

Manu Bhaker reaches final, targets her third Olympic medal today



MIHIR VASAVDA
CHATEAUX, AUGUST 2



Manu Bhaker during the qualifying round in Chateaux Friday. Reuters

THE WALK from the shooting range to Athletes Village lasts exactly 15 minutes. Jaspal Rana, the former world champion who is Manu Bhaker's coach, calls it a therapeutic walk. During this magical week for her, that's all it has taken Manu to declutter her mind, refocus on the next task, pore over the imperfections, and strategise for the next match.

Once Rana drops her "home", there is no shooting talk.

This zero-fuss approach, Rana said, is one of the factors that has contributed to Manu

landing on the doorstep of a feat previously unthinkable in Indian sport: a hat-trick of Olympic medals. At one Games.

With another sublime qualifying round on Friday, Manu qualified for her third final of the Paris Olympics. She will turn up at the Chateaux shooting range for one last time on

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

4 OF 8 HIGHWAYS UNDER BUILD-OPERATE-TRANSFER MODE Govt's big infra push: Nod to road projects worth Rs 50,655 crore

After easing model concession pacts, Govt hopes to bring back private sector

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 2

IN A big push to infrastructure spending, the Union government Friday approved eight national high-speed corridor projects under which 936-km length highways will be constructed at a cost Rs 50,655 crore.

After a meeting of the Prime Minister-chaired Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), a statement by the government said the implementation of these projects will gener-

ate 4.42 crore mandays of direct and indirect employment.

Four of these eight highways will be executed under the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) model, indicating the government's keenness to return to PPP (Public Private Partnership) projects. In the last financial year, only one of the total 176 projects was tendered under the BOT model.

Under the BOT model, the private player owns up the investment risk, builds the projects fully on its own and maintains it for a specified period. It recovers

E PPP back on track

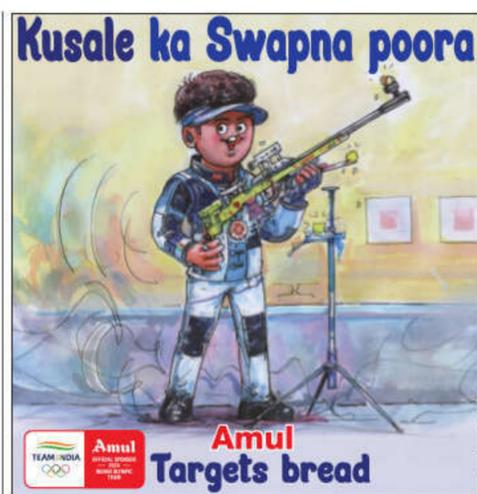
HAVING LIBERALISED the model concession agreement, the government hopes the eight projects will make the private sector assume some financial risk and return to build highways under PPP mode. Such projects also create both direct and indirect employment.

the costs by collecting toll during this period, also called the concession period.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways had on March 15, 2024, amended the Model Concession Agreement for Capacity Augmentation on BOT or toll projects, and made it more attractive to private players by introducing more liberal compensation, extension of concession period, and termination payments.

It also brought in a new concept called 'construction

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



DEATHS AT RAU'S IAS STUDY CIRCLE

Mercifully, you didn't challan the water: HC slams police probe, transfers case to CBI

Forms Chief Secy-led panel to relook Delhi infra, seeks a report in 8 weeks

SOHINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 2

DISSATISFIED WITH the Delhi Police probe into the death of three UPSC aspirants who drowned after being trapped in the basement of a civil services coaching centre in Old Rajinder Nagar last week, a division bench of the Delhi High Court Friday ordered that the probe be transferred to the CBI.

"Mercifully, you didn't challan the water, saying 'how dare



During a protest outside the Rau's centre in Delhi. File

you enter the basement'..." Acting Chief Justice Manmohan

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Be bridge between Centre & state, PM tells Governors; President says prioritise poor

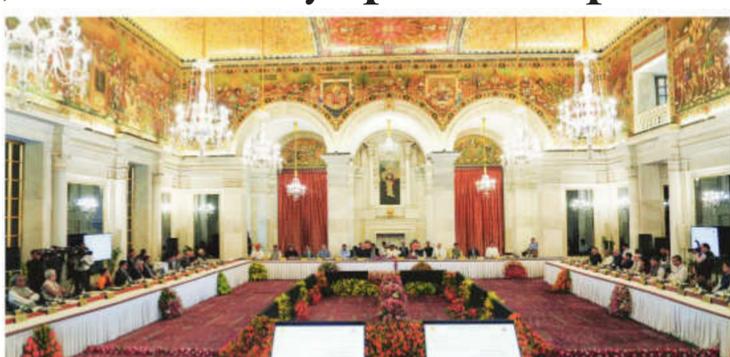
DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 2

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi Friday urged Governors to play the role of "an effective bridge" between the Centre and the state. He asked them to interact with people and social organisations in a manner that co-opts the underprivileged.

The Prime Minister made these remarks at the two-day Conference of Governors that began Friday morning at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

In her opening remarks, President Droupadi Murmu too said that for the smooth

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi with State Governors and Union Ministers at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Friday. PTI

INDIA AT OLYMPICS

HOCKEY
India beat Australia — first time at Olympics in 52 yrs

BADMINTON
Lakshya Sen enters semi-finals

PAGES 22, 23, 24

ALERT AFTER KILLING OF HAMAS LEADER

Centre flags security of Israeli facilities, AI puts off flights to Tel Aviv

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 2

THE BACK-TO-BACK assassinations of a Hamas leader and a senior Hezbollah commander have prompted security agencies in India to take a relook at the safety of Israeli establishments in the country.

Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh was killed in Tehran, where he

had gone to attend the inauguration of the newly elected Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, on July 31. A day earlier, Hezbollah's Fuad Shukr was killed in an airstrike in Lebanon's capital, Beirut.

Central security agencies in India have since alerted Director Generals of Police of all states and Union Territories to provide adequate security arrangements to "Israeli/Jewish facilities,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BIG PICTURE
PAGE 12

WHAT NEXT FOR WAYANAD?

EXPRESS NETWORK

TENURE CUT SHORT, BSF DG, SPECIAL DG SENT BACK TO STATE CADRES PAGE 8

TWO GAGANYAAN ASTRONAUTS PICKED FOR ISS MISSION PAGE 9

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY

Is your resistance to caste census subsiding?



SC says no to SIT probe into poll bonds: 'premature, inappropriate'

ANANTHAKRISHNAN
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 2

OVER FIVE months after it struck down the electoral bonds scheme, the Supreme Court on Friday dismissed pleas for setting up a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the alleged quid pro quo in the purchase of poll bonds, saying the complaints are based on assumptions that would require it to "embark on a roving inquiry".

A three-judge Bench, presided by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, also said the petitioners had not taken recourse to other available remedies under the law before knocking on its door, and the court's intervention at this stage would be both "premature and inappropriate".

"At the present stage, absent a recourse to the remedies which are available under the law to pursue such grievances, it

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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Indian Ocean poised to see 'disruptive' changes: Jaishankar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 2

THE INDIAN Ocean is poised for "disruptive" changes and India needs to prepare for it, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Friday against the backdrop of concerns over China's increasing maritime forays into the region.

Speaking during an interactive session at a think-tank, Jaishankar, without naming any country, said the competition that has been witnessed around India's neighbourhood will definitely happen in the Indian Ocean too.

The minister, replying to a question, talked about competition in the neighbourhood, and said there's "no point groaning about it" as India needs to compete and that's really what it is trying to do.

"I think the Indian Ocean is



Jaishankar delivers a lecture in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

already seeing the beginnings of maritime presence which was not there before. So it is poised for a disruptive change. It is not we need to anticipate it (and) we need to prepare for it," he said.

China has gradually been increasing its presence in the Indian Ocean that is largely considered as the backyard of the Indian Navy.

FROM PAGE ONE Nod to road projects worth Rs 50,655 crore

FULL REPORTS ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

BRINGING PRIVATE SECTOR BACK

BUILD-OPERATE-TRANSFER

₹4,613 crore, 88-km six-lane Agra-Gwalior corridor
₹10,534 crore, 214-km six-lane Tharad-Ahmedabad corridor
₹5,729 crore, 121-km, four-lane Guwahati Ring Road
₹7,827 crore, 30-km eight-lane, Nashik Phata-Khed corridor

HYBRID ANNUITY MODEL

₹10,247 crore, 231-km four-lane Kharagpur-Moregram corridor
₹3,935 crore, 68-km, four-lane Ayodhya Ring Road
₹4,473 crore, 137-km, four-lane Pathalgaon-Gumla section

ENGINEERING, PROCUREMENT, CONSTRUCTION

₹3,298 crore, 47-km six-lane, Kanpur Ring Road

support', under which NHAI would pay upto 40 per cent of the total project cost to the company building the highway in 10 instalments linked to physical progress in construction. Earlier, NHAI would provide only equity support to the company.

The four projects under the BOT model are: i) Rs 4,613 crore, 88-km six-lane Agra-Gwalior fully access-controlled high-speed corridor ii) the Rs 10,534 crore 214-km, six-lane Tharad-Deesa-Mehsana-Ahmedabad corridor iii) the Rs 5,729 crore, 121-km, four-lane Guwahati Ring Road, and iv) the Rs 7,827 crore, 30-km eight-lane, Nashik Phata-Khed corridor.

Of the remaining four highways, three are Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) projects, and one will be executed under the EPC (Engineering, Procurement and Construction) mode. Under the EPC model, the company building the road does not carry any financial risk and the govern-

ment pays it for laying the roads. But the government owns the road, maintains it, and is also the toll collector. HAM is a blend of the EPC and BOT model, where

the private player is able to limit its risk. NHAI pays upto 40 per cent of the project cost, and the balance is raised by the private player. Here, the private com-

pany maintains the road for the duration of the concession period, but the government collects the toll.

The three projects under HAM are: i) the Rs 10,247 crore, 231-km four-lane Kharagpur-Moregram corridor ii) the Rs 3,935 crore, 68-km, four-lane Ayodhya Ring Road, and iii) the Rs 4,473 crore, 137-km, four-lane Pathalgaon-Gumla section of Raipur-Ranchi corridor. The lone EPC project is the Rs 3,298 crore, 47-km six-lane, Kanpur Ring Road.

According to the government statement, the Agra-Gwalior corridor will reduce the distance by 7 per cent, by halve the travel time. The Kharagpur-Moregram highway will reduce the travel time for freight from 9-10 hours to 3-5 hours and help the economy of West Bengal and North East. Similarly, the Tharad-Ahmedabad highway will improve logistics efficiency by about 60 per cent, the government said.

Mercifully, you didn't challan the water: HC slams police probe

remarked while slamming the probes by the Delhi Police and the MCD into the July 27 incident which saw civil services aspirants Tanya Soni, Shreya Yadav and Nivin Dalwin drown after gushing water trapped them inside an underground library at the Rau's IAS Study Circle.

"Is this how civic planning works? There is a criminal negligence attached to it, this is not a swimming pool, it is a storm water drain. If water is falling short of reaching Yamuna, it will flood and enter homes. It has to reach the river. Even the Yamuna river is encroached," the bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela said.

The bench reasoned the transfer of the probe as necessary, considering "the seriousness of the incident, to ensure that the public has no doubt" on the probe and considering the possibility that the incident "may involve corruption by public servants".

It also directed that the probe by CBI be supervised by a senior official nominated by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC). The official will have to ensure that the probe is completed in a time-

bound manner.

Additionally, the bench directed the MCD Commissioner to ensure that drains in the area are made functional and if there is a requirement of capacity enhancement, it should be done in a systematic manner at the earliest and that illegal and unauthorised construction in the area be removed forthwith.

Meanwhile, ruing the "multiplicity" of jurisdiction of authorities as well as terming the MCD's financial health as "if not precarious, not healthy" with the city's infrastructure failing to keep pace with the population, and blaming government "subsidies" for the increase in its population, the bench directed that a committee be constituted to "relook" Delhi's "administrative, financial and physical infrastructure".

The committee will be headed by Chief Secretary of GNCTD and also comprise the MCD Commissioner, the Delhi Development Authority Vice Chairman and the Delhi Police Commissioner; it has been directed to submit a report in the next 8 weeks.

Observing that the financial

health of the MCD is "precarious", the bench noted that the agency "has no funds" for "major infrastructure".

In its order, dictated in the open court, it recorded, "This court is of the view that one needs to look at the bigger picture as there is a far more fundamental problem in the city of Delhi. Physical, financial and administrative infrastructure are all outdated and not in accordance with requirements of present day Delhi, with the population in excess of 3 crores, Delhi needs more modern physical and administrative infrastructure. Due to various subsidy schemes, the migration in Delhi has only increased and its population is also increasing."

Recent tragedies, the bench said, showed that its past orders had "not been implemented in letter and spirit" and were being treated as "water over a duck's back". Meanwhile, with MCD Commissioner Ashwani Kumar and police investigating officer as well as the DCP concerned, M Harsha Vardhan, present in the court Friday, Kumar, who took charge less than two months ago, admitted that the storm water

drains at the site of the incident were "dysfunctional". The bench was unimpressed after police stated it had so far not recorded the same in its probe.

Responding to the court's queries, the police admitted it has not seized records, including with respect to the building plans, from the MCD yet and neither has it interrogated any MCD official so far.

Addressing the police, ACJ Manmohan remarked orally, "This is the most elementary... You've not taken care of the file, we know how files change. Your officer should have gone on Day One and taken the file. This is neglected and this is chargeable. Because you are government officers, you are getting around it. This is not a brotherly club. In every monsoon, we will have these tragedies. Let's be ready for all these then. Water is not going to spare anyone, fury of nature you cannot fight. You have to allow storm water and sewage to function."

The police said a notice had been sent to Delhi Fire Service but their response was "unsatisfactory" and "evasive" and that they have now sent further queries based on the response.

Centre flags security of Israeli facilities, AI puts off flights to Tel Aviv

events, premises, workplaces as well as Chabad houses and large gatherings", *The Indian Express* has learnt.

In their report, central agencies also mentioned that the US Embassy in Tel Aviv, Israel, was targeted on July 19 by a drone attack, killing one civilian and leaving 10 injured.

"In view of the foregoing developments, it is assessed that there is a strong possibility that the threat to Israeli/Jews' establishments will increase in different parts of world and all the DGPs of states and UTs, (and) other agencies are requested to

increase security arrangements..." an officer said, citing the threat assessment report.

Before this, two routine alerts were also issued on March 18 and April 3.

Since 2021, two low-intensity explosions have taken place near the Israeli Embassy in New Delhi. On January 29, 2021, a crude bomb went off just around 100 meters near the Embassy of Israel on Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Road, New Delhi, on a day when India and Israel marked the 29th anniversary of their diplomatic relations.

The second incident took place on December 26, 2023,

when a low-intensity explosion was reported near the Israeli Embassy. No one was injured in either incident, but both cases are still unsolved.

Meanwhile, Air India has suspended flights to Tel Aviv till August 8. The Tata Group-owned airline operates four weekly flights to the Israeli city from the national capital. "In view of the ongoing situation in parts of the Middle East, we have suspended the scheduled operation of our flights to and from Tel Aviv with immediate effect up to and including August 8, 2024. We are continuously monitoring the sit-

uation..." the carrier said in a post on X.

The airline also said it was extending support to passengers with confirmed bookings for travel to and from Tel Aviv during this period, with a one-time waiver on rescheduling and cancellation charges.

Tensions continue to remain high in the Middle East amid conflict between Israel and various groups, including Hamas. Earlier this year too, Air India had briefly suspended flights to Tel Aviv. After nearly five months, the carrier had recommenced the services to the Israeli city on March 3.

SC says no to SIT probe into poll bonds: 'premature, inappropriate'

would both be premature and inappropriate for this court; premature because the intervention of this court under Article 32 of the Constitution must be preceded by the invocation of normal remedies under the law and contingent upon the failure of those remedies; and inappropriate because the intervention of this court at the present stage would postulate that the normal remedies which are available under the law would not be efficacious," said the Bench, which included Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra.

"Individual grievances of this nature in regard to the presence or absence of quid pro quo would have to be pursued on the basis of the remedies available under the law. Likewise, where there is a refusal to investigate or a closure report has been filed, recourse can be taken to appropriate remedies under the law governing criminal

procedure or as the case may be under Article 226 of the Constitution," it said.

The Bench said the petitions "are founded on two assumptions — that there would be prima facie an element of quid pro quo where the date of purchase of the electoral bonds and the donation to a political party is in proximity to the award of a contract or change in policy; and that there is an involvement of certain officials of the investigative agencies, as a consequence of which an investigation by the normal process of the law would not be fair or independent."

"We have highlighted the underlying premise of the submissions to indicate that these are assumptions at the present stage and require the court to embark upon a roving inquiry into the purchase of the electoral bonds, the donations which are made to po-

litical parties, and the arrangements in the nature of quid pro quo," it said.

The SC said it had entertained petitions "challenging the constitutional validity of the statutory provisions embodied in the electoral scheme (and) the consequent amendments which were made to diverse statutes, since the only remedy for challenging such action lies in the invocation of the power of judicial review".

"Allegations involving criminal wrongdoing, on the other hand, are of a distinct nature where recourse to the jurisdiction of this court under Article 32 should not be taken as a matter of course, particularly in view of the remedies available in law," it said.

The SC also declined the petitioners' pleas to direct the authorities to recover the donations received by political parties through electoral bonds "on the basis that

they are proceeds of crime", and to reopen their Income Tax assessments. These "impinge upon the statutory functioning of authorities constituted under the law to make enquiries in that regard," it said.

The Bench said it was of the "considered view that the constitution of an SIT, headed by a former judge of this court or otherwise, should not be ordered in the face of remedies which are available under the law governing the criminal procedure".

"Likewise... the reopening of assessments pertains to the specific statutory jurisdiction conferred upon assessing authorities under the Income Tax Act, 1961 and other statutory authorities," it said, adding that the "issuance of a direction of that nature" at the present stage would amount to "a conclusion on facts which would be inappropriate to make."

Indefinite strike in TN over death of fisherman

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, AUGUST 2

FISHERMEN ASSOCIATIONS in Rameswaram have launched an indefinite strike after the death of a fisherman and the detention of two others by the Sri Lankan Navy, vowing to resume work only after their grievances are addressed by both the Tamil Nadu and Union governments.

The decision came after an urgent meeting of fishermen on Friday. The associations decided to boycott all commercial fishing activities until all arrested TN fishermen in Sri Lankan prisons are released and either the return of impounded mechanised trawlers or compensation for those beyond repair. The strike follows the death of 59-year-old K Malaisamy, who died mid-sea after a collision with a Sri Lankan Navy vessel earlier this week. Chief Minister MK Stalin has announced Rs 10 lakh compensation for his family.

Sources said the incident happened on Wednesday, when four fishermen ventured into the sea near Neduntheevu islet in a boat. The Sri Lankan Navy's surveillance vessel allegedly rammed their boat, causing it to sink.

Malaisamy died, while another fisherman, 54-year-old V Ramachandran is missing. The other two fishermen, Mookiah (54), and Muthu Muniandi (57) were detained for interrogation.

Fishermen leader Sagayam demanded the immediate intervention of the Union government and thanked the Tamil Nadu government for its prompt response and solatium. Additionally, he called for immediate compensation for the families of missing fishermen, regardless of the outcome of the search operations.

The incident has caused unrest in the coastal pockets of Tamil Nadu, with the Indian government summoning Sri Lanka's Acting High Commissioner to register a strong protest.

'Threatening farmers': Puja Khedkar's mother gets bail

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, AUGUST 2

A PUNE court on Friday granted bail to former IAS trainee officer Puja Khedkar's mother Manorama in the attempt to murder case lodged at the Paud police station of Pune rural police, for allegedly threatening farmers at Dhadawali village in Mulshi tehsil on June 5, 2023. Additional sessions judge Ajit Mare passed an order in this case.

An FIR was lodged by a farmer named Pandharinath Pasalkar (65) on July 12, 2024 against Manorama, her husband Dilip Khedkar, one Ambadas Khedkar

of Ambli village in Haveli and others. Police booked them initially under sections 323, 504, 506, 143, 144, 147, 148 and 149 of the IPC and sections of the Arms Act.

The FIR was lodged after a video showing Manorama brandishing a pistol at a farmer following a land dispute surfaced on social media and TV channels. Police later invoked Section 307 (attempt to murder) of IPC in this FIR based on a supplementary statement given by Pasalkar. Police arrested Manorama on July 18 from a lodge in Mahad in Raigad district.

After hearing the arguments, the court allowed Manorama's bail plea on Friday.

WRITEBACK

Responding to the report, *Noam Chomsky's criticism of PM in a PhD proposal: SAU notice to student, Lankan scholar resigns* (July 27), A Prahlad, Public Relations Officer, South Asian University, sent a statement saying: "We are constrained to inform you that it (the report) is not based on facts and it is based on false assertions and assumptions. You are advised to take all cor-

rective measures and desist from repeating it."

The Indian Express replies: The report is based on facts that have been independently verified by the reporter — not on "false assertions" or "assumptions". The newspaper contacted the university for its version and reported its response ad verbatim in the report. *The Indian Express* stands by its report.

Appeal for Identification

General public is hereby informed that one woman **Namely: Kusum Lata, D/O: Unknown, R/O: C Block, Gali No. 16, H. No. 345, Bhajanpura, Delhi, Age: About 50 Yrs., Height: 5'1", Sex: Female, Complexion: Fair, Build: Thin, Identification Marks: Burn Skin Mark on Left Leg Ankle, Wearing: Pink Colour Lower and Purple Colour T-Shirt, was found Dead at her residence. The dead body of deceased has been preserved in GTB Mortuary for identification.**

In this regard **DD No. 101A, Dated 23.07.2024** has been lodged at **Police Station: Bhajanpura, Delhi**. Any clue come to notice please inform undersign. **SHO P.S.: Bhajanpura, Delhi Ph.: 8750870730, 9210835457**

DP/10207/NE/2024

Woman moves HC for sexual harassment FIR against landlord, bench finds she filed 19 such cases in Jind

JAGPREET SINGH SANDHU
CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 2

A WOMAN who moved the high court seeking directions to register an FIR for sexual harassment and assault against her landlord found herself in the dock with a bench directing the Haryana Police chief to investigate her credentials after finding that she had filed 19 sexual harassment com-

plaints in Jind alone.

Stating that a false implication in a rape case can cause distress, humiliation, and damage to the reputation of the accused and his family, the court said if this modus operandi is allowed to continue unchecked, irreparable loss would be caused to society at large.

A bench of Justice Harpreet Singh Brar directed the Haryana DGP to conduct a thorough probe into the allegations leveled by the woman and find out how many

complaints of a similar nature have been filed by her in Punjab, Haryana, and Chandigarh. "In case the allegations leveled by her are found to be false and manipulated, the DGP is directed to take action against her, in accordance with the law," ordered the HC.

The court issued the directions while hearing a plea by the woman, who has sought to set aside the order of Judicial Magistrate First Class, Sirsa, which had declined her application to

register an FIR for sexual harassment and assault. The woman has alleged that her landlord had verbally harassed and physically assaulted her, following which she gave a complaint to the police but no action was taken. Her counsel argued that the respondents had evicted her from her rented accommodation and were in illegal possession of her documents and household articles, and thus her application for registration for FIR should be allowed.

Manu Bhaker targets third medal

Saturday to attempt a feat that, if achieved, would undoubtedly elevate her to the status of being one of India's most successful — if not the most successful — Olympians. A remarkable feature of Manu's purple patch has been her approach on the range, showing composure and maturity that belies her young age. She didn't allow her nerves to get the better of her before her first final last Sunday, where she won the bronze in the 10m air pistol.

Manu stayed back at the range for longer than usual that afternoon, completing her media engagements, attending calls from India — including from Prime Minister Narendra Modi — and making it a point to smile, shake hands and pose for photos with the people who made a beeline at the venue.

When she returned to the range the next day, Manu looked hungrier than before, rather than being distracted, and went back with another medal.

On Friday, she gave the vibe that the last few days were normal in the life of an athlete. In reality, it was anything but that. Rana said the walk from the shooting range to the village is when they move on from one podium finish and set their sights on another. "From the range, we walk because that gives us time to talk — there are a lot of people everywhere else. So we walk and talk," Rana said.

They talk about Manu's emotions, reflect on the highs and put it in perspective to the Tokyo lows, discuss the approach towards the next match — and there have been points when they have spoken nothing at all. "Then I drop her at the Games Village and after that, there is no phone call unless there's something urgent. She is her boss. And I am in my apartment here (outside the Village)," Rana said.

So poised has Manu been that she hasn't shown any sense of urgency, outside the range or at it. And now, she finds herself within touching distance of an unimaginable Olympic treble.

Governors' conference

functioning of democracy, it was crucial that the Central agencies work with better coordination across all the states. She advised Governors to think about how they, as constitutional heads of the respective states, can promote this coordination.

She asked the Governors to prioritise the poor and the deprived, and also visit border areas in their respective states.

According to a statement from Rashtrapati Bhavan, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, referring to the oath of the Governors, urged them to discharge their constitutional responsibility of "making people aware of social welfare schemes and incredible development that have taken place during the last decade".

Union Home Minister Amit Shah urged the Governors to visit Vibrant Villages and Aspirational Districts in their states to instil confidence among people and give a fillip to the developmental work.

In his address, Modi, while describing the conference as a forum to discuss how Governors can serve the society, said the post of the Governor is an important institution which can play a crucial role in the welfare of people of the state within the framework of the Constitution, particularly with reference to the tribal areas.

In a post on X later, Modi said, "Attended the Conference of Governors this morning. This is an important forum in which we discussed how Governors can foster development and serve society."

The two-day conclave will focus on issues that shape the Centre-state relations and promote welfare schemes.

President Murmu said the agenda for the conference included carefully chosen issues crucial in achieving national goals. Officials said the agenda includes implementation of three criminal laws; reforms in higher education and accreditation of universities.

In her address, the President

mark for India at the Olympics — like how Abhinav Bindra and Neeraj Chopra raised the aspiration levels of Indian athletes.

A remarkable feature of Manu's purple patch has been her approach on the range, showing composure and maturity that belies her young age. She didn't allow her nerves to get the better of her before her first final last Sunday, where she won the bronze in the 10m air pistol.

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On Friday, she gave the vibe that the last few days were normal in the life of an athlete. In reality, it was anything but that. Rana said the walk from the shooting range to the village is when they move on from one podium finish and set their sights on another. "From the range, we walk because that gives us time to talk — there are a lot of people everywhere else. So we walk and talk," Rana said.

They talk about Manu's emotions, reflect on the highs and put it in perspective to the Tokyo lows, discuss the approach towards the next match — and there have been points when they have spoken nothing at all.

"Then I drop her at the Games Village and after that, there is no phone call unless there's something urgent. She is her boss. And I am in my apartment here (outside the Village)," Rana said.

So poised has Manu been that she hasn't shown any sense of urgency, outside the range or at it. And now, she finds herself within touching distance of an unimaginable Olympic treble.

said that with the implementation of the three new laws related to criminal justice, a new era of the justice system had begun in the country.

She said the Central government is giving utmost priority to the development of the poor, the border areas, the deprived sections and areas, and people left behind in the development journey.

She pointed out that a large section of the country's tribal population lives in the Scheduled and Tribal areas, and urged the Governors to suggest ways to achieve inclusive development of the people of these areas.

Speaking on the National Education Policy brought in by the Modi government, the President said that the policy emphasised upon improving the accreditation and assessment system of educational institutions. She urged Governors to contribute to this reform process in their capacity as chancellors of state universities.

She said many efforts are being made to deal with the challenges such as climate change and global warming. She stated that to promote natural farming, the Raj Bhavans can lead by example.

The conference will have breakaway sessions in which sub-groups of Governors will deliberate on each agenda item, officials said. Apart from the Governors, the sessions will also be attended by Union Ministers and officials of the ministries concerned.

The observations and suggestions of the sub-groups will be presented before the President, Vice President and Prime Minister during the concluding session Saturday.

Union Ministers Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Dharmendra Pradhan, Jugal Oram, Ashwini Vaishnav, Bhupender Yadav and Mansukh Mandaviya are also attending the conference, besides the Vice Chairman and CEO of NITI Aayog, senior officials from the Prime Minister's Office, Cabinet Secretariat and Home Ministry.

Pune court cancels NBW against Jarange Patil in cheating case

Pune: A court in Pune on Friday cancelled the non-bailable warrant (NBW) issued against Maratha activist Manoj Jarange Patil in connection with a cheating case lodged in 2013.

Judicial Magistrate (First Class) A C Birajdar passed an order in this regard and also warned him not to make statements disrespecting the court.

Jarange Patil furnished a personal recognizance (PR) bond of Rs 3000 before the court, assuring he would remain present for

the next hearing on September 3. Meanwhile, a first information report (FIR) in this case was lodged against Jarange Patil and two others, all residents of Jalna district, under sections 420 (cheating) and 406 (criminal breach of trust) of the Indian Penal Code at the Kothrud police station in Pune. The complainant in this case is a private person linked to a play "Shambhuraj". Jarange Patil and others had allegedly offered him ₹30 lakh for performing the play at six locations in Jalna. **ENS**



Mhara Haryana Non-Stop Haryana

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Metro services started from YMCA to Ballabhgarh, Bahadurgarh to Mundka, Badarpur to Mujesar, and Sikanderpur to Sector-56

Rail coach repair factory spread over 161 acres and costing ₹483.64 crore established in Barhi, Sonipat

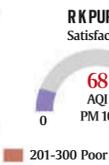
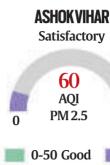
Rohtak-Meham-Hansi railway line costing ₹844.15 crore and Sonipat-Jind railway line costing ₹713.40 crore dedicated to the people of the state

Country's First Elevated Railway Track in Rohtak city

Country's first CNG DEMU rail service from Rewari to Rohtak



4 THE CITY



SKY WATCH
August 3
Generally cloudy sky. Very light to light rain/thundershowers

MAX: 34
0.4°C below normal

MIN: 26
1.1°C below normal

'TERROR LINK NOT PROVEN'

Bombay HC grants bail to teacher held in 2021 over Delhi terror plot

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, AUGUST 2

OBSERVING THAT the prosecution failed to prove his terror connection, the Bombay High Court recently granted bail to Rizwan Ibrahim Momin (43), a tuition teacher arrested in 2021 for alleged terror links in connection with a Delhi terror module case.

The Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) had arrested three persons — Momin; Mohammed Irfan Rehmatoli Shaikh, a tailor; and Zakir Hussain Shaikh an auto rickshaw driver — in the case. The probe agency had alleged that Shaikh had links with fugitive Chhota Shakeel.

The agency claimed that Shaikh was given shelter by Momin, who helped destroy his phone, and booked him under Section 19 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA); this stipulates punishment of three years, extending up to life imprisonment.

The High Court, while allowing Momin's appeal against the April 2023 order of the special court that rejected his bail application, observed that the "prosecution has failed to point out any material to show that Momin was aware of Zakir's activities or that the appellant had participated in/ was aware of any terrorist activities".

It added that the appellant is in custody for almost three years and the trial against him has not commenced as yet and the charge has not been framed in the case till date. It also noted that the "appellant's role is at par with co-accused — Mohammed Irfan Rehmatoli Shaikh — who has been granted bail."

A division bench of Justices Revati Mohite-Dere and Gauri V Godse passed a verdict on July 25, a copy of which was made available Thursday.

Advocate Mubin Solkar, appearing for Momin, sought bail on the grounds of parity with a co-accused who was granted bail by the HC last year.

He added that Momin, who was running coaching classes for students, had allowed Zakir to stay at his residence for a night in good faith and had no knowledge of Zakir being involved in any terrorist activities and was wrongly implicated in the case without having any criminal antecedents.

"As far as call detail records are concerned, mere exchange of calls between the appellant and Zakir cannot be said to be incriminating, more particularly, when there is no other evidence to show the appellant had also not made calls to the wanted accused," the bench observed.

It added that the "appellant, a teacher-cum-social worker was distributing essential goods to the needy during the Covid-19 time and that during the said time, was using Zakir's auto-rickshaw to ply the said goods."

The bench said: "Considering the material on record and having perused the statements, we are prima facie of the view that the circumstances relied upon by the prosecution are not of such a nature, so as to sustain a reasonable belief that the accusations against the appellant are prima facie true. Thus, there is no impediment to grant bail under Section 43-D(5) of the UAPA," the bench held.

It directed Momin to be enlarged on bail on executing a personal bond of Rs 50,000 with sureties of same amount, and asked him to visit the office of the NIA, Mumbai, every month till the conclusion of the trial.

DEATHS AT RAU'S IAS STUDY CIRCLE: COURT TRANSFERS PROBE TO CBI

Students at protest site welcome HC direction: MCD failed, counting on CBI

PRAGYNESH NEW DELHI, AUGUST 2

STUDENTS PROTESTING outside Rau's IAS Study Centre finally had something to cheer about. The Delhi High Court Friday transferred the probe into the deaths of three students, who drowned after being trapped in the basement of the coaching centre, to the CBI.

"We don't trust the Delhi Police anymore. The MCD has failed. These buildings didn't pop up in a day. For years, they have been building these illegal floors and basements. These agencies have proved that they couldn't solve the problem. We expect the CBI to carry out a clear inspection," said Saumitra Tiwari, a UPSC aspirant and a student of Sarathi coaching centre.

Echoing the sentiment, Vaibhav Singh, 23, an aspirant from Lucknow who has been preparing for the exams since 2022, said it's the first step towards getting justice for the students — Tanya Soni, Shreya Yadav and Nevin Dalwin.

"After seven days of protest, finally one of our demands has been fulfilled. But the protests will still continue... We demanded a minimum of Rs 3 crore. But there hasn't been any written assurance regarding that. Rau's representatives came yesterday and promised Rs 50 lakh," he said.

Saumitra added, "A house



Students said the protest will continue till their demands are met. Amit Mehra

has lost its only hope. Parents have lost a student. The country has lost a future civil servant. And they (Rau) are bargaining."

Slamming the probes by the Delhi Police and MCD into the incident, the HC bench reasoned the transfer of the probe as necessary, considering "the seriousness of the incident, to ensure that the public has no doubt" on the probe and considering the possibility that the incident "may involve corruption by public servants".

"Is this how civic planning works? There is criminal negligence attached to it, this is not a swimming pool, it is a stormwater drain. If water is falling short of reaching Yamuna, it will flood and enter homes. It has to reach the river. Even the Yamuna river is encroached," the bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela said.

Another protester, who has been preparing for the exams for the last six years, said that HC's strong observations on Delhi's civic planning were needed. "We are happy that the court recognised the inefficiency of the administration. The desilting of Old Rajinder Nagar has never been done on time," he said.

Soumya Jaiswal, 24, an aspirant, said most of their demands are not being fulfilled and the protest will go on. "Promises made by the administration are vague. How and who will give the requested compensation? When will the committee of students, teachers and officials be formed? We are here to study, our preparation is being affected. But we won't end the protest till we get all the answers."

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Social media influencer held for robbing collection agent of Rs 14 lakh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, AUGUST 2

THE DELHI Police Crime Branch arrested a 19-year-old for allegedly robbing a collection agent of lakhs in North Delhi last year.

On July 17 last year, Varun Walia, a collection agent of a Burari private company, was on his way to Meena Bazaar, Jama Masjid, to drop off Rs 14 lakh in cash to a vendor. On Esplanade Road in Chandni Chowk, "a person snatched his money bag and handed it over to another person," Walia said in the FIR.

The person with the bag "handed it over to a third person" and all of them then ran towards Parade Ground Road, Walia said.

Police discovered that four persons, including a minor, were involved in the robbery. They arrested three among the four accused, while the fourth accomplice, Saad (then 18), escaped.

Investigation revealed that Saad was a social media influencer with 1.5 lakh followers on TikTok. With 18,000 followers, he had started using Instagram, after TikTok was banned in 2020.

"Saad would usually upload videos of him and his girlfriend or videos of him showing off while driving different cars and bikes," an officer said, adding that it was easier to track him as he continued uploading videos even while on the run.

BRIEFLY

Fire breaks out at Wazirabad police station malkhana

New Delhi: A fire broke out in Wazirabad police station's malkhana (impounding yard) Friday afternoon. Fire officials said seven fire tenders vehicles were rushed to the spot to douse the fire. Officials said that the reason behind the blaze and the number of vehicles gutted in the fire would be confirmed only after the blaze was fully doused. The impounding yard stores hundreds of four-wheelers and two-wheelers that have been seized for various cases. The fire services reported no cases of injuries or deaths. **ENS**

HC dismisses Bibhav Kumar's plea challenging his arrest

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Friday refused to interfere with the arrest of CM Arvind Kejriwal's aide Bibhav Kumar in connection with the alleged assault on AAP MP Swati Maliwal. Justice Neena Bansal Krishna dismissed the petition by Kumar who challenged his arrest on several grounds, including that Delhi Police acted with an "oblique motive". "Petition dismissed," Justice Krishna said while pronouncing the verdict. **PTI**

IM operative, sentenced to death in Hyderabad blast case, acquitted in Delhi terror email case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, AUGUST 2

PUNE-RESIDENT AJAZ Saeed Shaikh, arrested on charges of being an alleged Indian Mujahideen operative, was acquitted by a special court on Friday in connection with a case where he was booked for sending emails to the media about the terror attack at Jama Masjid in Delhi in 2010.

Shaikh will, however, continue to remain in jail as he was convicted in the Hyderabad blasts case and sentenced to the death penalty, which awaits confirmation before the High Court.

He is also undergoing trial in other cases, including the Mumbai 2011 triple blasts case and is currently lodged in Cherlapally jail in Hyderabad.

In 2010, an FIR was registered in the Cyber police station in Mumbai against unknown persons stating that on September 19, 2010, an email was sent on behalf of banned terror organisation Indian Mujahideen.

The email took responsibility for the attack in Delhi.

Police had alleged that the mail was sent to create communal disharmony. The Mumbai police took Shaikh's custody in 2015, after he was arrested by the Delhi police in 2014, in another case.

Police had claimed that Shaikh had obtained a SIM card through forged documents and also purchased a mobile phone from Manish

Market in Mumbai to send the email.

Shaikh was acquitted on Friday from all charges including forgery, criminal conspiracy of the Indian Penal Code and relevant sections of the anti-terror law, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

Shaikh through his lawyer, Hasnain Kazi, submitted that mandatory provisions of UAPA were not adhered to.

He had submitted before the court during the final arguments that there was a delay of three months in issuing of the sanction after it was sought in 2015 and said that the sanction order was issued without application of mind, therefore, vitiating the trial.

It was also submitted that the arrest order was not collected from the designated officer by the investigating officer before Shaikh's arrest.

It was also submitted that there was no evidence to show that the email was sent from Mumbai and there were contradictions in the test identification parade.

During the trial, which began in 2023, the 37-year-old through his lawyers had also submitted that an adverse inference can be drawn from the fact that CD claimed by the police to have CCTV footage of him purchasing the mobile phone used in the offence, was never shown as evidence, nor was he given a copy of it.

The detailed order on the court's reasoning for the acquittal is yet to be made available.

Back from Olympics win, national shooting coach gets eviction notice

'Had to leave behind the happiness over medals in Paris'

SAMAN HUSAIN NEW DELHI, AUGUST 2

RETURNING FROM the Paris Olympics where he guided shooters Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh to victory, national pistol shooting coach Samaresh Jung was met with distressing news when he arrived at his residence in Delhi's Khyber Pass Thursday evening — his ancestral home, where his family has lived since before independence, is set to be demolished Saturday morning.

"After the euphoria of Indian shooters winning two Olympic medals, the team coach, just returned home from the Olympics to the disheartening news that my house and locality is to be demolished in 2 days," Jung posted on X Thursday night.

"Writ petition for interim relief cancelled, not taken up for hearing by high court. Is it an emergency or war situation that we hv to vacate in a day? Decorated Sportsman Arjuna Awardee not given a hearing, not a positive message for our sportsmen trying to win for the country," he added.

Speaking to *The Indian Express* Friday, he said, "The authorities came and announced that the whole area is going to be broken... whatever happiness we had about bagging medals at the Paris Olympics, we've had to leave there."

Jung, who lives with his family of 12, expressed his frustration with the abruptness of the demolition announcement. "My mother is 75 years old; she has to leave her decades-old house now," he said.

Jung, an Arjuna Awardee



Coach Samaresh Jung (centre) during a felicitation ceremony, in New Delhi, Thursday. PTI

who also represented India at the 2006 Commonwealth Games, where he won five medals, added that he does not oppose vacating the place but is troubled by the short notice given to residents to pack their belongings and leave.

Anuja, his wife, a former India shooter who won a gold and a silver medal in the 2006 Commonwealth Games, said, "I am packing right now... I do not know what to leave and what to take. This is the home that the last three generations of our family have been staying in... there are generations-old belongings that we have to leave such as the books written by my husband's father and mother because we do not have enough time to pack everything. I am trying to understand the urgency of the authorities; there is no war going on, why could they not give us a week's time?"

According to a Delhi High Court order from July 9, the land belongs to the Ministry of

Defence. A notice was issued on July 1, requiring residents to vacate by July 4. This was challenged, but in an urgent hearing on July 3, the court had allowed the demolition to proceed, provided due process was followed.

On July 9, the final hearing took place and the court ruled that the petitioners lacked documents proving their land ownership. The court identified them as trespassers, stating that the land, now under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, was being acquired for public purposes.

Over 250 houses in the inner part of the residential cluster were first demolished on July 16; officials have announced that the remaining buildings are now going to be demolished on Saturday morning.

A senior government official had said on July 16: "Fifteen acres of around 32 acres of land which belongs to the L&DO (Land and Development Office) were cleared; the remaining will be cleared later."

Three killed in building collapse at Jahangirpuri

MCD points to DDA as land-owning agency; it says we didn't build it

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, AUGUST 2

THREE PEOPLE died and four others were rescued after a two-storey building collapsed in Northwest Delhi's Jahangirpuri Friday.

The building was situated in the SMA Cooperative Industrial Estate on GT Karnal Road and was quite old, said MCD officials.

