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Hasina quits, flees Bangladesh, lands in India as protests surge

The country's longest-serving PM airlifted out of Dhaka and lands in Hindon Air Force station near Delhi; she seeks asylum in U.K.; an interim govt. will take over, says Army chief; protesters storm the PM's residence after defying a curfew order

Rabiul Alam
DHAKA

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who had been in power for the past 15 years, resigned and fled the country on Monday noon by a helicopter after weeks of deadly unrest in which more than 300 people have been killed.

The country is now set to have an interim government.

Later in the day, Ms. Hasina landed at the Hindon Air Force station near Delhi. Ms. Hasina has requested asylum from the U.K. Her sister Rehana, who holds U.K. citizenship, is accompanying her, sources told *The Hindu*.

In Dhaka, Army Chief Gen. Waker-Uz-Zaman confirmed her resignation



Reign ends: Protesters storm outgoing Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina's palace in Dhaka on Monday. AFP

in an address to the nation. He urged protesters to stop the unrest and pledged to meet their demands and bring justice for those who

were killed. He said he would talk to the President to form the interim government and had held talks with the

main Opposition parties and civil society members, but not the Awami League, Ms. Hasina's party. The Army chief will also hold a

meeting with protesting student leaders.

"I am taking full responsibility. If the situation gets better, there is no need for an emergency. We hope to go towards a better situation together. The country has suffered a lot, and many people have been killed. It is time to stop the violence," said the General.

On Monday, as a part of the 'March to Dhaka' campaign demanding Ms. Hasina's resignation, called by the Students Against Discrimination, thousands started gathering at the main points of Dhaka, defying a curfew order.

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Crestfallen



Tragic twist: Nisha Dahiya was leading 8-1 in her quarterfinal bout against North Korea's Pak Sol Gum before a dislocated shoulder shattered the Indian wrestler's hopes. GETTY IMAGES (FULL REPORT: PAGE 16)

'Justify inclusion of 77 castes in OBC List'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday gave the West Bengal government an "opportunity" to justify the reason for including 77 castes, largely Muslim communi-

ties, in the State's Other Backward Classes List. The order follows an appeal by the State government against a May 22 judgment of the Calcutta High Court striking down the inclusion of several of these castes in the OBC list. A three-judge

Bench asked the State to clarify the nature and scope of the survey undertaken to identify the social and educational backwardness of these communities.

DETAILS
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NEARBY

HC upholds Delhi CM's arrest; says CBI has no malice

NEW DELHI

The Delhi HC on Monday ruled that there was no malice on the part of the CBI in arresting CM Arvind Kejriwal in a corruption case connected with the erstwhile excise policy.

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State govt., Oppn. oppose West Bengal division

KOLKATA

Both members of the Treasury benches and the Opposition came together in the West Bengal Assembly on Monday to oppose any division of the State through a resolution.

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L-G can nominate 10 aldermen to Delhi corporation, rules SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday held that the authority of the Lieutenant-Governor of Delhi to nominate 10 persons with special knowledge of municipal administration to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi is a statutory duty attached to his office and he is not bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers.

The case was reserved for judgment by a Bench of Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, Justices P.S. Narasimha and J.B. Pardiwala on May 17, 2023. Justice Narasimha authored the judgment for the Bench.

The Bench held that the power of the L-G is drawn from Section 3(3)(b)(i) of

High-stakes battle

A timeline of the tussle over the right to appoint aldermen

December 2022: AAP comes to power in the MCD

January 2023: L-G issues a notification appointing 10 persons as aldermen in the civic body

March 2023: Delhi government approaches SC, seeks quashing of 'illegal' notification

March 2023: L-G argues he

is Delhi's 'administrator', not bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers

May 2023: SC observes that by not acting on the advice of the government, L-G could destabilise elected civic body

August 2024: SC observes that L-G has the statutory power under the DMC Act to appoint 10 aldermen

the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957. The Act, a parliamentary law, was amended in 1993 to vest the power to nominate 10 expert persons. The Bench referred to a Constitution Bench judgment which had laid down that the executive power of the Delhi government would con-

form to a parliamentary law dealing with subjects in the State and Concurrent Lists of the 7th Schedule of the Constitution.

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AGAINST SPIRIT OF DEMOCRACY: AAP, BJP HAILS APEX COURT DECISION
» PAGE 2

'Baba' runs out of luck, after 22 years

Chalapathi Rao, who allegedly defrauded the State Bank of India of ₹50 lakh and lived across five States as a loan recovery agent, a school staff and a godman, was arrested from T.N.'s Tirunelveli

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

For 22 years, V. Chalapathi Rao had been living many lives. A former computer operator who allegedly defrauded the State Bank of India (SBI) of ₹50 lakh, Mr. Rao had lived across five States as a loan recovery agent, a school staff and a 'baba' (godman).

He would change his appearance, identity and location at will, throwing sleuths of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), in his hot pursuit,



ILLUSTRATION: SATHEESH VELLINEZHI

off the scent.

Mr. Rao also got his wife, an accomplice in the case, to file a missing person report and attempted to have him declared dead.

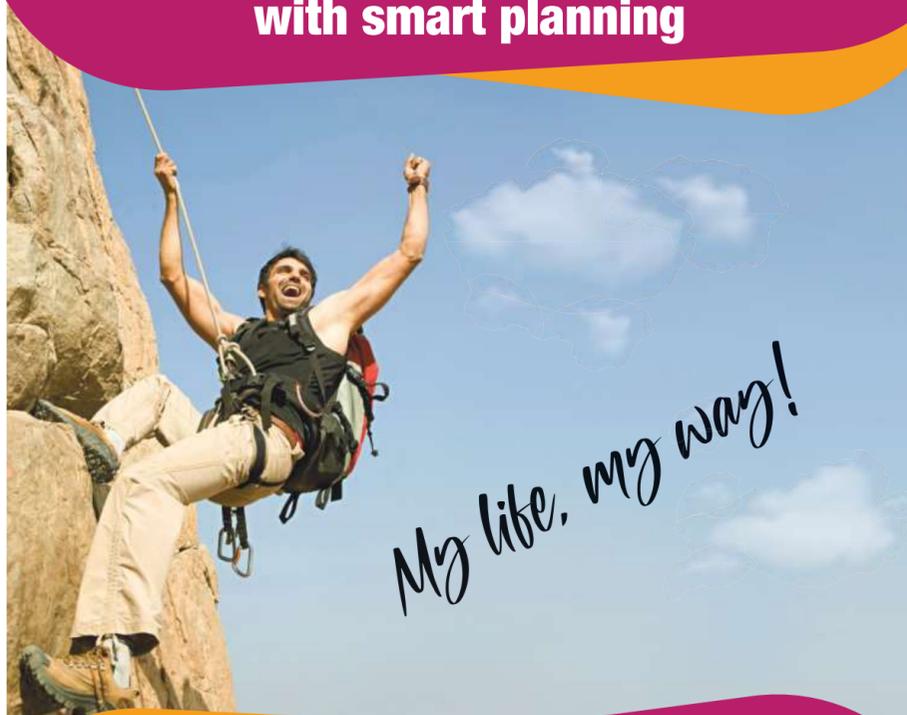
But his luck ran out on Sunday when the CBI arrested him from Narsinganallur village in Tirunelveli of Tamil Nadu just when he was planning to escape to Sri Lanka

through the sea.

On May 1, 2002, the CBI registered the case against Mr. Rao, the computer operator with the SBI's Chandulal Biradari branch in Hyderabad, on the charges that he had cheated the bank by using fake quotations of electronic shops and salary certificates in the names of his family members and close associates. Based on the findings, the agency filed two chargesheets on December 31, 2004.

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IN BRIEF



Police beef up security at Bangladesh High Commission

With Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina flying to India after tendering her resignation, the Delhi police have beefed up security at the Bangladesh High Commission in Chanakyapuri, a senior officer said on Monday. The decision was taken in anticipation of public outrage, said the officer. "We have increased the number of barricades and the police personnel deployed outside the High Commission," the officer added. Several senior police officers, including New Delhi district's Deputy Commissioner of Police Devesh Kumar Mahla, visited the High Commission to check the security arrangements, said a source.

Three lakh students register for 70,000 Delhi University seats

At least three lakh students have registered for the 70,000 seats offered by Delhi University (DU) for its undergraduate courses. "Around three lakh students have registered on the university portal, and around one lakh students have filled in their preferences for colleges and programmes," an official said on Monday. The undergraduate admission process began last week after a month-long delay. The registration and preference-filling process will conclude on August 7. The first and the second merit-based seat allocation lists will be declared on August 16 and August 25 respectively.

SC verdict on aldermen against spirit of democracy: AAP; BJP hails decision

Top court order 'contrary to observations' made during the course of hearing, says AAP Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh, 'respectfully disagrees' with the order as it gives 'all rights' to the L-G bypassing the elected government; BJP alleges Delhi lagged in development due to AAP's 'stubbornness'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Monday said it "respectfully disagrees" with the Supreme Court's verdict on the appointment of aldermen in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) as the order stands "against the spirit of democracy".

AAP Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh told reporters that the order was "contrary to the observations" made by the apex court during the course of the hearing on the matter.

"By bypassing an elected government, all rights have been given to the Lieutenant-Governor so that he could run Delhi by his diktat. Therefore, I respectfully disagree with this decision. This is unfortunate and against the spirit of democracy," he told reporters.

Mr. Singh said Governors make such appointments but only on the recommendation of the State governments. "Why is this not the case in Delhi? Is there no elected govern-



BJP councillors demanding the Standing Committee's constitution during a protest at the MCD House earlier this year. FILE PHOTO

ment here?" he said.

The AAP leader said they will decide on a future course of action after going through the detailed court order.

'Hold MCD panel polls'

Meanwhile, the BJP welcomed the apex court order, saying the party now hopes that AAP would "allow the elections" to the MCD Standing Committee and zonal committees.

BJP councillor and the Leader of the Opposition in the MCD House, Raja Iqbal Singh, alleged that AAP was aware of the L-G's authority regarding the appointment of aldermen but

did not allow the elections to take place.

"Due to the stubbornness of the AAP, Delhi's development has regressed by a decade," he said.

The BJP councillor said after the Supreme Court order, AAP should expedite the election process to resume stalled development works.

"AAP did not have the numbers to win the Standing Committee polls, that is why it went to the Supreme Court to delay the elections. Since the Supreme Court has upheld the L-G's right to appoint aldermen, the BJP will win the elections," he said.

Focus now shifts to Standing Committee polls, fast-tracking development works in city

Satvika Mahajan
NEW DELHI

With the Supreme Court upholding the appointment of aldermen in the MCD, the focus has shifted to the civic body Standing Committee polls, which has been pending for over a year and a half now.

However, official sources said the election to the 18-member panel may not take place anytime soon as the city's 250 councillors are yet to elect members of the 12 zonal committees, which send representatives to the Standing Committee.

The constitution of the Standing Committee has been pending since the mayoral polls in March 2023 as the ruling AAP and the BJP fought for control over the panel, which is the civic body's main deci-

sion-making arm that has executive powers to grant approval to projects worth over ₹5 crore.

Six members of the panel, three each from both parties, were elected by the MCD House at the time of the mayoral polls. The rest 12 are required to be elected by the zonal committees.

AAP had approached the top court fearing that if the Centre-appointed was L-G allowed to nominate the aldermen, it would give an edge to the BJP as the nominated members would have the right to vote in the zonal committee elections.

The L-G can appoint a maximum of 10 aldermen to the civic body on the basis of their special knowledge or experience in the municipal administration. An MCD official said des-

pite the court order, the Standing Committee elections would take time. He said while the aldermen can vote in the proceedings of the zonal committees, they have no voting rights in the Standing Committee or the MCD House.

Another MCD official said the constitution of the crucial panel will speed up development works as several projects have been stuck. He said currently the MCD is taking "ad hoc measures".

"We have extended previous contracts so that essential services do not collapse altogether. For instance, in the central zone, waste collection contracts need to be re-visited, but we extended their tenure in the absence of the panel. Similar issues came up in the case of managing our landfills," he said.

Sisodia 'neck-deep' in excise 'scam': ED to SC 'So many deaths at shelter home not a coincidence'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday opposed in the Supreme Court the bail plea of former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party leader Manish Sisodia, claiming it has documents showing his

"neck-deep involvement" in the excise policy "scam".

Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju, who appeared for ED, said, "It is not as if he is an innocent person and (was just) picked up... It is not a fabricated case. There is a lot of evidence." Highlighting the delay

in the progress of these cases, senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, representing the AAP leader, said, "Why should I (Sisodia) be in jail after 17 months is the larger liberty question... What is the purpose of keeping me behind the bars?"

In response, Mr. Raju said there was no delay on

the part of the agencies and those accused in the twin cases took five months to inspect documents that were not relevant to the trial. When he referred to the details of the now-withdrawn policy, the Bench asked, "Where do you draw the line between policy and criminality?"

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday sought a report from the Social Welfare Department and the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) over the death of 14 inmates at the Asha Kiran shelter home, noting that all deceased suffered from tuberculosis (TB).

A Bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela asked why tuberculosis cases were "rampant" in the shelter home and directed

the DJB to test the quality of drinking water provided at the facility.

The Bench also asked the Social Welfare Department secretary to visit the premises on August 6.

"Just too many deaths in a short span of time. It cannot be a coincidence," the Bench remarked.

"There can't be an outbreak of TB in a shelter home. Today, the situation needs to be salvaged. If we can save a few lives, we must do it. What needs to be done immediately is that cu-

lative measures need to be put in place first and foremost. We don't want people to suffer in the process," the court said.

It listed the matter for further hearing on August 7.

Staff shortfall

Meanwhile, the Delhi Assembly's Committee on Petitions on Monday stated that there is a huge staff shortfall in the Asha Kiran shelter home.

AAP MLA and panel member Kuldeep Kumar said the salaries of 33 auxil-

ary nurses and two medical officers working at the facility had not been paid for the past six months, and their contracts had not been renewed.

"The committee will investigate this matter by calling more officials. Services in Delhi are under L-G. Therefore, he is responsible for transferring and posting officers. He should not run away from his responsibilities," Mr. Kumar said.

When reached for comment, Raj Niwas did not respond.

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Tanishk Vijaywargiya	277	134	143
Khushhali Solanki	274	130	144
Danish Ali	273	134	139
Dhruv Sapra	273	131	142
Piyush Gautam	269	128	141
Molightson K	265	136	129

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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www.reachprogroup.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas Director, Town and Country Planning, Haryana (DTCP) has granted Letter of Intent (LOI) to Reach Promoters Pvt. Ltd. the "Company" vide his Office Memo No. LC-1300 C/PA/SK/2024/2651 dated 05/08/2024 for setting up a Commercial Plotted Colony over an area measuring 6.25 acres (after migration of area measuring 0.1688 acres from existing integrated Commercial License No. 17 of 2010 dated 13.02.2010 (License -1), 4.1125 acre from existing 150 of 2022 dated 28.09.2022 (License -2) and adding fresh unlicensed abutting area measuring 1.9688 acres in collaboration with other Land Owners) land situated in Sector 68, Gurugram.

Before grant of final permission for Commercial Plotted Colony, the DTCP has asked the Company to seek objections / consents from the existing allottees, if any, in the existing licensed commercial colony comprising of License - 1 & License - 2. Accordingly, in view of above directions, the Company herewith informs the existing allottees/General Public through this Public Notice, that few individuals / companies have done booking for unit(s)/space(s) located on the licensed land under License - 1.

Accordingly, vide this Public Notice, objections/consents are hereby invited from any of the existing allottee(s) in License No. 17 of 2010 dated 13.02.2010 (License-1) and License No. 150 of 2022 dated 28.09.2022 (License-2), if any. The earlier approved site plan showing the proposed migration plan now approved in principle, is available for perusal on: a) our website www.reachprogroup.com, b) at our Site Office at Sector 68, Gurugram and c) in the office of Senior Town Planner, Directorate of Town and Country Planning, Haryana Circle Office, HUDA Complex, Sector-14, Gurugram, Haryana.

Objections, if any against the proposed migration or a written consent in favour of proposed migration may be filed in the office of Senior Town Planner, circle office, HUDA Complex, Sector 14, Gurugram, Haryana, or at our Corporate Office Reach Promoters Pvt. Ltd., 315, 3rd Floor, Time Tower, M.G. Road, Sector-28, Gurugram-122002, within 30 (thirty) days of this Public Notice.

Sd/---
(Authorized Signatory)
M/s Reach Promoters Pvt. Ltd.
Place: Gurugram Dated: 06/08/2024

TENDERS
Oushadhi
The Pharmaceutical Corporation
(I.M.) Kerala Ltd.
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking)
Kuttanallur, Thrissur-14,
Ph: 0487-2459841, 2459842

E-TENDER NOTICE
P/62/2024-25 06.08.2024
E-tenders are invited from eligible bidders for the Supply of following

1) ICPMS with Microwave Digestor, 2) Ultra-pure Water Purification System. Last Date 27.08.2024. You can download tender documents from www.etenders.kerala.gov.in. For more details visit www.oushadhi.org or contact Purchase Division at Kuttanallur. (Sd/---) Managing Director

PUBLIC NOTICE

HARERA
CHANDIGARH

PUBLIC NOTICE

FOR INVITING OBJECTIONS REGARDING REGISTRATION OF THE PROJECT NAMED 'REACH BUZZ 114' UNDER LICENSE NO. 65 OF 2024 LOCATED AT SECTOR 114, GURUGRAM BEING DEVELOPED BY M/S OJOS DEVELOPERS PVT. LTD.

It is for the information of the general public that M/s Ojos Developers Pvt. Ltd. ("Developer") has applied for grant of registration of the Commercial Plotted colony (SCO) admeasuring 5.1375 acres forming part of license no. 65 of 2024 granted by Directorate of Town & Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh, (DTCP) on 18.06.2024 ("License").

It is further informed that said License is granted by DTCP in favour of Developer in collaboration with the Landowners namely, Mr. Uday C. Soni and Mr. Anup Soni ("Landowners"), after change of developer and migration of license from license no. 78 of 2013 dated 27.08.2013, which was granted to Raheja Developers Ltd. in collaboration with Landowners, for developing Commercial Colony over the area admeasuring 5.1375 acres in Sector-114, Gurugram ("Earlier License").

Raheja Developers Ltd. had not created any third-party rights in respect of Earlier License no. 78 of 2013 dated 27.08.2013. That the said Earlier License has now been migrated to license no. 65 of 2024 dated 18.06.2024 in favour of Ojos Developers Pvt. Ltd. has already submitted that no-third party rights have been created in license no. 78 of 2013 dated 27.08.2013.

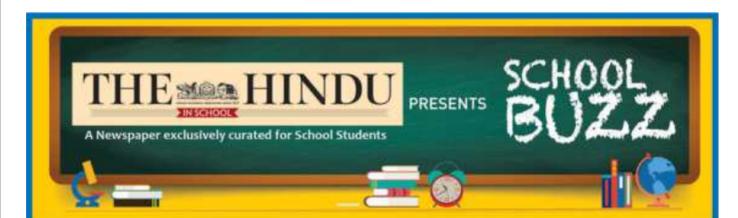
The relevant plans, sanctions and documents of application are available in the office of the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram which can be seen by any concerned on any working day during office hours i.e., 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. up to, 21.08.2024 for filing of objections, if any.

