri Krishna Chaitanya Bayya, Manager-Tech, RECPDCL, email: chaitanya@recpdcl.in; mobile: 9940461546.

3. The application made and other documents filed before the Commission have been posted on https://www.recpdcl.in/

4. Objections or suggestions, if any, on the application made before the Commission may be sent to the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 6th, 7th & 8th Floors, Tower B, World Trade Centre, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi- 110029 within 30 days of publication of this notice, with a copy to the applicant.

5. No objections or suggestions shall be considered by the Commission if received after expiry of 30 days of publication of this notice.

Place: Gurgaon Date: 02-Aug-2024 General Manager (RE) (Signature of the Applicant or the Authorized Person)

IMAGE CORRECTION

A DISCUSSION in Rajya Sabha on Thursday on the working of the agriculture ministry left SP MP and actor Jaya Bachchan miffed about poor representation of the film industry. Talking about the plight of farmers, AAP MP Ashok Kumar Mittal said the government has forgotten the agriculturists the same way Hindi films have ignored them in their scripts. Earlier Bollywood used to showcase farmers as the protagonist, but now they would hardly be "extras" in the films, said the MP. Following the statement, Jaya Bachchan was heard correcting the MP that it was "not Bollywood", but the "Indian film industry".

COMMON COMPLAINT

DURING A discussion in Rajya Sabha on the measures taken by the government to control the population of wild animals, a Congress MP made a mention of the "monkey menace" in the Capital. It turned out to be a common grouse of several MPs across parties, with CPI(M)'s John Brittas repeatedly standing up to speak on the issue. The topic also saw camaraderie between Congress leader Sonia Gandhi and SP MP Jaya Bachchan, with the latter walking up to Gandhi twice to have a chat over something. Wrapping up the discussion, Union Environment Minister Bhupendar Yadav put the blame on the Delhi government for not having given due importance to a serious issue.

SENIORS' SELECTION

NEARLY 16 months after it invited applications for conferring senior advocate designations, the Supreme Court is learnt to have started the process. Over the last two days, several lawyers who had expressed their interest got a call for a meeting with the selection panel headed by the CJI. Around 138 lawyers are being considered this year for taking the silk robes. The panel usually sits twice a year but since it has not met in a while, there is a sense of anticipation. The prestigious tag sets apart an advocate and adds to her stature.

Inquiry commission on killing of Atiq, brother gives police clean chit

MAULSHREE SETH LUCKNOW, AUGUST 1

THE INQUIRY commission constituted to look into the killing of gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed and his brother Ashraf in police custody has given a clean chit to the police by ruling out the possibility of a conspiracy or negligence.

The report of the five-member commission headed by Justice (retired) Dilip B Bhosale was tabled in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly Thursday.

Also, a report of the two-member commission headed by Justice (retired) Rajiv Lochan Mehrotra formed to probe the three encounters of the accused in the Umesh Pal murder case, including Atiq Ahmed's son Asad, was also tabled in the

Assembly, stating the firing by the police was an act of "self-defence". Umesh Pal, a key witness in the 2005 murder of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) MLA Raju Pal, was shot dead outside his home in February 2023.

Atiq and Ashraf were shot dead by three people when they were being taken for medical examination under police escort in Prayagraj on April 15, 2023. The Bhosale commission report concluded that "it cannot be said that there was police negligence in handling Atiq Ahmed and his brother Ashraf during their transit" between jails and courts. "...nor was it possible for the police to avert the incident," the report said.

The report said the shooting "cannot be said to be the result of a pre-planned conspiracy executed by the State Police".

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF DEFENCE EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME STATION HQ (ECHS CELL), MEERUT PHONE : 0121 - 2658264, e-mail : shqmeerut@echs.gov.in EMPLOYMENT NOTICE 1. ECHS invites applications to engage Medical, Para Medical & Non Medical Staff on contractual basis in ECHS Polyclinics Meerut, Muzaffarnagar, Bijnor and Baghat for a period of one year renewable for additional period of one year/till attaining the maximum age subject to performance of candidates/other conditions according to the criteria as mentioned in detail on ECHS Website www.echs.gov.in :-

DELHI ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION Viniyamak Bhawan, C-Block, Shivalik, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi-110017. Website: www.derc.gov.in, Telefax: 41080417

PUBLIC NOTICE

Extension of Last Date for Inviting Applications from Third Party Meter Testing Laboratories for Empanelment

To protect interests of consumers, the Commission vide Regulation 32 (8) of Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (Supply Code and Performance Standards) Regulations, 2017, has provided measures to the consumers to get their electricity meters tested at a third-party facility.

In order to facilitate consumers to be aware of the approved NABL third party testing laboratories within their jurisdiction and testing fee, the Commission vide its Public Notice dated 07.06.2024 invited applications for empanelment of third party meter testing laboratories with fee details and other terms and conditions for consideration and approval of the empaneled list.

The last date for receipt of applications for the empanelment was 08.07.2024 which is now extended upto 19.08.2024.

The empanelment would be valid for 2 years or limited to the validity period of NABL certification, whichever is earlier.

The application format is available on the Commission's website.

The stakeholders are requested to forward the applications latest by 19.08.2024 to the Secretary, DERC either by post or through e-mail on secyderc@nic.in

Dated : 29.07.2024 Rajesh Dangi, Secretary

DIP/SHABDARTH/CLASSIFIED/0145/24-25

राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान मेघालय National Institute of Technology Meghalaya Bijnor Complex, Laitumkhrah, Shillong - 793 003 Advertisement for Admission to Ph.D Programme (Full Time Category) against limited vacancy (Advt. No: NITMGH/Ph.D-Admission/2024-25/174 dated 30-07-2024)

कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड (एक महारत्न कंपनी) Eligibility criteria for Coal India Limited (CIL)'s NIRMAN (Noble Initiative for Rewarding Mains Aspirants of National Civil Service Examination) scheme to provide financial support of Rs. 1 lakh each to Civil Service Aspirants has been revised as under:

मुर्गांव पत्तन प्राधिकरण सामान्य प्रशासन विभाग हेडलैण्ड सडा सामान्य प्रशासन विभाग, मुर्गांव पत्तन प्राधिकरण, हेडलैण्ड सडा, गोवा में प्रति माह रुपये 50,000/- के समेकित पारिश्रमिक पर 1 (एक) मीडिया समन्वयक (अनुबंध आधार पर) को नियोजित करने हेतु योग्य उम्मीदवारों से आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं।

Government of Jharkhand Department of School Education and Literacy (Jharkhand Education Project Council, Ranchi) JSCA Stadium Road, Sector- III, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004 Phone: 0651-2444501, E-Mail: jepcranchi1@gmail.com Ref. No.: JEPC/CIV/03/460/2018/Part I/ 2801 Ranchi, Date : 31.07.2024 e-Procurement Notice JEPC invites Separate Technical & Financial Bids through e-procurement method from eligible and interested contractors registered in appropriate class for Infrastructure Development & Running Water Supply Work in Existing Elementary Schools located in 24 different District of Jharkhand. Interested and eligible bidders are requested to submit their proposal latest by 2:00 PM on 24.08.2024.

मुरगांव पत्तन प्राधिकरण सामान्य प्रशासन विभाग हेडलैण्ड सडा सामान्य प्रशासन विभाग, मुर्गांव पत्तन प्राधिकरण, हेडलैण्ड सडा, गोवा में प्रति माह रुपये 50,000/- के समेकित पारिश्रमिक पर 1 (एक) मीडिया समन्वयक (अनुबंध आधार पर) को नियोजित करने हेतु योग्य उम्मीदवारों से आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं। सभी प्रकार से पूर्ण आवेदन प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तारीख दि. 02-09-2024 तक है। अन्य जानकारी के लिए हमारी वेबसाइट देखें https://www.mptgoa.gov.in

# 8 EXPRESS NETWORK

## Search for kin in Wayanad village: 'Hope to find at least their bodies'

SHAJU PHILIP  
CHOORALMALA, AUGUST 1

"MY BLOOD lies beneath those boulders," says 68-year-old Sivanandan, pointing at large rocks on what is now a flattened ground at Wayanad's Chooralmala village. Some distance away, an earthmover and some rescue workers are trying to clear away the boulders and layers of mud.



Six family members of Sivanandan, 68, missing in Chooralmala. Shaju Philip

For the last two days, Sivanandan and his brother Sivan have been desperately looking for six relatives — their mother, two younger brothers, and their families, all living at the village that has now been flattened by the landslides that struck here earlier this week.

Chooralmala is one of the two-worst affected villages — the other being the epicentre, Mundakkai.

While both Sivanandan and Sivan know the chances of finding their family alive are slim, they want to find their remains — for closure and to give them a dignified funeral. "They are my blood. Only one body, that of the younger brother's son, could be retrieved," Sivanandan says.

After waiting at Wayanad's Meppadi government hospital for two days, the brothers went to the location on Thursday to search, taking with them wood cutters and friends who could help clear away layers of the rubble.

But so far, their searches have not yielded much. Chooralmala has turned into a land of rubble and boulders, with mud going many layers deep, and getting to

anything underneath is a task.

"I checked all the bodies (that had come in) at the hospital for the last two days. My family members are still missing. I want to search their houses, which are covered under debris," he says.

At his pleading, an earth mover has now been dispatched to clear the path to where his families' houses stood.

According to government officials, although rescuers conducted a manual survey of the houses that had been destroyed, machines could not be deployed because of the presence of large boulders.

"Today, we are finding ways to take the machines there. We have a rough sketch of the houses in the area before the landslide. But, with most houses washed away and their floors buried under massive deposits of debris, the search for bodies is very difficult," one official said.

Meanwhile, the Indian Army is erecting a 190-foot long Bailey bridge from Chooralmala to Mundakkai to look for bodies.

## As relief pours in, efforts on to stock up for when 'attention diminishes'

NARAYANAN S  
MEPPADI (WAYANAD),  
AUGUST 1

WITH RELIEF materials pouring in from various corners of Kerala and across the borders to Wayanad in the aftermath of the twin landslides, government authorities and socio-cultural organisations collecting and distributing these materials are ensuring that they plan for the time when public interest in the tragedy wanes.

"In a few weeks, the media attention on Wayanad landslide victims will diminish. But their lives will have to go on. They must return to their partially or completely destroyed homes and start rebuilding their lives. The bulk of the support will end in a few days," Jins, who's coordinating activities at the St George Orthodox Church's collection centre, told *The Indian Express*.

The collection centre is located near the relief camp at Government Higher Secondary School, Meppadi.

"We will start helping them individually based on their specific needs to save a portion of the materials for the future," Jins said. Perishable items such as bread are not being stored and vegetables are being directly sent to camps, he said.

The support so far has been

robust. "A majority of relief camps are currently not facing a shortage of anything, be it groceries, clothes, medicines, and so on," Jins said.

This centre only collects materials from people associated with the church. "If anyone else contacts us, we direct them to the collectorate, where the government organises relief material collection," he said, adding that they do not collect cash.

But according to Mirhas, a volunteer with CPI(M)-affiliated DYFI, relief camps urgently need bedsheets, blankets, innerwear, toothbrushes, soap, basins, cups, and mats as well as groceries.

"We have volunteers across all camps in Meppadi. They routinely enquire and update us about the needs, and we act accordingly," said Mirhas, who mans a store-room above the church's collection centre. He also said they are not distributing old clothes to the victims. "The people who bring this stuff may not know whether there is old stuff. So, we sort them and send only new items to relief camps," he added.

The government's relief distribution mechanism is based out of two warehouses in Kalpetta located at the district collectorate and at St. Joseph's Convent School. Relief materials are collected and sorted there, and a digital inventory is kept.



Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra meet people displaced by landslides at a relief camp in Wayanad on Thursday.

## 'Humko bachao': How a call for help brought victim one-on-one with Gandhis

NARAYANAN S  
MEPPADI (WAYANAD),  
AUGUST 1

WHEN I said "*humko bachao* (save us)", he stopped suddenly and came towards me, said Unnikrishnan, a landslide victim, recalling his chance one-on-one interaction with former Wayanad MP Rahul Gandhi on Thursday.

The Congress leader was visiting the relief camp at Meppadi Higher Secondary School where more than 800 people rescued from the landslide-hit areas in Wayanad have been accommodated for the last two days.

Gandhi was accompanied by his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who is set to contest from Wayanad in the upcoming by-

poll. Gandhi vacated the seat after winning from both Rae Bareilly and Wayanad in the recently held Lok Sabha elections.

"The police were not allowing me to go towards Rahul Gandhi. But when I spoke in Hindi, it worked. He stopped and came towards me," said Unnikrishnan, who hails from Chooralmala, one of the two areas badly hit by the landslides.

"Not many others here know Hindi. I have worked in Saudi Arabia and Bangalore as a construction worker and know the language well," he said.

"I told him (Gandhi) we need to be relocated to a safer place in Wayanad. I was talking not just for me but for all the villagers of Mundakkai and Chooralmala. As many as 85 people who lived near my house died. Many are

missing. I told him we don't want to return to that place," said Unnikrishnan, 50.

"He patiently heard me and said '*sambhaalenge* (will do the needful)'. He gave me a hug and Priyanka also greeted me. This was shown on TV and I have been getting calls from a lot of friends and relatives from other places saying that they saw me talking to Rahul Gandhi."

Later, talking to reporters, Gandhi said, "We have come here to see the situation. It is quite a painful experience to see that people lost their family members and houses. It's very difficult to speak to people in these circumstances because you really don't know what to say to them. We are going to try and help make sure that the survivors get what is due."

## Wayanad lesson for Goa CM: 'Eco-sensitive areas should not be touched'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
PANAJI, AUGUST 1

CALLING THE landslides in Kerala's Wayanad an "eye-opener" for Goa, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said on Thursday that he had given "instructions" to various departments that ecologically sensitive areas that are prone to such incidents "should not be touched".

"We cannot compromise on their stability," Sawant said during a discussion in the Assembly on Thursday on "excessive development" in eco-sensitive areas. "A system will be developed to report and monitor hill cutting in the state."

The chief minister was speaking at a discussion over a calling attention motion that Goa's Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemo, Revolutionary Goans Party MLA Viresh Borkar and BJP MLA Ganesh Gaonkar had moved. The motion flags concerns that "unplanned and excessive development" in ecologically sensitive areas in Goa, including Dharbandora in the Western Ghats, could lead to landslides similar to the one at Wayanad.

Citing an earlier study on landslides, Sawant said: "We have identified four landslide hot-spots in Goa located in high altitudes in north-eastern and eastern part of state and in low lying areas of western and south-western parts. The major cause of landslides in Goa are found to be extreme rainfall events, slope instability and geological factors."



Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami at a flood-hit area in Tehri Garhwal on Thursday.

## Uttarakhand: 11 dead, 250 stranded near Kedarnath

AVANEESH MISHRA  
DEHRADUN, AUGUST 1

AT LEAST 11 people were killed in Uttarakhand in the last 24 hours amid heavy rain even as authorities rescued 200 of the 450 pilgrims stranded on the Kedarnath Yatra route, officials said Thursday.

In Haridwar, four people, including Aas Mohammad, 10, and Nagma, 8, died after a house in the city's Dera Basti area collapsed on Wednesday night.

In another incident, two people died after being electrocuted at Roorkee city bus station in Haridwar district.

In Tehri Garhwal district, three people died after a cloudburst in Ghansali tehsil led to a hotel near Gadera being washed away on Wednesday night. While the bodies of two people were recovered on Wednesday night, another in-

jured died during treatment at a local hospital, officials said.

Arjun Singh Rana, 55, and Sundar Singh, 35, were swept away in a drain near the Ordnance Factory in Dehradun late Wednesday night, officials said.

In Nainital, local police and the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) launched a search operation after receiving information that Rizwan, 7, had been swept away in a drain on Wednesday.

According to information received from the District Emergency Operation Centre, about 450 Kedarnath pilgrims were stopped at the Bhimbali Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam complex and police post due to road damage around 70 meters ahead of Bhimbali Chowki. By 11.45 am on Thursday, 200 pilgrims were rescued from Lincholi via helicopter. The remaining 250 are being rescued, officials said.

## Jaipur: Minor among 3 dead as water enters houses

PARUL KULSHRESTHA  
JAIPUR, AUGUST 1

A SLEEPING five-year-old girl was among three people who drowned early Thursday in Jaipur after water surged into two adjacent, low-lying houses amid heavy rain and waterlogging in the city.

Rescue personnel brought out the bodies of Pooja Saini (19), her minor relative Purvi Saini

and 24-year-old Kamal Shah after an operation that lasted for around six hours, said officials.

"Early in the morning, the roads on both sides of the houses were flooded after rain. The families were awake during that time (around 4:30 am) as water had started accumulating and they were shifting their furniture," said Deputy Superintendent of Police Ashok Chauhan. "Suddenly, due to the water pressure, a common wall

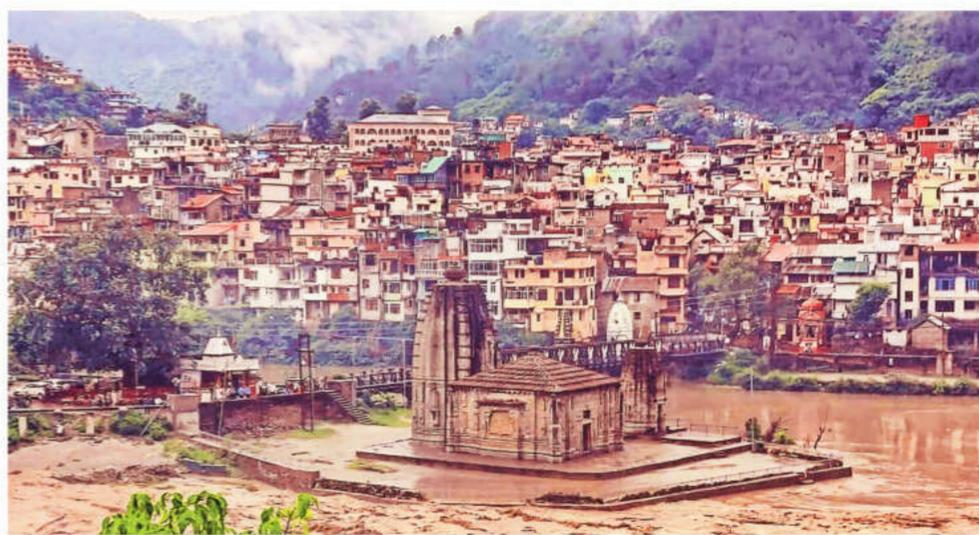
of both houses collapsed and three people from two families lost their lives."

Soni Devi, the mother of the five-year-old girl, said they were removing water from the rooms when the wall collapsed. "I caught the hand of my niece standing beside me and ran upstairs but my daughter was left behind, sleeping. We were supposed to admit her to school this year. My aunt's 19-year-old daughter was also left behind,"

she said, barely controlling her tears.

Police said the houses, owned by Baijnath Gupta and Ashok Saini, were constructed slightly below the road level in the city's Vishwakarma area around 30 years ago. Currently, the floor level of both houses is around 10 feet below the road surface, they said.

Both families hail from Bihar and their members were working in a factory in the area.



## FLOOD FURY IN HIMACHAL

A swollen Beas river touches the base of Panchvaktra temple after a cloudburst in Himachal Pradesh's Mandi, Thursday. PTI

## Kerala govt withdraws note barring scientists' comments

EXPRESS NETWORK  
MEPPADI (WAYANAD),  
AUGUST 1

THE KERALA government on Thursday withdrew an advisory that asked the scientific community to obtain prior permission from the State Disaster Management Authority to visit landslide-hit areas in Wayanad and to refrain from sharing their opinions with the media.

The advisory issued by Tinku Biswal, who is also principal secretary of the SDMA and Principal Relief Commissioner, on August 1 had outraged the scientific community as well as weather analysts in the state.

Saying that the order was misleading, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan later clarified that the state

government did not have a policy that banned the scientific community from airing their views or visiting landslide-hit areas.

Subsequently, Chief Secretary Dr V Venu clarified that the objective of the advisory was to discourage statements and opinions by persons belonging to scientific institutions of the state, that may be misinterpreted or misquoted to create panic and confusion among the public. A few such instances have come to light in the last two days, he said.

In a statement, Dr Venu said while there is great importance for scientific studies, it is important that the immediate focus on rescue, recovery and rehabilitation is not lost and that panic and paranoia are not generated on account of misinterpretation of statements or opinions made.

## Normal to above normal rainfall likely in Aug, Sept, says Met

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU, AUGUST 1

THE COUNTRY will receive normal or above normal rainfall during the two remaining months of the ongoing monsoon season, Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, Director, General of Meteorology, India Meteorological Department (IMD), said on Thursday.

The all-India normal rainfall for August and September is 422.8mm (1971-2020 data) and the forecast indicated that the country's rainfall during August and September will be 106 per cent of this long period average.

"The southwest monsoon will remain active over most parts of the country till August 7. Thereafter, rainfall will be mostly realised along the plains of north India," said Mohapatra.

After recording widespread rainfall during July, particularly over south peninsular and central India regions, there could be subdued rainfall over these regions in August. This would be largely attributed to the monsoon 'break' phase. During this phase, the rainfall activity largely shifts to the foothills of the Himalayas, along the plains of north India.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Wednesday in Rajya Sabha that there was a seven-day advance rainfall warning issued to Kerala. Reiterating, the IMD

chief said weather warnings have been shared since July 23 with a possibility of continuous heavy rainfall over the state. The warnings also included the possibility of rainfall of over 200 mm (extremely heavy rainfall).

Since Wednesday evening, parts of Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and neighbourhood areas have experienced heavy rainfall, leading to water logging and inundation of several roads and buildings. But IMD refused it to be an event of cloudburst.

The IMD DG further said, "There was no cloudburst in Delhi or Himachal Pradesh on Wednesday. The 'orange' alert was issued for Delhi weather on July 30 and July 31 warning of heavy rainfall. It is urged that the disaster management teams start taking measures when 'orange' alert is issued and not wait for it to be upgraded to 'red' alert."

The rainfall is being attributed to the northward shifting of the monsoon since the past two days, thereby bringing rainfall activity closer to the plains of north India.

On the rainy season so far, IMD officials said northwest, east and northeast India remain rainfall deficient. This was directly reflected in the temperatures last month.

Warm nights were particularly experienced over east, northeast and central India, and these regions experienced their warmest July since 1901.

KIRAN PARASHAR & SANATH PRASAD  
BENGALURU, AUGUST 1

A PRELIMINARY report by a technical team looking into the causes of the July 16 landslide in coastal Karnataka's Uttara Kannada district has listed "unscientific" construction of National Highway (NH) 66 by the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), combined with heavy rainfall in a short span of time, among factors responsible for the disaster.

At 8.30 am on July 16, a massive landslide brought down a torrent of mud and debris at Shirur village in Akola, destroying the Karwar-Mangaluru portion of the 1,640-km highway, which connects Maharashtra's Panvel with Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu.

Besides damage to the highway, four houses and two high-tension power transmission towers at Akola were destroyed, and a tea stall and two trucks got washed away in the landslide. Eight bodies have been recovered so far and search operations have been on for nearly two weeks to look for the remains of three more suspected victims.

The picturesque two-lane highway has the hills of the Western Ghats on one side and the Gangavali river on the other. According to the NHAI, road building company IRB Infrastructure was in 2013 picked as the concessionaire to build the highway. Construction was completed in 2020 and the same year, NHAI started collecting tolls.

However, local residents say the problem with the highway is its lack of continuity. In some

**EXPLAINED**  
Development challenge

ENVIRONMENTALISTS SAY Uttara Kannada's coastal areas and ghats receive a high 3,500-4,000 mm of rain per annum, making it a challenge to execute infrastructure projects. Given these difficulties, they believe it is imperative for government agencies to assess terrain conditions before executing road projects.

sections, the NHAI had not yet opened both lanes to the traffic, leading to commuters being di-

verted to single-lane roads, often through villages, before rejoining the double-lane roads.

In its preliminary report submitted to the NHAI and state government, a team from the Geological Survey of India (GSI) has, while assessing the landslide, pointed to the "unscientific" work done by the NHAI on this stretch.

The report states that natural drainage flows were disturbed when slope modifications were carried out to build the highway. "The steep gradient of the cut slope, presence of highly weathered rock, thick debris, saturation due to rainfall and lack of toe support (the distance between the edge of the highway and the beginning of the slope, a key factor while designing stable slopes along highways) are the primary causative factors of the debris

flow. Intense rainfall acted as the trigger for the landslide. The high relief and overburden material in the hill slope suggest that retrogression of the slide is probable during prolonged rainfall," states the report.

Saying heavy rainfall was also among the factors that led to the landslide, the GSI team pointed out that the area witnessed a "three-day antecedent rainfall" of 503 mm.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, NHAI Regional Officer Vilas Brahmankar said this stretch of the highway was built under the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) and Public Private Partnership (PPP) models. "The NHAI's role was to get the land delivered to the concessionaire and resolve issues such as railway lines and other things. The incident was unfortunate but I

# 9 IN PARLIAMENT BUDGET SESSION

## Opp targets govt over paper leaks and NCERT textbook revisions in Lok Sabha

### Education Minister says govt did not discriminate between its citizens

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

THE OPPOSITION parties on Thursday accused the Central government of posing a threat to children's intellectual integrity by revising textbooks, with Congress MP and Whip in the House Mohammad Jawed stating that the Mughals ruled for more than 300 years and cannot be removed from history by just deleting their names.

Heated exchange of words took place between the members of Treasury and Opposition benches during the debate on the demand for grants for the Education Ministry in the Lower House. In his reply, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said the Opposition should not create fear among the Muslim community over an alleged lack of equal opportunities for minorities and told the House that the government did not discriminate between its citizens.

In their speeches, the BJP

members spoke about the National Education Policy-2020 and said that focus in the Union Budget on skilling, entrepreneurship, innovation and employment will help the country become a developed nation and a solution provider to the world.

Congress's Jawed accused the BJP of getting power by flaring anti-Dalit, anti-poor, anti-Muslim, and anti-student sentiments. The Kishanganj MP said the Muslim community has contributed "as much as anybody else". On the issue of paper leaks, the MP said, "Outside Parliament, test papers are getting leaked and inside Parliament, the roof is leaking..."

TMC MP Pratima Mondal hit out at the government over "deletion of chapters on significant Muslim rulers" and omitting reference to 2002 Gujarat riots from the NCERT curriculum. She said such revisions pose a threat to "children's intellectual integrity".

Mondal also said that in 2018, how the then Minister of State for Education Satya Pal Singh had declared Charles Darwin's theory of



(From left) Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, TMC MP Pratima Mondal, Congress MP Mohammad Jawed. File

evolution "scientifically wrong".

BJP member from Puri Sambit Patra accused the Opposition parties of "shedding crocodile tears" in the name of reservation and claimed that quotas for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during the Congress regime ended up in Jamia Millia Islamia and Aligarh Muslim University. "The Congress will have to answer," said Patra, also claiming that there was a significant increase in the budget allocation for the education sector.

Pradhan quoted some data to show that Muslims and other minority groups were being given equal opportunities in education. The Union minister said: "Don't spread fear among Muslims, this will not last long."

Pradhan noted that the transition ratio from class 5 to 6

and the government of being against Dalits, tribals and OBCs, it was Congress-led governments that didn't implement the Mandal Commission report for 10 years. "If any party is anti-SC, ST, OBC, it is the Congress," he said.

Pradhan said the Opposition should not create fear among the Muslim community over an alleged lack of equal opportunities, and that the government did not discriminate between citizens.

Pradhan also said that while Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has accused the BJP

among Muslim students stood at 89.2, which was close to the national average of 93.2. "The Aligarh Muslim University was set up in 1875 and no female vice-chancellor was appointed in all these years. It happened during our tenure that a woman professor who studied at the same university was appointed as vice-chancellor and it was done on the basis of merit," he said.

"Earlier, they would say that you appoint people with RSS (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh) affiliation... She is not from RSS... If a Muslim woman progresses on the basis of merit, we should be proud," Pradhan said, adding that the higher education Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) rose by 32 per cent in 2021-22 over 2014-15.

"The transition ratio from upper primary to secondary school, which refers to students moving from classes 8 to 9, the national average is 88.8 and among Muslims it is 82.2," he said, adding that the need was to encourage competency-based education and the new NEP — a step forward. "The NEP is not just a 60-page policy document. It is a philosophical element for the reconstruction of India..." he said.

## Rs 1L-cr Budget surrendered by agri ministry in 5 years: Surjewala

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

SLAMMING THE government over the agriculture Budget, Congress MP Randeep Singh Surjewala on Thursday said in the Rajya Sabha that the Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Ministry had surrendered Rs 1 lakh crore of its allocated Budget in the past five years. Initiating the discussion on Thursday, Surjewala said that talks on the ministry's work will continue on Friday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's promise to double the income of farmers by 2022 had proved to be a "jumble" as their income dropped — from 4.47% of the total Budget in 2020-2021 to 2.74% in 2024-2025 — in several states, as found by a parliamentary standing committee report that year, Surjewala said, adding that "it was a matter of shame."

He said that the government had announced the Rs 1 lakh-crore agriculture infrastructure funds in 2020, but sanctioned only Rs 35,000 crore worth of projects so far, and disbursed Rs 25,504 crore of the amount. The PM Fasal Bima Yojana was the "biggest private insurance company profiteering scheme," he said.

## In LS, Vaishnav slams Cong over railway 'trolls'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

SPARKS FLEW in the Lok Sabha on Thursday during the Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnav's reply to a debate on the Demand for Grants for Railways when he accused the Congress and Opposition of instilling fear in the minds of 2 crore people who travel in trains daily.

Vaishnav also told the House that the government will make every effort to implement automatic train-protection system Kavach in the right earnest.

With slogans being raised in the House by Opposition members, the minister said: "Those who are talking like this, please ask them why they could not install ATP (Automatic Train Protection) during 58 years of their rule on even one kilometer. You should see your past, and in this same House, when Mamata (Banerjee) was the Railway Minister, she would give her accident numbers, and when they changed from 0.24 to 0.19, they used to clap. Today, from 0.19 to 0.03, they put such blame. What is this? Will the country be run like this? Everyone will have to contribute towards running the country."

"The Opposition and Congress under a well thought out strategy, a small issue is raised through their troll army. When a wall at the old station in Ayodhya was damaged, Samajwadi Party and Congress handles started raising it. How will the country be run with lies like this? Do they want to instill fear in the minds of the two crore



Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav in Parliament on Thursday. PTI

people who travel daily in the trains," he said in an animated address.

Without naming Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, the minister made a reference to the LOP's meeting with loco pilots at the New Delhi railway station last month. On this, the Opposition members left their seats.

"Those who were busy making reels with loco pilots... not one air conditioner was installed in running rooms during the UPA rule, and there were no locomotives with air-conditioned cabins," Vaishnav said.

Opposition members trooped to the Well of the House raising slogans against the minister and staged a walkout.

The House approved the demand for grants of Railways to the tune of Rs 7.89 lakh crore. Vaishnav thanked the 12 lakh railway employees in the country. He thanked the government and Opposition MPs for their suggestions over the last two days.

He said that the BJP-led government fights for causes and takes criticism, and responds accordingly without avoiding discussions.

## Monsoon woes: Khattar slams Delhi govt for not implementing drainage plan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

A DAY after heavy rainfall led to waterlogging in many parts of the Capital, Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Thursday said that the city drains could have been desilted on time, in case, the Delhi government had implemented a drainage masterplan.

Highlighting severe waterlogging in Delhi on Wednesday, he made the comment while replying to a discussion in Rajya Sabha, on the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry's work. "It is true that there is less infrastructure against the growing population. Across cities, arrangements related to rainfall are in place for 30 minutes or one hour... but yesterday (Wednesday), there was over two inches of rain in Delhi. It is natural there is a deficiency in arrangements... The government has not implemented the drainage masterplan. If it was, the government and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi would have been able to complete desilting the drains. They have not done that," Lal said.

The minister said that while it was the responsibility of state governments to address waterlogging issues, the ministry would coordinate with the states to improve the situation. Lal also told the House that he would meet Urban Development ministers of all the states to review the maintenance of completed projects.

## Opp slams govt over leak in new House, LS secretariat says fixed

DAMINI NATH NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

OPPOSITION MPS on Thursday hit out at the Union government over the design and maintenance of the new Parliament after its roof developed a leak and the premises saw waterlogging amid heavy rain the previous day. The Lok Sabha Secretariat, meanwhile, said in a statement that the adhesive used to fix the glass dome over the lobby had eroded due to rain and that it had been fixed.

Congress MP Manickam Tagore posted a video on X of water dripping from the roof of the lobby into a bucket placed on the floor inside the new building.

"Paper leakage outside, water leakage inside. The recent water leakage in the Parliament lobby used by the President highlights urgent weather resilience issues in the new building, just a year after completion..." he posted on X.

Tagore submitted an adjournment motion in Lok Sabha, seeking the formation of a special committee of MPs to inspect the building and assess the "causes of the leaks, evaluate the design and materials, and recommend necessary repairs". It was not allowed by Speaker Om Birla Thursday.

Samajwadi Party president and Lok Sabha MP Akhilesh Yadav, too, hit out at the government.

"The old Parliament was better than this new Parliament, where even the old MPs could come and meet. Why not go back



Rainwater leaked from the ceiling of the new Parliament building on Thursday. PTI

to the old Parliament, at least till the time the water dripping program is going on in the Parliament built with billions of rupees. People are asking whether water dripping from every new roof constructed under the BJP government is a part of their well thought out design or..." he posted on X.

The Lok Sabha Secretariat said: "During heavy rain Wednesday, the adhesive material used to fix the glass domes over the lobby of the building was slightly displaced, causing minor leakage of water in the lobby." It said the issue was rectified immediately.

Government officials said another video of water gushing inside the Parliament building that was shared on social media on Thursday could have been of a previous incident. Spokespersons of the MoHUA and CPWD did not respond to requests for comment.