Police said the two-storey building houses a garment factory. "There was some repair work going on inside the building when it collapsed," the officer added.

A call about the incident was received at 12.51 pm and five fire tenders rushed to the spot, said Delhi Fire Services (DFS) officials. Police and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) were also roped in to aid with rescue efforts.

By 7.05 pm, DFS officials on the ground reported that three people had died and four were rescued.

Police said the victims were Mukesh (45), Vinod (50) and Phoolwati (45). The injured — Thakurdas (55), Nirmala (45), Hari Shankar (18) and Jasim (33) — were taken to Babu Jagjivan Ram Memorial Hospital for treatment.

On the collapse, a Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) spokesperson said: "Junior Engineers and Assistant Engineers of wards 16 and 17, along with machinery, have been deputed for removal of malba (debris) and other assistance as per requirement."

The spokespersons also said the industrial estate was developed by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and has not been handed over to the MCD for repair of roads and drains to date.

A DDA spokesperson responded: "The tragic incident at Jahangirpuri is very painful. However, it is clarified that the building was neither constructed by the DDA nor maintained by DDA. The building was built on private land."



A portion of the two-storey building collapsed in Northwest Delhi's Jahangirpuri area, Friday afternoon. Praveen Khanna

GK-I residents protest against new CNG facility: 'Will worsen traffic'

SOPHIYA MATHEW NEW DELHI, AUGUST 2

OVER 200 residents of B-Block in Greater Kailash 1 are up in arms against the construction of a CNG facility, which they fear will worsen the traffic situation and affect access to essential services, in the locality.

The facility is coming at the Navyug petrol pump set up by the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) on Hans Raj Gupta Marg. One of the main access points to GK I, this road is also adjacent to the Nandanvan children's park which sees huge crowds from other localities in the evenings. Besides, the area has several key

landmarks with daily frequenters — The Shri Ram Early Years, a play school; Helvetia Diagnostics and Healthcare, a diagnostic centre; and Kendriya Vidyalaya Andrews Ganj, which is a CBSE school with two shifts.

For several years now, residents said the petrol pump has been a point of contention as it has caused increased traffic. With a CNG facility coming up, they said it would lead to congestion at the entry point affecting residents or visitors to Blocks A, B, L, M, N, S, W.

"How will we enter our homes?" asked Vinod Karwa, 67, who has been living in N Block since 1998. The block has 258 plots and once the CNG facility is functional, it would affect ap-

proximately 800 families living in the area, he said. "Without assessing the feasibility of the location and the route congestion, how can this be set up, that too in a residential colony?"

On July 21, more than a 100 residents held a peaceful demonstration at the petrol pump.

Raja Puri, RWA President, N Block said, "To support our cause, the New Delhi MP (Bansuri Swaraj), our constituency MLA (Saurabh Bharadwaj) and area councillor (Shikha Roy) wrote to the authorities in the BPCL. But, no response has been received yet. A delegation also went to meet higher-ups in BPCL at its Mumbai headquarters."

There is already a CNG facility



The facility is coming at the Navyug petrol pump set up by the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) on Hans Raj Gupta Marg. Express

in the vicinity, 400 metres away, so the decision to set up the new one is unclear, alleged Puri.

Karwa said he was part of the delegation that met Sunil Kumar Bains, the BPCL officer in charge in the North for CNG Network Expansion, around 15 days ago. "He assured us a survey would be conducted to assess the location. But, nothing has been done and work on installing the CNG gas banks is happening," he claimed.

When contacted, Bains, the Chief General Manager of the CNG Network Expansion (Retail), declined to comment. The BPCL did not respond to queries posed by *The Indian Express* via call or e-mail.

New Delhi MP Swaraj put forward an appeal in a letter to Bains

on July 21. "The addition of a CNG station could exacerbate traffic issues, affecting local traffic flow and accessibility to nearby essential services, including a children's park, Helvetia Hospital and Shri Ram School," she wrote.

Bharadwaj, in a letter dated July 18, wrote to Bains. "To give relief to the residents of my constituency, you are directed to immediately stop construction of the CNG facility at the Navyug Petrol Pump and look for other alternate location immediately, in consultation with the N-Block Welfare Association."

Earlier on July 9, Roy, the Greater Kailash councillor, had asked BPCL officials to "get the CNG facility cancelled".

When contacted, the area traf-

fic inspector (Sangam Vihar, South District) said there was no NOC from the Traffic Police department for the construction of the CNG facility. "If we get a request, we will assess and examine the location," the inspector said.

Varun Garg, General Secretary RWA GK-1, N Block, reiterated that the traffic situation will only increase if the facility comes up.

"Usually, people stop their vehicles to buy items from tehbazzari shops in front of the petrol pump; and given the landmarks near it, there is almost always heavy traffic. If the CNG facility comes up, the traffic problems will increase. This is why we have presented our concerns for immediate relief," he said.

DEATHS OF 14 INMATES AT ASHA KIRAN L-G, Atishi call for inquiry: 'Will not go unpunished'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 2

FOLLOWING THE deaths of 14 intellectually challenged inmates of the Delhi government-run Asha Kiran shelter home last month, L-G V K Saxena, taking a "grave view" of what he termed was criminal negligence on the part of the officials concerned, ordered immediate action against its administrator and a comprehensive inquiry on the state of all such facilities in the Capital Friday.

This, even as Revenue Minister Atishi issued direction for an urgent probe into the matter, mandated a magisterial inquiry, and put a strict 48-hour deadline for a preliminary investigation report related to the incident.

According to government officials, a minor and six women are among those who died at the government-run shelter and an inquiry commission was set up last week to probe the matter. Official sources said a majority of the inmates who died were aged between 20 and 30, and the cause of death included various health issues such as lung infections, tuberculosis and pneumonia.

"It appears that 28 intellectually disabled inmates, including youth and adolescents have lost their lives at Asha Kiran Home run by the Social Welfare department... since January this year. In the month of July, 14 inmates have lost their lives," Saxena stated in a communication to Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar.

"Honourable Lieutenant Governor has taken a grave view of the matter, which points to criminal negligence... all these young inmates, who were suffering from severe intellectual disability have lost their lives, apparently on account of the poor

medical facilities, inadequate nutrition and poor water supply," it stated.

This "lack of sensitivity" and "absence of supervision", the L-G noted further, pointed not only to dereliction of duty but was also "an act of criminality against the most helpless and disadvantaged, who were entrusted to the care of the Government".

Saxena issued directions for a comprehensive inquiry on the state of affairs of all government-run shelter homes including the deaths at Asha Kiran, fixing responsibility, within a week. "A white paper on running of all Homes by the Social Welfare, Women & Child Department and DUSIB, including expenditure, facilities, number of inmates admitted, medical facilities available etc may be prepared and submitted within three weeks," the communication also stated.

Atishi emphasised that any detected negligence among officers, doctors, nurses, caregivers, or administrative staff will be met with stringent action. "I want to assure people of Delhi that any death resulting from negligence or irresponsible behaviour will not go unpunished," she said.

Administered by the Delhi Social Welfare Department, Asha Kiran has an occupancy of 980 intellectually challenged people.

"The post-mortem report of these 14 deaths has not come yet. However, initial investigations revealed that many of the deceased were suffering from many physical problems other than intellectual disability... 14 deaths in a month is a very serious matter... we have immediately ordered a magisterial inquiry and a deadline of 48 hours has been given for the preliminary investigation report," Atishi said.

'What caused the deaths?': Congress, BJP, NCW point to negligence, demand action

HIMANSHU HARSH
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 2

"DRINK ONLY Delhi Jal Board's water to avoid health issues," multiple posters promoting the use of clean water and proper hygiene are pasted outside the gates of the Delhi government-run Asha Kiran shelter home in Rohini Sector 1. Last month, 14 of its intellectually challenged inmates were reported dead due to a slew of health-related issues.

On Friday, it became ground zero for several political visitors after reports regarding the deaths surfaced, even as Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena and the Delhi government ordered action against its administration and inquiries to get to the bottom of the matter.

At the spot was Rekha Sharma, National Commission for Women (NCW) chief.

She alleged, "An average of three children died every month this year at this centre... And in the last month, 14 people lost their lives, including 8 women and a minor..."

Sharma further alleged that



A delegation of the All India Mahila Congress protests outside the Delhi government-run Asha Kiran shelter home in Rohini Sector 1, Friday, Express

the facility lacked proper sanitation and was heavily overcrowded.

"Around 495 women are living in a space meant for 250. Moreover, the centre has only 100 toilets which are used by everyone..." she claimed.

While Sharma said an audit by the NCW is underway and she will send her report to the central government, she said she will ask for an independent inquiry as well.

"This centre has faced controversy for years and is not being properly run..." the NCW chief claimed, adding that she "will request the central government to either take over the centre or replace the current staff with trained ones."

Meanwhile, a delegation of the All India Mahila Congress led by their general secretary, Neetu Verma Soin, pulled up at the centre in the evening.

"They are not even letting us

meet the warden or the children inside. We want to know what happened here, under what circumstances these deaths occurred. We demand an inquiry... justice and the resignation of officials and ministers who are behind the deaths," Soin said.

Northwest Delhi BJP MP Yogendra Chandolia, who visited the facility earlier during the day, alleged that the Asha Kiran home in Rohini which lies under his jurisdiction had been suffering due to "criminal negligence" by the AAP government.

"The shelter, designed for 350 inmates, now houses 1,100 inmates, who suffer from illnesses and lack proper food facilities. The deaths... clearly indicate inadequate provisions for food and water," he alleged.

There were not many residents around during the day.

Puneet Kumar, a Class XI Arts student who studies in the adjacent school (Government Boys Senior Secondary School), said: "We often see kids (at the shelter) quarrelling among themselves from our school."

Himanshu Harsh is an intern with The Indian Express

700 beds, a helipad facility: Gurgaon's new Civil Hospital to cost Rs 900 crore

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, AUGUST 2

SEVEN HUNDRED beds, a nine-acre facility with a helipad: Gurgaon's new Civil Hospital will be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 990 crore, said the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Friday.

According to the CMO, Civil Surgeon Dr Virender Yadav, administrative and financial approval was received on July 26 for the construction of the government hospital. The health department will carry out the construction through the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) and the tender will be issued between August 7 and 10; Rs 60 crore will be transferred to the CPWD for this.

Once the tender process is complete, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini is expected to lay the foundation stone for the hospital in the last week of August.

"The target is to complete construction in 30-36 months, as per the plan. A helipad for air ambulances will be built on the roof of the hospital building. The new hospital building will have two floors for parking along with multi-level parking. The building will have CT, MRI units, nebulisation, immunisation, microbiology, clinical pathology, and other specialised sections," said Dr Yadav.

The CMO added that this was the first civil hospital in India with 700 beds. "When we combine these with the 42 emergency and 130 ICU beds, it will make it an 872-bed hospital," he said.

Dr Yadav further said there will be five blocks in the hospital: ■ One will be for wards, offices, testing facilities, and other amenities from the ground to the 10th floor.

■ The second will have a tu-

BUILDING PLAN	
Ground Floor:	Emergency, labour room, radiology
First Floor:	General OPD and gynecology OPD
Second & third Floor:	OPD, gynecology ward, blood bank, and lab testing
Third Floor:	SNCU, NICU, ICU, dialysis
Fourth Floor:	Operation theater, pre and post wards
Fifth Floor:	Service floor, waiting and café area, PMO office, private wards
Sixth to Ninth Floors:	General wards (120 beds each)
Tenth Floor:	CMO office, training hall, education block
Roof:	Helipad

berculosis ward and an OPD for TB patients.

■ The third one will provide residential facilities for emergency personnel, with a capacity for 56 residents.

■ Additionally, there will be a morgue and a service block. The morgue will have walk-in freezers, and a separate pathway will be planned to transport bodies from the wards to the morgue. There will also be a dedicated area for biowaste, Dr Yadav said.

Earlier called the Maternal and Child Health Hospital, it became a civil hospital around 2019. Due to infrastructure issues, it was demolished and all services shifted to the Sector 10 institution.

East Delhi drowning: L-G, AAP govt spar over ownership of drain; HC to hear PIL Monday

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 2

The AAP Delhi government and L-G VK Saxena's office Friday sparred over the ownership of an open drain in which a woman and her son drowned in East Delhi.

Even as the AAP announced it would protest outside Raj Niwas to compel Saxena to acknowledge his responsibility in the matter, given the connection of the drain to the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) which he chairs, Saxena termed the allegations "patently false,

deliberately misleading and blatantly improper."

AAP Delhi convener Gopal Rai said, "It is very unfortunate that when a mother and son died after falling into the open drain of DDA between Mayur Vihar Phase 3 and Khoda Colony of UP, the BJP government at the centre, its seven MPs in Delhi and its L-G are silent on this."

"Wherever we have responsibility, we are standing there fighting for the people with full strength. But the L-G should tell whether he has no responsibility for this negligence of DDA?... If the mother and child had died due to

the negligence of DDA, then action will have to be taken against those responsible," he added.

The L-G's Secretariat, in response, said the drain in which the incident occurred at Khoda Colony belonged to the MCD under the AAP. According to the L-G's Secretariat, the total length of the drain is 1,350 meters of which 1,000 meters falls in the MCD's jurisdiction and had been handed over to it on April 17 last year while the rest was under the DDA.

"DDA had de-silted its portion of the drain recently and covered it with RCC slabs... DDA had also

installed steel screen at the MCD-DDA junction of the drain, to block garbage flow," it stated.

"The bodies were recovered at the junction point of MCD and DDA drain... The 1,000-metre long drain in MCD's jurisdiction is uncovered and has not been desilted... It is unfortunate to say the least that the AAP and its leaders have once again indulged in shameless blame game even in the wake of tragedies involving death," it added.

Meanwhile, the Delhi High Court is expected to hear on August 5 a plea seeking action against officials for the deaths.

Government of India
Ministry of Commerce & Industry
Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade

This Department invites application from suitable candidates for filling up of one post of Assistant Civil Engineer in the grade Pay of Rs. 4600/-, Level-7, as per 7th CPC on Transfer on Deputation (including short term contract) basis in Salt Commissioner Organization (SCO), an attached office under DPIIT for posting at SCO, Mumbai.

Eligibility: Officers under the Central Government

- (i) holding analogous posts on regular basis and possessing degree/diploma in Civil Engineering from a recognized University or equivalent; or
- (ii) holding posts in the scale of Rs. 1640-2900 (IV Pay Commission) corresponding to Level-6 (Pay Band-2) Rs.9300-34800/- with Grade pay of Rs.4200/- or equivalent on regular basis and possessing degree in Civil Engineering from a recognized University or equivalent; or
- (iii) with three years' regular service in posts in the scale of Rs. 1640-2900 (IV Pay Commission) corresponding to Level-6 (Pay Band-2) Rs.9300-34800/- with Grade pay of Rs.4200/- or equivalent and possessing diploma in Civil Engineering from a recognized University or equivalent; or
- (iv) with 5/8 years regular service in posts in the scale of Rs. 1400-2300/2600 (IV Pay Commission) corresponding to Level-6 (Pay Band-2) Rs.9300-34800/- with Grade pay of Rs.4200/- and possessing degree/diploma in Civil Engineering from a recognized University or equivalent

The Departmental officers in the feeder category who are in the direct line of promotion shall not be eligible for consideration for appointment on deputation. Similarly deputationists shall not be eligible for consideration for appointment by promotion.

(Period of deputation including period of deputation in another ex-cadre post held immediately preceding this appointment in the same or some other organization/department of the Central Government shall ordinarily not exceed 3 years. The maximum age limit for appointment by transfer on deputation shall be not exceeding 56 years as on the closing date of receipt of applications.)

- Complete details regarding eligibility criteria, educational qualification etc. and Bio- data/Curriculum Vitae Proforma (in word format), as mentioned above, can be downloaded from the website under 'Publication'-Jobs' tab on <https://dpiit.gov.in> and <http://www.saltcomindia.gov.in>.
- Application duly filled in and supported by all relevant documents and envelop should be superscripted, "Application for the post of Assistant Civil Engineer (ACE) on transfer of deputation basis" may be sent through proper channel to Under Secretary, Salt Section, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Vanijya Bhawan, East Wing, 1st floor, 16-A Akbar Road, New Delhi-110011, Email: salt-section@gov.in
- The last date for receipt of applications is 60 days from the date of publication of this circular in Employment News.

Sd/- (R.K. Soni)
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6 IN PARLIAMENT BUDGET SESSION

₹5,517 cr: GST from coaching centres more than doubled in 5 yrs, RS told

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 2

THE GOODS and Services Tax (GST) collection from coaching centres has more than doubled in the past five years, according to data from the Ministry of Finance submitted by Minister of State for Education Sukanta Majumdar in response to a question in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

The GST collection from coaching institutions stood at Rs 2,240.73 crore in 2019-20 and increased to Rs 5,517.45 crore in 2023-24, Majumdar said, referring to data from the revenue department, Ministry of Finance.

The figure in 2020-21 saw a marginal dip compared to the previous year, at Rs 2,215.24 crore.

The collection rose to Rs 3,045.12 crore in 2021-22 and further increased to 4,667.03 crore in 2022-23.

Majumdar was responding to a question on whether the coaching industry "is colossal and expanding rapidly" and the "estimated worth of the coaching industry and its projected growth in the near future".

ROW OVER LOP'S 'CHAKRAVYUH' SPEECH IN HOUSE

Rahul says govt 'planning ED raid', BJP calls it 'bid to distract' from Wayanad

Opp parties move adjournment motion in the LS, seek discussion on 'misuse of Central agencies'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 2

JUST HOURS after Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Friday claimed that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) is planning a "raid" against him over his 'Chakravayuh' speech on Union Budget in Parliament, the Congress moved an adjournment motion in the LS, seeking a discussion on the "misuse of Central agencies".

Comparing the Union Budget with "Chakravayuh of the Mahabharat war where Abhimanyu was trapped and killed", Gandhi on Monday said it had nothing for farmers, youths, Agniveers and the middle-class. He promised that the INDIA bloc will break this "government's Chakravayuh" and ensure minimum support price (MSP) legal guarantee and caste census, among others.

Claiming that the raid is being planned as his speech on Budget was not "liked by two in one", Gandhi posted on X early Friday: "Apparently, two in one didn't like my Chakravayuh

speech. ED 'insiders' tell me a raid is being planned... Waiting with open arms, Enforcement Directorate... chai and biscuits on me."

Reacting to Gandhi's allegations, BJP leader and former Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar said that the senior Congress leader was creating a new narrative to distract people from the scrutiny of the massive landslides in Kerala's Wayanad and his accountability as the MP there.

"This is nothing but Rahul Gandhi trying to move the spotlight away from the growing scrutiny of the Wayanad disaster and his role as the MP there. This is a silly attempt to make himself and fake victimhood the story," the BJP leader wrote on X. "Distracting people with absurd statements and lies is at the heart of Rahul-Congress strategy, but that's become obvious."

However, several Opposition parties on Friday rallied behind Gandhi and targeted the BJP for "misusing the Central agencies".

Congress MP and Whip in the Lok Sabha Manickam Tagore on Friday moved an adjourn-



Waiting... chai and biscuits on me: Rahul Gandhi on X

ment motion in the Lok Sabha, seeking an urgent discussion on the misuse of Central agencies.

In his letter to Speaker Om Birla, Tagore said: "The Opposition condemns the BJP government's misuse of agencies like the ED, CBI and Income Tax for political harassment... Despite the dip in their strength from 303 to 240 seats as well as reliance on alliances with the TDP and JEM, the government continues to deploy these (Central) agencies to intimidate opposition leaders and force compliance, undermining dem-

ocratic principles."

Tagore further said that "this misuse of state power is unacceptable as it threatens the integrity of our institutions". "We demand an immediate cessation of these practices, and call for respect for democratic norms and autonomy of our agencies. The health of our democracy depends on impartial governance and fair political engagement," said the three-time MP from Virudhnagar in Tamil Nadu.

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MP Sanjay Singh said that the Centre intends to put the ED and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) against Gandhi because he was trying to expose the NDA government during his speech in Parliament.

Addressing the media on Friday, Singh said: "The ED and CBI are working as (government) agencies to shut the voice of the Opposition and bring down their governments. I would tell Prime Minister Narendra Modi that he needs to understand that times have changed. He has reached 240, and if he continues like this, he will reach even 24 and two."

Kerala landslides: Cong's privilege motion against Shah over 'early warning' claim

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 2

CONGRESS MP Jairam Ramesh Friday moved a notice in Rajya Sabha to initiate privilege proceedings against Union Home Minister Amit Shah for his "false statements" on the early warnings issued by the Union government to Kerala government on the Wayanad landslides. Ramesh wrote to Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar, saying Shah's claims "were fact-checked by media".

Shah had told Rajya Sabha Wednesday the Centre warned the Kerala government on July 23 of the possibility of excessive rain and landslides, seven days before landslides in Wayanad district led to at least 210 deaths.

DEBATE IN LS ON DEMAND FOR GRANTS



Shiromani Akali Dal MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal and (right) Independent MP Pappu Yadav in Lok Sabha, Friday. PTI

Opp targets Govt over health spend, BJP MP highlights 'paucity' of doctors

Opp contends: Allocation should have been 2.5% of GDP, goal Govt itself set

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 2

EVEN AS the Opposition criticised the Government's "inadequate" healthcare spend, BJP Lok Sabha MP from Bihar Sanjay Jaiswal on Friday sought to highlight a "serious paucity of doctors" at community health centres (CHCs) in rural areas and warned that the issue could create problems if not addressed.

"I wish to attract the attention of the Health Minister (J P Nadda) towards a problem. There is a serious paucity of doctors in the health and wellness centres and CHCs. We want these centres to have women and child care surgeons and physicians... but we also need specialist doctors in these centres... There are only 10% CHCs which have all these specialists," Jaiswal said.

The BJP MP, a former president of the BJP's Bihar unit, also criticised the National Medical Council (NMC) for derecognising the diplomas issued by College of Physicians and Surgeons (CPS), an accreditation body that has been in existence since 1912 and offers post-graduate diploma courses in several disciplines. The CPS courses provide an alternate route to MBBS students for post-graduate studies.

"Suddenly, the National Medical Council has taken a decision which has barred these students from working in CHCs or health and wellness centres as specialists. We will never reach the required level if we fail to recognise these diplomas. NMC is now again behaving like the old Medical Council of India. There used to be so much corruption," he said. He showed an advertisement by the Madhya Pradesh government for recruitment of anaesthetists in government hospitals and pointed out how all states were struggling because of lack of specialists.

Jaiswal, however, spoke at length on how the Modi Government had "transformed" the country's health sector as compared to the UPA. He also said that Punjab, Karnataka and Telangana, all ruled by Opposition parties, spent the least on healthcare.

The Opposition, meanwhile, attacked the government for alleged apathy towards the healthcare sector. Tariq Anwar of the Congress said, "The health of the health department is not good. The doctor's profession was once considered noble. It has now be-



BJP Lok Sabha member Sanjay Jaiswal. File

come business. In the Hunger Index, of the 125 countries, we are placed at 111. Government is charging health cess, but spending on health has decreased."

Anwar also criticised the Ayushman Bharat scheme, saying it had become a scheme to benefit private hospitals.

Lalji Verma of the Samajwadi Party expressed disappointment that "healthcare was not part of the Finance Minister's nine priorities". He said that in FY 23-24, healthcare had a share of 1.91% in the GDP but had decreased to 1.81% of the GDP.

TMC's Sharmila Sarkar said the healthcare budget was "inadequate". "It should have been 2.5% of the GDP, a target that was set by the government. The condition of regional AIIMS is horrible. If AIIMS name is to be used, some standard should be maintained. It is critical to prioritise primary healthcare as 2/3rd of the population lives in villages," she said.

AIMIM MP Asaduddin Owaisi said the Budget was much less than the target of 2.5% and that the funding for National Health Mission had not kept up with inflation, resulting in health centres not being properly staffed. He also went on to say that the PM had been propagating "false views" that Muslims have more children, stating that the total fertility rate had dropped the fastest amongst Muslims from 4.4% to 2.3%.

SAD MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal highlighted shortage of doctors in the country. She, however, appreciated the government's move to provide relief in taxes on cancer drugs. Independent MP Pappu Yadav questioned GST on health services. He also said India continues to use medicines banned in other countries.

BJP's Daggubati Purandeswari criticised the Opposition. "The 2.5% of GDP that needs to be allocated for health is not necessarily incumbent upon the Centre... We see largely that states are not so forthcoming... when it comes to health," she said. WITHENSINPUTS

MOVED BY DMK MEMBER ABDULLA

Private resolution in RS seeks scrapping of NEET, NTA, moving education to state list

Govt opposes: Discussing issue will go against the spirit of SC judgment'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 2

AMID STIFF opposition from the government, DMK Rajya Sabha MP from Tamil Nadu M Mohamed Abdulla on Friday moved a private member resolution seeking repeal of NEET and NTA while allowing states to conduct medical entrance tests, besides a law to remove education from the concurrent list.

Abdulla moved the resolution during the afternoon session of the Rajya Sabha. It sought moving education from the concurrent list to the state list in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. It also added that NEET and NTA should be repealed and medical admissions should be based on the stated requirements of state governments. A compensation of Rs 1 crore to the families of victims affected by the NEET exam was also sought.

In his speech, Abdulla underlined "injustice" meted out to domiciled students of states and an infringement upon the autonomy of state governments in the field of medical education.

"The NEET exam is flawed in the way of selection of eligible candidates," he said and cited the "present NEET question paper leaks, the irresponsible award of grace marks and the inability of NTA to successfully conduct the exam without prej-



DMK MP M M Abdulla

udice to students".

Opposing the resolution, MoS for Education Jayant Chaudhary said it went against several precedents and parliamentary norms and practices. The Supreme Court gave its directions in 2018, after which the exam was being conducted by NTA, he added.

Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Kiren Rijiju said: "At a time when the government has agreed with the Supreme Court order and has started the implementation process, discussing the topic again will not be appropriate considering the tradition we have followed," he said.

Leader of House J P Nadda defended NEET by saying that "earlier, medical education was a lucrative business, with one seat being sold for nearly Rs 8 crore".

Opposition CPI(M)'s John Brittas and V Sivadasan, AAP's Raghav Chadha and Congress' Shaktisinh Gohil said disallowing a member to move a resolution "approved by the Chairman would be an infringement to a member's right". TMC's Jawhar Sircar, DMK's N R Elango and RJD's Manoj Kumar Jha also spoke in favour of the resolution.



HOUSE GUESTS

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla with a delegation from the West African country of Togo on Friday. The group comprised ministers, parliamentarians, Constitutional Court judges and advisers from Togo. PTI

Chouhan in RS: Being anti-farmer in DNA of Congress, never gave priority to sector

Less procurement by Govt at MSP means situation of farmers good: Dhankhar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 2

ACCUSING THE Congress of having "anti-farmer ideology", Union Minister for Agriculture Shivraj Singh Chouhan said on Friday that the party never gave priority to the farm sector throughout its rule after Independence.

Replying to a discussion in the Rajya Sabha on the working of his ministry, Chouhan highlighted the work done by the Modi Government in the last 10 years and said the Centre was committed to providing remunerative prices of crops to farmers as well as urea and DAP fertilisers at highly subsidised rates.

"The government has six priorities for the growth of the agriculture sector - increasing farm



Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in Rajya Sabha. PTI

production, reducing input cost for farming, providing remunerative prices to farmers, adequate relief to farmers in case of natural calamities, diversification and value addition in agriculture, and promoting natural farming," he said.

Chouhan also assured the Opposition parties that the Central government was open to

considering their concrete suggestions and would also try to implement the "workable ones" for farmers' welfare.

Chouhan took on Opposition parties for accusing the Modi Government of working against the interest of the farm sector and rejected the charges of reduction in allocation of funds to agriculture and allied sector in

the Budget. He also dismissed the allegation that the government was not buying enough quantity of food grains from farmers at the minimum support price (MSP).

"Congress ke DNA me hi kisan-virodh hai. Aaj se nahi, praramb se hi Congress ki prathamiktayein galat rahi hai (Congress DNA is anti-farmer. Not from today, but since the beginning, it has misplaced priorities)," he said.

Joining the discussion, Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar said, "Less procurement at MSP means the situation of farmers is good and they are getting good prices in the market." He said the government should enhance MSP regularly. Chouhan assured him that the government will work in this direction as the Modi government considers farmers "God" and not a "vote bank".

Meitei and Hmar leaders hold peace talks in Jiribam

SUKRITA BARUAH
GUWAHATI, AUGUST 2

REPRESENTATIVES of Meitei and Hmar communities from Manipur's tense Jiribam district are working towards gradually easing the situation by meeting in the neighbouring Cachar district in Assam. In the latest such meeting held on Thursday, they arrived at an agreement to enable "controlled movement" of both communities within Jiribam.

The process of such "peace talks", coordinated by the district Superintendent of Police, is unique to Jiribam and has eluded other conflict-hit parts of Manipur. Different group leaders told The Indian Express that they are keen on enabling a safe passage back home for all dis-

placed people in the district through discussions.

On Thursday, leaders of nine civil society organisations from Jiribam, representing Meitei and Hmar interests, as well as Thadou, Paitei and Mizo representatives, met at the CRPF Group Centre in Cachar, in a meeting moderated by the District Collector, Superintendent of Police, the DIG CRPF of Jiribam, and the Commandants of the 39 Assam Rifles and 87 Battalion CRPF. Hmar, Thadou, Paitei and Mizo all come under the Zo umbrella, currently in conflict with the Meiteis in Manipur.

At the meeting, they agreed on three key resolutions. The first was for "both sides to make full efforts to bring normalcy and prevent incidents of firing and arson". The second was to coop-

EXPLAINED
Ongoing process

THIS IS the second such meeting where groups from both sides have met since Jiribam was first gripped with tensions on June 6. The first was held on July 1 in Silchar. However, there have been sporadic incidents of arson and firing since then. The next meeting is likely after August 15.

erate with security forces operating in the district. And the third key was for "controlled and co-ordinated movement".

According to a leader of one of the Meitei groups that attended the meeting, the most important decision was on "controlled movement". Because of the current tensions, parts of the district have become inaccessible to the community in the minority there. The Hmars and Kukis who resided in and around Jiribam town have fled to Cachar, while Meitei families living close to the Hmar-majority hills in Borobekra subdivision are in relief camps in Jiribam.

"We agreed that both sides should have free movement in all parts, but that will take some time. Till then, we have agreed to have a system of controlled movement. If a member of one community wants to go to a part where they can't right now, they should inform all the civil society

organisations and security forces so they can go there safely," said the Meitei group leader.

An official who attended the meeting said, "We believe that a beginning has been made, though there are challenges ahead. We hope that the people will soon realise the futility of the conflict. We appreciate the people of Jiribam for agreeing to come to the meeting."

This is the second such meeting where groups from both sides have met since Jiribam was first gripped with tensions on June 6. Neighbouring Assam has served as a "neutral place" for these meetings and the first meeting was held there on July 1 in Silchar, with representatives of 19 groups in attendance. It was moderated by Jiribam Superintendent of Police M Pradip Singh.

Meghalaya tightens rules on migrant workers: Stricter scrutiny, more fine

SUKRITA BARUAH
GUWAHATI, AUGUST 2

VERIFYING "CRIMINAL antecedents" of migrant workers and a twenty-fold increase in fines for their non-registration — these are some of the major changes that the Meghalaya Cabinet approved to an existing law on Friday as the state witnesses a massive push-back against non-locals.

According to Meghalaya government spokesperson Paul Lyngdoh, amendments to the Meghalaya Identification Registration Safety and Security of Migrant Workers 2020 and the rules for the implementation of the Act were among the various topics discussed at the

Cabinet meeting on Friday.

Among these changes is increasing the fine for non-registration of migrant workers to Rs 1 lakh from the current Rs 5,000, Lyngdoh said after the meeting.

The Act itself defines migrant workers as a person "not belonging" to Meghalaya and who is not domiciled in the state but seeks employment in the state and excludes "any work ordinarily involving research or is managerial, administrative or supervisory capacity etc.". It mandates that every such "migrant worker" be registered with the state government, which will issue them a Registration Card, and places the responsibility for this registration on the person employing or engaging them.

The Cabinet decided to adopt a system to "ensure that only those with no criminal antecedents can join the workforce as migrant workers" in Meghalaya, Lyngdoh said. The Centre's Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System is to be used for this, with police and labour departments coordinating in its implementation. "These amendments will be introduced in the state assembly in the upcoming (autumn) session," Lyngdoh said. The session is to be held from August 23-30.

These announcements come against the backdrop of growing pressure from various groups in the Khasi hills for implementation of an Inner Line Permit in the state.

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- ▶ राशन कार्ड
- ▶ रंगीन पासपोर्ट साइज फोटो (एक)
- ▶ आधार से जुड़ा बैंक खाता का पासबुक (बैंक खाता एकल (सिंगल) होना चाहिए)
- ▶ जिनका बैंक खाता आधार से जुड़ा नहीं है वे भी योजना का लाभ दिसम्बर-2024 तक उठा सकती हैं, उसके पश्चात बैंक खाता को आधार से जुड़वाना जरूरी है
- ▶ पात्रता संबंधी घोषणापत्र

3 से 10 अगस्त तक विहित प्रपत्र में आवेदन जमा करने हेतु विशेष कैम्प का आयोजन:

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- ▶ शहरी क्षेत्र में संबंधित जिला उपायुक्त द्वारा चयनित केंद्र

विशेष कैम्प के बाद भी आवेदन नजदीकी प्रजा केंद्र में कभी भी जमा किया जा सकता है।

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मुख्यमंत्री, झारखण्ड

8 GOVT & POLITICS

SC expands ambit of NEET panel, extends report deadline

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 2

IN ITS detailed ruling on the NEET-UG exam Friday, the Supreme Court expanded the ambit of the seven-member expert committee that was formed by the Union government to suggest measures for smooth and fair conduct of examinations by the National Testing Agency (NTA).

The court said the expert panel, led by former ISRO chairman K Radhakrishnan, shall additionally look into issues of examination security and administration.

The court asked the panel to suggest advanced data security protocols — including encryption and secure data transmission methods — to protect examination materials.

"It shall also consider the viability of NTA engaging in international cooperation with examination bodies and educational authorities from other countries to share best practices, security measures, and innovative solutions," said the apex court.

The SC extended the deadline to submit its report to the Union Ministry of Education — from August 22 set by the Centre to September 30.

IN DETAILED NEET RULING, APEX COURT FLAGS SERIES OF LAPSES BY NTA

SC raises security concerns on use of e-rickshaws to transport NEET papers

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G & ABHISHEK ANGAD
NEW DELHI, RANCHI, AUGUST 2

HAVING HELD that there was no systemic leak of NEET-UG papers which would warrant its cancellation, the Supreme Court Friday flagged a number of concerns in the conduct of the exam this year by the National Testing Agency (NTA) — specifically pointing to the use of e-rickshaws for transporting question sheets, which was reported by *The Indian Express*.

On July 23, a three-judge bench led by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud had in an interim order rejected demands for a retest and had said that it will give a reasoned judgement later. In the detailed verdict pronounced Friday, the bench, also comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, said: "The information before us at this stage does not show that the question paper was disseminated widely using social media or the internet... The CBI investigation reveals the number of students who are the beneficiaries of the



Oasis School principal Ehsanul Haque handing over OMR sheets to a private courier company on May 5. *Express*

malpractice at Hazaribagh and Patna at this stage. This leads us to conclude that it is possible to separate the beneficiaries of malpractice or fraud from honest students. This being the case, the Court cannot direct a re-exam."

The court also said that using e-rickshaws and private courier companies for transporting National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (Undergraduate) papers "raises concerns about the security and reliability of paper-handling procedures".

The Indian Express had first re-

ported in June that the investigators had found negligence on the part of at least one courier company that used an e-rickshaw to ferry the question papers in Jharkhand's Hazaribagh, the place where the leak allegedly occurred. The e-rickshaws were allegedly used to ferry question papers from the courier company's office on the outskirts of Hazaribagh to the strongroom of a local bank, from where it was then taken to exam centres.

"...E-rickshaws are relatively unsecured and lack proper monitoring, making them unsuitable for the secure transit of sensitive examination materials. This method might be vulnerable to theft, tampering, and mishandling, posing a serious risk to the integrity of the examination process. Although no lapses on this count have emerged this year, the possibility of such lapses is enough to warrant a change in the mode of transportation," the SC order said.

The court listed more issues in the manner the NTA conducted the exam, telling it to implement stringent security measures.

"In one of the centres (where the alleged leak occurred), the rear door of the strongroom was opened and unauthorised persons were permitted to access the question papers. This indicates that there is a serious lapse in security..." the ruling said.

The NTA also did not specify a time by which the OMR sheets had to be sealed after the conclusion of the exam, which could lead to dishonest elements tampering with the sheets, it said.

"Yet another point of concern is that NTA relies on persons over whom it does not exercise direct

oversight to be the invigilators for the exam," said the court.

Pointing to incidents of question papers stored in the Canara Bank vault being distributed instead of those stored in SBI to candidates in at least 12 centres, the court said: "This either indicates that the city coordinators were irresponsible and not fit for duty or that the information as to which question paper was to be distributed to candidates was not properly communicated to them".

The bench said it is a matter of "serious concern" that the number of those who scored 720 out of 720 "fell from sixty-seven to seventeen during the course of the hearing".

The SC also termed as "most unfortunate...the lack of responsible decision-making with respect to the 1563 candidates who were initially awarded compensatory marks", only to be withdrawn later and given a retest.

Investigations have found that the leak allegedly occurred at Hazaribagh's Oasis School — a NEET centre. School principal Ehsanul Haque and vice-principal Imtiyaz Alam are among those arrested in the case.

BSF DG, deputy repatriated to state cadres with immediate effect

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 2



BSF Director General (DG) Nitin Agrawal

THE CENTRE on Friday removed BSF Director General (DG) Nitin Agrawal and his deputy Special DG (West) Y B Khurania, repatriating them to their respective state cadres with immediate effect.

This comes amid a spike in terror incidents and infiltration bids in J&K, especially in the Jammu region. According to data, 14 civilians and 14 security personnel have died, while 24 encounter/counter-terror operations and 11 terror-initiated incidents have been reported this year in J&K till July 21.

In an order, DoPT Director Sakshi Mittal said, "The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Home Affairs for premature repatriation of Nitin Agrawal, DG, BSF, to his parent cadre with immediate effect."

Agrawal, a 1989-batch Kerala-cadre officer, had taken charge as the BSF chief in June last year. He is due to retire in 2026. The decision to remove Agrawal was taken a few days ago and the MHA had sent a proposal letter to the department concerned on July 30.

Khurania, a 1990-batch Odisha-cadre officer, was heading the formation of the force along the Pakistan border. "The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Home Affairs for premature repatriation

of Khurania, to his parent cadre with immediate effect," read the order.

A source said Khurania's name is being considered by the Odisha government for appointment as the new Director General of Police of the state.

Last week, the Centre also ordered the extraction of two BSF battalions, comprising more than 2,000 personnel, from Odisha to step up security in the Jammu region. "The decision was taken to strengthen the deployment in the border areas, specifically around tunnels, to prevent infiltration. The troops of these two units are expected to be based in Samba and near the Jammu-Punjab border," a source said.

The BSF guards nearly 2,290 km of international border along Jammu, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat in India's western flank. The Jammu area is vulnerable to cross-border tunnels and its dense forests and mountainous terrain make it an ideal ground for terrorists to launch attacks against civilians and security forces.

Meanwhile, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has also approved MHA's proposal for appointment of Amrit Mohan Prasad, a 1989-batch Odisha-cadre officer, as Special DG, Central Reserve Police Force, till August 31, 2025.

TOP COURT RULING ON SC SUB-CLASSIFICATION

Reservation must be for all Dalits... Centre must expedite: SC-ST panel's ex-chief

VIKAS PATHAK
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 2

THE NARENDRA Modi government should set the ball rolling to classify the Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) into sub-categories for the purpose of distributing the benefits of reservation among the most deprived Dalit and Adivasi communities, BJP leader and former chairman of the erstwhile National Commission for SCs and STs, Bizay Sonkar Shastri, has said.

Even as other leaders in the BJP whom *The Indian Express* spoke to said the party would study the recent Supreme Court judgment on the issue before coming up with its view, Shastri welcomed the verdict.

"There should be sub-classification among SCs. Some communities are benefitting the most from reservation while others are not getting any benefit. So, if the quota is sub-categorised, a path will open for reservation benefits reaching those who have not got the benefit of reservation for long," Shastri, from the Khatik (SC) community in Varanasi said.

Shastri cited the example of the Meenas of Rajasthan, saying they have benefited most from the ST quota, leaving others behind. Shastri was the last chairperson of the National Commission of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the days of Atal Bihari Vajpayee as PM, before the constitutional body was bifurcated in 2004 into the National Commission of Scheduled Castes and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.

Sub-quota for SCs: Finding data easier said than done

SHYAMLAL YADAV
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 2

A CRUCIAL aspect of the Supreme Court's landmark verdict empowering states to make sub-classifications within the Scheduled Caste (SC) category is that the court has held that such a process has to be undertaken based on "quantifiable and demonstrable data" on the levels of backwardness and representation in government services and education institutions and not on "whims or as a matter of political expediency".

However, finding "quantifiable and demonstrable data" is easier said than done if efforts to examine the sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) are something to go by. Hampered by a lack of credible and expansive data, the reports of both the four-member Rohini Commission and the Raghavendra Kumar panel are limited in scope. While there has not been any movement on the recommendations of the Rohini Commission report since it was submitted on July 31, 2023, the Raghavendra Kumar panel report in Uttar Pradesh has been lying in cold storage since 2018.

While SCs and Scheduled Tribes are enumerated during the Census — last held in 2011 — there has not been any effort to gather data on caste-wise representation in government jobs and educational institutions. For OBCs, both sets of data are not collected and, in recent months, changing this has formed the crux of the Opposition's politically charged demand for a nationwide caste census. Now, with this Supreme Court verdict, expanding the am-

EXPLAINED
Delays in sub-quota for OBCs

FINDING "quantifiable and demonstrable data" for SCs is difficult, if efforts to examine the sub-quota for OBCs are anything to go. Caste-wise population and caste-wise representation are the data sets required to decide sub-groups. While SCs and STs are enumerated during the Census, there has been no effort to gather data on caste-wise representation in govt jobs and educational institutions.

bit of this caste census becomes a real possibility, fuelling the battles between the BJP-led government and the Opposition in the coming months.