Given under the approval of the Authority and its seal.
Sd/---
Secretary,
Haryana Real Estate
Regulatory Authority,
Gurugram.

Dated: 06.08.2024

TENDERS
Oushadhi
The Pharmaceutical Corporation
(I.M.) Kerala Ltd.
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking)
Kuttanallur, Thrissur-14,
Ph: 0487-2459841, 2459842

TENDER NOTICE
P/62/2024-25 6-8-2024
Tenders are invited for the supply of I) Raw materials and II) Containers & Packing Materials for the period October 2024 to March 2025. Tenders can be downloaded from the website www.oushadhitender.com. For more details, please visit our website www.oushadhi.org or contact our Purchase Division at Kuttanallur. (Sd/---) Managing Director



SCHOLAR BADGE AND AWARD CEREMONY

Delhi Public School Rohini organised the Scholar Badge and Award Ceremony with the theme 'Where the Sky is the Beginning' to celebrate the achievements of students from Classes IX to XII. The event featured Chief Guest Ms. Patil Pranjal Lahensingh, Additional Director, Administration (Directorate of Education), and Guest of Honour Dr. Rakesh Rahi, Deputy Director of Education. Principal Ms. Kanika Sachdeva Govi welcomed the guests. The ceremony included the release of the annual magazine, 'Aurora 2023-24', and Shivani Yadav, a Class IX student, received a newly instituted Bravery Award. The event concluded with a unifying rendition of the National Anthem in sign language.

TECHBLITZ COMPETITION

Manav Rachna International School, Charmwood, showcased their technological prowess and creativity at the Techblitz competition held at MVN, emerging victorious among 30 schools and winning the Overall School Trophy. Saanvi and Yash secured first prize in the Quantum Beats Category with their engaging tech rap. Aayan and Vedant excelled in the Quiz Up Competition, while Nishika and Gurmehar earned second prize in the Tech Trend Category. Aaranya and Vivaan's innovative approach won them third prize in the Creative Canvas Competition.

INTER-SCHOOL FIESTA 2024

Presentation Convent Senior Secondary School, Delhi-6, continued their centenary celebrations with the Sr. Martha Crean Memorial Inter-School Fiesta, a three-day event inaugurated at the school's Sacred Heart Hall. The fiesta featured competitions such as debates, quizzes, and cultural performances, showcasing students' creativity and teamwork. Chief Guest Prof. K V Thomas, Ex MP, and Guest of Honour Mrs. Shobha Miranda, Vice-Principal, praised the school's commitment to excellence. Principal Sr. Regi Joseph expressed pride in the school's legacy. The event concluded with an award ceremony, honouring winners of the 23rd Annual Eco Club Debate, celebrating the school's century-long achievements.

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Rohini MLA Gupta elected Oppn. leader in Assembly

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Rohini MLA Vijender Gupta was elected the leader of the Opposition in the Assembly on Monday at a meeting of the Delhi BJP's legislature party meeting.

"This responsibility comes at a critical time when governance in Delhi has completely failed under AAP," he said, demanding that an Assembly session be convened.

"The people of Delhi feel betrayed and see the BJP, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as the only party capable of providing pro-people and clean governance," he added.

Will succeed BJP MP

Mr. Gupta, a former Delhi BJP chief, will succeed Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, who stepped down from the post after winning South Delhi Lok Sabha seat. His name was proposed by Ghonda MLA and the party's chief whip in the Assembly Ajay Mahawar.

However, the Rohini MLA will have a brief tenure as the Assembly election is scheduled for February next year.

The Delhi Assembly comprises 70 MLAs, of which 60 are from the Aam Aadmi Party.

HC upholds Delhi CM's arrest in excise case; says CBI has no malice

It is 'rarest of rare' case, argues Kejriwal's counsel; judge refuses to budge, says there were links of this crime even in Punjab but the material witnesses were not forthcoming due to the influence exercised by the petitioner; AAP to approach SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday ruled that there was no malice on the part of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in arresting Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in a corruption case connected with the erstwhile excise policy.

Justice Neena Bansal Krishna rejected Mr. Kejriwal's plea seeking declaration of his arrest by the CBI and all subsequent remands and his incarceration in jail as illegal, and said, "It cannot be said that the arrest was without any justiciable reasons or was illegal."

The judge also rejected a separate plea by the Chief Minister seeking bail in the CBI corruption case saying



The CBI arrested Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal from Tihar Jail on June 26. FILE PHOTO

that when he filed the bail plea, the chargesheet was not filed.

However, with the chargesheet now filed before the trial court, the High Court said, "It would be in the benefit of the petitioner to first approach the Court of sessions judge."

However, AAP said they will approach the Supreme Court as the top court had

given interim bail to Mr. Kejriwal in an Enforcement Directorate (ED) case on the excise policy 'scam'.

Mr. Kejriwal had argued that his CBI arrest was an "insurance arrest" to ensure he stays in prison. His counsel had argued, "It is a rarest of rare case. He [Mr. Kejriwal] is already in custody in the ED case and the CBI did nothing for the last

one year and then suddenly arrests him."

The CBI arrested Mr. Kejriwal on June 26 from Tihar Jail, where he was lodged in judicial custody in a connected money laundering case filed by the ED.

However, the High Court, in its 48-page judgment said: "It is only after sufficient evidence was collected and the sanction obtained in April 2024 that the CBI proceeded with further investigations in this matter against the petitioner and his eventual arrest."

'Influential figure'

The judge additionally highlighted, "The petitioner is not an ordinary person but is the Chief Minister of NCT of Delhi and the convener of Aam Aadmi

Party, which has its government in Punjab."

"There were links of this crime even in Punjab but the material witnesses were not forthcoming for the simple reason of the influence exercised by the petitioner by virtue of his position. It is only when he was arrested that the witnesses from Punjab came forth to get their statements recorded and in fact two of those witnesses, turned approver against the petitioner," the judge said.

"Also, it establishes that the loop of evidence against the petitioner got closed after collection of relevant evidence after his arrest. No malice whatsoever, can be gathered from the acts of the respondent [CBI]," the judge said in her ruling.

Ladki Bahin Yojana is a beneficiary scheme, not discriminatory: Bombay HC

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Monday said the Maharashtra government's 'Ladki Bahin Yojana' is a beneficiary scheme for women and cannot be said to be discriminatory.

A Division Bench of Chief Justice D.K. Upadhyaya and Justice Amit Borkar dismissed a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by city-based Chartered Accountant Naveed Abdul Saeed Mulla, seeking to quash the scheme.

The Bench said in what manner the government has to frame a scheme is out of the "judicial purview". "It is a policy decision, so we cannot interfere unless there is violation of any fundamental rights," the court said.

The Bench dismissed the PIL but said it was not



imposing any cost on the petitioner.

Under the Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana, which was announced in the State budget, ₹1,500 is slated to be transferred into the bank accounts of eligible women in the age group of 21 to 65 years whose family income is less than ₹2.5 lakh.

The PIL claimed the scheme was politically motivated and was actually a "freebie", introduced by the government to "bribe voters". The petitioner's advocate, Owais Pechkar,

argued that taxpayers' money should not be used for such schemes.

The HC Bench, however, questioned if the court could fix the priorities of schemes for the government. The petitioner has to differentiate between a freebie and a social welfare scheme, it said.

The Bench said as a court it cannot ask the government to introduce one scheme or the other.

Mr. Pechkar claimed the scheme discriminated among women as only those who earned less than ₹2.5 lakh per year were eligible for its benefit.

To this, the HC said, "This is a beneficiary scheme for some women. How is it discrimination? Some woman earning ₹10 lakh and another woman earning ₹2.5 lakh... do they fall under the same class or group?"

Soren extends date for women's scheme

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Monday announced the extension of special enrolment

campus for Jharkhand Mukhyamantri Maiya Samman Yojana by five days to August 15, following complaints of technical glitches in uploading documents.

Under the scheme, fi-

nancial assistance of ₹1,000 per month, adding up to ₹12,000 per annum, will be given to eligible women in the 21-50 years age-group from families living below the poverty line.

Man killed over interfaith marriage, 6 held

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

A 24-year-old man was killed allegedly by his wife's relatives over their interfaith marriage in Gujarat's

Devbhumi Dwarka district on Saturday. Police have arrested six persons, including brothers of the woman.

As per the FIR, the deceased fell in love with a woman from the Muslim

community. They got married and moved to another place. However, they returned to the village and it didn't go well with the woman's family. The couple has a child.

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THE HINDU **businessline**

FRONTLINE SPORTSTAR Young World THE HINDU

Timings DELHI

TUESDAY, AUG. 06

RISE 05:46 SET 19:09

RISE 07:13 SET 20:27

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 07

RISE 05:47 SET 19:08

RISE 08:07 SET 20:54

THURSDAY, AUG. 08

RISE 05:47 SET 19:07

RISE 09:00 SET 21:21

Delhi Weather max min

Delhi City 33 26

Safdarjang 33 26

Palam 33 27

Delhi Palam Today

34°C Weather will be warm & windy with cloudy sky. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower with strong winds will occur.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow

32°C The weather will be little warm with cloudy sky. Night will be comfortable. Few spells of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower to occur.

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KSEB KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LTD.
Vyduthy Bhavanam, Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram - 695004
Phone: 0471-2514610, 9496011747, 9496012020, E-mail id: ceit@kseb.in

E-TENDER NOTICE INVITING TENDER AMI (SMART METER) PROJECT - PHASE 1

Name of work: Supply, Installation, System Integration, Operation & Maintenance of Smart Meters, Head End System Software (HES), RF/Cellular Communication Network as part of AMI Project in KSEBL Phase-1

Tender ID No. 2024_KSEB_682722_1

Tender No: CEIT/SM-P1/KSEBL/2024-25/03 dt 27.07.2024.

PAC: Rs.211 Cr, EMD: Rs. 5 Lakhs; Cost of Tender form: Rs.17,700/-; RfP Publishing Date: 30.07.2024

Pre-bid meeting: 12.08.2024; Last date of Bid Submission: 09.09.2024; Technical Bid Opening: 12.09.2024.

Name of work: - Supply, Installation, System Integration, Operation & Maintenance of Meter Data Management System (MDMS) Software as part of AMI Project in KSEBL

Tender ID No. 2024_KSEB_682736_1

Tender No: CEIT/SM-P2/MDMS/KSEBL/2024-25/04 dt 27.07.2024.

PAC: Rs.10 Cr, EMD: Rs. 5 Lakhs; Cost of Tender form: Rs.17,700/-; RfP Publishing Date: 01.08.2024

Pre-bid meeting: 16.08.2024; Last date of Bid Submission: 10.09.2024; Technical Bid Opening: 13.09.2024.

Note: The bid documents can be downloaded from the website <http://etenders.kerala.gov.in>. Bidders may contact e-Procurement support desk of Kerala State Mission over telephone at 0471-2577088/188/388 or 0484-2336006, 2332262 or 0497-2764788, 2764188 or 0483-273294 or through email: etendershelp@kerala.gov.in or helpetender@gmail.com for assistance in this regard.

27.07.2024
Thiruvananthapuram
Tender Authority Sd/- Chief Engineer (IT, CR & CAPs)

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT NATIONAL HIGHWAYS PROJECTS

E-procurement notice
Re-INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

Bid No. PW-CE-NH-CTR-Tender Notice/PBMC/2024-2722-28 Dated-05.08.2024

1. The Chief Engineer, National Highway, H.P.P.W.D., Shimla hereby invites Bids for Performance-Based Maintenance of Roads through e-tendering from experienced firms/organizations for operation and maintenance works and activities for the following sections of the National Highways.

Sl. No.	Sections	Length (km)	Estimated Bid Cost/ Total Bid Value (Rs. Lacs) Excluding GST	Bid Security (Rs. Lacs)	Contract Duration (month)
1.	Maintenance works and activities (PBMC) on section from Km 329/00 to 334/00 & 356/00 to 361/00 of NH -05 and Km 53/00 to 63/00 of NH- 305 in the State of Himachal Pradesh.	19.545 km. (9.545 km.+ 10.00 km.)	2828.04 Lacs	28.28 Lacs	60 Months

2. The complete BID document can be viewed / downloaded from official portal of the CPPP website <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> from 05-08-2024 to 06.09.2024 (upto 11:00 Hrs. IST). Bidder must submit its Financial bid and Technical Bid at <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> on or before 06.09.2024 (upto 11:00 Hrs IST). Bids received online shall be opened on 07.09.2024 (at 11:30 Hrs IST).

3. Bid through any other mode shall not be entertained. However, originals of Bid Security, document fee, Power of Attorney and Joint Bidding Agreement etc. as per bid document shall be submitted physically by the Bidder on or before 07.09.2024 (upto 11:00 Hrs IST). Please note that the Authority reserves the right to accept or reject all or any of the BIDs without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Officer In-charge
Ministry of Road Transport and Highways Through
Chief Engineer,
National Highway, Nirman Bhawan
HPPWD, Shimla-171002
Phone/ Fax 0177-2629416
e-mail: ce-nh-hp@nic.in

Chief Engineer (NH)
H.P.P.W.D. Shimla-2.
HP / 1279/24-25

THE HINDU

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कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, गोड्डा

शुद्धि-पत्र

1. ई-0-पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं 08/2024-25/RWD/EE/GODDA दिनांक 30.07.2024 जिसका PR 331336 (Rural Work Deptament) (24-25)#D समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित हुआ है में निम्न संशोधन किया जाता है- ई-निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय- 29.08.2024 अपराह्न 11.30 बजे तक के जगह 24.08.2024 अपराह्न 11.30 बजे पढ़ा जाय। अन्य शेष शर्तें पूर्ववत् रहेंगे।

कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, गोड्डा

PR 331856 Rural Work Department(24-25)#D

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PH: 9820350726

selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in

THE HINDU
India's National Newspaper

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	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	UHBVN	FOR PROCUREMENT OF SINGLE PHASE NET METERS & THREE PHASE NET METERS.	CLOSING DATE 12.08.2024	6.04 CRORES	https://etenders.hry.nic.in TENDER NO- 07/ XEN/P-I/ MM/OST-I/2596 dated02.08.2024	9115100231 cemm@uhbvn.org.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in
SAMVAD - 13/2025/40/28581/1/199/7

बिहार सरकार

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन, कार्य प्रमंडल-02, रोसड़ा शुद्धि पत्र

योजना एवं विकास विभाग, बिहार सरकार के अंतर्गत स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन, कार्य प्रमंडल-02, रोसड़ा, के निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-02(SBD)/2024-25 एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग का AD. ID-141028, (PR. NO.-002985(Planning) 2024-25 के द्वारा दिनांक 03.07.2024 को निविदा का प्रकाशन हुआ है, जिसमें शुभ संख्या 05 पर अंकित योजना समस्तीपुर जिला अंतर्गत हसनपुर प्रखण्ड के पंचायत नकुनी में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य को अपरिहार्य कारण से रद्द किया जाता है। इस निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना को इस हद तक संशोधित समझा जाय। बाकी अन्य सभी शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।

कार्यपालक अभियंता, स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन, कार्य प्रमंडल-02, रोसड़ा

PR. No. 005290 (Planning) 2024-25

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, राँची ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या - RDD/SD/RANCHI/05/2024-25 E-tender

1. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी:

क्रं.सं.	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (लाख में)	अग्रघन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	राँची जिला के अनगड़ा प्रखण्ड में जोन्हा मुखर्ग मुख्य पथ से डब टोला के बीच पुलिया निर्माण।	330.848	6,61,700	10,000	18 माह

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि - 16.08.2024

3. ई-निविदा प्राप्ति 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 - 29.08.2024 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 सं - 9122180770

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-मुग्तान 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 पृष्ठ पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, राँची।

PR.NO.331905 Rural Development(24-25):D

THE HINDU AT THE GAMES PHOTO CONTEST

Turn to the sports pages to participate in today's quiz

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)

The Executive Engineer, (B&R) Division, HPPWD, Baijnath on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, invites the percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with H.P.P.W.D for the works as detailed in the table.

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost Rs.	Starting Date for downloading bid	Earnest Money	Time limit	Deadline for submission of Bid.	Cost of Tender Form.
1.	C/O Baijnath to Gandhigram Uperla Road Km 0/0 to 5/700. (SH: Initial Rectification and Providing / Laying Bitumens Concrete 25mm thick including 5 years post renewal maintenance).	1,11,03,064/-	05.08.2024	2,22,000/-	Two Months	14.08.2024	2000/-
2.	C/O Amarpur to Kandral Road Km 0/0 to 2/400. (SH: Initial Rectification and Providing / Laying Bitumens Concrete 25mm thick including 5 years post renewal maintenance).	46,18,669/-	05.08.2024	92,500/-	Two Months	14.08.2024	1500/-
3.	C/O Chadhar to Bhirdi Road Km 0/0 to 1/930. (SH: Initial Rectification and Providing / Laying Bitumens Concrete 25mm thick including 5 years post renewal maintenance).	37,35,208/-	05.08.2024	75,000/-	Two Months	14.08.2024	1500/-
4.	C/O Padhiarkhar to Trehal Road Km 0/0 to 4/0 (SH: Initial Rectification and Providing / Laying Bitumens Concrete 25mm thick including 5 years post renewal maintenance).	77,74,930/-	05.08.2024	1,55,500/-	Two Months	14.08.2024	2000/-
5.	C/O Rakkar Rajot to Noun Road Km 0/0 to 4/250 (SH: Initial Rectification and Providing / Laying Bitumens Concrete 25mm thick including 5 years post renewal maintenance).	87,05,000/-	05.08.2024	1,74,000/-	Two Months	14.08.2024	2000/-

The bidders are advised to note others details of tenders from the department Website www.hptenders.gov.in

Executive Engineer, Baijnath Division HPPWD Baijnath
HP / 1265/24-25
HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

IN BRIEF



Kedarnath rescue enters fifth day, air operations speed up

More than 130 people were airlifted to safety as rescue operations on the damaged Kedarnath yatra route entered its fifth day on Monday. Air rescue operations gained momentum with the weather clearing in Kedar Valley and the Indian Air Force's Chinook and Mi17 helicopters aiding in the evacuation of pilgrims, earlier being carried out largely by small helicopters, officials said. Till 9 a.m., 133 people were evacuated to safety outside Kedarnath Dham, they said. State Disaster Response Force, National Disaster Response Force teams sent 100 other people from Kedarnath Dham to Lincholi from where they will be airlifted. PTI

Policy for ex-Agniveers gets Haryana Cabinet nod

As the Agnipath scheme continues to be at the centre stage of electoral politics, the Haryana Cabinet on Monday approved the Haryana Agniveer Policy, 2024, aimed at providing employment and entrepreneurship opportunities to Agniveers after completion of their service in the Armed Forces. The policy offers benefits in government recruitment, including a 10% horizontal reservation for Agniveers in direct recruitment for positions such as constable, mining guard, forest guard, prison warder, and Special Police Officer. The Agniveer shall be exempted from written exam in case of these posts, said a statement.