## Floods to heatwaves, cities with corporations to get own disaster management body

AMITABH SINHA & ASAD REHMAN NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

AMIDST INCREASING instances of city-level disasters like urban flooding or heatwaves, the Centre has proposed to set up an Urban Disaster Management Authority (UDMA) in each of the state capitals and all other cities that have a municipal corporation.

The UDMAs will form the third tier of the institutional framework alongside the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA). In fact, the third tier, at the district level, also exists. But the UDMAs are meant to cater to the special needs of larger cities that often comprise of multiple districts.

The provision for UDMAs has been included in the Bill to amend the Disaster Management Act of 2005, that was introduced in Lok Sabha on Thursday.

The Bill also mandates the setting up of State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) in every state. The 2005 Act only provided for the constitution of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). Several states already have raised their own SDRFs. The bill mandates it for everyone. The UDMAs, to be headed by the municipal commissioner, will be entrusted with the responsibility of preparing and implementing city-level disaster management plans.



At least 400 people died in the Chennai flooding in 2015. File

In recent years, a number of cities have been paralysed because of disasters, mostly caused by extreme rainfall resulting in flooding events. The most striking example was Chennai in 2015, when a record-breaking spell of rains in December had submerged large parts of the city for multiple days and resulted in the death of at least 400 people.

The Chennai event was the worst flooding in any Indian city after the 2005 incident in Mumbai that was caused by nearly 900 mm of rainfall within a few hours. Mumbai and Bengaluru have faced similar situations multiple times in the last one decade.

UDMAs would enable the preparation of city-level disaster management plans instead of the multiple district level plans within the same city. But not everyone in the Lok Sabha approved of the government's plan. Congress member Manish Tewari opposed the Bill and said that under sched-

ule seven of Article 246 of the Constitution, none of the entries in List 1, 2 or 3 of the Constitution dealing with central and state subjects mention the issue of disaster management. He said that the government should amend the concurrent list to have a proper entry to cover the issue of disaster management. "The reason I say this is that when a disaster happens, the first responders are local authorities," he said.

The Congress MP said the law's legislative power should be properly defined. He said any law based on "derived legislative power" may not stand the test of constitutionality. "The second reason I am opposing this Bill is that this legislation... suffers from the malady of excessive delegation."

TMC member from Dum Dum (West Bengal) Saugata Roy opposed it and said the multiplicity of authority will create confusion. The Bill was later introduced by a voice vote.

## Chadha in RS: Drop age for running polls to 21

DIVYAA NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

CALLING FOR the minimum age for contesting elections to be lowered to 21 years from the current 25 years, AAP's Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha on Thursday said despite being one of the youngest countries in the world, India has "old politicians".

"At least 65% of our population is below 35 years and 50% below 25 years," said 35-year-old Chadha, who is himself among the youngest MPs. "When the first Lok Sabha was elected after Independence, 26% of members were below 40 years. When our 17th Lok Sabha was elected two months ago, 12% of the members were below 40 years," he said.

Chadha, who raised the matter during special mentions, said the average age of India's population deserves representation in the House. "We are a young country with old politicians, we must aspire to be a young country with



AAP's Raghav Chadha during the Monsoon Session of Parliament on Thursday. ANI

young politicians," he said.

Listening to the AAP MP's request, Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar remarked in jest, "Aap is se bhi pehle yahan aana chahate the (Did you want to come to the Rajya Sabha even sooner than this?)" Responding with a laugh, Chadha said, "The issue is close to my heart, sir."

"We have to incentivise the youth to join mainstream politics. The minimum age for contesting Lok Sabha and Assembly elections is 25 and, through you, I would request the government to reduce that to 21..." he said.

### UTTAR PRADESH MONSOON SESSION

## 'Not here to do mere naukri': Yogi defends bulldozer policy

MAULSHREE SETH LUCKNOW, AUGUST 1

AMID RUMBLINGS within the Uttar Pradesh unit of the BJP after the party's poor performance in the Lok Sabha elections, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday, in a message to his party as well as the Opposition, defended the "bulldozer policy" and said that he took the responsibility of running the government "not to do a mere 'naukri' (job), but to ensure that those guilty also suffer".

Speaking in the Assembly during the discussion of the Supplementary Budget, Adityanath said: "You are afraid of bulldozer, but it is not for innocent. It is for those criminals who play with the trust of the youth of the state, play with the security of traders and daughters of the state, spread anarchy and make common people's life miserable."



CM Yogi Adityanath in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly on Thursday. Vishal Srivastav

The chief minister's defence of the "bulldozer policy" comes in the wake of ally and minister in his government Sanjay Nishad's recent remark that "misuse of bulldozer" led to the BJP's loss in the state in the Lok Sabha polls.

"Mein yahan naukri karne

nahi aaya hun, katai nahi. Mein is liye aaya hun ki agar koi karega to bhuklega bhi (I have not come here to do a mere job, never. I have come to ensure that the guilty suffer for their acts)," the CM said.

"Yeh pratishtha ki ladayi nahi hai... Mujhe pratishtha prapt karne hoti to ush se jyada pratishtha apne mutt mein mil jaati hai (This is not a fight for prestige. I get more prestige in my mutt)," Adityanath, who is head of the Gorakhnath Temple in Gorakhpur, said.

In a veiled message to his detractors within the party and without, Adityanath said, "Sarkar chalegi, majbooti ke sath chalegi (the government will continue and will run with strength)."

In a pointed attack on the Congress and Samjwadi Party (SP), Adityanath accused the Opposition parties of misleading the voters during the Lok Sabha elections.

## Lucknow: 16 arrested for harassing woman, action taken against eight cops

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, AUGUST 1

LUCKNOW POLICE on Thursday transferred three senior officers and suspended five police personnel, including a Station House Officer in connection with the harassment of a woman near a flooded underpass in Gomtinagar on Wednesday as rains lashed the city. Police also arrested 16 people as the video of the incident went viral.

Referring to the incident and the police action, Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath targeted Opposition Samajwadi Party in the Assembly and said "inke liye bullet train chalegi, uski tyari ki jara hai (Will run bullet train for them... preparations are being made for it)" after naming two "top accused Pawan Yadav and Mohammad Arbaz".

In the viral video, a group of men is seen playing in knee-deep water and running towards a mo-

torcycle that had a woman riding pillion and splashing water on the duo. The woman is seen in the video falling from the bike as men forcibly stop the vehicle and start pulling it.

"They (accused) have been booked for attempting to outrage the modesty of a woman, rioting and other offences. Three police teams have been formed to identify the accused and arrest them," DCP (Lucknow) Raveena Tyagi said. In a press statement, Lucknow Police said three senior police officers, including DCP Prabal Pratap Singh, ADCP Amit Kumawat, and ACP Anshu Jain have been removed from their posts.

Five police personnel have also been suspended: SHO of Gomti Nagar police station, Deepak Kumar Pandey; sub-inspector Rishi Vivek, in-charge of the local police outpost, sub-inspector Kapil Kumar; and constables Dharamveer and Virendra Kumar.

### KARNATAKA MUDA 'SCAM' ROW

## Ministers rally behind CM, ask Governor to withdraw notice

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU, AUGUST 1

THE KARNATAKA Council of Ministers on Thursday decided to "strongly advise the honourable Governor to withdraw the (show-cause) notice" and reject the application filed by activist T J Abraham against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in connection with the alleged scam in Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA).

The decision came after a four-hour meeting of the Council. Deputy CM D K Shivakumar told reporters the show-cause notice was "political" with mala fide intentions. "We are confident that the Governor will be sensible as we have sent a detailed reply," he said, adding that the notice was in violation of several judgments.

CM Siddaramaiah recused himself from the meeting held to discuss the notice issued against him and authorised the deputy CM to chair the meet. Shivakumar said the government was "confi-



CM Siddaramaiah. File

dent that (the) Governor would definitely withdraw the notice".

The Governor issued the notice on July 26 after an activist filed a complaint seeking sanction for prosecution. This despite the government responding to the complaint and submitting a report through the Chief Secretary on the same day. According to the government, this showed that the Governor acted in "undue haste".

"A reading of the show cause notice, more so the finding by the Governor that 'on perusal of the request, it is seen that the allegations against you are of serious nature and prima facie plausible'

leads to an undeniable conclusion that there is pre-judging of the issue, disregarding the report of the Chief Secretary dated 26/07/2023," the decision by the Council of Ministers reads.

"The entire sequence of events and the admitted facts and circumstances based on available records lead to an unequivocal conclusion that there is gross misuse of the Constitutional Office of the Governor and a concerted effort is being (made) to destabilise a lawfully elected majority government in Karnataka for political considerations."

Siddaramaiah is under fire from the BJP, which has accused his wife Parvati of "illegally" benefiting from MUDA after the agency encroached on a parcel of land owned by her to create layouts.

The BJP has alleged that there was an irregularity in the purchase of land by her brother and also in the compensatory sites allotted by MUDA in exchange for the land.

# Displaced Manipur protesters clash with police, 10 injured

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE IMPHAL, AUGUST 1

AT LEAST 10 internally displaced persons (IDPs) on Thursday were injured after police used force against them for holding a protest rally in Imphal, demanding resettlement.

The police personnel allegedly fired tear gas shells, rubber bullets as well as lathicharged hundreds of IDPs — staying in Akampat relief camp in Manipur — protesting peacefully in the valley, sources said.

Demanding resettlement, these IDPs held the protest rally amid heavy security deployment in connection with the ongoing Monsoon session of the Manipur Assembly. However, the IDPs — who were heading towards the Chief Minister's bungalow — were stopped by police abruptly in the Imphal East district.

In retaliation, the protesters pelted stones, escalating the situation. Also, bolstered by local support, the protesters overpowered the police blockade and proceeded towards the Singjamei-Kongba Road. As many as 10 IDPs who sustained injuries were admitted to hospitals. A few police personnel were also injured.

Most of the protesters Thursday were seen holding plates and bowls. A protester said: "We want to return to our home and live a dignified life. How long can we live on the mercy of the government?"

Many students and employees of SCM English School, who found themselves caught in the skirmish between the protesters and police, could be seen panicking. Also, many were taken to nearby hospitals due to the tear gas smoke.

Kh Khamba, an IDP from Moreh criticised the dwindling support from the state government, citing a stark shift where the IDPs bear their medical expenses, leading to dire consequences such as suicides within their community. "Our plea is simple. The Assembly must act decisively and set a timeline for our resettlement," Khamba added.

Later in the day, when Opposition MLA K Ranjit Singh drew the House's attention on the incident, Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh said that the government has been taking necessary measures to restore peace in the state. Alleging some vested interest sections trying to instigate IDPs, Singh said that the state cannot send them back to their homes because of the risk factors.

# SOME MOVE HIGH COURT, SAY THEY HAVE NOT GIVEN CONSENT OR REQUEST TO JOIN BAND

# MP: 19 cops suspended for refusing to participate in Aug 15 band practice

ANAND MOHAN J BHOPAL, AUGUST 1

AMADHYA Pradesh police initiative to set up police bands in each district has run into rough waters, with many officers taking the police to court over this decision. This comes after 19 police officers were suspended in July for failing to turn up for band practice for Independence Day celebrations.

On July 25, the Superintendents of Police in the districts of Raissen, Mandasaur, Khandwa, Sidhi and Harda issued suspension notices to officers, after it was found that despite their names featuring in the list, they failed to turn up for band practice across the state for

# INDIAN FISHERMAN DIES AFTER BOAT COLLIDES WITH LANKAN NAVY SHIP

New Delhi: An Indian fisherman died and another went missing after their boat collided with a Sri Lankan naval vessel, five nautical miles north of Katchatheevu Island, on Thursday, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said. ENS

Independence Day celebrations. In the suspension orders, the erring officers were accused of "showing gross indiscipline and insubordination." "During the suspension period, they will be entitled to subsistence allowance as per regulations, they will not leave the headquarters without the permission of the Superintendent of Police, and will mark their attendance as per regulations," the notice read.

Raisen Superintendent of Police Vikas Kumar told *The Indian Express*, "The officers were asked to turn up for performance and they vanished. They were then served suspension notices and ordered to stay at police lines. They are yet to turn up." Several police personnel had

approached the Jabalpur and Gwalior benches of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, submitting that they had "neither given their consent to join the police band, nor had they filed any application in this regard, because they are interested in discharging their duties by other regular work".

The police, in their submissions to the High Court, stated that written consent was sought at first, but "nobody appeared to give consent", because of which a common list was prepared.

Five personnel received a setback when Justice Anand Pathak, who at the time was on the Gwalior Bench, rejected their plea. Quoting Scottish historian Thomas Carlyle, he said, "Music is well said to be the speech of an-

gels." The court also ruled that police training "may be treated as continuous skill enhancement programme, therefore, no prior consent is required".

On August 1, three constables from Jabalpur withdrew their petitions after they were apprised of the order of the Gwalior bench. In their case, the court cautioned the police not to "proceed coercively to the detriment of petitioners, and if petitioners prefer an appeal against the order of suspension, then the same shall be taken into consideration sympathetically".

The initiative was announced by Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, who envisioned the creation of police bands to celebrate Independence Day in various districts.

# First CBI chargesheet in NEET-UG leak case names 13 accused

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

THE CBI has filed its first chargesheet in the alleged NEET-UG examination paper leak case, naming 13 people as accused.

The chargesheet says that the accused were allegedly involved in the paper leak and other irregularities. "Thirteen persons chargesheeted have been identified as Nitish Kumar, Amit Anand, Sikander Yadvendu, Ashutosh Kumar-1, Roshan Kumar, Manish Prakash, Ashutosh Kumar-2, Akhilesh Kumar, Avdesh Kumar, Anurag Yadav, Abhishek Kumar, Shivnandan Kumar and Ayush Raj," a CBI spokesperson said.

"The CBI has utilised advanced forensic techniques, artificial intelligence, CCTV footages, tower location analysis, etc to gather evidence against the accused," the spokesperson said. "The CBI is continuing further investigation against other accused/suspects and on other aspects of the case. Several other accused are already in police/judicial custody. As and when further investigation against these accused/suspects is complete, supplementary chargesheet(s) will be filed."

The CBI has, so far, arrested 40 accused in this case, including 15 arrested by Bihar Police, and conducted searches at 58 locations," the spokesperson said.

The Central probe agency, which is investigating the alleged irregularities in the medical entrance exam, has lodged six FIRs. The FIR from Bihar pertains to paper leak while the remaining ones from Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra are regarding impersonation of candidates and cheating.

The agency's own FIR on a reference from the Union Education ministry pertains to a comprehensive investigation into the alleged irregularities in the NEET-UG 2024. The NEET-UG is conducted by the NTA for admissions to MBBS, BDS, AYUSH and other related courses in government and private institutions. This year, the exam was conducted on May 5 at 4,750 centres in 571 cities, including 14 abroad. More than 23 lakh candidates appeared for the test.

# Cong loses Gujarat taluka panchayat after members cross-vote

GOPAL KATESHIYA RAJKOT, AUGUST 1

DESPITE HAVING won three-fourth of the seats in 2021, Congress lost power in Vinchhiya Taluka Panchayat in Rajkot district on Thursday, as eight members elected on party tickets -- four among whom had ticketed to the BJP last year -- cross-voted during a no-confidence motion against the incumbent president and vice-president.

With this, 10-year reign of Congress ended in the taluka panchayat, which is part of the constituency represented by state Water Resources Minister Kunwarji Bavaliya. It was one of the very few local bodies in Saurashtra where the party held sway.

Congress had won 14 of the 18 seats in the general board of the panchayat in 2021. The BJP could win only four seats.

However, around 10 months ago, four Congress members -- Sonal Vachhani, Alpa Taviya, Nitu Sarvaiya and Raydhan Suvan -- defected to the BJP, which moved a no-confidence vote against then president and vice-president. However, that motion was defeated.

The Opposition moved a third notice of no-confidence on July 20 against incumbent president Pravin Gabu and vice-president Geeta Deliwala, which was taken up on Thursday.

After losing the vote of confidence on Thursday, Gabu accused the BJP of using money and muscle power to engineer defections.

However, Haresh Herbha, general secretary of BJP's Rajkot district unit, rejected the Congress charge. "No one in the BJP district unit played any role in what has happened in Vinchhiya. It was all done by members of that taluka panchayat."

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# Foodgrain tender scam: ED arrests former Punjab minister Ashu

Jalandhar: The Enforcement Directorate Thursday arrested former Punjab minister and Congress leader Bharat Bhushan Ashu in money laundering case linked to the alleged multi-crore foodgrain transportation and labor cartage tender scam.

Ashu (53) was arrested under provisions of the PMLA following a day-long questioning by the ED in Jalandhar. He will be produced before a special court on Friday where the ED will seek his custody for further interrogation.

The money-laundering investigation stems from the Vigilance Bureau FIR in connection with the state government's transportation and labour cartage policy of 2021 and complaints related to a Ludhiana Improvement Trust "scam" regarding allotment of plots to bogus persons. A working president of the state unit of Congress, Ashu was earlier arrested by the Vigilance Bureau in this case in August 2022.

ENS

# As yatra reaches last leg, UP officials shower flowers on kanwariyas from choppers

Meerut: Senior administration and police officials on Thursday showered flower petals from helicopters on Kanwar Yatra pilgrims on the Delhi-Dehradun national highway and other places in Meerut, Muzaffarnagar, Saharanpur and Baghat districts.

The district magistrates and senior superintendents of police (SSPs) of the four districts showered petals on the pilgrims from helicopters, said DK Thakur, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Meerut zone.

In Meerut, DM Deepak Meena and SSP Vipin Tada showered petals from a chopper at the Agurnath temple, Delhi-Dehradun National Highway, Pallavpuram and the Shivaya toll plaza.

SSP Tada said, "One unit of the Anti-Terrorist Squad commands, three battalions of the Provincial Armed Constabulary, and two companies of the Rapid Action Force have been deployed for security in and around the temple for Thursday and Friday. Also, two assistant superintendents of police (ASPs), eight DSPs, 15 inspectors, 112 sub-inspectors and 550 constables have been assigned duties there". ENS

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**KERALA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION**  
Transport Bhavan, Fort P.O, Thiruvananthapuram-695023  
E-TENDER NOTICE

Name of Item	Qty	Last Date of Bid submission
Closed Body Type Mini Mobile Service Van	10 Nos.	14.08.2024, 06.00 PM
Driving Simulator	1 No.	14.08.2024, 06.00 PM
245/70.R.17.5 Tubeless Tyre for 9 Mtr Electric Bus	140 Nos.	07.08.2024, 06.00 PM
Front Wind Screen Glass BS IV LL	30 Nos.	07.08.2024, 06.00 PM

For the detailed tender document visit:  
www.etenders.kerala.gov.in,  
www.keralartc.com/tenders/purchase, e-mail: sr@kerala.gov.in  
Chairman & Managing Director  
01.08.2024

**Information & Public Relations Department**  
Government of Jharkhand  
Suchana Bhawan, Meur's Road, Beside- Audrey House, Ranchi, Jharkhand-834008  
E-mail: iprd123@gmail.com

NIT No: 1122 Dated: 01-08-2024

**Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI)**  
Name of Work: Expression of Interest (EOI) for Empanelment of Advertising Agencies for carrying out social media activities and fixation of rate for different kinds of advertisements on social media platforms.

Information & Public Relations Department, Government of Jharkhand, invites online applications against Expression of Interest (EOI) on the website <https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> from the eligible bidders/applicants having valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) issued from any agency authorized by Controller of Certifying Authority (CCA), Govt. of India and which can be traced up to the chain of trust to the Root Certificate of CCA, for "Expression of Interest (EOI) for Empanelment of Advertising Agencies for carrying out social media activities and fixation of rate for different kinds of advertisements on social media platforms."

**1. TIME SCHEDULE OF EOI INVITATION**

SN	Particulars	Date	Time
1	EOI e-Publication Date	01-08-2024	06:30 PM
2	Document Download Start Date	01-08-2024	06:30 PM
3	Document Download End Date	08-08-2024	06:30 PM
4	Bid/Application Submission Start Date	01-08-2024	06:30 PM
5	Bid/Application Submission End Date	08-08-2024	06:30 PM
6	Bid/Application Opening date	12-08-2024	01:30 PM

**2. AVAILABILITY OF EOI DOCUMENTS:** The EOI document, including terms and conditions of work is available on e-procurement portal (<https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>), as per the time schedule mentioned above in table and can be downloaded directly from the above websites.

Director,  
Information & Public Relations Department,  
Govt. of Jharkhand

PR 331543 IPRD (24-25)\_D

# जमशेदपुर अधिसूचित क्षेत्र समिति का कार्यालय, जमशेदपुर-831001

अति अल्पकालीन पुनः ई०-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना  
(15वीं वित्त आयोग के अन्तर्गत)  
(Through e-Procurement mode only [www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in](http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in))  
NIT No-JNAC/epro-07/2024-25

निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए नगर विकास एवं आवास विभाग के समुचित श्रेणी में पंजीकृत सम्येदकों से एकल लिफाफा पद्धति से ई० निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

क्र.सं०	कार्य की विवरणी	प्राकृतित राशि (रु० में)	अग्रघन की राशि (रु० में)	परिमाण विवरण का मूल्य (रु० में)	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1	शास्त्रीनगर मेन रोड से ब्लॉक नं०-3, निर्मल कॉलोनी के विभिन्न सड़कों एवं सुरुज पान दुकान से मेरिन झूड़व तक कालीकृत (IRQP) सह पेवर्स ब्लॉक पथ का निर्माण कार्य।	66,82,250.00	1,33,645.00	10,000.00	8 माह
2	जोगस पार्क, नियर शहीद निर्मल सेवा सदन, शास्त्रीनगर ब्लॉक नं०-03 का सीन्चमीकरण, होटिंकल्वर, लैंड स्केपिंग के साथ चहारदिवारी मजबूतीकरण का कार्य।	1,38,00,250.00	2,76,005.00	10,000.00	9 माह
3	रामनगर चौक से रोड नं०-7 तक माया रोड नं०-6 एवं रोड नं०-2 तथा अन्य सड़कों का कालीकृत (IRQP) कार्य।	1,13,36,050.00	2,26,721.00	10,000.00	8 माह
4	भाटिया बस्ती दुर्गा बाड़ी के पीछे से सोफ्टी पथ के अंत तक भाया महावीर लक्ष्य अपार्टमेंट होते हुए शिव पथ बिच सिंह के घर तक कालीकृत (IRQP) सड़क का निर्माण।	34,38,400.00	68,768.00	10,000.00	6 माह
5	सोनारी विकास नगर, सामुदायिक भवन के पास लेकर चन्द्रज्योति काली मंदिर मोड़ तक, कुंजनगर टेम्पु स्टैण्ड से लेकर 9th Phase आदर्शनगर तक एवं काजल दास के घर होते हुए आस्था अपार्टमेंट के पीछे तक कालीकृत (IRQP) सड़क एवं कुंजनगर नेहरू पथ, तुलसी पथ, अम्बेडकर पथ, सामरवती पथ (साईं दया मंदिर वाला गली) एवं लिंक पथ में पेवर्स ब्लॉक अधिष्ठापन।	1,30,57,550.00	2,61,151.00	10,000.00	8 माह
6	सोनारी गिल्स रेस्टोरेट से खुटाडीह हड्डिया बस्ती चौक तक, राम मंदिर चौक से लेकर खुटाडीह तरुण बाल संघ तक, नर्स क्वार्टर चौक से दयानंद स्कूल तक रोड के प्लेक में पेवर्स ब्लॉक अधिष्ठापन एवं निर्मल नगर पार्क के पीछे रोड नं०-6 तक पेवर्स ब्लॉक सड़क का अधिष्ठापन।	99,67,400.00	1,99,348.00	10,000.00	6 माह
7	बर्मागड्स डनलप मैदान से फुटबॉल ग्राउंड तक कालीकृत सड़क एवं पेवर्स ब्लॉक अधिष्ठापन कार्य।	1,01,29,000.00	2,02,580.00	10,000.00	8 माह
8	सलगाडुडी मैदान संचालित सवदाह गृह के पास पथ निर्माण।	28,70,150.00	57,403.00	10,000.00	4 माह
9	मोतुमुरी 10 नं० बस्ती में विभिन्न पथों का सुदृढीकरण एवं निर्माण कार्य।	1,17,08,250.00	2,34,165.00	10,000.00	6 माह
10	बर्मागड्स भक्ति नगर मुख्य सड़क का कालीकरण कार्य।	43,21,400.00	86,428.00	10,000.00	6 माह
11	बर्मागड्स विनोबा आश्रम के पीछे नाले के दोनों ओर गाडवाल का निर्माण एवं झूसरोपण कार्य।	2,37,88,650.00	4,75,773.00	10,000.00	10 माह

1.ई० निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम  
2.वेबसाइट पर ई० निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि एवं समय  
3.ई० निविदा प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय  
4.ई०-निविदा खोलने की तिथि  
5.ई-मेल पता  
6.विज्ञापन दाता दूरभाष संख्या  
7.निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि [www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in](http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in) के वेबसाइट पर ऑनलाइन के माध्यम से ही स्वीकार की जाएगी।  
8.निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि का ई-मुगतान सम्येदक द्वारा जिस बैंक खाता से किया जाएगा। उसी खाते में असफल निविदादाता की अग्रघन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर बैंक खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जबाबदेही सम्येदक की होगी।  
9.नियम एवं शर्तें तथा अन्य विवरणी अधोस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय में किसी भी कार्य दिवस पर कार्यालय अवधि में या वेबसाइट [www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in](http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in) पर देखा जा सकता है।

उप नगर आयुक्त,  
जमशेदपुर अधिसूचित क्षेत्र समिति, जमशेदपुर

PR 331511 Urban Development(24-25)\_D

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
E-Procurement Tender Notice No. JHS/DYCM/2024/19 Dated : 26.07.2024  
E-Procurement Tender Notice

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

Tender No. : 51245204A Tender Opening Date : 16.08.2024 EMD : ₹ 85710/-

Description : (1) MIG-MAG CO2 Inverter Based Welding Machine 400 Amp, as per specification (attached) [Warranty Period : 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency : TPI, Stage Insp. : No, Stages : 0] Qty : 31 Nos.  
(2) Post warranty annual maintenance contract for MIG-MAG CO2 Inverter Based Welding Machine 400 Amp, CAMC for a period of 5 Years after warranty of 2 Years. [Inspection Agency : CONSG, Stage Insp. : No, Stages : 0] Qty : 31 Nos.

Note : (1) The Complete information of above E-Procurement Tender are available on IREPS website i.e. <http://www.ireps.gov.in> (2) Bids other than in the form of E bids shall not be accepted against above tenders for this purpose vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS Website along with class III digital signature certificate issued by CCA under IT act 2000. (3) Rules entered into financial rate page and duly signed digitally signature shall only be considered rates and any other financial entry in any other form/letter had if attached by vendor shall be original straight way ignore and shall not be considered. 1356/24 (C)

North central railways [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in) @northcentralrailway CPRONCR

**REVISED TIMING OF TRAIN**  
This is notified for the information of rail passengers that the timings of the following Train No. 12424 New Delhi - Dibrugarh Rajdhani Express will be revised as under:-

Stations	Existing Time	Revised Time	Date (from Originating Station)
Dibrugarh	06:00 --	06:00 --	05.08.2024
New Tinsukia	04:46 04:56	04:30 04:40	
Mariani Jn.	02:33 02:38	02:20 02:25	
Dimapur	00:10 00:17	00:02 00:09	
Lumding Jn.	22:45 22:50	22:40 22:45	

For any kind of information, passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways Website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

Please join us on [www.facebook.com/northernrailway](https://www.facebook.com/northernrailway)

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
Your Convenience-Our Concern  
Visit us at: [www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in)  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

# VACANCY CIRCULAR - 01/2024

NO: 6-2(13)/2019-Estt. 30 July 2024

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), an autonomous organization under the Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India invites applications up to **31.08.2024** from eligible employees of Central/State Govt./Autonomous Body/ PSU for filling up **one post of Assistant Director General (Administration) in the Pay Level-12 on Deputation basis including short term contract**, for a period of three years, which may be thereafter extended/curtailed, if required by the ICMR Hqrs.

2. For more details, please visit <https://main.icmr.nic.in>. The application received after the due date of receipt of applications or incomplete or NOC not received through proper channel will not be considered.

Assistant Director General (Admin)  
CBC 17152/12/0015/2425

**म.प्र. राज्य सहकारी विपणन संघ मर्यादित**  
मुख्यालय, जहांगीराबाद, भोपाल

खरीफ विपणन वर्ष 2023-25 में उपाजित होने वाली धान एवं बारदाना परिवहन हेतु **SOR** दर प्राप्ति हेतु जेम पोर्टल के माध्यम से पांचवीं ऑनलाइन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

म.प्र. राज्य सहकारी विपणन संघ मर्यादित द्वारा शासन के दिशा-निर्देशों के पालन में खरीफ विपणन वर्ष 2023-25 में उपाजित होने वाली धान एवं बारदाना परिवहन हेतु **SOR** आधारित दर प्राप्ति के उद्देश्य से **GeM** पोर्टल के माध्यम से पांचवीं ऑनलाइन निविदा दिनांक 27.08.2024 तक आमंत्रित की गई है। निविदा दस्तावेज <https://gem.gov.in> से डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं। **GeM** पोर्टल में सेक्टरवार **GeM bid-ID** विपणन संघ की वेबसाइट <http://www.mppmarkfed.mp.gov.in> पर अवलोकन की जा सकती है। निविदा में किसी भी संशोधन की जानकारी विपणन संघ की वेबसाइट <http://www.mppmarkfed.mp.gov.in> में एवं <https://gem.gov.in> के वेबपोर्टल के माध्यम से सूचित किया जावेगा। उक्त की सूचना पत्र में पृथक से जारी नहीं की जावेगी।

म.प्र. माध्यम/115674/2024 (गोहू, धान, उपाजित एवं मिलिंग)

महाप्रबंधक (गोहू, धान, उपाजित एवं मिलिंग)

**VAISH TECHNICAL INSTITUTE ROHTAK**  
Walk-in-Interview on dated 6/8/24 at 11 A.M. for Empanelment of Guest Faculty/Instructors in Government Aided Courses on payment of honorarium of hourly basis for a specific period of one academic semester which can be extended semester to semester based on their satisfactory service & evaluation of work & conduct and as per load requirement. Please bring original documents and a set of attested copy of testimonials.

Post(s):  
a) Guest Faculty:-  
i) Electrical Engg.-2  
ii) Automobile Engg.-1  
iii) Office Management & Computer Application-1  
iv) Mathematics -1  
b) Guest Lab Instructor  
i) Automobile -2  
c) Guest Workshop Instructor  
i) Electrical Shop -1  
ii) Machine Shop -1

Qualifications & Selection Criteria: As per Technical Education Haryana Departmental Rules which are available on the Website: [www.techduhry.gov.in](http://www.techduhry.gov.in)  
Honorarium:- Hourly basis  
Phone: 01262-248572  
No. 28428/HRY

PRINCIPAL

# SCIENTISTS DEMAND AUGUST 2 BE DECLARED CHEMISTRY DAY

New Delhi: A professional body of chemical scientists in India has demanded that August 2 be declared National Chemistry Day in honour of Prafulla Chandra Ray, the country's first modern chemist of international repute who was born on this day in 1861.

Ranjit Kumar Verma, vice-chancellor of Munger University said the Indian Council of Chemists will organise events on Chemistry-related topics in universities and other institutions on August 2 to mark the occasion. ENS

**NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY**  
Open E-Tender Notice  
No. W/18/NIT/Sr.DEN/Co.JP/ENGG Dated: 30.07.2024

Div.Rly. Manager, N.W.Railway, Jaipur for and on behalf of President of India invites open E-Tender for the following works upto 15.30 hours on the date shown as below:- Sr. No. 1. Name of work with location : ENGG-JP-2024-25-63 Jaipur division - Flash Butt Welding of 20 rail panels/Free Rails/2 Rail panels of all rail sections (New/SH) at site (in situ/Conex) using Mobile Flash Butt in connection with TRR (P)-209.933 Km in Rewari - Phulera chord section. Approx. Cost of work : 40993351.85/- Earnest money Rs. : 355000/- Sr. No. 2. Name of work with location : ENGG-JP-2024-25-64 ADEN/Line-JP sub division:- Replacement of RCC box culvert by providing segmental boxes size (1 x 2 m) at bridge no.7 and removing old Boxes size (1 x 2 m) at km 87-8 in DPZ-SWIM Section. Approx. Cost of work : 6103694.40/- Earnest money Rs. : 122100/- 1.Detail is available on N.W.Rly website-[www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) and Notice Board in WA section, DRM Office, NWR/Jaipur. 2. Tender No. ENGG-JP-2024-25-63 & 64 is to be closed on 21.08.2024 at 15.30 hrs and opened on 21.08.2024 at 16.00 hrs.

Please join us on [www.facebook.com/nwrailways](https://www.facebook.com/nwrailways)

# MOTILAL NEHRU SCHOOL OF SPORTS

RAI-131029, DISTRICT SONIPAT (HARYANA)  
ENGAGEMENT FOR THE POST OF COACH

1. The school is in process of engaging Coaches, (Male/Female) in the following disciplines on part time basis as per govt. instructions issued vide Memo No. Khel-Nursery&2024/16134-209 dated 10.06.2024 :-

Sr. No.	Name of Posts	No. of Posts	Remarks	Sr. No.	Name of Posts	No. of Posts	Remarks
1	Athletics	01	Male/Female	5	Hockey	01	Male/Female
2	Basketball	01	Male	6	Lawn Tennis	01	Male/Female
3	Boxing	01	Male/Female</				

ALUMNI MEET — GL BAJAJ COLLEGE

GL Bajaj College, Greater Noida organized an Alumni meet "Alma Fiesta" for the alumni at The Taj Hotel, Bangalore. On a wonderful evening, the alumni of the college shared their memories and experiences with their peers, senior students, and teachers and had fun playing various games like Hoopla. During this meet, British singer Ash King set the stage on fire by singing famous songs like "Nazar Na Lag Jaye, Te Aamo, Yeh Mausham Ki Barish" on which all the students were seen dancing and singing. All the alumni looked very happy and excited to meet their teachers. The students also promised to come back to GL Bajaj soon and connect with the current students. CEO of the GL Bajaj Educational Institutions, Greater Noida, Mathura, Kartikay Agarwal, participated in the program and wished the students all the best for the future, he said that you all are always welcome in the GL Bajaj family and may you make great progress in life.