The Modi government appointed the panel headed by Justice Rohini, a retired Chief Justice of the Delhi HC on October 2, 2017, to examine if the perception that only a few affluent of the more than 2,600 OBC groups listed in the Central List had bagged most of the benefits of 27% reservation for OBCs. The argument for sub-categorisation — or creating categories within OBCs for reservation — is that it will ensure "equitable distribution" of representation among all OBC groups.

In 2018, the panel analysed the data of 1.3 lakh central government jobs under the OBC quota over the preceding five years, and OBC admissions to central higher

education institutions, including universities, IITs, NITs, IIMs and AIIMS, over the preceding three years. The analysis showed that 97% of all jobs and education seats have gone to 25% of OBC castes and 24.95% have gone to just 10 OBC communities.

After 13 extensions to its tenure, the Commission submitted its report to the government on July 31, 2023. A source in the Ministry of Social Justice Ministry, the nodal ministry for the exercise, termed the report "politically sensitive" and said, "We have no idea what will be done based on the report."

The year after Rohini Commission was set up in May 2018 the Yogi Adityanath government in UP set up the Justice (retired) Raghvendra Kumar panel. The committee set up the report five months later but its recommendations have not been made public yet. Sources in the UP government said the panel recommended that the 79 OBC groups in the state be sub-categorised into three groups, namely the Backward Class (Yadavs, Kurmis, Jaats etc), More Backward Classes (Gujars, Lodhs, Kachhis, Kushwahs, Shakyas, Sahus etc); and Most Backward Classes (Nishads, Rajbhars, Banjaras, Binds, Kahars, Kashyaps, Qureshis etc). The panel recommended 7%, 11%, and 9% quota from the OBC reservation pie.

However, the report has not seen the light of the day since then. "It is in the process of implementation. We have assigned a senior IAS to examine it," UP Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Backward Classes Welfare Narendra Kashyap told *The Indian Express*.

SEPTEMBER 30 DEADLINE

EC to visit J&K on Aug 8-10 to review Assembly poll work

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 2

THE ELECTION Commission (EC) is set to visit Jammu and Kashmir from August 8 to 10 to review Assembly poll preparations, ahead of the Supreme Court's September 30 deadline for holding elections in the Union Territory.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu will visit Srinagar on August 8 and 9, and then Jammu on August 10, EC sources said.

The commission had last visited J&K on March 12 and March 13 to review preparations for the Lok Sabha elections, just days before the general elections were announced on March 16. Usually, elections are announced soon after the full commission's visit to a state or UT.

Last week, the EC had ex-

tended the summary revision of electoral rolls in the other three poll-bound states — Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Haryana — by seven days, but the date of publication of the final roll remained the same as announced earlier for J&K: August 20.

On Thursday, acting on a request from the Chief Electoral Officer, the EC extended the electoral roll revision process for Maharashtra, sources said. The electoral roll for Maharashtra will be published on August 30.

The last Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir were held in 2014, and the Assembly was dissolved in 2018. The upcoming polls will be the first election to the Assembly of the Union Territory of J&K, which was formed in 2019 when the special status of J&K was revoked and the state was split into two UTs. Upholding the abrogation of Article 370, the Supreme Court had last year ordered the EC to hold Assembly elections in J&K by September 30, 2024.

Broadcast Bill a threat to freedom of speech: Cong

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 2

THE CONGRESS Friday said that the Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill "is a direct threat" to freedom of speech and independent media.

Congress spokesperson Pawan Kherra said that "increased government control over content creators, from social media influencers to independent news outlets, threatens the independence of the press and restricts free speech".

"The bill labels anyone uploading videos, making podcasts, or writing about current affairs as 'digital news broadcasters'. This could unnecessarily regulate individuals and small teams providing independent news coverage," said Kherra.

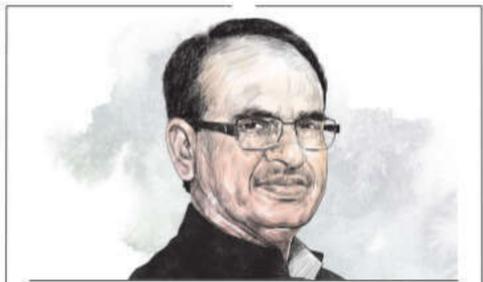
"This will delay timely news and create a chilling effect on free expression," Kherra posted on X. "The bill imposes heavy regu-

latory burdens on small content creators, treating them like large media corporations. Many independent journalists lack resources to comply, leading to potential shutdowns," he said.

He said that "content creators who monetize their platforms face the same stringent regulations as traditional broadcasters". "This discourages new entrants and harms the economic viability of independent creators, this is exactly how the government finished the crypto market in India," said Kherra.

Kherra also alleged that the drafting process of the bill did not include civil society, journalists, and key stakeholders, raising concerns about transparency and inclusivity. "Monitoring 'negative influencers' and criminal liability for non-compliance threatens dissenting voices and independent journalism. This bill will pave the way for excessive surveillance in the online world," he said.

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



NEW ADDRESS

BUNGALOW NUMBER 12 at Safdarjung Road will soon be Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's new address in Lutyens' Delhi. Chouhan has been staying at a guesthouse in the Pusa complex since he became a minister on June 8. For the initial few days, he stayed at the Madhya Pradesh Bhawan in Chanakyapuri. Chauhan's predecessor at 12, Safdarjung Road was Minister of State for Panchayati Raj Kapil Moreswar Patil, who lost the Lok Sabha elections from Bhiwandi to Suresh Mhatre of NCP(SP).

UNWANTED VISITOR

AN "INTRUDER" posed a challenge for security personnel as well as MPs on the Parliament premises on Friday. A monkey was spotted roaming the corridors outside the Lok Sabha chamber and later the MPs' lobby. Sources say the simian may have entered through one of the gates of the building, as the new Parliament does not have open corridors like the old one. Once spotted, the monkey was chased out by the security personnel but not before it had jumped on sofas in the MPs' lobby. While monkey sightings were common in the old building, Friday's visit may have been the first such encounter in the new building, say sources.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

SAMAJWADI PARTY MP Jaya Bachchan engaged in a friendly banter with Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar in the Rajya Sabha on Friday. Bachchan, who had last week objected to "Amitabh" being mentioned as her middle name in the House by Deputy Chairman Harivansh, started her speech with "Main Jaya Amitabh Bachchan..." She went on to ask Dhankhar if he had his lunch during the break. She said in jest that the Chairman was repeatedly taking the name of Congress leader Jairam Ramesh as he could not digest his lunch till he mentioned him. Responding on a lighter note, Dhankhar said he did not get time for lunch during the recess but ate later with Ramesh. "Aaj hi liya," he said. Dhankhar then said he is a fan of both Jaya and Amitabh. "I have not seen a couple like you," he said.

West Bengal ration case: ED arrests TMC leader, brother

SWEETY KUMARI
KOLKATA, AUGUST 2

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) arrested Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Anisur Rahman and his brother Alif Noor alias Mukul Rahman in the early hours on Friday, after they were interrogated for nearly 14 hours in connection with alleged "irregularities" in the West Bengal public distribution system.

Anisur, who is the TMC's Deganga block unit president, and his brother Alif were detained for questioning after raids on their properties and offices. They were produced in court

later in the day and remanded in ED custody till August 12. This comes after the ED arrested former food and civil supplies minister Jyotipriya Mallick and businessman Bakibur Rahman in connection with the same probe.

The ED has also summoned Barik Biswas, said to be a close aide of Mallick, to appear before it on Friday. Biswas's apartment was among properties where the ED conducted searches in the alleged ration scam on Tuesday, and as per the agency, Rs 20 lakh was recovered from his flat.

ED sources said documents of 22 properties have been found among the documents recovered from Biswas's office.

Dalit leader who fought for SC sub-quota: 'Verdict will benefit a hundred generations'

FOLLOWING THE SC sub-quota order, Telangana CM Revanth Reddy said the state would start the process to implement reservation for Madigas and other Dalit sub-castes. Madigas are the largest of the 59 SC sub-castes in Telangana. Madiga Reservation Porata Samithi chief MANDA KRISHNA MADIGA, a supporter of the sub-classification for decades, told NIKHILA HENRY that the order was a victory for marginalised communities.

How do you feel after the win for sub-caste reservation?

The agitation of Madiga people, which started in 1994, has come to a conclusion. The ruling has brought us much happiness.

A hundred generations of Madigas and other downtrodden castes will benefit.

What contributed to the win? I attribute this victory to three kinds of people. One, those who gave up their lives for reservation. Secondly, MRPS workers who overcame all odds to stand by the party. Next, I also thank the support given by people of different castes to this agitation.



Ahead of the Telangana polls last year, Madiga shared the stage with PM Modi at a rally where he was seen in tears. *PTI*

There are several people who died by suicide in public for the cause. What is your plan for their family members?

We will form committees to support the families. We will give them all that they need after

bringing the matter up for discussion in the Madiga Reservation Porata Samithi governing body.

Have you received support from any parties in the past?

We have got support from several parties, including Telugu Desam Party, the Congress and Bharat Rashtira Samithi.

Did the BJP support you?

Yes, we did get support from the BJP too before the elections.

Which party are you aligned with now?

We stand independent at this juncture. We have taken help from all parties who supported the sub-categorisation agitation. But we are an independent party that struggled and agitated on our own.

Shambhu border: Resolve concerns amicably, SC tells farmers & police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 2

THE SUPREME COURT, hearing the Shambhu Border case, on Friday gave further time to Punjab and Haryana to nominate negotiators who could resolve the concerns amicably.

"Nobody should precipitate the situation... You do not need to hurt their sentiments... But as a state when you go... with a statesmanship... you try to persuade them (farmers) that as far as the tractors, JCB machines and other agricultural equipment are concerned... let those be taken to a place where they are required..." Justice Surya Kant, presiding over a two-judge bench, said.

The bench, also comprising Justice R Mahadevan, was hearing Haryana's appeal against the July 10 order of the Punjab and Haryana High Court order asking the state to remove the barricades at the Shambhu Border near Ambala where farmer outfits have been camping since February 13. The court, during the last hearing, mooted an independent committee to speak to the farmers.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Haryana, said on Friday that the exercise to suggest names was on. Punjab Advocate General Gurminder Singh, too, assured the court that it will come up with the names.

The bench then adjourned the matter to August 12, and directed that the status quo at the border be maintained in the interim.

Sterlite protests: SC stays HC order for probe into officials' assets

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 2

THE SUPREME COURT on Friday stayed the vigilance probe ordered by the Madras High Court into the assets of police and government officials allegedly involved in the firing on those protesting against Sterlite copper smelting plant in Tamil Nadu's Thoothukudi in 2018 over pollution concerns.

A three-judge bench, presided by CJ D Y Chandrachud and comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, sought the response of the TN government on the appeal challenging the HC's July 15 order. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the accused police officers, said the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) report had supported their stand saying they were attacked and overpowered by the protesters. He submitted that police had opened fire only on the 100th day of the protests.

The HC order came on a plea by activist Henri Tiphagne against the closure of the suo motu probe initiated by the NHRC into the incident in which 13 protesters were killed in police firing. It directed the TN Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) to look into the assets of all accused police and revenue officials in the case. It asked the DVAC to probe the assets of these persons and their kin at least two years prior to and two years after the police firing.

5 CLASS I OFFICIALS IN STATE RETIRED IN ONE MONTH

Retiring officials prematurely to set house in order: Gujarat to HC

PARIMAL DABHI
GANDHINAGAR, AUGUST 2

AFTER THE Gujarat government prematurely retired five Class I officials with immediate effect since June citing "public interest", Advocate General Kamal Trivedi on Friday told the Gujarat High Court that this was done to "set the house in order".

The five officials who were prematurely retired are Pankaj Barot, chief officer of Petlad Municipality in Anand; S J Pandya, deputy director of Sardar Patel Institute of Public Administration; Sanjaykumar Gandhi, deputy commissioner of state tax department in Surat; Dolathbai Neta, deputy commissioner of state tax department in Ahmedabad and JJ Pandya, a superintending engineer of Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Ltd.

The *Indian Express* has learnt that these premature exits are part of a drive by the Bhupendra Patel government to "cleanse" the system of "deadwood".

While hearing a suo motu

ISRO-NASA MISSION TO INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

40 yrs after Rakesh Sharma, Subhanshu Shukla to be 2nd Indian to travel to space

JOHNSON T A & ANONNA DUTT
BENGALURU, NEW DELHI, AUGUST 2

GROUP CAPTAIN Subhanshu Shukla will most likely become the first Indian in space in 40 years with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) naming him the 'prime' astronaut for the first ISRO-NASA mission to the International Space Station, scheduled for any time after October this year.

ISRO on Friday said it had selected Shukla, 39, and Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, 48, for the Axiom-4 mission, and named Shukla as the 'prime' astronaut, meaning he would be the one who would go to the International Space Station. Nair is the backup for this mission. He will take over in case Shukla is unable to go due to any reason.



Group Captain Subhanshu Shukla

Only one Indian has ever been in space till now - Rakesh Sharma - who was wing commander when he flew on a Soviet spacecraft in 1984.

Shukla and Nair are among the four Indian air force officers selected for India's first manned



Group Capt Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair will be backup for Shukla

space mission, Gaganyaan, that is now tentatively scheduled for next year. The two will undergo further mission-specific training for the next eight weeks, an ISRO official said.

All four selected officers have already undergone rigorous training for the Gaganyaan mission.

Axiom-4 is the fourth mission by private space company Axiom Space in collaboration with NASA. The spacecraft would be launched by a SpaceX rocket. Apart from Shukla, three other astronauts - one each from Poland, Hungary and the United States - will travel to the

International Space Station. India's partnership in this mission was a result of an agreement between New Delhi and Washington during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's trip to the United States last year.

The Axiom-4 spacecraft would remain docked with the ISS for 14 days. Besides the astronauts, it will carry cargo, and supplies, for the ISS.

The exact date of the launch is not yet decided. NASA, on its website, says the mission was scheduled not earlier than October 2024. However, Poland's space agency POLSA, in a separate announcement today, said the mission was expected only next year. Shukla, 39, a fighter pilot who hails from Lucknow in UP, was commissioned in the IAF in 2006 and has over 2,000 hours of flying experience. He has flown a variety of IAF fighter jets including Sukhoi-30 MKIs, MiG-21s, MiG-29s, Jaguars,

Hawks, Dorniers, and the AN-32 aircraft. Nair is a recipient of the sword of honour at the Air Force Academy and was commissioned in the IAF in 1998. He is a category A flying instructor and a test Pilot with over 3000 hours of flying experience. He is an alumnus of the United States Staff College and has commanded Sukhoi-30 squadron.

India's Gaganyaan mission is dependent on experience gained from the ISS mission by the Indian astronauts.

"This particular activity (Indo US collaboration on a space mission) is something that the US wants and India also finds it beneficial for the Indian space programme because once an Indian prepares to go to the ISS they will undergo a training in the US and they are going to come back and discuss how the training and this will help design our Gaganyaan better," ISRO chairman Somanath said in 2023.

Govt reissues draft notification to declare over 56,000 sq km of Western Ghats as eco-sensitive

NIKHIL GHANEKAR
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 2

THE CENTRAL government on Friday issued the sixth iteration of a draft notification, declaring 56,825.7 sq km of the Western Ghats an ecologically sensitive area (ESA) in the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

The notification has been reissued after the previous draft, notified on July 6, 2022, lapsed, the Centre and these six states have not arrived at a consensus on the extent of ESA to be demarcated in the ecological hotspot. The ESAs proposed across these states are spread over 449 sq km in Gujarat, Maharashtra (17,340 sq km), Goa (1,461 sq km), Karnataka (20,668 sq km), Tamil Nadu (6,914 sq km), and Kerala (9,993.7 sq km). The Centre has provided a window of 60 days to submit objections and suggestions on the draft.

The draft notification declaring ESA over Western Ghats was first issued in March 2014, based on suggestions by the High-Level Working Group (HLWG), which was formed by the Centre in 2012. The HLWG panel, headed by space scientist K Kasturirangan, reviewed suggestions in a report prepared by the senior ecologist Madhav Gadgil-led expert committee on ESAs. In April 2022, the Centre formed another panel to "re-examine suggestions by these six state governments... keeping in view the conservation aspects of the disaster-prone pristine ecosystem, as well as rights, privileges, needs and developmental aspirations of the region".

Issued on Friday, the draft notification stated that the Centre and expert panel held 10 meetings with states having Western Ghats, to discuss the fifth draft notification at various forums.

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UP BJP tensions simmer, worry in party over fallout, spread

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 2

SENIOR BJP leaders admitted worry over the public airing of differences within the Uttar Pradesh unit following the party's poor Lok Sabha performance in the state, which continues despite the high command's attempts to check it.

As Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya continues his not-so-subtle defiance of Yogi Adityanath, some senior leaders have cautioned that this undermining of the CM's authority does not portend well for the BJP in UP and might trigger similar "acts of indiscipline" in other state units.

Given that the BJP prides itself as "the party with a difference", with disciplined cadres, a leader said: "This fighting could also hurt the party's prospects in the coming state elections."

A lot rides on these elections - for the Assemblies of Maharashtra, Haryana and Jharkhand, as well as Jammu and Kashmir - as they are the first after the BJP failed to reach a simple majority in the Lok Sabha polls.

The rumblings of discontent in the party's UP unit coincide with disgruntlement in the ranks over the BJP giving poll tickets to new inductees, many of whom lost. A senior leader who is part of the government in the state said this was a pressing issue. "The growing restlessness among the cadres who feel they were ignored in the power-sharing formula, to accommodate the new entries, will have to be addressed. The party leadership must find a way," the leader said.

While the UP BJP is only now seeing such murmurs, after the poll dent to Adityanath's authority, the party has for long been struggling with infighting in states such as Rajasthan, Karnataka and poll-bound Maharashtra and Haryana, which could flare up.

At a recent meeting of BJP CMs, the central leadership drilled the message of improving the coordination between CMs and Deputy CMs. The BJP has Deputy CMs in almost all states where it

has formed governments recently, including Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Odisha, besides UP.

The message of better coordination between the government and party has also been reiterated in almost all the meetings Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been taking with party MPs and state leaders, sources said.

A senior OBC leader and long-time UP BJP face who has held all the top posts in the state, and who expected to be made the CM before being beaten to it by Adityanath, Maurya has been on the offensive since the Lok Sabha results, gambling on a shakier Adityanath and a weakened central BJP leadership not acting against him.

He has asserted at least twice that the "sangathan (the organisation) is bigger than the sarkar (the government)", and has been hosting MLAs and prominent leaders at his 'camp office' in Lucknow, including OBC allies of the BJP such as Om Prakash Rajbhar of the Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party. Maurya was also notably absent from Adityanath's meeting with party MLAs of the Prayagraj region.

Those in the Adityanath camp claim it is a preemptive strike by Maurya as the CM has received several complaints against his Deputy. The CM's supporters are also confident that while Maurya has his support base as an OBC leader, Adityanath is still the most popular BJP face in UP and sidelining him could hurt the party.

BJP leaders give the example of the setbacks suffered by the party on account of the removal of Kalyan Singh and B S Yediyurappa as CMs of UP and Karnataka, respectively. "After Kalyan Singh's exit in 1999, it took years for the BJP (till 2017) to come back to power in UP," a senior party leader pointed out. Similarly, Yediyurappa's rebellion in 2011 and floating of his own party, winning almost 10% of the votes, was seen as the main reason behind the BJP's loss in the Karnataka Assembly elections of 2013. The BJP came back to power only after Yediyurappa returned to the party.

How a Yogi govt Bill ran into a wall raised by key UP BJP leaders

MAULSHREE SETH
LUCKNOW, AUGUST 2

IN ANOTHER attempt to project a united front in Uttar Pradesh, the BJP ensured that both its Deputy Chief Ministers in the state were present alongside CM Yogi Adityanath at the Legislature Party meeting convened before the start of the Monsoon Session of the Assembly this week.

Days later, that front is again showing cracks.

First, the Adityanath government's Uttar Pradesh Nazul Properties (Management and Utilization for Public Purposes) Bill ran into objections from the BJP's own ranks in the Assembly, with City West, Prayagraj, MLA and former minister Sidharth Nath Singh and Prayagraj MLA Harshvardhan Bajpai expressing apprehensions over the legislation. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Suresh Khanna even intervened while Bajpai was speaking to appeal: "Aap samajh nahi rahe ho. Pahle padh toh lo (You do not understand the Bill. First, go through it carefully)." BJP ally NISHAD Party's Anil Tripathi joined Singh and Bajpai in expressing his misgivings.

Then, a day after the Bill cleared the Assembly, the Legislative Council sent it to a Select Committee for further scrutiny. The demand was first made by UP BJP chief and MLC Bhupendra Chaudhary, and supported by Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya, who has launched a covert rebellion against Adityanath.

While Adityanath in his capacity as CM is the Leader of the BJP in the Assembly, Maurya is the leader of the BJP in the Council. The BJP and allies enjoy a clear majority in both the Houses, which means that it is rare for a

Bill to be sent to a Select Committee, that too on a demand made from the Treasury Benches. Nazul land is land originally acquired during the colonial period for specific purposes such as public utilities, administrative functions or for the settlement of displaced individuals. Over time, this land has been used or leased for various public and private purposes. As per the proposed Bill, Nazul land in the state will now be reserved and used exclusively for public purposes. Any court proceedings or applications requesting the transfer of ownership of Nazul land to private individuals or institutions will be cancelled and automatically rejected. In case payments have been made in anticipation of such ownership changes, the amounts are to be refunded.

While BJP leaders as well as the Opposition say they have raised objections to the Bill in "public interest", the legislation in fact replaces an ordinance that has been in implementation since March this year. The ordinance did not see any significant opposition when it was passed by the Adityanath Cabinet.

On Thursday, when Chaudhary proposed that the Bill be sent to a Select Committee, even Opposition members were initially caught off-guard, not knowing how to respond. Even as the latter neither backed nor opposed Chaudhary's proposal, other BJP leaders expressed their support for Chaudhary, with Maurya indicating it by raising his hand.

Deputy CM Brajesh Pathak was seated next to Maurya in his capacity as minister. He could not vote on the proposal as he is a MLA. But as soon as the decision was taken to send the Bill to the Select Committee, Pathak and Maurya were seen shaking hands.

PILGRIMS RESCUED IN UTTARAKHAND

NDRF and IAF personnel rescue stranded people in Uttarakhand's Gaucher following a cloudburst in the state. The trek route to the Kedarnath shrine suffered extensive damage as a result of the cloudburst Wednesday night. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said 5,000 people have been evacuated since Thursday morning, with some being airlifted. PTI

8 KILLED, 45 MISSING IN SERIES OF CLOUDBURSTS

Minutes before Himachal tragedy, teen was chatting with friend. Then, calls went silent

SAURABH PARASHAR
SAMEJ (SHIMLA), AUGUST 2

PRITIKA, 16, a Class 12 student at Government School Samej, was chatting on WhatsApp with her classmate Dikshika Thakur about an exam at around 10.45 pm on Wednesday. The chat lasted for more than half an hour.

About an hour later, Dikshika started making frantic calls to Pritika. All of Dikshika's calls went unanswered, and later her phone got switched off.

Eight people were killed and nearly 45 are still missing in Himachal after several buildings, bridges and roads were washed away in flash floods and landslides triggered by a series of five

cloudburst incidents, including three in Kullu, and one each in Shimla, and Mandi.

"The supplementary test in Economics was scheduled for today (August 2). Pritika was one of my close friends. She relied on me for all her study-related doubts. I was never aware that I would be the last person to communicate with her. Even their parents (Pritika and her younger sister Ridhika, who is also missing) were unaware of the tragedy as they were at their other house, located on a height above our village, Samej. I called them and was the first to inform them of the tragedy," Dikshika, 16, standing outside her damaged school, where half of the building was washed away in the cloudburst,

told *The Indian Express*.

"We are all praying for the safe rescue of our friends. Pritika and Ridhika are among eight students from our school, missing since Wednesday night." Dikshika was among over a dozen students, anxiously overseeing the rescue operation, which has been carried out for the last two days, but has yet to yield any results.

Even Aditi Sadina, 13, a Class 10 student, is concerned about three of her classmates who are missing. "They are Anjali, Arun, and Jiya. Initially, there was confusion over who was missing and who was not. This morning, one of our class teachers told us that Anjali, Arun, and Jiya are also missing. Arun is missing along with his

entire family, including his parents and younger sister Arushi, who is a Class 9 student," Aditi said.

Teacher at the School Samej, requesting anonymity, said among the eight missing students, three are from Class 12, four from Class 10, and one Class 6.

According to authorities, eight students are among 33 missing people from Samej on Wednesday night.

However, Kulvinder Chauhan, another Class 12 student, believes there is no issue if the missing students are found after days of searching, as long as they are found safely. "Sabhi safe milne chahiye bhale der se milein (Everyone should be found safely, even if there is a delay in finding them).

IAS officer accused of 'harassing' judge faces criminal contempt proceedings in J&K High Court

BASHAARAT MASOOD & ARUN SHARMA
SRINAGAR, JAMMU, AUGUST 2

THE JAMMU and Kashmir High Court has initiated criminal contempt proceedings against Ganderbal Deputy Commissioner Shyambir Singh, who has been accused of harassing a judge over a land acquisition case. This comes a day after Ganderbal Chief Judicial Magistrate Fayaz Ahmad Qureshi recommended such action against the bureaucrat for allegedly not complying with an earlier order and attempting to "personally attack" him "by manipulation and fabrication".

In an order Friday, the High Court summoned him on August 5, warning of "coercive proceedings" if the bureaucrat doesn't appear personally. A 2018 batch IAS officer, Shyambir Singh is the son-in-law of former union minister and BJP leader Prahlad Singh Patel.

"The contemnor shall appear

in person before this Court on August 5 at 11 am sharp," a division bench of Justice Atul Sreedharan and Justice Sanjeev Kumar of the J&K High Court said. "Any attempt by him to avoid service of summons or his non-appearance shall be viewed seriously by this court and the court shall resort to coercive proceedings to secure his presence."

This order came on the back of CJM Qureshi's allegations that Shyambir had launched an inquiry into some land he owns "lawfully" as an act of "revenge" for passing an adverse order and withholding his salary in a land acquisition case. In that case, some petitioners had approached Qureshi's court saying they had not been compensated by the government for a piece of land that was acquired from them.

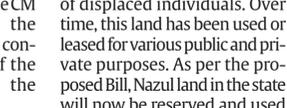
Significantly, Friday's HC order came after Qureshi sent a criminal contempt reference against Shyambir under section 15(2) of the Contempt of Courts Act 2015. Before he sent a refer-

ence, the judge initiated a preliminary inquiry against the DC and asked him to explain why such a criminal contempt reference should not be sent to the High Court. The DC, however, did not appear before the court.

According to the CJM's July 23 order, the judge's January order directing Shyambir to compensate the petitioners "didn't go well" with the bureaucrat, who "misused his official machinery and devoted time" in tracing out the documents of a property the judge "lawfully holds", the order says.

After this, "as a first attack" on the judge, Qureshi said a patwari visited his land three under the DC's direction, telling the caretaker of the land that the DC had constituted "a team for demarcation of the land of the judge" as the judge had "passed the order against the Deputy Commissioner and other higher officers".

When contacted, Shyambir Singh said he "won't be able to give a proper comment" because the case was sub judice.



GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	MODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	CPWD GURUGRAM	CONSTRUCTION OF SUPPLY ROADS AND PAVING WORKS OF SUPPLY ROAD DIVISION SECTOR 40/29 AND 40/30, GURUGRAM AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THEREON.	30.07.2024 09.08.2024	EMD: 4.38 LACS	https://tenders.hry.nic.in	98187813 emr.gnd@gov.in
2	CPWD GURUGRAM	CONSTRUCTION OF MASTER ROAD DIVISION SECTOR 70/22 GURUGRAM AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THEREON, INCLUDING LING.	30.07.2024 13.08.2024	EMD: 10.77 LACS	https://tenders.hry.nic.in	98187813 emr.gnd@gov.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	MODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1.	HS&MB ROHTAK	POD. HIGH MAST LIGHTING INSTALLATION IN PURCHASE CENTRE JANDWALA BHINDRA (MC DAIWALLI) (CM ANNOUNCEMENT IS-23944) + 3 WORKS	01.08.2024 08.08.2024	89.29 LACS	https://tenders.hry.nic.in	9812100311 www.etenders.hry.nic.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in No. 28493/HRV

WESTERN RAILWAY E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No. S/39/2024 Date 29.07.2024

Sr. No.	Short Description of Item	Quantity	T.O.D.
527	SEALED MAINTENANCE FREE LEAD ACID BATTERY 300 AH	20 Set	26-Aug-24
512	SET OF POLYMER BUFFER SPRING PACK	2383 Set	28-Aug-24
513	BLOWER FOR TRACTION MOTOR ALONG WITH MOTOR	25 Nos	28-Aug-24
514	Maintenance kit - O3 for earthing equipment	2657 Set	09-Sep-24
515	HIGH CAPACITY THERMOPLASTIC POLYESTER (HYTREL) LOWER WASHER.	5987 Nos	16-Sep-24
516	Non-Asbestos L-type composition brake blocks	119746 Nos	16-Sep-24

Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website www.reps.gov.in and www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, राँची ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई-निविदा संख्या - RDD/SD/RANCHI/03/2024-25 E-tender

1. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी

क्र०	योजना का नाम	प्रखण्ड	प्राकृतिक राशि (रुपये में)	अग्रघन की राशि (रुपये में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (रुपये में)	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
01.	भूकर नदी पर चेकडैम निर्माण कार्य।	घाघरा	5316700.00	106400.00	10000.00	11 माह

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि - 16.08.2024
 3. ई-निविदा प्रक्रिया की तिथि एवं समय - दिनांक 20.08.2024 से दिनांक 27.08.2024 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक
 4. ई-निविदा खोलने का स्थान - कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, राँची।
 5. ई-निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय - 28.08.2024 अपराह्न 2:00 बजे
 6. ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता - कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, राँची।
 7. ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० - 9431349277
 8. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है तदनुसार अग्रघन की राशि देय होगी।
 9. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
 10. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि का ई-मुद्रात जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रघन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है, तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाइट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पत्र पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
 ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, राँची

ई० प्रोक्वोरमेंट सेल कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमंडल, लातेहार

ई-टेंडर रेफरेंस नं०-10/2024-25/EE/BCD/LATEHAR दिनांक- 02.08.2024

क्र०सं०	कार्य का नाम	प्राकृतिक राशि (रु०)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	Construction of Hockey Stadium at Village Bhusur (Sikani), Panchayat-Bhusur, Block-Latehar, District-Latehar.	4,99,95,200.00	11 (Eleven) Months
2	Construction of Hockey Stadium at Village Lakhepur, Panchayat-Aksi, Block-Mahuadand, District-Latehar.	4,95,89,400.00	11 (Eleven) Months

1. कार्य पूर्ण की अवधि :- 11 (Eleven) Months
 2. वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि :- 09/08/2024 को 11:00 बजे
 3. बिड प्राप्ति के लिए अंतिम तिथि/समय :- 22/08/2024 को 11:00 बजे
 4. निविदा प्रकाशित करने वाले कार्यालय का नाम एवं पता :- कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमंडल, लातेहार।
 5. निविदा खोलने की तिथि/समय एवं स्थान :- 23.08.2024 को 11:30 बजे नोडल पदाधिकारी, ई० प्रोक्वोरमेंट सेल, मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय, भवन निर्माण विभाग, लाईन टैंक रोड, राँची।
 6. प्रोक्वोरमेंट पदाधिकारी का सम्पर्क संख्या :- 9431501121
 7. ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट सेल का हेल्पलाइन संख्या :- 8434414939
 8. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है तदनुसार अग्रघन की राशि देय होगी।
 9. सूचना प्रोद्योगिकी एवं ई-गवर्नेंस विभाग, झारखण्ड सरकार के आदेश प्रमाणिक 120 दिनांक 03.10.2023 के द्वारा निर्गत SOP (मानक संचालन प्रक्रिया) एवं भवन निर्माण विभाग, झारखण्ड सरकार के पत्रांक 2229 दिनांक 06.10.2023 के आलेख में निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
 10. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि का ई-मुद्रात जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, SOP के तहत अग्रघन की राशि उसी खाते में वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है, तो उसकी सम्पूर्ण जवाबदेही निविदादाता की होगी।

अन्य किसी भी प्रकार के बदलाव की सूचना <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।

Note :- UCAN Registration is mandatory for the Bidders.

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
 भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमंडल, लातेहार

DIRECTOR AGRICULTURE, BIHAR

Block - Block F, 2016, Sector 4, Gandhinagar, Patna - 800 014, Phone: 91323-63295, 91323-59851/54584 e-mail: director.apmc2024@gmail.com

An opportunity to be in Surat - Gujarat E-Auction of Plots with Construction

Duration for registration of the Bidder and payment of EMD and Tender Fees Date: 05/08/2024 to 20/08/2024 Upto 18.00 p.m.

Tender fees (Non refundable) Tender fee for the bid in Rs.18,000/-

Tender ID.	Details of Plot	Plot area in sq.mt.	Upset Price Rs. In Crores	EMD in Rs.	Date of Auction
1.	Commercial Plot in SURAT, WARD NO. - 4 (BEGAMPURA), C.T.S. No. 1651/A, 1651/B, 1707, 1711 paikae. At-Ring Road, (Sahara Gate TO Delhi Gate) SURAT. Ta & Dist. Surat (Sale for Commercial Hotel Property)	8920.80	165.03		
				3,20,03,000/-	E-auction starts at 11:00 hrs. and e-auction ends at 12:00 hrs. on Dt.-27/08/2024
2.	Commercial Construction (Commercial Hotel Property) in SURAT, WARD NO. - 4 (BEGAMPURA), C.T.S. No. 1651/A, 1651/B, 1707, 1711 paikae. At-Ring Road, (Sahara Gate) SURAT. Ta & Dist. Surat (Sale for Commercial Hotel Property)	29248.58	155.00		

- For further information about registration and participation please read details on (n)code website <https://e-auction.nprocure.com> or mail on nprocure@nprocure.in or call on toll free number 7359021663
- Timeline, specification, updates and other details for the e-Auction process are available on the website <https://e-auction.nprocure.com>
- The Bidder/Applicants desire to submit their bid have to submit on <https://e-auction.nprocure.com>
- Any pre-bid queries and clarifications sought by bidder may be sent to director.apmc2024@gmail.com latest by Dt.- 09/08/2024, Time upto 18:00 Hrs. No queries shall be entertained thereafter.
- Bid should be submitted for plot with construction offer with tender fee and EMD.
- Jurisdiction for e-Auction would be Gandhinagar.
- In any circumstances any change or amendment in auction procedure and timelines, it will be published on (n)code website <https://e-auction.nprocure.com> for bidder acknowledgement.
- The bidders are requested to check (n)code website periodically during the e-auction process.
- The Bidders can visit the site till dt.20/08/2024 and the name of contact person to visit the site is Mr. Nilesh Thorat Secretary, APMC Surat (Mo. 9824119366)

No.: DIRECTOR OF AMRF/ESTATE/e-Auction
 Plot/01/2024-25 Date:- 05/08/2024 Director
 Agricultural Marketing and Rural Finance, Gandhinagar
 INF/674/24-25

HSPCB-060001(0014)/9/2024-SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT CELL-HSPCB

1/255324/2024

CORRIGENDUM

Reference: Notice of conducting Public Hearing for obtaining Environment Clearance of "Proposed Cold Rolling Mill Complex With Galvanizing and colour coating line having total Capacity of various products 7,80,000 MTPA" located at # Kila No. 4 to 24, Prithla-Tatarpur Road, Village-Tatarpur, Palwal, Haryana over an area of 127294.69 Sq.m By M/s Jyoti Strips Pvt. Ltd, published in Dainik Jagran, Delhi on 13.07.2024.

This is for the information of all the concerned that date of public hearing mentioned as 18.08.2024 in the above referred public notice, may be read as 16.08.2024.

Other details shall remain unchanged.

No. 28502/HRV Member Secretary, HSPCB

EMRI GREEN HEALTH SERVICES

EMRI Green Health Services in line with PPP agreement with Government of Tamil Nadu invites bids from all reputed Manufacturer/their Authorized dealers. The Tender documents can be downloaded from our website www.emri.in. For more details, please contact Mr. Vetrivel P, Mobile No: 07358444457

Tender No	Descriptions	Sale of Tender Document	Pre-Bid Meeting at EMRI GHS, DMS Campus, Chennai (TN)	Last date for Submission	Tender Opening Date	Tender document Fees
TNHS/EMRI GHS/ TN/SCM/01/2024-25	Branding Stickers	08.08.24 by 10 am onwards	08.08.24 at 11.00 am	19.08.24 by 11.00 am	19.08.24 by 11.30 am	Rs. 1000/-
TNHS/EMRI GHS/ TN/SCM/02/2024-25	Tyres & Batteries	08.08.24 by 10 am onwards	08.08.24 at 11.00 am	19.08.24 by 11.00 am	19.08.24 by 11.30 am	Rs. 1000/-
TNHS/EMRI GHS/ TN/SCM/03/2024-25	NDME Items	08.08.24 by 10 am onwards	08.08.24 at 11.00 am	19.08.24 by 11.30 am	19.08.24 by 11.30 am	Rs. 1000/-

EMRI GHS will not be responsible for any postal delays. Any amendments/notices further will not be published in newspaper. DIPR/2760/Tender/2024

PUBLIC NOTICE GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA EXCISE & TAXATION DEPARTMENT

NOTICE FOR INVITING e-TENDERS FROM GENERAL PUBLIC FOR RE-ALLOTMENT OF ONE ZONE OF RETAIL LIQUOR VENDS OF DISTRICT GURUGRAM (EAST) IN THE STATE OF HARYANA FOR THE EXCISE POLICY YEAR 2024-25.

1. It is notified for the information of general public that e-tenders for re-allocation of Zone No. ZGRE15 of retail liquor vend of country liquor and Indian Made Foreign Liquor (L-2/L-14A) of district Gurugram (East) in the State of Haryana are hereby invited for the remaining period of excise policy year 2024-25.

2. The schedule for submission of e-bids for this zone and evaluation thereof shall be as under:-

Starting date and time for placing e-tenders	From 5th August, 2024 (9.00 AM)
Closing date and time for placing e-tenders	till 5th August, 2024 (04.00 PM)
Evaluation of e-tenders	5th August, 2024 (5.00 PM)

3. The reserve price and quota of this zone for the purpose of e-tendering has been decided as per the provisions of clause 2.17 and other relevant provisions of the Haryana Excise Policy 2024-25.

The reserve price and quota of this zone shall be displayed in the excise arrangement.

4. The e-tenders for this zone can be submitted online through the official website of the department i.e. www.haryanatax.gov.in. The remaining terms and conditions of e-tenders and allotment of zones shall be same, as informed vide the Public Notice, published in leading newspapers on 18th May, 2024, for inviting e-tenders for allotment of retail liquor zones of all districts in the State of Haryana. The copy of Public Notice dated 18th May, 2024 is also available on the official website of department i.e. www.haryanatax.gov.in. The detailed procedure of registration for participation in the allotment process and submission of e-tenders is also available on the official website.

5. The excise arrangement of this zone containing number of vends, liquor quota, location of vends, command area as applicable and reserve price thereof, as well as the venue for evaluation of e-tenders shall be conspicuously displayed in the office of DETC (Excise) and DETC (ST) of the district Gurugram (East). These details shall also be available on the official website i.e. www.haryanatax.gov.in.

6. The re-allotment of this zone shall be done at the risk and cost of original allottee. The original allottee shall be liable to make up any deficiency incurred by the state as a result of the re-allotment of this zone.

7. The allotment and grant of licence shall be subject to the provisions of the Haryana Excise Act, 1914, the rules framed thereunder, orders/instructions issued by the competent authority and the Excise Policy for the year 2024-25. Any clarification regarding the procedure may be obtained from the office of DETCs (Excise) in any of the districts. The copy of Haryana Excise Policy for the year 2024-25 is available on official website of the department.

8. The allotment of license shall be subject to the approval of the Excise and Taxation Commissioner (Financial Commissioner). The ETC (FC) may reject, without assigning any reason, any allotment in public interest as the case may be, within 10 days of the date of allotment. In case no decision of Excise and Taxation Commissioner (FC) is conveyed within the stipulated period of ten days, the allotment shall be deemed to have been approved by the ETC (FC).