State govt., Opposition oppose division of West Bengal, resolution passed

Consensus reached with one part of the resolution being proposed by Trinamool and another part by BJP; brings arch political rivals CM Mamata and LoP Suvendu Adhikari on the same page

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

In a rare show of unanimity, members of both the Treasury benches and the Opposition came together in the West Bengal Assembly on Monday to oppose any division of the State through a resolution. Consensus was reached with one part of the brief resolution being proposed by the Trinamool Congress and another part by the BJP.

"We will protect undivided West Bengal. We do not want any division. This august House takes pledge for the development of undivided West Bengal," was the resolution tabled under Rule 185 of procedures of conduct of business of the West Bengal Assembly. The resolution was passed unanimously by voice vote, bringing arch political rivals Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari on the same page.



CM Mamata Banerjee with Speaker Biman Bandyopadhyay at the State Assembly in Kolkata on Monday. ANI

Over the past few days, demands for division of West Bengal have dominated the politics of the State. While a section of BJP leaders, both from the State and outside, have made these demands publicly, officially, the party had said that such demands were the personal opinion of the leaders.

The debate started with MLAs of the Trinamool and the BJP targeting each other over the issue. The MLAs from both the parties spoke about the history of the region and how leaders like Syama Prasad

Mookerjee and Jyoti Basu had protested that the region should not be included in East Pakistan, now Bangladesh.

Dubey's remarks

While the legislators of the ruling party said that under no circumstances will any division of the State be allowed, the BJP lawmakers kept referring to the lack of development in north Bengal. References were also made to the remarks by Godda BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, who had sought a Union Territory out of certain districts of

Bihar and West Bengal.

Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari said that the text of the resolution which was tabled in the House read like a party leaflet. He said that the BJP MLAs will support a two-line resolution provided a consensus was reached. Mr. Adhikari said that Mookerjee, the founder of Jana Sangh, who was instrumental in West Bengal not going with Pakistan in 1947, never wanted any division of Bengal.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee agreed to the proposal and said that it was a sensitive issue. "Don't we observe the birth anniversary of Syama Prasad Mookerjee? The State government observes his birth anniversary," she said.

Despite the resolution, there were sections within the BJP that did not appear to be happy. BJP MLA from Kurseong Bishnu Pada Sharma walked out of the Assembly after being denied an opportunity by his party to speak on the issue.

Sukhbir Badal seeks 'forgiveness' for all 'mistakes'

Press Trust of India
CHANDIGARH

In a letter to the Akal Takht jathedar, Shiromani Akali Dal chief Sukhbir Singh Badal has sought "unconditional forgiveness" for "all mistakes" committed when the party was in power in Punjab.

Rebel Shiromani Akali Dal leaders, including former MP Prem Singh Chandumajra and ex-Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) chief Bibi Jagir Kaur, appeared before the jathedar on July 1 and sought forgiveness for "four mistakes" committed during the party's government between 2007 and 2017.

The Akal Takht Secretariat in Amritsar on Monday released a copy of the three-page letter that Mr. Badal submitted to Giani Raghbir Singh, the Akal Takht jathedar, on the rebel leaders' accusations, on July 24.

A Secretariat official said five Singh Sahibans (Sikh high priests) would call a meeting in the coming days to take a call on Mr. Badal's letter.

Mr. Badal submitted his explanation after the jathe-



Akali Dal leader Sukhbir Badal

dar asked him to appear in person before the highest temporal seat of Sikhs, following allegations levelled by the rebel leaders.

A section of party leaders revolted against Mr. Badal, asking him to step down as party chief following the party's debacle in the Lok Sabha polls in Punjab.

'Four mistakes'

Appearing before the jathedar, the rebel leaders sought forgiveness for "four mistakes" during the Shiromani Akali Dal regime between 2007 and 2017, including failure to punish those responsible for 2015 sacrilege incidents and pardoning Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh in a 2007 blasphemy case.

Ranchi HC tells Jharkhand govt. to file response in assets case against five BJP leaders

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

The Ranchi High Court on Monday sought responses from the Hemant Soren-led Jharkhand government and the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) in a disproportionate assets case against five Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Ministers of the erstwhile Raghuraj Das government that was in power in the State from 2014 to 2019.

The former Ministers include Amar Kumar Bauri, the current Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly. The others are Randhir Kumar Singh, Neera Yadav, Louis Marandi and Neelkanth Singh Munda. Except Mr. Marandi, the rest are members of the current Assembly as well.

A Division Bench of Justice Rongon Mukhopadhyay and Justice Pradeep



Former Minister Amar Kumar Bauri. FILE PHOTO

Kumar Srivastava directed the State government and the ACB to file replies through an affidavit within four weeks on a 2020 petition. Detailed hearing of the case will be held after four weeks.

'Exponential increase'

The PIL alleged that during the 2014 election, Mr. Bauri had declared assets of ₹7.33 lakh and by 2019 it went up to ₹89.41 lakh; Mr. Singh had shown assets worth ₹88.92 lakh which,

five years later, became ₹5.06 crore; Ms. Yadav's assets grew from ₹80.59 lakh in 2014 to ₹3.65 crore in 2019; Mr. Marandi, who had assets of ₹2.25 crore in 2014, declared assets worth ₹9.06 crore in 2019; Mr. Munda's assets of ₹1.46 crore increased to ₹4.35 crore, the PIL said. The petitioner had alleged that assets increased in the range of 100% to 1,100%.

Nod for inquiry

Last July, in response to the PIL, the Hemant Soren Cabinet gave a nod for a preliminary inquiry against the five leaders. In the investigation, the ACB had confirmed that there was an unexpected increase in their assets. On this basis, the ACB registered separate inquiries against the leaders and handed over the investigation to five officers of DSP rank.

M.P. govt. suspends medical officer after Sagar wall collapse

Mehul Malpani
SAGAR

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav late on Sunday suspended the medical officer posted at the Primary Health Centre (PHC) in Sagar district's Shahpur village where a wall collapse incident killed nine children.

In the suspension order of Dr. Hariom Bansal, the Public Health and Medical Education Department said that no doctor or staff was available at the PHC at the time of incident due to which the injured children could not receive proper and timely treatment, and said that the act showed "gross negligence" on part of Dr. Bansal.

Nine children, aged between eight and 15 years, lost their lives after a wall of a dilapidated house collapsed on them on Sunday

morning after heavy rain overnight. The children were present in a tent adjacent to the house to take part in a religious event at a nearby temple.

According to officials, two children had died on the spot while seven succumbed to injuries at the hospital. Two children were referred to Sagar city for treatment and were in stable condition.

Top officials shifted

The incident also prompted Mr. Yadav to order transfers of top district officials, including Collector Deepak Arya, Superintendent of Police Abhishek Tiwari, and Sagar SDM Sandeep Singh.

Meanwhile, the Urban Development and Housing Department also suspended two officials for "not discharging their duties honestly and responsibly".

Ramadoss seeks White Paper on representation of all the communities within MBC list

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) president Anbumani Ramadoss on Monday accused the DMK government of releasing "incorrect and selective" data regarding the representation of the Vanniyars in education and jobs.

He demanded that the government release a White Paper on the representation of all communities within the Most Backward Classes (MBC) category, which has about 115 communities, including the Vanniyars, in education and jobs since the creation of the category in 1989.

Addressing the media at his residence in T. Nagar, Dr. Anbumani claimed that the data made available by the State government to certain reporters were in-



PMK leader A. Ramadoss at a press meet on in Chennai on Monday. S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

complete, as they did not reveal the number of persons from the Vanniyar community directly recruited as Tamil Nadu Civil Service Group I officers.

'Less representation'

"In the years 2013, 2015, 2019, 2020 and 2024, the number of Vanniyars recruited as Group I officers is 7 (out of 16 posts in MBC), 7 (out of 17 posts), 16 (out of 36 MBC posts), 3 (out of 10 MBC posts) and 5

(out of 19 MBC posts), respectively. So, the proportion of Vanniyars recruited in these years through the MBC quota is 8.8%, 9.4%, 8.8%, 4.5% and 5.2%, respectively. Out of a total of 495 posts (in the five years), only 98 candidates from MBC communities were recruited, and of them, only 38 were Vanniyars. While only 7.7% of Vanniyars were recruited from MBC on an average, members of non-Vanniyar communities were recruited at 12.2% on an average," he said, based on the data sourced by the PMK.

Dr. Anbumani asked why the other communities within the MBC category should have a problem with the 10.5% reservation for Vanniyars if the RTI data showing that Vanniyars' representation was much more than 10.5% were authentic.

WCC tag gives rare chance for Kashmir craftsmen to trace their roots, enhance skills

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

The people at House of Ali Shah, the 164-year-old old shawl and carpet brand in Srinagar, are delighted that Kashmir's craft traditions are being recognised formally, at an international level. In June, the World Crafts Council (WCC) named Srinagar a World Craft City, one of now four in India, and among 60 around the globe.

WCC will hold a knowledge exchange programme for artisans from Kashmir with cities that influenced the craft aesthetic here centuries ago.

Mehboob Iqbal Shah, a co-founder of the interpretation centre Artisan Art and Cultural Centre, that's a part of House of Ali Shah, is hopeful about "an aes-

thetic and design upscaling" of Valley artisans after the WCC's inclusion.

"Our family is full of stories about how craft and craftsmen reached Srinagar many centuries ago. The World Craft City tag is a rare opportunity for craftsmen to trace their roots and enhance their skills," Mr. Shah said.

'Not only pashmina'

Saad al-Qaddumi, president of the WCC AISBL, headquartered in Kuwait, announced the inclusion of Srinagar after an evaluation of craft clusters in June this year. On his maiden visit to Kashmir last week, he met local crafts people in and outside Srinagar. "It was my first trip to Kashmir and the capital Srinagar. Craft in Kashmir is not limited to pashmina shawls. A new world



Jammu & Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, World Crafts Council President Sa'ad Hani Al-Qaddumi and others during the Certificate Award Ceremony after the World Crafts Council (WCC) awarded Srinagar a 'World Craft City' tag, in Srinagar on August 1. ANI

opened to me during my visit to woodcarving, rug-making, and papier mâché clusters," Mr. al-Qaddumi said at the Artisan Art and Cultural Centre.

Kashmir, once a trading hub on the Silk Route, got

cut-off from Persia and Central Asia after concretisation of borders post-1947. The WCC's move to include Srinagar has opened up a rare window to trace the centuries-old craft influences in the region.

"The WCC plans to bring together artisans with similar culture and specialisation, so that they benefit from each other, both culturally and technically. This is the only beginning," Mr. al-Qaddumi

said.

According to the Department of Handicrafts, Srinagar is home to 20,822 craftsmen within the municipal limits of the city. The Directorate of Economics and Statistics suggested that the total production of handicraft-related goods in J&K stood at ₹2,650 crore in 2023.

Three others in the list

Jaipur, Mamallapuram, and Mysore are the other World Craft Cities in India. Internationally, Bukhara in Uzbekistan, Lalitpur in Nepal, Gualaceo in Ecuador, and La Bisbal d'Empordà in Spain are some of the cities. Five centuries ago, craftsmen from Iran travelled to Kashmir, bringing with them crafts such as zanzan, filigree, shiraz, chador, shab, and many more.

According to an Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage-Kashmir (INTACH-Kashmir) report submitted to the WCC earlier this year, Srinagar, the summer capital of J&K, is one of the ancient cities of South Asia with a continuously recorded history of about 1,500 years.

"Located on the historic Shahr-e-Abresham (Silk Route) the city generated a wealth of ideas related to arts and crafts and facilitated exchange of activities in trade, cultural practices, and scientific knowledge. Historically, the city has a legacy as a trade-based land, whose products like shawls and carpets have been internationally recognised," Saleem Beg, INTACH-Kashmir chapter, said.

He said Srinagar represented a unique urban set-

ting showcasing a marked synthesis between the built heritage, the natural surrounding landscape, and their creative representation in the city's associated crafts.

Rich tradition

"The brand 'Cashmere' and the motif paisley are internationally recognized symbols of the city's distinct artistic identity. This rich tradition survives today in the form of 10 different crafts, seven of which have received the unique Geographical Indication (GI) recognition," Mr. Beg said.

According to the INTACH report, the carpet history of Kashmir dates back to the period of the Sufi Saint and scholar, Sayyid Ali Hamdani of Persia who visited Srinagar in the late 14th century AD.

'Decision on Kasturirangan report after consulting with Cabinet'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka Forest and Environment Minister B. Eshwar Khandre on Monday said the decision on whether to implement the Centre's fresh draft notification on the Kasturirangan Committee report on conservation of the Western Ghats would be taken only after discussing the issue in the State Cabinet and with leaders of all political parties of the State.

Recently, the Union government reissued the draft notification classifying parts of the Western Ghats in six States, including Karnataka, as ecologically sensitive areas (ESAs).

"The Centre now issued another notification regarding the Kasturirangan report. An area of over 20,668 sq. km of the State has been declared as ESA. A total of 1,576 villages in the districts of Chamarajanagar, Kodagu, Mysuru, Hassan, Shivamogga, Chikmagalur, Uttara Kannada, Udupi, Dakshina Kannada, and Belagavi have been identified," Mr. Khandre said.

He said that the State government has already taken the decision to reject the report.

The Minister also clarified that the State government issued an order saying that encroachment of forest land for livelihood will not be vacated if the combined land area and encroachment land does not exceed three acres.

Union Minister's remarks on Wayanad tragedy spark row

Bhupender Yadav faults State govt. for 'laying the ground for natural disaster'; the remarks are not fact-based, says Kerala Revenue Minister; 27 unidentified bodies buried; toll goes up to 226

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav seems to have triggered another Centre-State row after the landslides in Wayanad, by faulting the State government for "laying the ground for the natural disaster by abetting illegal mining and habitation" in the district.

Speaking to a news agency, Union Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change said the "local government and local politicians" aided violations in the fragile ecological zone.

Environmental zoning
Mr. Yadav also accused the State government of "avoiding" the Union government's committee on environmental zoning. He urged the State government to categorise forests as eco-sensitive zones to prevent human encroachment and illegal activities.

He said three non-coal mining projects were granted environmental clearance by Kerala in Wayanad since 2023. They consisted of two 'granite building' stone quarry and a 'quarry'. He said the Centre had only given preliminary, or Stage 1 clearance, for twin-tunnel road project in Kerala but no work had actually begun. Projects that involved an environmental clearance in India must go through a multi-stage evaluation by



Death without identification: Mass cremation of the unidentified people who lost their lives in the recent landslides at the Pithumala burial ground in Wayanad district of Kerala on Monday. PTI

independent experts, put together by the Centre. Depending on the nature of the project they may be handled by the State alone or may require further evaluation by the Centre.

Kerala Forest Minister A.K. Saseendran accused Mr. Yadav of preparing the legal and political ground for the Centre to deny the State's impassioned plea to declare Wayanad a national disaster. Revenue Minister K. Rajan said Mr. Yadav's comments were not fact-based.

Officials in the Union Environment Ministry said that the newest version of the Western Ghats draft notification, under which States were required to mark out areas as ecologically sensitive, allowed States to progressively start regulation within their territories rather than waiting

for all States to submit their final demarcated zones. "The disaster hasn't given a fresh impetus to the Western Ghats notification as all the States are generally reluctant to sacrifice economic development. The Sanjay Kumar committee is investigating this but hopefully this disaster will prick their conscience," an official said.

Mr. Yadav's salvo against the Kerala government followed Union Home Minister Amit Shah's accusation that the State ignored IMD, CWC, and GSI warnings and did not put the administration on a war-footing despite the Centre sending nine NDRF teams to the State in mid-July.

Mass burial
Meanwhile, twenty-seven unidentified bodies and 154 body parts of the vic-

tims of the landslides of Chooralmala and Mundakai were buried on Monday. The mass burial conducted in a cemetery prepared in the Harrisons Malayalam plantation followed an all-religion prayer. Eight unidentified bodies were buried on Sunday. Politicians, Ministers, and government officials paid tributes to the victims. Six more bodies were recovered during a search on Monday, the seventh day after the tragedy, raising the death toll to 226 officially.

Five bodies were retrieved from Wayanad and one from the Chaliyar river at Nilambur.

As many as 1,174 personnel of different forces took part in the search conducted in six zones using earth movers. (With inputs from Delhi)

CPI MP seeks breach of privilege proceedings against Shah

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Moving another privilege motion against Home Minister Amit Shah, for allegedly misleading Parliament with his claims that Kerala was forewarned about the landslides in Wayanad, Communist Party of India (CPI) Rajya Sabha member P. Sandosh Kumar said in his petition that the affected area was never under a "red alert". He also pointed out that the warnings Mr. Shah was referring to were vague.

During the debate on a calling attention motion on Wayanad landslides on July 31, Mr. Shah had said that Kerala was warned about heavy rains on July 23 and on the same day, the Centre had rushed nine teams of NDRF personnel to the State.

"According to the communication from the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the affected area and the sub-division were never under a red alert, which warrants taking action. It was only after the occurrences of landslides that the area was placed under red alert," Mr. Sandosh wrote in his petition to Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar.

Mr. Sandosh also gave a detailed account of IMD's warnings. "It appears that the statement made by the Union Home Minister was intended to politicise the matter, while also misleading the House," the MP noted.

Centre denies repertory grant to 24 theatre groups in West Bengal



Theatre practitioners from Bengal, who have been dropped from the Centre's repertory grant, addressing the media in Kolkata on Monday. DEBASISH BHADURI

Movurie Som
KOLKATA

Over 20 renowned Bengali theatre troupes being dropped from the list of eligible recipients of the Union government's repertory grant scheme, Guru-Shishya Parampara, has caused a stir among Kolkata's theatre veterans.

"Some people are asking us why we should receive monetary grants from the government if we criticise them in theatre," Sima Mukherjee, who runs the troupe Rangroop, said on Monday. "I want to ask them, is the government paying us from their pocket or is it our, the taxpayers' money, at the end of the day?" she added.

The Union Ministry of Culture scheme, Financial Assistance for Promotion of Guru-Shishya Parampara (Repertory Grant), provides monetary grants to drama groups, theatre groups, music ensembles, children's theatre and all genres of performing arts activities. Under this scheme, the guru or the di-

rector of the group receives ₹15,000 per month, while shishyas or members of the group receive between ₹2,000 and ₹10,000, depending on age.

Around 24 theatre troupes from West Bengal have reportedly been refused the grant for 2023-2024, including Debesh Chattopadhyay's Laketown Sreebhumi Sanskriti, Abhi Chakraborty's Ashokenagar Nattayamukh, Prakash Bhattacharya's Nandipat, and other troupes, according to a circular issued on Thursday.