PROGRAM — JAMIA HAMDARD

JAMIA HAMDARD in collaboration with Heal The Globe Foundation & Delhi Police successfully organized Plantation Drive recently near Convention Centre, Jamia Hamdard in the presence of Prof. (Dr.) M. Afshar Alam, Hon'ble VC, Jamia Hamdard, Dr. M. A. Sikandar, Registrar, S.S. Akhtar, Controller of Examinations, Dr. Sarfaraz Ahsan, Deputy Registrar, Prof. Md. Shahinawaz Abdin, Provost (Boys Hostel), Ram Sunder, OSD, Estate & Security, Azhar Ali Khan, Executive Engineer, other officers, students of Jamia Hamdard, Ashish Baisoya, Director, Jyoti Sharma, Deputy Director, Heal The Globe Foundation & Anil Kumar, S.I., Delhi Police planted trees. In his speech, the Hon'ble VC highlighted the importance of plants & trees in our daily life. He further said that Jamia Hamdard is known for its beautiful green campus in Delhi. He further said that today we have planted around 150 trees & we have a plan to plant 5000 different kinds of trees at the campus & its surrounding areas in collaboration with Heal The Globe Foundation & other NGOs this year.



PROGRAM — SHARDA UNIVERSITY

Sharda University's Estate Department & various faculties, in collaboration with Info Edge India, organized a tree plantation drive. During this event, 500 saplings, including Neem, Peepal, Pilkhan, Mango, Chiku, Pomegranate, Jamun, Banyan, & Gulmohar, were planted. Faculty members & international students participated in the event, inspiring & raising awareness about the benefits of planting trees among the local community. PK Gupta, Chancellor, Sharda University emphasized "the importance of trees in reducing pollution & providing essential oxygen. He highlighted that the decrease in the number of trees on Earth is leading to an increase in toxic air, causing various diseases. Trees not only provide oxygen but also offer fruits, shade & valuable timber. He stated that tree plantation can help mitigate global warming. Gupta also stressed the need for regular care of the planted trees, as many plants perish without proper nurturing. Awareness about tree plantation has been spread for years, & now the focus should also be on their maintenance".

PROGRAM — AMITY UNIVERSITY

Amity University Noida organized an exclusive screening of "Pata Lapata", Award Winning Documentary, written, directed, edited & produced by Aditya Bhasin, Alumnus Amity University Noida & Co-Produced by Rashi Anand, Founder & CEO NGO, Lakshyam. The thought-provoking documentary explores the true life of the underprivileged sections of the society comprising of ragpickers, beggars & children who lack opportunities & raises pertinent questions about the survival of this class in the society. The documentary has won several awards including Best Director Cannes Film Festival-2024 & Best Director, Dada Saheb Phalke Film Festival-2024. On this occasion, Aditya Bhasin was awarded Amity Alumni Achiever Award, by Dr. Ashok K. Chauhan, Founder President Amity Education Group & Dr. Atul Chauhan, Chancellor Amity University. Extremely delighted on this occasion, Aditya Bhasin said, "I am extremely honoured to receive the award from Amity University & I would like to dedicate this award to my entire team, my parents & my alma mater Amity University, who has been instrumental in shaping my career as a film maker." Dr. Ashok K. Chauhan, stated, "This is a historic moment for all Amityans as Amity Alumnus, Aditya, has made the entire country proud by making this excellent documentary, which is extremely relevant in today's scenario, and we are immensely proud of his huge achievement.

CORPORATE BRIEFS

EDUCATION

INDUCTION — JAMIA HAMDARD

Jamia Hamdard successfully hosted an Induction Ceremony for the new students of its MBA Health Management & MBA Pharmaceutical Management programs. The event took place recently, at Jamia Hamdard in New Delhi, & marked the start of the academic journey for the 20th batch of MBA Health Management students & the 19th batch of MBA Pharmaceutical Management students. The ceremony featured notable Guests of Honour Ravi Bhatnagar, Director of External Affairs & Partnerships AMESA at Reckitt, & Dr. Naveen Nischal, Chairman of Voice of Healthcare. Both guests shared their experiences & insights on the growing healthcare & pharmaceutical industries, offering valuable advice to the students. The ceremony aimed to help new students connect with each other & with faculty members while learning about the culture & values of the university.



MEETING — GGSIPU

A high level stakeholders meeting was held at GGSIPU to integrate AI into Dental Education. As per the WHO Global Oral Health Status Report, oral diseases affect 3.5 billion individuals globally. To tackle this case load, the experts feel AI can play a vital role. The technology enhances diagnostic accuracy, treatment planning, & patient care in dentistry. The project is a collaborative approach of Queen Mary University of London, Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Science & GGSIPU, & is being funded by UKIERI & SPARC. It aims at developing a training module for dental students & its implication. The lead investigators from QMUL, London were Dr Manu Raj Mathur & Dr Anil Gokari; from GGSIPU Prof Dr Mahesh Verma; & from MAIDS Prof. Dr Vikrant Mohanty. Padma Shri Prof (Dr) Mahesh Verma, VC of GGSIPU in his welcome address said that this was the only competitive award in Healthcare research that is awarded through the consortium of leading academic institutions from the UK and India. The initiative will be a path breaking project, which will pave the way for the integration of AI following appropriate ethical standards in Dental Education.



PROGRAM — KIET

The Department of Electronics & Communication Engineering at KIET Group of Institutions, Delhi NCR, Ghaziabad, proudly announced a five-day faculty development program on "Design & Development of Biomedical Antennas". The event brought together over 322 participants from across India. The FDP is sponsored by the Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Technical University, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. The FDP marked a significant milestone in academia and research by the involvement of 322 participants from pan India. With a robust representation from Uttar Pradesh (167), Tamil Nadu (63), Andhra Pradesh (29), Telangana (16), Maharashtra (10), Madhya Pradesh (9), Karnataka (8), Kerala (4), Rajasthan (3), West Bengal (3), Bihar (2), Punjab (2), Odisha (1), and Tripura (1), the event showcased a truly pan-Indian confluence of expertise and knowledge. The Inaugural ceremony began in the presence of the Chief Guest Prof. (Dr.) S. S. Pattnaik (Vice Chancellor of Odisha State Open University, Sambalpur), Guest of Honor Dr. Preeti Bajaj (Director General of KIET Group of Institutions), Dr. Manoj Goel (Joint Director), and Dr. Anil Ahlawat (Director Academics).



EVENT — SOUTH ASIAN UNIVERSITY

South Asian University is all set to start an Interdisciplinary centre on climate change, green transition & sustainability at its Maidan Garhi campus. The South Asian region's fragile ecosystem necessitates a dedicated interdisciplinary centre to address issues such as climate change, energy transition, & sustainability, informed the president of the university Prof. K. K. Aggarwal. The impacts of climate change in South Asia are severe, affecting biodiversity, human health, & livelihoods & this requires effective adaptation strategies, tools, skills, & collaborative interventions involving a variety of stakeholders. With a mandate to build knowledge networks across borders, the interdisciplinary centre on climate change, green transition & sustainability is visualized as a centre of excellence, that aims to build knowledge networks & bring together academics, policy makers, practitioners, thought leaders & change makers "We are planning to set up such centres in the field of AI, land slide, cyclone, fisheries, etc. for the larger benefits of the students of SAARC countries", said Prof. Aggarwal.



WORKSHOP — JAYPEE UNIV. OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) in collaboration with Technology Incubation and Entrepreneurship Development Cell (TIEDC), and IEEE JUIT SB organized a three-day hands-on workshop on Advanced Excel recently in CL9 of the Jaypee University of Information Technology, Solan, Himachal Pradesh. Dr. Vikas Baghel, Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering was the resource person of the workshop. In total 45 members of different departments gained the knowledge. The aim of this workshop is to empower participants with advanced Excel skills that are practical, efficient, & applicable across various professional domains, enhancing their ability to handle complex data tasks and improve decision-making processes. Advanced Excel workshop typically includes equipping participants with more specialized skills and knowledge beyond the basics. An advanced Excel workshop provides significant value by equipping individuals and organizations with the skills needed to leverage Excel as a powerful tool for data analysis, decision-making, and operational efficiency in today's data-driven world.



EVENT — SHUSHANT UNIVERSITY

Sushant University proudly celebrated World IVF Day recently marking the occasion with a series of insightful presentations from esteemed doctors representing four renowned hospitals and fertility centers. The event aimed to raise awareness about In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) & its advancements, as well as to provide a platform for discussing the latest trends & developments in fertility treatments. The celebration began with an inaugural speech by Dr. Bharat, Dean of the School of Engineering & Technology, who highlighted the significance of IVF in modern medicine & its impact on countless families worldwide. Following the opening remarks, each of the four invited doctors took the stage to share their expertise & experiences in the field of fertility treatment. Doctors shared the heartwarming success stories of patients who overcame infertility challenges through IVF procedure.



VISIT — SWAMI VIVEKANAND SUBHARTI UNIVERSITY

Major General Dr. GK Thapliyal, the VC of Swami Vivekanand Subharti University visited Her Excellency the Governor of UP, Mrs. Anandiben Patel at Raj Bhavan in Lucknow. He presented the Governor with a plant & painting made by students of Subharti Fine Arts College. Maj.Gen. Dr. GK Thapliyal acquainted her with various educational, medical, & social service initiatives undertaken by the university. The Governor Mrs. Anandiben Patel emphasized that the most significant responsibility of the Universities & educational institutions is the development of society. She emphasized that the skill development is also one of the primary requirements along with education. She told that the UP Government has been diligently working to provide the basic amenities to every section of society along with education. She appreciated and extended her best wishes to the Subharti University for taking initiatives in the national interest.



PUBLIC NOTICE: This is to inform that WOMEN LLP having its registered office at #3rd Floor, KH 714, Najafgarh, Near Penyar Institute, Sector 28, South West Delhi, New Delhi 110045 with respect to General Meeting held on 30.07.2024 affirming the expulsion of Mrs. SEEMA SHARMA D/O BABUL SHARMA R/O 472, NEAR YADAV CHOUHAL, KAPASHERA VILLAGE, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110037 as partner/Designated Partner/signatory.

Table with 6 columns: SR. No., NAME OF BOARD CORP/AUTH, NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER, OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME), AMOUNT / LACS, WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP/AUTH, NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAIL/EMAIL. Includes information for BALLARGARH COOP. MILK PRODUCERS UNION LIMITED.

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED (PSPCL) E-Tender (Short Term) Enq. No. 539/P-2/EMPW-12715 Dated 05.07.2024. Dy. Chief Engineer/Headquarter (Purchase Cell-2) GGSSTP, Rupnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2024\_POWER\_124154.1 for Repair/Overhauling including replacement of spurs 02 no. Transmission Assemblies of Sr. No. 384A94 and Sr. No. 2523B13 of BEML make Bulldozer Model BD-155 as per tender specifications.

WESTERN RAILWAY - RATLAM DIVISION Notice No. EL-2024-25-09/535367 Date: 29.07.2024. The Divisional Railway Manager (Elect/Power) RATLAM for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open Tender through e-tender on website www.ireps.gov.in in the details as under - E-tender No.: EL-2024-25-09, Name of Work: Ratlam Division - Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of grid connected solar plant at various locations over division...

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CONSTRUCTION DIVISION, U.P. JAL NIGAM (URBAN) 146, 1st Floor South Bhopa Road Muzaffarnagar. Mobile No. 9473942595. Email id-urbanworksunitmzn@gmail.com. Letter No.: 1140/Vividh-10/30. Date: 01.08.2024.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE. The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (G), East Central Railway, Samastipur for and on behalf of the President of India invites Tender from competent and experienced Contractors having valid Electrical Contractor's license, technical expertise, financial solvency through Website- Online at https://www.bharat-electronictender.com for execution of the following works. Tender Search Code (TSC) - ECRSPJ-2024-TN000004, Sr.No. : 1. Buyer's Tender Reference Number & Date : ISN-IN01-Solar MW SPJ-R4 Dt. 29-July-2024. 2. Name of work with its Location : Implementation of 10 MW ground mounted Solar Projects at Rajnagar (RAJ) of Samastipur division of East Central Railways under Tariff Based Competitive Bidding Category of Tender : Open - Domestic. Approx cost of work : ON PPP MODULE 3. Cost of Tender Document : Rs. 34810.00. 4. Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting : 05-Aug-2024 11:00:00 RTZ. 5. Earnest money/Bid Security : Rs. 10.68 lakh per MW. 6. Validity of Offer (Days) : 90 days. 7. Date & Time for Closing & Opening of Tender : Date of Closing of E-Tender at 15:00 hours on 19.08.2024. Date of Opening of E-Tender from 15:30 hours on 19.08.2024. 8. Website particulars, Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office : Website - Online at https://www.bharat-electronictender.com D.R.M. (Elect.) Office/Samastipur. NOTE :- Any other modification/information related to the above said tender will be uploaded on the Website instead of publish in newspaper. Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G) E. C. Railway, Samastipur PR/00808/SPJ/EGENT/24-25/48

GHAZIABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION Navyug Market, Opp. Old Bus Stand Ghaziabad 201001, UP. E-mail: gzb.nagar.nigam@gmail.com. Website: www.ghaziabadnagar.nigam.in. निविदा नोटिस संख्या:-512/स्वा0/2024-25 दिनांक: 01.08.2024. E-Tender 512/Health/2024-25. Name of the Project: Supply of Malathion Technical 95%. Date of Publication of e-Bid notice: 02.08.2024 on e-Tender Portal https://etender.up.nic.in. Last date for submission of eBids on eTender portal: 09.08.2024 2:00 P.M. Pre Bid meeting Date & venue: NA. Site for Submission of e-Bids: eTender Portal https://etender.up.nic.in. eBid Inviting Officer: Municipal Commissioner, Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation. Date of Opening of Technical eBids: 09.08.2024 4:00 P.M. Date of Opening of Financial e-Bids: To be informed at a later stage. Venue of Opening of eBids: Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation Navyug Market, Opp-Old Bus Stand Ghaziabad, -201001 (UP). Contact addresses: Dr. M. Kumar Municipal Health Officer (Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam). Phone: 8178016808. Email: gzb.nagar.nigam@gmail.com. Consortium: Not allowed. Tender Fee: Rs. 5000/- to be paid on E-tender website i.e. https://etender.up.nic.in. EMD: Rs. 1,00,000/- to be paid on E-tender website i.e. https://etender.up.nic.in. Tender Inviting Authority: Municipal Commissioner Municipal Corporation Ghaziabad.

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY Follow us on @SCRRailwaysIndia Details of the Tender Notices of S.C. Railway can be seen on our website: www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in. e-procurement Tender Notice. The following tender has been floated through ireps portal. Tenderers are requested to visit the web-site www.ireps.gov.in and submit their offers. It may be noted that the offers submitted manually or on paper will not be accepted. Offers sent by post are not entertained. Tender No.: TM - HO - Tamping bank -2024-01 Name of the work: CPOH/Rayanapadu: Reconditioning/Overhauling of Tamping units of CSM/ DUOMAT, UNIMAT-4S, CSM-3X/HOT-3X and MPT (MFI - Unimat) machines. (SCR). Advertised value: ₹46,12,49,882.00 Period of completion: 18 Months Tender Closing Date & Time: 26/08/2024 at 15:00 Hrs. For complete details please refer www.ireps.gov.in. Dy. Chief Engineer/ A0964 TM/HQ/Secunderabad. For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, please visit website at www.ireps.gov.in http://www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

UNITED INDIA INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED (A Govt of India Undertaking) Head Office : 24 Whites Road, Chennai - 600014. E-TENDER NOTICE. RFP No. 000100/HO/IT/RFP/299/2024-2025. United India Insurance Company Limited, a public sector company invites Bids for Appointment of Consultant for "Development of IT and IS Policies and Procedures". Please visit our website https://uic.co.in and https://gem.gov.in for details of Bids & RFP. Interested Bidders may submit their responses on or before 3PM on 5th September 2024. IRDAI Regn. No. 545 CIN : U93099TN1938GOI000108

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED (PSPCL) Dy. Chief Engineer/ C&I Circle, O&M, GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat invites E-Tender for the work of: 1. Tender Enquiry No. 370/GHTP/Dy.C/E/C&I/FSSS/AMC/15 Dated 31/07/2024 Routine, Breakdown, Periodical/Preventive Maintenance and shutdown overhauling of C&I Equipments / instruments installed in FSSS, ASLD, Local PLC systems, Local Gauges, H2 Plant, Ash Water Recovery System etc. at Stage-1 (2x210 MW) & Stage-2 (2x250 MW) Guru Hargobind Thermal Plant Lehra Mohabbat, Distt. Bathinda (Punjab), as per details given in the tender specifications for a period of one year. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 31.07.2024 from 17:00 onwards. Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in No. 36276/PSPCL GHTP 63/24

GHAZIABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION Navyug Market, Opp. Old Bus Stand Ghaziabad 201001, UP. E-mail: gzb.nagar.nigam@gmail.com. Website: www.ghaziabadnagar.nigam.in. निविदा नोटिस संख्या:-511/स्वा0/2024-25 दिनांक: 01.08.2024. E-Tender 511/Health/2024-25. Name of the Project: Selection of Monitoring, Performance Improvement & Technical Support Unit at Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation (GMC). Date of Publication of e-Bid notice: 02.08.2024 on e-Tender Portal https://etender.up.nic.in. Last date for submission of eBids on eTender portal: 09.08.2024 2:00 P.M. Pre Bid meeting Date & venue: NA. Site for Submission of e-Bids: eTender Portal https://etender.up.nic.in. eBid Inviting Officer: Municipal Commissioner, Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation. Date of Opening of Technical eBids: 09.08.2024 4:00 P.M. Date of Opening of Financial e-Bids: To be informed at a later stage. Venue of Opening of eBids: Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation Navyug Market, Opp-Old Bus Stand Ghaziabad, -201001 (UP). Contact addresses: Dr. M. Kumar Municipal Health Officer (Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam). Phone: 8178016808. Email: gzb.nagar.nigam@gmail.com. Consortium: Not allowed. Tender Fee: Rs. 10,000 + 18% GST Total 11,800/- to be paid on E-tender website i.e. https://etender.up.nic.in. EMD: Rs. 3,00,000/- to be paid on E-tender website i.e. https://etender.up.nic.in. Tender Inviting Authority: Municipal Commissioner Municipal Corporation Ghaziabad.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED. General public is hereby informed that a Girl namely Karishma Devi W/o Radhyshyam R/o H. No. 480 Gali No. 01 D-Block, Sangam Vihar, Delhi has been missing/ kidnapped from her Home Since 15.07.2024 at 01:00 PM. In this regard, a DD No. 94A Dt. 27.07.2024, has been registered at P.S.: Sangam Vihar, Delhi. The description of the missing Girl as under. Age: 22 years, Height: 5'0" Face: Round, Build: Thin, Complexion: Fair. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out her but no clue has come to light so far. Any person is having information or clue about this missing Girl may kindly inform to the following. Ph. No. 011-24368638, 24368641 Website: http://cbi.nic.in E-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in S.H.O Ph. No. 011-24368639 PS: Sangam Vihar, Delhi DP/9949/SD/2024

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION. General public is hereby informed that an unidentified male namely Unknown, S/o: Unknown, was found on 12.05.2024 from Hospital AIIMS Trama Centre, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 95A dated 12.05.2024 at 8.29 pm has been lodged at Police Station, Govindpuri, Delhi. Identification of unidentified dead body is as under: Name : Unknown, Age: 45 Years, Height: 5'6", Complexion : Dark. If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned. Web: http://cbi.nic.in, Email: cbc@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641 Fax: 011-24368639 SHO Police Station, Govindpuri, New Delhi DP/10106/SE/2024 Ph.: 011-29980049, 8750870932

PROVISION OF OHE MODIFICATION WORK. E-Tender Notice No. EL-RNY-TRD-03-2024-25. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Name of work: At Rangliya Division: Provision of OHE modification work for proposed RUB at 114 6-7 (Singra-Boko). Tender Value: ₹94,35,851.45. Earnest Money: ₹1,88,700/-. Date & Time of closing of tender: 15.00 hrs of 22-08-2024. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website www.ireps.gov.in Sr.DEE, Rangliya. NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY Serving Customers With A Smile

# 12 CLASSIFIEDS & TENDERS

## Classifieds

### PERSONAL

I,Reshma D/O, Jay Karan R/o 133, 3rd Floor, Dp House, Lane No. 1, Westend Marg, Saidulazaib, Mehrauli, South Delhi-110030 have changed my name to Roshni. 0040741405-1

I,Nishant Bharadwaj s/o Ravi Shankar Singh R/o w/ 49 Ground floor, Hari Singh Park, Multan Nagar, New Delhi 110056. Has changed name to Nishant Bharadwaj. 0070915948-1

I,Ashita Jain D/O, Amit Jain R/o D 130,2nd Floor, Mahendur Enclave Model Town, azadpur,north West Delhi, Delhi 110033 have changed my name to Aashita Jain. 0040741467-1

I,Tarun Kakkar,S/o Suraj Prakash Kakkar,R/O G-143,SECOND FLOOR,SOUTH CITY -2, SECTOR-50 GURGAON (HARYANA)-122018,have changed my name to TARUN KAKAR. 0040741491-3

I,RAJKUMAR GOYAL/RAJKUMAR S/O SURESH KUMAR R/O F-1/20-21,THIRD-FLOOR,SECTOR-16,ROHINI,DELHI-110089.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAJ KUMAR. 0040741490-2

I,Nupur Agarwal W/o Ankur Aggrawal,R/O B2-2001,Mapsko Casabella,Sector-82 PO: Sikanderpur Dist Gurgaon (Haryana)-122004,have changed my name to Nupur Aggrawal. 0040741492-1

I,NEHA/NEHA DEVI W/O RAJ KUMAR R/O F-1/20-21,THIRD-FLOOR,SECTOR-16,ROHINI, DELHI-110089.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO NEHA GOYAL. 0040741490-1

I,MAHENDER AGARWAL S/O TULSI RAM AGARWAL R/O MP-78, NR.MP-MALL, PITAMPURA,DELHI-110034. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MAHENDER KUMAR KANSARIA. 0040741483-4

I,R Ramakrishnan alias Ramakrishnan Rangarajan S/o Raminvasan Rangarajan F/O E-102, Nanakpura, Moti Bagh-II, South West Delhi, Delhi, have changed my name to Ramakrishnan Rangarajan. 0130043939-1

I,Sandeep Kumar Prasad S/o Binod Prasad Shah, R/o H-38, H-block, Sec-116, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar,U.P.-201301 have changed my minor daughter's name from Devina to Devina Gyan permanently. 0040741452-1

It is for general information that I,DEEPAK CHOUDHARY, S/O-KAMAL KRISHNA CHOUDHARY, R/O-Home No-461 Ground-Floor, Sector-45,Gurgaon, Haryana-122003,declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as CHOUDHARY DEEPAK KUMAR in my P.P.O.No-08/14/B/04853/2002. The actual name of mine is DEEPAK CHOUDHARY, which may be amended accordingly. 0040741483-5

I,SHAKEEL AHMED S/O KABIR ULLAH R/O 3121 KUCHA TARA CHAND DARYAGANJ-DELHI-2,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHAKIL AHMED. 0040741490-6

I,Yashvir Goyal S/O Norang Rai R/O Plot No-28,29,Second Floor,Gali No-7,Om Vihar Phase-1,A,Uttam Nagar,Delhi-110059,changed my name to Yashvir Goyal 0040741490-3

I,Ridhika D/o Mohan Lal,R/O F-1/6,Ground Floor,Budh-Vihar Phase-1,Delhi,110086,have changed my minor Son name from Divyansh Gupta To Divyansh. 0040741491-2

I,Vinod Bhatia S/o Murari Lal Bhatia R/O C-304 Fakhruddin,Apartment Plot No.18 Sector-10,Dwarka Delhi-11075,have changed my minor,daughter name Sheeba To Sheeba Bhatia 0040741482-1

I,VEERAM SINGH,R/O-H.NO-A-2346 GATE NO-6,GREEN FIELD COLONY, FARIDABAD,HARYANA-121010,CHANGED MY MINOR-DAUGHTER NAME SADHNA TO SADHNA CHAUDHARY,FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040741477-6

I,TAHIR HUSSAIN,S/O SYED ISHTIAQ HUSSAIN,R/O-3660,RODGRAN KUCHA PANDIT LAL KUAN DELHI-110006,have changed my name to SYED TAHIR HUSSAIN,for all future purposes. 0040741477-2

I,Manisha, W/o-Bharat Kaushik R/O-Block GH-13, H.No-667, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-87, have changed my name to Manisha Kaushik, permanently 0040741491-10

I,Kumari neera Devi Jain,W/o Band Shalender Jain, H.No.10/2,New Railway-Road, Gopal Nagar, Gurgaon-122001(Haryana),have changed my name to Neera Jain. 0040741492-2

I,Meenu Verma W/o Sandeep Verma R/O FD-49,Pitampura P.O.Saraswati Vihar Dist.North West Delhi-110034,have changed my minor daughter name Vrinda Verma aged,13 years to Harika Verma. 0040741482-3

I,Surinder Sahni W/o Amarjeet Singh Sawhney R/O C-55A, 2nd-Floor Chankya Place Part-1 D.K.Mohan Garden Delhi-110059,have changed my name to Surinder Kaur Sawhney 0040741482-8

I,Sunita,wife of, Amar Chand Das,living at-761B,gali.no-7,GovindPuri,kalkaji,South-Delhi 110019,have changed my name from Sunita to Sunita Bala Das,for all,future purposes. 0040741491-9

I,Sumit Gahlawat,S/o Sahab Singh,R/O,H.No.D-58,Ground-Floor,Panchsheel Enclave,South Delhi,Delhi-110017,Have changed my name to Sumit Gehlot,for all,future purposes. 0040741477-3

I,Saurav Tomer S/o Mahander Singh R/O E-69 Aastha Kunj Apartments Sector-18,Rohini Delhi-110085,have changed my name to Saurav Tomar 0040741482-9

I,Rajesh Kumar S/o Maha Singh C-1,901,Zion Stone Corp Sector-78, Faridabad-121101 Haryana,Have Change My Name To Rajesh Grewal. 0040741483-3

I,RUBY JABEEN,D/O SYED TAHIR HUSSAIN,R/O 3660,RODGRAN KUCHA PANDIT LAL KUAN,DELHI 110006,have changed my name to RUBY ZAIDI,for all future purposes. 0040741477-1

I,Pradeep Asnani,S/o Arjun Das Asnani R/o 138,Ambika Vihar Paschim vihar,Delhi-110087 have changed my name to Pradeep Kumar Asnani. 0040741490-5

I,Rajesh Kumar S/o Maha Singh C-1,901,Zion Stone Corp Sector-78, Faridabad-121101 Haryana,Have Change My Name To Rajesh Grewal. 0040741483-3

I,RUBY JABEEN,D/O SYED TAHIR HUSSAIN,R/O 3660,RODGRAN KUCHA PANDIT LAL KUAN,DELHI 110006,have changed my name to RUBY ZAIDI,for all future purposes. 0040741477-1

I,ISHWAR CHAND SAHAL,father of,Gaurav Sahal,Presently,residing at,253/26, West-Ram Nagar,Near-CRZ Market, Sonipat,Haryana-131001,have changed my name from ISHWAR CHAND SAHAL to ISHWAR CHANDER,vide-affidavit date-01.08.2024. 0040741491-5

I,IRFAN NABI,S/O GULAM NABI BHAT,residing at,B-149,GROUND-FLOOR LAJPAT NAGAR,DELHI-110024,have changed my name to IRFAN NABI BHAT,permanently. 0040741477-4

I,GYANENDER KUMAR TYAGI S/O ILAM CHAND TYAGI R/O-2715,GALI NO-68,BLOCK E-2 MOLARBAND-EXTEN,MOLAR BAND DELHI 110044,changed my name to GYANENDER TYAGI. 0040741490-4

I,Deepak kumar,S/o Subhash chand R/o.H.No.413/28 Gali No.7, Jyoti park Gurgaon (Haryana)-122001, have changed my name to Deepak Luthra. 0040741491-1

I,PRADEEP KUMAR S/O-MAHENDER SINGH,R/O-H.NO-290 NANGAL KALAN (43),SONIPAT-131023, HARYANA.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PARDEEP KUMAR,FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040741491-6

I,Mohita Junnarkar,D/o-Anant Arvind Junnarkar,W/o-Assem Sharma,R/O-21, Bharti-Artist Colony,Vikas Marg,Delhi-110092,have changed my name to Mohita Anant Junnarkar for all purposes. 0040741483-2

I,NITIN,S/O MUNISH KUMAR,R/O-1058,10TH-FLOOR,WESTERIA TOWER,GAUR SAUNDARYAM, GREATER NOIDA WEST, GAUTAMBUDH NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH-201318,have changed my name to NITIN SACHDEV. 0040741490-8

I,NIKHIL SAMIR SATHE,S/O-SAMIR VIJAY SATHE,R/O-F-34,INDIAN OIL NAGAR,SITE-2, SECTOR-55,NOIDA, GAUTAMBUDHA-NAGAR, U.P.-201301,inform that in my Passport.No.4576333,my father's name SATHE SAMIR VIJAY and my mother's name SATHE PRADNYA SAMIR is wrongly written.My father's correct name is SAMIR VIJAY SATHE and my mother's correct name is PRADNYA SAMIR SATHE, for all future purpose. 0040741483-6

I,Mohd. Munna Ansari S/o Noor Mohd Ansari R/o J-1978, Block-J, Jahangir,Puri Delhi-110033,inform that my name Mohd. Munna Ansari and Mohamad Gayas is same,person 0040741482-5

I,Anika Sharma W/o Vikas Sharma R/O C-045, Assotech The Nest Crossing Republik, Near ABES Engineering College, Ghaziabad U.P.-201016 have changed my name to ANIKA MALHOTRA for all future purposes 0070916001-1

I,Ananya W/o, Arjun Singh R/O H.no 8707, Behind Palace Cinema, Roshnara Road, Delhi-110077 have changed my name to Ananya Singh for all purposes. 0040741489-1

I,AMIT GUPTA S/O VED PRAKASH GUPTA, HOME NO-43/1, RAJPUR ROAD, CIVIL LINES DELHI, 110054 have changed the name of my Minor Daughter from Savya Gupta to SAMMAIRRA GUPTA for all purpose. 0070915974-1

I,Yog Bahadur Thapa S/o E.M. Bahadur Thapa R/o SQ-18, K-Block, Saket, New Delhi-110017, have changed my name to Yog Thapa 0070915963-1

I,Shalini w/o Prabhat Sharma, R/o T7, 702, Parsvanath Panoram, Swarn Nagri, Greater Noida, have changed my name to Shalini Gupta for all future purposes. 0070915998-1

I,Komal Lamba,W/o Harish Lamba,R/o-H.No.7/241,Sunder -Vihar Paschim-Vihar,Delhi-110087, have changed my name after my marriage from Komal Punia to Komal Lamba,for all,future purposes. 0040741492-4

I,Sanjiv Kumar S/o Lt. Mr. Mastan Singh,R/O 106-C, Block-D1,Arawali Appt. Sector-52,NOIDA,U.P.,have changed my minor son's name Kavya Gupta to Kavyansh Gupta. 0040741492-4

I,Kazim Rassol,s/o-Zille Rasool,R/O-B-14/77 Gali No.-10,Subhash Mohalla,Garhi Mendu,Bhajanpura, Delhi-110053,have changed my name,from KAZIM RASSOL,to KAZIM RASOOL,for all future,purposes. 0040741490-10

I,Kavita W/o Kailash Dua R/o Khasra No.863/4,Plot No.7A, 3rd Floor near,Jockey Show Room Opp.Mandir Wali Gali Sant Nagar Burari Delhi-110084 have changed my name to Kavita Dua 0040741482-2

I,JAG MAHINDER,S/O-RAGHU VEER SINGH R/O-H.O.38,VILLAGE RONJIA, NEAR GOVT-SCHOOL,P.O ASAWTA,TEH AND DIST PALWAL,(HARYANA)-121102,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO JAG MAHINDER PAHIL. 0040741492-3

I,ISHWAR CHAND SAHAL,father of,Gaurav Sahal,Presently,residing at,253/26, West-Ram Nagar,Near-CRZ Market, Sonipat,Haryana-131001,have changed my name from ISHWAR CHAND SAHAL to ISHWAR CHANDER,vide-affidavit date-01.08.2024. 0040741491-5

I,IRFAN NABI,S/O GULAM NABI BHAT,residing at,B-149,GROUND-FLOOR LAJPAT NAGAR,DELHI-110024,have changed my name to IRFAN NABI BHAT,permanently. 0040741477-4

I,GYANENDER KUMAR TYAGI S/O ILAM CHAND TYAGI R/O-2715,GALI NO-68,BLOCK E-2 MOLARBAND-EXTEN,MOLAR BAND DELHI 110044,changed my name to GYANENDER TYAGI. 0040741490-4

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I,PRADEEP KUMAR S/O-MAHENDER SINGH,R/O-H.NO-290 NANGAL KALAN (43),SONIPAT-131023, HARYANA.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PARDEEP KUMAR,FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040741491-6

I,Mohita Junnarkar,D/o-Anant Arvind Junnarkar,W/o-Assem Sharma,R/O-21, Bharti-Artist Colony,Vikas Marg,Delhi-110092,have changed my name to Mohita Anant Junnarkar for all purposes. 0040741483-2

I,NITIN,S/O MUNISH KUMAR,R/O-1058,10TH-FLOOR,WESTERIA TOWER,GAUR SAUNDARYAM, GREATER NOIDA WEST, GAUTAMBUDH NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH-201318,have changed my name to NITIN SACHDEV. 0040741490-8