Excise and Taxation Commissioner, Haryana.
 No. 28532/HRV

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BANGALURU

NOTICE TO THE RESPONDENT NO. VIDE COURT ORDER DATED 24/07/2024 WRIT PETITION NO.27332/2017 (GM-CPC) Ms. Mollibanasiddass Publishers Pvt. Ltd. A company incorporated under the provisions of the companies act, 1956 and existing under the provisions of the companies act, 2013 having its registered office at A-44, Naraina Industrial Area, Phase-I, New Delhi And Branch Office At 236, 9th Main, III Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560 911, Rep. By Its Director, Mr. Ravindra Prakash Jain. ... Petitioner

Standard Chartered Bank (Formerly Known As ANZ Grindlays Bank) Having its regional office at consaughat circus, P.O. Box 317, New Delhi-110 001 And Branch Office At Arya Samaj Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110 005 Whereas the above named petitioner has preferred I.A. praying the Court to do and also on petition filed under Article 227 of the Constitution of India, praying to:-

a) all for records in O.S.No.100 of 2012, on the file of the XLIV Add. City Civil & Sessions Judge, Bangalore;

b) issue a writ in the nature of certiorari to set aside the order on the secondary evidence application dated 21.03.2017 (Annexure - A) passed in O.S.No.100 of 2012 by the XLIV Add. City Civil & Sessions Judge, Bangalore and consequently allow the secondary evidence application under Section 65 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 dated 28/10.2016 (Annexure - L) filed by Petitioner and permit the Petitioner to adduce secondary evidence as sought for;

Notice is hereby given to you to appear in this Court either in person or through counsel duly instructed or through someone authorised by law, to act for you in the above Writ Petition on 28/08/2024 at 10.30 A.M. in case you intend to contest the Writ Petition. If you fail to appear, the same will be dealt with, heard and decided in your absence. ISSUED UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THIS COURT, ON THIS THE 24TH DAY OF JULY 2024.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT Sd/- ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

Appeal for Identification

General Public is hereby informed that a male dead person Name: Unknown, S/o Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: about 30-35 years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Shallow, ID Mark: Left Hand R letter and Right Hand Trishul Tattoo God Shankar. Wearing : Kathai Color checked Shirt and black pant was found at PF No.6 Pole No 17 ODRS, Delhi on 25.07.2024 at 12.04 PM. In this regard, a DD No. 21A, dated 25.07.2024 has been lodged at PS ODRS, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO P.S., Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi DP/10202/RLY/2024 Ph. : 011-23961522, 9899207231

BIHAR STATE POWER (HOLDING) COMPANY LIMITED

(A Government of Bihar Undertaking)
 REGD OFFICE: VIDYUT BHAWAN, BAILEY ROAD, PATNA
 GST No- 10AAFCB2394 CIN - U40102BR2012SGC018495
 DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

TENDER CANCELLATION NOTICE

NIT No.-8/PR/BSPHCL/2024 PR-003146

निविदा सूचना संख्या-8/PR/BSPHCL/2024 जो बिहार स्टेट पावर (होल्डिंग) कम्पनी लिमिटेड एवं इसकी अनुशंगी कम्पनियों के कागजातों/अभिलेखों की छाया प्रति करने हेतु फर्म के चयन के लिए आमंत्रित किया गया था, को अपरिहार्य कारणवश रद्द किया जाता है।

"निविदाओं के निष्पादन के लिए लोक अदालत का काम सटावें। परस्पर सहमति से न्यायिक निर्णय प्राप्त करें। समय एवं खर्च की बचत करें।"

OSD (HR/Adm.) BSPHCL
 PR. No. 005309 (B & C) 2024-25
 नशा मुक्त हो जाए बिहार, सुरक्षित रहे घर परिवार।

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR

Tulumulla, Ganderbal - 191131

(ADMISSION NOTICE - 2024)

(For the Seats likely to be available in Post-Graduate Programmes)

In continuation to earlier notification no. CUKN/DsA/Admission-PG-05/2023-24/040 dated 12-07-2024, seats are likely to be available in a few Post-Graduate programmes offered by the Central University of Kashmir. The registration for admission in all such programmes is once again opened for those candidates who have appeared in CUET-2024 & 2023 in respective or any other subject domains. The candidates who fulfil the basic eligibility qualification in the concerned discipline and have appeared in other relevant National/State/UT Level Tests conducted by the relevant National/State level bodies can also explore the possibility of admission. The registration process shall start from August 03rd 2024. For detailed information regarding programmes & registration process, the candidates are advised to visit University website: www.cukashmir.ac.in Date: 02-08-2024. S/d Director (I/C) Directorate of Admissions

"IMPORTANT"

Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD, North Western Railway, Bikaner for and on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following work:

1. Complete details of tenders can be seen on Website No.: <http://www.reps.gov.in>

2. Date & time of closing of e-tenders : 27.08.2024 at 15:00 hours. 3. Date & time of opening of e-tenders : After 15:00 hrs on 22.08.2024 Tender No.: 13 /2024-25 Name of Work: Electrical work in c/w Development of Customer facilities at Good sheds of Nawaz City, Badwas & Marwar Mundwa Stations and Raising of medium level platform no. 1 of Pipar City Halt (HG-2) & Rail level platform of Gaggaria halt (HG-2) and Ramsar Halt (HG-2) stations. Approx. Cost of the work (Rs.) : 1,12,29,901.32 For detailed information visit <http://www.reps.gov.in> 891-CR/24

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for and on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender for the under noted work:-

Name of Work with its location	Provision of Earthing arrangement in existing TSS & switching post over Delhi Division
Approx. Cost of work	₹1,18,15,578.50
Earnest Money deposit	₹2,09,100/-
E-tender Bid Online Submission Period	14.08.2024 (00:00 hrs.) to 28.08.2024 (15:00 hrs.)
E-tender Bid Submission End Date & E-tender Open Date & Time	28.08.2024 (15:00 hrs.)

Website particulars where complete details of tender document can be seen www.reps.gov.in

E-Tender No.: 17B-TRD-NDS-2024-25 Dated : 01.08.2024 2365/2024

NORTHERN RAILWAY OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work:-

Name of Work	Approx. Cost of work	Earnest Money to be deposited	Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of Tender	Cost of tender document
Repair to flooring of sick line 1 & 2 at coach care centre & other allied works such as renovation of staff room staff toilets, Bathroom C&W mini control room, Repair to Approach road to Coach care center and Drainage improvement of ART Pit & Coach Care center Pit at Delhi Station in section of SSE/WDL/Station under ADE/NDLI.	₹1,81,96,691.58 (Rs. One Crore Eighty One Lakh Ninety Six Thousand Six Hundred Ninety One and Fifty Eight Paise Only)	₹2,41,000/- (Rs. Two Lakh Forty One Thousand Only)	23.08.2024 at 15:00 Hrs.	₹0.00

Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen www.reps.gov.in

- The tenderer's must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.reps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system.
- For all terms and conditions please refer tender document.
- No manual offers are acceptable. Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.

No.: 128-W/280/e-Tender Notice/NIT/25/2024-25/W-3 Dated : 30.07.2024

GOVT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER SOUTHERN (R&B) CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR

Phone : 0680-2281582, e-mail : cecsbam@gmail.com

INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB) [e-Procurement]

Bid Identification No. CCE, S.C (R&B)-BAM-02/2024-25 No. 2405 Dated: 01.08.2024

1. The Chief Construction Engineer, Southern (R&B) Circle, Berhampur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for construction of Building work as detailed in the table below.

Name of work	Building Work
3. No. of work	01 No.
4. Tender Cost	Rs. 10,00,00/- (online)
5. Class of Contractor	"A" Class
6. Availability of Bid documents in the website	From 12.08.2024 10.00 AM to 27.08.2024 5.30 PM
7. Date of Opening of Bid	28.08.2024 at 11.30 A.M.

8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website tendersodisha.gov.in

9. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.

Sd/- (D.C. Behera) Chief Engineer, Southern (R&B) Circle, Berhampur
 OIPR-34103/11/0002/2425

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय राधे एवं प्रशिक्षण प्रमंडल-2, राधे भवन, खगोल, पटना। अल्पकालीन पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-10/2024-25 (आइएम रेट टेंडर)

क्र.सं.	कार्य का नाम	अग्रघन की राशि (रु० में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (अग्रघन की राशि के प्रतिशत में)	वेबसाइट का पता	कार्य की तिथि
1.	निष्ठापनादाता का नाम, पदनाम एवं पता			कार्यपालक अभियंता, राधे एवं प्रशिक्षण प्रमंडल-2, राधे भवन, खगोल, पटना।	
2.	निविदा आमंत्रण करने की तिथि			दिनांक-31.07.2024	
3.	निविदा कागजात डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड करने की तिथि एवं समय			दिनांक-18.08.2024 से 27.08.2024 को अपराह्न 3:00 बजे तक।	
4.	प्री-बिड मीटिंग का तिथि, समय एवं स्थान			दिनांक-22.08.2024, मुख्य अभियंता, केन्द्रीय रुपांक, राधे एवं प्रशिक्षण विभाग, जल संसाधन विभाग, अनिसाबाद, पटना के कार्यालय में अपराह्न 11:00 बजे।	
5.	निविदा विक्री का स्थान			www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर	
6.	एकमीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय			दिनांक-27.08.2024 को अपराह्न 3:30 बजे वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर	
7.	विजेता बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय			समय पदाधिकारी द्वारा बाद में घोषित की जाएगी वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर	
8.	निविदा वैधता की अंतिम तिथि			120 दिन	
9.	कार्य का विवरणी			मुख्य अभियंता, केन्द्रीय रुपांक, राधे एवं प्रशिक्षण विभाग, जल संसाधन विभाग, पटना क्षेत्रीय प्रमंडल में पूर्व से अधिदापित प्रयोगशालाओं के सुचारु रूप से संचालन एवं कुशलतापूर्वक जाँच हेतु अग्रघन उपलब्ध कराने वाले कार्य। (विस्तृत विवरणी अनु०-01)	

क्र.सं.	कार्य का नाम	अग्रघन की राशि (रु० में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (अग्रघन की राशि के प्रतिशत में)	वेबसाइट का पता	कार्य की तिथि
1.	मुख्य अभियंता, केन्द्रीय रुपांक, राधे एवं प्रशिक्षण विभाग, जल संसाधन विभाग, पटना क्षेत्रीय प्रमंडल में पूर्व से अधिदापित प्रयोगशालाओं के सुचारु रूप से संचालन एवं कुशलतापूर्वक जाँच हेतु अग्रघन उपलब्ध कराने वाले कार्य। (विस्तृत विवरणी अनु०-01)	3,06,100/-	10,000/-	3,540/-	

10. ई-टेंडरिंग की प्रक्रिया में भाग लेने हेतु सर्वेकर्ता/सेवा प्रदाता को पंजीकृत होना होगा, जिससे कि उन्हें उपयोगकर्ता का नाम (User ID) पासवर्ड (Password) अंकीय हस्ताक्षर (Digital

MANIPUR UNIVERSITY
CANCHIPUR : IMPHAL-795003, MANIPUR
ADVERTISEMENT No.1/2024
Dated, the 2nd August, 2024
No. MU/6/14/2014/Admn./526: The Manipur University invites applications from Indian Nationals for filling up 5 (five) Group-A posts (1) Controller of Examinations (2) Principal, Manipur Institute of Technology (MIT) (3) Internal Audit Officer (on deputation) (4) Systems Engineer and (5) Administrative Officer (MIT). The required qualifications along with terms and conditions is available at www.manipuruniv.ac.in
(Dr. R.K. Joteen Singh)
Deputy Registrar (Admn.)

IN THE COURT OF THE 35th ADDL HON'BLE CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-36) P & SC No.295/2023
BETWEEN: Smt. Rajawanti, W/o. Sri. Japarkash, Aged about 51 years, R/rat. Parsad Enclave, Airforce Station, Jahalhalli, West, Bengaluru 560015...PETITIONER
AND: The Accurate Solution Pvt. Ltd., And two others...RESPONDENT
APPLICATION U/o 5 RULE 20(1-A) R/W SECTION 151 of CPC
SUMMONS TO RESPONDENT No. 3
Sri. Deepak Kasana, S/o. Sri. Yashvir Singh, Aged about 32 years, R/rat. House No.143, Morne Sector -35, Nojda Dreda District, Goutham Buddha Nagar, Hyderabad-500081.
Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above case seeking for issue of Succession Certificate relating to the service benefits and insurance benefits of the petitioner's daughter Late. Anjali Kausik vide I.D. No.1191921 who worked with the 2nd and 3rd respondent from 29th September 2020 to till 18th August 2022.
The suit summons issued through court as well as through RPAD to the Respondents, but the same is observed on you and the notice has been returned un-served.
The above case has been posted to 13-09-2024 (at about 11.00 A.M)
Take summons/notice and to appear before the Hon'ble Court on 01-08-2024 at Bengaluru.
By order of the court, Senior Sheristadar, City Civil Court, Bangalore.
Advocate for Petitioner: Sri. H.A. ASHOK No.55, 11th Cross, Vyalikaval, Bengaluru-560003, IMI 998062018

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF HARYANA MAHENDERGARH
(NAAC Accredited 'A' Grade University)
Registration Opens for Under Graduate (UG) Programmes under CUET-2024 ACADEMIC SESSION: 2024-25
Central University of Haryana, Mahendergarh invites online Registration Forms for the candidates who have appeared in CUET (UG)-2024 examination conducted by National Testing Agency for admission to the following programmes:
UNDER GRADUATE (UG) PROGRAMMES
B.Voc. - Retail and Logistics Management, Bio-Medical Sciences and Industrial Waste Management
Integrated Programmes - B.Sc.-M.Sc. Physics, B.Sc.-M.Sc. Chemistry and B.Sc.-M.Sc. Mathematics
B.Sc. (Hons.) in Psychology
IMPORTANT DATE
Last date for online Registration: 10/08/2024
Registration Link: <https://cuhcet.samarth.edu.in/>
For more details please visit www.cuh.ac.in REGISTRAR

DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI ISBT BUILDING, KASHMERE GATE, DELHI 110006
MISSING CHILDREN

SL. No.	Description	Photograph
1	Name: Dildar s/o Musa @ Pappu Age: 12 Years, Complexion: Wheatish. Child was found abandoned at Seemapuri Police Station area with DD. No. 0056 A, dated-29/12/2023. He was produced before Child Welfare Committee-V and with the order of CWC, child has been kept in Sanskar Ashram for Boys I & II, Dilshad Garden, Delhi for Care and Protection.	
2	Name: Krishna s/o Sunil Age: 7 Years, Complexion: Wheatish. Child was found abandoned at Khajuri Khas Police Station area with DD. No. 0034 A, dated-19/04/2023. He was produced before Child Welfare Committee-V and with the order of CWC, child has been kept in Sanskar Ashram for Boys I & II, Dilshad Garden, Delhi for Care and Protection.	
3	Name: Shivam s/o Rudal Age: 6-7 Years, Complexion: Wheatish. Child was found abandoned at Shastri Park Police Station area with DD. No. 0009A, dated-26/02/2023. He was produced before Child Welfare Committee-V and with the order of CWC, child has been kept in Sanskar Ashram for Boys I & II, Dilshad Garden, Delhi for Care and Protection.	
Note: Parents/Guardians/Relatives of above mentioned children (Sr. No. 01 to 03) may contact at given address/phone numbers:- 1. Superintendent: Sanskar Ashram for Boys I&II Dilshad Garden Delhi, Contact No. 011- 22116698, 011-22127398, 9811825896 2. DCPO, District Child Protection Unit-II, North East & Shahdara, Sanskar Ashram Complex, Dilshad Garden, Delhi-93, Contact No. 011-22125035		
4	Name: Apoorva (female), age 30/06/2023, Complexion: Fair. Child was found abandoned at Govt. District Hospital, Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan on 30/06/2023. The child had escort from the CWC, Rajasthan and has been kept at Asharan Orphanage of Hope Foundation for care and protection by the order of the Child Welfare Committee VI, Delhi. The DD No. 517 dated 21/10/2023 has been registered with PS. Reserve Police Line Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan.	
5	Name: Rudra (Male), age 10/07/2023, Complexion: Fair. Child was found abandoned on 10/07/2023 in a vacant plot Prem Nagar-II, Delhi. The child has been kept at Asharan Orphanage of Hope Foundation for care and protection by the order of the Child Welfare Committee VI, Delhi. The FIR No. 371/23 dated 10/07/2023 has been registered with PS. Prem Nagar, Delhi.	
Note: Parents/Guardians/Relatives of above mentioned children (Sr. No. 04 to 05) may contact at given address/phone numbers:- 1. Incharge: Asharan Orphanage of Hope Foundation-A46 New Multan Nagar Surya Enclave Delhi-56, Contact No: 011-25291672 2. DCPO, District Child Protection Unit-V, Women working Hostel, near police station Aman Vihar Sector-22, Rohini, Delhi 110085		
6	Name: Child Bharti, aged 17 years was produced before CWC, Dilshad Garden by the officials of PS Jyoti Nagar, Delhi via DD No 25A, Dated 07/09/2012. Child was placed in Minda bal Gram (Child Care Institution), Holambi Kalan Modh, Alipur, Delhi North Delhi on 14/01/2013. As per the jurisdiction of District North the matter was taken up by CWC Avantika for further proceedings. As per the order of CWC child is placed in foster care since 17/03/2017.	
Note: Parents/Guardians/Relatives of above mentioned children (Sr. No. 06) may contact at given address/phone numbers:- 1) DCPU-V, District Child Protection Unit, Working Women Hostel, Sector 22, Rohini, Delhi-110085, Ph:- 011-27601134, depunorthwest2@gmail.com		
7	Anant, (name given by agency) Male child, aged about two and a half years old, Fair complexion, child was found abandoned at Tikona Park at South Anarkali and then transferred to DCCW via order of CWC-IV, Mayur Vihar on 19/02/2024. Child was produced before the Child Welfare Committee -IV and then child kept with Delhi Council for Child Welfare /PALNA for Care and Protection. Case was lodged at P.S. Jagat Puri DD No: 0075 A dated 18/02/2024. Special need child. At the time of arrival he was wearing Gray colored warm T-shirt and Gray Green black colored pant.	
8	Sukanya (name given by agency) Female child, aged about 3 years, Dark complexion, child was found abandoned by Yamuna Depot Metro police officers and then child was produced before the Committee by police officials and then transferred to Delhi Council for Child Welfare /PALNA via order of CWC-IV Mayur Vihar on 14/04/2024. Case was lodged at P.S. Yamuna Depot Metro station on 13/04/2024 and DD NO: 0007A. At the time of arrival she was wearing dark blue and orange flower printed sky-blue colored T- shirt and light blue red dotted flower printed Pajami. Special need child.	
Note: Parents/Guardians/Relatives of above mentioned children (Sr. No. 07 to 08) may contact at given address/phone numbers:- 1. Incharge: Delhi Council for Child Welfare (PALNA), Qudsia Bagh, Yamuna Marg, Civil Lines, Delhi-54 Contact No. 011-23944655/011-23968907 2. District Child Protection Unit-VII, Quarter no.- 31 & 32, Block no.-36, Kalyanvas, Kalyanpuri, Delhi-110091, Ph no: 011-22770007, E Mail: depumv7@gmail.com		
9	Name: Ganesh s/o Unknown Age: 9 Years, Complexion: Wheatish. Child was found abandoned at Yamuna Depot Metro Police Station area with DD. No. 0027 A, dated-20/05/2023. He was produced before Child Welfare Committee-IV and with the order of CWC, child has been kept in Sanskar Ashram for Boys I & II, Dilshad Garden, Delhi for Care and Protection.	
Note: Parents/Guardians/Relatives of above mentioned children (Sr. No. 09) may contact at given address/phone numbers:- 1. Superintendent: Sanskar Ashram for Boys I&II Dilshad Garden Delhi, Contact No. 011- 22116698, 011-22127398, 9811825896 2. DCPO, District Child Protection Unit-VII, East, Kalyanvas Qtr No. 32,33 Tower no.-36, Kalyanpuri, Delhi- 91 Contact No. 011-22770007		
10	Name: Divya (Name kept by Parents), Age: 5 Years 7 months, Complexion: Wheatish. On 13.09.2022 Child was found abandoned in a park of Inderpuri to police officials of Inderpuri Case of the child produced by representative Inderpuri police station to Child Welfare Committee-I, New Delhi on 13.09.2022. By the order of Child Welfare Committee-I, New Delhi child has been kept in Nirmal Chayya Complex. The case of the child Divya transferred from CWC-I to CWC -IX and child has been transferred to Welfare Home for Children, Sarita Vihar on 19.09.2023 for Care and Protection.	
Note :- Parents/Guardians/Relatives of above mentioned children (Sr. No. 10) may contact at given address/phone numbers:- 1. Welfare Home for Children, I-B, Institutional Area, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi-110044, Contact no.: 8860835349/011-26954150/269747023, email: welfare2007@gmail.com 2. District Child Protection Officer, District Child Protection Unit-XI, Block No-2 Flat No-11, Shankar Market New Delhi-110001 Ph. No- 011-23411659, email: depund11@gmail.com		
11	Name: Amrit, Sex: Male, Age: 09yr, Complexion: Wheatish, On dated 19/08/2022, child was found at New Delhi Railway Station. On dated 19/08/2022, GD No.0015A is entered in Police Station New Delhi Railway Station. The child was produced before Child Welfare Committee-IX, New Delhi and with the order of CWC; child has been kept in Bal Sahyog Children Home, Connaught Circus Since 26/05/2023 for care and protection.	
12	Name: Sumit, Sex: Male, Age: 14+Years, Complexion: Wheatish. On dated 22/07/2019, child was found at New Delhi Railway Station. On dated 22/07/2019, DD No. 48 is entered in Police Station New Delhi Railway Station. The child was produced before Child Welfare Committee-IX, New Delhi and with the order of CWC; child has been kept in Bal Sahyog Children Home, Connaught Circus Since 10/02/2020 for care and protection.	
Note: Parents/Guardians/Relatives of above mentioned children (Sr. No. 11 to 12) may contact at given address/phone numbers:- 1. Bal Sahyog Children Home, Connaught Circus, Opposite L-Block market, New Delhi-110001, contact no. 011-23411273, 011-23411995, email: carehome@balsahyog.org.in, swo@balsahyog.org.in 2. District Child Protection Officer, District Child Protection Unit-XI, Block No-2 Flat No-11, Shankar Market New Delhi-110001 Ph. No-011-23411659, email: depund11@gmail.com Sd/- Director Department of Women & Child Development DIP/SHABDARTH/CLASSIFIED/0150/24-25 Please give information to CHILDLINE 1098 about Children who need care and protection.		

CHANGE OF TERMINAL & TIMINGS
It is notified for the information of all concerned that the terminal of train no. 12229/12230 Lucknow Mail has been changed from Lucknow Jn. (NER) to Lucknow (NR) station. Consequently timings of train no. 14241 & 14236 at Lucknow station will also be revised as under :-
CHANGE IN TERMINAL

Train No.	Existing From-To	Timings at Lucknow Jn.	Revised From-To	Timings at Lucknow/NR	With Effect From (JCO)
12229	Lucknow Jn.-New Delhi	Dep. - 22:00	Lucknow-New Delhi	Dep. - 22:00	15.08.2024
12230	New Delhi-Lucknow Jn.	Arr. - 06:50	New Delhi-Lucknow	Arr. - 06:50	16.08.2024

CHANGE IN TIMING

Train No.	Train Name	Station	Existing Timing		Revised Timing		With Effect From (JCO)
			Arr.	Dep.	Arr.	Dep.	
14241	Prayagraj Sangam-Saharanpur Exp.	Lucknow	21:55	22:05	22:00	22:10	15.08.2024
14236	Bareilly-Varanasi Jn. Express		21:45	21:55	21:50	22:00	

For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table and stations enroute etc., 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
NORTHERN RAILWAY
Your Convenience - Our Concern
Visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

BUREAU OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY
(A Statutory body under Ministry of Power, Government of India)
4th Floor, Sewa Bhawan, R. K. Puram, New Delhi - 110066
Website: www.beindia.gov.in, Ph: 011-26766700
Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has been designated as Mission Directorate under the National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE) by the Government of India. For effective implementation of the Mission, BEE invites applications for One (01) post of Deputy Director General (Finance), sanctioned for the Project on Deputation or Short Term Contract basis.
Scale of Pay of the Post: Level 14 (Rs.144200-218200) in the Pay Matrix (Pre- revised PB-4 Rs.37400-67000 with grade pay of Rs. 10,000).
Eligibility: Officers of Central or State Government or Union Territories or Public Sector Undertakings or Universities or Recognized Research Institutions or Autonomous or Statutory Organizations (i) holding analogous posts on a regular basis or (ii) with three years' service in Level 13 (Rs.123100-215900) in the Pay Matrix (Pre-revised PB-4 Rs.37400-67000 with grade pay of Rs. 8700) or equivalent and possessing the requisite educational qualifications and experience.
Place of Posting: Selected candidate will be posted at Delhi.
For details of Educational Qualification, Age, Experience, Job Requirements etc., please login www.beindia.gov.in. Applications in the prescribed proforma with documents should reach the Office of Secretary, BEE within 45 days from the date of publication of the advertisement in the Employment News.
Secretary, BEE
Save Energy for Benefit of Self & Nation
CBC-34106/12/0009/2425

SML ISUZU LIMITED
Regd. Office : Village Asron, Distt. Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar (Nawanshahr) - 144 533, Punjab. CIN : L50101PB1983PLC005516, Website: www.smlisuzu.com, Email id : investors@smlisuzu.com, T : 91 1881 270255, F: 91 1881 270223
EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30 JUNE 2024
Rs. Crores, except per equity share data

Particulars	Quarter ended		Year ended
	30.06.2024	31.03.2024	30.06.2023
	Unaudited	Audited (Refer note 2)	Unaudited
Total income	747.26	681.62	633.81
Net profit / (loss) for the period (before tax and exceptional items)	61.96	50.40	32.05
Net profit / (loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional items)	61.96	50.40	32.05
Net profit / (loss) for the period after tax (after exceptional items)	46.39	52.32	31.79
Total comprehensive income for the period (comprising Profit / (loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	46.33	53.52	31.01
Equity Share Capital	14.48	14.48	14.48
Other equity (excluding revaluation reserves)			271.11
Earnings Per Share (of Rs.10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -			
1. Basic (Rs.) :	32.06	36.14	21.97
2. Diluted (Rs.) :	32.06	36.14	21.97

Notes:
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the websites of Stock Exchange(s) (www.bseindia.com, www.nseindia.com) and on Company's website (www.smlisuzu.com).
2. The figures for the quarter ended 31 March 2024, as reported in these financial results, are the balancing figures between audited figures in respect of the full financial year and the published year to date figures upto the end of third quarter of the relevant financial year. Also, the figures upto the end of the third quarter had only been reviewed and not subjected to audit.
For and on behalf of the Board of Directors
(Junya Yamanishi)
Managing Director & CEO
Place: New Delhi
Date : 02 August 2024
DIN: 09174162

MADHYA PRADESH METRO RAIL CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India and Govt. of Madhya Pradesh)
2nd Floor, Smart City Development Corporation Office Building Kalibadi Road, BHEL, Sector-A, Barkedha, Bhopal-462022
ADVERTISEMENT FOR RECRUITMENT
Madhya Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation Limited (MPMRL), a joint venture of Government of India and Government of Madhya Pradesh is implementing Bhopal Metro Rail Project & Indore Metro Rail Project in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
To meet with the immediate requirement, MPMRCL invites application for the post of
DIRECTOR (Project)
This Advertisement is only indicative. The detailed vacancy notifications and particulars are available in the Career section of MPMRCL website i.e. www.mpmrcl.com. Please refer Advt. No. 2965/HRD/MPMRL-062/2024, dated 01.08.2024 for more details. Please visit career section of MPMRCL website www.mpmrcl.com. Applicants may regularly visit website for latest updates.
The last date for submission of applications via E-mail is **31 August 2024, till midnight.**
M.P. Madhyam/115707/2024
MD, MPMRCL

Unique Identification Authority of India
4th Floor, Bangla Sahib Road, Behind Kali Mandir Gole Market, New Delhi - 110001
Vacancy circular for filling up the posts of Deputy Director and Senior Accounts Officer on deputation (Foreign Service term basis) in Unique Identification Authority of India, Head Office, New Delhi.
Unique Identification Authority of India, invites applications for filling up the one post each of Deputy Director and Senior Accounts Officer in Pay Matrix Level-11 and Pay Matrix Level-10 of the 7th Central Pay Commission on deputation (Foreign Service terms basis) at its Head Office, New Delhi.
The application may be furnished in the prescribed pro forma and forwarded to Director (HR), Unique Identification Authority of India, 4th Floor, Bangla Sahib Road, Behind Kali Mandir, Gole Market, New Delhi 110 001. The last date for receipt of applications complete in all respect is 30.8.2024. Since this vacancy is to be filled up on deputation basis, Private candidates are not eligible.
Application received after the last date or otherwise found incomplete shall not be considered.
Further details are available on the Authority's website at https://uidai.gov.in/images/VC_23_2024.pdf.
Director (HR)
Now Aadhaar Enrollment & Updation Facilities can also be availed at Aadhaar Seva Kendra (ASK). To locate one near you, visit UIDAI.GOV.IN or Call 1947 CBC 54103/11/0042/2425

BIHAR ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Viduyt Bhawan-II, J.L. Nehru Marg, Patna - 800021
Notice No. 12 Dated: 02.08.2024
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
(Request for Proposal (RFP) for Engagement of Institutional Consultants)
Bihar Electricity Regulatory Commission (BERC) invites Proposals from reputed and experienced consultancy firms/ Institutions for:-
i) Evaluation of Business Plan for the Control Period and assist the Commission for approval of Truing up for FY 2023-24 to 2025-26, Annual Performance Review for FY 2024-25 to 2026-27, determination of ARR and transmission tariff for FY 2025-26 to 2027-28 of BSPTCL & SLDC.
ii) Evaluation of Business Plan for the Control Period and assist the Commission for approval of Truing up for FY 2023-24 to 2025-26, Annual Performance Review for FY 2024-25 to 2026-27, determination of ARR and transmission tariff for FY 2025-26 to 2027-28 of BGCL.
iii) Evaluation of Business Plan for the Control Period and assist the Commission for approval of Truing up for FY 2023-24 to 2025-26, Annual Performance Review for FY 2024-25 to 2026-27, determination of ARR and tariff for retail sale of electricity for FY 2025-26 to 2027-28 of NBPCL and SBPDCL.
The RFP documents, eligibility criteria and other details are available on Commission's website www.berc.co.in and may also be obtained from the office of the Commission.
The date of Pre-Bid Meeting (PBM) is 13.08.2024 at 11:00 A.M. and the last date for submission of offer is 27.08.2024 by 03.30 P.M.
Secretary BERC

Government of India
Ministry of Commerce & Industry
Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
Advertisement for the post of Deputy Salt Commissioner on Transfer on Deputation in the Salt Commissioner's Organization (SCO), an attached office under Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
Applications for filling up of one post of Deputy Salt Commissioner in the Grade Pay of Rs.7600/-Level-12 as per 7th CPC on Transfer on Deputation (including short term contract) are invited for posting at SCO's Headquarter, Jaipur. The qualification, experience, the period of deputation can be seen in the detailed advertisement on <https://dpiiit.gov.in> and <http://www.saltcomindia.gov.in>.
Application duly filled in and supported by all relevant documents and envelop should be superscripted, "Application for the post of Deputy Salt Commissioner (DSC) on transfer of deputation basis" may be sent through proper channel to:- Under Secretary, Salt Section, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Vanija Bhawan, East Wing, 1st floor, 16-A, Akbar Road, New Delhi - 110011, Email: salt-section@gov.in
The last date for receipt of applications is 60 days from the date of publication of this circular in Employment News.
This is tentative vacancy which may be increased or decreased.
CBC 052011/0006/2425

DAKSHIN BIHAR GRAMIN BANK
Regional Office, Sasaram (Bihar)
Rule 8 (1)
POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)
Notice is hereby given under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement (Security) Interest Act, 2002 and in exercises of Powers conferred under Sec. 13(2) and 13(12) read with rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002. The Authorized Officer issued a Demand Notice on the dates noted against each Account as mentioned hereinafter, calling them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the under noted borrowers and the public in general that the under signed has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sec. 13(4) of the said act read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rule on the date mentioned against each Account. The borrowers in particular and the public on general is hereby cautioned not to deal with properties and any dealing with the properties will be subject to the charge of Dakshin Bihar Gramin Bank for the amounts and Interests thereon mentioned against each account here in below:
1. Branch : Akhodi Gola
Name of the Borrower/Unit: M/S Pawan Sut Rice Mill Prop:-Poonam Singh S/o Sri Suneel Kumar Mandal A/C No:73288500000028, Date of Demand Notice: 08.05.2024/ Date of Possession: 30.07.2024, Name & Address of the Mortgagor: Sri Sunil Kumar Mandal S/o-Sri Chandradip Singh, Village-Hemradhi, P.O.-Saraon, P.S.-Nasriganj, District-Rohtas, Pin-821310, Details of Property (1): Registered Mortgage Deed no-5010 dt-18.04.2012, Mauza-Hemradhi, P.S.-Nasriganj, Thana no.-31, Khata no-13 Plot No-286, Area 14 Dismil, District:-Rohtas, Details of Property (2) Registered Mortgage Deed no-5010 dt-18.04.2012, Mauza-Hemradhi, P.S.-Nasriganj, Thana no.- 31, Khata no-13 Plot No-531, Area 81 Dismil, District-Rohtas, Details of Property (3): Registered Mortgage Deed no-5010 dt-18.04.2012, Mauza-Hemradhi, P.S.-Nasriganj, Thana no.- 31, Khata no-13 Plot No-404, Area 2.95 Acres. District:-Rohtas, Demand Amount on the date of notice:4,94,635.14/- +further Intt+Charges.(Rs.Four lakh ninety four thousand six hundred thirty five and fourteen paise) + Interest & incidental expenses etc.
2. Branch : Akbarpur
Name of the Borrower/Unit: M/S Vishwkarma Steel Works Mill Prop:-Ashotosh Kumar S/o Sri Sashi Bhusan Vishwkarma A/C No:73278700000989 & 7327AK00000010, Date of Demand Notice: 08.05.2024/ Date of Possession: 29.07.2024, Name & Address of the Mortgagor: Sri Shashi Bhusan Vishwkarma, Sri Sitaram Vishwkarma, Sri Sambhu Vishwkarma, Sri Alok Kumar Vishwkarma, Sri Pramod Kumar Vishwkarma S/o-Sri Sadhu Charan Vishwkarma Village-Jalalabad (Uchaila), P.O.& P.S.-Rohtas, District:-Rohtas, PIN-821311, Details of Property (1): Sale Deed no-13252 Dated-23.09.1993, Mauza-Akbarpur, P.S.-Rohtas, Thana no.-687, Khata no-396 Plot No-269, Area 05% Dismil, Rohtas Details of Property (2) Sale Deed no-13252 dt-23.09.1993, Mauza-Akbarpur, P.S.-Rohtas, Thana no.-687, Khata no-582 Plot No-277, Area 02% Dismil, Dist:-Rohtas, Demand Amount on the date of notice:4,35,271.68/- +further Intt+Charges (Rs.Four lakh thirty five thousand two hundred seventy one and sixty eight paise) + Interest & incidental expenses etc.
Authorised Officer
Dakshin Bihar Gramin Bank
Regional Office, Sasaram
Place: Sasaram
Date : 02.08.2024

12 BIG PICTURE



Reuters

WHAT NEXT FOR WAYANAD?

In the hills of Wayanad lies Puthumala, a village that was wiped out in a landslide in 2019. Five years on, survivors of the latest tragedy fear a similar future

SHAJU PHILIP & NARAYANAN S

Five years ago, in August 2019, a landslide killed 17 persons in Puthumala, a village in Kerala's Wayanad district. Houses, places of worship, shops and other establishments were wiped out, turning Puthumala into a ghost village. A devastated forest tract nearly 1.5-km uphill from Puthumala has since been replaced with a carpet of weeds.

On July 30 this year, tragedy struck again, merely a hillock away, at Chooralmala and the nearby villages of Mundakkai and Attamala. However, the magnitude was manifold — as of August 2, the toll stands at 210 dead and 218 still missing. With near-zero chances of finding survivors, these villages under Meppadi panchayat have turned into a valley of the dead.

While the survivors are for now lodged in relief camps in Meppadi panchayat, the government realises that its next big challenge would be to rehabilitate those rendered homeless by the landslides.

A day after the calamity, urging people to contribute generously to the Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund (CMDRF), Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said, "More resources are required to rebuild that region. Many people have already declared assistance, but it is not enough. Generous contributions required."

Kerala Public Works Department Minister Mohammed Riyas, a member of the Cabinet sub-committee, told *The Indian Express*, "Rehabilitation plans will be decided only after detailed discussions... For many survivors, we have to give them counselling to make them mentally strong. The education of their children will also have to resume at the earliest."

Puthumala, the village that was wiped out in the 2019 landslide and which now lies largely deserted, frames the government's rehabilitation challenge for Chooralmala and Mundakkai, the two villages in Meppadi panchayat that have borne the brunt of the latest landslides. Most families left Puthumala after the 2019 tragedy, never to return, and no buildings were allowed by the panchayat in the area destroyed by the landslide.

Aboobacker, the lone tea shop owner at Puthumala, says around 90 families lived here before the 2019 tragedy. "Now, less than

a dozen families live here. Many had very good houses, which were abandoned after the landslide. People do not even return to look after their agricultural land," he says. Survivors of the latest tragedy, now lodged in temporary camps, too, are resigned to the fact that they may have to start all over again. With nightmares of the landslide still lingering in their minds, many are reluctant to return to their now ravaged villages, where hundreds of houses have been damaged, either completely or partially.



There is a school at the foot of Vellarimala, by the side of Punnapuzha, dressed in white snow, standing tall, to impart the sweetness of knowledge, lifeline to the land — these are the lyrics of a song released for the annual day celebrations of Vellarmala Government Vocational Higher Secondary School (GVHSS) in 2023. The school was razed to the ground in the July 30 landslide and more than 20 of its students are feared dead. The song has emerged on social media once again, leaving the landslide survivors teary-eyed. "I saw the video on social media after the disaster (on July 30). It was painful to watch. My daughter Tanmaya studied there in Class 4. Now, we don't know if she will ever be able to go back to a school she loved so much. All I wanted was for her to get a good education, but now we are stuck here (at the relief camp)," says Janeesh.

He says his daughter is yet to learn that at least three of her classmates are either dead or missing. "She knows that one of her friends is in hospital, but not that she is critical. I don't know how she will react once she learns about all these losses," says Janeesh. Vikas, a former student of the school who is now in his third year of college, says his friends and he would head to the school every evening to play football. "We even played there the evening before the land-

slide," says Vikas.

As he shows a photograph on Instagram of the now-ravaged school and the ground after the landslide, Vikas's eyes grow damp. Some of his friends, he says, are lost to the disaster, others are still missing.

His father Ponnayyan, 60, a tailor-turned-lottery seller, too, has lost several neighbours and friends. "I don't know what's in store for us. I have two sons and they are yet to get jobs. We have to move to a new place now and start afresh. We have no savings either. All these years at Chooralmala, we lived as a community, helping each other. Now we have no option but to move away," says Ponnayyan.

Mahadevi, in her late 60s, came to Wayanad from Karnataka several decades ago to work on the tea estates. She lost all three of her sons and their families in the tragedy. "There is no one left to do my last rites. I don't know what's the point of my life now. There is nothing left for me to look forward to," says Mahadevi.

Like Mahadevi, Manickyam came to Wayanad from Salem in neighbouring Tamil Nadu in 1984. "I did several menial jobs after I came here and married a woman from Wayanad. We have four children, all of whom studied in Wayanad. This is now my home," says Manickyam, 66, who in 1999 bought 10 cents of land at Chooralmala for Rs 16,500 to build his house.

He is unsure of what the future holds for him. "Even if I want to go back to Salem, I can't sell my property here because no one will buy it," he says.



After August 2019, the government rehabilitated 54 families from Puthumala on seven acres at Kottapadi village in Wayanad. The Mathrubhumi Charitable Trust bought this land from a tea plantation and handed it over to rehabilitate people from Puthumala. A people's committee was formed under the leadership of the Meppadi panchayat. It obtained sponsorships from several charitable

trusts to construct houses for these 54 families. The construction was completed in 2020. Another section of the survivors got a compensation of Rs 10 lakh each from Kerala government to purchase new land and houses.

"The biggest difference between life at Puthumala and Poothakolly is the cost of living. Here, we are closer to the town. I still go to Puthumala to farm cardamom and coffee on my two-acre plot. Our official documents still bear the address of our house in Puthumala. We even cast votes in Ward 9 there," says Alavi, who moved to Poothakolly along with his wife.

"We came here (Poothakolly rehabilitation project) with no resources. The government and sponsors did all this for us. We are grateful for what we have here and to have survived the 2019 landslide. We were saved because the landslide happened during the day; otherwise, our fate would have been the same as that of those in Mundakkai and Chooralmala," says Beeran, another resident.

Despite multiple smaller landslides in the region, tourism has been a growing industry in these ecologically fragile Western Ghat villages.

According to industry sources, Meppadi panchayat has 600-odd registered resorts/home stays. "After plantations started running into losses, people turned to tourism to earn their livelihoods. Despite repeated natural calamities, tourism was never hit. Cancellations of bookings in the region were only temporary," source said.

While tourists may return, the residents are a different story. Anand, from Chooralmala, says, "The region has become uninhabitable. At Puthumala, the panchayat did not allow any new building permits in places where houses were destroyed (in August 2019). The same situation is likely to happen here since the landslide has changed the profile of the village. Perhaps those who have agricultural land in the hills may return to look after their fields," he says.

Kavungal Hamza, 60, whose house in Chooralmala was washed away, says his family doesn't want to return to the village. "My house was destroyed — not a single brick is left on the five cents of land we owned. My two schoolgoing children have lost their books. We lost all our household items and belongings. How do I rebuild my life at this age," he says.



Shoukath rushed home from Qatar as soon as he heard about the tragedy.

An unending wait for expat who lost 26 relatives

SHAJU PHILIP

SHOUKATH, 51, worked as an excavator operator for 30 years in the Middle East. On Friday, at his home in Mundakkai village in Kerala's Wayanad, he watched as an excavator dug through the mud in search of his two brothers and 24 other family members.

Shoukath had rushed home from Qatar as soon as he heard about the devastating landslides that struck Mundakkai and surrounding areas early on July 30.

The toll from the landslides, which covered whole villages in mud and debris, rose to 210 on Friday. Another 218 people are still missing. The government does not expect to rescue anyone else alive.

"Everything is lost. My brothers, their families... Everyone is gone. So far, only four bodies have been recovered. My wife and son escaped only because they rushed to the hill after the first landslide. My two-storey house is gone too," Shoukath said.

Though he left from Qatar as soon as he heard about the landslides, Shoukath reached Wayanad on July 31. However, he was able to get to Mundakkai village, where his family lived near each other, only on Friday.

The landslides had washed away the major bridge on the river Iruvazhinji, mak-

ing it difficult for rescuers to reach Mundakkai. After several hours, some rescuers managed to get across the river using ropes. The next day, the Army and National Disaster Response Force teams managed to install a rope bridge, giving rescuers slightly better access to the village that was at the epicentre of the landslides.