Sujan Mukhopadhyay, who helms the 52-year-old Bengali theatre troupe called Chetana, highlighted that theatre in West Bengal has always been a medium of public dissent and is not meant to favour any specific political regime. "What has happened with the grants this year is deplorable. It has traces of conspiracy and personal bias. So many veterans, well-known theatre practitioners and their troupes are being deprived," he said.

INBRIEF



'A.P. govt. to bring out Vision Document 2047 on Oct. 2'

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Monday announced that the government will release a 'Vision Document 2047', aimed at eradicating poverty and ensuring the overall development of the State, on October 2. Addressing the NDA government's first Collectors' Conference at the Secretariat, he explained that this document would be in tandem with PM Narendra Modi's 'Vision Viksit Bharat 2047'. Mr. Naidu instructed the district collectors to also bring out vision documents 2047 for their districts and the mandals therein.

'Brain-eating amoeba' claims one more life in Kerala

Primary amoebic meningoencephalitis (PAM), commonly called as 'brain-eating amoeba', has claimed yet another victim in Kerala, this time in Thiruvananthapuram. Four more cases have also been confirmed, all of whom are admitted in the Government Medical College Hospital, according to the Additional Director of Health Services (Public Health). Health authorities have confirmed that Akhil, 27, who was admitted at the MCH with fever and encephalitis and who breathed his last on July 23, died of PAM.

Students sport Palestine flag during graduation ceremony

Some students, who graduated from Azim Premji University, sported the Palestine flag and "End Genocide" stickers while receiving their degrees at the convocation ceremony held on Sunday. The students claimed Azim Premji University has a collaboration with Tel Aviv University of Israel, and Wipro, the multinational company run by Azim Premji, also has several tie-ups with Israel. The students alleged that the university and the company are "complicit in the genocide" due to these tie-ups with Israeli institutions. They called for these relations to be cut immediately.

On the guard



Keeping a close watch: A policeman on patrol warns visitors against wading into deeper waters and putting their lives at risk at the R.K. Beach in Visakhapatnam on Monday. K.R. DEEPAK

Telangana CM seeks investment from U.S. Telugu community

R. Ravikanth Reddy
HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy kicked off his U.S. tour urging the Telugu community in the country to invest in the youngest State.

"I will bring a new industrial policy to achieve rapid inclusive economic growth keeping in view the future needs. I urge expatriates to invest in the land where they have come from," he said.

The Chief Minister was speaking at a programme organised by the Indian Overseas Congress in New Jersey on Sunday.

Mr. Reddy tried to impress the Indian community in the U.S. by referring



A. Revanth Reddy

to a new city being developed as the fourth city on the lines of Hyderabad, Secunderabad and Cyberabad. He said that Hyderabad would be turned into a top-class city with a world-class master plan and sought investments from all Indians.

The participants appreciated Mr. Reddy's efforts to woo investors.

Village mourns death of century-old tree

The lone Indian siris, at Kumaradevam, had been featured in over 100 movies; it is believed to be the most photographed tree near Godavari river; the tree fell due to heavy flow of floodwater

T. Appala Naidu
EAST GODAVARI

A pall of gloom descended on Kumaradevam, on the western bank of Akhanda Godavari in the East Godavari district, after the death of the century-old Indian siris tree. The tree was featured in over 100 movies.

On the night of August 3, the lone tree collapsed, reportedly after the soil under it gave away owing to the heavy flow of floodwater into the river.

The Godavari witnessed two spells of floods over the past two weeks. The tree had been suffering from an illness and withering over the past



Big loss: The century-old Indian siris tree on the western bank of River Godavari collapsed on August 3. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

year. Early this year, the lone tree had been dubbed the most photographed one on the banks of river.

Gadde Ramakrishna, a 54-year-old vice-sarpanch of Kumaradevam, told *The Hindu*: "Everybody in our panchayat is mourning the

death of our tree on the bank of River Godavari. We used to relax under it after attending our agriculture fields. Our village has decided to plant another Indian siris tree at the same spot."

The tree was planted a century ago by a farmer

Singuluri Tatabbai, say the locals.

In March 2023, Tatabbai's grandson Singuluri Nageswara Rao claimed: "My grandfather planted three saplings in the spot where the tree is. But they were not conserved by the locals. In his fourth attempt, he conserved the sapling for a few days." By 2023, only one tree survived after the Kumaradevam village lost nearly 20 of them to the Godavari flood.

A decade ago, the villagers raised funds and erected revetment to protect this Indian siris tree and it even guarded the river bank here from one of the biggest floods reported in 2021.



On the edge

While protecting Israel, the West must also rein in Netanyahu

The killings of Fuad Shukr, a senior Hezbollah commander, in Beirut, and Ismail Haniyeh, the political chief of Hamas, in Tehran, within hours on July 30 have taken West Asia to the brink of a wider war. Israel has claimed the strike on Beirut that killed Shukr, but has neither confirmed nor denied its role in the assassination of Haniyeh, a standard approach about its operations inside Iran. Israel's northern border with Lebanon has remained tense ever since the Gaza war broke out last year with Hezbollah and the Israeli Defense Forces exchanging fire. After Shukr was killed, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah said Israel had breached a red line, and the group has launched dozens of rockets over the past week, heightening the tensions. A bigger risk is the expected Iranian retaliation against Israel. When Israel bombed Iran's embassy complex in Damascus on April 1, Iran launched hundreds of drones and cruise and ballistic missiles towards Israel, most of which were shot down by a U.S.-led coalition. If Iran carried out such an attack in response to an Israeli strike on its embassy in a third country, it is unlikely to ignore a direct Israeli attack on its capital that killed an ally who was in Tehran to attend the presidential inauguration.

To be sure, by killing Haniyeh in Tehran, Israel has demonstrated its capabilities to pull off sophisticated operations even in hostile territories and exposed Iran's security and intelligence vulnerabilities. Israel has also sent a strong message to Hamas, which carried out the October 7, 2023 attack, that none of its leaders is safe. Yet, this unchecked militarism of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu could turn out to be counterproductive for Israel in the long run. It is now apparent that Mr. Netanyahu is not serious about peace. The killing of Haniyeh has come at a time when both Israel and Hamas were making progress in talks for a hostage-ceasefire deal. Haniyeh, who was living in exile in Doha, was a relatively moderate voice within Hamas who pushed for a ceasefire. By taking him out, Mr. Netanyahu is telling the world that he wants the war to continue. And, by carrying out the attack in Tehran, which is a flagrant violation of Iran's sovereignty, Mr. Netanyahu is practically challenging the Islamic Republic to retaliate. If a direct war breaks out between Israel and Iran, the U.S. could be dragged into it, which is what Israel wants. The Biden administration avoided such a disastrous outcome in April by reining in Israel after Iran's retaliation. But that did not stop Israel from launching another provocative attack against Iran, taking the region back to the brink again. As West Asia braces for Iran's retaliation, the U.S. and its allies should work together to make sure that the impact of its response on Israel would be minimal, and then put in place new rules of the game for Israel so that it does not threaten regional security again as it did on April 1 or July 30.

On target

Indian shooters lived up to expectations in Paris Olympics

Ever since Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore won the silver medal in the men's double trap shooting at the Athens Olympics in 2004, Indian shooters have always dealt with the pressure of expectations. The stress quadrupled when Abhinav Bindra won the gold in the 10m air rifle category in the 2008 Beijing Games. This success was replicated in the 2012 London Games with Gagan Narang winning the bronze in the 10m air rifle shooting while Vijay Kumar did one better, seizing the silver in the 25m rapid fire pistol competition. And then followed the inexplicable drought in shooting during the subsequent editions at Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo. Cut to the latest Paris Games, where all doubts pertaining to whether the shooters would hit bullseye were emphatically laid to rest as 22-year-old Manu Bhaker became the first Indian woman to win an Olympic medal in shooting. It was also Manu's turn to exorcise the ghosts of the past as in the previous Tokyo Games she faltered as an equipment malfunction affected her performance. First up, Manu claimed the bronze in the 10m air pistol. Later she combined with Sarabjot Singh to win another bronze in the mixed 10m air pistol segment. A hat-trick though proved elusive as she finished fourth in the 25m pistol final.

Manu's success is a testimony to the rapid strides that Indian shooting has made besides being a tribute to an efficient system that the sporting fraternity has established. Manu is following the path that predecessors Anjali Bhagwat and Suma Shirur, presently a head coach too, had carved. Those were days when funds were meagre and, at times, awkward questions were asked about carrying firearms at airports as the knowledge of shooting as a sport was low. Anjali and Suma did not win an Olympics medal but they inspired their juniors to follow the sport with passion. Manu linking up with her former coach Jaspal Rana, an ace shooter himself, helped add a new dimension. Shooting demands still hands, a sharp eye and a zen mind, and finally Manu revealed that she was in the zone while aiming at the target. Her traits were evident in Swapnil Kusale too as he won bronze in the men's 50m rifle three positions event. Equally, Arjun Babuta's fourth-place finish in the men's 10m air rifle final was a pointer to shooting's razor thin margins that split ecstasy and agony. There was more grief too in archery, as India continued to fail at the Olympics with Deepika Kumari and company often stumbling at the business end.

The Government of India, in its Budget, raised taxes on both short-term and long-term capital gains made in the stock market and also raised the securities transaction tax on derivatives transactions.

The fundamental belief behind the idea of imposing higher taxes on stock market profits is that gains from stock market speculation are akin to gains from gambling. In fact, the Economic Survey released a day prior to the Budget argued that unlike developed countries, a developing country such as India cannot afford to waste its limited savings on stock market speculation. Finance Secretary T.V. Somanathan even noted that capital gains could be taxed at higher rates as it is currently the fastest-growing income class.

Capital gains made in the stock market are somehow seen as easy profits earned by investors without providing any useful service to society. Similar disdain is also shown when the owner of a piece of real estate profits from a rise in the price of his or her property – as is evident in the removal of indexation benefits for real estate investors in the recent Budget. This is not surprising because many believe that when an investor buys an asset and sells it at a higher price in the future, he does not add any value to society in the process. In fact, capital gains are seen as a major reason behind growing inequality and taxing such gains is deemed good for society. The truth, however, is very different from this belief.

How capital gains occur

To understand why, one must first consider how capital gains occur in an economy. In a world where investors could perfectly forecast the future cash flow from different assets, there would be no capital gains because it would then be impossible for any investor to buy an asset at a price that is cheaper than its fair value. Here is an explanation, with a very simple example. Suppose investors knew very precisely that a business (or any other asset) would yield a one-time cash flow of ₹110 a year from now and they wanted a minimum annual return of 10%. Competition among investors to purchase the business would ensure that any buyer would have to pay ₹100 for it or risk losing it to other potential buyers. In such a Utopian world, there would be no opportunity for any investor to purchase the business for, let us say, ₹50 and sell it later at its fair value of ₹100 to earn a profit (or capital gains) of 100%.

The real world, of course, is far from perfect as the future is often uncertain. Hence, forecasts about the future cash flow of businesses can, at times, vary a lot. This basically means that investors may end up over-investing in certain businesses when compared to the likely future cash flow of these businesses, leading to



Prashanth Perumal

overvaluation. They may also under-invest in other businesses, leading to undervaluation. Investors who put their money in undervalued businesses have the chance to earn capital gains when other investors finally recognise the fair value of these businesses and bid up their prices. So, an investor who makes capital gains is essentially one who deploys his capital efficiently into businesses whose future cash flow justifies the investment. An investor who suffers capital losses, on the other hand, is one who misallocates capital into businesses whose future cash flow does not justify the investment.

This lesson has important social implications. An economy that allocates a large part of its capital inefficiently would be poorer than another economy that allocates its capital more efficiently. This is because the way capital is allocated also determines how scarce resources are allocated towards satisfying different ends of society. Imagine if, during a pandemic such as COVID-19, investors in a country allocated most of their capital into building cruise ships and passenger aircraft which very few people want during a pandemic rather than building new hospitals and testing facilities that are in high demand. Such a country, where investors misallocated capital, would be directing its resources in an inefficient way than another economy where investors correctly prioritised health care over less important sectors. While a uniform tax on capital gains across all businesses may help prevent such resource misallocation, higher tax collections will still affect private incentives and the size of the overall economic pie.

The issue of 'gambling instincts'

Now, some may dispute that the argument above, for the benefits of speculation, does not apply to most of the buying and selling that happens in the stock market. When a retail investor buys a share of a business, they rightly say, the investor's cash often does not actually go into the balance sheet of the business but into the hands of the previous owner. What these critics do not understand, however, is that in many cases, early investors may not even be keen in investing in a business unless there is an active market such as the stock exchange where they could readily sell their shares to potential buyers in the future. The Centre says it wants to encourage long-term investing in companies by raising the tax on short-term capital gains. But it does not understand that without traders with "gambling instincts", who regularly buy and sell stocks in the short-term, there would not be sufficient liquidity in the market for many long-term investors to easily sell their stocks.

Further, a highly liquid market also ensures that the shares of businesses are priced as accurately as possible. The efficient pricing of the

A better understanding of the benefits of stock market speculation – erroneously viewed as akin to gambling – can lead to better public policy

The issue of institutional violence, addressing it

India's electoral process presents a dichotomy. Six hundred and forty-two million voters, more than half of whom were female, cast a vote in the largest democratic process in action in the world. Yet, in a country where 90 rapes are reported everyday, very few among the 2,823 candidates who stood for elections, had women's safety on their electoral agenda. For those that did, all were sporadic and none tackled the underlying institutional violence that millions of survivors live through everyday.

This dichotomy is real: nearly 50% women face domestic violence and two out of three Dalit women face sexual violence in their lifetimes. Yet, not just political parties ignored this. Even voters did not seem to demand it.

Prolonged and worse

Gender-based violence is incorrectly presumed to be one specific act of violence, often by an intimate partner at the household level, that politicians cannot address. However, in a white paper developed through 200-plus hours of interviews and discussions with lived experts, we found that the institutional violence on survivors is often prolonged and worse than the specific act of gender-based violence itself. This is where voters and politicians can make a vital difference.

Institutional violence against survivors starts even before the reporting process, influencing their decision to come forward. For example, a report published in 2019 by J-PAL, a global policy think tank, showed that 39% of officers in India think that complaints of gender-based violence are usually baseless. With a brutal police system, a decades-long traumatic judicial system and no hope of justice, a vicious cycle of violence is maintained.

Women only seek justice when their circumstances become unbearable. Despite one in two women facing intimate partner violence, India has one of the lowest divorce rates in the



Mathangi Swaminathan

the founder of Parity Lab, a first-of-its-kind feminist accelerator for survivor-led organisations fighting against gender-based violence. She is an Echoing Green Fellow, an Acumen India Fellow, a World Economic Forum Global Shaper, and an alumna of the Harvard Kennedy School

Voters and politicians have the power to highlight the issue and make a difference

world at 1%. A report estimated that 77% of women in India remain silent, even to their closest relatives, about the violence they endure.

"A woman once approached us with bleeding veins," said Ranjita, Founder of Samartha, a Denotified Nomadic Tribal youth and women-led organisation. "We accompanied her to the police station to file a complaint, and the cops told us to step aside so they could talk to her alone. They tried to dissuade her from filing the report and sent us around to different police stations. When she still wanted to report, they accused us of coercing her... Now, they tell us that since she comes from the neighbouring State of Karnataka, this case is out of their jurisdiction. These are the challenges we face with the justice system."

Problems in rural India

In rural India, male and upper-caste dominated panchayats add an additional set of barriers for women to seek justice. Divorce is almost never an option: India has a backlog of 40 million court cases and this particularly impacts survivors of gender-based violence, even more so survivors from marginalised communities with pre-existing systemic inequities due to their caste, literacy and geography.

"Getting justice in India can lead to a lot of injustice," says Ranjita.

We, as a country, have lost hope. This is where bureaucrats and elected leaders can come in and make a difference by creating survivor-centric institutions.

For years, social impact organisations have been taking up this responsibility to train police and members of the judicial system to adopt a trauma-informed lens. For example, Vanangna, a women-led organisation in Bundelkhand trains government officials, including the police and law enforcement, on women-centric and survivor-centric processes. We need to adopt these learnings at a national level, and we need

shares of companies can help ensure that companies with promising prospects are able to raise funds more easily than companies with shaky prospects, thus aiding the efficient allocation of resources.

It is worse for derivatives

Meanwhile, gains that speculators make from derivatives such as futures and options suffer an even worse reputation than the more straightforward capital gains made from trading shares. But again, disdain towards derivatives speculation also comes from a lack of understanding of its social benefits.

Derivatives are contracts that allow investors to buy or sell an underlying asset such as a stock at a predetermined price in the future. In other words, these instruments allow one group of investors to offload the risk associated with changes in the price of an asset onto another group of investors who are willing to assume the risk. So, derivatives basically help in the transfer of risk among investors. It should be noted that without derivatives, many investors would simply not be willing to make many investments at all. A great example is of a farmer who may have the skills to produce agricultural output but not the skill or the risk appetite to forecast the future prices of his produce. In the absence of futures contracts that can assure the farmer a certain price for his produce in the future, the farmer will likely be discouraged from producing any output at all due to the risk of potential price fluctuations.

Derivatives trading can often look like pure gambling. This is particularly so in cases where neither party to the contract has any intention to ever actually buy or sell the underlying asset but purely wants to bet on changes in the price of the asset. Such bets on the price of an underlying asset can seem to be no different from bets placed on the outcome of a game of cricket or football. But note that such pure speculative bets in derivatives are not very different from much of the trading that happens in the cash market, where both the buyer and the seller of a stock may – unlike fundamental investors – trade without any long-term interest in the underlying business. We have seen that such active trading in stocks can be socially beneficial as it offers crucial liquidity to long-term investors who want to buy or sell based on fundamentals. Similarly, traders who bet in derivatives for purely speculative reasons help improve the availability of these instruments to fundamental investors who want to manage risk.

A better understanding of these benefits of stock market speculation can lead to better public policy.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Yamini Krishnamurthy

With Yamini Krishnamurthy's passing, we have lost someone who was possibly the most outstanding Bharatanatyam dancer in recent times. I recall that I was responsible for bringing her to Delhi and presenting her to Delhi audiences. When the newly built Ashoka Hotel was ready, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had specifically said that we

should have a strong cultural wing so that it becomes more than just a hotel – rather, a cultural centre for the capital. It was in this context that we invited Professor Krishnamurthy and his daughter to come to Delhi. Her advent created quite a sensation. The sheer energy that she put into her *jotis* with her intricate footwork was a joy to see. Happily she stayed on in Delhi for

several decades and received three Padma Awards, going up to the Padma Vibhushan. Her Kuchipudi was also superb and in fact along with Raja and Radha Reddy whom we also presented at Ashoka Hotel, they introduced this second great South Indian classical dance form to Delhi audiences. Unfortunately, her health faded towards the end and she has passed away. But

her memory will always remain with people who had the privilege of seeing her dance for several decades.