I,NIKHIL SAMIR SATHE,S/O-SAMIR VIJAY SATHE,R/O-F-34,INDIAN OIL NAGAR,SITE-2, SECTOR-55,NOIDA, GAUTAMBUDHA-NAGAR, U.P.-201301,inform that in my Passport.No.4576333,my father's name SATHE SAMIR VIJAY and my mother's name SATHE PRADNYA SAMIR is wrongly written.My father's correct name is SAMIR VIJAY SATHE and my mother's correct name is PRADNYA SAMIR SATHE, for all future purpose. 0040741483-6

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I,Sarika Gupta W/o Amit Gupta R/o C-2-B, New Slum Quarter, Paschimpuri, West Delhi-110063, have changed my minor son's name Kavya Gupta to Kavyansh Gupta. 0040741492-4

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I,Sanjiv Kumar S/o Lt. Mr. Mastan Singh,R/O 106-C, Block-D1,Arawali Appt. Sector-52,NOIDA,U.P.,have changed my minor son's name Kavya Gupta to Kavyansh Gupta. 0040741492-4

I,Kazim Rassol,s/o-Zille Rasool,R/O-B-14/77 Gali No.-10,Subhash Mohalla,Garhi Mendu,Bhajanpura, Delhi-110053,have changed my name,from KAZIM RASSOL,to KAZIM RASOOL,for all future,purposes. 0040741490-10

I,Kavita W/o Kailash Dua R/o Khasra No.863/4,Plot No.7A, 3rd Floor near,Jockey Show Room Opp.Mandir Wali Gali Sant Nagar Burari Delhi-110084 have changed my name to Kavita Dua 0040741482-2

I,JAG MAHINDER,S/O-RAGHU VEER SINGH R/O-H.O.38,VILLAGE RONJIA, NEAR GOVT-SCHOOL,P.O ASAWTA,TEH AND DIST PALWAL,(HARYANA)-121102,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO JAG MAHINDER PAHIL. 0040741492-3

I,ISHWAR CHAND SAHAL,father of,Gaurav Sahal,Presently,residing at,253/26, West-Ram Nagar,Near-CRZ Market, Sonipat,Haryana-131001,have changed my name from ISHWAR CHAND SAHAL to ISHWAR CHANDER,vide-affidavit date-01.08.2024. 0040741491-5

I,IRFAN NABI,S/O GULAM NABI BHAT,residing at,B-149,GROUND-FLOOR LAJPAT NAGAR,DELHI-110024,have changed my name to IRFAN NABI BHAT,permanently. 0040741477-4

I,GYANENDER KUMAR TYAGI S/O ILAM CHAND TYAGI R/O-2715,GALI NO-68,BLOCK E-2 MOLARBAND-EXTEN,MOLAR BAND DELHI 110044,changed my name to GYANENDER TYAGI. 0040741490-4

I,Deepak kumar,S/o Subhash chand R/o.H.No.413/28 Gali No.7, Jyoti park Gurgaon (Haryana)-122001, have changed my name to Deepak Luthra. 0040741491-1

I,PRADEEP KUMAR S/O-MAHENDER SINGH,R/O-H.NO-290 NANGAL KALAN (43),SONIPAT-131023, HARYANA.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PARDEEP KUMAR,FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040741491-6

I,Mohita Junnarkar,D/o-Anant Arvind Junnarkar,W/o-Assem Sharma,R/O-21, Bharti-Artist Colony,Vikas Marg,Delhi-110092,have changed my name to Mohita Anant Junnarkar for all purposes. 0040741483-2

I,NITIN,S/O MUNISH KUMAR,R/O-1058,10TH-FLOOR,WESTERIA TOWER,GAUR SAUNDARYAM, GREATER NOIDA WEST, GAUTAMBUDH NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH-201318,have changed my name to NITIN SACHDEV. 0040741490-8

I,NIKHIL SAMIR SATHE,S/O-SAMIR VIJAY SATHE,R/O-F-34,INDIAN OIL NAGAR,SITE-2, SECTOR-55,NOIDA, GAUTAMBUDHA-NAGAR, U.P.-201301,inform that in my Passport.No.4576333,my father's name SATHE SAMIR VIJAY and my mother's name SATHE PRADNYA SAMIR is wrongly written.My father's correct name is SAMIR VIJAY SATHE and my mother's correct name is PRADNYA SAMIR SATHE, for all future purpose. 0040741483-6

I,Mohd. Munna Ansari S/o Noor Mohd Ansari R/o J-1978, Block-J, Jahangir,Puri Delhi-110033,inform that my name Mohd. Munna Ansari and Mohamad Gayas is same,person 0040741482-5

I,Anika Sharma W/o Vikas Sharma R/O C-045, Assotech The Nest Crossing Republik, Near ABES Engineering College, Ghaziabad U.P.-201016 have changed my name to ANIKA MALHOTRA for all future purposes 0070916001-1

I,Ananya W/o, Arjun Singh R/O H.no 8707, Behind Palace Cinema, Roshnara Road, Delhi-110077 have changed my name to Ananya Singh for all purposes. 0040741489-1

I,AMIT GUPTA S/O VED PRAKASH GUPTA, HOME NO-43/1, RAJPUR ROAD, CIVIL LINES DELHI, 110054 have changed the name of my Minor Daughter from Savya Gupta to SAMMAIRRA GUPTA for all purpose. 0070915974-1

I,Yog Bahadur Thapa S/o E.M. Bahadur Thapa R/o SQ-18, K-Block, Saket, New Delhi-110017, have changed my name to Yog Thapa 0070915963-1

I,Shalini w/o Prabhat Sharma, R/o T7, 702, Parsvanath Panoram, Swarn Nagri, Greater Noida, have changed my name to Shalini Gupta for all future purposes. 0070915998-1

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Sale of Residential Plot/Property Bearing No. E-28, area measuring 180 Sq. Mtrs., (Plot No. 28 Block E), situated in the layout plan of Masjid Mohd Residential Scheme, Chirag Delhi, New Delhi (Hereinafter referred as the 'said property'). Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the client(s) intends to purchase the above said property from Mr. Jatinder Kumar Sharma who inherited the property after the demise of his father Late Sh. Daulat Ram Sharma. That my client(s) is/are availing the loan to purchase the said property from Axis Bank Ltd. and the said property would be the security to the loan availed by them. If any person interested in the property after the demise of his father Late Sh. Daulat Ram Sharma. That my client(s) is/are availing the loan to purchase the said property from Axis Bank Ltd. and the said property would be the security to the loan availed by them. If any person interested in the property after the demise of his father Late Sh. Daulat Ram Sharma. That my client(s) is/are availing the loan to purchase the said property from Axis Bank Ltd. and the said property would be the security to the loan availed by them. If any person interested in the property after the demise of his father Late Sh. Daulat Ram Sharma. That my client(s) is/are availing the loan to purchase the said property from Axis Bank Ltd. and the said property would be the security to the loan availed by them. If any person interested in the property after the demise of his father Late Sh. Daulat Ram Sharma. That my client(s) is/are availing the loan to purchase the said property from Axis Bank Ltd. and the said property would be the security to the loan availed by them. If any person interested in the property after the demise of his father Late Sh. Daulat Ram Sharma. That my client(s) is/are availing the loan to purchase the said property from Axis Bank Ltd. and the said property would be the security to the loan availed by them. If any person interested in the property after the demise of his father Late Sh. Daulat Ram Sharma. That my client(s) is/are availing the loan to purchase the said property from Axis Bank Ltd. and the said property would be the security to the loan availed by them. If any person interested in the property after the demise of his father Late Sh. Daulat Ram Sharma. That my client(s) is/are availing the loan to purchase the said property from Axis Bank Ltd. and the said property would be the security to the loan availed by them. If any person interested in the property after the demise of his father Late Sh. Daulat Ram Sharma. That my client(s) is/are availing the loan to purchase the said property from Axis Bank Ltd. and the said property would be the security to the loan availed by them. If any person interested in the property after the demise of his father Late Sh. Daulat Ram Sharma. That my client(s) is/are availing the loan to purchase the said property from Axis Bank Ltd. and the said property would be the security to the loan availed by them. If any person interested in the property after the demise of his father Late Sh. Daulat Ram Sharma. That my client(s) is/are availing the loan to purchase the said property from Axis Bank Ltd. and the said property would be the security to the loan availed by them. If any person interested in the property after the demise of his father Late Sh. Daulat Ram Sharma. That my client(s) is/are availing the loan to purchase the said property from Axis Bank Ltd. and the said property would be the security to the loan availed by them. If any person interested in the property after the demise of his father Late Sh. Daulat Ram Sharma. That my client(s) is/are availing the loan to purchase the said property from Axis Bank Ltd. and the

# 13 EXPRESS NETWORK

## STATES RESPOND TO SUPREME COURT VERDICT ON SUB-CLASSIFICATIONS WITHIN SCs AND STs

### Will be first state to implement move: Telangana

**REENIVAS JANYALA**  
HYDERABAD, AUGUST 1

THE SUPREME Court order on Thursday allowing sub-classification of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) for reservations has come as a shot in the arm for the communities in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh which have been demanding caste surveys in order to extend numerical strength-based benefits.

Madiga Reservation Porata Samithi (MRPS) chief Manda Krishna Madiga, who has been a vocal supporter of the sub-classification for decades, said the SC order is a massive victory for the marginalised communities among the SCs and STs. "Dharma has won after a struggle of 30 years. I am confident that the Revanth Reddy government in Telangana and the Chandrababu Naidu government in Andhra



Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy celebrates the Supreme Court verdict with party MLAs, Thursday. P17

Pradesh will reinstate SC sub-classification," he added.

MRPS leader Srinivas Yadav urged the two state governments to complete the surveys quickly to ascertain the exact population of each marginalised community among the SCs and STs. "The numbers are already in the possession of the state governments of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

They just have to make it public and implement reservations in accordance with the numerical strength," he said.

Welcoming the SC order, Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy said the state would be the first to implement it. "I sincerely thank the Constitution Bench of the SC. Six out of seven judges said that state

governments can take up the sub-classification. On behalf of the state government, I am making an announcement that Telangana would be the first state to implement the sub-classification," the CM said. Reddy, speaking in the Assembly, said his government will immediately start the process of sub-classification in accordance with the SCs order. "The state government will take appropriate measures to implement the reservations for Madigas and other sub-castes in the current job notification as well. An ordinance to this effect will be issued," he said.

Telangana Mala Sanghams' leader Cheruku Ramchander also talked of the "skewed implementation" of reservations for SCs and STs. "We are happy with the Supreme Court order. I appeal to all SC sub-castes to accept it and urge governments to start surveys soon," he said.

The SC order comes months after Prime Minister Narendra

Modi, at a rally in Hyderabad with the MRPS chief on November 11 last year, promised to constitute a committee to look into the issue. The announcement was met with loud cheers from the crowd and left the MRPS chief in tears. The MRPS subsequently extended support to the BJP in the Assembly polls in Telangana that followed.

Andhra Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu called the ruling a favourable order. "Social justice is the policy of the NDA. I had introduced SC categorisation in 1996-1997 based on the recommendations of the Ramachandra Rao Commission. The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) has always been and will be committed to social justice. We will ensure justice for every community and provide benefits to them based on their numerical strength," he said at Sunnipets in Nandyal district after visiting the Srisailem temple.

**WITH INPUTS FROM NIKHILA HENRY**

### Parties have tried to push sub-quota their own way for 50 yrs

Punjab first, followed by Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and later others, introduced sub-categories in reservation

**VIKAS PATHAK**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

THE SUPREME Court held Thursday that states are constitutionally empowered to make sub-classifications within Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), to help uplift castes that are more backward among them. However, politics responded to these fissures much earlier.

Giani Zail Singh as the Congress Chief Minister of Punjab in 1975, Bhajan Lal as the Congress CM of Haryana in 1994, Chandrababu Naidu of the TDP as Andhra Pradesh CM in 1997, all split the SC quota into sub-groups for a share to the most deprived among Dalits. Later, Nitish Kumar as Bihar CM framed a Mahadalit section to reach out to the Dalits apart from the Dusadhs, who were seen as supporters of the Lok Janshakti Party of the late Ram Vilas Paswan.

Karnataka has been trying to bring in sub-quota among the SCs, and the last BJP government in the state announced the same ahead of the Assembly elections, despite it being certain that it would run into legal hurdles. On Thursday, welcoming the Supreme Court order, Tamil Nadu called it a vindication of the state's Arunthathiyar (Special Reservation) Act of 2009, aimed at recognising and uplifting marginalised communities within SCs.

**Political compulsions**

In Punjab, the Zail Singh-led Congress government wanted to wean away Mazhabi Sikhs from the Akali Dal, which was trying to make them a committed vote bank as Sikhs. The sub-quota introduced in 1975 benefited both the Mazhabi Sikhs and the Balmikis (largely urban sanitation workers), who were lagging behind the leather-working caste in availing the benefit of reservations.

The Haryana quota introduced in 1994 reserved half the

SC reservation for groups other than the leather-working caste, and came in the wake of demands to adopt the Punjab template. This was at a time when the Congress had just lost its committed Dalit vote bank in neighbouring Uttar Pradesh to the BSP.

In Andhra Pradesh, the more "advanced" Mala caste that had cornered most of the benefits of SC quota was with the Congress. The Naidu-led TDP through the 1997 sub-quota sought to reach out to the Madigas, who felt left out from reservation benefits, by creating four categories within the SCs.

Then came 2005, and on the petition of E V Chinniah, a Mala, the apex court barred sub-classification of SCs for the purposes of reservation. However, in Bihar, Nitish found a way around this by identifying almost all the Dalit groups apart from the Dusadhs as 'Mahadalits'. Since the sub-quota was no longer an option, the Bihar CM and JD(U) chief unveiled housing, scholarship, education loans and school uniform programmes for the Mahadalits before the 2010 Assembly elections.

The BJP, which has managed to garner support among the Dalits, going beyond its upper caste base, has also been in favour of sub-classification. Representing the Narendra Modi government on the matter in the Supreme Court, Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta said that states needed the freedom to sub-classify SCs for deepening and trickling down of the benefits of reservation.

**Historical reasons**

There were historical reasons and circumstances behind why some SC groups were able to benefit from reservations more than the others.

The leather-working caste of Punjab and west UP, for example, benefited from the high demand for boots in cantonments of the

British Indian army and acquired disposable income, leading to education and a sharpened political consciousness. They were the main beneficiaries of quotas in these regions.

The Mazhabi Sikhs of Punjab, in contrast, were agricultural labourers while Balmikis were urban sanitation workers — both tasks that did not require education, which failed to take off among these groups.

In Andhra, the Malas were concentrated in coastal areas which fell under the erstwhile Madras Presidency that started schools for the labouring classes, helping the Malas blossom. The Madigas, in contrast, were more thickly populated in the Telangana region, which was under the Nizam's dominion and did not have commensurate opportunities.

Sociologists S S Jodhka and Avinash Kumar, in a paper on Dalit sub-classification in Punjab written for EPW in 2007, found that out of 105 IAS officers from SCs, only three belonged to the Balmiki and Mazhabi communities, though they accounted for 42% of the state's SC population.

They also showed that from 1996 to 2003, when Haryana had sub-quota, while 60 people from the "advanced" leather working caste became Class I officers, almost as many (50) from other Dalit castes also got such jobs. The more deprived castes' representation in Class II jobs went up from 8% to 48%, and from 10% to 49% in Class III jobs.

The Usha Mehra Commission constituted to look into the SC sub-quota question in Andhra Pradesh found in its 2008 report that the representation of the "advanced" Mala caste in the IAS and the IPS ranged from 76% to 86%, while only 13% to 23% of personnel in these services were from the Madiga caste. In comparison, the Malas constituted 41% of the state's SC population against the Madigas' 49%.

### Karnataka says clear decision soon; Cong, BJP spar over credit

**AKRAM M**  
BENGALURU, AUGUST 1

AS THE Supreme Court held Thursday that states could provide internal reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs), the Karnataka government said it would now take "a clear decision" on the issue, through consultation and negotiation.

In a tweet, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah welcomed the decision, saying that "a major obstacle in the implementation of internal reservations has been removed". The government will consult SC leaders and legal experts "regarding the contentious aspects of the verdict, including the issue of the creamy layer, and take appropriate action", he said.

In its manifesto for the 2023 polls, the Congress had promised to implement the recommendations of the Justice A J Sadashiva Committee, formed in 2005 to examine internal reservation among SCs. The committee submitted its report in 2012.

Earlier this year, the Karnataka Cabinet had put the decision regarding internal reservation in the Central government's court, arguing that implementation of SC sub-quota



**Major obstacle removed, says CM**

tas would be possible only if it amended Article 341 of the Constitution, which accords the President powers to designate groups to be included under the Scheduled Caste category.

In his tweet today, Siddaramaiah accused the previous BJP government of "hurriedly" taking a decision on internal reservation and sending it to the Central government.

In March 2023, days before the Model Code for the Karnataka Assembly polls came into force, the then Karnataka government led by BJP CM Basavaraj Bommai had announced its internal reservations policy. Bommai, now a BJP MP, said the SC decision was a victory "for the previous BJP government's decision... Our government's Cabinet had approved internal reservations, issued a government order, and recommended it to the Centre. This position has now been upheld by the Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court."

### Nitish vindicated, says JDU; RJD calls ruling contradictory

**SANTOSH SINGH**  
PATNA, AUGUST 1

FOR THE Nitish Kumar-led Janata Dal (United), which is the first government in the country to conduct and publish a comprehensive caste survey, the Supreme Court's verdict Thursday allowing the sub-classification of the Scheduled Castes (SC) and the Scheduled Tribes (STs) comes as an endorsement of its party line.

Much before the caste survey, which was conducted in 2023, Kumar had in 2008 categorised the SCs into two groups: Dalits and Mahadalits.

This was done to ensure the implementation of the welfare schemes meant for the SCs based on the levels of their discrimination, poverty and social position.

As per this categorisation, the Dalit group includes Paswans, while the Mahadalit category, considered to be more disadvantaged, has 21 SC groups under it.

Since 2008, the JD(U) has been rolling out over a dozen welfare schemes, skill development and education programmes for Mahadalits.

With the SC judgment Thursday, it remains to be seen if a division of reservation benefits between different SC groups will take place.

Welcoming the apex court's



**In 2008, CM Nitish Kumar had categorised SCs into Dalits and Mahadalits.**

ruling, JD (U) advisor and national spokesperson K C Tyagi told *The Indian Express*: "Bihar is one state where we have the Other Backward Caste (OBC)-Economically Backward Caste (EBC) categorisation. Nitish Kumar categorised SC quota among Dalits and Mahadalits to take government benefits to the poorest of the poor. Now, it is up to the state government to work on how to break down the quota. In a sense, Nitish Kumar has become a champion of caste sub-categorisation. He faced a lot of criticism over the nomenclature of Mahadalits. But he stands vindicated."

Tyagi added that the JD(U) is now looking forward to Justice G Rohini Commission's report on the sub-categorisation of OBCs.

RJD national spokesperson Subodh Kumar Mehta, however, called the top court's verdict "contradictory".

"As per the Constituent Assembly debates, the issue of sub-categorisation was settled and not included in the Constitution. However, today's verdict suggests that this sub-categorisation is an artificial insertion by the judiciary. Article 341, which empowers the President to declare certain castes and classes as SCs in a state or Union Territory, can only be altered by a presidential order. This means that states do not have the power to interfere with or disturb this list, including through sub-classification. But what the verdict does is to further lend credence and weight to our long-pending demand of nationwide caste census," said Mehta.

A state BJP leader said the party unit was still waiting to "understand the verdict". "Though we know that we had supported the concept of Mahadalits and also the Bihar caste survey, we would have to see how the SC verdict translates on ground," he said.

As per the Bihar caste survey, SCs constitute 19.65% of Bihar's population. The community has a 16% allotted quota in the state, which is currently divided between Dalits and Mahadalits.

### DMK govt sees order as validation of 2009 quota law

**ARUN JANARDHANAN**  
CHENNAI, AUGUST 1

TAMIL NADU Chief Minister M K Stalin called the Supreme Court order on Thursday saying states can sub-classify Scheduled Castes (SCs) for the purpose of reservations "a recognition of the DMK's Dravidian model to ensure social justice for all oppressed sections of society".

The ruling DMK sees the Supreme Court order as a validation particularly of the Arunthathiyars (Special Reservation) Act, passed by a government run by it in 2009, to recognise and uplift marginalised communities within SCs.

Chief Minister M Karunanidhi steered the Act that provided 3.5% internal reservation to the Arunthathiyars within the existing 18% quota for

SCs. The Act followed sustained demands by the community, highlighting their under-representation in government jobs and educational institutions.

This sub-quota for Arunthathiyars apart, Tamil Nadu's reservation policy, allowing for 69% overall quota accommodating various backward classes, has over the years been held up as a model of inclusivity and social upliftment.

In 1951, there was 16% reservation for SC/STs and 25% for OBCs. The Karunanidhi regime in 1971 increased the OBC reservation to 30% and SC/STs to 18%. In the late 1980s, his government conferred 20% reservation to Most Backward Classes (MBCs) in a radical move, carving them out of the OBC category.

The current reservation breakup of the state includes 30% for BCs (including Christians and



**Nod to Dravidian model, says Tamil Nadu CM Stalin**

Muslims), 20% for MBCs, 18% for SCs, and 1% for the ST community.

Karunanidhi's 2009 sub-quota for the Arunthathiyars, which ensured him a loyal vote bank among them, also faced challenges in the Madras High Court, but was not stayed due to pending litigations on the same lines before the Supreme Court.

While the dominant SC com-

munity of the Parayars is concentrated in northern Tamil Nadu and the Pallars in the south, Arunthathiyars are largely scattered, with their highest concentration in Western Tamil Nadu.

Prominent Dalit figures like Thol Thirumavalavan and Neelam Centre leader and filmmaker Pa Ranjith are Parayars.

Among the seven Dalit MPs of the DMK alliance, there are no Arunthathiyars, though as per M Mathivanan, a prominent Tamil writer who often writes about the Arunthathiyar community and is president of the Tamil Nadu Sakkiya Arunthathiyar Sangam, nearly 70% of the votes of the community go to the DMK.

There are many reasons why Arunthathiyars have remained the most underprivileged among the Dalits, the primary one being that under British rule, they got mainly roped into scavenging jobs in ur-

ban areas. The Parayars and Pallars, in comparison, had more interactions with the British and many converted to Christianity for education and livelihood, besides beneficial schemes.

To this day, Southern Tamil Nadu has a good number of schools, many set up by missionaries, while the Arunthathiyar-majority areas lag behind in educational facilities.

KA Manikumar, a history professor and an expert in state's caste dynamics, said the Supreme Court order was a well-deserved recognition for underprivileged sections like Arunthathiyars.

C Lakshmanan, a Dalit researcher who used to teach at the Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS) in Chennai, however, fears the order will cause schism within the SCs, to the advantage of political parties hoping to use them.

### In Maharashtra, Dalit groups hail verdict, strike a note of caution

**SHUBHANGI KHAPRE**  
MUMBAI, AUGUST 1

THERE HAVE been mixed reactions from various Dalit organisations and community leaders to the Supreme Court's Thursday judgment, which has allowed the states to sub-classify the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and the Scheduled Tribes (STs) to ensure grant of quota to more backward castes inside these groups.

The Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DICCII)'s chairman Milind Kamble hailed the top court's verdict, saying, "It will be a big step towards empowerment of most backward classes within Scheduled Castes."

Kamble said the objective of extending reservation to the SCs/STs under the Constitution is "socio-economic upliftment" of these backward communities.

Over the decades certain sub-castes within the SCs in states across the country feel they have been lagging behind in availing the reservation rights.

Kamble said. This has led to conflicts between Mahar and Matang in Maharashtra, Jatav and Valmiki in Uttar Pradesh, and between Mala and Madiga in Telangana, he said.

"The sub-classification will help to bridge the existing gaps between backward and most backward within SCs. And it should be perceived as a move towards affirmative action to ac-

complish the stated objective of quota," he said.

"The reservation certainly has its own objective to address the social and educational discrimination," Kamble said, adding that along with it, the SCs/STs need to be economically uplifted too.

In Maharashtra, SCs make up 16% population of the state as per the 2011 Census. The reservation provided to SCs is 13% in the state, where the Mahar community is considered to be the most dominant among the SC groups.

A number of Dalit bodies and leaders in the state believe that the SC's verdict is right in principle, although they are cautious about its details and implications which, they add, need to be discussed thoroughly.

### 'WILL LEAD TO BAD BLOOD AMONG SUB-CASTES': MALLELLA VENKAT RAO

## Sole surviving petitioner of 2004 case says verdict disappointing, will file review

**REENIVAS JANYALA**  
HYDERABAD, AUGUST 1

HOURS AFTER the Supreme Court on Thursday allowed the sub-classification of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) by overturning its 2004 judgment in the E V Chinniah vs State of Andhra Pradesh, Mallella Venkat Rao who was one of the three petitioners in the case said he would file a review petition in the top court. All three were from the Mala community in Andhra Pradesh, which is viewed as one

of the prime beneficiaries of reservation while the Madiga SC group claims it has been left out.

"I am a bit disappointed by the SC verdict," said Rao, the sole surviving petitioner. "Malas have not cornered all the quota benefits as it is being projected by the other sub-castes, especially Madigas. When the seven-judge Bench started proceedings they should have summoned me to hear our side but they did not do it, while the Madiga Reservation Porata Samithi (MRPS) received the summons and they were well represented. We were against the classification of SC

castes because it is a myth that Malas corner everything from the six per cent SC quota. We believe Dalits should be given their due from the quota based on merit, that is why we oppose the classification. I will file a review."

In June 1997, after the MRPS organised a marathon rally from N Chandrababu Naidu's birthplace Naravariapalle in Chittoor district to Hyderabad, Naidu, then the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, agreed to divide the SCs into the A, B, C, and D categories. This is when E V Chinniah, Venkat Rao, and Mala Mahanadu founder P

Vigneshwara Rao challenged the Naidu government's order in the Andhra Pradesh High Court. A single-judge Bench of the court struck down the order but the Naidu government passed an Ordinance and then an Act in the Assembly and the High Court upheld the legislation. In 2001, the three activists approached the Supreme Court against the law, with Chinniah as the lead petitioner. A five-judge Constitution Bench ruled in November 2004 that micro-classification of SCs was unconstitutional. The verdict came just when Y S Rajashekara Reddy of

the Congress came to power, dislodging Naidu. In 2011, the petitioners on behalf of Punjab's Balmikis and Mazhabi Sikhs filed a petition in the SC against the Punjab High Court's ruling.

The case of Punjab's Balmikis and Mazhabi Sikhs came to the Supreme Court after the Punjab and Haryana High Court in 2006 struck down 50% quota for them among the seats reserved for SCs, citing the Chinniah judgment. It was then that Venkat Rao, Vigneshwara Rao, and Chinniah were impleaded as petitioners in the case.

**E V Chinniah's life**

Venkat Rao, Vigneshwara Rao, and Chinniah became active in Dalit politics in the 1980s and 1990s. They first met in the aftermath of the July 1985 massacre of Madiga Dalits in Karamchedu in Andhra Pradesh. They also visited Tsundur in Bapatla district after Dalits from the Mala community were massacred in August 1991.

Chinniah was an Ambedkarite and Buddhist from Nellore who settled down in Hyderabad, working as a Class IV government employee. He retired in the 1990s and did odd

jobs to earn money from book translations. "In the 1990s, we were not very organised or politically active, we were not highly educated, but we did what we felt was right," said Venkat Rao adding that Chinniah spent several years translating Dr B R Ambedkar's works The Buddha and His Dharma and Annihilation of Caste into Telugu. In November 2005, a year after the Supreme Court judgment in the case bearing his name, Chinniah died. He was 68 years old at the time. A month later, Vigneshwara Rao, who was a Class I officer in the

Andhra government's Information Department, died of a heart attack while visiting Delhi to discuss the issue with political leaders, Venkat Rao said. He was 56.

Venkat Rao said since 2000 he has been a full-time Dalit activist. "I have immersed myself in the work of upliftment of Dalits and fighting against classification. I feel that it is being done for political benefit but it will not help the Dalits in any way. Classification will also lead to bad blood among the different sub-castes. I will continue to fight against it," he said.



WORDLY WISE  
THEY CANNOT MAKE HISTORY  
WHO FORGET HISTORY.  
— B R AMBEDKAR

## The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY  
RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

# Landmark, benchmark



YOGENDRA YADAV AND PRANNV DHAWAN

Verdict on SC sub-classification is welcome, will enable evidence-based identification of the most disadvantaged

## DEEPENING JUSTICE

Allowing quotas within quotas for SC/STs, apex court expands constitutional guarantee of equality. Now politics has to mediate

MARKING A MILESTONE in the jurisprudence on affirmative action post-Mandal, the Supreme Court bench, led by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, has allowed sub-classification among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the purpose of reservation, holding that this does not violate the Constitution. Extending the principle from the OBCs to the SCs/STs, the court over-rides the 2004 verdict in the case of *EV Chinniah vs State of Andhra Pradesh*. That verdict had been used by high courts to strike down preferential measures designed by various state governments for the more downtrodden castes within the SCs. Thursday's judgment heralds a potential widening and deepening of the constitutional guarantee of equality — sub-classification, it says, must be seen as a facet of equality, not its violation, and as a movement towards its more substantive version, by expanding the sphere and scope of reservation to ensure that its benefits reach those who need it most. At the same time, conscious of the challenges in the path it opens, the Court warns against a reading that might replace the doctrine of equality with the "doctrine of classification". For all the new possibilities it inaugurates, however, the court is essentially playing catch-up — be it in UP or Bihar, Punjab or Haryana, Andhra Pradesh or Tamil Nadu, political mobilisations have both responded to and sharpened distinctions within the SC category. Going ahead, political parties will now be called upon to mediate the effects on the ground of the Court's imprimatur on the imperative to differentiate within.

The Court traces a long and arduous judicial arc — from a view of reservation as an honourable exception to the equality principle, and from seeing merit/efficiency and reservation in conflict, to challenging those binaries, and underlining that merit must be understood in terms of the social goods of equality and inclusivity. The Court recognises the difference between the OBCs and SCs — SCs suffer from a much more egregious form of social backwardness. And it takes note of arguments that sub-classification could be seen as discrimination in reverse, or that other measures, apart from reservation, could be taken to bring disadvantaged groups at par with disadvantaged groups within the SC category. Yet, it holds that the principle of sub-classification is applicable to the SCs to bring a much-needed deeper equality. It points to historical and empirical evidence that SCs are not a homogeneous category. The caste whose traditional occupation is scavenging, for instance, will be more backward than the one whose traditional occupation is weaving, even as both suffer the stigma of untouchability. There are other criteria too — certain SC groups have substantially lower literacy rates than the state average, and substantially lower representation in government jobs compared to their share in the population.

Even as it leads to a fine-tuning of affirmative action policies, many new questions will be sparked by the verdict — how are the levels of backwardness to be determined, and what will be the design of preferential policies by state governments. But the way forward will hinge, essentially, on whether the core intent of the verdict — to acknowledge and address the intense inequality within SCs — is taken on board and translated on the ground, or it becomes a pretext for political misreading and tinkering.

THE SUPREME COURT has finally removed a long-standing legal obstacle to fine-tuning the existing policies of social justice. The seven-member bench of the apex court has allowed state governments to sub-divide the reservation quota meant for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST). The Court has also opened the door for identification and exclusion of the "creamy layer" in the SC and ST categories from the benefits of affirmative action. While there can be many issues with the exact formulation and implementation of this judgment, especially the part on the creamy layer, this is a step forward in the long history of India's rich jurisprudence on reservation. On balance, this judgment would help fine-tune and deepen policies and politics of social justice in an era where the very idea of affirmative action faces an onslaught.

The Court's much awaited judgment in the *State of Punjab vs Davinder Singh* case marks the conclusion of a 20-year-long legal struggle by state governments to liberate themselves from the limits upon their power to sub-classify Scheduled Castes. The point of contention was the correct interpretation of Article 341 of the Constitution that empowers the President to notify the list of castes to be deemed as Scheduled Castes throughout the country. In 2004, a five-member bench of the Supreme Court had outlawed any policy that sought to sub-divide this category for purposes of creating sub-quotas. In this *EV Chinniah* case, the bench unanimously took an ultra-technical view of Article 341 and held that all the Scheduled Castes, across the diverse social geographies within the states, were a homogenous class that could not be sub-divided.

The judgment in *EV Chinniah* suffered from a basic disconnect with social reality. It failed to acknowledge that categories like Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe are very large baskets that contain social groups of different status, based on different traditional occupations and, therefore, varying degrees of disadvantage. Historically, they had very uneven exposure to modern education and were therefore unequally placed to take advantage of policies of affirmative action. Just look at the

stark inequalities of educational levels shown by the latest caste survey data among different castes within the SC category in Bihar. Of every 10,000 persons, 124 Dhobis had decent (PG or professional) higher education degrees, while this number was 45 for the Dusadh community and just one for the most disadvantaged Musahar community. In Tamil Nadu, while Arunthathiyars were about 16 per cent of the SC population of the state, their presence among SC government employees was just about 0.5 per cent. The commonsensical solution to this gross inequality was to divide the category into two or more sub-categories and earmark separate quotas for each subgroup depending on their share in population. Yet, attempts by the state governments in Punjab, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar fell foul of the court's ruling.

At long last, following the observations by CJI R M Lodha in 2014 and a five-member bench judgment in 2020, the case was referred to a seven-member bench for final disposal. The majority decision of the court, authored by the CJI himself, has firmly prioritised substance over form and held that the state governments are competent to sub-classify the Scheduled Castes in order to identify groups that merit more beneficial treatment. The judgment authored by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud appreciates the import of distributive justice within the extremely heterogeneous Scheduled Castes. It affirms that equal protection of the law is not a rule that forbids both "the beggar and the king" from begging in the streets.