A day after that, Army personnel completed the installation of a Bailey bridge, for which parts were flown in from New Delhi. While this gave further momentum to the rescue operation, officials were discouraging locals from crossing it and going to Mundakkai.

On Friday, Shoukath finally managed to get across the bridge and return to his village. By then, the rescue operation had turned into an effort to recover as many bodies as possible. Walking towards the area where his family's houses once stood, he saw earth movers scooping out mud and moving boulders in search of bodies. There he saw his family's neighbour, Mohanan, who lost five family members himself.

When Shoukath asked him about the fate of others in the neighbourhood, Mohanan simply said: "They're all gone." Among those were Mohanan's mother, elder brother, sister-in-law and their two children.

'Lucky to survive': After landslides, Bihar tea estate worker says he wants to go back

NARAYANAN S
MEPPADI (WAYANAD), AUGUST 2

AFTER ONLY a month of coming to Kerala, Ravikumar Paswan, 27, is desperate to return home to Rampur Chakla village in Bihar's Purnia district. A tea plantation worker in Wayanad's Mundakkai, the twin landslides in the district have shaken him. "It's too risky here," he says.

But before he leaves, he has a difficult task at hand — to find the body of his cousin Ranjit, one of the several people missing since July 30.

Ravikumar and his cousin Ranjit were among the 14 men who arrived in

Wayanad to work at Mundakkai's Harrison's Malayalam tea plantation last month. A history graduate, Ravikumar took to life in Kerala.

"I have worked as a hotel waiter and daily-wage labourer in several places, such as Delhi and West Bengal, but Kerala has been the best. Here, I got paid better than anywhere else. I get Rs 18,000 per month. I settled in quickly here, and it was very smooth," he says now.

That changed on the morning of July 30, when the landslides struck and his cousin went missing. After two days of relentless searching, the Kerala government declared that "all those who are alive" at the landslide-hit villages have been rescued and that



Ravikumar Paswan (right) with his friend Manoj Paswan in Meppadi. Narayanan S

all that remained was to retrieve bodies of those who had died. The confirmed death toll currently stands at 210, with 218 still reported missing.

Mundakkai, where Ravikumar and his companions were, had been completely cut off since the landslide occurred, with rescuers finally able to reach the place only Thursday evening.

Ravikumar himself was in Karnataka when it happened. For the last three days, he has been coming to Meppadi's family health centre in the hopes of finding Ranjit.

Besides Ranjit, two others are missing — Sadhu Paswan and Bijesh Paswan. Like Ravikumar, Bijesh's cousin Manoj has been spending all his time at the Meppadi

health centre.

"His (Ranjit's) parents want to see his body one final time. He was about to get married in November. My only wish now is that I would be able to take his body along with me back home," says Ravikumar, who is married and has a six-year-old son.

Ranjit wasn't the only one who went missing. "As soon as I knew about it, I returned and discovered that six of us were missing, including the contractor who brought us here, Upendra Paswan, and his wife, Phool Kumari. Her body was found the day after the landslides," he says.

He eventually found that two of the missing men — including Upendra — were alive and undergoing treatment at

a local medical college hospital. That made Ravikumar optimistic about finding Ranjit.

"I thought if these men had survived, my cousin might be safe too. But, with each passing day, my hopes diminished," he says.

Ravikumar knew about Kerala's heavy rain. What he never expected was a situation like this.

Now, he can't wait to get back home to his wife and son. And although he's sceptical about finding any jobs in Bihar, he knows he must do something to survive.

"I was lucky to survive this time but I can't take any more risks," he says. "I will have to return to Bihar and find a job somehow."

Gender, DSDs and testosterone: issues in Olympic boxing row

RISHIKA SINGH
 NEW DELHI, AUGUST 2

ITALY'S ANGELA Carini withdrew from her Round of 16 boxing bout against Algeria's Imane Khelif after only 46 seconds and a couple of punches to her face on Thursday, triggering the Olympics' biggest controversy yet.

Since her victory, Khelif has been the target of a wave of abuse, with many calling her a "biological man" who had an "unfair advantage" over Carini. Some people also wrongly identified Khelif as a transgender woman.

The participation of trans women, and women having certain "masculine" biological characteristics like higher testosterone levels, in women's sports has long been a subject of polarising debate. Here is a look at the ongoing controversy, in context of the larger debate on the matter.

Why did Khelif's win spark a controversy?
 In 2023, Khelif and Chinese Taipei boxer Lin Yu-ting were banned from competing in

the International Boxing Association's (IBA's) World Championship in New Delhi after failing a "gender eligibility" test, the details of which remain confidential. The IBA, in a statement on Thursday, said that the two boxers did not "meet eligibility criteria to compete within the female category".

However, both are now competing at the Paris Olympics. This is because the IBA was derecognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) last June over governance and financial issues. In Paris, the IOC-appointed unit which is governing the competition has set very different rules. The only determinant for eligibility is the gender stated in an athlete's passport — Khelif's passport says she is female.

Following Khelif's win, and the subsequent abuse, the IOC said in a statement that all boxers in the Olympics had complied with "the competition's eligibility and entry regulations", and that both Khelif and Lin have participated in women's competitions for many years, including in the Tokyo 2020 Games. It also said that IBA's "arbitrary decision" to ban the two women had been taken



Algeria's Imane Khelif (right) and Italy's Angela Carini after their bout on Thursday. AP/PTI

without following proper procedure.

Why is gender eligibility a contentious issue in women's sports?

Modern sports is organised on the basis of sex, with men and women competing in dif-

ferent categories. This is because men, on average, have certain physiological advantages over women.

Sex is determined based on chromosomes, which carry genes. Humans have 23 pairs of chromosomes — 22 are identical in men and women; one, the sex chromosome, is different. The XX sex chromosomes result in the development of female sex organs, and XY in male sex organs.

The SRY gene, found on the Y chromosome, is responsible for the production of testosterone. Multiple studies have attempted to decode the impact that this hormone has on physical characteristics. A 2017 paper ('Circulating Testosterone as the Hormonal Basis of Sex Differences in Athletic Performance') published in the journal *Endocrine Reviews* supported the link between testosterone and athletic performance.

"The available, albeit incomplete, evidence makes it highly likely that the sex difference in circulating testosterone of adults explains most, if not all, the sex differences in sporting performance," it said. This is due to the effect of testosterone in increasing "muscle mass and strength, bone size and

strength (density), and circulating haemoglobin". Other studies also note that data on the matter is inadequate at present.

Crucially, some people born with female reproductive organs may also carry the XY chromosome, in what is known as Swyer syndrome, one of many "Disorders of Sex Development", or DSDs.

This is at the heart of the debate surrounding gender eligibility in women's sports. Many argue that in order to prevent some athletes from having an unfair advantage in women's sports, women with DSDs which facilitate greater testosterone production, and other consequent athletic advantages, must not be allowed to compete with other women.

How do sports federations deal with this matter?

In 2021 the IOC decided to leave it to international sports federations to develop their own set of eligibility rules, based on an "evidence-based approach" keeping in mind principles of "fairness", "inclusion", "non-discrimination", "no presumption of advantage", and "prevention of harm". Previously,

it used to take into account testosterone levels — below 10 nanomoles per litre (nmol/L) for women athletes who had transitioned from male to female.

The eligibility regulations of World Athletics still uses testosterone levels as an eligibility determinant. DSD athletes need to keep their testosterone level to below 2.5 nmol/L for at least 24 months before they become eligible to participate in any event. This is stricter than what it was before 2023, when there was a 5 nmol/L restriction for events ranging from 400 metres to a mile, and no restrictions on other events.

FINA, the world swimming body, the International Cycling Union, and the International Rugby Union have all instituted varying degrees of bans on trans women athletes.

At the end of the day, there is still lots that is not known about the impact of testosterone on sporting performance. Many question if the case of women who are born with higher levels of testosterone is any different from that of people with other genetic advantages — like LeBron James' height or Michael Phelps' massive fin-like hands.

THIS WORD MEANS

CHAKRAVYUH

Military formation mentioned in the Mahabharata

EARLY ON Friday, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi posted on X that he had inside information that the Enforcement Directorate was planning to raid him because "apparently, 2 in 1 didn't like my Chakravayuh speech".

Criticising the Budget in Parliament, Rahul had said that a "lotus shaped *chakravayuh*" controlled by six men had trapped India's people in the same way that Abhimanyu, Arjuna's young son, had been trapped and killed by the Kauravas in a *chakravayuh* or *padmavyuh* on the battlefield of Kurukshetra.



Abhimanyu in chakravayuh, painted in Kangra style c. 1800-1900. Wikimedia Commons

Drona's chakravayuh

Following the fall of Bhishma on the tenth day of the great war, Dronacharya took over the reins of the Kaurava army. After an uninspiring performance in the next two days, Duryodhana, the oldest Kaurava, castigated Drona, reminding him of his vow to vanquish the Pandavas. Drona, embarrassed, decided to deploy the feared military formation of the *chakravayuh*.

Both sides in the war devised and deployed soldiers in various *vyuh*s or military formations. The *vyuh*s were intended to place the most powerful warriors in positions from where they could inflict the most damage, or to meet specific aims of battle. Each formation had specific counters which the other side had to know in order to break through.

The *chakravayuh* was considered the most difficult of such formations because very few warriors knew how to neutralise it. On the Pandava side, only Krishna, Arjuna, and Abhimanyu, the son of Arjuna and Subhadra, knew how to penetrate the *chakravayuh*. When Drona deployed the *chakravayuh*, he ensured that the attentions of Arjuna and his charioteer Krishna were diverted elsewhere.

Tragedy of Abhimanyu

This left the 16-year-old Abhimanyu as the only one on the Pandava side who could penetrate the *chakravayuh*. However, Abhimanyu only knew how to get inside

the formation, not how to get out.

This was because Abhimanyu had learnt how to enter the *chakravayuh* while he was in his mother's womb — Arjuna was telling his wife about it, but because Subhadra fell asleep halfway through the narration, Abhimanyu could hear only how to get in, not how to get out.

Abhimanyu was as accomplished as a warrior as he was brave — he is often referred to as 'Janmavira', one who is brave from birth, in the *Mahabharata*. So, as the *chakravayuh* swept across the battlefield, ensnaring the Pandava troops in its clutches, Abhimanyu charged into the multi-layered, disc-like formation and managed to reach its centre. The plan was for other Pandava warriors to follow him, and wreak havoc inside the formation. But that did not happen — stiff resistance by the Kauravas, primarily Jayadratha, and some shrewd planning by Drona meant that the likes of Yudhishtira and Bhima were successfully held off while Abhimanyu was trapped inside, alone.

The young warrior fought like a lion, killing many Kauravas, including Duryodhana's son Lakshmana, and gravely injured Duryodhana and Dushasana. Finally, six Kaurava warriors attacked Abhimanyu all at once, breaking the rules of ethical war. Outnumbered and exhausted, Abhimanyu succumbed. **ENS**

EXPLAINED FOREIGN POLICY & STRATEGY

After the three killings

The targeted killings of top Hamas and Hezbollah leaders have increased the possibility of all-out war in West Asia to perhaps its highest level since the October 7 attacks on Israel. What could Iran do now?



SHUBHAJIT ROY

HAMAS KILLED around 1,200 Israelis and took 250 hostage on October 7, 2023, and Israel's response with air strikes and ground operations is estimated to have killed more than 40,000 people in Gaza so far. But all these deaths — including those of thousands of Palestinian women and children — could ultimately prove less consequential than those of three individuals, news of whose killings became known this week.

Fuad Shukur, a top Hezbollah commander, was killed in Lebanon's capital Beirut in an Israeli airstrike on July 30. Israel has said Shukur was behind a rocket attack on Israeli-controlled Golan Heights that killed 12 young people over last weekend.

On July 31, Ismail Haniyeh, head of the political bureau of Hamas and the Qatar-based public face of the group, was killed in Tehran where he was attending the inauguration of the new reformist President Masoud Pezeshkian.

Mohammed Deif, the storied Hamas commander who planned the October 7 attacks, was reported to have been killed in an Israeli strike in Gaza on July 13.

A show of Israeli intent

These targeted killings are seen as a huge victory for Israel, which had vowed revenge for the October 7 attacks, a catastrophic failure of its intelligence, operations, and response mechanisms. Its Swords of Iron military offensive in Gaza had the twin objectives of destroying Hamas and freeing the hostages.

By killing Haniyeh and Deif, Israel can claim to have substantially achieved the target of neutralising Hamas. The message for Hamas' surviving top military leader in Gaza, Yahya Sinwar, would be that Israel has the intent and capability to decapitate the militant group at a time and place of its choosing.

Much was said and written on the failures of Mossad after the October 7 humiliation — the successful strikes is a step towards



Ayatollah Ali Khamenei meets with Ismail Haniyeh of Hamas in Tehran on July 30, the day before his assassination. Office of the Iranian Supreme Leader/WANA handout via Reuters

salvaging the reputational damage that Israel suffered.

A message for Iran

But the killings could have consequences for all of West Asia. By targeting the leaders of Hezbollah and Hamas — both groups are part of the 'Axis of Resistance' sponsored by Iran — Israel has redrawn the red lines of the conflict in West Asia. The possibility of all-out war in the region is perhaps the highest now since the October 7 attacks.

Israel had demonstrated its willingness to push harder when it attacked Iranian military officials in an Iranian diplomatic premises in Syria's capital Damascus in April. Tehran retaliated with a massive aerial attack against Israel that could, however, do only limited damage. Israel then conducted an air strike against Iran — again, with no major casualties.

These events in April signalled Iran's intent to respond if its military officials were targeted. Israel took the message — Haniyeh was killed while he was inside a building in Tehran, but no Iranian military personnel were harmed in the highly targeted hit.

What it did though, was to expose the vulnerabilities of Iran's intelligence and security establishment in much the same way as the Hamas attack had exposed and em-

barrassed the Israelis. Worse, Haniyeh was killed as Tehran hosted foreign leaders and representatives for the inauguration of its new President.

To target Haniyeh in Qatar, an ally of the United States, would have had complicated consequences for Israel. By killing him under the nose of the Iran Revolutionary Guards Corps in Tehran, Israel has sent the message that Iran's security umbrella cannot protect the leaders of Hamas.

The killing of Fuad Shukur in Hezbollah's stronghold of Beirut delivers a similar message. The military capabilities of the Iranian proxy in Lebanon across Israel's northern border are in fact more formidable than those of Hamas.

Options before Tehran

While the three targeted assassinations and Israel's ruthless military response in Gaza is intended to re-establish its deterrence against Iran and its proxies, Tehran cannot be expected to take it lying down. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Pezeshkian have vowed revenge. Khamenei attended Haniyeh's funeral in Tehran, and Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim Bin Ahmad Al Thani sat in front during the last rites in Doha, where the body was brought. There are three scenarios on the possible

Iranian response.

FIRST, Iran could consider picking targets on Israeli soil and carry out a repeat of the aerial attacks of April.

SECOND, it could coordinate with its partners in the 'Axis of Resistance' — the three Hs, Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis — to conduct coordinated attacks on Israeli targets.

THIRD, it might target Israeli officials in three countries, perhaps after waiting for some time.

The view from India

All these three potential options for Iran present concerns for India. The first two scenarios carry the risk of combustion into a broader regional conflict, adversely impacting the safety of Indian citizens in West Asia, and India's energy security.

About 9 million Indian nationals live and work in the region — these are usually people who are the sole breadwinners for their families, and the largest source of remittances to India. And about two-thirds of India's crude oil and natural gas imports come from the West Asian region — an outbreak of hostilities will directly impact the price of crude oil.

The third scenario is one with which India is already familiar — the wife of an Israeli diplomat was attacked in New Delhi in 2012 — and which presents a difficult diplomatic challenge.

India has so far made no statements on the volatile situation — New Delhi, which has friends across the region, does not want to get drawn into regional rivalries. It has issued travel advisories for Israel and Lebanon, and Indian airlines have avoided flying in the region.

Other countries in the region have launched efforts to de-escalate the situation. The Saudi, Qatari, and Omani foreign ministers have been in touch with their Iranian counterparts.

The assassinations have almost certainly derailed ongoing efforts for a deal on hostages and ceasefire in Gaza. The conflict has been prolonged further, and Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has been facing tough questions on his leadership, has got some time.

But the immediate diplomatic challenge is to avert full-scale war in the region. Much will depend on how Khamenei and Pezeshkian think and respond to the situation.

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What are the legal challenges to Great Nicobar infrastructure project?

NIKHIL GHANEKAR
 NEW DELHI, AUGUST 2

CONCLUSIONS OF a report by a high-powered committee (HPC), formed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to review the green clearances for the mega infrastructure project at Great Nicobar Island, were submitted to NGT's Kolkata Bench by the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation Ltd (ANIIDCO) last week. ANIIDCO is the implementing agency of the project.

The report concluded that the proposed transshipment port, part of the project, does not fall in Island Coastal Regulation Zone-IA (ICRZ-IA), where ports are prohibited, but in ICRZ-IB, where they are permitted.

The HPC was formed in response to the appeals filed before the Kolkata Bench of NGT in 2022, challenging the green clearances for the Rs 72,000-crore infra upgrade, which the

government considers of vital importance to India's national security.

Currently, the NGT's Kolkata Bench is hearing two other petitions about the project that involves the construction of not only a port but also an airport and a township. The Calcutta High Court is also hearing a case regarding the project.

What pleas led to the formation of HPC?

In late 2022, environmental activist Ashish Kothari and Conservation Action Trust (CAT), a nonprofit environmental organisation, challenged before the NGT's Kolkata Bench the environmental clearance and Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) — the area up to 500 m from the high-tide line — clearance granted to the project. CAT filed a separate appeal challenging the forest clearance for the project before the same Bench.

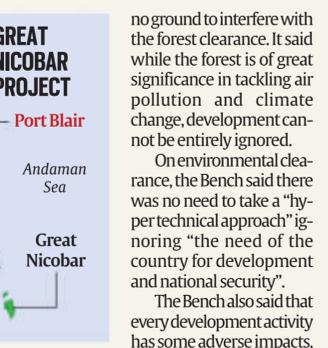
The appeals centred on the irreversible

damage that the project would cause to Great Nicobar's biodiversity; inadequate environmental impact studies and opacity in the clearance process; inadequate assessment of impact on Shompen and Nicobarese tribal communities; and non-compliance of due process in granting statutory clearances.

They also challenged the permissions for building ports and townships in prohibited and ecologically sensitive areas such as ICRZ-IA.

How did the NGT respond?

Although the appeals were filed before the NGT's Kolkata Bench, the final order was given by a special six-member Bench of the NGT. The special Bench ruled that there was



no ground to interfere with the forest clearance. It said while the forest is of great significance in tackling air pollution and climate change, development cannot be entirely ignored.

On environmental clearance, the Bench said there was no need to take a "hyper-technical approach" ignoring "the need of the country for development and national security".

The Bench also said that every development activity has some adverse impacts, but if they are mitigated and its advantages to society are greater, such a project has to be allowed in larger public interest.

However, the Bench pointed to "unanswered deficiencies" regarding coral conservation, the location of the port in ICRZ-IA (the prohibited area), and on limited base-

line data collection. To examine these concerns, the HPC headed by the Secretary of the Environment Ministry was formed. The report was submitted in July 2024.

The special Bench also ordered that no work of "irreversible nature" should happen at Greater Nicobar till the issues were examined and the report was submitted.

What is the case in Calcutta HC?

Soon after this ruling, CAT filed a petition in the Calcutta HC. It argued that the NGT's special Bench should not have got involved in the case pertaining to the challenge against the forest clearance as the special Bench did not have jurisdiction over the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The NGT's Kolkata Bench has the jurisdiction, the petition said.

It also alleged that the NGT failed to critically evaluate the project's clearances as it was "blinded by the mention of the strategic importance of the project". The plea added that by forming an HPC to revisit the project's environmental clearance, the NGT had dele-

gated its decision. The plea referred to a Supreme Court order, which said that the NGT cannot "abdicate its judicial functions to an administrative expert committee".

What are the other pleas before NGT?

In May 2024, Kothari filed two petitions before the NGT's Kolkata Bench. One of them claimed that the project violated the 2019 ICRZ notification — it provides for the protection of coastal stretches in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands. The petition also alleged that ANIIDCO and the Ministry were not complying with NGT's April 2023 order to exclude the construction work in areas which fall under the ICRZ-IA classification.

The other petition alleged that the Ministry had not communicated any details of the HPC's proceedings, which violated the NGT's April 2023 order.

On July 26, ANIIDCO filed a counter affidavit to these petitions and MoEFCC sought more time to file its response.



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

LAYING A NEW FIELD

A private sector venture focusing on technologies to grow rice by direct seeding, wheat through zero tillage, is welcome

PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT in agriculture technologies — those helping boost crop yields or cutting production costs for Indian farmers — has been halting in the last decade or more. This is unlike in the first two decades after liberalisation, which saw a host of agronomic interventions — from hybrid seeds in vegetables and maize, genetically modified (GM) Bt cotton, tissue-culture and high-density planting of fruit crops, drip irrigation and laser land leveling, to fast-growing broiler chicken and layer breeder birds. These were all introduced by private players, both Indian (Mahyco, Jain Irrigation, Venky's, Suguna) and multinational (Monsanto/Bayer, Syngenta, Pioneer/Corteva). That flow of innovations has slowed considerably. One reason was an extended period of low farm prices following the collapse of a decade-long global commodity boom in 2013-14. No less important, though, has been the Luddite turn in domestic policymaking — the promotion of paramparagat krishi (organic farming) being combined with blocking not just the commercialisation, but even open-field trials, of new GM crops.

Against this background, RiceTec and Mahyco forming a joint venture focusing on technologies to grow rice by direct seeding (instead of transplanting and flooding of fields) and wheat through zero tillage (without burning stubble from the previous paddy crop and land preparation before sowing) is significant — and welcome. Breeding in rice and wheat, which are largely self-pollinating crops less amenable to hybridisation, has traditionally been a public sector monopoly in India. Two major private seed companies coming together to pool their expertise — RiceTec's in rice and Mahyco's in wheat — and make the farming of the two crops "more climate-smart and sustainable" is, therefore, significant. The flooding of paddy fields and repeated ploughings for wheat is done by farmers primarily to control weeds. The two companies have developed rice and wheat hybrids/varieties containing a mutated gene, whose altered DNA sequence enables their plants to "tolerate" the application of Imazethapyr, a herbicide effective against a wide range of weeds. By spraying this herbicide, farmers would save a lot of water and labour required in rice transplanting-cum-puddling, besides fuel costs and time in preparing the field for wheat sowing. And there would be no need to burn stubble either.

The welcome part is that the Indian Agricultural Research Institute has also released rice varieties with Imazethapyr-tolerant traits — again introduced through mutation breeding, not GM. The fact that there is competition from the public sector and no foreign genes here (unlike Monsanto's Bollgard Bt cotton) should silence any Luddite opposition to the new technology. In any case, the government should not pay heed to such voices this time. A decade of virtual technology famine has been costly for Indian agriculture and farmers. A country seeking to be atmanirbhar in feeding its people cannot afford one more.

DIGNITY DENIED

Bureaucratic hurdles in changing gender, name in official documents for transgender persons, betray promise of NALSA

IN THE LANDMARK NALSA vs Union of India judgment of 2014, when Justice K S Radhakrishnan spoke up for transgender persons' right to define their gender identity, he linked it to "the most basic aspects of self-determination, dignity and freedom". No one, he said, "shall be forced to undergo medical procedures, including sex reassignment surgery, sterilisation or hormonal therapy, as a requirement for legal recognition of their gender identity." Ten years on, even as Hyderabad-based IRS officer M Anukathir Surya made headlines when his request for change of name and gender in all official records was accepted by the Centre, stories of several others, as reported in this newspaper, speak of a process of mental agony and humiliation. Demands for proof of gender affirmation surgery and even medical examinations, and threats of job loss show that when it comes to the rights of transgender persons, a lack of empathy still hobbles the system.

Part of the problem lies in contradictions between what the NALSA judgment said and provisions of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 and the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules, 2020. Under Section 7 of the Act, proof of medical intervention in the form of gender-affirming care (sex reassignment surgeries, hormone therapy, etc) is mandatory if a person wants to apply for a change to "male" or "female" category. Under the Rules, however, physical examinations are outlawed. There are also implementation challenges. In 2023, a response in Lok Sabha by former Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, A Narayanaswamy, revealed that 3,225 applications for transgender identity certificate, out of about 24,000, were pending clearance; in many cases, the delay exceeded the 30-day window mandated by the Rules. Other measures, like setting up transgender persons' wards and washrooms in government hospitals by 2022 and the setting up of transgender welfare boards in every state, too, have seen poor implementation.

A 2015 Lancet study showed that in those whose official documents reflected their self-affirmed gender identity and name, "prevalence of psychological distress was 32 per cent less" compared to those who didn't. They were also 22 per cent less likely to have suicidal thoughts. For a community that lacked legal recognition till a decade ago, and many of whose members don't have access to a social-security net, the continued denial of a self-affirmed identity leads to further marginalisation. Addressing this requires sensitisation campaigns, including for government employees, and plugging implementation gaps. Ten years after NALSA, it is high time all citizens enjoy the fundamental rights to dignity and freedom.

OLDER AND SURER

At the Paris Olympics, athletes are turning age on its head

OF ALL THE pointless clichés, the one about age being a mere number might just be the most trite. Ageism is an inequity hardwired in the human DNA, its spectre sauntering into conversations and commentaries unbidden — and underpinned by the wisdom experience might have wrought or the accomplishments that practice would have garnered. At the Olympics, Diana Taurasi, 42, member of the US women's basketball team, put a finger on it when questions about her retirement came up: "... it (20 years' experience) is an Achilles heel instead of something that is treasured and used as a way forward... Hopefully we can change that narrative."

Taurasi is giving it a good shot but she is not the only one. Giving experience its moment in the spotlight at the world's most vaunted sporting event are a bunch of men and women at ease with their years and their talent. Luxembourg's Ni Xia Lian, 61, the oldest table-tennis player at the event, might have lost to World No 1 Sun Yingsha, 38 years her junior, but her return to competitive sports served as an inspiration to her former Chinese compatriot Zhiying Zeng to take up the game again. Now a Chilean resident, Zeng debuted in the Olympics at 58 this year. There's also Spain's Juan Antonio Jiménez Cobo, a silver medalist at the 2004 Athens Olympics, vying for another medal in dressage at 65.

It is heartening to watch the quiet confidence of these athletes, given the premium placed on youth in sports. There is, of course, a case to be made for fitness in professional games. But one of the best-kept secrets of age is that which youth aspires to: Equanimity. After all, age is the domain of the Pollyannaish, with its awareness that in the end, after a lifetime of trying to fit in, everything and nothing matters. It is enough to have arrived at the party and to have had a ball. As the novelist Margaret Atwood once said, "For years, I wanted to be older, and now I am". Ageism be damned.

Before the landslide

Wayanad tragedy points to perils of development without respecting the region's carrying capacity



AMITABH KANT

YEARS AGO, WHEN I was posted in Kerala during the initial decades of my service, Wayanad was an idyllic hill station in the lush Western Ghats, known for its vast tea plantations. I had the opportunity to visit Wayanad several times and was always inspired by the warmth and resilience of the people. The origin point of rivers like the Kabini and Chaliyar, the district has dense forest cover. It is also home to various biological reserves, wildlife sanctuaries and national parks.

In the past few days, Wayanad has been in the news for a devastating landslide that claimed hundreds of lives. The landslide, which was triggered by a cloudburst, also resulted in the destruction of homes, with several people trapped under debris. It struck Meppadi, Mundakkai, and Chooralmala and resulted in the collapse of a nearby bridge that was used to enter Attamala in Mundakkai.

The disaster has left more than 300 people dead and over 300 are missing. While heavy rains caused the landslide, the unchecked development driven by tourism and quarrying has significantly disturbed Wayanad's fragile topology.

According to climate experts, the landslide was triggered by extremely heavy rainfall caused by the warming of the Arabian Sea. The southeast Arabian Sea is becoming warmer, leading to atmospheric instability over large parts of the Western Ghat, including Kerala. Rain-laden areas with deep clouds are moving southward, resulting in excessive rain.

In 2011, the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel, headed by ecologist Madhav Gadgil, demarcated the region as an ecologically sensitive area (ESA). The Gadgil Committee recommended the banning of construction, mining, and quarrying activities in large parts of the Western Ghats, one of the world's eight hottest biodiversity hotspots.

A similar tragedy struck Kerala's hilly regions in 2019. Despite clear warnings from experts, unchecked construction and

tourism-related activities have continued unabated. Wayanad, renowned for its scenic beauty, has become an eco-tourism hotspot, leading to rampant construction activities. Resorts have mushroomed, roads have been constructed, tunnels have been dug and quarrying activities have been undertaken without proper assessment of Wayanad's carrying capacity.

Construction of roads and other infrastructure in such regions should be undertaken with scientific precision, keeping in mind the environmental impact. Unfortunately, the current practices lack these essential precautions, exacerbating the damage caused by landslides.

Nearly half of Kerala comprises hills and mountainous regions with slopes exceeding 20 degrees, making these areas particularly prone to landslides during heavy rains. Beyond making the state climate resilient, it is crucial to evaluate land use changes and development activities in landslide-prone areas. Landslides and flash floods often occur in regions where the impacts of both climate change and human intervention in land use are evident.

A 2022 study on depleting forests in Wayanad revealed that 62 per cent of the district's green cover disappeared between 1950 and 2018, while plantation cover rose by around 1,800 per cent. The study, published in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, indicated that around 85 per cent of Wayanad's total area was under forest cover until the 1950s. Now, the region is known for its extensive rubber plantations. The intensity of the landslide increased because of the rubber trees, which are less effective in holding soil compared to the dense forest cover of pre-plantation times.

Mindless construction in vulnerable areas has greatly contributed to such disasters across the country, especially in hilly and mountainous zones. Experts have highlighted that extensive construction of roads and culverts in Kerala has not accounted for current rainfall patterns and intensities, re-

lying instead on outdated data. There is a need to consider new risk factors in construction to prevent flash floods, as many structures fail to accommodate river flow, leading to significant destruction. Unscientific construction practices are a major cause of the current devastation.

The Western Ghats have been classified as an ecologically-fragile region. Recent research by experts at the Indian Institute of Science divided the 1.6 lakh sq km of Western Ghats into four ecologically-sensitive regions (ESR). Promoting sustainable land-management practices such as reforestation, controlled deforestation, and sustainable agriculture is crucial to maintaining hillsides stability and reducing soil erosion, thereby mitigating the effects of heavy rains.

In 2018, devastating floods killed more than 400 people across Kerala, destroying homes, forested areas, and infrastructure. In 2020, 65 people, most of them tea plantation workers, were killed when a landslide struck Idukki district. A year later, landslides and floods claimed a high toll of lives in the district again. This time Kottayam was also hit. Landslips and flash floods struck again in 2022.

Kerala, once known for its lush greenery and beautiful monsoons, now faces tragedies caused by weather vagaries during these months. Over the past decade, the state has witnessed numerous climate-induced disasters, underscoring the urgent need for climate-resilient infrastructure.

The Wayanad tragedy is a stark reminder of the delicate balance between nature and human activity. It highlights the dire consequences of neglecting ecological warnings and the pressing need to adopt sustainable development practices to safeguard the environment and the lives that depend on it.

The writer is India's G20 Sherpa and former CEO, NITI Aayog. Views expressed are personal.

EASING THE BURDEN

A review of the Income Tax Act should aim to simplify the tax structure



SURANJALI TANDON

IN 1958, THE Law Commission of India set out to logically arrange the Income Tax Act 1922 in order to simplify it. Experts admitted then that there cannot be any real simplification of the Act without the simplification of the tax structure. Decades on, the goals for income-tax reform remain centred around simplicity and stability. In the last few years, though, there have been efforts to improve the tax structure. Heeding the recommendations of previous tax committees, including the Direct Taxes Code in 2009, the corporate tax-rates were reduced earlier and incentives are being phased out under the new tax regime. Around 58 per cent of corporate taxpayers have opted for the new tax regime, lowering the effective tax rate to 23.26 per cent in 2021-22 as compared to 29.49 per cent in 2017-18. To further streamline the system and attract foreign investment, the corporate tax-rate on foreign companies has now been reduced to 35 per cent and the angel tax has been abolished.

Similarly, personal income-tax slabs are now fewer and simplification of compliance has brought on board more taxpayers. Between assessment years 2019-20 and 2022-23, the number of taxpayers increased from 89.8 to 93.7 million. The current Budget has further reduced the tax rate for incomes below Rs 12 lakh, which will impact more than 80 per cent of individual returns and 51 per cent of the gross income

filed in returns. Although the revenue loss from the proposed direct tax changes is pegged at Rs 29,000 crore, it is less than the revenue foregone on account of current exemptions and deductions.

Despite the reductions in tax rates, the direct tax to GDP ratio has increased. Yet, many believe that India has yet to achieve its tax potential. As the country sets its sights on achieving developed country status by 2047, the question is what tax policy can do next to ensure a balance between growth and equality.

For one, the reform of the capital gains regime is on the agenda. This is in line with global thinking as many countries have attempted to reform the taxation of passive incomes after Covid-19. Interest has been further fueled by the surge in the capital market globally. India is no stranger to this boom with the Nifty 50 delivering a 26.8 per cent return last year. Policymakers in India are also cognisant of the rise in futures and options trading. The Budget proposed an increase in the capital gains tax on equity as well as a higher securities transactions tax on futures and options.

In the assessment year 2022-23, long-term and short-term capital gains made up 11 per cent of the gross incomes reported in tax returns. Around 60 per cent of the long-term capital gains incomes in 2022-23 were above Rs 500 crore and more than

40 per cent of the gains were reported by corporates. Therefore, the higher exemption limit of Rs 1.25 lakh on long-term gains is expected to primarily benefit the lower income category taxpayers, while higher rates on equity and removal of indexation, to the extent it results in higher rates, will help raise revenue from upper deciles of asset holding classes. Moreover, the rationalisation of the rates across asset classes and the removal of indexation benefits suggest that the government no longer seeks to prioritise investments.

An important aspect of certainty in the application of the Income Tax Act is the prevention and resolution of disputes. The Vivad Se Vishwas scheme offers one way to settle long-standing disputes. Shortening the period of reassessment and putting in place higher monetary thresholds for disputes are also ways to keep in check confrontations between taxpayers and the income tax department.

The government has announced its intent to review the IT Act. To fundamentally resolve the source of these disputes requires that the contentious sections of the Act be carefully redrafted. Simplification has been attempted in the past, but it is now hoped that the work over the next six months will help meet all the stated objectives.

The writer is associate professor, NIPFP

AUGUST 3, 1984, FORTY YEARS AGO

MINISTERS RESHUFFLED

WHILE THE PRIME Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, has appointed SB Chavan as the new Defence Minister, available information suggests that Sripati Misra, who has vacated Uttar Pradesh chief ministership, will be the new Industry Minister. Chavan takes over the Defence portfolio from R Venkataraman, who has resigned after accepting the Congress (I) ticket for vice-presidency.

OPPOSITION'S VP PICK

B C KAMBLE, a former member of the Lok Sabha is the opposition candidate for vice-

presidency. Opposition leaders in Parliament decided to field Kamble since a consensus candidate with the Congress (I) failed to materialise. In a statement, opposition leaders regretted that no representative from the SC, ST or neo-Buddhists had ever been chosen for the office of President or Vice-President.

MILITANTS KILLED

TWO TERRORISTS WERE killed and seven others, including six activists of the outlawed All-India Sikh Students Federation (AISSF), were arrested and a country-made bomb and arms were recovered by the police in Punjab during the past 24 hours. According to official re-

ports, two terrorists were killed in an encounter with the police in Amritsar district after they robbed a former sarpanch of a gold ring and Rs 82 in cash and escaped.

INDIA'S OLYMPIC WIN

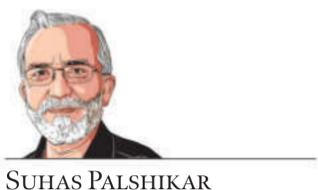
INDIA BEAT SPAIN 4-3 in an exciting group 'A' hockey match in the Los Angeles Olympic Games. India led 2-0 at half time. Mervyn Fernandes scored two goals while Hardeep Singh and Shahid scored one apiece. With this victory, India remains unbeaten in group 'A'. On the first day of the rapid fire pistol shooting event, Mohinder Lai with a score of 291 (100-97-94) was placed 23rd.



15 THE IDEAS PAGE

Elephant in the civil servant's room

Whether or not bureaucrats are banned from joining the RSS, the idea of constitutional democracy is in need of being reinvigorated



SUHAS PALSHIKAR

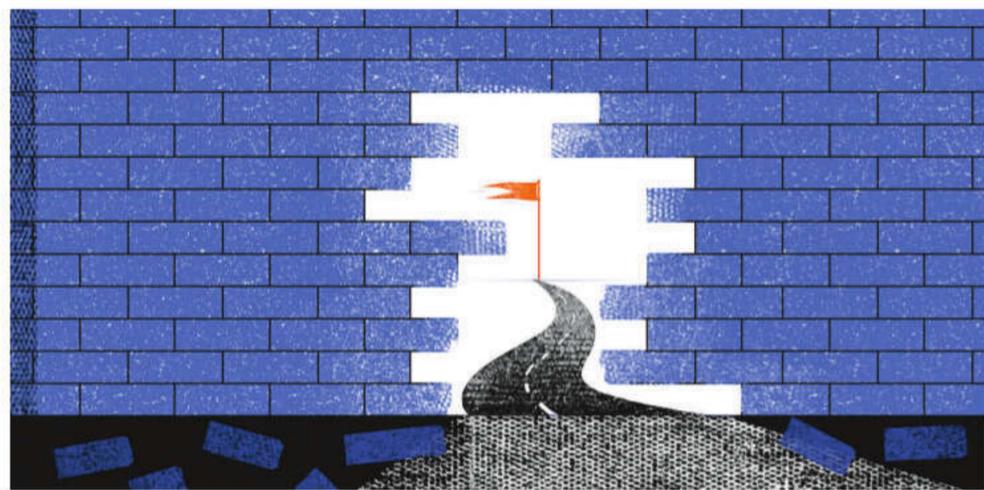
IT IS A matter of some surprise that a government with most of its members being proud members of the RSS took 10 years to lift the ban on government servants joining the organisation. There is no doubt that this decision will make only a nominal difference because civil servants sympathising with the RSS have been aplenty. Now they will adorn the membership openly while in office. With this decision, formalisation of the idea of the Hindu state has been taken one step further. One only hopes that the DoPT does not next ordain all civil servants to attend RSS shakhas on Guru Purnima or participate in the Dussehra rally and upload a selfie.

When an organisation has spread across different walks of life, when judges openly admit their affinity with it, when the ideas of an organisation have penetrated both the self-conscious supporters and gullible onlookers, the formal instrument of not allowing civil servants to join it does not serve any purpose. So, while we are witnessing a caricature of the Weberian model of bureaucracy, the lifting of the ban on civil servants joining RSS might not make much substantive difference. Those who subscribed to its worldview would already have been operating through that prism while in service and their identity too would not be totally unknown to their superiors and to citizens approaching them. By formally revoking restrictions, the government has only underscored the emergence of a de jure Hindu administration. But even if the government did not do that, over time, and increasingly during the last decade, India's state apparatus had de facto donned a Hindu identity. In that sense, the lifting of the ban is less of a legal-judicial issue and more a question of the character of India's public political universe.

Therefore, the real question that the recent decision raises is, once again, of the relationship between the ideology of the RSS and the ideology on which we currently (at least formally) expect institutions in the country to run, viz the Constitution. The juxtaposition between the two is stark and hence, whether formal or de facto, association with the RSS by civil servants jeopardises their commitment to function in accordance with the Constitution.

At a formal level, an organisation that believes in organising one community cannot be worthy of support from the civil servants who are supposed to serve the entire society. More substantively, the RSS does not approve of the way India was restructured after 1947. It believes that "It would have been logical for our post-1947 rulers to re-structure the national life in keeping with our culture. Sadly, that golden opportunity was lost" (<https://www.rss.org/Encyc/2015/3/13/Visi-on-and-Mission.html>). One can only imagine the tension between this sentiment and the duty to uphold the Constitution that arguably was the most systematic and earnest document seeking to restructure India after Independence.

The conflicting visions of a state completely de-linked from religion and a state



CR Sasikumar

based on dharma, defined as the cultural and spiritual legacy of the land, become even more sharply opposed to each other when we take into account the conflict between ideas of the nation. The Constitution is the outcome of an idea that India is a nation comprising different sects, religions and traditions as opposed to the idea that presupposes the foundational role of one religious community as the pillar of the nation. All nationalist rhetoric following the criticality of one religion leads to an exclusionary nationalism that the Constitution consciously rejected.

This conflict needs to be understood beyond formal declarations because in the public sphere the RSS has evolved through a somewhat complex set of ideas and has produced the politics of suspicion, anxiety and animosity through the available democratic space. The formal adherence to democracy by either the parent organisation or many of its "cultural" off-shoots, as also by the political instrument of the organisation, unnecessarily obfuscates the issue of what role Hindutva has played in India's recent past.

For almost a century now, India has witnessed a parallel evolution of politics of two varieties — through two contesting paradigms. Hindutva politics has mostly developed intellectually through the Golwalkar-Savarkar paradigm and democratic politics has been shaped through the Gandhi-Nehru paradigm. While Golwalkar initiated a tendency to uncritically imagine a millennium in the past, Savarkar, while appearing to distance himself from traditionalism, nevertheless employed history as proof of, and justification for, Hindu-ness as the bulwark of nationalism. While formally being away from the RSS, he theorised the quest for force as a morally admissible path for achieving higher goals, something that is the hallmark of contemporary Hindutva. Today's Hindutva is therefore a combination of these apparently distinct approaches. It has promoted ideas of majoritarianism, uncritical traditionalism and orthodoxy combined with crass modernism that upholds force and exclusion as instruments of a distorted nationalist imagination.