Karan Singh,
New Delhi

Bangladesh crisis

The unprecedented turmoil in Bangladesh, which has led to the fleeing of the Bangladesh Prime Minister, clearly indicates public wrath that has been

brewing for some time. The volatile situation in a neighbouring country should be a cause for concern given the bonhomie between New Delhi and Dhaka. As of now, it should be a wait and watch policy for India. Politicians in India should be aware of the state of the youth given concerns about unemployment in India. G. Ramasubramanyam, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

The instability in Bangladesh – though it has different dimensions – resonates with the turmoil that Sri Lanka underwent a couple of years ago. Such instability in India's immediate neighbourhood causes innumerable threats which may have spillover effects. With the burial of SAARC, there is concern over stability in the region. M. Rishidev, Dindigul, Tamil Nadu

Powering India's future

In her seventh consecutive Budget speech, the Finance Minister announced measures indicating India's commitment to its clean energy transition. These measures include developing policies on pumped hydro storage, and energy transition pathways to support nuclear energy and energy efficiency. Yet, the memories of this summer's record-breaking heatwaves, which drove up power demand, are still fresh. They reflect both a growing economy and a warming climate. What will it take to keep India's economy powered?

For the NDA government, energy security and the clean energy transition have been the priorities. This is evident from three key milestones India has achieved in the last decade. First, near-universal electrification through the Saubhagya scheme, with independent surveys by the Council on Energy, Environment, and Water (CEEW) suggesting that approximately 97% of households were electrified in 2020. Second, the country saw a five-fold increase in installed renewable energy (RE) capacity, making India the fourth-largest country globally by RE capacity. Third, there was a 40% drop in aggregate losses of power distribution companies (discoms), to an all-time low of about 15% in 2022-23. These indicate that the base of the Indian power sector is strengthening. However, India confronts challenges in decarbonising its power system at speed and scale while supplying quality and affordable power to consumers.

Moreover, India's power sector must prepare for stronger headwinds. Our annual electricity demand has been growing by 7-9% every year since the COVID-19 pandemic. But our peak demand is rising even faster. Climate change-induced weather extremes further exacerbate these challenges. For discoms, meeting unplanned surges through affordable options and existing network capacity is challenging,



Shalu Agrawal

Director of Programmes at the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)



Disha Agarwal

Senior Programme Lead at the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)

resulting in power outages.

To address the concerns

First, the government must raise targets for renewable energy and storage systems to go beyond 500 GW in 2030. Despite past efforts to add renewable capacity, its share in India's power generation mix is just 13%. Previous power supply shortages and expectations of rising energy demand have driven policymakers to bet on new coal capacity. Instead, we must strive to raise the share of renewables in India's power generation mix and scale up storage solutions. Renewables and storage can support peak demand, are cost-competitive, and are faster to build.

Second, steer faster deployment of diverse clean energy resources. In 2023 alone, China added 300 GW of solar and wind capacity, while the European Union added 73 GW. As of March, India's cumulative renewable capacity stood at 144 GW, with another 128 GW in the pipeline. This comparison indicates the urgency of deploying clean resources at speed and scale. This requires tapping the RE potential in more States as well as faster grid connectivity and access to suitable, conflict-free land for the timely commissioning of projects. Diversifying from solar energy to other clean technologies would also help India meet its evolving demand.

Third, implement measures to improve the availability of energy. During FY23, only 6.3% of India's power generation was procured through power exchanges, with the rest coming through bilateral agreements. The low liquidity (volume being traded) in the power exchange presents price volatility risks. This restricts both buyers and sellers from relying on the exchange for power procurement and value recovery, and in turn, constrains our ability to integrate renewables at scale. India needs innovation in bid designs to attract RE developers to sell power in the exchange, besides

setting up capacities for long-term contracts. For instance, under the RE Implementation Agency-led bidding process, RE developers may be required to build part of the project capacities for merchant sale, beyond the bid quantum for long-term contracts.

Fourth, ensure effective maintenance and utilisation of the coal fleet. Even as we add more renewables, coal plays an important role. CEEW's analysis of MERIT data shows that, in FY24, more than 210 GW of coal capacity generated about 80% of the power during non-solar hours. However, more than 40 GW of coal capacity was unavailable for nearly 60% of the time that year, due to planned maintenance or technical faults. State regulators must revise the norms to enable timely upkeep of the coal fleet and compensate for investments to make select coal plants flexible.

Finally, fast-track digitalisation to empower discoms and consumers to play an active role in India's energy transition. Smart meters would enable discoms to forecast power demand accurately, plan networks better, and integrate renewables cost-effectively. More than 11 million smart meters have already been installed in India, with half of these in Bihar and Assam. However, India's smart metering drive is far from the 250 million target. Discoms must overcome their hesitation and take inspiration from Bihar and Assam, which are already reaping benefits like reduced losses and timely bill delivery to consumers through smart metering. But keeping consumer privacy and system preparedness against cyberattacks at the heart of regulations and digitalisation efforts would be crucial.

All eyes are on the Indian government to deliver in this critical decade. Investing in a cleaner, flexible, and resilient power grid will help our economy grow sustainably and create jobs in the clean energy sectors.

Views expressed are personal

Investing in a cleaner, flexible, and resilient power grid will help our economy grow sustainably and create jobs in the clean energy sectors

Maharashtra Prisons Bill: a hit or miss?

The Bill addresses issues like overcrowding and poor conditions in prisons

STATE OF PLAY

Isha Prakash

In July 12, the Maharashtra State government drafted and tabled the Maharashtra Prisons and Correctional Services Bill, 2024, in the State Legislative Assembly's monsoon session. Although the Bill was not passed, the State Cabinet has now approved its passage as an Ordinance. It will be sent to the Centre for approval and will require the President's nod.

As 'Prisons' fall under the State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, it is within the exclusive domain of State governments to legislate on and regulate prisons in their jurisdiction. Currently, prisons in most States including Maharashtra, are governed by the colonial Prisons Act of 1894 and underlying rules passed at the State level.

To improve prison governance, the Union government finalised the Model Prisons and Correctional Services Act, 2023 (Model Bill) in May 2023, and urged States to adopt it. The Bill addresses aspects ranging from staffing to technology to mental health in prisons.

According to data published by the State's Prison Department, Maharashtra has over 60 prisons including nine central, 28 district, and 19 open prisons.

As of May 31, 2024, these prisons house over 40,428 prisoners against the sanctioned strength of 27,110, indicating around 50% overcrowding. It has ranked amongst the top five States with the most prisoners and under trials.

The State-level prison rules were passed between 1962 and 1979. These rules have oc-



asionally been amended but they are neither sufficient nor easily available. Combined with the number of custodial deaths, petitions filed, and poor prison conditions, this makes a compelling case for why prison reforms are undeniably needed.

The new Bill

The new Maharashtra Bill has adopted several provisions from the Model Bill and has some additional provisions. One such provision is the role of the convict overseer. A convict overseer is a prisoner selected by the authorities and given certain supervisory powers. In turn, they are entitled to benefits such as higher remission. While this is still practised in a few States, it has been severely criticised.

Moreover, the Bill states that all convict overseers will be 'public servants' under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

A public servant usually refers to a government official and will grant them certain privileges, duties, and powers. While there is a similar provision in the Prisons Act, 1894, the Model Bill is silent in this regard. Thus, the State government must assess the relevance of such a clause in current times.

Another feature is the constitution of a 'Prisons and Correctional Services Force'. It will comprise the Director General of Prisons, the Special Inspector General of Prisons,

the Jailer, and other officers. Some powers specified in the Bill include the authority to use allotted weapons as required, make arrests without a warrant or Magistrate's order, and so on. As no such body has been envisaged under the Model Bill or by any other State, it is unclear how this would play out in reality. Given the shift towards a rehabilitative justice system, measures must be taken to curb unchecked power and provide for a more humane approach to incarceration.

While the Model Bill proposes the creation of a welfare fund for the prisoners, this Bill entails the creation of a welfare fund for prison staff and another for prisoners. As funds for both will come from the State government, implementation might be difficult. For staff, the Model Bill proposes a staff welfare wing for implementing welfare initiatives. It might be more effective if the State government made prisoners the sole beneficiaries of the welfare fund.

Despite being passed 130 years ago, the Prisons Act of 1894 continues to be in force in multiple States.

The State government's attempt to transform the prison system is, thus, a much-needed step in the right direction. While there is scope for improvement, the Bill has provisions concerning transgender prisoners and an Undertrial Review Committee, amongst others.

With focused stakeholder consultations and a few changes, this could be a perfect opportunity for Maharashtra to begin the long overdue process of overhauling the prison system in the State.

Isha Prakash is a lawyer and Research Fellow at the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, Mumbai

Hasina's paradoxical rule — economic progress, democratic regression

Indicators measuring political rights and civil liberties declined drastically under her 15-time rule

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

The protests against currently deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina — who has been in power since 2009 in Bangladesh — seeking her resignation indicate the level of anger that has grown following a clear erosion of civil liberties and rights in contrast to the notable progress made in various socio-economic parameters during her long tenure.

Ms. Hasina tendered her resignation and fled the country after renewed violence and clashes between government supporters and protestors. Last month, students led protests against quotas in government jobs benefiting families of freedom fighters who took part in the Bangladesh War of Liberation. After 150 people were killed during the agitation, the Supreme Court of Bangladesh had done away with most of the quotas in question. However, protests were renewed with calls for Ms. Hasina's resignation owing to her regime's use of excessive use of violence, closure of educational institutions, and internet clampdown to suppress the student-led agitation.

Ms. Hasina's resignation marks a steep fall for a leader whose regime's use of measures to curb civil liberties and the opposition is in sharp contrast to its economic policies. Her government deserves credit for various economic measures such as strengthening infrastructure in the country by providing electricity to remote villages and building highways, railway lines, and ports.

The country's GDP per capita (current U.S.\$), surpassed India's in 2023, as shown in Chart 1. The rapid increase in the measure post-2003 is visible. The economic growth also translated to better outcomes in education and health.

The country's Human Development Index also surpassed India's

in 2020 and stood just behind Sri Lanka in the region (Chart 2). The country's Infant Mortality rate also drastically reduced from 151.4 in 1973 (behind India) to 24.1 in 2022 (ahead of India), as shown in Chart 3.

In contrast to the rapid progress in socio-economic measures, the nation's indicators which measure political rights, political pluralism, civil liberties, organisational rights, rule of law, and personal autonomy have all declined in recent years.

Chart 4 shows Bangladesh's scores in such parameters over the last decade, based on ratings by Freedom House. In each category, the maximum score is four and the minimum score is one, or zero if no rights exist at all.

The 76-year-old leader became the world's longest-serving female head of government, when Ms. Hasina won a fourth consecutive term in January this year, in an election boycotted by the main Opposition who claimed the polls were not free and fair.

As Chart 4 shows, all indicators measuring political rights and political pluralism, such as "Was the head of government elected free and fairly?", "Are electoral laws implemented impartially?", "Is there the right to organise political parties?", and "Is there an opportunity for the opposition to gain power through polls?", have recorded a drastic decline in the past decade.

The Freedom of Press index, already poor, suffered a further drop in the second half of 2010. That protestors were met with excessive violence recently was not surprising, given that the nation's score in "freedom of assembly" declined.

Ratings also showed that people were afraid to air opinions on sensitive issues, with the independence of the judiciary taking a beating. Indeed the rule by Ms Hasina in Bangladesh can only be termed a paradox.

With inputs from AP, Reuters

Boon and bane

The data for the charts are sourced from the World Bank, the Human Development Reports, and Freedom House

Chart 1: Various countries' GDP per capita (current U.S.\$) over the years

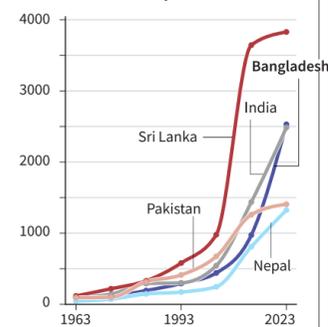


Chart 2: Various countries' Human Development Index over the years

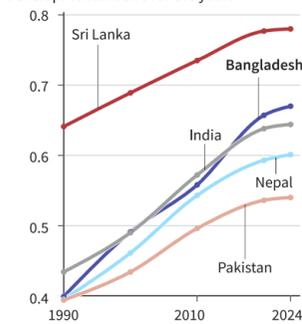


Chart 3: Various countries' Infant Mortality Rates over the years

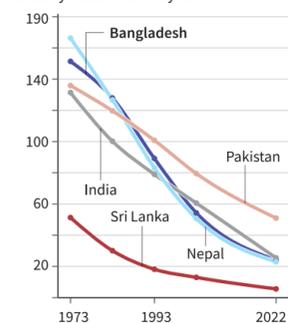
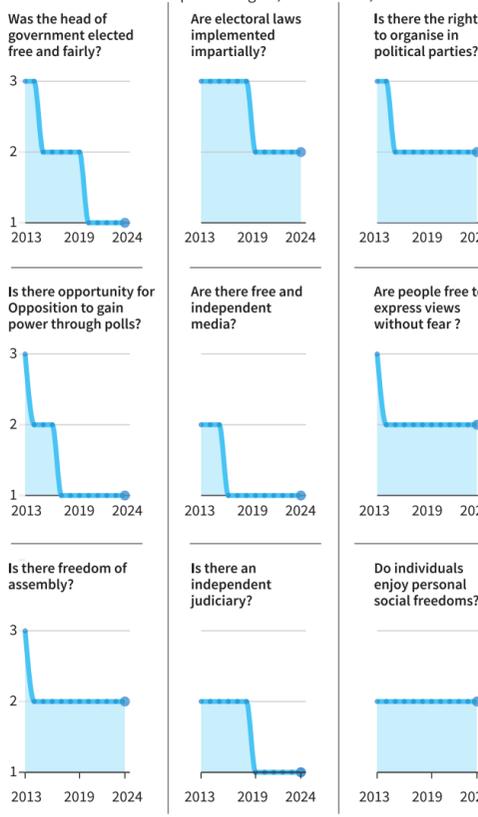


Chart 4: The chart shows Bangladesh's scores over the years in various indicators which measure political rights, civil liberties, and more



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 6, 1974

Govt. to study plea to end ban on donation to parties

New Delhi, August 5: The Government will give "thought" to the demand for lifting the ban on company donations to political parties, the Minister for Law and Company Affairs, Mr. H. R. Gokhale, said in the Lok Sabha today.

Mr. Gokhale was replying to the general debate on the Companies (Amendment) Bill during which a Congress member, Mr. N.P.K. Salve had demanded repeal of the provision banning company contributions to political parties.

Mr. Gokhale said that he would not say that he would not say anything more on this subject except that "we will give thought to this."

The House later passed the Bill after incorporating several amendments.

The Minister vigorously defended the proposal to take away certain powers from courts and vest them in the Company Law Board and said that this had been done on the basis of the recommendations of two high-power bodies.

Regarding the criticism that this might delay the disposal of cases, Mr. Gokhale said that the Bill made provision for increasing the number of members of the Board to nine.

There could be different benches of the Board at different places.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 6, 1924

Call for relief.

Kumbakonam, August 6: It is understood that His Excellency Lord Goschen will visit the flooded areas in the district on or about the 15th instant and that the District Collector has issued orders for the roads to be put in a state of repair in view of His Excellency's visit. The advisability of this is questioned and it has been suggested that the roads ought to be left as they are and His Excellency carried across in a palanquin so that he may have some idea of the havoc wrought by the floods.

The resentment in the public mind at Shiyali about the apathy of local officials is happily not seen here. Everybody whom I have seen has expressed his very great admiration for the prompt and good work done in preventing breaches in several places and in rescue work in the affected villages.

Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Death toll from anti-government protests in Bangladesh

300 The overall death toll from clashes in Bangladesh rose to at least 300 people after 94 died on Sunday which was the deadliest day in weeks of anti-government demonstrations. AFP

The worth of assets monetised in three years to FY24

3.86 in lakh crore. Asset monetisation worth over ₹1.54 lakh crore happened in the coal sector, followed by roads (₹81,556 crore), power (₹33,512 crore), mines (₹32,651 crore) etc. PTI

Number of arsenic affected rural habitations in India

316 India also has 265 fluoride-hit rural habitations, a decrease from the 14,020 arsenic-affected and 7,996 fluoride-affected areas in April 2019, the government informed the Rajya Sabha. PTI

Number of people displaced in the Manipur violence

59,564 According to Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, 11,133 houses were gutted in fires in the violence in the State. PTI

The increase in UPI transactions in India in the current fiscal

36 In per cent. As per details shared by Minister of State for Finance, 4,122 crore UPI transactions worth ₹60 lakh crore took place from April to June in 2024-25. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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On doorstep delivery of alcohol

What are the arguments for and against online delivery of alcohol? How much of India consumes liquor? Can such a system make it safer for women to access alcohol? How should governments regulate liquor consumption?

EXPLAINER

Parth Sharma
Siddhesh Zadey
Vid Karmarkar

The story so far:

The States of Delhi, Karnataka, Haryana, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Goa, and Kerala are or were mulling plans to allow the doorstep delivery of alcohol through platforms like Swiggy, BigBasket, and Zomato. India has seen a steady rise in alcohol consumption. The recorded per capita consumption has increased from 1.6 litres in 2003-2005 to 2.2 litres in 2010, then to 5.5 litres in 2016-2018. With \$52 billion in revenue, India is the sixth-largest alcohol market worldwide. According to a Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment survey in 2019, there were about 16 crore alcohol users in India in the 10-75 year age group in 2018. Medically, the safe limit for alcohol consumption is zero millilitres. Alcohol use causes three lakh deaths in the country every year.

Why doorstep delivery?

There are two main arguments in favour of doorstep delivery of alcohol. First, that excise taxes on alcohol sales can help generate revenue for Central and State governments. Across States, taxes on alcohol sales contribute up to a quarter of all revenue generated for governments. Second, doorstep delivery can help reduce drunk-driving incidents and prevent road traffic crashes and injuries. In India, 6-48% of fatal road traffic fatalities are due to alcohol use.

A third argument is that doorstep deliveries may not threaten the safety of women consumers. There is some evidence from Kerala that shutting bars selling hard liquor reduced on-premise violence against women. Doorstep delivery options might have a similar effect, especially for women who live alone or with other women.



GETTY IMAGES

However, this argument is on a slippery slope: for the majority of India's women, safety cannot be presumed as domestic violence related to alcohol use is rampant. So while doorstep delivery will help women access alcohol without social stigma – a possible advantage in itself – whether it could reduce violence against them is suspect.

What are the arguments against?

Studies to date agree that for India, the costs due to alcohol use exceed economic benefits from alcohol sales. Second, schemes with doorstep delivery of alcohol assume people will change their drinking and socialising behaviours in response to the new option. It is reasonable but requires concrete evidence. There is some evidence that the availability of alcohol on-demand can increase consumption, promote binge drinking, and lead to harms related to alcohol use.

Similarly, it is not straightforward to assume doorstep alcohol delivery can reduce drunk-driving. There are several other, evidence-based policies that can help deal with that issue including sobriety checkpoints, stringent penalties for repeat offenders, and increasing availability of public transport and other ride-share options.

What are the effects of alcohol consumption?