By shedding the formal legalism that underlay *EV Chinniah*, the court has demonstrated sensitivity towards the most disadvantaged sections within the Scheduled Castes and charts the course for resolving their historic grievances. At the same time, notwithstanding contrary remarks by Justice Pankaj Mishra, the judgment consolidates and reinforces the socio-legal consensus on the necessity of a principled caste-conscious affirmative action regime that was established in the *Indra Sawhney* judgment of 1992. It thus enriches the struggle for a broader, more effective and fairer, affirmative-action regime.

The spirit that pervades the majority

opinions is that any classifications within the social justice policy must be reasonable and rational. It affirms the long-standing requirement of evidence-based policies of social justice, something the court had nearly abandoned in its curious judgment upholding the EWS quota. Incidentally, this reminder of data-driven policy fortifies the imperative for a nation-wide caste Census.

Can the same logic be extended for the "creamy layer" within the Scheduled Castes? So far, the policy of excluding the privileged sections ("creamy layer" in the language of the *Indra Sawhney* judgment) within the reserved category was applicable to the OBC, but not to the SC or ST category. While this issue was not referred to the Constitution Bench, Justice B R Gavai held that the ground reality of the disparities within the beneficiary groups are too pronounced to be ignored. He puts it eloquently that treating the child of a bureaucrat and a manual labourer alike, even if both belong to the SC community, would defeat the constitutional mandate. At the same time, as Justice Vikram Nath clarifies, the criteria for identification of "creamy layer" would have to be different from that used in the case of OBCs.

A landmark judgment like this is bound to be disputed both in legal and political circles. This might be seen as the thin end of the wedge that may lead to dilution of the affirmative-action regime. Politically, it may be seen as aiding the current regime's designs to divide Dalits. Frankly, both these readings ignore the ground reality of internal differences and discrimination accompanied by political resentment among the most disadvantaged Dalit communities. Those committed to the policies and politics of social justice must not push such issues under the carpet. Instead, they should welcome this judgment and demand careful evidence-based identification of the most disadvantaged communities and provisions to ensure that the sub-division and the creamy layer do not become a route to divert SC/ST quota seats to non-reserved categories.

Yadav is member, Swaraj India and Dhawan is a Delhi-based advocate and legal researcher

## A SEPTEMBER PIVOT

US Fed hints at cutting rates in its next meeting, shifts focus to its dual mandate

IN ITS JULY meeting, the US Federal Reserve decided, in line with expectations, to keep interest rates steady. The federal funds rate remains at 5.25 to 5.5 per cent. However, the change in the tone of the accompanying commentary indicates the possibility of a policy pivot in the near term. Federal Reserve chairman Jerome Powell said that if inflation moves in line with expectations, "a reduction in our policy rate could be on the table" in the September meeting. The Dow Jones index rose with markets seeing greater visibility on interest rate cuts. Other central banks in developed economies have already embarked on the path of easing policy rates. In its June meeting, the European Central Bank had cut interest rates as price pressures weakened in the Euro region. In July, the Bank of Canada had also reduced interest rates, its second straight rate cut. And on Thursday, the Bank of England also lowered interest rates by 25 basis points to 5 per cent.

The Fed's policy statement noted that that has been "some further progress" towards achieving the 2 per cent inflation target. In June, inflation, based on the personal consumption expenditure index, rose 2.5 per cent. There is also the indication of the committee shifting focus from being solely fixated on inflation to being "attentive to the risks to both sides of its dual mandate" — inflation and employment. The unemployment rate in the US has risen to 4.1 per cent. With many in the market now pencilling in the first rate cut in September, attention will now turn to the quantum of cuts in the near term. This could have implications for emerging economies. As the International Monetary Fund had noted in the July update of the World Economic Outlook, "a number of central banks in emerging market economies remain cautious in regard to cutting rates owing to external risks triggered by changes in interest rate differentials and associated depreciation of those economies' currencies against the dollar."

In its last meeting, the RBI's monetary policy committee had voted in favour of maintaining the status quo on interest rates. While two members on the committee — Ashima Goyal and Jayanth Varma — voted in favour of reducing interest rates and changing the policy stance, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has recently restated his position, saying that "it is too premature to talk about interest rate cuts". In the coming months, as greater clarity emerges on the trajectory of food inflation, the path of interest rates will become clearer.

## TASTES LIKE GOLD

After defeating Italy in fencing at the Olympics, Hong Kong's celebrations with pineapple on pizza cut even closer to the bone

HOW DOES VICTORY taste? Like pineapple on pizza, according to Hong Kong. Following its win over Italy in the men's foil final at the Paris Olympics, a food fight ensued. Italy, which has long dominated fencing at the Olympics, took its defeat poorly, registering an official complaint against the refereeing in the gold medal bout. The Chinese territory retaliated by hitting out at Italy's proud culinary tradition. Hong Kongers boasted about enjoying pizza with pineapple and pasta with soy sauce, while the Hong Kong and Macau branches of Pizza Hut celebrated by offering free pineapple toppings. Touché, as they say in fencing.

That outraged sentiment has been expressed in culinary terms is not surprising considering that of all possible insults, the ones that can pierce through the thickest skins are often based on food. Sometimes, as in the case of fans of West Bengal's rival football teams, Mohun Bagan — who swear by their prawns — and East Bengal — who consider the hilsa to be far superior — food is a harmless expression of difference. Occasionally, though, contestations over food can escalate into international legal wrangles, like Greece's lawsuit in the European Court staking sole claim to feta.

Regarding pineapple on pizza, there is no sign yet of an escalation. With even Gino Sobrillo, one of Italy's best known pizzaiolos, embracing the fruit as a topping, Italians may feel that the conversation around pizza moved on long ago. Or it could be that there is a growing acceptance of pizza as a global food, not just a part of Italian heritage. In any case, even a slice of pineapple pizza is sure to taste better than the loss of a gold medal.



KHINVRAJ JANGID

## ON A PRECARIOUS EDGE

Netanyahu has chosen a path of escalation that should worry friends and allies

WITH THE KILLING of Hamas political wing chief Ismail Haniyeh, the Israel-Hamas war is at, arguably, its most volatile. Israel has not taken responsibility for the assassination, though it did so for the death of Hezbollah leader Fuad Shukr in Lebanon. It is clear that the Israeli army and intelligence have been looking for the Hamas leadership since October 7. "They are living on borrowed time," said defence minister Yoav Gallant declaring that Israel will target leaders of Hamas.

Will the killing of Haniyeh compel Hamas to accept the deal to free Israeli hostages? Will Iran get involved in the conflict more directly? These questions hang in the air. What is clear is that Benjamin Netanyahu, after his maximalist rhetoric in no less a place than the joint session of the US Congress, has chosen escalation over a ceasefire.

Israeli leaders, in war and peace, tend to derive plenty of domestic appeal, international leverage and attention by showcasing the privileges, invitations and meetings they can get from the American political establishment. Consider this: Netanyahu, a leader who has been controversial for a long time in domestic politics and the international arena, made headlines by addressing, for the fourth time, a joint session of the Congress. Winston Churchill got such a privilege only three times. Netanyahu has been distrusted and criticised for his position on the two-state solution by US presidents including Bill Clinton, Barack Obama and Joe Biden. He is also disliked by many, if not most, in the US Jewish diaspora. In

Israel, there are near-daily mass protests over his failure to protect the people on October 7 and his prioritising attacking Gaza over a compromise that could free hostages.

Despite all this, he was invited to address the US Congress largely due to the Republican Party's desire to show support for Israel to appeal to Jewish and evangelical voters. Biden and most Democrats avoided such an invitation for over two years as they sided with the pro-democracy public protests against Netanyahu's judicial "reforms".

There are those in America — Democrats especially — who support Israel as a legitimate state for the Jews (based on the two-state solution of the United Nations and later the Oslo Peace Process), a democracy (albeit contested), and an innovative, free market. Many in the Republican party support Israel because of Biblical notions around the holy land of Jerusalem, Jews and Jesus. The neo-conservatives and foreign-policy hawks see Israel as an asset in the Middle East. They are hardly concerned about the incremental death of a two-state solution or a Palestinian state.

There are also socio-cultural and religious factors at play. According to Walter Russell Mead — one of the most prolific contemporary scholars of international affairs — gentile Americans are staunch supporters of Israel because they believe "the Jews belonged in the Holy Land and the Holy Land belonged to the Jews. The Jews would never prosper until they were home and free, and the land would never bloom until its rightful owners returned".

Netanyahu, thus, knew that it did not matter that Biden sided with the pro-democracy movement before October 7 and that he could ignore "red lines" drawn by the White House. He was invited to America by Congressional leaders and House Speaker Mike Johnson, a Republican.

In his speech, he was confident and received standing ovations and applause. He did not appear the leader of a country that is war-torn, with more than a hundred hostages still captive in Gaza and more than 100,000 people in the north of Israel homeless due to rocket and drone attacks from Hezbollah. Nor did he seem to care that international organisations have accused him and his government of war crimes, causing humanitarian crises and indiscriminate killing in Gaza.

Netanyahu said that Israel, by keeping Iran in check, is "protecting you (America)". This would have hit Israelis particularly hard — with hostages still with Hamas, deaths from October 7 and beyond on their minds — who were not "protected".

The assassination of Haniyeh has now made matters all the more precarious. Benjamin Netanyahu has chosen a path of escalation — despite pressure from Joe Biden and others — that should worry the friends and allies of Israel.

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## AUGUST 2, 1984, FORTY YEARS AGO

### POLICE FIRING KILLS 5

FIVE PERSONS WERE killed and 70 injured when the police opened fire on a violent mob in Srinagar. Curfew has been clamped on eight mohallahs, known as the strongholds of the pro-Plebiscite Awami Action Committee leader Maulvi Farooq. The injured included 43 policemen who were victims of stone-throwing at Dalai Mohallah, Bohri Kadal, Baghalias, Nawakadal and Sarafkadal.

### UP'S NEW CM

THE 743-DAY-OLD SRIPATI Misra ministry bowed out of office clearing decks for Union

Industry Minister Narain Dutt Tiwari to assume the chief ministership of Uttar Pradesh. Sripati Misra handed over his resignation to Governor C P N Singh. The Governor asked Misra to continue till a new leader of the Congress legislature party is elected. The party meeting will be held this week to formally elect Tiwari as its leader in place of Misra.

### PAK GETS US ARMS

PRIME MINISTER MRS Indira Gandhi expressed deep concern at the induction of sophisticated US arms into Pakistan and the malicious anti-Indian propaganda in the Pak media and said these were not conducive to

improvement in bilateral relations. Accusing Pakistan of taking advantage of the situation in Afghanistan to acquire arms, the Prime Minister told the Lok Sabha that this had only increased tension in the region.

### INDIA'S HOCKEY STAR

INDIA, INSPIRED BY a brilliant hattrick from defender Vineet Kumar, trounced Malaysia 3-1 in their second group 'A' match of the Olympic Hockey Tournament in Los Angeles. In a match marred by frayed tempers, many of them provoked by decisions from the Egyptian umpire Al-Mohanis, Vineet scored all the goals from penalty corners.

# 15 THE IDEAS PAGE

## When the clouds gather

Behind India's monsoon woes lie poor civic maintenance, ageing infrastructure and the failure of policymakers to make essential connections between urban planning and climate change



KAUSHIK DAS GUPTA

AFTER HEAVY RAINS submerged large parts of Delhi and adjoining NCR cities on Wednesday, paralysing traffic and taking a toll of lives — not for the first time in the last two months — the question that inevitably arises is: Why are Indian cities never prepared for the monsoon? Among the many seemingly complicated reasons for their troubled relationship with the rains is a rather unglamorous term — drainage system. Ancient and medieval civilisations had their ways of channelling water — the hydrological acumen of the Indus Valley cities is well-known. But in modern times, when the ground is all concrete and tarmac — not the best sponges — city planners rarely take cues from the past, that's only romanticised politically. The runoff has scarcely any outlet. It accumulates in low-lying areas, inundating roads, underpasses, houses, offices, railway tracks, basements. Urban India, it is increasingly becoming evident, cannot deal with short but intense spells of rainfall, one of the hallmarks of climate change.

Another increasingly noticeable facet of climate change is hyper-local torrential rainfall. On July 26, Delhi's ridge area reported 99 mm of rainfall. A day later, when a drain burst resulted in the gruesome tragedy that took three young lives, Pusa — near the site of the fatal incident in Old Rajinder Nagar — recorded 58 mm. The IMD classifies 64 mm as heavy rainfall. Delhi's nearly 50-year-old drainage system, by all accounts, cannot handle even 50 mm. The already unsafe basement-run coaching centre, as a report in this newspaper has pointed out, carried out its business from a saucer-shaped stretch, making it even more prone to severe waterlogging. Last week, 26-year-old UPSC aspirant Nilesch Rai tried to avoid one such waterlogged street, not far from the ill-fated coaching centre. Rai reportedly hopped across a dry patch and held onto the iron gate near his PG's building to cross the clogged section and within seconds, he was electrocuted — the gate was in contact with an exposed electric wire. On Wednesday, high-tension wires claimed three more lives of people near the flooded IFFCO metro station in Gurugram.

Most of the past cities that make up Delhi were situated on an elevated plane, which allowed them to flush out water. But town planning in the Lutyens and post-Lutyens eras has followed a radial or block pattern. Urban expansion, and infrastructure creation, have rarely followed the natural contours and inclines of the city — these often change every few kilometres — which provides an outlet to the run-off. The Minto underpass, one of the first areas that becomes a receptacle for the rains in Delhi, for instance, is a depression bounded by elevated areas. The underpass came under water on Wednesday, and so did Old Rajinder Nagar.

The neglect of hydrology has pushed cities with vastly different geological features — Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru for instance — towards similar water-related predicaments.



C.R. Sasikumar

Created by flattening hills and "reclaiming" lands from the sea — a project that began in colonial times and continued after Independence — Mumbai, whose climate vulnerabilities have been underlined by several studies, is a mix of low-lying areas and hills. When it rains, the water collects in the city's central depression. During the monsoons, at least one day, virtually the entire city goes under water; its lifeline, the railway system stops. The high tides complicate matters. Increasingly, after the disastrous floods of 2005, the city's trysts with bad-weather days are becoming longer.

Climate change affects everyone. It's well-known, however, that the brunt of floods, heat waves, and extreme cold is borne by the poor and the lower-middle classes. Infrastructure development in urban India has not done justice to these sections, even though the political class knows the power of their votes. Master plans rarely factor in informal settlements, including slums and dwellings of communities that build cities. The waste from urban underbellies, outside the sewerage network, finds its way to the stormwater drainage system and clogs it. A furious spell of rainfall often means an invasion of murky water into homes in these invisible localities, bringing in their wake disease and livelihood disruptions.

The coaching centre, Nilesch Rai and other tragedies show the failure of planners and policymakers to make other connections as well. Rajinder Nagar and its neighbourhoods were created as Partition refugee settlements. A socio-economic map of Delhi would today mark out these areas for middle and upper-middle-class houses, one-room tenements rented to students and UPSC aspirants as well as slums.

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In pre-modern Delhi, rivulets and small streams once carried fresh water from the Aravallis, and during the monsoons they became stormwater outlets, swiftly draining Delhi dry within a few hours of heavy rainfall. Today, they are either built upon or are *ganda nallahs*. One such water course, the Jarhalla Nallah in Karol Bagh, a few kilometres from Rajinder Nagar, became one of these *ganda nallahs*. Today, it has been covered.

If the natural water-flushing systems have been debilitated and destroyed, the modern drainage mechanisms have become victims of neglect. Delhi's drainage system dates back to 1976, when some of these *ganda nallahs* were not covered. Mumbai's drainage network is about 100 years old. Gurugram's limited drainage capacity, which results in the Badshahpur drain overflowing during heavy rains and the disruption of the flow of natural water outlets, goes against its claim of being India's Millennium City. The drain carries millions of litres of sewage every day and discharges it into Delhi's Najafgarh *nallah* — named after the 18th century Mughal official Mirza Najaf Khan and part of an eponymous *jheel* teeming with birds, linked to the rainfed Sahibi river, along whose banks remnants of Indus civilisation cities have been found.

In the wake of the coaching centre tragedy, welcome conversations have begun on regulating commercial buildings, urban infrastructure, and even desilting drains. More needs to be done. Planners need to join the dots between drainage system, hydrology, climate change-induced weather vagaries, and the inexorable pull of cities as centres of upward mobility — and their inequities.

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## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Iran will not feel that it can ignore this attack, made shortly after Haniyeh attended the inauguration of its new president. Instead of projecting its strength, Tehran has been humiliated by a glaring intelligence failure at a time of heightened security." — THE GUARDIAN

## Stories from a cancer centre

Accompanying a friend who had been diagnosed with the Big C, I saw how patients juggle hope and resilience



ZERO HOUR BY DEREK O'BRIEN

THERE ARE SO many ways to spend a Friday morning, 9 am to 11 am. One could be glued to an outdated iPhone 12, sending sundry text messages while stuck in traffic. Or lounging in bright blue pyjamas contrasted with a starched white linen shirt in the study at home, to look sharp for the call on Google Teams at 10. Or mindlessly watching YouTube Shorts over morning tea, sipping the vicarious pleasure of a blooper made by a political rival. Or pretending to be polite on an intrusive phone call from a pushy Delhi acquaintance. Rush. Rush. Busy. Busy. That's why they call us the human race!

But one Friday morning last month, I found myself taking a break from the human race. Two and a half hours at a most unlikely location: The reception area at the David H Koch Center for Cancer Care at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York. A dear friend's 59-year-old wife had recently been diagnosed with Stage 4 metastatic non-small-cell lung cancer, which had spread to the calf muscle. My spouse and I accompanied our friends to their first appointment with the oncologist, an expert in large-cell cancers. The patient, her husband and Tonusa, my wife, were with the specialist on the third floor for a little over two hours. I opted for a lonely beige sofa just inside the main entrance of the renowned facility.

I put my mobile phone on silent and stored it away in the pocket of my tracksuit bottom. This was a morning to take pictures in my mind. Just observe. The fantasy captions would write themselves.

Sitting right across me on another beige sofa was a couple who looked to be in their late 70s or even 80s. They had picked up coffee from the cafeteria at one end of the reception and chatted away with the enthusiasm of collegians on their first date. Obviously, one of them had the Big C. I couldn't tell who. They were enjoying each other's company. Then there was a mum in a wheelchair who was screaming at her son on the phone. He was late, so she decided to go upstairs for her appointment herself.

Who else did I see at the reception? Stories without names. A man with a caregiver who might have been a colleague, a neighbour or a friend. Then, a stylishly turned-out couple in their 50s, who could have well been on holiday on a beach in

Hawaii. But no. Here they were, checking in early for a doctor's appointment in Manhattan.

No one says it better, on this subject than Siddhartha Mukherjee in his must-read, *The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer*. Mukherjee writes, "But the story of leukaemia — the story of cancer — isn't the story of doctors who struggle and survive, moving from one institution to another. It is the story of patients who struggle and survive, moving from one embankment of illness to another. Resilience, inventiveness, and survivorship — qualities often ascribed to great physicians — are reflected qualities, emanating first from those who struggle with illness and only then mirrored by those who treat them. If the history of medicine is told through the stories of doctors, it is because their contributions stand in place of the more substantive heroism of their patients."

After the poetry of Siddhartha Mukherjee's writing, here is the prose of the reality of cancer in India:

- One out of nine people is expected to face a cancer diagnosis during their lifetime.
- The estimated number of new cancer cases in India was 14.6 lakh in 2022.
- After cardiovascular diseases, cancer has become the leading cause of death in India.
- Every eight minutes, one woman dies of cervical cancer in the country.
- Lung and mouth cancer are the most common cancers affecting men. For women, it is breast and cervix cancer, and lymphoid leukaemia for children below the age of 14.
- One of the major causes leading to cancer is tobacco use, associated with 35 to 50 per cent of all cancers in men and 17 per cent in women.
- Every day, 3,700 people die of tobacco-related diseases.
- Four per cent of all cancers diagnosed in India are those affecting children.

One of the earliest communication campaigns to increase cancer awareness was created in 1978 by Ogilvy & Mather for the Indian Cancer Society. As David Ogilvy wrote in his masterpiece *Ogilvy on Advertising*, "The purpose of the campaign was to change attitudes from ignorance and fatalism to understanding and optimism. Only then could people be persuaded to have regular check-ups at the free clinics of the Society."

The advertising campaign with "positive messaging" featured happy pictures of "real patients" who had been cured of cancer. The caption to these joyous photographs was a simple yet powerful message: "Life after cancer... it's worth living".

The writer is MP and leader, All India Trinamool Congress Parliamentary Party (Rajya Sabha). Additional research by Ayashman Dey

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### DEATH TRAPS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Hope and heartbreak' (IE, August 1). UPSC is one of the toughest examinations. Parents from impoverished backgrounds sell their land and borrow money to send their wards to these coaching centres. These centres have mushroomed across India. The death of three civil services aspirants after being trapped in the flooded basement of a coaching institute in Old Rajinder Nagar is heart-breaking. This is a serious matter as the unregulated growth of coaching centres is leading to the flouting of building rules and regulations. Accountability needs to be fixed and strict action taken against the guilty.

SS Paul, Chaldaha, Nadia

### CHANGE PRIORITIES

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'The slipping land' (IE, August 1). With the landslides in Wayanad taking over 150 lives, the government's failure to abate the area's well-known ecological vulnerabilities has been exposed. But an unregulated tourist boom has also played a key role in the catastrophe. This factor deserves all the more attention, because it is seen wreaking havoc across several tourist hotspots in the country. The nexus between the business class and the political class serves both. As recommended by the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel, Kerala must discourage engineering projects in ecologically sensitive areas and constitute empowered expert committees to study the viability of alternate projects. Governments have to change their priorities. What took centuries to build, we are ruining without thought.

Sanjay Chopra, Mohali

### MATTER OF LIBERTY

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'A two-pronged response' (IE, August 1). While the Maharashtra Special Public Security Bill allegedly aims to target Naxalism, it exacerbates the issue by broadening the scope of what constitutes an "unlawful activity". This could have severe consequences for civil liberties. The provision that any action which interferes with public order or the administration of law can be deemed unlawful is alarmingly vague, and if the goal is to indeed curb violence, it should be stated explicitly. The UAPA, though not flawless, offers a framework for national security, and rather than creating new laws with broad powers, the focus should be on improving and balancing the existing ones.

Swarnava Mitra, Kolkata

### MAKE AN EXCEPTION

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Gadkari urges FM to withdraw 18% GST on life and medical insurance premiums' (IE, August 1). While this has been a long-standing demand from multiple quarters, the fact that the finance minister's senior cabinet colleague has also endorsed it now underscores its significance. Given the abysmal state of social and health security of Indians, especially when its elderly are rising in number, a hefty 18 per cent tax on premiums paid by them to protect themselves and their families from risks is unfair. Even though the GST's fundamental feature is that of a consumption-based tax with uniform and equal tax rates for specific goods and services independent of consumers' income or social standing, the rationale for exempting certain insurance plans from GST necessitates an exception.

Kamal Laddha, Bengaluru

## Central Hall to glass house

In the new Parliament building, spaces for journalists have shrunk



NEERJA CHOWDHURY

THE "GLASS HOUSE" that has come up for journalists near gate number 12 of the old Parliament building — its merits notwithstanding — is the latest symbol of the spaces that have been shrinking for the media.

Journalists can sit and wait in this 20 by 10 ten feet *dabba*-like structure, a container converted into an air-conditioned glass house with two TV screens, and facilities for water, tea and coffee. Politicians can walk around and talk to the media persons sitting inside if they so desire — almost like a favour bestowed on them.

In the days of old, before the new Parliament building came up, there used to be two canopies in the Parliament complex where media persons, particularly TV journalists, used to wait so that they could rush to catch MPs and ministers as they emerged out of the Parliament building (from gates 12, 1 and 4) and get their response to what was happening inside. They would surround them, put a mic under their nose and shoot questions.

After the new building came up, journalists would wait for the MPs to come out of the Makar Gate, one of the six gates in the new building. Earlier, too, the area around the Makar Gate had a cordon of sorts — journo would duck under it and often climb up the steps towards the gate to speak to MPs as they emerged.

Makar Gate is now exclusively for the use of parliamentarians. Journalists are seen hanging around for hours (in the humid July-August heat) outside the barricaded area. Or

they can sit more comfortably inside the glass house not far away, waiting for political leaders to come across to them.

There are few spaces for the media in the new Parliament. There are, of course, the press galleries, but the number of journalists allowed in today is far fewer. One of the purposes behind the new structure was to accommodate more people than was possible in the old, 1927 building designed by Edward Lutyens and Herbert Baker.

There is a media lounge and a briefing room in the new Parliament but they are located outside (in what is called the North Utility Building). There is also a workstation in the basement to facilitate the filing of stories. What is striking is the absence of free spaces where politicians and media persons can sit down over a cup of tea/coffee and chat. Where dialogue can take place as it should in a vibrant, plural and cacophonous democracy. The glass *dabba* is also a reminder of the transition that has taken place from the "old" to the "new" order, from the once vibrant, lively, high domed "Central Hall" to a tiny, constricted "glass house".

The Central Hall is still there in the old building (rechristened Samvidhan Sadan) but the media is no longer allowed there. The standup fans there still slowly whirr away; the portraits of those who laid the foundations of a free and modern India — Nehru, Sardar Patel, C Rajagopalachari, Maulana Azad and many others — still adorn its walls. There is Gandhi at one end and Savarkar at the other, representing two poles of thinking.

Free and unrestrained exchanges would take place in the Central Hall over cups of coffee or fragrant Darjeeling tea — with the old Coffee Board staff claiming how they would take a cup of freshly brewed coffee for the then PM Indira Gandhi at 9 am to start her day!

The many historic events the Central Hall witnessed over the decades made it a proud symbol of the divergence of views which could co-exist in India. The debates of the Constituent Assembly took place here from 1946-49. It was here that Jawaharlal Nehru made his epochal, "tryst with destiny" speech at midnight on August 14-15, 1947.

These circular walls saw the political shenanigans that elevated Vishwanath Pratap Singh as the seventh Prime Minister in 1989. Devi Lal was declared the leader first — the UNI reporter charged out of the Hall shouting "It's Devi Lal for PM" only to say a couple of minutes later, "Kill the story". In a dramatic turn of events, Devi Lal had named VP Singh the prospective PM.

It was in the Central Hall that Sonia Gandhi renounced the prime ministership in 2004. It was also here that Narendra Modi walked across to a copy of the Constitution in June 2024 and bowed before it at the start of his third stint in office. It was here that MPs almost climbed over each other to shake the hand of the then US President Bill Clinton in 2000.

Central Hall enabled ruling party politicians to talk to their counterparts across the political divide. An Arun Jaitley-P

Chidambaram meeting in a corner sorted out an impasse between the BJP and Congress. It enabled, for instance, the ruling Congress to toughen the nuclear liability law during Manmohan Singh's term. During A B Vajpayee's premiership, one could hear Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pramod Mahajan tell the Opposition leaders, "You have made your point by stalling Parliament, now let's get down to business."

Jaitley would be surrounded by journalists when he arrived for his "adda" in the Central Hall. Journalists from different states of India could meet and exchange views. For the media, the Central Hall provided a space for congenial, off-the-record interactions. Senior journalists, who became eligible for entry, could pick up behind-the-scenes information that gave them deeper insights into the workings of India's democracy.

It was the late Vice President Krishan Kant who had once declared in Parliament, "When you stifle the flow of information to the people, you are blocking the channel of information to yourself."

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has now promised to set up an all-party committee to address the media's concerns. There is no equivalent of a Central Hall in the new Parliament building — it is "a Central Hall" that the Speaker should consider restoring to enable the media to access information and play its role in our democracy.

The writer is contributing editor, The Indian Express

Debts Recovery Tribunal-I, Delhi 4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

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Table with 8 columns: S. No., Tender Portal No., Name of work, District, Probable Amount Contract (Rs. in lakh), Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (in Rs.), Cost of Bid Document (in Rs.), Period of completion (in months i/c Rainy Season). Rows include ZONAL TENDER FOR SMALL CONSTRUCTION WORK, Construction of 04 No Barrack, Construction of High School Building, etc.

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SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT O/o Additional Director, Pre-Examination Training Centre, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Bhavan, Vasanthanagar, Bengaluru-01. Ph: 080-2207784

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PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PWD, RAIPUR CIRCLE NO.-1, RAIPUR. (C.G.) REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) (1st Call) No.05/Raipur/2024-25 Raipur, Dated, 29.07.2024 Public Works Department (PWD) invites proposal for Planning, Design, Estimation and related services for the work Request for Proposal (RFP) for selection of Architects for the Construction work of 200 Government House Near The New Assembly (Year 2024-25) (Budget Item No.245 Budget Year 2024-25)

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JUSTICE VIKRAM NATH



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JUSTICE PANKAJ MITHAL



JUSTICE BELA M TRIVEDI

“Can a child of IAS/IPS or Civil Service Officers be equated with a child of a disadvantaged member belonging to Scheduled Castes, studying in a Gram Panchayat/Zilla Parishad school in a village?”

JUSTICE B R GAVAI

When substantial judicial time and resources are spent on the References by the Constitution Benches, the same should not be... referred to the larger Bench by a smaller Bench, in a casual... manner, and without recording the reasons for disagreement.

JUSTICE BELA M TRIVEDI

**STATES CAN CREATE SUB-CLASSIFICATIONS WITHIN SC & ST QUOTA... TO GIVE THEM WIDER PROTECTIONS: APEX COURT**

# Sub-classification of SC, ST

Are all Scheduled Castes to be treated similarly? Can states tinker with SC list? What is the yardstick for sub-classification? Here is what SC ruled

AJOY SINHA KARPURAM  
 NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

In A landmark judgement, a seven-judge Bench of the Supreme Court on Thursday re-framed how the Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) quota may operate — for the very first time since reservations were introduced in the Constitution in 1950.

In a 6:1 ruling, the Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud permitted states to create sub-classifications within the SC and ST categories for the purpose of according wider protections — through fixed sub-quotas — to the most backward communities within these categories. This overturns the apex court’s 2004 decision in *E V Chinnaiah v State of Andhra Pradesh*, in which it had held that the SC/ST list is a “homogeneous group” that cannot be divided further.

The ruling had six separate opinions — five in favour of sub-classification, and a lone dissent by Justice Bela Trivedi.

**Some context**

Article 341 of the Constitution allows the President, through a public notification, to list as SC “castes, races or tribes” that suffered from the historical injustice of untouchability. SC groups are jointly accorded 15% reservation in education and public employment.

Over the years, some groups within the SC list have been underrepresented compared to others. States have made attempts to extend more protection to these groups, but the issue has run into judicial scrutiny.

In 1975, Punjab issued a notification giving first preference in SC reservations to the Balmiki and Mazhabi Sikh communities, two of the most backward communities in the state. This was challenged in 2004 after the apex court struck down a similar law in Andhra Pradesh in *E V Chinnaiah*.

The court had held that any attempts to create a differentiation within the SC list would essentially amount to tinkering with it, for which the Constitution did not empower states. Article 341 only empowers the President to issue such a notification, and Parliament to make additions or deletions to the list. The court also said that sub-classifying SCs violates the right to equality under Article 14.

Based on this ruling, in 2006, the Punjab & Haryana High Court in *Dr. Kishan Pal v State of Punjab* struck down the aforementioned 1975 notification. However, the very same year, the Punjab government again passed the Punjab Scheduled Caste and Backward Classes (Reservation in Services) Act, 2006, reintroducing the first preference in reservations for the Balmiki and Mazhabi Sikh communities.

This Act was challenged by Davinder Singh, a member of a non-Balmiki, non-Mazhabi Sikh SC community. The HC, in 2010, struck down the Act, leading to an appeal at the Supreme Court. In 2014, the case was referred to a five-judge Constitution Bench to determine if the *E V Chinnaiah* decision had to be reconsidered.

## State by state, prominent tribal & Dalit communities

**MAHARASHTRA**

More than three dozen SC communities; **Mahar** and **Matang** are most prominent. Mahar are socio-politically proactive, with comparatively high literacy. Large numbers followed Dr BR Ambedkar in embracing Buddhism in 1956. Matang are the second largest SC community; majority are Hindu. **Gond**, who live in Vidarbha, especially in Gadchiroli and Chandrapur districts, and **Bhil**, who are concentrated in North Maharashtra districts of Nandurbar, Nashik, and Dhule, are two largest tribes.

**RAJASTHAN**

59 SCs in State List; **Meghal** is largest SC community, spread across the state, but mainly in border districts of Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Barmer, Jodhpur. **Bairwa** and **Jatav** are dominant in eastern Rajasthan. **Meena** are most dominant tribe; influence electoral outcome in dozens of Assembly seats. Community has significant presence in police and bureaucracy countrywide. **Bhil**, some of whom do not consider themselves Hindu, are dominant in Banswara and Dungarpur districts, and have of late rallied behind a new tribal party.

**ODISHA**

Tribals are 22.85% of state’s population and 9.17% to India’s tribal population (2011 Census). State has 62 tribes and 13 other primitive tribes. **Khond** are numerically largest; live mostly in southern Odisha districts of Rayagada, Kandhamal, Kalahandi, Koraput. **Santal** are second largest tribal group, followed by **Gond**. 93 SCs in state; 17.13% of total population (2011). **Pan** are dominant

In 2020, the Justice Arun Mishra-headed Constitution Bench in *Davinder Singh v State of Punjab* held that the court’s 2004 decision required reconsideration. The ruling noted that the court and the state “cannot be a silent spectator and shut its eyes to stark realities”. Crucially, it disagreed with the premise that SC are a homogeneous group, saying there are “unequals within the list of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and socially and educationally backward classes.” But since this Bench, like in *E V Chinnaiah*, comprised five judges, a seven-judge Bench heard the issue in February 2024. Here are the



SC community, followed by **Dom**. Other SC communities include **Dhoba**, **Ganda**, **Kandra**, **Bauri**.

**CHHATTISGARH**

STs are more than 30% of state’s 2.55 crore population (2011). **Gond** are most dominant of the 43 tribal communities; constitute almost 55% of tribal population. **Kawar/Kanwar** (over 11%) and **Oraon** (almost 10%) people are next. As per the 2011 Census, 44 SC groups make up 12.7% of state’s population. Largest group among the SCs constitutes more than 70% of the Dalit population, and is known by 16 different names, such as **Bairwa**, **Raidas**, etc.