In contrast, the Gandhi-Nehru paradigm sought to evolve a nuanced understanding of the past, interpretation of tradition that draws its logical strength from modernity, a self-critical modernity that gave way to the agency of the people and at the same time ensured that

An organisation that believes in organising one community cannot be worthy of support from the civil servants who are supposed to serve the entire society. The RSS does not approve of the way India was restructured after 1947. It believes that 'It would have been logical for our post-1947 rulers to re-structure the national life in keeping with our culture. Sadly, that golden opportunity was lost'. One can only imagine the tension between this sentiment and the duty to uphold the Constitution that arguably was the most systematic and earnest document seeking to restructure India after Independence.

the idea of "public" includes all, irrespective of caste and creed.

Fortuitously for this paradigm, the interventions of BR Ambedkar ensured that it was saved from Gandhi's romanticism about tradition and Nehru's romanticism that democracy will address all ills automatically. This intervention ensured that the Constitution shunned "restructuring of society on the basis of past values" blindly and also ensured that the Constitution will push in the direction of democratic transformation of the social realm. This may be understood as the framework of constitutional morality.

Democracy lives with a perpetual challenge that it must accept the existence of non-democratic, sub-democratic and exclusionary ideas and politics. Indian democracy has struggled with this challenge all through its formal existence for the past seven decades. Organisations and parties that contradict constitutional morality can compete for power and acquire formal governmental power. Politics at variance with constitutional morality can mobilise citizens and gain popular and intellectual traction. Persons having intellectual sympathies with sub-democratic ideas and politics come to hold public offices, such as in the armed forces, bureaucracy and judiciary. The dilemma is whether to ban or abandon such elements. While democracies occasionally need to employ the long arm of the law to protect themselves, legal protection is often weak in the wake of political challenges to constitutional morality.

When democracy is corroded from within and through democratic coups, the first thing that supporters of democracy need to do is to recognise the elephant in the room. India's record in this respect is not strong. For long, many collaborators happily did business with the elephant. That has weakened the system's ability to isolate and tame the challenge. It is necessary to recognise that in the battle between the two paradigms discussed above, the democratic paradigm has received a setback. Whether or not civil servants are banned from joining the RSS, Hindutva is out there and unless the idea of constitutional democracy is reinvigorated, unless it is jealously pursued, propagated and popularised, the proverbial elephant will not go away.

The writer, based in Pune, taught political science

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Pakistan must not join the league of states known to clamp down on media rights. Freedom cannot become sacrosanct without political commitment."

— DAWN, PAKISTAN

State's government, Centre's rule

Coaching centre tragedy points to the many ways in which governance in Delhi is hobbled by the Centre's meddling



JASMINE SHAH

THE DEATH OF three UPSC aspirants amidst unprecedented rains in Delhi — due to waterlogging and subsequent flooding of the basement of an IAS coaching centre — has shocked the nation. Reports have revealed that the centre was using a basement to conduct classes in blatant violation of building byelaws and the storm water drain along the road was also encroached upon and covered, making the passage of water difficult. These facts raise deep questions on the greed of the coaching industry, profiting by risking their students' lives, and the role of the municipal bodies that allow such violations to persist.

The incident also brought to the fore the unpreparedness of the National Capital to handle heavy rains, sparking a debate between the AAP-ruled Delhi government and BJP-ruled Centre. Amidst these events, a shocking video surfaced of a review meeting held by a group of AAP ministers on June 28 where the status of desilting of Delhi's drains in preparation for monsoons was discussed. In it, senior-most officers of the Delhi government, including the Chief Secretary (CS) and PWD secretary, were shown video evidence that Delhi's drains weren't desilted — even as officials claimed otherwise on files.

When asked by Minister Saurabh Bhardwaj to join him on a field inspection to ascertain the truth, the PWD secretary said he would be busy with meetings that day and refused to commit any time. Reportedly, when the same Minister asked the CS in May 2024 to share the status of desilting of drains, the CS wrote back saying that the matter was under the consideration of the Delhi High Court to which reports had been submitted. In his note to the Minister, the CS also questioned why the minister desired to review the matter when it was under the consideration of the High Court and that he isn't obliged to respond to the elected government.

Anywhere else in India, such defiance of an elected government would have led to the dismissal of officers. But not in Delhi. Yet, this isn't the first instance. The last few years of the AAP government in Delhi have been marked by an unprecedented and undemocratic assault on its powers by the BJP-ruled Centre that has few parallels in independent India. The BJP has been unable to digest the AAP's historic mandate of 2015 and 2020 in Delhi and its rise as a national party. The Lt Governor (LG) of Delhi — the Centre's appointee — has time and again undermined Delhi's elected government by weaponising the bureaucracy. A prime example is the LG's decision a month ago to dissolve the Dialogue and Development Commission (DDC), the policy think tank of the Delhi government. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's brain-

child, the DDC was established soon after the AAP government came to power in 2015 with a mandate to study innovations globally and advise the government in finding sustainable, people-centric solutions to the critical developmental challenges facing Delhi. Over the past nine years, the DDC has served as a fountainhead for some of the flagship and innovative initiatives implemented by the AAP government, as documented in its publication *70 Innovations, Redefining Governance*. For instance, the DDC led the process of formulation of the landmark Delhi Electric Vehicles Policy 2020, Delhi Solar Energy Policy 2024, Tree Transplantation Policy 2020, and the Rozgar Bazaar jobs portal for Delhi's blue-collar workers in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic, among several other reforms.

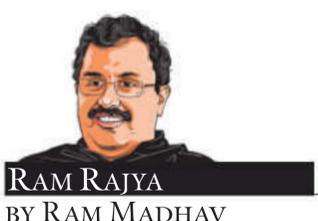
The DDC could play this role because, right from its inception, it has functioned under the sole jurisdiction of Delhi's elected chief minister, who acted as its chairman. Official notifications giving the Delhi CM the sole jurisdiction over the DDC were approved by the Delhi Cabinet and the previous two LGs of Delhi, Najeeb Jung and Anil Baijal. Yet the present LG, V K Saxena, ordered the bureaucracy to dissolve the commission.

On earlier occasions too, the present LG has breached jurisdictional boundaries to hinder the smooth functioning of the Delhi government. In July 2023, the LG removed over 400 professionals and consultants engaged by Delhi government, including the young professionals engaged under the CM fellowship scheme from top global universities, including IITs and IIMs. In late 2023, the LG ordered the stoppage of salaries and subsequent removal of all contractual staff of Delhi Commission for Women (DCW), bringing their work to a grinding halt. The message behind these actions is clear: The BJP-ruled Centre, acting through the LG, is determined to abuse all powers at its disposal to cripple the functioning of the AAP government.

The reason it is able to do this is because the Centre has usurped control over Delhi's bureaucracy in a blatant violation of the historic 5-0 verdict of a CJ-led constitutional bench of the Supreme Court in May 2023, coming after an arduous eight-year legal battle, that ruled that the officers in Delhi have to follow the directions of the elected government. However, setting aside constitutional morality, the Centre passed an ordinance within eight days, and subsequently a law, nullifying the SC decision. As per this new law, officers in Delhi only need to follow directions of Delhi LG. The AAP government has challenged the constitutionality of this law in the SC, but the matter is yet to be listed — it has been 14 months. The BJP-ruled Centre has used this opportunity to launch a frontal attack on the AAP government by weaponising the bureaucracy.

How long will this siege of the elected government in the National Capital continue? This is a question that will be determined only by the Supreme Court.

The writer is the vice chairperson of Dialogue and Development Commission of Delhi and senior AAP leader



RAM RAJYA BY RAM MADHAV

Rahul's 'politics of enemies'

His rhetoric on caste is unbecoming of the Leader of Opposition

LEADER OF THE Opposition Rahul Gandhi appears to have chosen to be a destructive force in Parliament. His interventions in the Budget Session suggest that the Congress leader's sole mission is to somehow get under the skin of the ruling party leadership through aggressive arguments and articulation. One example was his flimsy, if not absurd, argument about the "halwa ceremony" before the budget.

Democracies can only be measured by the existence of an Opposition. But the fact is also that there are no ideal democracies in the world. Lenin used to say that there are no morals in politics, only expedience. Expedient politics is all about power and that makes leaders resort to what Michael Ignatieff, former leader of the Canadian Liberal Party, called the "politics of enemies". Once that form of politics begins, then the language, behaviour and tactics of partisan demonisation will begin to dominate the political landscape. Such "politics of enemies" doesn't stop at the gates of political institutions but can spread through conventional and social media and influence citizens at large.

Leaders practising such politics know that people might initially be sceptical about the language and ideas that they are championing. Arguments like "Desh ka halwa bat raha hai aur 73 per cent log hai hi nahi" (In the Budget's halwa ceremony, 73 per cent of the population was not represented) could sound insipid and hysterical to many. But there is a sinister method in this madness.

Leaders know that over time, sheer repetition of such rhetoric will help them dominate the discourse and turn gullible people gradually to their side. All that is needed is a veneer of benignity and sincerity.

Ignatieff makes a profound observation that "what makes the 'politics of enemies' seductive is that its ruthlessness is so often packaged as a defence of democracy itself". Leaders hide behind the specious claim that, after all, their political enemies are enemies of the whole nation because they are threatening to impose tyranny, and hence, as former US Republican Senator Barry Goldwater said in 1964, "extremism in the defence of liberty is no vice."

India has seen a dozen Opposition leaders since Independence. In Rahul Gandhi's own family, Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi, had been the leaders of Opposition. Rajiv was the youngest at the age of 45 to occupy that coveted post. At 54, Rahul would be the second youngest leader of the Opposition — a post which acquired greater importance in the last few decades after it was accorded the status of a cabinet minister and given a hand in the appointment of senior officials like the CBI director, election commissioners, Lokpal, ED directors and NHRC commissioners. These powers and responsibilities call for greater maturity and balance, and an ability to not trivialise Opposition politics.

From the time a Congress (O) member Ram Subhag Singh became the first leader of

Opposition in 1969, the Lok Sabha had seen stalwarts like Y B Chavan, Jagjivan Ram, Rajiv Gandhi, L K Advani, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, P V Narasimha Rao, Sharad Pawar, Sonia Gandhi and Sushma Swaraj occupying that high office. Most of them conducted themselves with decorum, setting new standards for the functioning of the House. There were occasions when the two sides of the House demonstrated bonhomie, like when Prime Minister Narasimha Rao decided to send the Leader of the Opposition, Vajpayee, as the leader of the Indian delegation to the UN Human Rights Convention in Geneva in 1994. That was the finest moment of the ruling and Opposition parties coming together for a national cause.

The Geneva Human Rights Convention was a very critical moment for India as Pakistan came with all guns blazing on Kashmir. But the Indian side, too, became formidable when cutting across political lines — Vajpayee, Salman Khurshid and Farooq Abdullah launched a united counteroffensive. In the end, Pakistan was forced to withdraw its petition on Kashmir and the victory for the Indian side was so sweet that Hamid Ansari, who was present as India's special representative at the UN, summed up the outcome in a message to Delhi: "The batsman simply refused to play".

It may be a tall order to expect a return to those days. But it may not be ambitious to expect sensitive domestic issues like caste to be dealt with more diligently. Social justice is an important article of faith for the entire coun-

try irrespective of politics. From leaders such as BR Ambedkar and Ram Manohar Lohia, we inherited a vision of social justice, according to which granting every social group its rights leads to a gradual weakening of caste as an institution. Ambedkar wrote a thesis on the annihilation of caste.

Whether or not the caste Census is required will be decided by the political system based on its needs and merits. It is nobody's case to argue that the issue raised by the Leader of the Opposition was wrong. But it may be pertinent to remind him what, occupying the same position, his father Rajiv Gandhi had said in a debate on the Mandal Commission in September 1989. Accusing the National Front government led by VP Singh of causing caste tensions in the country, Rajiv sought to remind that his party, under the leadership of his mother, fought the elections in 1980 on the slogan — "na jaat par, na paat par" (not on caste or creed).

Mandal Commission recommendations were supported by all parties as a social need but what Rajiv Gandhi had said in his speech at that time may be important for his son to remember: "I think nobody in this House will say that the removal of backwardness and the removal of poverty are not part of that national goal. I think, equally nobody in this House will say that the removal of casteism is not part of that national goal. We must remember both".

The writer, president, India Foundation, is with the RSS. Views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A BETTER METRIC

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Deepening justice' (IE, August 2). The seven-judge Supreme Court bench led by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, by a 6:1 majority verdict, allowed sub-classification among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for reservation. It underscored the fact that SCs and STs are not homogenous classes in terms of degree of social backwardness, literacy and stigma of untouchability. As a result, some castes/tribes who are hampered the most by these factors are left out of the race to benefit from reservation and representation. Quota within quota serves the constitutional objective of reservation by ensuring substantive equality and justice to all. Will this judgment be cited to bolster the argument of quota within quota in 33 per cent of women's reservation in the legislature? And will it be extended to political parties/politicians as well?

L R Murmu, New Delhi

decades, the quota system has been plagued by the paradox — all are equal, but some are more equal than others. The creamy layer has made the most of reservation from one generation to another, even as the weakest sections have lagged socially and economically. Now, the states should initiate the "quota within quota" exercise in a rational and calibrated manner on the basis of a comprehensive survey. A census has been long overdue.

Khokan Das, Kolkata

MONSOON MISERY

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'When the clouds gather' (IE, August 2). Every year, monsoon becomes a harbinger of misery, mostly for people from the lower economic strata of our society. Construction and maintenance (including regular cleaning) of stormwater drains and removal of unauthorised structures from stormwater passages are given short shrift by the authorities. On the other hand, people's carelessness has only made matters worse. Drains choked with bottles, plastic bags, garbage and unauthorised occupation of stormwater passages are manifestations of this. Another issue that needs the attention of the authorities is their overall approach. Instead of a knee-jerk response, they need to develop a holistic preemptive approach. Urban centres are especially vulnerable. The state and society alike have to come together and prepare.

Manish Mishra, Bhopal

SPECIAL TEAM TO PROBE MURDER

LEADER OF IMRAN'S PARTY SHOT DEAD IN LAHORE

A senior leader of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, Dr Shahid Saddique Khan, was shot dead in Lahore while he was coming out of a mosque after offering Friday prayers, police said. Lahore police chief has constituted a special team to probe the incident.

TOP OF THE WORLD



Imran Khan

PAKISTAN

Imran's party vows to form grand alliance against PML-N

Islamabad: Jailed former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan has approved the formation of a "grand opposition alliance" by expanding the existing platform, Tehreek Tahafuz-e-Ayin-e-Pakistan, to act as a powerful anti-government movement, a senior party leader has said. Former National Assembly speaker Asad Qaiser, who addressed reporters alongside the party's secretary-general Omar Ayub Khan outside Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail where the 71-year-old former cricketer-turned-politician is lodged since last August, said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has decided to expand the opposition alliance in a meeting with Imran Khan Thursday, Geo News reported. **PTI**

NEPAL

PM Oli inducts three MoS into his Cabinet

Kathmandu: Nepal's newly-elected Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli on Friday expanded his council of ministers by inducting three ministers of state. Nepal President Ram Chandra Paudel on the recommendation of Prime Minister Oli appointed Arun Kumar Chaudhary, Rupa BK and Purna Bahadur Tamang as ministers of state. According to a notice issued by the President's Office, Chaudhary has been appointed as minister of state for Tourism, Culture and Civil Aviation, Rupa BK as minister of state for Forest and Environment and Tamang as minister of state for Energy and Irrigation. **PTI**

SINGAPORE

Human rights lawyer jailed for string of crimes

Singapore: A former Indian-origin Singapore lawyer, M Ravi was sentenced on Friday to 14 weeks' jail and fined SGD 5,500 (USD 4,120) for his latest string of crimes that involved pushing or injuring strangers and acquaintances - including a Hindu temple priest in the city-state. The 55-year-old disbarred human rights lawyer was also ordered to pay SGD 30 as compensation to one of the victims he had injured, Channel News Asia reported. Ravi committed the offences between November 2021 to September 2023. **PTI**

IRELAND

Driver held after crashing into PM's office gate

London: A driver was arrested early Friday morning after crashing his van into gates outside the offices of the Irish prime minister and several other government buildings in Dublin. The gate outside the attorney general's office was knocked off its hinges and there was damage outside the office of PM Simon Harris. Police were also investigating criminal damage at the residence of President Michael Higgins. **AP**

BIDEN SAYS KILLING HAMPERS GAZA CEASEFIRE EFFORTS

Hamas leader Haniyeh buried in Qatar amid vows of revenge against Israel

REUTERS
DUBAI CAIRO, AUGUST 2

HAMAS TOP leader Ismail Haniyeh was buried in Qatar on Friday following his assassination in the Iranian capital Tehran, and his possible successor told mourners his death would only make the Palestinian militant group more determined in its struggle against Israel.

Hamas and Iran have both accused Israel of carrying out the assassination and have pledged to retaliate against their foe. Israel has not claimed responsibility for the death nor denied it.

Haniyeh was laid to rest in a cemetery in the city of Lusail after a funeral ceremony at the Imam Mohamed Ibn Abd Al-Wahhab Mosque in Doha. His coffin, draped in the Palestinian flag, was carried in a procession past hundreds of people along with the casket of his bodyguard, who was killed in the same attack in Tehran on Wednesday. Mourners at the ceremony included Khaled Meshal, who is tipped to be the new Hamas leader. Other senior Hamas officials and Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani also attended. "...they have been killing our leaders for over 100 years. When a leader ascends (to heaven) another leader comes," Meshal said.

Hezbollah said that its senior military commander Fuad Shukur had been killed in Beirut and it vowed a "definite" response.

US President Joe Biden said Haniyeh's killing was not helpful to international efforts to secure a ceasefire in the war in Gaza.



People attend the funeral of assassinated Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh at Imam Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab Mosque in Doha, Qatar, on Friday. *Reuters*

HALF-MAST SALUTE: ISRAEL SUMMONS TURKISH ENVOY

Jerusalem: Israel's foreign ministry summoned the deputy Turkish ambassador for a reprimand on Friday after Turkey's embassy in Tel Aviv lowered its flag to half mast in response to the killing of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh. "Israel will not tolerate expressions of mourning for a murderer like Ismail Haniyeh," Foreign Minister Israel Katz said. Turkish Foreign Ministry Spokesman Oncu Keceli, responding to Katz's remarks on X, said: "You cannot achieve peace by killing negotiators, threatening diplomats." **REUTERS**

Airlines avoid Iran, Lebanon airspace, cancel Israel flights as tension mounts

REUTERS
DUBAI, AUGUST 2

AIRLINES ARE avoiding Iranian and Lebanese airspace and cancelling flights to Israel and Lebanon, as concerns grow over a possible conflict in the region after the killing of senior members of militant groups Hamas and Hezbollah this week. Singapore Airlines stopped flying through Iranian airspace

from early Friday morning. Taiwan's EVA Air and China Airlines also appeared to be avoiding Iran airspace.

In a bulletin, OPSGROUP, an organisation that shares flight risk information, advised traffic between Asia and Europe to avoid Iranian and Iraqi airspace, a day after sources told Reuters that top Iranian officials will meet the representatives of Iran's regional allies from Lebanon, Iraq and Yemen to discuss potential retaliation against Israel.

However, a significant number of airlines on Friday were still flying over Iran, including UAE carriers Etihad, Emirates and FlyDubai, as well as Qatar Airways and Turkish Airlines. Over the past two days, Air India, Germany's Lufthansa Group, US carriers United Airlines and Delta Air, and Italy's ITA Airways said they had suspended flights to Tel Aviv.

ADVISORY TO INDIANS IN ISRAEL

Tel Aviv: The Indian embassy here on Friday advised all Indian nationals in Israel to stay vigilant and adhere to the safety protocols amid the cancellation of flights by multiple airlines as tension escalated in the region. **PTI**

Venezuela: Masked men strike Opp HQs as govt claims US at forefront of coup bid

REUTERS
CARACAS, AUGUST 2

A MAJOR Venezuelan opposition movement Friday said its headquarters had been vandalised amid ongoing tensions over a disputed presidential election, as the country's foreign minister said the US was at the forefront of what the government calls a coup attempt.

Vente Venezuela, the movement headed by opposition leader Maria Corina Machado, said six unidentified men wearing hoods and carrying guns overpowered its security guards overnight, entering its Caracas headquarters, taking equipment and vandalising the office.

"We denounce the attacks and insecurity to which we are subjected for political reasons," the movement said.

Countries around the region including Brazil, Mexico and Colombia have called on Venezuela's government to release detailed voting tallies after the elections board declared President Nicolas Maduro the winner of a third term.

The opposition says its tally of about 90% of the votes shows Maduro's opponent and opposi-



A protester throws a gas canister back at police in Caracas, Venezuela.

tion candidate Edmundo Gonzalez received more than double the support of the incumbent president. At least 20 people have been killed in post-election protests that have gripped Venezuela since the election.

Venezuela's Foreign Minister Yvan Gil said on Friday that Washington was "at the forefront of a coup attempt" after the US State Department a day earlier recognised Gonzalez as the election's winner. Gonzalez on Friday thanked the US in a post on social media.

On Thursday, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico, whose leaders have traditionally been friendlier with Maduro, called on Maduro's government to publish detailed voting tallies.

Protesters back on Bangladesh streets seeking resignation of Sheikh Hasina

REUTERS
DHAKA, AUGUST 2

AT LEAST 20 people were injured in clashes and police fired rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse crowds as thousands protested in the Bangladeshi capital and other parts of the country on Friday, calling on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to resign.

The protesters were demanding justice for the families of the 150 people killed in violence during protests last month over a job quota system. Scores of youths marched in Dhaka with chants of "we want justice" and waved anti-government banners. Elsewhere in the country, buildings including a district office of the ruling Awami League party were set ablaze, a police booth was set on fire, and armoured vehicles vandalised during demonstrations.

Police said they fired rubber bullets and tear gas as crowds attacked them in Habiganj, and lobbed stun grenades to scatter protesters in the nearby city of Sylhet. The current unrest is the biggest test facing Hasina since deadly protests when she won a fourth-straight term in January polls. Student groups led demonstrations against quotas in government jobs, including a 30% reservation for families of veterans of the 1971 war of independence.



BACK FROM RUSSIA

US President Joe Biden and VP Kamala Harris with journalist Alsu Kurmasheva, who was among 3 US prisoners released by Russia, in Maryland on Friday. The deal involved 24 prisoners — 16 moving from Russia to West and eight sent back to Russia from the West. PTI

UK PM's new scheme to clamp down on violent street disorder

ADITI KHANNA
LONDON, AUGUST 2

BRITISH PRIME Minister Keir Starmer has announced a new scheme that pulls together police and intelligence resources to clamp down on violent disorder on the streets of London amid reports of further protests planned by far-right groups following the fatal stabbing of three schoolgirls. The new National Violent



British Prime Minister Keir Starmer

Disorder Programme is designed to stop criminals intent on causing violence and unrest by bringing together policing capabilities from across the UK to share intelligence on the activity of mobs for officials to make swift arrests.

Violent protests included a mosque being attacked in Southport — the site of Monday's stabbings in north-west England, several police officers injured, objects hurled and vehicles set on fire as the unrest spread around the country to Downing Street.

"It's not a protest. It's not legitimate. It's a crime and violent disorder. An assault on the rule of law and the execution of justice," said Starmer, after an urgent meeting with police chiefs Thursday. **PTI**

Two cops killed in terror attack on convoy of judges in Pak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PESHAWAR, AUGUST 2

TWO POLICE personnel on security duty of judges were killed and two others injured on Friday when their convoy was ambushed by terrorists in the restive in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in northwest Pakistan, police said.

All the three judges remained safe in the shootout.

The judges' convoy that was proceeding from Tank district courts to their homes in Dera Ismail Khan after duty hours was under tight security arrangements when armed militants attacked it. "Two policemen were killed in the line of duty while protecting the judges in the convoy from lethal armed attack by the militants. Two others were injured," a police official said.

The ambush is continuing between the police and militants on Tank-DI Khan road, police said.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister of the province Ali Amin Gandapur condemned the attack on judges' vehicles and sought a report. Expressing his condolences over the death of two policemen, Gandapur also called for making tighter the security cordon for the judges. The current attack adds to the ongoing series of such terror attacks across the country, but more so in the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

NEW LAW AIMED AT MOVING STRAY DOGS TO SHELTERS, AND ALLOWING SOME TO BE EUTHANISED

Turkey aims to cull its stray dogs, critics say move is about politics

SARAH HURTES
ANKARA, AUGUST 2

DOGS HAVE been a prominent part of Turkish culture for centuries. The Kangal Shepherd breed is a national treasure featured on postage stamps, and some strays have become local celebrities, like Boji, who earned fame for riding Istanbul's public transportation.

But this year, Turkey's stray dogs have become a contentious political issue.

The country's Parliament passed a law this week requiring municipalities to round up stray dogs and put them into shelters,

and permitting aggressive or ill animals to be euthanised. The law mandates shelter improvements by 2028 and threatens mayors with prison time if they don't enforce the law.

But critics have expressed fears that the law may be used to target political opponents of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, whose ruling party pushed through the legislation. Some are also concerned about inadequate, overcrowded shelters for the country's stray dog population — estimated to be around four million. "The shelter capacity is insufficient," said Dr. Murat Arslan, the president of the Turkish Veterinary Medical



Critics of the legislation have expressed concern that Turkey's animal shelters do not have enough capacity for all the stray dogs, especially in rural areas. *NYT*

Association. All the country's shelters combined have capacity for just over 100,000 animals, he said, and most municipalities have no shelters at all.

"Currently, 3,000 veterinarians are employed in municipalities, but at least 10,000 more are needed," Dr. Arslan said, noting that the new law does not require hiring additional veterinarians. In December, Dr. Arslan's agency presented its recommendations to the government. "We provided our report and explained the source of the problem," he said. "I don't think they took any of it into account." President Erdogan cited dogs

attacking people and other animals, as well as causing traffic accidents, in pushing for the law. "Although some people persistently ignore it, Turkey has a stray dog problem," he told legislators last week. President Erdogan's Justice and Development Party did not respond to requests for comment. But critics of the law believe it is motivated more by politics than by safety concerns.

"The law is claimed to solve the problem of stray animals on the streets, but it rather seems like a political move," said Ahmet Kasim Han, a professor of politics at Beykoz University in Istanbul. President Erdogan's party suf-

fered significant losses in local elections in March — its worst showing in local elections since its foundation and a major setback for Erdogan, who has dominated Turkish politics for over two decades. Han saw the new law as a way for Erdogan's government to push back on local opposition.

"It now seeks to limit the opportunities available to opposition municipalities and mayors, to stop them from expanding their voter base," he said of the president's party. The legislation could also help shore up support among Erdogan's base, which has been hard hit by persistent high inflation. **NYT**

17 ECONOMY

SENSEX: 80,981.95 ▼ 885.60 (1.08%) NIFTY: 24,717.70 ▼ 293.20 (1.17%) NIKKEI: 35,909.70 ▼ 2,216.63 HANG SENG: 16,945.51 ▼ 359.45 FTSE: 8,243.90 ▼ 39.46 DAX: 17,750.65 ▼ 332.40

GOLD	USD RATE	OIL	SILVER
₹72,850	₹83.75	\$80.82	₹86,000

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) per barrel as of August 1

International market data till 1900 IST

EXCLUSION FROM FULLY ACCESSIBLE ROUTE

Govt, RBI turn cautious over unrestricted foreign fund flows into longer term bonds

GEORGE MATHEW & ANANCHAL MAGAZINE
MUMBAI/NEW DELHI, AUGUST 2

OVER A month after India government bonds (IGBs) were included in the much-awaited JP Morgan's emerging markets bond indices, the government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have turned cautious and excluded long-term government bonds with 14-year and 30-year tenors from the Fully Accessible Route (FAR). The decision was taken earlier this week amid speculation about more unrestricted inflows by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) which can trigger uncertainties and risks in the future.

As the inclusion of Indian bonds will be staggered into the GBI-EM Global Diversified Index (GBI-EM GD) over 10 months (starting June 28, 2024, through March 31, 2025), official sources don't rule out more FPI flow into Indian long-term bonds through FAR.

The inclusion of government securities (G-secs) in indices which will be spread over 10 months, i.e., till March 31, 2025, is likely to bring nearly \$20-25 billion into the country, according to various estimates. While higher inflows will help India manage its external finances and boost the foreign exchange reserves and the rupee, the Reserve Bank will have to use the



File

instruments in its armoury to check the resultant inflationary pressures.

Government sources said changes to the FAR route is not a policy flip flop or a policy to dissuade foreign investors. "The door was ajar till now and anyone could walk in. Now the system that we have put in place is different in the sense that you need to just knock and the door will be opened. All existing securities are available for FAR. There has been no policy flip flop. The only change that has been done is that new G-secs of 14-year and 30-year tenor have been excluded from FAR," an official said.

The official said out of the total available securities of Rs 41 lakh crore, foreign investment is around Rs 2 lakh crore. "The principles of prudential debt management indicate that this has to be watched over because there has been a history of dollar drawdown in some countries

during global crises. New (dated) securities were being issued, so the step was taken as part of prudent debt management. We are not dissuading anybody from coming in. The decision was taken to prudently manage dollar inflows," official sources said.

"On a review and in consultation with the government, it has been decided to exclude all new securities of 14-year and 30-year tenors from the Fully Accessible Route. Consequently, future issuances of Government Securities in these tenors shall not be available for investment under the Fully Accessible Route," the RBI said in a notification earlier this week.

The FAR route was opened up in March 2020. This scheme is supposed to operate along with the two existing routes -- the Medium Term Framework (MTF) and the Voluntary Retention Route (VRR).

The current FPI limit in long-

term government bonds is Rs 137,984 crore.

NSDL data shows that Rs 5,174 crore came to long-term G-secs through the FAR route. This included Rs 683.70 crore in 7.72 per cent G-secs maturing in 2049, Rs 1,004.48 crore in 7.16 per cent G-secs of 2050 and Rs 3,486.50 crore in 6.67 per cent G-secs maturing in 2050. This means nearly Rs 1.32 lakh crore investment was available for FPIs before the exclusion.

Considered as hot money, FPI flows had created fluctuations in the market in the past. In the calendar year 2024, FPIs had invested Rs 92,696 crore in debt so far.

While higher inflows will boost the rupee, inflation is likely to come under pressure. When the RBI mops up dollars from the market, it will have to release an equivalent amount in the rupees, putting pressure on inflation.

JP Morgan said only G-secs designated under the Fully Accessible Route are index eligible. As per the index inclusion criteria, eligible instruments are required to have notional outstanding above \$1 billion (equivalent) and at least 2.5 years remaining maturity. "At the start of the inclusion on June 28, 2024, only FAR-designated IGBs with a maturity date after December 31, 2026, will be assessed for eligibility," it said.

Any new index-eligible FAR-designated IGBs issued during

the phase-in period will also be included.

What has added to the cautious approach by Indian authorities is after JP Morgan, Bloomberg, in March this year, announced the inclusion of Indian government bonds in the Bloomberg Emerging Market (EM) Local Currency Government Index and related indices from January 31, 2025. Indian FAR bonds will be included in the Bloomberg EM Local Currency Government indices with an initial weight of 10 per cent of their full market value on January 31, 2025, Bloomberg said.

"Foreign players look at the arbitrage opportunities. India offers higher returns of over 7 per cent while the returns in the US are around 5 per cent. Bond inclusion can propel more FPIs to look at India for investment. This can put pressure on inflation and delay the possibility of a rate cut by the Reserve Bank of India later this year," said a market source. Many analysts expect the RBI to bring down interest rates later this year or early next year.

The government is optimistic about the economic growth with the Economic Survey forecasting a 6.5-7 per cent growth and stock markets are in the middle of a bull run with the Sensex hitting 82,000 and Nifty piercing the 25,000 level. India's foreign exchange reserves are at a comfortable level of \$ 670 billion.

'Faster approval for FDI from China can be considered if it boosts manufacturing'

Tweaks in certain PLIs being deliberated: DPIIT Secretary

WHILE SPEEDING up of approvals for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from China that is in the interest of domestic manufacturing can be considered, currently there is no proposal to amend the Press Note 3 (PN3), Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Secretary, RAJESH KUMAR SINGH said in an interaction with RAVI DUTTA MISHRA.

To curb opportunistic takeovers of Indian companies due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the government had amended the FDI policy under PN3 in 2020, which meant that the neighbouring countries, particularly China, could invest in India only after the government's approval. Singh also said that tweaks in some sectoral production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes are being considered. Edited Excerpts:

The Economic Survey suggests that India should attract FDI from China and it is time to change our approach. Your thoughts?

Given the issues with China, we are not going to be able to do a full-scale opening up, but where the proposals are going to add value to our manufacturing ecosystem, it can be considered even under the present regime, which is basically just a government route. It is not automatic. It just goes through the government. So there's nothing which prevents us from, for example, getting an Apple vendor or sub-vendor to come to India if we feel that it is going to help improve our localisation ability in that particular area. There's no blanket ban even today.

So does this mean that there will be a relook at PN3?

PN3 as such is not being re-evaluated right now. But within the PN3 provisions, whether that process of approval through the government scrutiny route, if that can be speeded up, can always be seen.

What would be the way forward on the requirement of Chinese technicians?

For the PLI sectors, that has been sorted out, both for beneficiaries as well as for non-beneficiaries. In those sectors, there is now a system where we will provide faster processing for genuine technicians who are required to set up machinery, install and do test runs.

Job creation in high-tech sectors like mobile phone manufacturing is lower than various others. How can PLI schemes for labour-intensive sectors be



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THE EXPRESS
INTERVIEW
WITH
RAJESH KUMAR SINGH
SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT FOR PROMOTION OF INDUSTRY AND INTERNAL TRADE (DPIIT)

PLI disbursements in FY24 were not as per the expectations. Is that a concern?

A lot of projects are in the gestation period, particularly in steel and even automobiles. The allocations [of funds] are also very large. But per se, I'm not too concerned, because the design of the scheme is such that people have to perform first and then they will get the incentives.

So in that sense, investment, sales, exports and employment are relatively on track. The intention is not to burn cash. It is to get investments and get things going, and if they meet their criteria, then we provide them with the incentive.

In certain PLIs, the industry believes that eligibility conditions are difficult...

Since they are tendered out based on contract conditions, it is difficult to keep changing that (criteria for investments). But where it is causing hardship or where the project management agencies (PMAs) are creating some purely technical or interpretational issues, those have been resolved to a great extent.

PMAs have been advised to facilitate the disbursements and things will improve. And of course, in some sectors, like mobiles, electronics and even in food processing, pharma, etc, disbursements are picking up. Once companies meet the 50 per cent Domestic Value Addition (DVA), as many companies have, they are very confident that they will be able to utilise their entire incentive allocation, which is almost Rs 25,000 crore.

Once the investments have come in, and sales have started in the majority of the sectors, there is confidence that incentives will also get largely dispersed. And even if it doesn't get dispersed, it is a secondary issue. The real issue is whether the employment, the investment, the exports, the sales are happening because sales in particular, also give you back revenue. So in that sense, the design of the scheme is such that it is also self-sustaining.

BRIEFLY

Income tax return filings hit fresh record of over 7 cr

New Delhi: Income tax returns (ITRs) touched a new record of over 7.28 crore, 7.5 per cent higher compared to previous fiscal, by the July 31 deadline, the income tax department said on Friday. The total number of ITRs for assessment year 2024-25 filed till July 31, 2024 is more than 7.28 crore, which is 7.5 per cent higher than the total ITRs for AY 2023-24 (6.77 crore) filed till July 31, 2023, the department said in a statement. "Out of the total ITRs of 7.28 crore filed for AY 2024-25, 5.27 crore have been filed in the new tax regime compared to 2.01 crore ITRs filed in the old tax regime," the department added. PTI

Apple sees record revenue in India in Apr-Jun quarter

New Delhi: iPhone maker Apple has seen record revenue growth in India and over two dozen countries in the quarter ended on June 30, 2024, its CEO Tim Cook said on Friday. The company posted a 7.8 per cent growth in net income to \$21.44 billion in the June quarter of 2024. PTI

BHEL bags demonstration order from NTPC

New Delhi: State-owned BHEL on Friday said it has secured an order for methanol firing in a gas turbine of an NTPC power project in Kerala. It received such an order for the first time, BHEL said in a statement. PTI

FM Sitharaman to address RBI board on August 10

New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to address the Reserve Bank of India's central board on August 10 and highlight key points of the Budget FY25, including the fiscal consolidation roadmap. The post-budget meeting has been scheduled for August 10 where the finance minister will address the board members and talk about announcements made in the Budget 2024-25, according to the sources. PTI

Sebi looking to demystify IPO filing process for faster approval: Chief Buch

HITESH VYAS
MUMBAI, AUGUST 2

SECURITIES AND Exchange Board of India (Sebi) is looking to simplify the initial public offer (IPO) filing process by bringing in a template-based 'fill-in-the-blank' kind of document which will help in bringing down the approval process, its Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch said.

The capital markets regulator is also bringing in an innovative product which would be a combination of rights issue and preferential allotment of shares, she said.

"We are trying to bring an innovation in the market which we are calling a demystified IPO document as we think too much mystique has been created around DRHP (draft red herring prospectus) and the whole process of getting listed. It isn't that complex," Buch said at a Ficc event on Friday.

"We, in consultation with industry and there is a working group which is working on it, are creating a template (-based) fill-in-the-blank IPO document which says you fill in these blanks and if you find any complexity in



File

Sebi Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch.

filling it up or there is an if and but, there is a separate column in which you can articulate that complexity," she added.

DRHP is an initial document filed with regulatory bodies by a company looking to launch an IPO or a public issue. It contains essential information about the company's business, operations, financial performance, and prospects.

The template-based offer document, the Chairperson said, will be precise. It will be meaningful as it will contain information important for an investor to make a decision, and any variation will be explained separately, Buch said.

"It will smoothen the process-

ing time in Sebi itself. We are hoping that we will be able to bring down the approval time even lower than what is there today and at the same time it will demystify the entire process of filing and going through a listing process," she explained.

The new document will also make it easier for new companies waiting to list.

Buch said the regulator is focusing on the speedy clearance of applications filed by companies for raising capital, especially when markets are conducive. Sebi is working on artificial intelligence (AI)-based processing of IPO documents. She said so far in 2024, of

the 73 offer documents received for capital raising, Sebi has issued observation letters to 65 applications. Of the 65 applications, documents of 16 applications were returned while 4 applications were withdrawn.

"We could have approved 20 more applications. What came in the way was that the director of the merchant banker (to the IPO) was allotted shares of the company 2.5 months before the documents were filed or because a director of the company which has applied (for IPO) is already under investigation by Sebi for fraud in a previous IPO," she said.

On the combo product of rights issue and preferential allotment of shares, Buch said the new product is going to be transformational as it would have the best of the rights issue and the preferential allotment of shares.

The rights issue is an offer given by the company to its existing shareholders to buy additional shares at a specific date and at a reduced price. Preferential allotment is the process of allotment of equity shares to a select group of investors on a preferential basis at a predetermined price.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Is this the right time to invest in gold and gold-linked instruments?

HITESH VYAS
MUMBAI, AUGUST 2

DOMESTIC GOLD prices have fallen by nearly 5 per cent since July 23, when Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman lowered the customs duty on the yellow metal. While this duty cut led to a fall in gold prices, it also resulted in a surge in the demand for the precious metal. With drop in prices, is the time right to invest in gold and gold-related instruments?

Changes announced

In the Union Budget 2024-25, FM Sitharaman announced a cut in the customs duty on gold to 6 per cent from 15 per cent earlier. For taxation of long-term capital gains (LTCG), it was also proposed that the holding period for gold be reduced from 36 months to 24 months. The rate for taxation of LTCGs on the precious metal, which was 20 per cent with indexation earlier, has also been lowered to 12.5 per cent without indexation.



gold prices have continued to hover below Rs 70,000 per 10 grams level. The cut in customs duty was a blessing in disguise as it brought back the demand for physical gold.

Outlook on gold prices

According to Anindya Banerjee, Senior Vice President and Head of Research (Currency, Commodity & Interest Rates) Kotak Securities, the gold prices are likely to move towards 75,000 in the near future due to the uncertainty around elections in the US later this year.

"Gold and silver prices may trade firm for the second half of 2024. The key factor favouring the upside may be the rate cut from the US Fed and the weakness in the dollar. The strong economic stimulus from China may also boost investment demand for gold and silver," said Tapan Patel, Fund Manager (Commodities), Tata Asset Management. Geopolitical factors like the

US elections and Israel - Gaza conflicts are the additional factors which may keep risk premiums high in bullion prices. The longer pause in the US Federal Reserve policy, stronger dollar and bond yields may limit the upside in bullion prices, he said.

Cues for investors

Market experts believe that investors who are looking to invest in physical gold or ornaments, should look at gold-related instruments such as sovereign gold bonds (SGBs) or gold exchange traded funds (ETF). "If somebody wants to invest in gold as an investment class, gold ETF is a better option than buying physical gold," said a gold market analyst.

In the case of SGBs, customs duty cuts may dampen demand for these bonds but it remains an attractive investment avenue as investors get a fixed rate of 2.5 per cent per annum, which is payable semi-annually, on the purchase value.

NCLAT approves Byju's settlement with BCCI, sets aside insolvency plea

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 2

IN A major relief to edtech firm Byju's, the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) on Friday set aside insolvency proceedings against it over a cricket sponsorship deal and approved a Rs 158-crore settlement with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

The NCLAT, however, passed the order with a caveat that any failure to make payments on the dates mentioned in the undertaking would automatically lead to a revival of the insolvency proceedings against Byju's. The appellate tribunal also dismissed the allegation of round-tripping levelled by Byju's US-based lenders, saying they failed to provide any evidence.

According to legal observers, if the company fulfils its undertaking and any dissenting party is not able to get a stay order from a higher court, then founder-CEO Byju Raveendran



will effectively be back in control of the firm.