Alcohol is a carcinogen and causes at least seven types of cancers. Alcohol consumption also increases the risk of injuries, abuse of other substances, mental illnesses, diabetes mellitus, liver disease, diseases of the heart and blood vessels, and chronic kidney diseases. Along with health implications for the user, male alcohol misuse increases the risk and severity of inter-partner violence. Treatment of diseases and injuries due

to alcohol consumption are expected to cost India more than ₹3 lakh crore between 2011 and 2050. Adding productivity losses raises this to ₹121.3 lakh crore. The revenue to governments from excise taxes will be only one-fifth of the financial losses. Worldwide, the alcohol industry is known for intense lobbying including efforts to weaken health warning labels. The alcohol industry views low- and middle-income countries as emerging markets. In India, the industry has been known to advocate against alcohol use reduction policies despite evidence of its effectiveness.

What can governments do?

Except for some national policies – including drunk driving laws and health warning labels – alcohol-use policies have been delegated to States, resulting in wide variation in policy framing and implementation. The instruments available to State and Central governments allow them to mitigate harms due to alcohol use through cross-sectoral public health approaches. They include restricting the availability and marketing of alcohol, higher taxes, enforcement of drunk-driving laws, and higher investment in cost-beneficial psychosocial treatments of alcohol-use disorders. So if doorstep delivery is to be offered, for example, States can change the trade-off for consumers from whether they should order in to whether they should drink at all – which they can achieve by setting higher prices and taxes.

In tandem, governments should work with health departments and other organisations to monitor the impact of doorstep delivery on alcohol consumption. Companies offering these services must share accurate data with the government to understand the health and economic burden. The decision should be revised if harms are evident.

Vid Karmarkar is the founder and CEO of Canseva Foundation. Parth Sharma is founding editor of Nivarana.org. Siddhesh Zadey is a co-founder of Association for Socially Applicable Research.

THE GIST

The States of Delhi, Karnataka, Haryana, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Goa, and Kerala are or were mulling plans to allow the doorstep delivery of alcohol through platforms like Swiggy, BigBasket, and Zomato.

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Except for some national policies – including drunk driving laws and health warning labels – alcohol-use policies have been delegated to States, resulting in wide variation in policy framing and implementation.

Why was a customs duty hike imposed for lab chemicals?

What are the different kinds of chemicals which are imported into the country? How important are these chemicals for scientific research? Is Ethanol also imported into the country?

Jacob Koshy

The story so far:

The Finance Ministry has withdrawn a customs duty hike on imported laboratory chemicals, which was proposed post the Budget, after scientists raised a furor.

What are laboratory chemicals?

Imported chemicals, reagents, and enzymes come under the category of laboratory chemicals and are vital to experimental research across nearly every domain of scientific research. They comprise oxidisers, corrosive acids, and compressed gas, that are used by researchers to conduct experiments and even make new products. Outside of research settings, the medical diagnostics industry is run on laboratory chemicals. Closely affiliated to these chemicals are laboratory instruments such as funnels, beakers, test tubes and burners. Because

these chemical compounds have a wide range of properties and are potentially hazardous, they are regulated and their imports scrutinised.

Most of such chemicals are niche products and can be fairly expensive. The Customs Department defines laboratory chemicals as “all chemicals, organic or inorganic, whether or not chemically defined, imported in packings not exceeding 500 gms or 500 millilitres and which can be identified with reference to the purity, markings or other features to show them to be meant for use solely as laboratory chemicals.”

What was the issue?

The Budget documents released on July 23, silently hiked the Basic Customs Duty (BCD) on these chemicals to 150% from the existing 10%. The matter came to light with scientists from reputed, publicly funded research laboratories in India reporting on social media platforms, such as X, on having received emails from

suppliers – typically there are specialised companies that trade in these chemicals – that the chemicals had become expensive. For instance, a batch of products that usually cost ₹1,00,000 before the Budget would now cost ₹2,50,000. There was also a 25% hike on the plastic components imported for laboratory uses. Researchers were flummoxed by the steep increase and some told *The Hindu* that they believed it to be a “misprint.” Several senior scientists wrote to the Ministry of Science and Technology asking for clarity. However an issue of customs duty must ultimately be dealt with by the Ministry of Finance along with the Commerce Ministry.

Why are imported chemicals a must?

India is a major pharmaceutical and chemicals manufacturer and also an exporter of complex chemicals. However, there isn't enough of local demand among Indian research institutions for

companies to make the substantial capital investments required to produce niche chemicals, Dr. Vinod Scaria, a biologist, told *The Hindu*. A key feature of experimental research is trying to replicate results of experiments conducted abroad and this often requires the exact materials used.

How was the issue resolved?

As it emerged, the hiked up rate wasn't a misprint. The customs department did this as it wanted to reign in imports of ethanol that were being brought in as 'laboratory chemicals' to avoid the customs duty of 150%. There are broadly two kinds of ethanol. Ethanol, of varying grades, sourced from grain and used in the manufacture of alcohol and, 'denatured' ethanol, which is ethanol mixed with additives and unfit for consumption. The latter also comes in grades but is used in laboratories and in commercial applications.

Scientists told *The Hindu* that denatured alcohol is made by several local manufacturers and doesn't usually need to be imported. However, the revised Finance Ministry notification puts in some additional caveats that may still impose some delays in the procurement of such chemicals. It states that while the duty rate would revert back to the original rate, all imported laboratory chemicals need to be accompanied by a letter that says the goods will only be used in a laboratory and for research and not further traded for commercial gains.

THE GIST

Imported chemicals, reagents, and enzymes come under the category of laboratory chemicals and are vital to experimental research across nearly every domain of scientific research.

The Budget documents released on July 23, silently hiked the Basic Customs Duty (BCD) on these chemicals to 150% from the existing 10%.

The customs department did this as it wanted to reign in imports of ethanol that were being brought in as 'laboratory chemicals'. The Finance Ministry has now withdrawn the customs duty hike on imported laboratory chemicals.

BUILDING BLOCKS



The Jantar Mantar, Samrat Yantra (Giant sundial) in Jaipur. GETTY IMAGES

How time has been kept throughout history: from sundials to atomic clocks

The world has come from keeping time with the Sun and the moon to atoms and their nuclei. Some physicists have even started work on the next-to-next generation of devices, called nuclear clocks

Vasudevan Mukunth

Time is an inalienable part of our reality. Scientists don't understand it fully at the universe's largest and smallest scales, but fortunately for humans, a panoply of natural philosophers and inventors have allowed us to keep step with its inexorable march – with clocks.

What is a clock?

Clocks are devices that measure the passage of time and display it. Their modern versions have the following parts – a power source, resonator, and counter.

A clock measures the amount of time that has passed by tracking something that happens in repeating fashion, at a fixed frequency. In many modern clocks, for example, this is a quartz crystal. More rudimentary devices often depended on natural events instead. The sundials in use in ancient times allowed people to 'tell' time by casting shadows of changing lengths against sunlight. In water clocks, water would slowly fill a vessel, with its levels at different times indicating how much time had passed. The hourglass served a similar purpose, using sand instead of water.

How did mechanical clocks work?

Until the Middle Ages, engineers around the world improved the water clock with additional water tanks, gear wheels, pulleys, and even attached musical instruments to the point where they were practically developing rudimentary analog computers.

One of the first major revolutions in timekeeping that paved the way for modern clocks was the invention of the verge escapement mechanism in the 13th century, which first opened the door to mechanical clocks. The fundamental element here was a gear that, through a combination of mechanical arrangements, could only move in fixed intervals. The gear was called an escape wheel if it was circular. A second gear, called the balance wheel, was enmeshed

with the first such that when the escape wheel moved forward one gear tooth at a time, the balance wheel would oscillate back and forth. This oscillation would drive the 'hands' of a clock on a clockface as long as some force was applied on the balance wheel to keep it moving.

Between the 15th and 18th centuries, clockmakers developed and improved on spring-driven clocks. These devices replaced the suspended weight that applied the force on the balance wheel in the previous designs with a coiled spring. To keep these clocks from becoming inaccurate as the spring unwound, clockmakers also developed mechanisms like the fusee, which ensured the spring always delivered a uniform force. The idea to couple a balance spring with the balance wheel also led to the advent of pocket watches.

After every 'tick' motion before the 'tock' motion towards the other side, the balance spring would return the balance wheel to its neutral position. As a result, the clocks lost a few minutes a day versus a few hours a day before.

Finally, in the mid-17th century, the Dutch inventor Christiaan Huygens invented the pendulum clock. While the clock itself used the by-then familiar escapement mechanism, Huygens made an important contribution by working out a formula to convert the pendulum's swings to the amount of time passed.

How did clocks change shipping?

The marine chronometer came the next century. For a ship to accurately know where it was on the face of the earth, it needed to know its latitude, longitude, and altitude. The latitude could be computed based on the Sun's position in the sky and the altitude could be assumed to be sea level, leaving the longitude – which requires an accurate clock onboard each vessel. Pendulum clocks couldn't serve this purpose because the ship's rocking motion rendered them inaccurate.

A carpenter named John Harrison built a working marine chronometer in 1761

and delivered it to the British government for its longitude prize, worth GBP 20,000 at the time. This device featured mechanisms to ensure the clock's operation wasn't affected by the ship's rocking, the force of gravity, and some temperature changes.

Thus, time flew until modernity dawned. The better clocks of the 19th century were electric clocks, that is, whose energy source was a battery or an electric motor rather than suspended weights or springs, although the former and latter were attached to improve the efficiency of existing designs. And at long last came the 20th century.

How do quartz clocks work?

Two important types of clocks in operation today are the quartz clock and the atomic clock. The fundamental setup of both these instruments is similar: they have a power source, a resonator, and a counter. In quartz clocks, the resonator is a quartz crystal. The power source sends electrical signals to a quartz crystal, whose crystal structure oscillates due to the piezoelectric effect. The signal's energy can be tuned to make the crystal oscillate at its resonant frequency, making it the resonator. The counter counts the number of periodic oscillations and converts them into seconds (depending on the crystal's period). A digital display shows the counter's results.

Such quartz clocks are inexpensive to make and easy to operate, and their invention led to watches and wall-clocks becoming very common from the mid-20th century.

What are atomic clocks?

An atomic clock may seem futuristic in comparison.

The power source is a laser and the resonator is a group of atoms of the same isotope. The laser imparts just enough energy for the atom to jump from its low energy state to a specific higher energy state. And when the atom jumps back down, it releases radiation with a well-established frequency. For example,

the caesium atomic clock uses caesium-133 atoms as the resonator. When these atoms excite and then de-excite, they release radiation of frequency 9,192,631,770 Hz. So when the counter detects 9,192,631,770 full waves of the radiation, it will record that one second has passed.

Atomic clocks are distinguished by their resonator; each such clock is called a time standard. For example, India's time standard is a caesium atomic clock at the National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi, which maintains the Indian Standard Time. Many countries are currently developing next-generation optical clocks. This is because the higher the frequency of the radiation emitted in the clock, the more stable the clock will be. That emitted in a caesium atomic clock is in the microwave range (gigahertz), and the resulting clock loses or gains a second only once in 20 million years or so. The radiation in the next-generation clocks is in the optical range (hundreds of terahertz) – thus the clocks' name. These devices use strontium or ytterbium atoms as resonators and don't miss a second in more than 10 billion years.

Some physicists have even started work on the next-to-next generation of devices, called nuclear clocks: their resonators are the nuclei of specific atoms rather than the whole atom. Atomic clocks need to make sure the resonator atoms aren't affected by energy from other sources, like a stray electromagnetic field; an atom's nucleus, however, is located well within each atom, surrounded by electrons, and thus could be a more stable resonator.

Since April this year, researchers around the world have reported three major developments in building functional nuclear clocks: a laser to excite thorium-229 nuclei to a specific higher energy state, a way to link a thorium-229 nuclear clock with an optical clock, and a precise estimate of the excitation energy. The nucleus's de-excitation emission has a frequency of 2,020 terahertz, alluding to an ultra-high precision.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Hello!"
"Hi! Did you have time to go through my letter?"
"Yes. It is very good. But you must make some changes."
"What changes?"
"Changes in spelling. You seem to be a Shakespeare in spelling."
"What do you mean?"
"The spelling of words had not become fixed in Shakespeare's time. Even his name, he spelled in 26 different ways."
"I wish I had lived at that time. I find English spelling irrational, awful."
"Someone called it inhuman."
"It is. You don't pronounce the 'p' in 'psychology,' the 'k' in 'knight,' the 'b' in 'debt,' the 's' in 'island.' There is no one-to-one correspondence between a letter and its sound. The letter 'a' in 'saw,' 'take,' 'man,' 'pass' is not pronounced in the same way."
"Bernard Shaw said 'ghoti' should be pronounced like the word fish!"
"What was his reason for this or the lack of it?"
"He said that 'gh' in the word should be pronounced like the 'gh' in 'enough,' that is 'f.' The 'o' in the word should be pronounced like the 'o' in 'women,' that is 'i'; 'ti' as in 'nation,' that is 'sh.' So you have fish."

"So why do you want me to change the spellings of words in my letter?"
"You have to as you are not Bernard Shaw. But President Andrew Jackson of America would have supported you. He was a poor speller. When he was criticised for his poor spelling, he said: 'Well, Sir, it is a damned poor mind that cannot think of more than one way to spell a word.' Some believe that we owe the word O.K. to Jackson who thought that 'all correct' was spelled 'orl korrekt.'"
"It is funny. All the same, don't you think American spelling is more logical?"
"Benjamin Franklin and Noah Webster tried to introduce some changes and they were minor changes. Now we have 'or' instead of 'our' in words like 'labor,' 'honor,' 'er' instead of 're' in words like 'meter,' 'center,' single 'l' instead of double 'l' in 'traveling,' 'traveled,' 'k' instead of 'qu' in 'check' (cheque). These are some of the changes. With the publication of Dr. Johnson's dictionary in 1755, the spelling of English became more or less fixed. Now considerable importance is attached to correct spelling. The ability to spell correctly is considered a mark of education."

"I hear that Ernest Hemingway was a poor speller and so was F. Scott Fitzgerald. Both were great writers. In a letter to Scott Fitzgerald, Hemingway said: 'You write a swell letter. Glad somebody spells worse than I do.' It is reassuring to know that great writers are also poor spellers."
"But poor spelling is not a necessary condition for becoming a great writer."
"O.K., O.K. Tell me how I can improve my spelling. Are there rules?"
"There are some. We'll discuss them next week."
"You must also tell me why English spelling is so chaotic."
"One at a time. Ill take up the rules first. See you next week."
Published in The Hindu on November 10, 1992.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Test yourself on the Indian men hockey team's showing in the Olympics over the years

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1

India is the most successful team in men's hockey at the Olympics. How many gold and bronze medals has it won?

QUESTION 2

Between which editions did India's streak of six straight golds happen?

QUESTION 3

Captaining the Indian team once is an honour. But who has led the side at two Olympics and

in which years?

QUESTION 4

India holds the record for the biggest margin of victory (24-1) in an Olympics match. Which team was at the receiving end of this harsh treatment in 1932?

QUESTION 5

Name the Indian legend and winner of three Olympic hockey titles to whom Sir Donald Bradman remarked "You score goals like runs in cricket!"

QUESTION 6

With five goals, which Indian legend holds the Olympic record for most goals scored in an Olympic men's hockey final?



Visual question: Name this Indian great who has four Olympic medals (three Gold and one Silver). THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The world's first traffic light was installed in London in 1868, in front of this building. **Ans: House of Commons**

2. An apparatus that creates signals visible to the human eye across large distances. **Ans: Semaphore**

3. The first traffic light to use _____ was installed in Detroit in Michigan in 1920. **Ans: Three colours**

4. In 1966, _____ received its first traffic signal. **Ans: Bengaluru**

5. Name the type of traffic intersection urban planners around the world today consider to be a better alternative to traffic lights. **Ans: Roundabouts**

Visual: This setup shows a notifier and a receiver used to achieve this. **Ans: Signal preemption**

Early Bird: Arvind Tillway

Word of the day

Hoopla:

blatant or sensational promotion

Synonyms: plug, ballyhoo, hype

Usage: I am very upset about all of the hoopla surrounding this story.

Pronunciation: bit.ly/hooplapro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /hu:pla/

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

From Page One

As protests surge, Hasina quits, flees Bangladesh

Police stopped them in some parts but could not hold them for long as thousands mobilised on the streets.

Around 3 p.m. local time, protesters breached the police barricades and opened the gates of the Gonobhaban, the Prime Minister's official residence, and entered its premises.

A source close to Ms. Hasina confirmed that before leaving the residence, she wanted to record a speech. But she could not get an opportunity to do that. The security team took her to the Second World War-era airport at Old Tejgaon. She and her sister were airlifted in a Mi-17 helicopter. The helicopter arrived at Agartala from where they boarded the C-130, sources in the know confirmed. The BAF made a dash towards the Hindon Air Force station, a source stated.

National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Chief of the Indian Air Force Western Air Command Air Marshal P.M. Sinha met Ms. Hasina at Hindon. Ms. Hasina is expected to stay in India for a night or two as she awaits approval for asylum in the U.K., an official source said. The Indian High Commission staff continue to remain in Dhaka, sources confirmed.

Following news of Ms. Hasina's resignation, numerous Awami League offices across the country were attacked. Protesters were also seen storming the residences of Awami League politicians.

(With inputs from The Hindu Bureau in Delhi; Rabiul Alam is a freelance journalist based in Dhaka)

L-G can nominate 10 aldermen to MCD: SC

Justice Narasimha did not agree with senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, appearing for Delhi, that the power of the L-G was both semantic and a "relic of the past". Mr. Singhvi had argued that the national capital had a democratically elected government, which should be allowed to run its own municipal administration without interference from the L-G office. "This is a law made by the Parliament... The law requires the L-G to exercise power," the court noted.

The legal question before the court was whether the L-G could nominate the 10 persons as a part of the statutory duty of his office or was he bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers.

Fugitive 'baba' runs out of luck, lands in CBI net

However, by then, Mr. Rao had given the agency the slip. The CBI found that his wife had lodged a missing person report on July 10, 2004.

"She filed a petition in a civil court to get him declared dead on completion of seven years from the day he went missing. An order was passed by the court," said the agency.

By then, the CBI had learnt that he had been to Salem in Tamil Nadu where he had assumed a new identity, M. Vineet Kumar, and married another woman in 2007. He got an Aadhaar card and before the agency got a whiff of his whereabouts, he vanished. Through his second wife, the CBI found out that Mr. Rao was in touch with his son from his first marriage.

Mr. Rao was declared a proclaimed offender on April 18, 2013.

The CBI said Mr. Rao travelled to Aurangabad in Maharashtra where his new avatar was that of Swami Vidhitmanand Teertha at an ashram in Verul village. He lived there till December 2021 and disappeared after allegedly cheating the ashram of ₹70 lakh.