**MADHYA PRADESH**

SCs are about 15.6% of state’s population. Members of the largest Dalit group, which makes up more than 47% of the SC community’s numbers, were traditionally leather workers and live across the state. The **Balai**, who live in the Malwa region, constitute about 12% of the state’s SC population (2011).

STs are 21% of the population. The **Bhil** are the largest community, making up more than 39% of the tribal population. The **Gond** are the other large community, approximately a third of the state’s ST population.

**WEST BENGAL**

**Rajbanshi** are largest SC group, comprising more than 18% of state’s 21.4 million SCs (2011); can influence electoral outcomes in 20 Assembly seats in North Bengal. **Matua** are now the second largest SC group; they are mostly concentrated in North and South 24-Parganas, and in border districts like Nadia, Howrah, Cooch Behar, North and South Dinajpur and Malda. The Matua religion was founded by Harichand Thakur in the 19th century, who worked among the “untouchables”. The third largest SC community are the **Bagdi**, who live mainly in Bankura and Birbhum.

**GUJARAT**

27 Dalit castes; **Vankar**, whose traditional occupation is weaving, make

up around 35-40% of SC population in state, and lead other Dalit communities in education and jobs. **Rohit**, who are around 25-30% of the SC population, are the next most dominant SC community. **Bhil** constitute almost 43% of the tribal population, and live mainly in the districts of Dang, Panchmahal, Bharuch, Banaskantha and Sabarkantha. **Halpali**, who live mainly in the southern districts of Surat, Navsari, Bharuch, and Valsad, constitute more than 6% of state’s tribals.

**ASSAM**

Tribal population is 12.4% of total population (2011 Census). Fifteen recognised tribes in autonomous districts of Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills; 14 in rest of the state. **Bodo** are the largest tribe (35.1% of the tribal population) and politically most powerful. **Karbi** are the largest hill tribe and third largest tribe in state.

**TRIPURA**

19 recognised tribal communities make up more than 30% of state’s population. Ancient Tripuri clan includes the **Debbarma** community, the erstwhile ruling dynasty of Tripura. There are 34 SCs in state, who make up almost 18% of the population (2011). SCs include the **Das**, **Badyakar**, **Shabdakar**, **Sarkar**, etc communities.

**UTTARAKHAND**

Thakur and Brahmin are around 55% of the population; OBC are about 18%, and SCs and STs together are just about 22% (2011). **Harijan** and **Balmiki**, both of whom follow Hindu religious practices, are the largest SC groups. The **Jaunsari** and **Tharu** are the two largest ST groups in the state.

which... is not adequately represented in the services of the State”.

The court, in *E V Chinnaiah*, had held that the power under these articles was limited to providing quotas in education and public employment to the state’s backward classes. It held that once reservations have been provided to SCs as a whole, “it is not open to the State to sub-classify a class already recognised by the Constitution and allot a portion of the already reserved quota amongst the State created sub-class” within the SC list.

On Thursday, the majority opinion held that “the State in exercise of its power under Articles 15 and 16 is free to identify the different degrees of social backwardness and provide special provisions (such as reservation) to achieve the specific degree of harm identified”.

Justice Gavai said that equality of opportunity (Article 16) must account for the varying social positions of different communities. When the same opportunities are provided to SC communities that are on different footings it “can only mean aggravation of inequality”.

On the subject of SC communities that oppose sub-classification, he said that their “attitude” is akin to “that of a person in the general compartment of the train. Firstly, the persons outside the compartment struggled to get into the general compartment. However, once they get inside it, they make every attempt possible to prevent the persons outside such a compartment from entering it”.

**Issue 3: What is the yardstick for sub-classification?**

The majority opinion drew stringent red-lines for states on how to work out the sub-quotas. States will have to demonstrate a need for wider protections, bring empirical evidence, and have a “reasonable” rationale for classifying sub-groups. This reasoning can be further be tested in court.

The CJ underlined that any form of representation in public services must be in the form of “effective representation”, not merely “numerical representation”. As a result, even if an SC community is represented adequately just by the numbers, they may be barred from achieving “effective” representation by being promoted to higher posts. So the state must prove that the “group/caste carved out from the larger group of Scheduled Castes is more disadvantaged and inadequately represented, and this must be based on quantifiable data”.

**Issue 4: Does the ‘creamy layer’ principle apply to Scheduled Castes?**

Only the opinion of Justice Gavai bats for introducing the ‘creamy layer’ exception for SCs (and STs) that is already followed for Other Backward Classes (OBCs). This concept places an income ceiling on reservation eligibility, ensuring that the beneficiaries are those in a community that need quotas the most.

Four of the seven judges — Justices Vikram Nath, Pankaj Mithal and Satish Chandra Sharma — agreed with Justice Gavai’s opinion on the matter.

key issues which were before the Bench.

**Issue 1: Are all castes in the SC list to be treated similarly?**

Article 341(1) of the Constitution gives the President the power to “specify the castes, races or tribes” in a state, which shall “for the purposes of this Constitution be deemed to be Scheduled Castes in relation to that State or Union territory, as the case may be”. Following such a notification, Article 341(2) states that only Parliament can include or exclude “any caste, race or tribe” from the list of SCs. The court in *E V Chinnaiah* held that SC

must be treated identically since the Constitution envisaged the same benefits for them, without taking into account their individual relative backwardness. In Thursday’s judgement, CJ Chandrachud rejected this premise, stating that “The inclusion [in the Presidential list] does not automatically lead to the formation of a uniform and internally homogenous class which cannot be further classified”.

The CJ termed the Presidential list of SCs a “legal fiction” — something that does not exist in actuality but is “treated as real and existing for the purpose of law”. A Scheduled Caste is not something that existed before the

Constitution came into force, and is recognised so that benefits can be provided to communities in the list. CJ Chandrachud said this legal fiction cannot be “stretched” to claim that there are no “internal differences” among SCs.

**Issue 2: Can states ‘tinker’ with or sub-classify the Presidential list?**

Articles 15(4) of the Constitution gives states the power to make “any special provision” for the advancement of SCs. Article 16(4) gives states the specific power to provide “reservations of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens

# Identifying the ‘creamy layer’: model of OBC reservation

SHYAMLAL YADAV  
 NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

THE SUPREME COURT, on Thursday, permitted sub-classification of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the purpose of granting separate quotas for those more backward within these communities.

Justice BR Gavai, in his opinion, wrote that “the State must evolve a policy for identifying the creamy layer even from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes so as to exclude them from the benefit of affirmative action”.

How can such a policy be formulated? The model of Other Backward Classes (OBC) reservations can provide a blueprint.

**What does ‘creamy layer’ refer to?**

The concept of a creamy layer arose out of the landmark Indra Sawhney ruling in 1992.

Based on the recommendation of the Mandal Commission, the V P Singh government on August 13, 1990, had notified 27% reservation for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (OBC reservation) in civil posts and services. This was challenged in the

Supreme Court by Indra Sawhney and others.

On November 16, 1992, a nine-judge Bench headed by Justice B P Jeevan Reddy, upheld the 27% OBC reservation subject to exclusion of the creamy layer, or the more socially, economically, and educationally advanced members among OBCs. This was done in order to ensure that reservation benefits go to those who need it the most.

The creamy layer is not the same as sub-classification or sub-categorisation. The latter refers to community/caste wise breakdown of a reserved category (like SC) based on various socio-economic or other criteria. Creamy layer, however, refers to a group of people within a certain caste/community who are better off than the rest based on certain criteria.

**How is creamy layer among the OBC identified?**

The logic of determining the creamy layer was made by an expert committee headed by the retired Justice Ram Nandan Prasad, which was constituted following the Indra Sawhney judgement.

The committee submitted its report on March 10, 1993, based on which, on

September 8, the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) listed six categories of people whose children would be considered to fall in the creamy layer. These are:

- Constitutional/statutory post;
- Group ‘A’ and group ‘B’ officers of central and state governments, employees of PSUs and statutory bodies, universities;
- Colonel and above in armed forces and equivalent in paramilitary forces;
- Professionals like doctors, lawyers, management consultants, engineers etc;
- Property owners with agricultural

holdings or vacant land and/or buildings; and

■ Income/wealth tax assessee. The creamy layer comprises two broader categories (besides persons holding constitutional post) — people whose parents are/were in government service, and those whose parents work/worked in the private sector. For the latter, the creamy layer determination is based on their parents’ income, while for the former, the determination is based on rank.

Originally, the income threshold was fixed at Rs 1 lakh per annum, with a provision for this figure to be revised every three

years. However, since 2017, when the threshold was updated to Rs 8 lakh, no further revision has taken place. In 2015, the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) had recommended raising the income threshold to Rs 15 lakh, however no action was taken in this regard.

For children of government service, either parent being recruited as a group-A officer (the highest category government servants in India), or becoming a group-A officer via promotion prior to the age of 40, makes one ineligible for OBC reservation. Both parents being group-B officers also puts someone in the creamy layer. Similarly, children of a colonel or those of higher ranks in the Army, and of equivalent ranks in the Navy and Air Force, too, fall in the creamy layer.

The union government constituted a committee headed by former DoPT secretary B P Sharma in March 2019 to review this criteria. But no progress has been made in this regard.

**How might the creamy layer among SC and ST be decided?**

In his opinion, Justice Gavai stated that “the criteria for exclusion of the creamy layer from

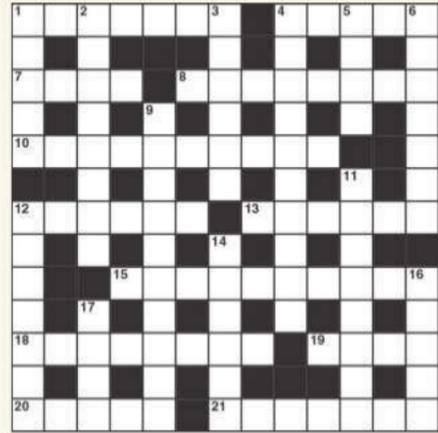
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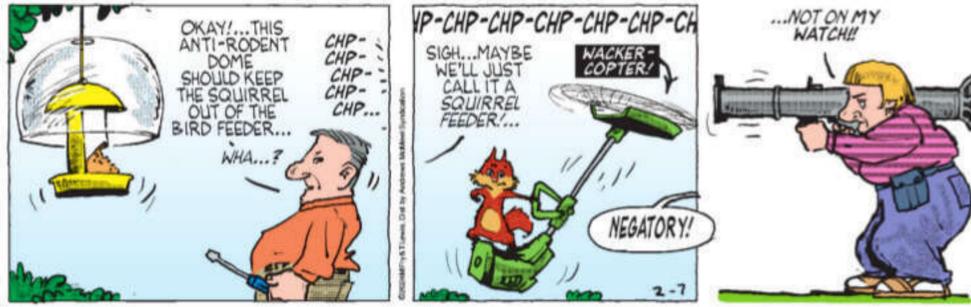
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  - 4 A vehicle to travel as freight (5)
  - 7 Part of the foot to move slowly (4)
  - 8 Gently reprove a doctor in broken Danish (8)
  - 10 I represent change and the readiness to accept it (10)
  - 12 Such a pupil is likely to shine (6)
  - 13 I'd boil uncontrollably with desire (6)
  - 15 It's built to keep a flower in its bed (10)
  - 18 He has minor responsibilities (8)
  - 19 Drink left abroad (4)
  - 20 Diets must change with the times (5)
  - 21 There are two points he can possibly raise (7)
- DOWN**
- 1 Put in charge (5)
  - 2 Bird-dog gets drunk (8)
  - 3 Clerical workers may have taken them (6)
  - 4 Get heating operations in hand for a Chinese meal (10)
  - 5 Never-ending trouble for a bird (4)
  - 6 Venetian to rise with a greeting (7)
  - 9 Man of principle made riches in a way (10)
  - 11 Keep quiet aboard ship (4,4)
  - 12 Purchased about the middle of April and delivered (7)
  - 14 Eastern style of serving chops? (6)
  - 16 Let it be represented as right (5)
  - 17 Settled one into residence (4)

Solutions Crossword 5431 Across: 1 Getting over, 9 Out of it, 10 Nitre, 11 Goya, 12 Football, 14 Opiate, 16 Blotto, 18 Tea caddy, 19 Idea, 22 Rapid, 23 Incess, 24 Street cries  
Down: 2 Entry, 3 Toff, 4 Nation, 5 Ornatel, 6 Entrant, 7 Do a good turn, 8 Tell no tales, 13 Straddle, 15 In a spot, 17 Adrift, 20 Dense, 21 Scar

## OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



## CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



## MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



## JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given clue.  
The language of friendship is not \_\_\_ but \_\_\_. - Henry David Thoreau (5...8)

**TAEOR**      **AETDNN**

**SUNIS**      **AIWGMW**

national friendship is not but - Henry David Thoreau (5...8)

**SUDOKU 5640**

Difficulty Level 4s  
Instructions  
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

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

Difficulty Level  
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy;  
3s = Medium; 4s = Hard;  
5s = Very Hard;  
6s = Genius

**SOLUTION SUDOKU 5639**

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

## NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

North Central Railway  
Tender Notice No.: T\_24\_25\_Body\_RT/Notice Date: 30.07.2024  
E-TENDER NOTICE  
Chief Workshop Manager, Coach MLR Workshop, Jhansi for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender from reputed contractors for following work:-  
Tender No.: T\_24\_25\_Body\_RT, Description of Work: Corrosion repair activities in LHB & ICF type coaches., Qty.: One work  
Tender cost: 62,52,362.33 ₹ Sixty two lakh Fifty two thousand three hundred sixty two and thirty Three paise only. Completion period : 24 months  
Earnest money : ₹ 1,25,100/- Tender doc. cost: ₹ 0/-  
1. Tender will be closed at 15:00 Hrs on 21.08.2024 and is available on Indian Railway E-Tendering website www.ireps.gov.in. 2. For detailed information please visit Indian Railway E-Tendering website www.ireps.gov.in.  
3. Tenderers should watch the website for the corrigendum/addendum to the NIT/e-tender document, if any as there will not be any separate communication for the same. 1355/24 (MG)  
North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @northcentralrailway CPRONCR

## TATA POWER DELHI DISTRIBUTION LIMITED

Tata Power-DDL invites tenders as per following details:  
Tender Enquiry No. Work Description Estimated Cost/EMD (Rs.) Availability of Bid Document Last Date & Time of Bid Submission/ Date and time of Opening of bids  
TPDDL/ENGG/ENQ/200001698/24-25 RC for Supply of MCCBs of various Ratings to Tata Power-DDL 71.81 Lacs/ 1,80,000 02.08.2024 23.08.2024:1600 Hrs/ 23.08.2024:1630 Hrs  
TPDDL/ENGG/ENQ/200001699/24-25 RC-Supply of Magnetic Float Switch 28.38 Lacs/ 71,000 02.08.2024 23.08.2024:1500 Hrs/ 23.08.2024:1530 Hrs  
CORRIGENDUM / TENDER DATE EXTENSION  
Tender Enquiry No. Work Description Previously Published Date Revised Due Date & Time of Bid Submission/ Date & time of opening of bids  
TPDDL/ENGG/ENQ/200001699/24-25 2 Years Rate Contract for SITC of IOT Based Low Voltage Automation and Grid Substation at Tata Power-DDL Site. 26.06.2024 14.08.2024 at 1500 Hrs/ 14.08.2024 at 1530 Hrs  
Complete tender and corrigendum document is available on our website www.tatapower-ddl.com -> Vendor Zone -> Tender / Corrigendum Documents  
Contracts - 011-66112222

## कार्यालय अभियंता का कार्यालय

कार्यालय अभियंता, कार्य प्रमंडल, डालटनगंज  
ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या - 05/2024-25/EE/RWD/DALTONGANJ  
कार्यालय अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, डालटनगंज द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से पर्वों का निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।  
दिनांक-31.07.2024

क्र.सं.	आई.टी.ई. क्र. संख्या / विवरण संख्या	कार्य का नाम	अंश में	अंश में	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	टेंडर कोल नो
1	EE/RWD/DALTONGANJ/06/2024-25	ग्राम पंचायत पोर्ची में हलुमाड देवी मंडप से केबल रिड के घर तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। 2.50कि०मी०	236.471	दो करोड़ छठीस लाख सैतालीस हजार एक सौ रू० मात्र	12 माह	प्रथम
2	EE/RWD/DALTONGANJ/07/2024-25	दुलसुल्मा पंचायत में देवी मंडप से नहर होत हुए पर्यन्त टाकुर के घर तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। 1.60कि०मी०	152.601	एक करोड़ बावन लाख साठ हजार एक सौ रू० मात्र	09 माह	प्रथम
3	EE/RWD/DALTONGANJ/08/2024-25	युकरु मुच्य पथ से लखन बांध बकरी स्कूल, भुखरिया एवं युकरु बस्ती होत हुए कोडिया पुल तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। 4.10कि०मी०	387.267	तीन करोड़ सत्तारो लाख छब्बीस हजार एक सौ रू० मात्र	12 माह	प्रथम
4	EE/RWD/DALTONGANJ/09/2024-25	पोलपोल में बड़का पथल से धनमवा जनन रिड के घर स्कूल होत हुए औरंगा नदी तक पथ निर्माण। 2.27कि०मी०	199.411	एक करोड़ निम्नरे लाख एकषतालीस हजार एक सौ रू० मात्र	09 माह	प्रथम
5	EE/RWD/DALTONGANJ/10/2024-25	मुच्य पथ रामबांध से बरवाडीह टोला होत हुए भुच्य पथ नहर पंचायत सचिवालय तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। 1.70कि०मी०	200.292	दो करोड़ पन्तीस लाख दो सौ रू० मात्र	09 माह	प्रथम
6	EE/RWD/DALTONGANJ/11/2024-25	पंचायत पसा के बरडीहा हरिजन टोला से बजरगबली डोम बाबा मंदिर तक पथ निर्माण। 1.60कि०मी०	177.111	एक करोड़ सत्तर लाख ग्यारह हजार एक सौ रू० मात्र	09 माह	प्रथम
7	EE/RWD/DALTONGANJ/12/2024-25	सडेया से चन्द्रपुर स्कूल तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। 1.20कि०मी०	134.413	एक करोड़ बीतीस लाख एकषतालीस हजार तीन सौ रू० मात्र	09 माह	प्रथम
8	EE/RWD/DALTONGANJ/13/2024-25	मंगलवीह कोनापर से महादेव शर्मा के घर तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। 1.40कि०मी०	138.006	एक करोड़ अठतीस लाख छः सौ रू० मात्र	09 माह	प्रथम
9	EE/RWD/DALTONGANJ/14/2024-25	पंचायत पोलडीह ग्राम-बरेन मोला मंड से कुदन मोड तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। 1.35कि०मी०	182.046	एक करोड़ बरेतीस लाख हजार छः सौ रू० मात्र	09 माह	प्रथम
10	EE/RWD/DALTONGANJ/15/2024-25	सोरीडीह मैन रोड से केलात मंदिर पथ तक पथ निर्माण। 2.80कि०मी०	308.214	तीन करोड़ आठ लाख एकषतीस हजार चार सौ रू० मात्र	12 माह	प्रथम
11	EE/RWD/DALTONGANJ/16/2024-25	उरसुला चामुण्डा से चेडीग्राम तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। 3.30कि०मी०	302.658	तीन करोड़ दो लाख पैंसठ हजार आठ सौ रू० मात्र	12 माह	प्रथम
12	EE/RWD/DALTONGANJ/17/2024-25	जस्का मोड मंदिर से मेरुआ बाबा कांडु टोला तक पथ निर्माण। 2.00कि०मी०	214.650	दो करोड़ चौध लाख पैंसठ हजार रू० मात्र	09 माह	प्रथम

2. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि : 07.08.2024  
3. ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय : 28.08.2024 up to 5.00 PM  
4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय 30.08.2024 पूर्वाह्न 3.30 बजे  
5. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता : कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, डालटनगंज।  
6. ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० -0656235795  
विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट Jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।  
कार्यपालक अभियंता  
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, डालटनगंज  
PR 331446 Rural Development (24-25)\_D

Government strives to have a workforce which reflects gender balance and women candidates are encouraged to apply  
Adv. No. ICMR/Recruitment/JTO-DR/02/2024-Est. Dated: 30.07.2024

RECRUITMENT NOTICE  
FOR JUNIOR TRANSLATION OFFICER POSTS  
Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is an Autonomous Organization, under the Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India. ICMR is dealing with biomedical/ health research in various areas, in collaboration with National/ International agencies, through its Headquarters at New Delhi and 27 Institutes/ Centers and various field stations, situated across the country.  
2. ICMR invites online applications, from Indian Citizens, to fill up following Hindi Cadre, Group 'B' positions under ICMR Hqrs. New Delhi and ICMR Institutes/Centers situated all over India for appointment on regular basis under Direct Recruitment with all India transfer liability under the Council:-

Name of Post & Category	Pay Scale	Age
Junior Translation Officer (JTO) 03 posts (UR-02, SC-01)	Pay Level-6 of Pay Matrix (Rs. 35400-1,12,400) (7thCPC Scale) and usual allowances as admissible from time to time	Not exceeding 30 years

Notes:  
1. 01 post of JTO has been identified suitable for Persons with Benchmark Disability and earmarked to PwBD (Deaf and HH).  
2. The last date of receipt of online applications is up to 31.08.2024.  
For essential eligibility criteria and other general terms and conditions, please visit website of ICMR i.e. www.icmr.nic.in.  
Sd/-  
Assistant Director General (Admin)  
CBC 17152/12/0013/2425

## कार्यालय संचालक लोक शिक्षण संचालनालय

ब्लाक "सी" द्वितीय तल, इन्द्रावती भवन रायपुर छग.  
निविदा  
संचालनालय लोक शिक्षण छत्तीसगढ़, रायपुर के अन्तर्गत पं दीनदयाल उपाध्याय केन्द्रीय ग्रंथालय, बी.टी.आई ग्राउंड के पास, शंकर नगर रायपुर (छत्तीसगढ़) के लिए पुस्तके क्रय किये जाने हेतु देश के विभिन्न प्रतिष्ठित शासकीय एवं अशासकीय प्रकाशकों से आवेदन पत्र आमंत्रित किया जाना है। पुस्तके क्रय करने के संबंध में नियम व शर्तें आवेदन पत्र में उल्लिखित है। आवेदन पत्र दिनांक 05/08/2024 से 21/08/2024 तक पं दीनदयाल उपाध्याय केन्द्रीय ग्रंथालय, बी.टी.आई ग्राउंड के पास, शंकर नगर रायपुर (छत्तीसगढ़) से कार्यालयीन दिवसों में पूर्वाह्न 10:30 बजे से अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक प्राप्त किया जा सकेगा। इच्छुक प्रकाशक 500/- (रूपये पांच सौ मात्र) का डिमांड ड्राफ्ट जो ग्रंथालय, पं दीनदयाल उपाध्याय केन्द्रीय ग्रंथालय, शंकर नगर रायपुर के नाम पर रायपुर में देय हो निर्धारित अवधि में जमा कर आवेदन पत्र प्राप्त कर सकते है। आवेदन पत्र दिनांक: 5/08/2024 से 23/08/2024 तक कार्यालयीन समय में जमा किये जा सकेंगे। निर्धारित समय के उपरान्त न ही आवेदन पत्र दिये जायेंगे और न ही स्वीकार किये जायेंगे। आवेदन पत्र नियम एवं शर्तों के संबंध में अन्य जानकारी प्राप्त करने हेतु मो.नं. 9669386683 पर कार्यालयीन समय पर संपर्क कर सकते है।  
स्थान :- रायपुर  
दिनांक: 29.07.2024

indianexpress.com  
I look at every side before taking a side.  
Inform your opinion with insightful perspectives.  
The Indian Express.  
The Indian Express  
epaper.indianexpress.com

# 19 ECONOMY

SENSEX: 81,867.55 ▲ 126.21 (0.15%) NIFTY: 25,010.9 ▲ 59.75 (0.24%) NIKKEI: 38,126.33 ▼ 975.49 HANG SENG: 17,304.96 ▼ 39.64 FTSE: 8,375.03 ▲ 7.05 DAX: 18,326.78 ▼ 181.87

<b>GOLD</b>	<b>USD RATE</b>	<b>OIL</b>	<b>SILVER</b>
₹72,500	₹83.73	\$79.96	₹86,200

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) per barrel as of July 31

International market data till 1900 IST

## COST OF FINANCING FISCAL DEFICIT THROUGH GOLD BONDS IS HIGH

# After import duty cut on gold, govt to decide future of SGB scheme in Sept

AANCHAL MAGAZINE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

FOLLOWING THE Budget announcement to cut the import duty on gold, the government plans to make a final decision regarding the future of the Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGB) scheme in September.

Sources indicate that the cost of financing the fiscal deficit through SGBs is quite high and does not align with the benefits accruing to investors from the scheme. This disparity may lead the government to decide on discontinuing the scheme at the upcoming meeting next month, which will also determine the official borrowing amount for the second half of the financial year.

"Earlier, we used to have 10 tranches in a year, then we came down to four and then to two. That was a very conscious way of seeing that the cost of financing fiscal deficit and the benefits accruing from physical gold collection is disjunct. We will take a call in September when we hold the borrowing meeting to decide on whether we should issue a tranche this year or not keeping in mind that it should

### INVESTING IN SOVEREIGN GOLD BONDS

**DOMESTIC GOLD** prices have fallen by nearly 5 per cent since July 23, when Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman reduced the customs duty on gold from 15 per cent to 6 per cent—the lowest in over a decade

**ALTHOUGH THE** duty cut might dampen demand for these bonds, they remain an attractive investment due to the fixed annual interest rate of 2.5 per cent, payable semi-annually, as per analysts

benefit both the investors and the government," an official said.

Domestic gold prices have fallen by nearly 5 per cent since July 23, when Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman reduced the customs duty on gold from 15 per cent to 6 per cent—the lowest in over a decade. While this duty cut led to a decrease in gold prices, it also resulted in increased demand for the metal.

"SGBs were brought in as an investment (instrument) with a specific objective of curtailment of gold imports and holdings. But now that we have reduced the duty, we'll see how to go about it," the official said.

The official also mentioned that the SGB scheme is one of the more expensive instruments for

funding the fiscal deficit. A comprehensive decision must be made about whether to continue it, as it is not a social sector scheme but rather an investment option.

Some analysts believe the customs duty reduction aims to curb gold smuggling, which has increased due to recent high gold prices. Although the duty cut might dampen demand for these bonds, they remain an attractive investment due to the fixed annual interest rate of 2.5 per cent, payable semi-annually.

In the Budget presented on July 23, the government reduced the gross SGB issuances to Rs 18,500 crore from Rs 29,638 crore in the interim budget of February 1. Net borrowing

through SGBs has been cut to Rs 15,000 crore from Rs 26,138 crore previously estimated.

"It is one of the most expensive instruments to fund the fiscal deficit," an official said, adding that a decision will be made in September during the meeting to determine the borrowing plan with the Reserve Bank of India. The government will decide whether there will be new issuances this year, ensuring they benefit both investors and the government.

"Whether we would like to continue or not, a holistic decision has to be taken going forward. It is not a social security scheme but an investment option," the official added.

The Government of India finances its fiscal deficit through various instruments, including dated securities, the National Small Savings Fund (NSSF), provident funds, and SGBs.

SGBs issued under Series I of 2016-17, which were released on August 5, 2016, are up for redemption in the first week of August. These investors are expected to experience lower-than-expected returns due to the customs duty cut. These SGBs were issued at a price of Rs

3,119, and given the current gold prices, the value appreciation has exceeded 100 per cent, in addition to the interest earned over the eight-year period.

SGB Series II bonds from 2016, which were redeemed in March this year, provided a return of 126.4 per cent over the investment value, along with the interest paid over the eight-year holding period.

The reduction in gold prices following the customs duty cut has impacted returns on all gold investments, including SGBs, physical gold, and gold exchange-traded funds (ETFs), with the compound annual growth rate (CAGR) now expected to be around 10-11 per cent. This could have been 6-7 per cent higher if there had been no duty cut, according to an analyst.

On sovereign green bonds, the official said the government plans to issue papers worth around Rs 20,000 crore in the current financial year.

However, it will monitor the greenium (premium associated with a lower borrowing cost for the government) closely, as the premium was only 1-2 basis points last year.

# Indexation withdrawal on grandfathered debt MFs has investors worried

HITESH VYAS & SUKALP SHARMA  
MUMBAI/NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

THE CHANGES in the long-term capital gains (LTCG) tax regime announced in the Union Budget 2024-25, mainly the removal of the indexation benefit from tax computation, has triggered some heartburn among long-term investors of debt mutual funds. While the likely impact of the changes on asset classes like property and gold has been in focus, returns on earlier investments in debt mutual funds—which offer relatively low but more secure returns—could also get impacted significantly, investors and industry insiders say.

The new LTCG tax regime does away with the indexation benefit available for calculation of LTCG on unlisted assets, while reducing the LTCG tax rate to 12.5 per cent from 20 per cent. Specifically in the case of debt mutual funds, the changes appear to be more complicated than for other affected asset classes.

To be sure, the indexation benefit on new investments in debt mutual funds was scrapped in last year's Budget itself with effect from April 1, 2023, with taxation at the applicable income tax rate for the investor. But importantly, investments made until March 31, 2023 were grandfathered with the continuation of indexation benefit on such investments.

Investors and asset management companies want the government to reconsider the decision. Indexation is the process of adjusting the original purchase price of an asset or investment in order to neutralise the impact of inflation on it. Inflation reduces the value of money over time, and therefore, when an asset is sold or an investment redeemed, indexation helps in arriving at a revised cost of acquisition with the impact of inflation over the holding period factored in.

Without indexation, particularly in cases where the asset was held for an extended period, the gains may appear extremely high, but they may not paint a realistic picture as the inflation's impact on the value was not considered. In this case, if gains accrued on sale of assets or redemption of investments are



### DEBT MUTUAL FUND TAXATION

- The indexation benefit on new investments in debt MFs was scrapped in last year's Budget itself with taxation at the applicable income tax rate for the investor
- Investments made until March 31, 2023 were grandfathered with the continuation of indexation benefit on such investments

taxed, absence of the indexation benefit would increase the tax outgo.

"Conservative investors who are long-term holders of debt mutual funds earlier had the benefit of Indexation, which after a holding period of five or six years made the tax burden almost nil on the low returns of 6-7 per cent that these debt funds offer. This class of conservative investors was protected in the last Budget by the Finance Minister when she promised that their existing holdings would be grandfathered. It seems that this promise may have been broken," said a debt mutual fund investor, who did not wish to be named.

"Suddenly without any warning or grace period the indexation benefit has been removed for all unlisted physical and financial assets and we are being clubbed with investors who buy and sell property and gold (which offer higher returns than debt mutual funds)... I sincerely hope this is an oversight and the Finance Ministry reconsiders this," the investor added.

Given the likely hit to returns on older debt mutual investments due to the new LTCG tax changes, the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)—the key mutual fund industry body in the country—has also

urged the Finance Ministry to provide relief to debt mutual fund investors. AMFI sees the withdrawal of the indexation benefit on grandfathered investments in debt mutual funds and the other changes in the LTCG regime as a case of retrospective taxation. The mutual funds body wants the government to reconsider the removal of the indexation benefit from debt mutual funds or provide for the holding cost of debt mutual funds to be indexed till July 23 this year, the day on which the Budget for 2024-25 was presented.

"We believe that applying the new tax rates on a retrospective basis can be detrimental to investor confidence and deter new investors from entering capital markets as well as the existing ones to make further investments in the capital markets through mutual funds as these investors had invested in the funds based on the tax rates prevalent at the time of their investments. Further, FPIs also get impacted by such sudden changes in taxation, especially if implemented on retrospective basis," AMFI said in a request for changes in the Budget proposals.

A tax expert, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said that given the rate of inflation over the past few years and the returns on debt mutual funds, the actual returns for investors in real terms would be extremely low and could even be negative in a number of cases in the absence of the indexation benefit on older investments.

"For investments like property and gold that have given high rates of return over the past few years, the new LTCG tax rules that have a lower tax rate of 12.5 per cent and no indexation may be better than the old regime of 20 per cent tax with indexation benefit. But for moderate and low-return investments like debt mutual funds, the tax outgo would go up notably in the new regime, eating into the investors' real returns," the tax expert said.

## BRIEFLY

### Zomato net profit jumps to ₹253 cr in Apr-Jun

New Delhi: Zomato on Thursday reported a multifold jump in consolidated net profit to Rs 253 crore for the April-June quarter of 2024-25 compared to Rs 2 crore in the year-ago period. The company's revenue from operations jumped more than 74 per cent to Rs 4,206 crore in the first quarter of this fiscal from Rs 2,416 crore in the April-June period of last year, according to a filing by Zomato. **PTI**

### Adani Ent Q1 net doubles on new energy growth

Mumbai: Billionaire Gautam Adani's flagship firm on Thursday reported more than doubling of its net profit in the June quarter as growth in the new energy business outweighed weakness in coal trading. The company board also approved the demerger of the food FMCG business that primarily comprised trading and supply of edible oil and other allied commodities. **PTI**

### 97.92% of ₹2,000 banknotes returned: RBI

New Delhi: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday said 97.92 per cent of the Rs 2000 denomination banknotes have returned to the banking system, and only Rs 7,409 crore worth of the withdrawn notes are still with the public. **PTI**

### India's mfg sector growth eases slightly in July

New Delhi: India's manufacturing sector growth eased slightly in July, on softer increases in new orders and output, while cost pressures and demand strength led to the steepest increase in selling prices since October 2013, a monthly survey said on Thursday.