Welcoming the NCLAT order, Byju's said in a statement that it is a "major victory" for the edtech firm and its founders. The tribunal said the money was paid by founder Byju Raveendran's brother, Riju Ravindran, through sales of his shares. According to the undertaking, Riju Ravindran made a payment of Rs 50 crore on July 31 against the outstanding dues owed by Byju's to the cricket board. Another Rs 25 crore will be submitted on Friday and the remaining Rs 83 crore on August 9 through RTGS.

"In view of the undertaking

given and affidavit, the settlement between the parties (is) approved and as a result appeal succeeds and impugned order (passed by the NCLT) is set aside," a two-member Chennai bench of the NCLAT said in the open court.

The NCLAT was hearing a petition filed by Byju's, challenging the initiation of insolvency proceedings against its parent company, Think & Learn.

Reacting to the verdict, Byju Raveendran said, "The NCLAT order is not just a legal victory, but a testament to the heroic efforts made by our Byju's family in the last two years. Our founding team members have poured their hearts and souls, not to mention their entire savings, into this dream, often at great personal cost. Every Byju-ite has demonstrated extraordinary resilience, working tirelessly through unprecedented challenges. Their collective sacrifice humbles me, and I am deeply grateful to each one of them." FE

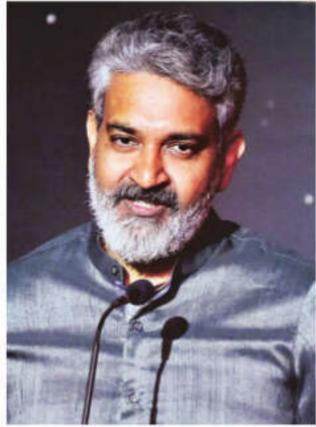
18 REVIEWS CINEMA & MUSIC

A Crooked Horizon

MODERN MASTERS: SS RAJAMOULI

★★★

Director: Raghav Khanna
Streaming on: Netflix



SHUBHRA GUPTA

EVEN THOSE who do not track film news insistently are aware that *RRR* turned SS Rajamouli into a global sensation. In 2022, the film became an unstoppable juggernaut; soon after, Rajamouli was here, there, everywhere. On stage at film festivals in Toronto and elsewhere, revelling in applause in Japanese theatres (yes, Japan, that most difficult market where Rajini has ruled for years), throwing his hands up in joy at the *Naatu Naatu* Oscar win, with the song's jubilant composer MM Keeravani and other close family and cast in attendance: it was *RRR* and *SSR* all the way.

Glimpses from this triumphant tour is what we get most of in *Modern Masters*, produced by Applause Entertainment and the newly minted Film Companion Studios, and directed by Raghav Khanna. There are extensive interviews, conducted by veteran film journalist Anupama Chopra, with the director and his inner circle, his stars (Prabhas, Ram Charan, Jr NTR, Rana Daggubati) and such admiring compatriots as Karan Johar, as well as James Cameron, who all have good things to say about the man, his method, and his 'madness'.

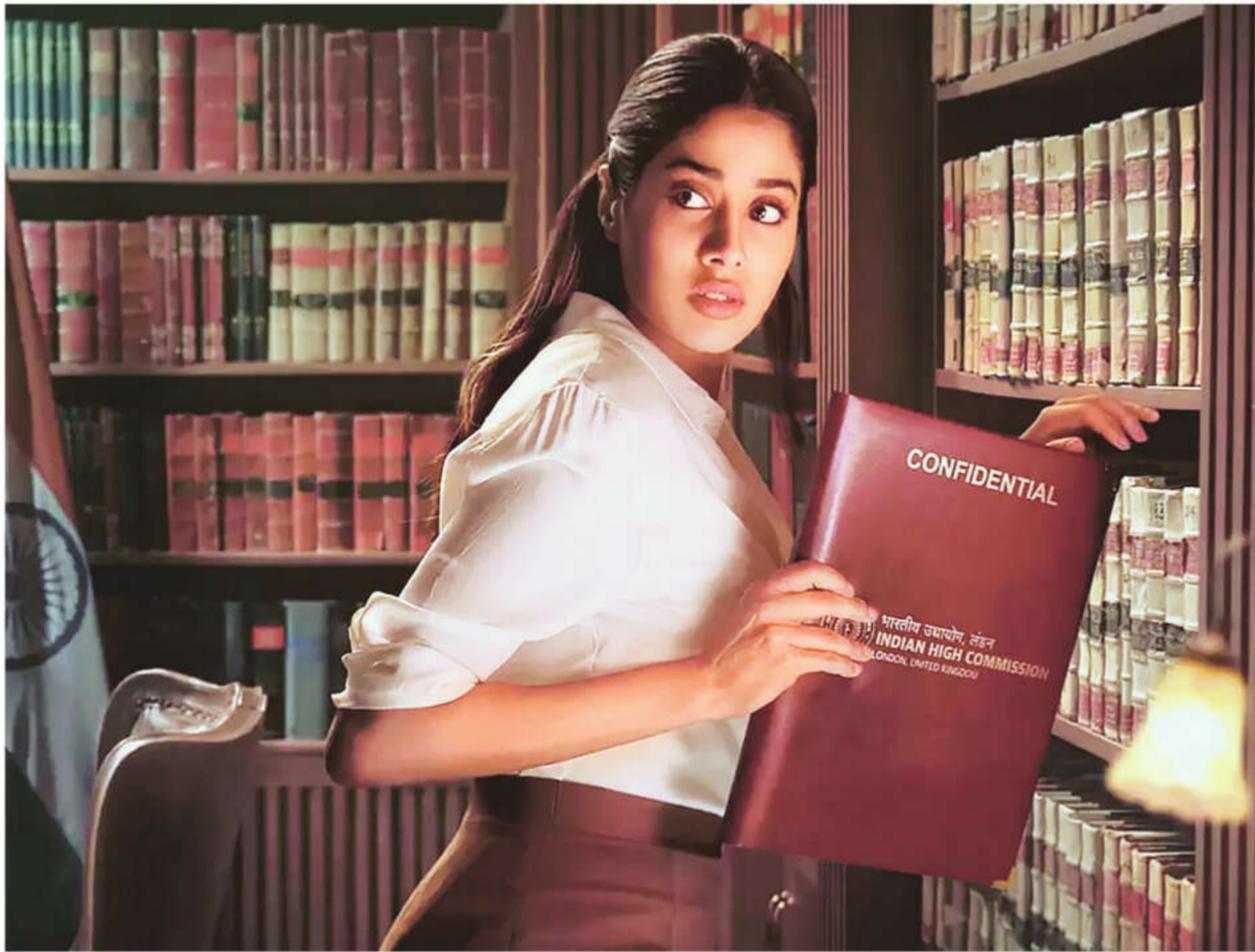
Labelling a working director as a 'modern master' basically sets the tone of this 74-minute documentary, which is mostly laudatory. It precludes the inclusion of pinpricks: a potentially tricky question is raised on a critical reading of *RRR* (and there were several, in addition to the generally appreciative ones), but there is no interrogation of Rajamouli beyond a rambling answer.

Having said that, expecting anything more so in a film like this one — which is basically a celebration of one of the biggest Indian filmmakers who has made a significant dent in the West, in terms of box office numbers and awareness — is pointless.

The parts where the film introduces us to his 'nearest and dearest', who are also the people he works with, are the best. His wife (and constant colleague) Rama's comment, about him being as manic about organising a holiday, is smile-inducing. The fact that he is also a competent actor comes through in some BTS, as well as how 'anal' he can be about the tiniest details, even if it concerns a bit actor in the back row.

What I wanted more of are the details in his filmography that aren't as well known. There is mention of his first stab at the kind of mytho-magical-fantasy world he created in the 2009 *Magadheera* — a precursor to both *Bahubali* and its staggering scale — as well as his madly entertaining 2012 *Eega* (if you haven't seen this revenge-of-the-fly-saga, now is the time to look for it), but a little more detail about these two films, the ones which got him into the eye of Indian cinephiles, would have been a valuable addition to this documentary.

Finally, how did a filmmaker who works in the Telugu industry, with its specific constraints, leapfrog over all else, and become a pan-Indian director, with *Bahubali*, part one and two? A deeper analysis would have been useful to set him in the context of the industry he works in, as well as how the mega success of *RRR* will impact India's cinematic standing in the world.



Caught in a Web

ULAJH ★★★

Director: Sudhanshu Saria Cast: Janhvi Kapoor, Roshan Mathew, Gulshan Devaiah, Adil Hussain, Rajesh Tailang, Meiyang Chang, Rajendra Gupta, Ayy Khan, Jitendra Joshi, Rushad Rana

SHUBHRA GUPTA

I WENT in looking forward to *Ulajh*: what could be better than a film headlined by a hard-working new-gen actor who finally seemed to have got a role matching her intelligence, with support from a solid, diverse cast? Sadly, this spy thriller, set mostly in the chilly environs of London, turned out to be a damp squib.

The film opens with the ambitious young diplomat Suhana Bhatia (Janhvi Kapoor) winning a losing battle in a neighbouring country with a dodgy move. The justification, that it was in the best interests

of India, is placed above all else, establishing Suhana's smarts and ability to think on her feet. A promotion and a prestigious overseas posting make this IFS blue-blood — dad Dhanraj (Adil Hussain) is a service legend — someone who will blaze a career trail.

In quick succession, she meets with her avuncular chauffeur-cum-factotum (Rajesh Tailang), a suave senior (Ayy Khan), a couple of carping juniors (Roshan Mathew, Meiyang Chang), and a dishy chef (Gulshan Devaiah) who whips up delicious food on-the-go.

And then comes the sledgehammer: an indiscretion makes her a soft target for the ISI (where there are patriotic Indians, can

the dastardly Pakistani secret service be far?), suspicion around her grows, and the noose tightens. Over in Pakistan, a peacenik premier (Rushad Rana) is on his way to India. Will things go off smoothly, or will it be a disaster? Are Suhana's increasingly desperate compatriots clean or dirty? Will she be able to break free?

The spy genre is a well-trodden path, but there's always space for a slick flick with characters who make you believe in their twisted convictions and questionable actions. Here, believability is sacrificed for contrivances and staginess. How does Suhana, whom the script awards with sharp instincts right from the get-go, fall

for the oldest trick in the book? Why are her interactions with the one she hero-worships written with such stiffness? How does an antagonistic colleague flip over to the other side in the space of a heartbeat?

It's even more disappointing because here's a fine ensemble left to fumble through an amateurish plot-line. The trouble that Hindi films with heroines leading from the front is visible in the way Kapoor is planted front and centre, even when her character should have known better: stepping aside and letting the experts do their job. When your lead is upped at the expense of the other characters, who feel underwritten, then you've underserved the film.

Here, There, Everywhere

TRAP ★★★

Director: M Night Shyamalan
Cast: Josh Hartnett, Ariel Donoghue, Saleka Shyamalan, Alison Pill

SHALINI LANGER

EVEN IN an arena full of 20,000-plus screaming pre-teens and teenage girls, and those accompanying them, there is no one quite like Cooper (Hartnett). Where others rush, he prowls. Where others queue for food, he watches an oil container bubble. Where others glance, he watches every... thing... closely... paying particular attention to exit routes, fire alarms, CCTV cameras, and security.

Given that Cooper aka The Butcher is the subject of an FBI manhunt, which has every inch of this arena covered in the hope of catching him, he sure acts suspiciously. Even his daughter Riley (Donoghue) can't help but notice how fidgety, distracted he is.

You would imagine that if a crowded, hyper-excited arena is the FBI's best shot at getting a serial killer, who has left at least 12 people butchered without leaving many clues, they would pay more attention to the CCTV screens trained to catch precisely such discrepancies.

Put that aside. For, despite all the incongruity of the situation, this part of *Trap*, M Night Shyamalan's latest writer-director venture, is its best. Courtesy Hartnett's remarkable performance, suggesting barely contained menace through every twitch of his facial muscle, altemating that with being this loving dad who knows all about his daughter's girl troubles at school and who entertains her every indulgence, we are set up to expect the unexpected every second.

What has brought the two to the arena is a concert by a Taylor Swiftish sensation called Lady Raven (Saleka). Shyamalan's other daughter (not the one behind the too-recent *The Watchers*), Saleka is a singer apart from getting to do other things courtesy of her surname. And, to her credit, her performance as a sellout singer, crooning songs she wrote herself, is great. The pyrotechnics of such a concert, the magnetism of the stage, the hysteria of girl fans, and the buzzing business around it all, are well captured. So much so that it is a letdown sometimes as the camera swings around to Cooper and his mind at



work to escape this trap set out for him, designed by a fabled FBI 'profler' (the most striking thing about her is her grey hair, which holds a special meaning for Cooper).

In many ways, *Trap* is quite different from a Shyamalan — and many a serial killer — film, in revealing right at the beginning that Cooper is the man everyone is looking for. Right at this moment, he has a man he is priming for killing in some basement, whom he tracks on his mobile phone.

That is a good thing in the case of Shyamalan, whose films have lately seemed

like a bag of unwieldy, overstuffed tricks.

However, then comes the second half, and from the impressively taut setting of the concert arena, the film goes here, there and everywhere. A lot of that everywhere features Saleka, for no good reason at all and exposing her acting inadequacies. We never get to know the real Cooper in any serious sense, which would be interesting given his successful double life, and yet the film drags and drags.

Shyamalan the writer lets down Shyamalan the director again.

Gone with the Wind

AURON MEIN KAHAN DUM THA ★★★

Director: Neeraj Pandey
Cast: Ajay Devgn, Tabu, Jimmy Sheirgill, Shantanu Maheshwari, Saiee Manjrekar

SHUBHRA GUPTA

THE JOY of watching seasoned warhorses Ajay Devgn and Tabu in a star-crossed romance is undercut by the movie's mothballed treatment: instead of being fresh, it feels dated, a vehicle unworthy of its star pair. *Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha* is a clunky title for a film which should have been anything but. Devgn and Tabu are amongst that rare breed in Hindi mainstream cinema which combines stardom and terrific actorly qualities, but even the best actors need to be used well.

The love story of Krishna and Vasudha,

played by Shantanu Maheshwari and Saiee Manjrekar in their younger, carefree *chawl*-residing days, and Devgn and Tabu in their present-day avatars, had the potential to be a thing of passion and beauty. But the exigencies of a plot which strays from the chief thrust, with a couple of accidental killings and a prolonged jail angle, never lets the film bloom into an aching *prem kahani*.

Part of the problem is that you never quite believe that the very expressive Maheshwari, with his floppy hair and slight build, is the kind who can decimate anyone who comes in the way of his one true love (Manjrekar, effective). Whispering sweet



nothings, sure, but taking on ruffians single-handed, uh-huh.

Their tripping about on the stair-cases of their *chawl*, the exchanges of kindling glances, the breaking of the *dahi-handi* with

a note from the beloved, all feel sweetly retro, but then the flashbacks start getting weighed under the background music, which tells us exactly how to feel at every step. Nothing ages a movie as much as this

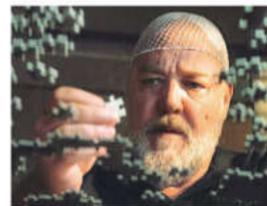
device: could someone please get rid of it, or at least learn how to use it as inserts? Also, everything looks like a set: how, even in 2024, can you make shadowy lanes leading to a *chawl* look so made-up?

It's nice to see Devgn step aside from his *Singham* mode, even if he gets to bash some baddies: how else does he justify being called a 'hero'? It's even nicer to see him with Tabu: the two starred in the blockbuster *Vijaypath*, their first big outing, and have been paired several times successfully since. Jimmy Sheirgill comes on as a third wheel, and he really doesn't have much to do, even though he owns the film's best line.

Auron... tries to be the kind of 'mature' romance that Bollywood rarely attempts, but I'm not sure whether it has the courage or conviction, or the tools, to make its own version of a bitter-sweet *Bridges of Madison County*. This one kept me waiting for those blow-your-socks-off moments both the leads are capable of rustling up so effortlessly.

STREAMING WATCH LIST

BY ALAKA SAHANI



SLEEPING DOGS

LIONSGATE PLAY
ROY FREEMAN (Russell Crowe) is a retired detective in this gripping tale of deceit and lies which seems to be inspired by *Memento*. Freeman, who suffers from memory loss, takes on the case of a murder from a decade ago. As the puzzle pieces fall into place and secrets unveil, Roy is forced to confront his forgotten past.



A GOOD GIRL'S GUIDE TO MURDER

NETFLIX
EMMA MYERS appears as the smart and single-minded Pip Fitz-Amobi in this series, based on Holly Jackson's successful YA mystery novel of the same name. The six-episode season, adapted by Poppy Cogan and directed by Dolly Wells, follows 17-year-old Pip as she investigates the murder of a high school student killed five years earlier.



BATMAN: CAPED CRUSADER

PRIME VIDEO
AFTER A series of explosions rock Gotham city, Batman, in this animated series, finds himself in the middle of a turf war between rival crime bosses Rupert Thorne and the Penguin. Meanwhile, Commissioner Gordon and his daughter Barbara look for ways to fix Gotham's corrupt criminals.



KINGDOM OF THE PLANET APES

DISNEY+HOTSTAR
DIRECTOR WES Ball breathes life into the franchise set several generations in the future following Caesar's reign, in which apes are the dominant species and humans have been reduced to living in the shadows. As a new tyrannical ape leader builds his empire, one young ape undertakes a journey that will cause him to question all that he has known.



GHOSTBUSTERS: FROZEN EMPIRE

NETFLIX
THE SPENGLER family returns to the New York City firehouse to team up with the original Ghostbusters, who've developed a top-secret lab to take busting ghosts to the next level. But when the discovery of an ancient artifact unleashes an army of ghosts that casts a death chill, Ghostbusters (new and old) must join forces to save the world.

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE JAMMU & KASHMIR 3 August 1994 On 3 August 1994, an up convoy traveling from Jammu to Srinagar was ambushed by militants...

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LIMITED (A Government of India Undertaking) NOTICE INVITING OPEN-E-TENDER DATED 31.07.2024

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system.

MAHARASHTRA STATE ROAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD. (A Govt. of Maharashtra undertaking) Opp. Bandra Reclamation Bus Depot...

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED (Regd Off: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Faisla-147 001)

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LTD. (A State Government Undertaking) "Press Tender Notice" (E-Tendering Mode Only)

Auction Catalogue No. SLR-Leasing-044 Table with columns: Seq No., Lot No./Category, Trips

Auction Catalogue No. SLR-Leasing-044 Table with columns: Seq No., Lot No./Category, Trips

Auction Catalogue No. SLR-Leasing-044 Table with columns: Seq No., Lot No./Category, Trips

Auction Catalogue No. SLR-Leasing-044 Table with columns: Seq No., Lot No./Category, Trips

Auction Catalogue No. VP-Leasing-07 Table with columns: Seq No., Lot No./Category, Trips

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE TGNPDCL is intends to Purchase the Materials through e-Procurement platform from the Manufacturers.

NORTHERN RAILWAY Indicative Notification in terms of Railway Board's letters no.2018/Trans Cell/S&T/ Contractual Staff dated 25.10.2018 and no. 2021/W-I/Genl./Gati Shakti pt (e-3397961) dated 20.02.2023...

North Bihar Power Distribution Company Limited (Regd. Office : Vidyut Bhawan, Baily Road, Patna)

Greater Chennai Corporation MECHANICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT e-Tenders are invited for the following work by Superintending Engineer (Mech / Q.C), as per Tender condition

SPECIAL BRANCH POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL NO. SB/Store/2024-25 (278), Bhopal, Dated 31-07-2024

कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद, पीथमपुर जिला धार (म.प्र.) क्रमांक / 5326 / न.पा./24 पीथमपुर, दिनांक- 29/07/2024

कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद, पीथमपुर जिला धार (म.प्र.) क्रमांक / 5326 / न.पा./24 पीथमपुर, दिनांक- 29/07/2024

बिहार स्थानीय क्षेत्र विकास अभिकरण (योजना एवं विकास विभाग) अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-02/2024

बिहार स्थानीय क्षेत्र विकास अभिकरण (योजना एवं विकास विभाग) अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-02/2024

Himachal Pradesh Road and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited State Roads Project, Nirman Bhawan, Nigam Vihar Shimla-171002

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, चक्रधरपुर। E-mail : rwdchakradharpur@gmail.com

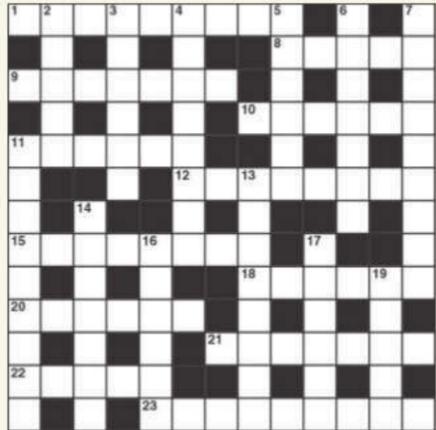
बिहार स्थानीय क्षेत्र विकास अभिकरण (योजना एवं विकास विभाग) अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-02/2024

अति अल्पकालीन ई- पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना ई-0- पुनर्निविदा संख्या :- 02/R1/2024-25/RWD/CHAKRADHARPUR दिनांक-01.08.2024

बिहार स्थानीय क्षेत्र विकास अभिकरण (योजना एवं विकास विभाग) अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-02/2024

बिहार स्थानीय क्षेत्र विकास अभिकरण (योजना एवं विकास विभाग) अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-02/2024

CROSSWORD 5433



- ACROSS**
- Change gear as temporary measure (9)
 - Check the advance of a sick man's comeback (5)
 - Splitting hairs in divorce (7)
 - Disliking some poetry (6)
 - There's your hidden error (6)
 - Hole-in-the-middle mint (5-3)
 - It doesn't hurt when father's away from home more (8)
 - One who cares to make an offer (6)
 - Demanding like royalty can be? (6)
 - Unusually angered and upset (7)
 - The poet's muse tore out a heart (5)
 - A fresh run on the daily presses (9)
- DOWN**
- Unable to sleep because of an all-night party (5)
 - One of two or one in three perhaps (6)
 - Comb manufacturer (5,3)
 - The first French composer to go abroad (6)
 - Boxed in the yard; finished bloodstained (7)
 - Sad boy is indication of imminent departure (4,5)
 - Wives assist officers at sea (9)
 - Upright but lacking energy (8)
 - Money that's not well-earned (4,3)
 - Place to find capital in Britain (6)
 - Not just dark? (6)
 - Urge preparation for breakfast? (3,2)

Solutions Crossword 5432 Across: 1 Piccolo, 4 Cargo, 7 Inch, 8 Admonish, 10 Enterprise, 12 Bright, 13 Libido, 15 Embankment, 18 Guardian, 19 Port, 20 Tides, 21 Enhance Down: 1 Prime, 2 Cocktail, 3 Orders, 4 Chopsticks, 5 Rail, 6 Othello, 9 Archimedes, 11 Pipe down, 12 Brought, 14 Karate, 16 Title, 17 Paid

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

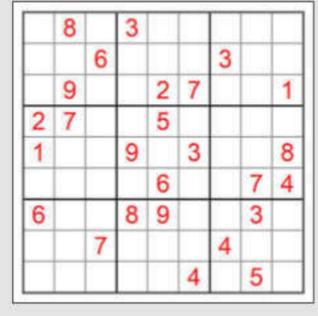
Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

BIERR ACINTT

IPORR BCNYHU

SOLUTION: BIERR, ACINTT, IPORR, BCNYHU. Knowledge rests not upon truth alone, but upon error also. - Carl Jung (5...6)

Difficulty Level 5s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.



SOLUTION SUDOKU 5640

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

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL DELHI CANTT
SADAR BAZAR ROAD, DELHI CANTT-110010
www.apsdelhicantt.com

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tenders are invited from firms with professional expertise for House Keeping Services at Army Public School, Delhi Cantt. Tender Forms can be downloaded from school website www.apsdelhicantt.com. Tender Form duly completed in all respect be submitted to APS Delhi Cantt by 24 Aug 2024 along with DD (Tender Form Fee Rs. of ₹ 2500/- & EMD of ₹ 3,21,844/-) as Tender Form fee & EMD respectively in favour of Army Public School, Delhi Cantt. Last date for submission of Tender Form is 1030hrs on 24 Aug 2024. Opening date of Tender is 24 Aug 2024 at 1100hrs. For any queries contact APS Delhi Cantt on 25693777, 25692720.

Presiding Officer

RAJASTHAN STATE HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY, JAIPUR
GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN
Date: 30/7/24

No. 749

NIT No. 08/2024-25

INVITATION OF BIDS FOR TOLL COLLECTION

Bids for collection of user fee on "Barmer-Sidhhar-Bishangarh Section and Sanderao-Bali-Mundara Section of SH-16 in the State of Rajasthan" under RSHIP Tranche-1, Package-02 are invited from interested bidders upto 11:30 AM on 13.08.2024.

Other particulars of bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.raajasthan.gov.in>) or (<https://sppp.raajasthan.gov.in>) of the state. The estimated value of Annual Remittance is Rs. 14.616 Cr.

UBN No: POD 2425 SLOB03661

Sd/-
(V. L. Dhanekar)
Member (WC & O),
RSHA, Jaipur
Email: ho.rsha@rajasthan.gov.in
Tel: +91-141-2223547

DI/PC/6900/2024

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LIMITED
CIN- U40102RJ2005GCO16484 (A Govt. of Rajasthan Undertaking)

O/o CE (TD), 501, Dreamax Plaza, Sahkar Marg, Jaipur, Email: dyce.td.jpr@rvunl.com

E-TENDER NO: TN-22(RVU)2425GLOB008133

Online tenders are invited by RRUVN for "Supply of 01 No. 2x6000 HP twin power pack locomotives for CHP Railway work at SSCTPP, Suratgarh. Tender details are available on websites <http://eproc.raajasthan.gov.in> (for e-tender), www.energy.raajasthan.gov.in/rvunl & www.sppp.raajasthan.gov.in.

Raj.samwad/C24/3274 RVUN/PR-4035 SE (Thermal Design-I)

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय झाखण्ड राज्य आवास बोर्ड, राँची प्रमंडल

(शुद्धि पत्र)

इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 859 दिनांक 30.07.2024 द्वारा दिनांक 01.08.2024 को प्रकाशित निविदा (PR 331282) के कंस्ट्रक्शन 1 से 7 में वर्णित कार्य के निविदा डालने की तिथि दिनांक 04.09.2024 को अपराह्न 3.00 बजे तक निर्धारित थी, जिसे संशोधित करते हुए दिनांक 20.08.2024 को अपराह्न 3.00 बजे तक है एवं निविदा खोलने की तिथि दिनांक 05.09.2024 को अपराह्न 3.00 बजे तक निर्धारित थी, जिसे संशोधित करते हुए दिनांक 21.08.2024 को अपराह्न 3.00 बजे तक खोली जायगी।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
PR 331549 (Jharkhand State Housing Board)24-25'D

PIMPRI CHINCHWAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, PIMPRI, PUNE - 411018.

CIVIL PROJECT DEPARTMENT

E-TENDER NOTICE No: - CIVIL/PROJECT/11/02/2024-2025

Offers by way of e-tendering (Percentage) are invited by the Chief Engineer, Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation from contractors in e-tendering system for following works.

- The contractor shall quote his Percentage offer on the Cost of work excluding Material testing charges as mentioned below.
- The offer for work shall be exclusive of GST. The GST at the applicable rate shall be paid separately by PCMC for work.
- Regarding the Royalty, the policy that the corporation determines will be binding on you.

Sr. No	Name of work	Estimated cost put to the Tender (Rs) (4+6)	Cost of Work excluding Material testing charges (Rs)	Royalty (Rs)	Testing Charges (Rs)	Earnest money (0.50%) (Rs)	Security Deposit (5%) (Rs)	Time limit in calendar months including Monsoon	Cost of Tender Document G.S.T. (Non Refundable) (Rs.)
1	Construction of Subway at Rakshak Chowk on Sangavi Kiwale Road.	22,77,49,259	22,74,80,924	64,90,123	2,68,335	11,38,746	1,13,87,470	18	37,430
2	Concretization of Road from Shivar Chowk to Govind Garden Chowk (Kunal Icon Road) at Pimple Saudagar in Prabhag No. 28 with Modern Method	42,43,90,968	42,41,43,173	76,76,971	2,47,795	21,21,955	2,12,19,550	30	37,430

Time table for the SR NO.1 tenders shall be as follows:

Online sale of tenders	-	Date 05/08/2024 to Date 12/08/2024
Last date of submission of tenders	-	Date 12/08/2024 up to 3.00 pm
Pre Bid Meeting Date & Time	-	Date 09/08/2024 at 3.00 pm
Place of Pre Bid Meeting	-	Office of Chief Engineer, Civil Project Dept 1st Floor, PCMC Main Building Pimpri, Pune -18
Date of opening of tenders	-	Date 14/08/2024 at 3.00 pm (if possible)

Time table for the SR NO.2 tenders shall be as follows:

Online sale of tenders	-	Date 05/08/2024 to Date 19/08/2024
Last date of submission of tenders	-	Date 19/08/2024 up to 3.00 pm
Pre Bid Meeting Date & Time	-	Date 09/08/2024 at 3.00 pm
Place of Pre Bid Meeting	-	Office of Chief Engineer, Civil Project Dept 1st Floor, PCMC Main Building Pimpri, Pune -18
Date of opening of tenders	-	Date 21/08/2024 at 3.00 pm (if possible)

The Municipal Commissioner PCMC reserves the right to accept or reject any tender partially or completely without any reason thereof. The details of above works, such as Security Deposit, Earnest Money Deposit, Terms & Conditions of the Tender and Schedule of works, are available on web site www.pcmcindia.gov.in, <http://mahatenders.gov.in>. In case of any technical problem related to the tender document, the same can be referred to the NIC email support at eproc@nic.in or on telephone numbers 0120-4200462, 0120-4001002, 0120-4001005, 0120-6277877.

Sd/-
(Shrikant Savane)
Chief Engineer,
Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation, Pimpri, Pune - 411 018.

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, साहेबगंज।

(शुद्धि पत्र)

एतत् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, साहेबगंज के निविदा आमंत्रण संख्या 03/2024-25/EE/RWD/SAHIBGANJ दिनांक 31.07.2024 P.R -331356 Rural Development(24-25)-D के द्वारा प्रकाशित निविदा के तिथि में अपरिहार्य कारणवश निम्न रूपेण परिवर्तन किया जाता है।

- वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि : 07.08.2024
- ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय : 28.08.2024 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे
- निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय 30.08.2024 प्राह्न 11.00बजे।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है। अन्य शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।

Sd/-
कार्यपालक अभियंता,
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, साहेबगंज।
PR 331624 (Rural Work Department) 24-25 (D)

Govt. of Jharkhand Energy Department

Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (JREDA)
3rd Floor, S.L.D.C. Building, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi-834002.
Ph.: 0651-2491161, Fax: 0651-2491165,
E-mail: info@jreda.com;
Website: www.jreda.com

e-Procurement Notice

Tender reference no.: 08/JREDA/SOLARCITY/RESCO/24-25
Dated: 01.08.2024

Online bids are invited for selection of Developers for Design, Manufacture, Testing, Supply, and Installation & Commissioning of 18 MW Ground Mounted Solar Power Plants on RESCO Mode under Giridih Solar City Scheme. The details are as follows:

1	Name of the work:	Selection of Developers for Design, Manufacture, Testing, Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 18 MW Ground Mounted Solar Power Plants on RESCO Mode under Giridih Solar City Scheme.
2	Tentative quantity (kWp)	18 MW
3	Completion of work	18 (Eighteen) Months
4	Period of contract	25 (Twenty-five) Years
5	Date of publication of NIT on website: http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in	05.08.2024 (Monday)
6	Date & time of Pre-bid meeting	12.08.2024 (Monday) at 1.00 P.M.
7	Last date & time for receipt of online bids	27.08.2024 (Tuesday) upto 05:00 PM
8	Submission of original copies of Bid fee & EMD through Online via SBI Payment Gateway of Jharkhand Tenders	27.08.2024 (Tuesday) upto 05:00 PM
9	Technical Bid Opening Date	29.08.2024 (Thursday) at 3.00 P.M.
10	Name & address of office inviting tender	Director, Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (JREDA), 3rd Floor, SLDC Building, Kusai, Doranda, Ranchi-834002 (Jharkhand)
11	Contact no. of procurement officer	0651-2491163/67/61, 9570086777
12	Helpline no. of e-procurement	0651-2491163/67/61

Any corrigendum/addendum can be seen on website: <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> & www.jreda.com. Further details can be seen on website: <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> & www.jreda.com

Sd/- Director
JREDA, Ranchi
PR 331553 (Energy)24-25'D

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL



ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
You have a great deal to say for yourself, and now is the time to say it. Even though the tone of the times is impatient, you may begin to slow the pace in practical projects, and even change your mind over long-term plans.



TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
Your stars really are looking quite marvellously profitable, and not a little extravagant. It scarcely matters whether you devote your day to saving or shopping, just as long as you gain a sense of satisfaction - and the feeling of a good day well spent.



GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
The Sun aligns with your chart, a formation which brings passion and, with it, peace - but only for a while. This is an ideal moment to make friends and fall in love. But you will have to make the running, otherwise opportunities will slip by unnoticed.



CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
This could be quite a busy time, which means that even when relaxing you'll remain active. Hopefully, once routine chores have been dealt with, you will have enough energy left over for a favourite interest: you know you have it in you to achieve great things.



LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
Your social stars have been strong lately, and today they achieve yet another of their periodic perfect alignments. A hint of fantasy or mystery will now add spice to romantic liaisons. But what you really need is variety - and a sense that new options are opening up.



VRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
If your professional hopes are high, there is no better day than today for building contacts. You need to move forward on all fronts whether your ambitions are personal or professional. Circumstances may stand in your way, in which case concentrate on any community activities.



LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
Your romantic hopes will soon span the globe. This could mean that you love all humanity, or that the person dear to you is far away. It could also mean that there is a great distance between you and someone close to your heart.



SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
Simple cash issues, such as how much you've got in your purse, determine what you can and can't get away with today. This is a positive moment for teaming up with partners in projects which combine business with pleasure. In short, the thing you want might be the thing you need.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)
You may be feeling a little more emotional than usual, but that's good if it helps you bring out your caring and compassionate qualities, breaking down a few personal barriers in the process. Please don't be too sensitive to criticism though - it might be good for you.



CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
You will be keeping to yourself today, and even when you're in company there'll be much going on in your head and in your heart. You may even consider cancelling one engagement but you don't want to let someone down.



AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
You may like to seek solace and support in the arms of your friends after what, by all accounts, has been a fairly important time in your life. Even in imperceptible ways, trivial events over the past fortnight have changed the future irrevocably. You'll find out how in good time.



PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
Among the many issues jostling for your attention are a few which could involve the law, or perhaps ethical questions. It is important to do what you know to be right in your heart. People are bound to respect you more when they see that you're doing your best.

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय

ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, जमशेदपुर

(शुद्धि पत्र)

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना के ई-निविदा संख्या - 04/2024-25/STPKG/RWD/EE/JSR दिनांक 29.07.2024 PR No. - 331173 (REO)24-25'D द्वारा प्रकाशित निविदा के निम्नलिखित कर्मांक में संशोधन किया जा रहा है।

- क.सं. 2 निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि 03.08.2024।
- क.सं. 3 ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय 23.08.2024 अपराह्न 05.00 बजे।
- क.सं. 5 निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय 24.08.2024 अपराह्न 05:00 बजे।

निविदा की अन्य विवरणी यथावत रहेंगी।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, जमशेदपुर
PR 331654 REO(24-25)D

EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION No. 68/2024 Dated: 31.07.2024

Applications in the prescribed forms are invited for the following Teaching/ Other Academic and Model School Teachers Posts for various Departments/ Directorate of Distance Education/ CTEs/ Polytechnics/ Centers/Off-Campuses/ Libraries/ Model Schools:

(TEACHING POSTS)

- Professor: Education-3, Women Education-1, Zoology-1, Botany-1, Law-1, B.Voc.-1, Comparative Studies-1, DDE-1.
- Professor-Director: DDE-1, ECSSIU -1 (Tenure post), CWS-1 (Tenure post).
- Associate Professor: Physics-1, Zoology-1, B.Voc.-1, Linguistics-1, Public Administration-1, History (DDE)-1.
- Associate Professor-cum-Deputy Director: ECSSIU -2 (Tenure posts).
- Assistant Professors: Law -2, Education (DDE)-1.
- Assistant Professor-cum-Assistant Director: ECSSIU -1 (Tenure post).
- Head of the Department (HoD) for Polytechnics: Computer Science Engineering-1, Electronics & Communication Engineering-1, Electrical & Electronics Engineering-1, Mechanical Engineering-1.
- Lecturer for Polytechnics: Civil Engineering-1, English-2.

(OTHER ACADEMIC & MODEL SCHOOL TEACHERS POSTS)

- Other Academic: Director-Physical Education -1, University Deputy Librarian-1.
- Model School Teachers: Principal (Model Schools)-2, TGT-English-1, TGT-Hindi-1, Work Experience Teacher, (Sewing, Needle Work and Embroidery)-2, Yoga Teacher-1, Primary Teacher-2 (Lien Vacancy).

EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION No. 69/2024 Dated: 31.07.2024

Applications in the prescribed format are invited for the following Non-Teaching posts on direct recruitment basis in the University:

Regional Director-02, Executive Engineer-01, Assistant Registrar-01, Assistant Regional Director-07, Assistant-01, Instructor-Polytechnic (Civil Engineering)-01, Computer Operator-01, Professional Assistant-01, Stenographer-01, Library Assistant-1, Lab Technician-1, Lab Assistant-1, LDC-5, Workshop Attendant-1.

Teaching posts: Research Assistant-1, Stenographer-1, Library Attendant-1. Information Booklet relating to qualifications, experience, etc., and link for online application form are available on the University. The last date for submission of applications online is 31st August, 2024 and last date for receipt of hard copy of application form is 9th September, 2024.

Please visit our website www.manuu.edu.in for further details.

Sd/- Registrar

MEDAL TALLY

Pos.	Country	G	S	B	Total
1.	China	13	8	8	29
2.	Australia	10	6	5	21
3.	USA	9	18	15	42
4.	France	9	11	12	32
5.	G Britain	9	9	8	26
44.	India	0	0	3	3

**At midnight*

STORY OF MEDALS

Tokyo pain dissolves into Paris glory

The agony of missing out on a podium place in Tokyo by one-hundredth of a second was finally washed away for the British lightweight sculls pair of Imogen Grant and Emily Craig on Friday as they won the gold medal in dominant fashion. "I'm not going to be sad about being able to say that we are Olympic champions forever, from a selfish point of view," Craig said. It is just over three years since they were edged out by the Netherlands crew of Marieke Keijser and Ilse Paulis, with only 0.01 of second separating them from the bronze medal, a finish that has haunted them ever since.

REUTERS

RESULTS DAY 7

ARCHERY

Mixed team

The history-making Indian mixed team of Ankita Bhakat and Dhiraj Bommadevara came agonisingly close to ending India's 36-year wait for an Olympic medal in archery but fell short to finish fourth at the Games here on Friday.

SHOOTING

Women's 25m Pistol:

Manu Bhaker kept herself on track for a hat-trick of Olympic medals, coming up with one of her most memorable performances in her favourite event, the 25m sports pistol, as she booked a place in the final.

HOCKEY

Men's Pool B:

The Indian men's hockey team beat Australia at the Olympic Games for the first time since 1972, outsmarting the formidable rivals 3-2 to finish second in Pool B.

ROWING

Men's singles sculls

Balraj Panwar ended his campaign in 23rd position after signing off at fifth in the Final D round here on Friday. The 25-year-old from Haryana clocked 7:02.37.

ATHLETICS

Women's 5000m

Parul Chaudhary finishes with a Season Best of 15:10.68 (although hasn't competed that much this season, so that's not too significant). She came 14th in the heat. Both Ankit and Parul are out of this event.

JUDO

Women's +78kg

Indian judoka Tulika Mann crashed out of the women's +78kg event at the Paris Olympics. The 25-year-old, a silver medalist at the 2022 CWG, lost to Idalys Ortiz, who has four Olympic medals, 0-10 by ippon at the Champ-de-Mars Arena.

I am playing with fourth generation in this team. Some were not even born when I started playing hockey. A few years back, players wanted to do it for Dhanraj Pillay. I am Dhanraj for this generation

PR SREEJESH, INDIAN GOALKEEPER

After 52 years, India counters

Liberated Indian attack adds precise one-touch play, Sreejesh's point-blank saves take down Kookaburras

MIHIR VASAVDA

PARIS, AUGUST 2

THE FRENCH call it l'echelle de Zidane.

Loosely translated as the 'Zidane scale', it's a phrase used to describe the pleasure generated by a sporting spectacle. On a 'Zidane scale of 10', the scenes at the historic Yves du Manoir Stadium would go off the charts.

Ending decades of hurt, erasing the memories of all the recent and old spankings, India defeated Australia, their bete noire, 3-2 in their concluding Pool B match. The unlikely win meant they finished second behind Belgium.

This must be a new feeling for an Indian hockey follower, who is so used to watching the team getting thrashed by the Kookaburras on the biggest stages — before Friday, India had not beaten Australia at the Olympics since Munich 1972.

What was different, you'd wonder? Nothing profound — it was as close as India got to playing a perfect game, returning to their roots of fast, counterattacking hockey, not making any of their typical errors, and impeccable decision-making.

As was the case in Tokyo, where India finished on the podium for the first time since 1980, it was goalkeeper PR Sreejesh who had the final say. With Australia upping the ante in the final five minutes when they reduced the deficit to 2-3, they made a final foray into the Indian 'D' with barely seconds left to play.

Sreejesh stepped off his line to thwart the attack and was on his backside when an Australian attacker unleashed a desperate shot inside a crowded 'D'. Sreejesh stuck out his left hand and parried the ball away. The hooter sounded and the Indians just let out a huge, audible sigh.

But this match wasn't about Sreejesh alone. It needed a complete team effort for India to stop Australia from going on another rampage like they did in Tokyo, and all the other previous big tournament matches. It also needed a massive tactical intervention from coach Craig Fulton, who is revealing his cards one at a time.