'Nearly 36,000 people got govt. jobs in J&K in 5 years'

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Nearly 36,000 people got government jobs in the past five years in Jammu and Kashmir after the special status of the former State was read down on August 5, 2019 under Article 370 of the Constitution, government sources said. No such recruitment was however done in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

Since August 2019, Jammu and Kashmir received ₹5,600 crore private investment, while ₹7,000 crore investment is expected in the future, a source added.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that the "transformative decision" [revocation of Article 370] has ushered in a new era of empowerment for marginalised sections and strengthened grassroots democracy in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

"The region's youth have driven socio-economic growth and cultural revival, making the Modi government's efforts to foster peace and comprehensive development a grand success. We thank Modi ji for this landmark decision and reaffirm our dedication to advancing the region's aspirations and transformative progress," Mr. Shah said on social media platform X.

Revocation of Article 370 a 'watershed moment': Modi

The Prime Minister says that the move started a new era of progress in the Union Territory; Congress says BJP's policy on J&K neither respects Kashmiriyat nor upholds Jamhuriyat

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Marking the fifth anniversary of the reading down of Article 370 of the Constitution, which accorded special status to Jammu and Kashmir, Prime Minister Narendra Modi described the step as a "watershed moment in the nation's history" that started "a new era of progress" in the Union Territory.

Targeting the Modi government over its claims on the revocation of Article 370, the Congress demanded that the Assembly elections be conducted as per the Supreme Court deadline.

In a post on social media platform X, Mr. Modi said, "I assure the people of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh that our government will keep working for them and fulfil their aspirations in the coming times".

He said the move to scrap the provisions meant that the Constitution was implemented at these places in letter and spirit, in line with the vision of the great men and women who had made the Constitution.

"With abrogation came security, dignity and op-



Tight security: An official standing guard on the fifth anniversary of the removal of special status for J&K, in Srinagar. IMRAN NISSAR

portunity for women, youth, backward, tribal and marginalised communities, who were deprived of the fruits of development. At the same time, it has ensured that corruption, which plagued Jammu and Kashmir for decades, has been kept at bay," he added.

Hitting back, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge alleged that the BJP's policy on J&K and Ladakh neither respected Kashmiriyat (Kashmiri identity) nor upholds Jamhuriyat (democracy).

'Reality is different'

"The Modi government had claimed that this move would help to fully inte-

grate Jammu and Kashmir, boost economic development of the region and prevent terrorism and separatism. However, the reality is starkly different," the Congress chief said.

He claimed that there have been 683 fatal terror attacks, resulting in the martyrdom of 258 security personnel and the loss of 170 civilian lives.

There have been 25 terror attacks in the Jammu region since Mr. Modi took oath as Prime Minister for the third time and these attacks have claimed the lives of 15 soldiers and injured 27 others, Mr. Kharge added.

"Targeted killings of Kashmiri Pandits have be-

come a norm in the past few years," he charged.

Talking about unemployment in J&K, he said it stands at 10%, while 65% of government department posts remained vacant since 2019. And despite the introduction of the New Industrial Policy in 2021, a mere 3% of investments have materialised on the ground and 40% of projects under the PM's Development Package remain pending, Mr. Kharge said.

"Jammu and Kashmir's net State domestic product (NSDP) growth rate has declined from 13.28% (April 2015-March 2019) to 8.73% post-2019. The people of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh yearn for normalcy, a sentiment they conveyed to Rahul Gandhi during the Bharat Jodo Yatra," the Congress chief said.

"We demand that elections are held according to the deadline set by the Supreme Court so that people can elect their own representatives, secure constitutional rights and put a full stop to this mechanism of being 'ruled by bureaucracy'. The Indian National Congress stands firmly with the people of these regions, which are an integral part of India," Mr. Kharge asserted.

Placed under house arrest, say leaders of NC and PDP

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Several leaders of regional parties in Jammu and Kashmir, including former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, on Monday accused the Lieutenant-Governor's Administration of placing them under house arrest on Monday.

Ittija Mufti, Peoples Democratic Party leader and Ms. Mehbooba's daughter, accused the police of locking up the family's residence in Srinagar. "If Kashmir is as normal as the GOI claims it to be, why does the J&K Police place us under illegal house arrest on 5th August every year? Cops or new age jailers?" she said. Ms. Mehbooba said August 5, 2019 would go down in history "not just as a dark day for J&K but as a blot on Indian democracy".

National Conference leader Tanvir Sadiq also claimed that he had been placed under house arrest. "I have been detained at home, which was completely unnecessary. I needed to leave for some work, but police outside my gate prevented me from doing so. This is unwarranted and illegal," he said.

Several other PDP and NC leaders also claimed they were not allowed to leave their residences.

Opposition to step up pressure to slash GST on health insurance

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Stepping up pressure on the government to reduce GST on health insurance policies, the Opposition will hold a protest on Tuesday in Parliament.

Trinamool Congress leader Derek O'Brien raised the issue in Parliament on Monday.

Mr. O'Brien, speaking during the Zero Hour in the Rajya Sabha, referred to a letter written to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman by senior BJP leader and Union Minister Nitin Gadkari making a similar demand.

"The demand is straightforward. Reduce the 18% GST on medical and health insurance. We

should reduce it because this is an issue which is burdening people, mainly the middle class," said Mr. O'Brien.

The Trinamool leader pointed out that insurance penetration in India is low at 4% compared to more than 7% globally.

Further, he said there is an imbalance in the insurance sector, where 75% are life insurance policies and 25% are medical insurance policies.

Mr. O'Brien also rejected the argument that the GST Council alone could bring in the change.

"We must not allow the Finance Minister to hide behind the curtain of the GST Council. This is a middle-class issue. This is not a political issue," he said.

LS passes Bill to allow expenditure for FY 2024-25

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Monday approved about ₹ 140 lakh crore in expenditure demands by different Ministries, completing two-thirds of the legislative approvals needed for the full Budget for 2024-25.

The Lower House approved the Demands for Grants as well as the Appropriation (No 2) Bill 2024, which authorises the government to use certain sums out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2024-25.

This followed a guillotine being applied after taking up a discussion on Demands for Grants for four Ministries.

NPAs on Mudra loans have come down in 2023-24, says Nirmala

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The non-performing assets (NPA) associated with Mudra loans given out by public sector banks have come down in the current financial year, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman informed the Lok Sabha on Monday.

She said in 2023-24, the NPAs on Mudra loans had declined to 3.4%, a significant improvement from 4.77% in 2020-21, 4.89% in 2019-20, and 3.76% in 2018-19. Replying to a supplementary question by Congress leader S. Senthil during the Question Hour, Ms. Sitharaman said Mudra loan NPAs in private sector commercial banks was at 0.95% in 2023-24 from a



Nirmala Sitharaman

peak of 1.77% in 2020-21 and 0.67% in 2018-19.

In response to a question regarding depositors' money in the Sahara group, she said the Serious Fraud Investigation Office was carrying out a detailed probe. It is also looking into the reason behind a sizeable number of investors not coming forward to claim the invested money in the company, she said.

BJP likely to head seven or eight House committees

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha is in the process of constituting department-related Standing Committees and sources say the BJP could chair seven or eight panels, the Congress three and Samajwadi Party one, according to the parties' numerical strength in the House.

The Trinamool Congress, the fourth-largest party, is unlikely to chair any panel. Out of the 24 panels, 16 fall under the ambit of the Lok Sabha and eight under Rajya Sabha.

The Shiv Sena, the only major BJP ally without a Cabinet portfolio, could be given the chair of at least one of the panels that fall in the ruling party's quota.

BJP unable to protect cows from diseases: Trinamool

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Trinamool Congress MP Saayoni Ghosh on Monday said that the BJP has been unable to protect cows from lumpy cow disease and provide fodder for cattle even as it keeps talking about their welfare.

The Trinamool leader was speaking during a discussion on the Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Fishing, Animal Husbandry and Dairy in the Lok Sabha.

Participating in the debate, Samajwadi Party MP from Fatehpur Naresh Chandra Uttam Patel said that there was a big issue in Uttar Pradesh of stray cattle and accused the Union government of not making any efforts to deal with the issue.

Working towards a solution on farmers' issues, says Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Monday said the Centre will work tirelessly for the welfare of farmers and agriculture in the country.

While replying to the debate in Rajya Sabha on a discussion on the functioning of his Ministry, Mr. Chouhan responded to the criticism from the Opposition that issues such as the demand for a guaranteed minimum support price (MSP) are still unresolved. He said the government is moving towards solutions through dialogue and collaboration with all stakeholders.

The Opposition, which was not satisfied with the reply, walked out and claimed that Mr. Chouhan

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan blames Cong. for not taking care of farmers

misled the House. Congress MP Randeep Singh Surjewala told presspersons outside the House that Mr. Chouhan's "lie" was caught out as the Centre had given an affidavit in the Supreme Court on February 6, 2015, that MSP as per the M.S. Swaminathan Commission formula cannot be given to the farmers because it will spoil the market.

Mr. Chouhan blamed the Congress for not taking care of farmers. He said cooperation between the Union and State governments was important for farmers' welfare.

States urged to spend more on healthcare infrastructure

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha, on Monday, approved by voice vote the Demands for Grants, for the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (2024-25) after a discussion.

Replying to the discussion Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare J.P. Nadda said that the budgetary allocations for the health sector had gone up from ₹33,278 crore in 2013-14 to ₹90,958 crores in 2024-25 registering an increase of 164%.

The Union Minister also urged State governments to spend more on improving healthcare infrastructure and dismissed Opposition allegations on reduction of allocations under the PM-Ayushman Bharat Health-care Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM).



J.P. Nadda

Refuting claims by the Opposition on reduction of funds for the health infrastructure mission, the Health Minister said States were able to spend just ₹1,806 crore out of the budgetary allocation of ₹4,200 crore in last year's budget.

"We are giving money, but it is not spent. You spend the money, we will allocate more funds if the existing funds are spent," said the Minister, adding that ₹3,200 crore have

been earmarked for PM-ABHIM.

"We don't believe in just making announcements. We believe in effective planning, ensuring last mile delivery, identifying bottlenecks in last mile delivery and taking steps to remove them," he said.

He further noted that of the total budget, 55% of the amount is spent through the National Health Mission. Mr. Nadda said that the health sector had been prioritised in the budget allocation. "The Central government is gradually increasing the health budget and at present it has touched 1.9% of GDP. Also out-of-pocket expenditure has come down from 62% to 47.1%," he said.

The Minister noted that a total of 22 AIIMS were sanctioned out of which 18 are operational and four are under construction.

RS begins discussion on Ministry of new and renewable energy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha, on Monday, started discussion on the working of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

Initiating the debate, Trinamool Congress MP Derek O'Brien asked the Centre to consult the State governments, local bodies, communities and the private sector in the spirit of cooperation. He said that thinking globally and acting locally must be the mantra for the Centre.

"The spirit of consultation is antithetical to your thinking," he said.

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi will reply to the discussion on Tuesday.

The Trinamool MP said schemes such as the International Solar Alliance,

Green Hydrogen Mission and PM KUSUM failed to achieve the target. "Our suggestion is to reduce dependency on China, Thailand and Vietnam," Mr. O'Brien said.

Countering him, BJP MP Laxmikant Bajpayee said the Centre is promoting renewable energy through several schemes. "By 2030, half of the requirement of energy would come from new and renewable sources," he said.

Former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda supported the Centre's endeavours and said that over the years, the importance of renewable energy in India has only grown upwards. "In a country of 1.4 billion people, we cannot secure our future if you do not adopt a model of sustainable development," he said.

Extra personnel have been deployed along the border, says BSF

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

As the situation turned volatile in Bangladesh, the Border Security Force (BSF) on Monday said "it has received strict instruction from the government to not allow anyone into the country without valid documents".

A senior BSF official said the situation along the Bangladesh border was normal as of now and they were in contact with their counterparts, the Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB).

"In view of the changed situation in Bangladesh, the BSF has issued alert along the Indo-Bangladesh border and the number of troops deployed along the border has also been increased," the BSF said in a statement.

India and Bangladesh share a 4,096-km border, which runs through West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura.

Following the curfew imposed by Bangladesh authorities since Sunday, there has been no movement of goods and vehicles through the Integrated Check Posts, said a BSF official.

Heightened alert

"We are in touch with BGB but there has been no build up of people at the border as of now. Extra personnel have been deployed and there is heightened alert. All formations have been conveyed the Centre's decision to not allow anyone into India without proper documents,"



BSF D-G Daljit Singh Chawdhary visits Indo-Bangladesh border in North 24 Parganas district.

said the BSF official.

Tipraha Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance founder Pradyot Bikram Manikya Debbarma said in a post on X that he had spoken to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who "assured that the borders of India are well protected and no illegal influx will be allowed. He is monitoring the situation and asked our forces to maintain vigil at the borders".

BSF Director-General Daljit Singh Chawdhary, along with Additional D-G Ravi Gandhi, visited the Sunderbans in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal to review the operational preparedness.

"The visit commenced with a detailed briefing of Eastern Command by Mr. Gandhi at the South Bengal Frontier Headquarters. The briefing covered the strategic scenario and operations of the battalions of Eastern Command, wherein the Director-General was apprised of the role of BSF in maintaining national security along the sensitive international border," the BSF said.

India silent as Hasina flees Bangladesh amid unrest

As India focuses on the safety of diplomats and citizens in Bangladesh and making arrangements for the former PM, experts say New Delhi must also reach out to those in charge in Dhaka now

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Despite dramatic developments in Dhaka and the arrival of former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Hindon airbase outside Delhi, the External Affairs Ministry made no statement about the situation in the neighbouring country or on Ms. Hasina on Monday.

Sources said the Ministry, headed by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, was engaged in a number of meetings within the government as well as with military officials after news broke of Ms. Hasina's resignation and then her decision to fly to India as she awaits asylum abroad.

In the evening, Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the Cabinet Committee on Security, which was attended by Mr. Jaishankar, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. Earlier, Mr. Jaishankar briefed Mr. Modi about the situation in Bangladesh.

Ministry officials declined to comment on whether Ms. Hasina had requested asylum in India and whether the government would consider such a request.

While making arrangements for Ms. Hasina and



Major worry: The convoy of NSA Ajit Doval leaves the Hindon airbase, where he met Sheikh Hasina on Monday. R. V. MOORTHY

ensuring the safety of Indian diplomats at the High Commission and consulates in the neighbouring country as well as thousands of Indians still in Bangladesh are immediate priorities, experts said the Modi government must move quickly to engage the new establishment in charge in Dhaka, where anti-Hasina protests have frequently been mixed with an anti-India sentiment. In July, the government had evacuated more than 7,000 students and professionals from Bangladesh.

On Sunday, the External Affairs Ministry had issued an advisory, "strongly advising" Indian nationals to not travel to Bangladesh, and asking those in the country to exercise "extreme caution" while moving around.

India's uncritical stance during the last round of violent protests in July has complicated its image in the country, according to experts. "India's unques-

tioning and unstinting support for Sheikh Hasina lost the country a lot of goodwill here," Syed Munir Khasru, who heads international think tank IPAG in Dhaka, said. He described scenes of chaos and disorder, as well as tear gas and firing on the streets of the Bangladeshi capital on Monday. "New Delhi must move quickly to send out a firm signal that despite its close relationship with Hasina, it firmly stands by the will and desire of the people of Bangladesh, and not just with one leader and one party [Awami League]," he added.

Former Indian diplomats also said that a return to normalcy in Bangladesh, one of India's most trusted and friendly neighbours in the region thus far, is most important for India's long-term interests.

"India must stay engaged with the military in Bangladesh and all those who can contribute to peace and stability in the

country - that would be sustainable, and in India's interest," former Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh and former Foreign Secretary Harshvardhan Shringla, who was also India's G-20 coordinator, told *The Hindu*.

"While in the immediate aftermath of events, the Chief of Army Staff of Bangladesh has spoken of an interim administration, it would be important to bring about an environment conducive to a restoration of democracy as early as possible," Mr. Shringla said.

Asked about how India should deal with reports that the student protests had been fuelled by political forces inimical to India, Mr. Shringla said that "some groups like the Jamaat-e-Islami, especially the Jamaat Shibir, and even the Opposition BNP may have taken advantage of the protests to further their own agenda", but that India must continue to deal with those now in charge.

"Five decades ago, when we assisted the birth of Bangladesh in response to a grassroots people's movement in a glorious exercise of our strategic autonomy, we came out on the right side of history," former Foreign Secretary Nirupama Menon Rao said in a social media post on Monday, warning against any "misstep" in the handling of the crisis in Bangladesh.

IN BRIEF



'Stay safe, Hasina Aunty', says Pranab Mukherjee's daughter

"Stay safe and strong, Hasina Aunty. Tomorrow is another day. My prayers are with you." This post on X by Sharmistha Mukherjee, daughter of former President Pranab Mukherjee, not only recalled the ties between the Mukherjee family and that of Sheikh Hasina but also the time, the former Bangladesh Prime Minister was in exile in New Delhi. Between 1975 and 1981, Ms. Hasina stayed in New Delhi after the assassination of her father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and several other members of her family. At that time, former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had sheltered the surviving members of the clan in New Delhi and tasked Pranab Mukherjee with their welfare, a task he and his wife Suvera undertook with diligence and care.

Train services between India and Bangladesh suspended

The Indian Railways on Monday suspended all train operations to Bangladesh amid the unrest in the neighbouring country where Sheikh Hasina has resigned as the Prime Minister following protests. The affected trains are the Kolkata-Dhaka-Kolkata Maitree Express (13109/13110), Dhaka-Kolkata-Dhaka Maitree Express (13107/13108), Kolkata-Khulna-Kolkata Bandhan Express, and the Dhaka-New Jalpaiguri-Dhaka Mitali Express (13131/13132) that has been suspended since July 21. Indian railway officials said Bangladesh officials have been in touch with them since July 18 and trains between India and Bangladesh were being cancelled on a daily basis. "We are communicating with Bangladeshi officials daily who have verbally informed us they are not in a position to run the trains and hence the schedule is being serially cancelled," an official in the Railway Ministry said. Officials here said services will not resume unless a favourable response is received.

Rahul speaks to External Affairs Minister on Bangladesh situation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Monday spoke to External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar about the evolving situation in Bangladesh.

Mr. Gandhi spoke to the Minister informally soon after the Lok Sabha had adjourned, said informed sources.

Several MPs across party lines expressed concern over the situation in India's eastern neighbourhood in the wake of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's resignation amid massive protests against her government.

Describing the situation as sensitive and evolving, Congress MP Manish Tewari hoped that the government will make a statement on it in both Houses



Rahul Gandhi

of Parliament on Tuesday. Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Priyanka Chaturvedi hoped the Union government would take care of the interests of Indians in Bangladesh.

"The atmosphere of instability is regrettable. Especially because Bangladesh has been a long-standing ally for our country and their growth trajectory was going in the right direction. If they are moving towards anarchy, it will be bad for our strategic

interest," said Ms. Chaturvedi. "I hope our Prime Minister and Foreign Minister will take care of the interests of Indians there and try to bring back stability," she added.

Biju Janata Dal (BJD) leader Sasmit Patra said his party was hopeful that the Government of India would ensure that India's concerns were protected.

The Left parties, however, were critical of Ms. Hasina's government.