### Tata Motors Q1 profit jumps 74% to ₹5,566 crore

New Delhi: Tata Motors on Thursday said its consolidated net profit increased 74 per cent to Rs 5,566 crore in the June 2024 quarter, aided by robust performance by Jaguar Land Rover as well as domestic business. **PTI**

# Infosys: Karnataka GST notice withdrawn, will respond to DGGI

AANCHAL MAGAZINE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

A DAY after it disclosed having received Goods and Services Tax (GST) notices from state and central authorities, Infosys informed stock exchanges on Thursday that Karnataka state GST authority has withdrawn its notice. The company would now be required to respond to Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) on the matter.

"The Company has received a communication from Karnataka State authorities, withdrawing the pre-show cause notice and has directed the Company to submit further response to DGGI central authority on this matter," the company said in a stock filing.

The DGGI has slapped a Rs 32,403 crore notice on Infosys for expenses available by the company from its overseas branches over a five-year period starting 2017. Bengaluru-based Infosys, in a stock exchange filing Wednesday, had called the mis-



File

sive from the tax department a "pre-show cause" notice and said it believes the GST is not applicable on the expenses in contention.

The information technology (IT) company had said that it had received notices from both Karnataka State GST authorities and DGGI on the same matter.

Earlier in March this year, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) had directed its field officers to not issue duplicate notices from both central and state authorities. There may be a situation where

either the DGGI or the state GST department is also simultaneously undertaking record-based investigation of the same taxpayer on different subject matters, it had said.

Principal Commissioner must engage in dialogue with the other investigating office(s) to consider the feasibility of only one of the offices pursuing all these subject matters with respect to the taxpayer, and the other offices consolidating their material with that office," the instructions had said.

The DGGI is the intelligence and investigative agency for matters relating to violation of the Goods & Services Tax, Central Excise Duty and Service Tax. In its notice, the GST probe wing has invoked reverse charge mechanism, where the recipient of goods/services assumes the responsibility for tax payment, instead of the seller. In its exchange filing, Infosys had said GST payments are eligible for credit or refund against export of IT services.

# GST mop-up rises 10.3% to ₹1.82 lakh cr in July

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

GST COLLECTIONS in July rose 10.3 per cent to over Rs 1.82 lakh crore, mainly driven by domestic transactions in goods and services, according to official data released on Thursday. This is the third-highest-ever monthly collection recorded since the indirect tax regime was rolled out 7 years ago on July 1, 2017.

According to the data, total refunds stood at Rs 16,283 crore in July. The net Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection after adjusting refunds was over Rs 1.66 lakh crore, a growth of 14.4 per cent.

The Gross GST revenue stood at Rs 1,82,075 crore, which includes Central GST of Rs 32,386 crore, State GST of Rs 40,289 crore, and Integrated GST of Rs 96,447 crore. The compensation cess mop-up was Rs 12,953 crore.

# Sensex, Nifty end at fresh high on US Fed rate cut expectation next month

HITESH VYAS  
MUMBAI, AUGUST 1

DOMESTIC BENCHMARK stock market indices closed at fresh record highs on Thursday buoyed by an expectation of interest rate cut by the US Federal Reserve in September this year.

The BSE's 30-share Sensex jumped 126.21 points, or 0.15 per cent, to close at record high of 81,867.55. During the intra-day trades, the index touched 82,129.49—also a record high.

The broader Nifty ended at a lifetime high of 25,010.9, after it rose 59.75 points, or 0.24 per cent. The 50-share index touched a high of 25,078.3 in intraday trades.

### Why have markets rallied?

Domestic indices gained as the US Federal Reserve kept the rates unchanged at 5.25-5.5 per cent for the eighth consecutive time in its July meeting but hinted at a possible rate cut in September.

"The Fed chief (Jerome Powell) signalling a possible rate cut in September is positive for global equity markets. More importantly, his comments that the US economy is normalising is a shot in the arm for bulls," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services.



File

Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC Managing Director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO), A Balasubramanian, said the equity market indices hitting their all-time high reflects the country's underlying economic growth and strong corporate performance.

"Corporate India has benefitted from macroeconomic factors such as low inflation, low interest rates and a stable currency market. These factors have encouraged investors to actively participate in the thriving equity market," he said. Moreover, companies are successfully raising equity for expansion which demonstrates the confidence in the market's potential.

"Nifty milestones are a journey and not a destination. Do remember that this journey is both

forward as well as backward. Nasdaq went so backwards that it took 17 years to come back to the previous peak. Invest in the market as per your risk appetite, have a long-term horizon, significantly moderate your return expectations and follow the dharma of asset allocation," said Nilesh Shah, MD, Kotak Mahindra AMC.

Analysts said that a cut in the interest rate in September by the US Fed will lead to higher inflows into emerging markets, including India.

### Is there a concern over higher valuation?

Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC's Balasubramanian said that despite the market reaching an all-time high, there was no cause for concern.

"The high market performance is backed by solid economic fundamentals and robust earnings growth, which are expected to continue supporting the overall market momentum," he said. However, the significant market outperformance in recent years could lead to periods of flat growth in indices like Nifty or Sensex, which might test investors' patience, as future returns could be muted.

FULL REPORT ON [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

**JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
Indira Circle, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur-302004

No.: JDA/EE(RRP-2)/2024-25/1 Date: 31.07.2024

**NOTICE INVITING BID**  
JDA/(RRP-2)/2024-25/NIB-1

Online Bids are invited upto 6.00 PM of 07.08.2024 for "Road site plantation on Southern Ring Road from Tonk Road to Ajmer Road Chainage 19+700 to 46+700 including 2 year maintenance. JDA Jaipur" Estimated cost Rs. 302.11 Lacs. Details may be seen in the Bidding Document at our office or the website of State Public Procurement Portal : [www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in), [www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) and [www.jda.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.jda.rajasthan.gov.in)

UBN No. JDA2425WSOB00205

To participate in the bid, bidder has to be:

- Registered on JDA website [www.jda.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.jda.rajasthan.gov.in) For participated in the Bid, the Bidder has to apply for the Bid and pay the Bidding Document Fee & RISEL Processing Fee online only and Bid Security declaration stamp.
- Registered on e-Procurement Portal of Government of Rajasthan [www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) for online e-Bid submission.

Raj.Samwad/C/24/3118 Executive Engineer (RRP-2)

**COFFEE BOARD**  
Office of the Joint Director (Extension), NER, Coffee Board  
Guwahati, Binand Apartment, Rajat Kamal Path  
R. G. Baruah Road, Guwahati - 781 024

**NOTIFICATION**  
Sale of raw coffee through Tender-cum-Open Auction

Dried Raw Cherry and Parchment coffee both Robusta and Arabica from various TECs and RCRS of Coffee Board in NE Region is proposed to be disposed through sealed tender-cum-open auction. The last date for issue of tender forms is on 10-08-2024 up to 10:00 AM. The last date of submission of sealed tenders is on or before 14-08-2024 by 1:00 PM. Open auction will be held on 20-08-2024 at 3:00 PM followed by opening of sealed tenders at the O/o Joint Director (Extn), Coffee Board Regional Office, Binand Apartment, Rajat Kamal Path, RGB Road, Guwahati - 781024. The respective bidders may see the samples of raw coffee in the respective TECs and RCRS. Diphu if desired of the raw coffee in as and where is condition. For more details, please contact O/o the JDE, NER, Guwahati and other sub-offices of North Eastern Region.

Sd/- Joint Director (Extension)  
NER, Coffee Board, Guwahati  
e-mail id: [jdeghy@gmail.com](mailto:jdeghy@gmail.com), [ddejorhat@gmail.com](mailto:ddejorhat@gmail.com)  
Phone No.: 94351 99620, 94021 37449

**NATIONAL EDUCATION SOCIETY FOR TRIBAL STUDENTS (NESTS)**  
An Autonomous Organisation under Ministry of Tribal Affairs

NESTS invites Expressions of Interest (EOI) from core academic firms or bodies to assist in planning and execution at the ground/school level, aiming to enhance academic performance and foster the holistic development of tribal students in EMRSs. Interested Agencies may submit their detailed proposal at [nests\\_learning@gmail.com](mailto:nests_learning@gmail.com), on or before 31.08.2024. Details of EOI can be viewed at NESTS website <https://emrs.tribal.gov.in>. Joint Commissioner NESTS, New Delhi

**Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited**  
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)  
Head Office, #6, 13, 1 10<sup>th</sup> Block, 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase, Nagarabhatta, Bengaluru-560072.

No: KREDL/2024-25/SE0015 Date: 01.08.2024

**SHORT-TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION**

The Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited (KREDL), Corporate office, Bengaluru - 560 072, invites electronic bids under competitive bidding from the Firm / Company/LLP/LLC registered under the Indian Companies Act 1956/2013 for the work of conducting "Retailer Training Programme" (RTP) under Standards & Labelling (S&L) Programme of BEE at Ten (10) cities in the State of Karnataka. The amount put to tender is about Rs. 25.00 lakh. EMD amount : Rs. 0.50 Lakh.

**Schedule of Events: Bid documents available on e-portal: On or after 02-08-2024. Last date for submission of Queries: 08-08-2024 at 16.00 Hrs. Pre bid meeting at KREDL office, Bengaluru : 12-08-2024 at 11.00 Hrs. Last date and time for submission of Bid: 16-08-2024 up to 16.00 Hrs. Opening of Techno- Commercial Bid: 19-08-2024 at 11.00Hrs. Opening of Financial Bid: will be intimated later to responsive Bidders.**

(a) The tenderer / bidders can view the tender details / download the details consisting of qualifying requirements, eligibility criteria of bidders, scope of the service to be provided and terms & conditions of contract to be complied from the website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> (b) For further information, please contact help desk phone number 080-46010000 / 080-68948777 of e-procurement department or KREDL Phone Number: 080-22207851.

Sd/- Asst. General Manager, EE&EC, KREDL



(From left) Anant Goenka, Executive Director, The Indian Express Group, and Amit Kamath, Assistant Editor, *The Indian Express*, with chess legend Viswanathan Anand, his wife Aruna and Arjun Erigaisi, currently India's top-ranked chess player

## ‘We had to figure things out on our own. If things have improved for the next generation, wonderful’

**A**t a recent Express Adda in Chennai, India's first grandmaster Viswanathan Anand, his wife Aruna, and India's top-ranked chess player Arjun Erigaisi, spoke on the game's revolution and how India became a chess superpower

### On staying grounded

**Viswanathan Anand (VA):** I think a lot has to do with upbringing. My family and schoolmates treated me a certain way and it would have felt strange if anything had changed. To be honest, most of the time, I felt that being yourself is easiest on you.

10 years ago, our bandwidth wouldn't have been good enough. This was a very good timing for chess, in a sense.

### On why the Soviet domination gave way

**VA:** The Soviets dominated in a much earlier era, roughly the 1910s till the 1990s. They used to field the Soviet Union versus the Rest of the World teams, and were actually able to compete against the rest of the world. But a couple of things happened. First of all, Russia is not the Soviet Union, so it's a fraction. And then... computers came along and made all the training advantages that the Soviets had built up kind of irrelevant very fast. In 1990, when the country broke down, a lot of Soviet, Russian and Ukrainian chess players went to other countries and started coaching there. Right now, no country can dominate a sport like the Soviets once did.

### On aggression in sports

**VA:** There are chess players who thrive under aggression. Famously, someone like Viktor Korchnoi would have an argument before every game but he would play better. Whenever I had a minor disagreement with someone, it would bug me a little. So, you know, we are just cut from different cloth.



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### On the popularity of chess in India

**VA:** When I became a grandmaster, when I started competing for the world title, when I started to appear in the sports pages, these had an effect. There's a generation who was following it intensely and a certain percentage of them were even motivated to try playing. In school tournaments, even open tournaments, the numbers shot up. Then the number of grandmasters started increasing. So the ecosystem has taken a long time building. But then, recently, there was a boom set off by two things. People were stuck at home during the pandemic and they had phones on which you could play chess. And on Netflix, which you could watch on your phone, there was the series, *The Queen's Gambit*. It had an audience of 70, 80 million globally. But if the pandemic had happened

### On how he keeps his passion for chess alive

**VA:** It comes and goes. You can lose your motivation fast. Certainly, it's hard for me as well but I try to stay updated with all the modern trends in chess and keep working because I basically like to play chess and I know that you can't half do it. You either do it all-in or you don't.

### On chess being a lonely sport

**VA:** Chess can definitely take you in, so to speak. You can get so absorbed in chess

Presents

## The Indian EXPRESS ADDA



**MANISH KEJRIWAL**  
Founder & Managing Partner, Kedaara Capital



**SHARON RACHEL ABY**  
Chess player



**INDRANIL HAZRA**  
Secretary, Chennai Port Authority



**M GUNASEKARAN**  
Editor-in-Chief, Sun TV Network



**VIDYA SINGH**  
Partner, Sumyog



**DR S RAJASUNDARAM**  
Director - Oncology, Gleneagles Health City Cancer Institute

and it's quite insular. There are some people who have other interests and there are some who have to learn that more slowly... In my case, I was very happy to finish school, then do my BCom. I mean, it's not that I am an ace in accounting but you've got to hang out with your college mates and so on. You learn to speak to people who don't understand what you do.

business, nobody really questions your gender anymore.

### On a changing mindset

**Aruna Anand (AA):** I think people are more accepting of women taking on a role now. I remember in 2010-2011, I would be the only woman in a room full of 50 men. Anand used to always make fun of me and say, 'Have you seen these big Hollywood types? They'll have huge bodyguards and then they'll have this little-looking man. You have to be scared of the little man because that man bites. That's why I married you because you are that little man'. So I think coming from there, where you were constantly questioned because you were a woman, a wife, to where it's just regular

### On being a team

**AA:** It's based on trust. Anand travels quite a lot, so I do a lot of the heavy hand-holding at home, especially since our son is just entering his teenage years. When he comes back home, he has to step up because, more than me, I think our son misses him a lot. Being aware of these things is very important, but I think largely it just works on trust. It doesn't work on gender-specified roles or that, you know, I do this and you do that. We take a decision, we understand it is a common decision and it works for both.

### On being part of the global chess league

**Erigaisi:** That was the first time, I think we got a chance to interact with Magnus (Carlsen). And we were taking every moment of it to understand him and see what

**I WORK WITH GOVERNMENT SCHOOL STUDENTS AND VILLAGE CHILDREN. I WANT SOME PLAN SO THAT WE CAN TRAIN STUDENTS IN CHESS.**

**VA:** I think it's about maximising. It's already against big odds that somebody chooses to play chess, likes it, then comes back for more. So, it's mostly about access and availability. Chess should be easy to find, easy to play and then easy to come back to. You need to have a room with chess sets. You need people in the school who say, 'Come inside. Why don't you start a game, I'll show you how'. Once that initial resistance goes, it takes over. Many state governments teach people to be



**TAMILISAI SOUNDARARAJAN**  
Former Governor of Telangana & former Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry

coaches. The Tamil Nadu government has a programme. They're teaching in rural areas.

**INDIA HAS DONE WELL IN TEAM SPORTS BUT YOU WERE POSSIBLY THE FIRST INDIVIDUAL WORLD CHAMPION. YOU WERE AT THE PEAK FIVE TIMES. WHEN YOU LOOK BACK AT THAT PERIOD, HOW DO YOU FEEL?**

**VA:** I am partially relieved but also partially very happy and I cherish those moments. I don't take them for granted. So it's both. But if you ask me now to play a 14-game match in a few months and so on, it will take a lot to overcome my resistance. I have this



**N RAVI**  
Director, Kasturi & Sons Ltd

feeling that it well. That's what I wanted to do all my life. I can look back without any regret.

**WHO WAS YOUR INSPIRATION WHEN YOU STARTED PLAYING CHESS?**

**VA:** Michael Tal and Bobby Fischer. I met Michael Tal quite early. Even as a World Junior Champion, I got invited to do commentary in a big tournament in Brussels, and he was my co-commentator, so I got to interact with him, play Blitz with him. That was very nice. Much later, I managed to spend an evening with Bobby Fischer. We had dinner with him. Every historical chess player I've met, you have this feeling that, my God, you grew up with their games and they're real people. I think that's what I enjoy the most. So, you know, Spassky, even



**N PADMANABAN**  
Managing Director, Vendolite

Botvinnik to some degree. When you look back, you think, 'wow, I actually walked in the same room with him'.



Ramji Srinivasan, former strength and conditioning coach of the Indian cricket team, with (right) J Meghanath Reddy, Member Secretary, Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu



Anant Goenka with (left) Nandhakummar Ramamurthy, Director — Corporate Communications, SRM University



Prabha Sridevan, former Madras High Court judge, with (right) author and senior journalist Mukund Padmanabhan



**JAYANTH JACOB**  
Professor, Anna University, Chennai



**RAJESH CHANDRAMOULI**  
Group President — Corporate Affairs, Shriram Group



**PRINCE SIMON**  
Director, The Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation



**ASWINI PRIYANKA RAJENDRAN**  
CEO, ASSR Emphorium



**DR KAVITHA VARADHARAJ**  
Sports/Clinical Physiotherapist, AlignPeak Physio Pvt Ltd



**HEMACHANDRAN LOGAN**  
Founder & CEO, Brand Avatar Private Ltd



**PAUL VANNAN**  
Founder, Chennai Chess Club

**QUICK QUESTIONS**

**VISWANATHAN ANAND**

● **Why do you think so many of your contemporaries have retired?**  
They wanted to try other things.

● **One achievement outside chess you are most proud of?**  
Marrying up.

● **One thing that you fear in your career?**  
Playing badly.

● **Your greatest rival?**

I played the most games with (Vladimir) Kramnik. So in some sense, you could call him my greatest rival. But I think Magnus (Carlsen) is pretty close in terms of number of games as well.

● **And what's the one thing you've learnt from Kramnik?**

I thought I had learned how to be chill from him but you continuously learn new things about people.

● **He is not chill anymore?**

He is doing some interesting stuff. He has suddenly discovered Twitter and that's not something I saw coming.



● **One piece of advice for Djokovic.**  
Not to have a knee operation right before a tournament.

● **What advice do you have for Alcaraz?**

He's doing great. He seems to be genuinely chirpy and happy.

● **And for Rohit.**  
Enjoy the times it goes well.

● **Will you support the idea of legalising sports gambling in India?**

I would permit but with limits. **Erigaisi:** I would copy on Anand's say on that one.

**Aruna:** I think you should have limits because it could become dangerous.

● **What if chess became a gambling sport?**

Again with a lot of limitations but thankfully it is not an issue we have to deal with. In chess one of the challenges we face is cheating. I am not sure what gambling will do to that but if you can really separate it, and if the fans want to do it, then that's fine.

**ARJUN ERIGAI**



● **One piece of advice you have for the 13-year-old chess enthusiast, who looks at you and says he wants to be a grandmaster like you.**

If you enjoy chess, just continue doing it and, maybe, just play a lot of games.

● **Of all your contemporaries, whose journey are you most inspired by?**

I'm most inspired by Vishy sir and Magnus Carlsen.

● **And from your generation?**  
I think Gukesh is very inspiring because winning the candidates at 17 is a huge feat.

● **One thing you've learned from Vishy which you cherish the most?**  
Back in 2021, I got a chance to play against him, casual games. Those are moments I really cherish because I learnt a lot from them.

● **What needs to happen for India to dominate chess globally, like the Soviets once did?**  
I think we are doing good, but dominating at their level is almost impossible in this era.

● **The one thing that needs to happen to make chess a more lucrative career choice?**  
Bring in more sponsors and corporate companies.

● **The one rival you're most excited to face this year?**  
I have not faced Alireza that much, so I would really love to play him.

● **Destiny or freewill.**  
Not any if you win.

**ARUNA ANAND**



● **The one person who has contributed to improving brand India globally, almost as much as Vishy Anand has.**  
Mahatma Gandhi.

● **The one game that Vishy lost but you were most proud of him for playing?**

There is no game like that. If he loses, it's misery.

● **The one contract or endorsement that you were happiest closing?**

Anand does a lot of work for WWF and it's very interesting to see what research they are doing. Personally, we are very happy to be part of the WWF family.

● **The one thing that the current generation can learn from Vishy's.**

If you need marriage tips, you know where to ask!

● **What advice would you give a parent for keeping their child focused like Vishy?**  
I think like Anand said, let the child decide what she would like to do. It's interesting what children come up with these days. Like our son loves art and I'm very happy he found his own calling.

● **And one advice you have for wives who work with their husbands?**  
It's okay to shout at them once in a while. They understand.



(From left) Pankaj Surana, Managing Director, Surana Gem and Jewellery Industries Pvt Ltd; Sameer Pathak, CEO, Global Chess League, Tech Mahindra; Murugavel Janakiraman, CEO, Bharat Matrimony



The audience at the Adda with Viswanathan Anand

he thinks about chess. We also got to play some games with him and that was very useful as well.

**On being competitive with his contemporaries**

**Erigaisi:** There is some rivalry between us but it's healthy. It only motivates the other person to work harder and do better but it's not like we are feeling jealous (of each other). So, what's there right now is very good and I think it's best for everyone if it remains the same because it helps everyone.

**On the finances that go into the making of a grandmaster**

**Erigaisi:** What people don't realise is it's a very expensive sport. Almost 50 per cent of my sponsorship goes into my training. Then you have to constantly travel. So I think sponsorship is very important.

**On the challenges he faced**

**starting out**

**VA:** There are things which I found unfair but there are also things that just made us strong. We went through it once and we learnt our lessons from it and we said, okay, next time we have to do things differently... And you're right, in a sense, we were pioneers and we had to figure this out on our own. There was no institutional transfer of knowledge, right?

We learnt how to deal with these challenges. That's just the way it was. If things have improved for the next generation, then wonderful.

**On the golden generation of Indian chess**

**VA:** I think they're so close to the top, they're sniffing most things. Obviously, playing with the highest stakes is an experience that you may have to encounter in a very raw fashion to figure it out. It's funny, they could be each other's rivals easily in some universe and they'll be in the same boat in a sense, so we'll see.

**IN THE AGE OF AI AND TECHNOLOGY, HOW MUCH IS SCIENCE AND HOW MUCH IS CREATIVE SPORT? DOES THE SKILL SET OF CHESS HELP YOU IN PERSONAL LIFE?**

**VA:** It's a sport because finally when you play, you're playing the same game that (José Raúl) Capablanca played and (François-André) Philidor played. There's no fundamental difference. But the training methods have evolved. The game continues to be a sport. It will never be a science unless computers invade that field but the study of it will be science. The only conclusion I've been able to draw is that I'm very good at chess and,



**PANKAJ SURANA**  
Managing Director, Surana Gem and Jewellery Industries Pvt Ltd

therefore, a lot of my impulsiveness, even a lot of errors in my decision-making, are forgiven because I'm a good player to start with, but they're not forgiven in other areas.

**FOR STUDENTS, ONE OF THE CELEBRATED PEDAGOGIES IS TO CREATE CASE STUDIES, SIMULATION EXERCISES. INSPIRED FROM A CHESS BOARD, WHAT CAN WE WORK ON TO HELP THEM NAVIGATE THROUGH SITUATIONS LIKE STALEMATE, CHECKMATE?**

**VA:** In chess also, it's very important to simulate what might happen on a chessboard because the first thing is to understand that when decisions and moves count, everything has a cost and you can't take back. It's different from when you're training... In sport, the difference is very clear, but in other walks of life there's a moment



**SUDHAKAR RAO**  
Director — Branding, ICFAI Group

when a decision counts, has consequences, and the more realistic you can imagine it, the more you'll remember the lesson when it finally happens.

**WHEN YOU WERE THE WORLD CHAMPION, WHY DID YOU MOVE OUT OF INDIA? SECOND, IF NOT FOR CHESS, WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE BECOME?**

**VA:** It was a very good idea to move out of India because it put me closer to people I could work with. It put me closer to tournaments, shortened travel time, everything. Somebody will think of inviting you with two days notice if you are nearby but if you live a continent away, they'll just say, it's impossible. So I was living in Spain. We moved back 15 years ago. And India has caught up so much in these areas that it's no longer that relevant. Our connectivity is higher. On the second question, one



**MURUGAVEL JANAKIRAMAN**  
CEO, Bharat Matrimony

possibility is that I would have defaulted into engineering like my father and elder brother. But I simply don't know. Very early, I felt that I was going to become a chess player.

MEDAL TALLY

Pos.	Country	G	S	B	Total
1.	China	11	7	4	22
2.	France	8	11	8	27
3.	Japan	8	3	4	15
4.	Australia	7	6	4	17
5.	USA	6	13	12	31
25.	India	0	0	3	3

\*At midnight

RESULTS DAY 6

SHOOTING

50m 3 Positions Men's Final:

Maharashtra's Swapnil Kusale kept a firm grip on his nerves

despite a growling tummy and a racing heart to secure India's first ever Olympic medal in the 50m rifle 3 positions event on a day

when four strong podium contenders from the country were knocked out from the Games. Kusale shot an aggregate of 451.4 in the eight-shooter final to finish third after being placed sixth at one stage.

BOXING

Round of 16:

It was a tearful end to two-time world champion Nikhat Zareen's Olympic debut as she was out-punched 0-5 by China's Wu Yu in the women's 50kg division. It leaves only two more Indian boxers in medal contention- Lovlina Borgohain and Nishant Dev.

ARCHERY

Men's recurve:

Indian archer Pravin Jadhav bowed out of the Paris Olympics after losing his individual men's recurve opening round clash in straight sets to Kao Wenchoo of China here on Thursday. Jadhav lost 0-6 (28-29 29-30 27-28) in the round of 64. Even though Jadhav shot as many as four 10s through the course of the match, the Chinese archer managed to pip the Indian by a point in each of the three sets.

BADMINTON

Men's doubles quarters

One of the favourites for the gold medal, reigning Asian Games and Commonwealth Games champions, Satwik and Chirag, squandered the first-game advantage to go down 21-13 14-21 16-21 in a hard-fought quarterfinal against world number 3 duo of Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik of Malaysia.

Men's singles (pre-quarters)

Lakshya Sen brought some cheers back to the Indian camp after registering a comfortable 21-12 21-6 win over a visibly tired HS Prannoy in an all-Indian pre-quarterfinals

contest to become only the third male player ever from the country to reach the last-eight of the Olympics badminton competition.

Women's singles

A third straight Olympic medal stayed out of her grasp as PV Sindhu made a shock exit from the Paris Games with a straight-game loss against China's world number six He Bingjiao in the women's singles pre-quarterfinals.

46-second bout, one bloody punch and a massive gender row

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE AUGUST 1

THE TRAGIC frame of Italian boxer Angela Carini dropping to her knees and weeping inconsolably would definitely be amongst the defining moments of the Paris Olympics. Just 46 seconds into her Round of 16 bout against Algeria's Imane Khelif - who had failed a gender eligibility test last year - in the 66 kg category, Carini withdrew after she was at the wrong end of a punch with extraordinary power. She would later go on to say, "I have never felt a punch like this". The BBC and the Telegraph reported that Carini had suffered a suspected broken nose.

Why Carini withdrew

Very early into the bout, there was a brief pause with Carini needing to adjust her head guard after Khelif's punches dislodged her chin



Angela Carini (L) withdrew just 46s into the bout vs Imane Khelif. Reuters

And in time she decided against continuing the bout. The referee then waved off the contest and raised Khelif's hand as Carini sank to her knees. In the moments that followed, Carini would ignore Khelif, who tried to console her twice. Inside the ring, Carini was telling her coach "It is not right, it is not right."

Carini said the second punch on her nose was so hard she couldn't continue any longer. "I'm a mature woman, when I feel I cannot continue, it's not giving in, it's having the dignity to say enough. I was convinced I would win, I was concentrated, serene. But these punches to the nose hurt, I said enough."

Although Khelif didn't speak to the reporters, she did speak to the BBC briefly later on: "I am here for gold. I will fight anybody, I will fight them all," she said.

'XY' DNA

The decision to allow Khelif participate at the Olympics has already brought the

International Olympic Council under fire. Last year, Khelif was disqualified just hours before her gold-medal bout in the World Championships in New Delhi. At that time she had failed to meet International Boxing Association's (IBA) eligibility criteria. Even Taiwan's double world champion Lin Yu-ting's bronze medal at the Delhi event was taken off for not meeting the same criteria. According to IBA president Umar Kremlev their DNA tests had "proved they had XY chromosomes and were thus excluded". XY is the male chromosome, while XX is the female one.

However, both these boxers were allowed to participate at the Paris Olympics as the IBA was no longer recognised by the IOC. The boxing events at the Games are conducted by an

ad hoc body called Paris Boxing Unit (PBU), formed by the IOC's Executive Board.

IOC clearance

On the eve of the fight against Carini, the IBA said that Khelif had initially appealed their decision to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), but has withdrawn the appeal during the process. In other words, the IBA believes their decision is legally binding. Yu-ting, who is set to take the ring on Friday, didn't even press for an appeal. "The IOC's differing regulations on these matters,

I think that athletes who have male genetic characteristics should not be admitted to women's competitions."

GIORGIA MELONI ITALY PRIME MINISTER

in which IBA is not involved, raise serious questions about both competitive fairness and athletes' safety. The IOC, though, maintains that both these boxers cleared its eligibility test, but it hasn't explained what they are.

FEELING BLUE IN THE BLUE CORNER

After loss, tears and a promise

Two-time World Champion Nikhat vows to bounce back after a forgettable Games debut with a loss to top-seed Wu Yu



EXPRESS AT OLYMPICS

MIHIR VASAVDA PARIS, AUGUST 1

HER COMBINATION with the right is a tell. Like a Sachin Tendulkar straight drive early in the innings that would forecast his form. Or the deft first touch that signalled Lionel Messi's mood.

For Nikhat Zareen to sting, her right fist has to sing. If she lands any combination attack with the right, say her coaches, they sit calmly in her corner almost assured of the outcome - the success rate when that happens, they've noted, is more than 90 per cent.

On Thursday they waited for that to happen. The two-time world champion swayed to the right and attempted a hook; stepped back and attacked; leaned forward and jabbed; when nothing worked, she wildly flung the right, a Hail Mary move. But the punch never connected.

Nikhat entered the ring smiling, punching the air and deeply exhaling. She left with tears in her eyes and a promise to return stronger.

This wasn't how Nikhat envisaged her maiden Olympics to be. But it was a humbling realisation for the Indian, who has medalled wherever she has competed, of why an Olympic medal remains a holy grail for most athletes.

One of India's top medal prospects at the Paris Olympics, the boxer suffered a one-sided defeat to the Chinese world number 1 Wu Yu in the women's 50 kg Round of 16. All five judges were unanimous in their verdict.

Her loss was the first of a series of bad news for India's contingent on a day when the country won its third medal at the Paris Olympics. Soon after, men's doubles favourites Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty were beaten in the quarterfinals. Sift Kaur Samra and Anjum Moudgil's meek exit in the qualifying round of the 50m rifle 3-position completed India's worst couple of hours of the Games so far, ending the dreams of the major medal contenders.

Bruised ego, feeling of injustice

Soon after her bout, Nikhat's mind was a web of different, colliding emotions.

The boxer's ego was bruised, having to acknowledge she lost to a better opponent. She harboured a feeling of injustice that she was handed a rough draw, where she also had to compete in an extra bout compared to Wu Yu. There was a sense of longing to spend time with her parents, nephew and niece. Tired and hungry, too, after going two days without eating to maintain her weight.



Nikhat Zareen said she had been fasting for the last two days to ensure she remained within the weight limit on Thursday. Reuters

The most overwhelming of all was a sense of sadness. Olympic rings adorn her right-hand wrap, and the words 'Paris 2024' are emblazoned in golden ink on the left. She even wears the five rings on her finger - a ring bearing the Olympic symbol, a gift from her father. Her life has been guided by this one solitary ambition.

When her moment came, after years of waiting, the boxer who operates with an air of invincibility inside the ring was left chasing her slippery opponent's shadows.

Light on her feet and blindingly fast with her hands, Wu Yu would duck under Nikhat's punches and swerve sideways to evade. Then, she'd land a clean blow herself to impress the judges and keep Nikhat guessing as to where the next punch would come from.

"It was my first match against Wu Yu. It

was an experience. I didn't have the knowledge of how to face her," Nikhat admitted. "When I was attacking, she moved quickly and stepped away. She was faster than me."

Sleepless nights

It didn't help that she endured a sleepless night. In the German town of Saarbrücken, where she was camping in the lead-up to the Olympics, Nikhat is learnt to have been at least 2-3 kilos over 50 kg, the maximum weight an athlete can have in her category.

Nikhat said she had been fasting for the last two days to ensure she remained within the weight limit on Thursday. "For two days, I haven't eaten or drunk anything. I couldn't sleep at all last night. Today, mine was the first bout of the morning session so I couldn't recover properly after the weigh-in. I had

breakfast and came to the venue," she said.

"I couldn't sleep last night because I hadn't eaten anything. My mind was 24 hours active, thinking that I'd drink water, and eat immediately after weigh-in. If I had won the bout and said this, people would appreciate it. Since I have lost, people will say it's an excuse. But honestly, I couldn't sleep last night, you can check my data."

She didn't deny, though, that the result was a 'setback' for her. "But I will learn from it."

Solo trip on her mind

The bout against Wu Yu, she added, has given her a direction for the Los Angeles Olympics four years from now - that she'll have to get 'physically and mentally stronger'. This, however, Nikhat said would not rank as a 'disappointment'.

"I've put in all the effort that I could. I've slugged in training, sparred with boys, faced minor injuries. I've trained through those injuries. But this Olympic performance I wouldn't count as a disappointment. Unfortunately, I landed a tough draw," she said.

Next on her agenda is a solo trip. The Paris Games consumed a better part of her life for the last three years, and Nikhat said she now wants to do things that were put on the back burner: Spending time with her nephew and niece. "I miss spending time with them," she said. "I will try to go for a solo trip. I've never experienced it in life."

When she returns to the ring, Nikhat says one thing will remain unchanged: her spirit. "My journey has never been easy, and it will remain tough going forward. (But) Nikhat Zareen is a fighter, be it in life or the ring."