The noticeable difference was how India attacked. Until this match, India have largely been patient in build-ups, passing the ball cautiously to not lose possession, spotting the gaps on the field and then moving forward. Sideways passing isn't how India played. A team that loves to be direct, the players looked a little constrained in this approach, unable to show the full scale of their prowess.

Australia shaken

On Friday, they were liberated. Like the India of the past, they went from zero to 100 within the blink of an eye and complemented the pace with immaculate precision. It was a rare day when the ball moved from stick to stick effortlessly (some of India's one-touch play in the attacking third was sparkling), the trapping errors were few and the decisions spot on.

The decision-making was evident in the way India scored the first goal. Lalit Upadhyay got the ball inside Australia's 'D' and took a shot, which was blocked by the goalkeeper. It landed at the stick of Abhishek, who did not panic or pass. The young forward took a couple of touches to take the ball to the top of the 'D', where he is most comfortable, and on the turn, unleashed a power hit that gave the Australian goalkeeper no chance.

The 12th-minute goal seemed to have shaken Australia, who are so used to scoring first in this fixture. On this day, it was India showing the same level of ruthlessness. A minute later, Manpreet Singh — who was im-



PR Sreejesh thwarts an Australian attack on the Indian goal during the Group B game on Friday. PTI

mense; joining the attack, helping the defence; he even made a last-ditch goal-line clearance on a rare occasion when Sreejesh was beaten — and then threaded a through ball that would have made even Zidane proud.

From the centre of the pitch, he drilled a pass that opened up Australia's defence, created panic and led to them conceding a penalty corner. India's conversion rate hadn't been impressive — they had scored only three from the set-piece from 26 attempts. But the hockey gods were smiling on them and captain Harmanpreet needed just one chance to get on the scoreboard. The cannon-like shot stayed low and thudded into the wooden boards; the sweet sound of India doubling their lead.

By their lofty standards, Australia have had an average tournament (they still beat New Zealand 5-0 on Thursday) but even they wouldn't have seen this coming.

But Australia doesn't surrender cheaply. And when Thomas Craig made the most of a defensive error to pull one back in the 25th minute, the ghosts of the past would have returned to haunt Indian fans who'd have been bracing for another meltdown.

It never came. The work rate they put in showed just how much India wanted this win. Moments after the restart in the third quarter, Tom Wickham stole the ball from Hardik Singh and was bearing down on goal, only to be stopped by an onrushing Sreejesh. The goalkeeper padded the ball away, leading to an immediate transition.

Within microseconds, India were in Australia's half. Mandeep did what Mandeep does — draw a foul. It earned India a penalty corner, which was stopped by the Australian defender at the goalpost by his foot. It resulted in a penalty stroke that Harmanpreet converted to put India 3-1 up.

Australia kept coming back and made it 3-2 in the 55th minute, and if not for Sreejesh, would have equalised in the last second.

Under Fulton, as a team-building exercise, India have scaled the Table Mountain and the Alps. But there's been no mountain higher for them than Australia. On Friday, they conquered that as well.

POWERFUL STRIKE

Abhishek scores another on-the-turn goal as Australia overturned in Paris

VINAYAK MOHANARANGAN

AUGUST 2

FIRST, IT was against Belgium. Indian forward Abhishek stole the ball high up the pitch after a defender's miscontrol, ran into the box, steadied himself to find some space with his back facing the goal, and unleashed a shot. It was so powerful that a goalkeeper as good as Vincent Vanash didn't see it go past him.

Then, it was against Australia. After Lalit Upadhyay's shot was parried by Andrew Charter into Abhishek's path. The 24-year-old from Sonapat once again had his back towards the Australian goal, before unleashing a shot on the half-turn. Charter too was beaten, low to his right this time and from a tight angle. It was the opening goal of a famous win for the Indian men's hockey team as they went on to beat Australia for the first time at the Olympic Games since 1972.

And it was a reward not just for Abhishek's endeavours, but also India's planning for Paris 2024.

Earlier this year, Craig Fulton had identified one key area where the Indian forwards could improve. After the Pro League leg in India, where India had the chance to play top teams like the Netherlands and Australia, it was evident that they needed more attacking contributions from their forwards. Harmanpreet Singh is great at what he does, scoring consistently from penalty corner situations. But Fulton said outcomes inside the circle had to improve, and for that, Indian strikers must get into the habit of taking shots on the turn while having their back to the opponents' goal.



Abhishek celebrates after scoring against Australia. PTI

Abhishek was at the heart of his side's Asian Games gold medal-winning campaign as well, scoring the critical goal late on against Korea in the semifinal to give India a 5-3 lead.

movements like 1v1 against the goalkeeper. The kind of moves where your back is towards the goal, but you're still able to twist and turn to try and find the target. This takes time."

Abhishek has delivered just what Fulton was hoping for. India still perhaps don't score enough field goals, and Harmanpreet is once again shouldering the burden for finding the net predominantly, but against two top quality opponents like Belgium and Australia, Abhishek has come to the party.

"We all believe that Abhishek is one of the best players in our team and is very talented. Whenever you score, your confidence goes up. I said this after the Belgium match as well that it's a good sign he's scoring and helping the team lead," Harmanpreet told JioCinema after the win against Australia.

Abhishek was at the heart of his side's Asian Games gold medal-winning campaign as well, scoring the critical goal late on against Korea in the semifinal to give India a 5-3 lead. Speaking to this daily after returning from Hangzhou, he had said that was "abhi tak pooraa career ka sabse favourite goal." When he returns from Paris, there might be two new contenders for that spot.

WHAT TO WATCH

INDIA VIEWFINDER: OPPORTUNITY FOR MANU TO ADD TO TALLY

SHOOTING
25M PISTOL WOMEN FINAL: 1 PM
MANU BHAKER

It has been an incredible campaign for Manu Bhaker. Two finals, two medals. And she did well in the 25m qualification too, to be in contention for a third medal.

GOLF
MEN'S INDIVIDUAL, ROUND 3: 12.30 PM
SHUBHANKAR SHARMA, GAGANJEET BHULLAR

Subhankar Sharma is the higher-placed Indian at the halfway mark, carding a 2-under 69. The other Indian, Gaganjeet Bhullar, is tied-52nd, two above par. Golf continues into round 3 at the Paris Olympics on Saturday.

BOXING
MEN'S 71KG QF: 12.18 AM (SUNDAY)
NISHANT DEV

One of the impressive Indian boxers, Nishant Dev has the chance to end a long wait for India's 2nd men's boxing medal. QF win assures a podium spot.

ARCHERY
WOMEN'S RECURVE, R16 TO MEDAL ROUNDS: 1.45 PM
DEEPIKA KUMARI, BHAJAN KAUR

India's archery heartbreaks continued as Dhiraj and Ankita fell agonisingly short of a medal. Bhajan Kaur, Deepika Kumari resume their individual recurve campaigns from the round of 16 stage.



NISHANT DEV
MEN'S 71 KG BOXING

WORLD VIEWFINDER: BILES TAKES STAGE

ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS
WOMEN'S VAULT FINAL: 7:50 PM ONWARDS
SIMEONE BILES

Simeone Biles has garnered eyeballs at gymnastics at the Paris Games and now the women's vault final is a chance for the American to pick up her third gold.

BADMINTON
MEN'S DOUBLES: 6:30 PM ONWARDS
COCO GAUFF, RAFAEL NADAL-CARLOS ALCARAZ

Chinese duo of Wang Chang and Liang Weikeng's debut Olympics have gone according to plan, now that they are in the men's doubles final. Facing them would be Chinese Taipei's Chi-Lin Wang and Yang Lee.

TRACK AND FIELD
WOMEN'S 100M: 12:40 AM (4TH AUGUST)
SIMEONE BILES

It's the Women's 100m final, which means all eyes are on Sha'Carri Richardson. She missed out on Tokyo but is the favourite to take women's crown.

SHOT PUT
MEN'S EVENT: 11:05 PM ONWARDS
RYAN CROUSER

American legend Ryan Crouser could three-peat at the Paris Games, cementing his legacy as one of the most dominant track and field stars the American programme has ever produced.

SWIMMING
WOMEN'S 800M FREESTYLE: 12:39 AM
KATIE LEDECKY

Katie Ledecky's hunt for Olympic medals continues with the American lining up for her fourth gold in the 800m freestyle in her fourth Olympics.

TABLE TENNIS
MIXED DOUBLES, GOLD MEDAL MATCH: 6 PM
WANG CHUQIN AND SUN YINGSHA

Top-seeds Sun Yingsha and Chen Meng have reached the Women's Table Tennis Singles final and have assured China a gold-silver combo, the same as the duo had done at the Tokyo Olympics three years ago.

Richardson cruises on her Olympics debut

REUTERS
PARIS, AUGUST 2

WORLD CHAMPION Sha'Carri Richardson's long awaited Olympic debut got off to a terrific start on Friday as the American cruised through the women's 100 metres heats, while her Jamaican rival Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce also advanced in her fifth Games.

Richardson won her heat in 10.94 seconds, three years after her Olympic dreams came crashing down around her when she tested positive for cannabis and had to miss the Tokyo Games, while twice champion Fraser-Pryce (10.92) finished second in her heat. "I've been having fun," said the American. "This is just the biggest stage to see that I have the most fun."

Asked if the run marked redemption for not being allowed to run in Tokyo, Richardson said she was focused on the present after fans cheered at the Stade de France the moment she appeared on the starting line. Running out of lane six, the 24-year-old easily took the lead by the midway point and glided through the finish before quickly exiting the purple track.

"We're not talking about the past - we're talking about what's happening right now," said Richardson. "I'm honoured to be here and I'm having a lot of fun and you're going to continue to watch as well."

She will compete in the semi-finals on Saturday, with the medal race set for later that evening. The top three in each heat advance, along with the next three fastest across all heats. World leader Richardson is the United States' brightest hope of ending a 28-year gold medal drought in the women's blue riband event, after Gail Devers last won in 1996. Marion Jones was stripped of her 2000 Olympic gold medal for doping.

Marie-Josée Ta Lou-Smith of Ivory Coast had the fastest time on Friday with 10.87, as she held off Fraser-Pryce down the home stretch in a thrilling final heat. She is hungry for a spot on the podium after fourth-place finishes in the last two Games.

Britain's Daryll Neita won her heat in 10.92, while her compatriot, twice Olympic relay bronze medallist Dina Asher-Smith, moved on in 11.01. "The crowd is amazing, just came out to get through. There are a lot of British fans," said Asher-Smith, the world silver medallist in 2019. "I'm just having so much fun."

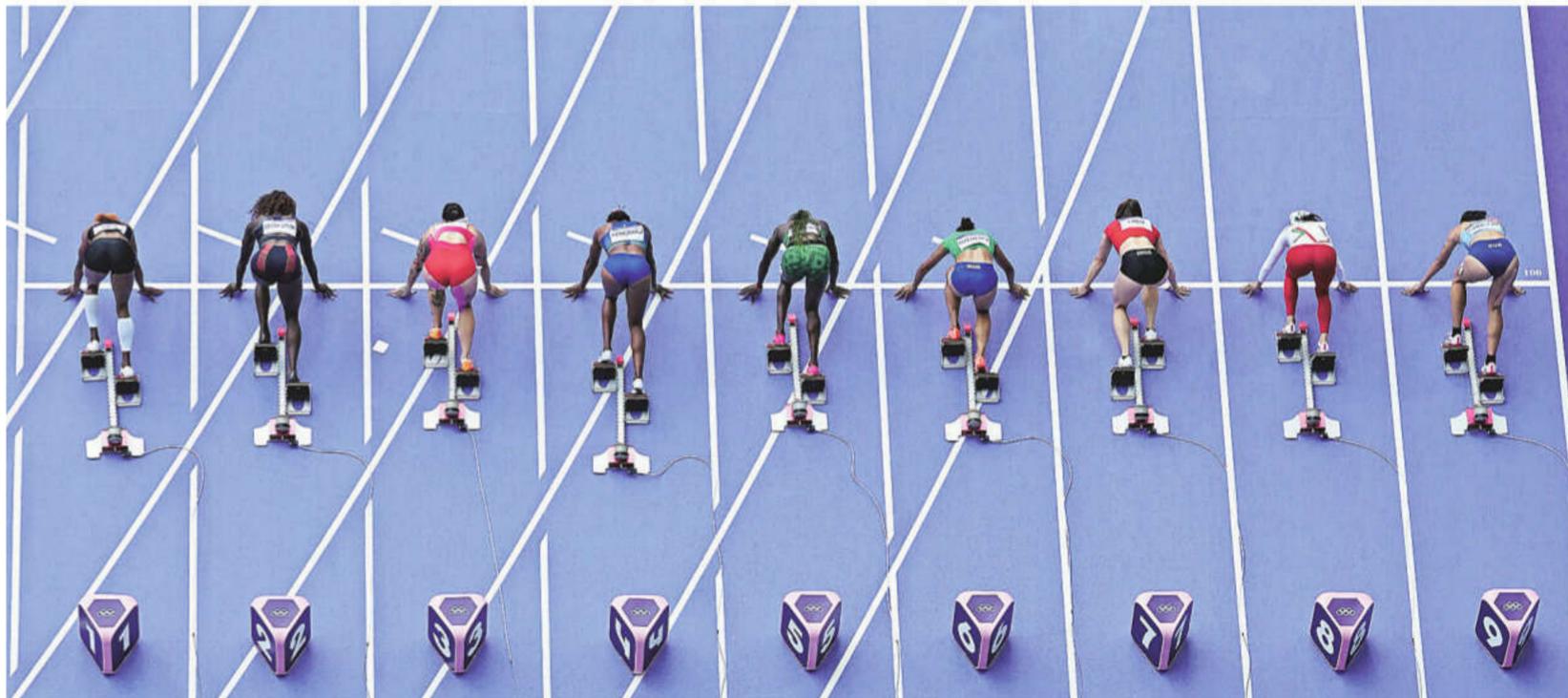
Lyles targets sprint double

American Noah Lyles will bring his "main character energy" to the Stade de France on Saturday as he begins his quest for the Olympic sprint double in the men's 100 metres heats. The affable showman of the track has only added to his fame since winning double world gold in Budapest last year, starring in the popular Netflix docu-series "SPRINT", and wants the spotlight to himself in the blue-riband event in Paris. He failed to qualify for the shorter sprint at the Olympics three years ago and won bronze in the 200-m signature event - before embarking on a period of self-reflection.

"As I go into these Games on the biggest stage in the world, I am saying to myself, 'I've been through the hardest parts, been at the bottom, fought my way back up and fixed the weaknesses'," said Lyles.

Lyles clocked 9.81 seconds to win at the London Diamond League event in his final Olympic tune-up meeting last month, a promising sign for American fans.

While most bookmakers would put him as a strong favourite in the longer sprint - he has not lost a 200 metres race since Tokyo - he could face a tougher road in the 100, as he takes on young challengers from the United States' arch-rival Jamaica. Oblique Seville handed him his only 100-loss of the season in Kingston in June and Kishane Thompson set the world leading mark of 9.77 at the Jamaica team trials.



LAVENDER EQUALS LIGHTENING SPEED?

Athletes on the starting blocks of Round 1 the women's 100 metre heats at the Stade de France. *express*

■ World Champion Sha'Carri Richardson's long awaited Olympic debut got off to a flying start on Friday as the American cruised through the women's 100 metres heats (10.94 seconds).

■ The American took the lead at mid-way three years after her Olympic dreams came crashing down when she tested positive for cannabis. Jamaica's Fraser-Pryce (10.92) finished second in her heat.

■ At first appearance, the Purple Mondo track looks like a hard carpet but there is more to it than meets the eye. The surface is made of vulcanised rubber, offering better grip and elasticity.

■ Shape of air cells and dimensions in the air pickles inside the track have been optimised for the Olympics. In other words, the Paris track promises to be the fastest in history.

■ The United States broke their own world record in the 4x400 mixed relay in the opening heats on Friday, crossing the line in three minutes 7.41 seconds. An early sign of the track aiding speed?

Boxed into a corner in gender fight

Lin Yu-Ting & Imane Khelif receive hostility as heads of state, authors and fellow athletes join the debate

MIHIR VASAVDA
PARIS, AUGUST 2

LIN YU-TING became a boxer to 'protect' her mother from 'domestic violence'. She did more than that - the southpaw became a Taiwanese sensation by winning two World Championships.

Friday was to be her big day; the first bout of her Paris Olympics campaign. But when she came out of the dark tunnel into the brightly-lit Paris du Nord Arena, all she could hear was boos. In the stand where team officials sit, someone whispered: "She is one of them."

"Them" is female athletes with high testosterone levels.

For a second successive day, boxing wasn't a topic of discussion at the Olympics but the boxer was. More specifically, their gender eligibility. On Thursday, Italy's Angela Carini threw in the towel after only 46 seconds against Algeria's Imane Khelif who, like Lin, has high testosterone levels. After her match, Angela said she had "never been punched so hard". However, on Friday, she expressed regret at not shaking hands with her opponent after the bout.

And so, a decision taken last year in New Delhi - where Lin and Imane were banned from competing in the women's section of the World Championships - and reversed in Paris, where they have been allowed, has triggered a heated debate. It centres around the rights of women, the rights of women with a combination of chromosomes found in men and the right to practise sport safely.

From heads of state to novelists, coaches to sports science experts, all have had their say on the issue that has been the biggest talking point at the Games.

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Miloni claimed the bout between Imane and Angela "wasn't a fight among equals". On Friday, in her meeting with International Olympic



Lin Yu-Ting of Taiwan, one of the boxers embroiled in the gender controversy, entered the quarterfinals of the 57-kg category on Friday. *File*

Committee president Thomas Bach, 'the case of athlete Imane Khelif and the issue of rules to ensure fairness in sports competitions were also addressed,' Meloni's office said.

Later, Taiwan's presidential office came out in support of their athlete, saying it was wrong that Lin has been 'subjected to humiliation, insults and verbal bullying just because of your appearance and a controversial verdict in the past.'

Hours before Lin's bout, IOC spokesperson Mark Adams called the issue a 'minefield' and added that Imane and Lin have been 'offered mental support' following the online abuse they've received over the last two days.

An Italian journalist said that in some sections of the media, traditional and social, Imane was referred to as 'he' with many claiming that she 'walked like a man and sounded like a man.' Author JK Rowling had called Imane's smile after the bout the 'smirk of a male.'

Different rules

Lin and Imane were disqualified from the 2023 World Championships, held in New Delhi, after failing the International Boxing Association's eligibility rules. Umar Kremlev, the president of the boxing body - which is now derecognised by the IOC - told the Guardian that 'DNA tests on the two boxers had proved they had XY chromosomes.'

XY is the combination of chromosomes in males, XX is the combination in females. The IBA said their rules 'prevented athletes with male XY chromosomes competing in women's events.'

The International Olympic Committee, which oversees the boxing competition through an autonomous body it formed, did not consider those tests and stood by the decision to allow the two boxers to compete.

"Are these athletes women? The answer

is yes," Adams told reporters. "The Algerian (boxer) was born female, registered as female, boxed as a female, and is a female on her passport. Scientifically, this is not a man fighting a woman."

The issue of females with testosterone levels the same as men competing in women's sports has been divisive in the sporting world. Caster Semenya, the South African track athlete, has been subject to many tests and eventually, World Athletics changed the rules that made her ineligible for short-distance women's races.

However, it is argued that in contact sports like boxing, allowing athletes with XY chromosomes could make it unsafe for their opponents. Australia's boxing captain Caitlin Parker said she had "fears" about her teammate fighting in the same weight category as Khelif, 66 kg. "It can be incredibly dangerous," she added.

Imane's next opponent, Hungary's Luca Anna Hamori, said she would "go to the ring and will get my win" even as the abuse towards Lin and Imane continued unabated online. On Friday, Angela - who refused to fight Imane - said she felt 'sad' for her opponent. "If the IOC said she can fight, I respect that decision. Actually, I want to apologise to her and everyone else. I was angry because my Olympics had gone up in smoke," Angela added that if she met Imane again, she would "embrace her".

But Imane's next opponent might not feel the same way. Hungarian Luca Hamori said she would 'go to the ring and will get my win'. On her social media, she reposted a story of a woman in a bikini with a caption: "This is the girl who is fighting a male boxer tomorrow."

Lin was subject to similar barbs on Friday. But she drowned out the noise from the stands to win the bout and get within sniffing distance of a medal. However, when the referee raised her hand, her Uzbeki opponent, Sitora Turdibekova, broke down and refused to shake hands.

To beat heat at village, Indian athletes given portable ACs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 2

IN THE midst of an unprecedented heatwave in Paris and much of France, the Indian sports ministry has provided its Olympic contingent 40 portable air-conditioners to ensure a more comfortable stay at the Games Village.

Temperatures have soared at the Olympic venues with the mercury touching 40 degree Celsius on some days in the French Capital.

The organisers have not provided air-conditioning at the Village as they are keen to reduce the carbon footprint of the Games. "Taking into consideration the issues faced by athletes at the Olympic Games Village because of the temperature and humidity in Paris, the Ministry of Sports decided to provide 40 ACs in the Games Village rooms where the Indian athletes are staying," PTI quoted a source on the condition of anonymity.

The decision to air-conditioners were sent to the Games village after discussions with the Indian Olympic Association and the Indian Embassy in France.

"Consequent to the decision, the Indian Embassy in France purchased the ACs and delivered them to Games Village."

Other contingents have also made their own arrangements to deal with the heat after being less than satisfied with the facilities at the Games Village to counter the weather. The Paris Olympics Organising Committee had decided against air-conditioning and also limited meat, cheese and dairy items on the menu to reduce carbon emissions and make this the 'Green Games.'

Instead, the organisers had set up an underfloor cooling mechanism and built-in insulation to keep temperatures down at the Games Village.

The purchase of the air-conditioners has been funded by the sports ministry.

90S NOSTALGIA

Why China-Sweden TT rivalry isn't bitter? Thank Jan-Ove Waldner

SANDEEP DWIVEDI
AUGUST 2

THE OTHER night in Paris, a 22-year-old rookie knocked out the World No.1. Just another upset in the cut-throat competitive world of Olympics, you would say. Not really, since the giant who fell was from China, the giant-killer was a Swede, and the battle was at the table tennis venue. The two table tennis-obsessed nations have a past.

Wang Chuqin losing to Truls Moregardh in the Round of 32 was a result that would have shocked China and made them paranoid about history's knack of repeating itself. Wang's defeat meant China wouldn't win both gold and silver men's singles medals as they have done in the last four Olympics. So, was it the snapping of the streak that bothered China? Yes, it would have certainly wounded their pride, but the salt was the Swede.

This rare Chinese table tennis setback at the 2024 Games would have brought back tormenting memories of the late 1980s and early 1990s - the period when China's long-running march since the 1960s had faced a temporary Swedish roadblock. Moregardh, meanwhile, would have reminded the Chinese of a handsome blond legend from Stockholm - Jan-Ove Waldner, the man who, back in the day, had tamed the dragon. He

was someone who the Chinese hated once but later fell in love with. More about the change of a billion hearts later.

Waldner was the prime-plotter of Sweden's 5-0 washout of China at the 1989 World Championship. In 1992, he would go on to win the Olympics gold. That was the period when the Chinese champions, holding their paddles like a pen, didn't know what hit them. The Swede, with his conventional shakehand grip, was changing the game's grammar.

Waldner would use every inch of the paddle to vary spin, worked out new angles, and his steps were measured. He played an energy-efficient game. Great serve and attack, great receive and attack. But Waldner's biggest asset was his mind that could second-guess Chinese movements. He was known as the Mozart of table tennis, he was also its Pythagoras and Sigmund Freud.

The Swedish star also had 'hawk eye' vision, he could see what few could, former Swedish player and Waldner's bio-grapher Jens Fellke shares.

The Waldner journey has an important India pit-stop. At the New Delhi World Championships in 1987, he beat two Chinese stars - Chen Longcan and Teng Yi - in the quarters and semi-finals. In the final, he met champion Jiang Jialiang, whom he lost to after a tough fight.



Truls Moregardh beat World No.1 Wang Chuqin to secure a Rd of 16 spot. *Reuters*

Fellke would bump into Waldner in the evening and would express regret at the missed opportunity for the world title. "I said something like this might be a chance that might never come again. J-O looked a little blankly at me, the lift doors on his floor clattered open and before he stepped out he said 'It will', he would recall. Two years later, Waldner made good on his prediction, as he thrashed all the Chinese who crossed his

path and went all the way.

Unusual inspiration

Around the time their paddlers were missing the podium, China was struggling to find its feet in the new world. The early 1990s was when the world was changing. The Soviet Union was collapsing and China was at a crossroads. And here was a lone Swede shaking the very pillar that unified the vast nation. China

faced a dilemma. Should they change their ping-pong philosophy and play like Waldner?

In a brilliant essay in 'The Times', acclaimed writer and a table tennis Olympian Matthew Syed masterfully captures China's confusion. His piece titled "Ping pong, China's passion" was written in 2008, the year Beijing hosted the Olympics and opened the Iron Curtain. He wrote about the question troubling China at that point and the possible answer that was staring the nation from across the table. "How could a nation with less than 10,000 participants withstand the might of a country with more than 200 million fanatics? ... Central to the answer was Waldner," he would write.

But how can they do it? "Since the 1950s, table tennis principles had been taught as if they were a branch of Mao's infallible teachings... China was not merely unable to adapt but could not bring itself even to contemplate change."

Syed writes how China's then premier Deng Xiaoping identified the problem. "Chinese table tennis, like its moribund economy, was hamstrung by ideology."

They needed Waldner clones to find their lost glory and a big shift did take place. "Waldner was no longer seen as a harbinger of foreign cultural imperialism but was embraced as a symbol of the new commitment to innovation," Syed mentions.

Lakshya one step closer

Sen defeats Chinese Taipei's Chou Tien Chen in three games to keep India's badminton hopes alive

SHIVANI NAIK
AUGUST 2

LAKSHYA SEN, genial, icy cool and polite on court always, looked prepared to raise hell, if he was going to be denied his stomp towards history at Port de la Chapelle on Friday. Having had to play one match more than everyone else in Paris, and handed the toughest path to a medal, he had travelled too far to now back away.

The last man standing from the famously difficult Group I of the Paris Olympics, and Indian badminton's only remaining hope for a medal, stood at the net, a set and 7-8 down in the second. He was eyeballing the chair umpire, stubbornly demanding to see a challenge review of a line shot by Chinese Taipei's Chou Tien Chen on the giant screen. The shuttle had caught the line, and a fuming Sen stood in denial of this 1-point lead ceded to Chen. He lost his cool, growled walking back to his receiving position, and then the fuse exploded. It crunched into those seconds of the standoff, just how badly he wanted this win. The pristine bloody-mindedness of a dream from age 8, gave him a 19-21, 21-15, 21-12 victory as he reached the Olympic semifinals, two matches away from a medal.

He had been fighting for every point, sending back outrageous, defensive retrieves and cross smashes with an audible punch, because the tall and tricky Chen was hammering returns away.

Between a panting heart and flared nostrils, Sen found the composure to sneak in two net tumbles that were so precise and clinical, it was like striking a harp chord amidst a drummer's cacophony. Clarity of shot-making, processing the next movement all the while hitting insane heart rates, was how he resuscitated a comeback. From 7-8 down, Sen reached 10-10, with an angry cross smash. And then never relented, despite Chen's own shot quality never dipping in anyway.

Thrice, in the last few years, Sen had been taken to a decider by Chen, and finished tamely. Chen is a former Top 4, rangy and



Lakshya Sen joins PV Sindhu and Saina Nehwal in elite list of India shuttlers to reach the semifinals at an Olympic Games. AP

with endless control on carrying on with a rally. His smashes hit deep, and his net game isn't brittle. But Sen's finishing in the second set — after he pushed the accelerator, and refused to peg back the pace, made him a worthy first male Indian to make Olympic semifinals.

P Kashyap and K Srikanth both had chances in quarterfinals, but couldn't finish. Sen brokered no such thoughts of going down in a brutal, bruising, energy sucking contest.

Pushing the pace of the rallies knowing he could tire the 34-year-old out came with risks. The Taiwanese loves the speedy game. What he wasn't prepared for was Sen hitting quality strokes at that enhanced pace. Exhaustion wasn't the factor here, out-thinking Chen when exploding away, was the test. From 11-11 in the second, Sen

went to 18-13 by continuously picking shuttles that came to his low backhand in the front corner and clears that looped high on the forehand at the back corner. He refused to blink in defense, but unlike all past years and tournaments and early exits from tournaments, now Sen's attack had the punch and sting that comes from an unreal wrist whippy action, given he is one of the shortest of the Top 20 men.

Chen had kept a sedate pace and played body dashes in the opener to take it 21-19. In the second, Sen refused to let him slow down. He was error-less on the net tumbles and threw himself around the court, running back, scurrying diagonal all the time striking the shuttle high. He wasn't dawdling in defensive rallies in Paris this whole last week. Lakshya Sen was nailing more winners than he ever has

in the past, as he raced to level the sets.

Sen didn't blink in snappy exchanges, he chased shuttles that were floating wide like a man possessed and he ran out of challenges. Taking off at 13-8 in the decider, he simply refused to allow Chen the final word, the last say. A bunch of ambitious Indian men have tried making headway at the Olympics but never could. Sen went to Paris, refusing to fade away. "There's lot more work to do. Now real test starts," he said at the end. He's not finished yet.

Dream gold, proposal
AP adds: It was gold and diamonds for China badminton player Huang Ya Qiong at the Olympics on Friday.

Huang and partner Zheng Siwei beat South Korea's Kim Won-ho and Jeong Na-eun 21-8

21-11 in mixed doubles to cap an unbeaten run in Paris. Wearing the gold medal hung around her neck, she said yes to a wedding proposal by Li Yuchen, another member of China's badminton team.

"For me, the proposal is very surprising because I have been preparing for the game," Huang said through an interpreter.

"Today I am an Olympic champion and I got proposed (to), so that's something I didn't expect." Huang and Zheng, silver medalists at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, went 3-0 in group play to earn the top seed in the quarterfinals. They finished the tournament 6-0 without losing a game in the process.

Zheng said he got engaged three years ago after losing in the final and considers this a better experience for her partner.

Murray, an underrated great in the shadow of the 'Big 3', retires

NAMIT KUMAR
AUGUST 2

AFTER THE subdued, unexpectedly understated farewell to one of the greatest generation of men's tennis, reactions were equally underplayed. Andy Murray, paired up with the ferocious Dan Evans, was defeated in straight sets by the American pair of Tommy Paul and Taylor Fritz in the men's doubles quarterfinals of the Paris Olympics on Thursday in what was his final competitive outing. As the few members that filled the stands displayed their affection, tears welled in his eyes as he said goodbye, this time conclusively.

Later, he did not lose his flair for making light of the tough hand he has been dealt in the final years of his career. "Never even liked tennis anyway," he posted on X, hours after the match on Thursday. Murray's typically dry humour, and the unspectacular reception from a sparse crowd on a quiet Parisian night, may give this event, a long time in the making, a sense of contentment. But if the past five years are anything to go by, it evidently was not.

It was in January 2019 at the Australian Open that Murray had, true to form, converted a foregone conclusion of a first round draw match into a five-set grind, before finally accepting defeat as his body gave way. The tournament organised a mawkish, premature retirement ceremony. Hands were shaken. Well-rehearsed pleasantries were shared by former rivals and colleagues. Tears were shed. That moment, and Thursday's final outing, may share similarities in being equally undeserving a stage for a player of Murray's stature to be bidding farewell, but they could not feel further apart. Over the past five



Andy Murray played his last match on Thursday. Reuters

years, Murray has flirted with retirement, got hip replacement, returned to the tour with a metal hip, faced several injury setbacks and struggled with form, but throughout, attempted to squeeze every ounce of tennis that his talent and fading body could produce. These five years may be the lowest point for Murray's tennis, but at the same time, perfectly symbolise the tenacity and persistence he has shown his entire career to continue to do what he really loves — competing on a tennis court — no matter how hard it has been to do it. Work-life balance was never an option. A life post retirement was never a goal. Tennis was always the thing.

And if five full years seem too much of a flashback, the past week alone is a microcosm of all the traits the 37-year-old has come to represent. Evans and him stared down the barrel of defeat twice only to inexplicably recover. After bowing out of Wimbledon doubles, Murray expressed regret, saying he wished he could "play forever." By Thursday, Murray had come to terms with it all. "Even a few months ago, I was told that I

wouldn't be playing at the Olympics and I wouldn't be playing at Wimbledon. So I feel also lucky that I got that opportunity to play here," he was quoted as saying by *The Guardian*.

The Scotsman departs as an underrated great forever in the shadow of the 'Big Three' of Roger Federer, Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal. A distinguished career regardless — with two singles Olympic golds, three Grand Slam singles titles, and 46 weeks spent at World No. 1 — but the trio that lifted the bar and created its toughest generation have 66 Major titles between them; Murray's haul pales in comparison. Yet at their peaks, especially that of Nadal and Djokovic who were the same age, Murray almost matched them in level of tennis, constantly battling with them in the later stages of the most important tournaments. There remained a sense of unfulfillment of his talent, he only won three of 11 Major finals he reached, an aberration and poor conversion rate for anyone in the sport, perhaps a sign of mental rigidity that never let him unlock his very best on the grand stage.

Ultimately, an Olympics farewell was fitting. It was in London 2012, reeling from a defeat in the Wimbledon final to Federer, that he beat the Swiss in the final on the same court to win gold, and took the next stage of his career. Over the next year, he won two Majors, including the Wimbledon title that the adoring British public were so desperate to see him win — the touch of irony in a proud Scotsman being appropriated by dyed-in-the-wool establishment Brits may be an argument for another day.

As the seemingly never-ending fight waned, Murray was glad the end came on court: "I'm glad that I got to go out here at the Olympics and finish on my terms."

On throwback pitch, Indian batsmen find going tough

VENKATA KRISHNA B
AUGUST 2

THE SLOW pitch at the Premadasa was a throwback to the 90s. The seamers found movement with the new ball, but quick runs were in the offering too. Once the spinners came on, batsmen were in for a grind, where they had to indulge in ones and twos. The conditions dictated batsmen to play a different brand of cricket, but neither set of batsmen quite mastered it. After a seven-and-a-half hour slugfest, there was nothing to separate largely ordinary batting from both teams as the first ODI ended in a tie.

If not for Rohit Sharma's aggressive approach at the top where he mixed aggression with caution, India would have fallen way short of the target of 231 on a pitch that got progressively slower under lights. At 71/0 after 10 overs, India were cruising. But the Premadasa pitch comes to life under lights, a familiar sight of the 90s. And their spinners often make a match out of this. Every time India surged ahead, the hosts hit back, a theme that repeated throughout the evening. When Shivam Dube smashed a boundary off Charith Asalanka over with 5 needed off 16 deliveries and two wickets in hand, it appeared over. But Asalanka dismissed Dube and Arshdeep Singh off successive deliveries to tie the match. Playing the first ODI in over six months, rustiness of Indian batsmen was evident. After Rohit gave them a head start in the chase, making a 47-ball 58 which included seven boundaries and three sixes, the required run-rate remained under control until the end. All that India needed was one big partnership, if not two. But barring the 57-run stand between KL Rahul

and Axar Patel for the sixth wicket, India's batsmen lost the way as Sri Lanka's spinners took 9 of the 10 wickets. After Rohit's 57, only Axar and Rahul managed to cross 30s as Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer and Dube all squandered starts.

Handy spinners

The Lankan pace attack is inexperienced, but their spinners — Wanindu Hasaranga, Duniya Wellalage, Akila Dananjaya — are all handy operators in home conditions. Once the new ball became soft, they made it difficult for India's batsmen. Like India's spinners, they altered the pace adeptly, mostly keeping it on 80kph or thereabouts. As the ball got softer, it gripped and turned.

But when Rahul and Axar batted together, it seemed India have figured their way out. Most of their runs came in singles and twos as they went without a boundary for 52 deliveries. However, with the game in their grasp, Rahul would go for a sweep off Hasaranga, only to top-edge it to the short mid-wicket. India were still 41 runs away with 10 overs in hand. But Asalanka ejected Axar to keep the game on a knife's edge. All this could have been avoided had India's bowlers had managed to close out the game when Sri Lanka were 101/5 in 26.3 overs. Even Duniya Wellalage, who top-scored with an unbeaten 67, lived dangerously at the start, playing with hard hands unsuitable on this surface. But once he got through the anxious period with a help from DRS, the 21-year-old earmarked for a great career, showed his mettle. With Liyanage, he stitched 41, before adding 36 and 46 with Hasaranga and Akila.

BRIEF SCORES: Sri Lanka 230 for 8 (Wellalage 67; Axar 2-33) tied with India 230 (Rohit 58; Asalanka 3-30, Hasaranga 3-58)

After ninth gold, Biles says she loves her 'black job'

Paris: Olympic gymnastics champion Simone Biles entered the fray of the U.S. presidential race on Friday with a post that appears to clap back at former President Donald Trump's comment about "Black jobs." "I love my black job," Biles posted on X, in response to

post from singer Ricky Davila, who had said: "Iconic photo of the GOAT mastering her black job and collecting Gold Medals." The exchange came hours after Biles held off Brazil's Rebeca Andrade to win the all-around Paris Olympics gymnastics finals, tak-

ing home her ninth gold medal. Trump, the 2024 Republican presidential nominee, has been criticized for arguing during his June debate with Democratic President Joe Biden that migrants are taking "Black jobs" and "Hispanic jobs" from Americans. AP

"INDO-TIBETAN BORDER POLICE FORCE" (MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS), GOVT. OF INDIA

RECRUITMENT FOR THE POST OF CONSTABLE (PIONEER)-2024

Indo Tibetan Border Police Force invites online applications from eligible Male and Female Indian citizens (including subject of Nepal & Bhutan) to fill up vacancies of Constable (Pioneer) Group 'C' Non-Gazetted (Non-Ministerial) on temporary basis likely to be permanent in ITBPF in pay scale, Level-3 in the Pay Matrix Rs. 21700-69100 (as per 7th CPC). Selected candidates will be liable to serve anywhere in India or abroad. The applicants are advised to check their eligibility before applying so as to avoid disappointment at later stage.

2. Detail of vacancies as per post based roster are as under:-

(a) Constable (Carpenter)

Name of Post	Category					
	UR	SC	ST	OBC	EWS	Total
Constable (Carpenter) (Male)	31	04	02	10	14	61
Constable (Carpenter) Female	05	01	0	02	02	10
Total	36	05	02	12	16	71

(b) Constable (Plumber)

Name of Post	Category					
	UR	SC	ST	OBC	EWS	Total
Constable (Plumber) (Male)	22	03	01	08	10	44
Constable (Plumber) Female	04	01	0	1	02	08
Total	26	04	01	09	12	52

(c) Constable (Mason)

Name of Post	Category					
	UR	SC	ST	OBC	EWS	Total
Constable (Mason) (Male)	27	03	02	10	12	54
Constable (Mason) Female	05	01	0	02	02	10
Total	32	04	02	12	14	64

(d) Constable (Electrician)

Name of Post	Category					
	UR	SC	OBC	EWS	Total	
Constable (Electrician) (Male)	07	01	03	03	14	
Constable (Electrician) Female	01	0	0	0	01	
Total	08	01	03	03	15	

Note:-
The vacancies are tentative and may increase or decrease without any notice. Any change in the number of vacancies will be intimated through ITBP Recruitment website i.e. <https://recruitment.itbpolice.nic.in>.

a) ITBPF reserves the right to make changes in sequence of the recruitment procedure after publication of this advertisement. ITBPF also reserves the right to cancel or postpone the recruitment at any stage due to administrative reasons.

3. ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS:

a) Age Limit	Between 18 to 23 years
b) Educational Qualifications:	i) Matriculation or equivalent from recognized board and ii) One year certificate course from a recognized Industrial Training Institute in the trade of a Mason or Carpenter or Plumber or Electrician
c) Cutoff date for Age and Relaxations:	Crucial date for determining the age limit will be the closing date for submission of online application i.e. 10/09/2024(10/09/2024) . Candidates should not have been born earlier than 11th September 2001, (11/09/2001) and later than 10th September 2006 (10-09-2006) .

4- The candidates whose applications are found in order, shall be issued admit cards (online) to appear in recruitment tests. Candidates have to download online admit card from ITBPF recruitment website i.e. <https://recruitment.itbpolice.nic.in>. Therefore, candidates should provide genuine and functional e-mail ID and mobile number at the time of filling online application form. ITBP will not be responsible in case of any failure of the candidate not receiving admit card online.

5- Applications from candidates will be accepted only through ONLINE MODE on <https://recruitment.itbpolice.nic.in>. No offline application will be accepted. For detailed information about pay & allowances, eligibility conditions, procedure of filling online application form, recruitment procedure and tests etc., **the applicants are advised to go through the detailed advertisement appearing on the ITBPF recruitment website i.e. <https://recruitment.itbpolice.nic.in>**. Any further information/notification in respect to this recruitment will be made on the ITBPF recruitment website only. Hence, applicants are advised to log in the ITBPF recruitment website from time to time and also advised to go through eligibility criteria carefully before applying to avoid disappointment at later stage.

6. The selection process will consist of Physical Efficiency Test (PET), Physical Standard Test (PST), Written Examination, Trade Test and Detailed Medical Examination (DME)/Review Medical Examination (RME).

7. Medical Examination to assess the fitness of candidates will be conducted in terms of Uniform Guidelines for Recruitment Medical Examination for GOs and NGOs in CAPFs and AR issued vide MHA U.O. No. A.VI-1/2014-Rectt(SSB) dated 20.05.2015 and as amended from time to time by the Government and A.VI.1/14-Rectt(SSB) dated 24-08-2015 as amended from time to time by the Government.

ONLINE APPLICATION MODE WILL BE OPENED W.E.F. 12-08-2024 (12-08-2024) AT 00:01 AM AND WILL BE CLOSED ON (10-09-2024) 10-09-2024 AT 11:59 PM.

**Sd./-
CBC 19143/11/0015/2425 DIG (Recruitment)**