WHAT TO WATCH

INDIA VIEWFINDER: LAKSHYA SEN MARCHES ON, CRUCIAL HOCKEY MATCH

**SHOOTING**  
PRECISION STAGE: 12:30 PM  
RAPID STAGE: 3:30 PM IST

MANU BHAKER, ESHA SINGH  
Two-time medallist Manu Bhaker is now back for a third event, and one where she won the Olympic quota. She joins Esha Singh as they look to reach the 25m final.

**BADMINTON**  
MEN'S SINGLES: 6:30 PM\*

LAKSHYA SEN  
There might have been heartbreak for Satwik-Chirag and HS Prannoy, but at least one member of the 2022 Thomas Cup world champions squad moves on. Lakshya will hope to keep the momentum going.

**HOCKEY**  
MEN'S POOL B, INDIA VS AUSTRALIA: 4.45 PM

ANKITA, PARUL CHAUDHARY, TAJINDERPAL TOOR  
Quarterfinals spot is not a concern for Harmanpreet and Co but there is still quite a bit riding on this clash against their nemesis, Kookaburras. India would aim to finish as high as possible.

**ARCHERY**  
MIXED TEAM EVENT, FROM R16 TO MEDAL ROUNDS: 1PM

ANKITA BHAKAT, DHIRAJ BOMMADEVARA  
There has mostly just been disappointment from the archery range for the Indian contingent but when the event began, the mixed team event was a medal hope. Can they overcome the heartbreaks?

**ATHLETICS**  
WOMEN'S 5000M (9:40PM) & MEN'S SHOT PUT (11:40PM)

ANKITA, PARUL CHAUDHARY, TAJINDERPAL TOOR  
Parul Chaudhary, who had a memorable double medal at the Asian Games, as well Asian record holder shot-putter Tajinderpal will be seen in action.

**GOLF**  
MEN'S INDIVIDUAL, ROUND 2: 12.30 PM

GAGANJEET BHULLAR, SHUBHANKAR SHARMA  
Shubhankar Sharma was better placed in Round 1 after the golf action began on Thursday. However Gaganjeet Bhullar was placed quite well down the leaderboard. There are 4 rounds in total.



MANU BHAKER SHOOTING 25M PISTOL PTT

WORLD VIEWFINDER: CALEB DRESSEL TIME AT PARIS

**ATHLETICS**  
MEN'S 10,000M: 12:50 AM (3RD AUGUST)

Uganda's Joshau Cheptegui won the silver medal at Tokyo but comes into Paris as the favourite for the men's 10,000m crown. With three Worlds titles to his name and the last of which he won by over a second, Paris surely couldn't throw a surprise in, could it?

**FOOTBALL**  
MEN'S QUARTERFINAL: 12:30 AM (3RD AUG)

France vs Argentina. The protagonists might not be the same, but this is going to be a grudge match alright given everything that has happened since the Qatar World Cup final.

**SWIMMING**  
MEN'S 50M FREESTYLE: 12:00 AM (3RD AUGUST)

MEN'S 50M FREESTYLE: 12:00 AM (3RD AUGUST)  
USA's Caleb Dressel, six medals at Tokyo and what not, comes into Paris as the biggest name in the event but Team GB's Benjamin Proud remains the favourite in the event after smashing Dressel's WR in 2023.

**BMX**  
WOMEN'S RACING: SEMIFINALS, 11:45 PM

In her fourth Olympic Games now, USA's Alise Willoughby is a clear gold-medal contender, especially considering she took the 2024 World Championships top spot.

## 7-month pregnant fencer competes; What do Olympic rules have to say?

AMIT KAMATH  
AUGUST 1

EGYPTIAN FENCER Nada Hafez recently made headlines after revealing that she competed at the Paris Olympics while she was seven months pregnant. The Cairo-based fencer is a three-time Olympian whose campaign in the women's sabre event at Paris 2024 ended with a defeat to Jeon Hayoung of South Korea.

It was after her loss that she revealed that she was pregnant when she competed.

"My baby and I had our fair share of challenges, be it both physical & emotional," Hafez wrote on Instagram. "The rollercoaster of pregnancy is tough on its own, but having to fight to keep the balance of life and sports was nothing short of strenuous, however worth it. I'm writing this post to say that pride fills my being for securing my place in the round of 16!"

Before we get to whether there are any regulations regarding competing at the Olympics while pregnant, it must be noted that while fencing is derived from sword fighting, the modern-day variation of the sport that is contested on a piste, sees fencers fighting using blades of low-carbon steel. And despite the usage of words like "blade" and "weapon", fencers essentially use metallic sticks to fence.

Fencers also wear plenty of body protection while competing, such as masks that have to pass through a 12kg "punch test", neck bibs which are usually made of kevlar to resist a force of 1600 Newtons, a fencing jacket, and plastic chest protectors, which are mandatory for women, and are worn under the jacket.

But fencing is also a physically demanding sport where athletes have to display blink-of-an-eye reflexive movements and do movements that constantly test their balance, causing athletes to trip and fall (which could be an issue for someone with a seven-month pregnancy).

So how did a seven-month pregnant athlete compete at the cut-throat level of the Olympics?

The Indian Express reached out to the International Olympic Committee, Paris 2024 Organising Committee, and the International Fencing Federation (FIE) to ask whether they have any regulations in place regarding pregnant athletes and if pregnant athletes are asked to fill out any declarations before they can compete in competitions when at an advanced stage of pregnancy.

Both Paris 2024 organisers and the IOC stated that it was the FIE who was in charge of deciding eligibility criteria for fencing. The IOC did not directly address a question on whether the IOC has a policy on pregnant athletes competing as the organisers of the Olympics.

"Eligibility criteria for sports, disciplines and events are determined by the respective International Federation for their respective sport. We therefore refer you to the International Federation and National Federation in regard to respective eligibility questions," IOC told The Indian Express in an email.

The FIE, meanwhile, told The Indian Express: "Neither FIE nor the Egyptian Fencing Federation have any regulations or rules regarding pregnancy and competition."



Egyptian fencer Nada Hafez lost in the Round of 16 at Paris Olympics. *Twitter*

VINAYAK MOHANARANGAN  
AUGUST 1

IF LAKSHYA Sen's win over Jonatan Christie produced moments of brilliance from the Indian youngster, some of which went viral, his contest with HS Prannoy was on the other side of the spectrum.

Up against his Thomas Cup teammate, and a roommate often on tour, Lakshya didn't need to come up with Matrix-level behind-the-back shots or crazy retrievals from tight corners. Solidity was enough. He led from the first point to the last in the opening game that he took 21-12. At the start of the second, 1-0 was the only lead Prannoy would hold all afternoon, as it became increasingly evident that Lakshya was going to canter home. It was 21-5 in the end, and the lack of any sort of celebration from Lakshya summed up the sombre mood of the match.

It wasn't ideal for anyone concerned. Prannoy or Lakshya certainly didn't want to be playing each other at the biggest tournament of their lives. As a spectacle for a badminton neutral too, it wasn't anything to write home about. Prannoy, evidently still

## Satwiksairaj- Chirag's dreams of Olympic medal come crashing after loss to Chia-Soh in quarters

SHIVANI NAIK  
AUGUST 1

LIKE A dry martini of decreased sweetness, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, a teetotaler, tasted defeat at the Paris Olympics, alongside buddy Chirag Shetty. It wasn't very French, but this bitter will be nursed for years to come, as they return home without a medal they wanted too desperately, and too dearly.

Disappointment of the *deja vu* kinds, can draw out dry laughs. Satwik's was incredulous rather than sardonic. For right after losing to Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik of Malaysia in the quarterfinals, Satwik's mind went back to 8 straight prior losses against the same pairing. It was a sorry streak they thought they had left behind - having beaten Aaron-Soh thrice thereafter, winning Asian Games, Thomas Cup and reaching World No 1. Apparently, life had

come a long way to loop right back to when they were the Malaysians' bunnies.

"We had started really good. We were in comfortable position. In defense also. But then (here he laughed) we were back again to 8-0 when we were losing to them. The same game came up poking us in first 1,2,3 strokes," he explained. Aaron and Soh's pokes turned into a giant stab at the Olympics as they lost 21-13, 14-21, 16-21.

Good serving combinations, the Chinese, Danes and Koreans had troubled the Indian duo in the lead up. Aaron Chia has a wicked range on service variations, he's an absolute master of those, and frankly the Indians who lost three finals in the last 8 months, hadn't found their receiving counter, the defense against this wonderfully dark art. They even won the opening set as a soaring Chirag Shetty attacked admirably.

Then the pokes came, and the bitter joke was on the Indians.

Through the first set, both Satwik and Chirag had kept Aaron quiet and pegged him back, depriving him of his favoured net-play as his errors piled up. Attacking the stronger link (he's still tricky but trimmed quite a bit, and moving quickly), was audacious. It even worked. Until it didn't. The most underrated player of the four, Soh Wooi Yik came to the party, while Aaron rediscovered his spritz.

Not only did Soh serve equally lethally, the Malaysians pounced on India's hesitant and naive guileless 2nd shot returns with a flourish. "If the rally came up, we scored lot of points. The 1,2,3,4 strokes is a good lesson

for us to focus on, when we go back. If we played 5th stroke, we were getting the point. But 4 strokes we need to play very consistent. Close to the end they played a mental game, they were more steady compared to us," Satwik would threadbare candidly.

Not only did Aaron-Soh pounce on the Satwik defensive return, but they successfully managed to deny Chirag any control at whizzing across the net to play his steep down shots. Kept away from a regular dose of attack, Chirag's nerves began acting up, and it was 2021-22 all over again, when hurried, rushed, jittery jab of returns would see their game come undone. This game had been perfected by Indonesians Kevin-Marcus, and the Malaysians just took it forward with Aaron's outrageous net skill.

Pinned in defensive traps of fast, flat-exchanges where Aaron-Soh barely lifted the shuttle to give Indians a vantage to smash from, Satwik-Chirag panicked. They couldn't squeeze their aerial attacks in, and Soh Wooi Yik kept it short and snappy. The average rally length was 4 shots through the match, so the 5th where the Indians could smash it down, rarely fetched up.

Getting drawn into the flat-game trap doomed them, but the Malaysians weren't exactly leaving them with a choice, imposing their pace on every rally and putting immense pressure on low defense.

Chirag was still processing the loss, when he said, "Ummm ya. Sort of we let them back into the game. At 4-0 in second we were quite comfortable. Should have led till the mid game interval. But it became back and forth, back and forth. So they kept poking us. In the third they led 5-2, but we got back. Didn't let them take that lead away from us. It was even till 14-11. But they kept poking us. We should've been a little more calmer. We gave away too many easy points, he said.

On Heartbreak boulevard, this would rank high. Satwik said, "Big heart break. We had similar heart breaks. We are used to that. But I mean..I wanted to do well for our coach as well. It's on the back of our mind that he worked harder than us. He kept his whole planning and adjusting with things back home, (and advised) smart moves of how to deal with my body. It was never easy. Lucky to have him. Felt very positive coming onto court. Felt it's our day. When we won bronze (Kusale bronze) in the morning we were really positive thinking it's our day. So started really good."

**Not only did Aaron-Soh pounce on the Satwik defensive return, but they successfully managed to deny Chirag any control at whizzing across the net to play his steep down shots.**

## Sindhu falls short, Olympic three-peat dream shattered

SHIVANI NAIK  
AUGUST 1

IT WASN'T nasty enough to qualify as a nightmare. He Bingjiao had two imperious body-smashes directed at PV Sindhu's body, and was apologising profusely for wanting to score points in that fashion. The Indian's fade-out from the stage of her biggest triumphs, the Olympics, was gentle in its goodbye, despite the fine-natured Chinese roaring uncharacteristically, and fist-pumping after her winners, of which there were many.

Sindhu's 21-19, 21-13 loss to Bingjiao in the Round of 16, though, brought alive all the ravages of time in her third Games, the first from where she will return without a medal. Bingjiao is an affable Chinese, a former child prodigy who hasn't quite hit the top rung at the Olympics. Sindhu, who had never lost to a Chinese at the Worlds or Olympics when winning a medal, was picked apart elegantly.

She'd scarcely talk of this as revenge, though Sindhu had denied her a bronze at

Tokyo exactly three years ago to the day. Bingjiao who took auto-rides to and from her Delhi hotel when playing the India Open merrily trying out her English skills with anyone she met, and loves F.R.I.E.N.D.S, wasn't gunning to be nasty. She just knew where to hurt Sindhu on the court, and pranced around executing the gig.

Left-handers have been a recent bane for the Indian, but none is as elegant as Bingjiao. Against a headbanger like Carolina Marin, Sindhu could match pace and plunder, though wins haven't been forthcoming. But Bingjiao went for positional puncturing of Sindhu's game.

The Chinese found myriad ways and strokes to get Sindhu uncomfortable on the low retrieves on her backhand at the front net corner. It's not just a simple lunge that could trouble the Indian's knee, but a proper contortion falling forward and then getting back up to move behind. As if hypnotised with the spot, Bingjiao kept dipping the shuttle with drops and taps and flicks to that backhand forecourt.

The Indian did well to retrieve most in defence. But it left the rest of the court wide



India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty are consoled by coach Mathias Boe after their loss on Thursday. *PTI*



India's PV Sindhu lost 21-19, 21-13 to China's He Bingjiao. *PTI*

open, and Sindhu's court coverage just didn't cut it, as Bingjiao sent down mammoth straight smashes.

### Fighting for every point

From 5-9, Sindhu gamely reached 13-13 in the opening game. She fell behind 15-18

**I should have controlled my mistakes, that's what I felt in the second game especially. It's sad that I couldn't convert it into a win, it was 19-19 at one point in the first game.**

-PV SINDHU

but still scurried around diligently, her defence lending confidence to her attack as she made it 19-19 with a vintage down-the-line smash. But the Chinese was moving so well, an explosive burst added to her pretty stroke-making, and she nailed a sideline ping to go up 20-19. To take the opener, the 27-year-old again drew Sindhu forward and finished the point with a deep hit to the back immediately.

In those two points, Sindhu grew weary knowing coming back from this was an uphill task.

In the second game, Sindhu went 2-8 down far too quickly. Bingjiao who's had numerous tearful exits, bullied by Marin, out-

smarted by Tai Tzu-Ying, overpowered by Chen Yufei, is a rare player who troubles Korean favourite An Se Young. Her latent talent, considered generational in China, has blossomed as she grew a veneer of in-your-face aggression and a bit of ruthlessness to add sting to the brainy shotmaking.

It was all too much for Sindhu, who didn't relent in defence, but whose power doesn't bury opponents' wills. The woman that Sindhu defeated at Tokyo had broken down when she was peppered with attacks. This one at Paris was proud of her ethereal skills. And not shy of stomping.

In the immediate aftermath of such a disappointing defeat, Sindhu could only wonder what could have been if some of the crucial points had gone her way.

"I should have controlled my mistakes, that's what I felt in the second game especially. It's sad that I couldn't convert it into a win, it was 19-19 at one point in the first game," the two-time Olympic medallist said.

Sindhu's domination over the Chinese was neatly folded away like an elegant napkin, but her dream of a three-peat sat still on the table like an unfinished, cold meal.

## Lakshya takes down Prannoy to enter quarterfinal, eyes higher peaks

VINAYAK MOHANARANGAN  
AUGUST 1

IF LAKSHYA Sen's win over Jonatan Christie produced moments of brilliance from the Indian youngster, some of which went viral, his contest with HS Prannoy was on the other side of the spectrum.

Up against his Thomas Cup teammate, and a roommate often on tour, Lakshya didn't need to come up with Matrix-level behind-the-back shots or crazy retrievals from tight corners. Solidity was enough. He led from the first point to the last in the opening game that he took 21-12. At the start of the second, 1-0 was the only lead Prannoy would hold all afternoon, as it became increasingly evident that Lakshya was going to canter home. It was 21-5 in the end, and the lack of any sort of celebration from Lakshya summed up the sombre mood of the match.

It wasn't ideal for anyone concerned. Prannoy or Lakshya certainly didn't want to be playing each other at the biggest tournament of their lives. As a spectacle for a badminton neutral too, it wasn't anything to write home about. Prannoy, evidently still

not at peak physical fitness after a recent bout of chikungunya hampered his lead-up to Paris, was a shell of his roaring, diving, rallying self. The man known as The Beast, wasn't at his best.

### Who is Lakshya up against?

Up next for Lakshya could well have been a familiar face. From 2018's junior batch, four youngsters have transitioned brilliantly to the senior circuit: Kunlavut Vitidsarn, Lakshya, Li Shi Feng and Kodai Naraoka. And the draw had pitted Lakshya on a collision course with Japan's Naraoka. Instead though, on Friday, the Indian will be up against Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei. From a potential Class of 2018 reunion, it's a meeting with a much older, cannier alumni.

They don't get any grittier than Chou. The 34-year-old has been a near-constant presence on the tour for years now, reaching as high as World No. 2 in 2022. In April 2023, before the Badminton Asia Championships, colorectal cancer was detected but fortunately enough, the required surgery was a minor procedure.

"I was training with Viktor (Axelsen), and before that I did a physical check. When they



Lakshya Sen (right) embraces compatriot HS Prannoy after the match. *PTI*

did a more detailed check, it was cancer," Chou would reveal to the BWF in February this year after winning the Thailand Masters title. "When we got the news, it was a shock.

I was playing the Asian Championships at the time. I always eat well and sleep well, so we don't know why it happened."

Like Lakshya, Chou too is a bronze medal-

**For Lakshya, the mission would be to ensure he carries forward India's dream of becoming the first male shuttler to win a medal at the Olympics. Prannoy, had a simple message for him: don't forget to enjoy the moment.**

### What kind of match to expect?

Lakshya has played Chou four times, and won one of those matches: at the All England Open in 2023, when he produced one of his more impressive performances that year be-

fore injuries and illnesses started to pull him down. In fact, in their previous four meetings, that is the only occasion when the match was decided in two games. Every other contest has gone the distance.

That sums up Chou, who is known for playing plenty of three-game matches on tour. It means Lakshya's fitness will have to be at an optimum level because his opponent knows a thing or two about lasting the distance. Lakshya has already shown in Paris that he has a good handle on conditions, and will hope his pace variations can keep Chou under check. Obviously, the 12 years separating the two shuttlers could be a factor that helps Lakshya, who has been training hard on his endurance in the build-up to Paris.

But Chou is a survivor, at times a warrior, who is chasing a dream late in his career. "You keep playing because you have a dream, right? Olympics is always our dream," Chou had said.

But for Lakshya, the mission would be to ensure he carries forward India's dream of becoming the first male shuttler to win a medal at the Olympics. His opponent on Thursday, Prannoy, had a simple message for him: don't forget to enjoy the moment.

With 2 gold in 2 hours, Marchand becomes France's poster boy

# A defeat with positives

Despite 2-1 loss to Belgium, in phases of the game India gave the defending champions a tough time

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
NANTERRE, AUGUST 1

URNS OUT, those comparisons to Michael Phelps weren't far fetched at all when it comes to Léon Marchand. They certainly weren't a burden for the 22-year-old Frenchman. Marchand completed one of the most audacious doubles in swimming history Wednesday night, winning the 200-meter butterfly and the 200 breaststroke about two hours apart in front of a home crowd cheering his every stroke.

Two grueling races. Two very different strokes. Two Olympic records. Two gold medals. Take that, Phelps, who did several doubles of his own while claiming a record eight golds at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

"I'm a really shy person," Marchand said. "I was kind of the center of attention during those two races. I was trying to get the energy from the whole crowd. They're amazing to me, pushing me in every final."

Thrilling the French fans and claiming the spotlight even on a night when Katie Ledecky romped to another gold medal, Marchand notched his second and third victories at La Defense Arena and stamped himself — with the Olympics not even a week old — as one of the faces of the Paris Games.

After rallying to beat world-record holder and defending Olympic champion Kristóf Milák in the 200 fly with a finishing kick for the ages, Marchand made it look easy in the 200 breast.

He led all the way, touching in 15 minutes, 5.85 seconds as more than 15,000 fans — many of them holding up cardboard cutouts of his smiling face — nearly blew the roof off La Defense Arena. "Léon! Léon! Léon!" they screamed, a chant that was sure to carry on through the night in Paris.

Trailing most of the way in the 200 fly, Marchand surged past the Hungarian Milák on the final lap to finish with an Olympic record of 1:51.21, touching first by just by .54 of a second. Marchand's final lap was nearly 0.66 faster than anyone else in the field — and 1.26 clear of Milák. "I've been watching so many races from him," Marchand said. "I know he has a lot of speed, way more than me, so I was just trying to get as close as possible, and then just push it until the end."

The bronze went to Canada's Ilya Kharum. Following up his dominating victory in the 400 individual medley on Sunday, Marchand waved one finger and shook his head just a bit, as if he couldn't quite believe what he had done.

Then, he hustled off the deck to another rousing cheer to begin his warm down, though those preparations were interrupted by a mandatory return for the victory ceremony. After a boisterous rendition of "La Marseillaise," the other two medalists walked slowly around the pool, getting their pictures made. Not Marchand. He hustled back to the practice pool. There was another race to go.

## Ledecky's record gold

The American star made the most of her guest appearance on The Marchand Show by romping to her seventh individual Olympic gold medal — she also has a relay gold — and 12th medal overall with a runaway victory in the 1,500 freestyle. The 27-year-old Ledecky tied fellow Americans Dara Torres, Natalie Coughlin and Jenny Thompson for the most medals ever by a female swimmer. Ledecky already held the mark for most individual gold medals by a woman coming into these Games.



Leon Marchand of France celebrates on the podium after winning the 200m breaststroke final. Reuters

SCORELINE	
Belgium	India
2	1
Stockbroeckx 33'	Abhishek 18'
John Dohmen 44'	

TUSHAR BHADURI  
AUGUST 1

IF ANY positives can be taken from a loss, India can leave with their heads held high despite a 1-2 reversal against defending men's hockey champions Belgium at the Paris Olympics on Thursday.

On another sweltering day, Abhishek put India ahead with a rare open-play goal in the second quarter, but the Europeans hit back with two goals in the third period. Despite their best efforts, Harmanpreet Singh & Co couldn't fashion a turnaround.

The Indian skipper had scored two vital goals in the penultimate minutes in the games against New Zealand and Argentina, and he had a chance to do likewise against Belgium as well, but his thunderous drag-flick was deflected away from the target by Florent van Aubel on the goal line. India asked for a video referral in the hope for a penalty stroke, but the replay provided no joy.

There were no points to show for India's efforts on Thursday, but it was arguably their best performance so far in the tournament. They pressed high up the pitch, showed a lot of intensity and gave the Belgians, coming off a 6-2 thrashing of Australia, a tough time.

The defence held strong and goalkeeper PR Sreejesh thwarted Alexander Hendrick's drag-flicks repeatedly, 10 of Belgium's 11 penalty corners going in vain. But the European stalwarts know more than one way to skin a cat.

At the start of the second half, they raised the tempo straightaway. The ball was passed from the centre of the field to the left wing, and after some great work from van Aubel, Thibaut Stockbroeckx was at the right place to just turn the ball past Sreejesh and into an unprotected goal.

The equaliser lifted the holders and they had much the better of proceedings from thereon. It could be gauged from the fact that India earned just two penalty corners in the game, their primary avenue for goals in recent times.

The one penalty corner that the Belgians did find joy from, didn't bring a goal from the initial shot, Sreejesh again keeping Hendrickx at bay, but in the ensuing melee,



Belgium's JJ Dohmen (2nd from R) celebrates after scoring his side's second goal against India. PTI

it was veteran John-John Dohmen who just pushed the ball over the line for the eventual winner.

Despite the defeat, India head coach Craig Fulton sounded upbeat. "It was a good performance. We just need to maintain confidence ahead of our next game and then the quarterfinals," the South African told Jio Cinema.

"Even when we had a man down due to a yellow card (shown to Raj Kumar Pal), which I didn't think was warranted, we kept going and created a chance in the 59th minute, which was deflected away from the goal line. I would have been happier with a draw."

## Aussie challenge

That next game, with a turnaround time of little over 24 hours, is against Australia, who bounced back after their drubbing at the hands of Belgium to hand one of their own. New Zealand being at the wrong end of a 0-5 thrashing with Blake Govers getting a hat-trick.

It has been a long time since India got the better of the Aussies in a World Cup or Olympics, but the present batch from Down

MEN'S POOL B						
Pos.	Team	P	W	D	L	Pts
1(Q)	BEL	4	4	0	0	12
2(Q)	AUS	4	3	0	1	9
3(Q)	IND	4	2	1	1	7
4(Q)	ARG	4	2	1	1	7
5	IRE	4	0	0	4	-6
6	NZ	4	0	0	4	-9

Under doesn't quite inspire awe as did the world-beaters under match tactician Ric Charlesworth.

That may give Harmanpreet cause for optimism despite the disappointment against Belgium. "We played well and there was good coordination between midfield and the forward line, but we couldn't hold on after taking the lead. The defence, may be, could have done better, and we could have been more clinical in attack as well," he told the broadcasters after the game.

The body language of the Indian players seemed upbeat despite the defeat, as they knew it was a much better performance than

the one they dished out against Ireland two days ago, when ironically they had come away with full points.

Abhishek's goal was arguably the highlight of the Indian performance. He benefited from some sloppy play by Arthur de Sloover a little outside the Belgian circle and despite several Belgian shirts swooping on him, took a low shot on the turn and beat a startled Vincent Vanasch lot on his near post.

But Belgium showed that they can grind out a hard-fought win after a comprehensive performance against a perennial favourite team. They would be pleased with a 2-1 result against a team that finished on the podium three years ago, and has its sights set on another medal in the French capital.

Both teams were already through to the quarterfinals before Thursday's game. It was a matter of getting themselves in top gear going into the business end of the competition. The other group features heavyweights like The Netherlands, Germany, Spain and Great Britain, and results there have not always gone on expected lines. So, it's more about the performance in the group matches than ensuring a favourable quarterfinal match-up.

# How racist chants fuelled bad blood between France, Argentina

SANDIP G  
AUGUST 1

THIERRY HENRY and Javier Mascherano were men of calm disposition in their playing days. A svelte forward and a slick defensive midfielder, whose careers in the English Premier League and with Barcelona overlapped rather than intersected, have led the youth-centric teams of their nations, France and Argentina, to the quarterfinal of the Olympics. It would have been just another obscure Olympic match in normal circumstances, but not when Paris is burning with hate to all things Argentine.

When it's the busy waters of River Seine during the opening parade, the red clay of Roland Garros, the silvery sands of the makeshift beach volleyball court overlooking the Eiffel Tower, or the football baize of Saint-Etienne, a steady soundtrack of boos has accompanied Argentina's athletes. "Argentina is the enemy in France," blared a headline in Argentine newspaper Clarin.

The anthem is sneered at, the blue-white-and-gold shirt sniggered at, and athletes smirked. In Argentina's opening match against Kenya in Rugby 7s, the sparse audience came with a life-size red card and started jeering them till the final whistle.

"We got whistled right from the start of the tournament without really knowing

why," said a bemused Santiago Mare, one of the Argentine players. They would soon know why as the 80,000 spectators wove a web of hostility at Stade de France, showering insults every time an Argentine touched the ball. "It was one of the most hostile atmospheres in which we have played a game," Mare would say. When Argentina lost, France celebrated, and they would eventually claim a gold medal too, beating Fiji in the final.

But the real epicentre was a football game — and there the nascent yet feverish rivalry returns on Saturday night. One that was played 20 months ago in Qatar, widely considered the most thrilling final in World Cup history.

## Roots in recent history

A Kylian Mbappe hat-trick, Lionel Messi realising his destiny, and some incredibly edge-of-the-seat football. But the French players had complained that a section of Argentina supporters were spewing racist chants, roughly translated as "how certain French players had African ancestry or were first- or second-generation immigrants." "This is the dark side of Argentina's World Cup (win)" France legend Patrick Vieira would note.

Argentines would retort that France, their fans, pundits and former players, were plainly jealous. The French waited for pay-back time, and goalkeeper Emiliano



Argentina's Enzo Fernandez and teammates had sung a song with derogatory chants about French players after they won the Copa America title. File

Martinez, the chief villain in the piece, was booed when he visited Paris for the Ballon d'Or function last year.

But with time, the embers of rage seemed to extinguish, before Enzo Fernandez refuelled them after winning the COPA America last month. In a 48-second live stream, he and some of his teammates could be seen

singing a blatantly racist song, when they seemingly had little business in needing France.

In the backdrop, one could hear a voice of prudence shouting: "Corta el vivo, corta el vivo." It meant "stop the video". No one listened, and thus sprung a unique rivalry that has strayed not from the staple tropes (of

**PARIS DIARY**

**TENNIS**

**Swiatek stunned by China's Qinwen**

Iga Swiatek will have to wait four more years to try and win an Olympic gold medal after the Polish top seed was shocked by China's Zheng Qinwen in the semi-finals at Roland Garros on Thursday — her first loss there since 2021. Swiatek, the overwhelming favourite for gold after a third successive French Open title this year confirmed her as the Queen of Clay, was outplayed 6-2 7-5 on Court Philippe Chatrier. In snapping Swiatek's 25-match winning streak at Roland Garros, Australian Open runner-up Zheng became the first Chinese player to reach the singles final at an Olympic tournament. **REUTERS**

**SURFING**

**Action resumes after storm break**

Olympic surfing resumed on Thursday after two-and-a-half days of competition were lost to stormy weather, with women's round three up first and quarter-finals for men and women set to run in solid but still wind-affected waves in Tahiti. Delays due to poor conditions are completely normal in surfing competitions, with organisers having a 10-day window to run four days of heats — though picking those days is not always easy. The swell is set to drop during Thursday and into Friday before a small bump up on Saturday, making it the likely day to find the medallists. **REUTERS**

**TRACK AND FIELD**

**Winners to ring bell, get \$50k cheque**

When action at the Olympic track starts Friday, Sha'Carri Richardson, Noah Lyles and the rest will be going for gold, a \$50,000 cheque and a chance to go out with a clang. All winners in track and field will be given the honor of ringing the big bell inscribed with "Paris 2024" that's located on the edge of the track at Stade de France. As part of the legacy of the Paris Olympics, the bell eventually will move to a permanent home at the rebuilt Notre Dame Cathedral. **AP**

## IND VS SL: ODI SERIES

# Will Rahul be chosen over Pant to wear the big gloves against Sri Lanka?

VENKATA KRISHNA B  
AUGUST 1

THE TIMING of the ODI series against Sri Lanka is indeed odd. The three-match series will be India's first since the one against South Africa in January and their last one before they face England next February at home. But these six ODIs are all that India have before they finalise their squad for the ICC Champions Trophy scheduled for next February-March. Unlike T20Is and Tests, India have a settled line-up at their disposal in the ODIs, but in terms of looking at the future, each of these six ODIs bring so much to the table with few calls waiting to be taken.

Just like the T20Is, which India clean swept, they have a full-strength squad available for the ODIs. Sri Lanka, who are still reeling in the aftermath of that sensational collapse in the third T20I in Pallekele, are further depleted in Colombo, where all the three

ODIs will be played at the Premadasa stadium. With Dushmantha Chameera and Nuwan Thushara already missing, the hosts will have to make do without their star pacer Matheesha Pathirana and Dilshan Madushanka, who had an outstanding World Cup in India.

With the result being more or less a foregone conclusion, the series will be ideal for Rohit Sharma and head coach Gautam Gambhir to focus on some key areas that need immediate attention.

## Outstanding glove work

This should not even be a question considering KL Rahul not only aced in the role of a wicketkeeper in Rishabh Pant's absence, but was also their best player in the format for over the last two years.

His glove work at the World Cup was outstanding and he seemed to enjoy the role behind the stumps as he was constantly in the ears of the spinners plotting dismissals.

Should he be the preferred one for the role, no eyebrows will be raised as it would allow India to use another batsman or all-rounder in that spot.

But Pant's presence means he will definitely be among the discussion. Although the left-hander didn't really come close to owning the spot in the ODIs, where he averages only 34.60 in 30 matches with just one century and five fifties, Pant for sure is an X-factor player worth investing in. Apart from his capabilities to explode in the middle-overs, Pant by virtue of being a left-hander brings value addition. With Gambhir a big fan of having left-right combinations as much as possible, Pant's inclusion will also make total sense.

Should India include both Rahul and Pant, the only way they can accommodate Shreyas Iyer — another pillar in the middle-order — is if they play with just 5 bowling options. That will be a big gamble to take, and harsh on Iyer.

If one goes by the T20Is, it is very evident



India's head coach Gautam Gambhir with KL Rahul during a practice session at the R Premadasa International Stadium in Colombo. PTI

that Gambhir prefers having batsmen who can chip in with a few overs. Even during Rahul Dravid's tenure as head coach, it is one area where India failed to find the right personnel who could provide them the balance. They were largely dependent on Hardik Pandya, who has been dropped for the ODIs. Word around is that the selectors and the team management want him to prove his fitness by featuring in the Vijay Hazare Trophy and given his injury history, they are looking at grooming Nitish Kumar Reddy. If not for injury, Nitish would have been on the plane to Sri Lanka.

While Shivam Dube is part of the squad as a seam-bowling all-rounder, whether Rohit shows the faith in his bowling remains the big question. Even at the T20 World Cup, Rohit rarely used him. India will be looking at Riyan Parag and Washington Sundar to bat at No 6 or 7 with Axar Patel also in the mix.

That would mean, apart from Kuldeep Yadav, they can still make room for one more

pacer alongside Mohammed Siraj and Arshdeep Singh. In the domestic circuit, Parag has been amongst the most consistent performers in 50-overs and is also used as a regular with the ball. Batting at No 5 also is a role that comes naturally to him.

As far as Washington goes, he has put in the hard yards to fit the mould of a finisher. Like Axar, Washington can also be used as a floater anywhere in the batting line-up. His off-spin is also very handy and in the T20Is, was successfully used in pressure situations. He is a player of interest for Rohit, who values his all-round credentials and also his ability to bowl in the powerplays.

Whoever gets the nod, they will play a significant role to play going forward especially for the team balance. To accommodate one of them, India will have to take the tough call of choosing two from Rahul, Pant and Shreyas.

■ **1st ODI: 2:30pm onwards, Live on Sony Sports Network**