'Resignation welcomed'

"The situation in Bangladesh is basically a result of the economic crisis. Unemployment is rising and students are struggling for jobs. But, the government has not given jobs to the youngsters. Also, the authoritarian style of functioning of the government was another reason," CPI(M) leader V. Sivadana said.

Calling Ms. Hasina an "autocrat," CPI leader P. Sandosh Kumar said her resignation was "welcome".

"The election held in Bangladesh [earlier this year] was not free and fair. The allegation of the Opposition that the ruling front sabotaged the elections was right. Now it has again been proven that autocrats cannot survive," Mr. Kumar said.

"Of course, they can survive for a short time of period, but people will fight back and you have to surrender before the public. That has been proven by students of Bangladesh. That way, it is a welcome step. But it should not be a chance for religious fundamentalists to intervene and that is what the whole world has to ensure," he added. (With PTI inputs)

Mamata appeals for peace in Bengal

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

As the situation in Bangladesh remains volatile, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday appealed to the people of the State to maintain peace

and avoid any provocation.

"I would appeal to all citizens of all communities in West Bengal to maintain peace and avoid all forms of provocation and refrain from taking law into your hands," the Chief Minister told presspersons at the

State Assembly. Ms. Banerjee said she would act as per instructions from the Government of India.

The Trinamool Congress chairperson said if anything happens in a neighbouring country its impact will be felt here.

She cautioned leaders of political parties not to post anything that will incite communal passions.

Declining to comment on the developments in Bangladesh, she said it is a matter for the External Affairs Ministry to respond.

SANJAY GANDHI INSTITUTE OF TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS
(Government of Karnataka Autonomous Institute)
Byrasandra, Jayanagar East, Bengaluru - 560 011 Ph: 080-26564516, 26562500 Grams: SITO Fax: 26565222 E-mail: sitodirector@gmail.com
No. SGITO/e-Tender/ME/01/03/04/2024-25 Date: 31.07.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(KPP Portal Only)

Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Trauma & Orthopaedics, Byrasandra, Jayanagar East, Bengaluru - 11, invites tender from the eligible tenderers through the KPP portal of GOK for The Following:-

- Imported High End Digital Radiography (DR) System (Turnkey Basis) - 1 No.
- Imported C-Arm - 2 Nos. (b) Battery Operated Drill & SAW System - 2 Nos
- Arthroscopy Equipments

(1) The Tenderers can download the documents from:
<https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/> on or after 06.08.2024 and the last date for submission of completed tenders through e-portal is 10.09.2024 upto 4:00 PM.

(2) The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept / reject or cancel tender without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
Chief Administrative Officer
Tender Inviting Authority

DIPR/Spectrum/1281/2024-25

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ
(An Organisation of the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India)
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500030

National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), which is the country's apex organization for training and research on various aspects of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development, is setting up a School of Excellence in Panchayati Raj (SoEPR) at NIRDPR with support from the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), Government of India under RGSA. NIRDPR invites online applications from eligible candidates for the following positions in the School of Excellence in Panchayati Raj, at NIRDPR, Hyderabad through Direct Recruitment on contract basis:

Sl. No.	Name of the Position	No. of Positions
1	Deputy Director General, SoEPR	1
2	Director, SoEPR	1

For Job Profile, Eligibility Criteria, submission of online application and other details please visit: <http://career.nirdpr.in/>
Last date for submission of online application is 06.09.2024

Advt.No.18/2024
File No: NIRDPR/CPDRPSSD/SoEPR/
Recruitment/IDDG&OrPosts/2024
Comp.no. 16394

Sd/-
Assistant Director
Administration (Section-I)

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
CIN-U04010KA2002SG030438

SHORT TERM e-AUCTION TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through e-Procurement Platform)

BESCOM invites auctions through e-auction platform from eligible Bidders for e-Auction of Scrap materials available at Rajajinagar BESCOM Stores.

Sl. No.	Auction Nos.	Name of the Material	Date of Inspection for Bidders	Live Bidding
1.	BESCOM/2024-25/AUCTION 17	Scrap Aluminium items	07.08.2024 to 16.08.2024	29.08.2024 from 10.00 AM to 1.00 PM
2.	BESCOM/2024-25/AUCTION 18	Scrap released ACSR Conductor	07.08.2024 to 16.08.2024	29.08.2024 from 2.00 PM to 5.00 PM
3.	BESCOM/2024-25/AUCTION 19	Scrap Iron Items	12.00 PM to 2.00 PM	30.08.2024 from 10.00 AM to 1.00 PM
4.	BESCOM/2024-25/AUCTION 20	Scrap T&P Materials & Vehicles and Vehicle parts	2.00 PM to 4.00 PM	30.08.2024 from 2.00 PM to 5.00 PM

Due date for submission/ upload of the eligibility criteria along with necessary EMD and relevant Documents is 21.08.2024 by 16:00 Hrs. Bidding Documents can be downloaded through the KPP portal on or after 07.08.2024 from the website <http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. Aspiring Bidders need to register in the KPP portal. Further bidders can take the assistance of the e-procurement help desk at +91-80 46010000/+91-80 68948777, support@eprocelpdesk.com

Sd/-
General Manager, (Ele.),
Procurement, BESCOM.

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mitra Mobile APP

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
ROADS AND BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT
NIT.No.01/CE/R&B/BIM/D&P/Medical colleges/Phase III/EOI/2024. Dt:02.08.2024

Expression of Interest for Architectural & Engineering Services

The Chief Engineer (R&B) Buildings, Telangana State Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) from reputed and experienced Architectural & Engineering consultants to participate in the competitive proposals for providing "Comprehensive Design Consultancy Services for the proposed (9) New Medical Colleges (8 Medical colleges in Phase III + 1 Medical college at Kodangal) in Telangana State".

To obtain EOI Document and additional information, please visit www.roadbuild.telangana.gov.in/ from 05.00 PM on 05.08.2024 onwards. Last date for submission of Proposal is 12.08.2024 @ 04.00 PM.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (R&B), Buildings, Errum Manzil, Hyderabad - 82

ANDHRA PRADESH STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED
(A State Government Undertaking)
Head Office: 10-152/1, Ashok Nagar, Bandar Road, Kairuru, Vijayawada-520007

NATIONAL SHORT TENDER NOTICE (5th call)
Tender No: PDS 1/35/Sugar Tender/July,24 to Sep,24 Date: 05.08.2024
BIDS ARE INVITED FROM ELIGIBLE BIDDERS FOR SUPPLY OF SUGAR TO ALL THE MLS POINTS OF FIVE (05) DISTRICTS IN ANDHRA PRADESH STATE THROUGH NCDEX e- MARKETS LIMITED (NEML).

Andhra Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd invites bids from eligible bidders for supply of 3682.481 MTs of ISS Grade S-30/S-31 cane sugar in 1/2 Kg packet form with secondary packing in 50 Kg new polypropylene (PP) bags under PDS for the months of July,2024 to September,2024 to all the MLS Points of (05) districts of Zone-I in Andhra Pradesh State.

All the interested Sugar Manufacturers/Traders in All Over India may visit www.apsscl.in & www.neml.in to view and download tender documents free of cost.

Interested bidders need to register in portal as vendor i.e in NCDEX e Markets Limited Contact: Tel: 9962059599 or 9032429420 or 9885549722 and Email: askus@neml.in.

Last date for registration and completion of formalities for the e-auction shall be up to 13.08.2024 up to 5.00 p.m and the tentative date of online e-reverse auction through NCDEX e-MARKETS LIMITED (NEML) platform would be 16.08.2024 at 2.00 pm onwards.

Sd/- VC & Managing Director

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, VIJAYPUR, JAMMU - 184120
(A Central Autonomous Body under PMSSY, MoH&FW, Government of India)

Employment Notification No. 03 / 2024

Applications through online mode are invited from the eligible candidates possessing prescribed qualifications and experience for direct recruitment to various Faculty posts

Opening date of Online application form	12.08.2024 (Monday)
Closing date of Online application form	02.09.2024 (Monday)
Last date to submit Hard copy of application form	07.09.2024 (Saturday)

For further details like essential qualifications, upper age limit, terms & conditions etc. please visit AIIMS Jammu website www.aiimsjammu.edu.in under Recruitment>Open Jobs.

Sd/-
Executive Director & CEO
AIIMS, Vijaypur, Jammu

IN BRIEF



9 kamwariyas electrocuted, 6 injured in Bihar's Vaishali

Nine kamwariyas were electrocuted and six injured after the vehicle they were travelling in came in contact with a high-tension wire in Bihar's Vaishali district. Hajipur sub-divisional police officer Om Prakash said the accident took place when the procession of kamwariyas was around 500 meters away from Sultanpur village. Family members of the deceased alleged that when the incident took place, several calls were made to the Electricity Department, however, nobody picked up the calls. Angry villagers protested demanding action against the department. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has expressed grief over the incident.

SC takes suo motu cognisance of Delhi UPSC centre deaths

The Supreme Court on Monday took suo motu cognisance of the drowning of three aspirants preparing for the Union Public Service Commission's Civil Services Examination as they were trapped in the flooded basement of their Old Rajinder Nagar coaching centre during a heavy bout of rain in Delhi. A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan issued notice to the Centre, through the Ministry of Urban Affairs, and the Delhi government. The authorities have been asked to bring on record the safety mechanism in place to prevent such deaths and to ensure that coaching centres in the national capital do not expose young lives to danger.

Justify inclusion of 77 castes in OBC list: SC to Bengal govt.

Top court issues notice on State's appeal against a Calcutta HC judgment, which has had an impact on 5 lakh OBC certificates issued since 2010; advocate for Bengal says administration is at risk

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday gave the West Bengal government an "opportunity" to justify the reason for including 77 castes, largely Muslim communities, in the State's Other Backward Classes (OBC) List.

The order follows an appeal by the State government against a May 22 judgment of the Calcutta High Court striking down the inclusion of several of these castes in the OBC list. A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud asked the State, represented by senior advocate Indira Jaising and advocate Astha Sharma, to clarify the nature and scope of the survey undertaken to identify the social and educational backwardness of these communities, and their inadequacy of representation in the State public services, which warranted their inclusion in the OBC list.

The court asked the State to respond to allegations raised by private respondents, led by Amal Chandra Das, who were the



I have no list any more, no roster any more. The entire State of West Bengal has no reservation. This also affects the NEET reservation

INDIRA JAISING
Senior advocate

original petitioners in the High Court, that there was no meaningful consultation with the West Bengal Backward Classes Commission with respect to the designation of 37 of these communities as OBCs.

The court also asked West Bengal to include details of whether consultation was done while subclassifying these castes for the purpose of reservation. "The State shall clarify the nature of the survey and material in its possession, which led to the inclusion," the top court said.

Chief Justice Chandrachud remarked that all the findings of the High Court were prima facie against the State. "But we want to give you an opportunity to place your material on record here and displace these findings of the High

Court," Chief Justice Chandrachud addressed Ms. Jaising.

The Bench issued notice to the private respondents on a plea made by the State to stay the operation of the High Court judgment.

Ms. Jaising said the administration of the State was at risk if the High Court judgment continued to operate.

"I have no list anymore, no roster any more. The entire State of West Bengal has no reservation. This also affects the NEET [National Eligibility cum Entrance Test] reservation," Ms. Jaising submitted.

She said 49% of the population of the State of West Bengal was OBC, and alleged the High Court had made derogatory remarks against the Commission. "It said the Commission

was the 'pet' of the State government... The less said the better," the senior lawyer said.

The High Court judgment has impacted five lakh OBC certificates issued in the State since 2010. The High Court had, however, clarified that its judgment would not impact individuals who had already secured employment with OBC certificates issued since 2010.

The Bench had struck down portions of the West Bengal Backward Classes (other than Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) (Reservation of Vacancies in Services and Posts) Act, 2012.

Among the Sections nullified were Section 16, the second part of Section 2(h), and Section 5(a) of the Act, which distributed reservation percentages of 10% and 7%, respectively, to the sub-classified categories. Consequently, the sub-classified categories OBC-A and OBC-B were removed from Schedule I of the Act.

Senior advocates Mukul Rohatgi, Ranjit Kumar, Guru Krishnakumar, advocate Bansuri Swaraj and others appeared for the respondents in the case.

BJP ally seeks Faizabad MP's resignation over Ayodhya gang rape case

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Raising the political temperature over the Ayodhya gang rape case, leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) demanded the resignation of Samajwadi Party (SP) Faizabad MP Awadhesh Prasad on Monday.

"He (Awadhesh Prasad) should resign. The main culprit behind the incident is an SP leader who worked closely with him. The SP has a history of protecting criminals," said Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party president Om Prakash Rajbhar. Prime accused Moid Khan, an SP worker in Ayodhya, and his employee Raju Khan were arrested in connection with the case of raping a 12-year-old minor girl over a period of two and half months and recording the act.

The issue has become central to the BJP-led NDA's political discourse since last week with the ruling party trying hard to puncture the PDA (Pichada, Dait, and Alpasankhyak or Backwards, Dalits and Minorities) plank of the SP. It has sought to highlight the Backward identity of the victim with several Backward Class leaders of the

ruling alliance attacking SP chief Akhilesh Yadav over the incident. "Akhilesh Yadav's PDA is a big lie. These people who raise the slogans of PDA and feel proud of the fact that they won in Ayodhya, it looks that they have won with the help of such criminals. Is this the SP's idea of PDA, where a 12-year-old from the marginalised sections faces such a crime?" U.P. Minister Sanjay Nishad had said while visiting the kin of the victim.

U.P. Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya, who is the key Backward Classes face of the BJP, hinted at the Muslim identity of the prime accused. "It is the innate nature of the SP to save rapists. If the rapist is a Muslim, then the entire Saifai family [SP leadership] puts its weight behind saving him," the Deputy CM had alleged.

The BJP sent a three-member party delegation comprising OBC leaders and Rajya Sabha MPs Baburam Nishad and Sangeeta Balwant Bind, and U.P. Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Backward Class Welfare Narendra Kashyap on Sunday to meet the girl's family. The team will submit its fact-finding report to BJP OBC Morcha chief K. Laxman.

Opposition criticises 'plans' to amend Waqf Act, says it will oppose Bill in Parliament

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI



Akhilesh Yadav

Reacting to the buzz over the BJP-led Union government's plan to table a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1995, the Opposition leaders on Monday claimed the Bill aims to create a divide in the society and that they will oppose it in Parliament.

Sources in the Ministry of Minority Affairs told *The Hindu* that the Bill is unlikely to be tabled in the ongoing Parliament session as it is still under consideration at the bureaucratic level.

Commenting on the government's plans, All-India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimin (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi questioned why details of the Bill were leaked to the media when the Parliament was in ses-

sion. "The government is acting against parliamentary supremacy and privileges by informing the media, and not Parliament about such a Bill. From what has been written in the media, I can say that the Modi government wants to take away the autonomy of the Waqf Board," Mr. Owaisi said.

Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav said his party will oppose the

Bill in Parliament while Amra Ram, Communist Party of India (Marxist) MP from Sikar, Rajasthan, said the BJP believes in "divisive politics" and instead of strengthening Waqf boards, they are trying to interfere with them.

Officials in the Ministry claimed that the Sachar Committee's 2006 report recommended that there was a need to regulate functioning of Mutawallis (managers or custodians of Waqf properties) and ensure efficient management of Waqf records. "The committee had recommended that organisational reforms should be made to strengthen Waqf Boards administratively," an official said, adding that a parliamentary panel report presented to Rajya Sabha in 2008 also made very similar recommendations.

Preamble dropped from several NCERT Class 3, 6 textbooks

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has dropped the Preamble to the Constitution from several Class 3 and Class 6 textbooks issued this year.

In the newly published textbooks for Class 6, the NCERT has dropped the Preamble from the social science textbook, *Exploring Society: India and Beyond*. The book mentions the fundamental rights and fundamental duties. The Preamble is present in the science textbook, *Curiosity*, and the Hindi textbook, *Malhar*.

In the old textbooks, the Preamble was printed in the English book, *Honey Suckle*, the science book, the Hindi textbook, *Durva*, and all three social science books - *Our Pasts-I, Social*

and Political Life-I and The Earth Our Habitat.

The new English textbook, *Poorvi*, has the National Anthem, while the Sanskrit textbook, *Deepakam*, has both the National Anthem and the National Song, but not the Preamble. The earlier Sanskrit book, *Ruchira*, also did not have the Preamble.

The new Class 3 textbooks for Hindi, English, mathematics and World Around Us (which replaces EVS) do not have the Preamble. The old EVS book, *Looking Around*, and the Hindi book, *Rimjhim 3*, carried the Preamble. "The allegations regarding removal of the Preamble from textbooks do not have a sound basis," Professor Ranjana Arora, Head of the Department of Curriculum Studies and Development at NCERT, said.

Ayodhya Development Authority quietly denotifies land used for Army training

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

A controversy has erupted after the Ayodhya Development Authority (ADA) denotified land used for Army training, allegedly after it was purchased by several high-profile people and groups, including the Adani Group, Baba Ramdev and Sri Sri Ravishankar.

The matter pertains to reports of denotification of Majha Jamthara village in Ayodhya, which was being used for firing and artillery practice by the Army, with its huge cantonment and Dogra Regimental centre in the area. Due to security and safety issues, construction and commercial activities were prohibited.

Divisional Commissioner, Ayodhya, Gaurav Dayal told *The Hindu* that the denotified land had never be-

Due to safety issues, construction and commercial activities were prohibited in the area

longed to the Army and the government is set to construct a temple museum on the same. Responding about the need for denotification, Mr. Dayal said the place has been denotified to enable development of parks, open spaces and related activities of public nature.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, advocate Praveen Dubey, who took the matter of encroachment in the 14 villages (5,419 hectares) situated around the Army cantonment, and used for Army's training purposes, to the Lucknow Bench of Allahabad High Court, said he

was shocked to know that while the matter was pending in the HC, the State especially denotified Majha Jamthara in May this year.

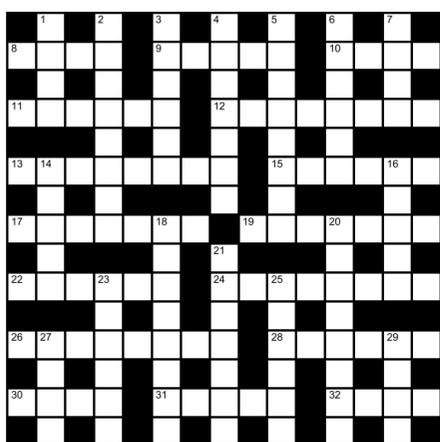
"All I can tell you is that encroachment is there in all 14 villages and this is a major security concern," he said adding that Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders have also constructed commercial establishments on this land and that no one is paying heed to the issue.

Taking a dig at the U.P. and Union governments, Congress leader Pawan Khera wrote on X, "Do you want to know what they actually do while hiding behind religion and nationalism?..Land notified as buffer zone for Army Training is first bought by Adani, Ravi Shankar & Baba Ramdev and is then denotified by the Governor."

THE CROSSWORD+ 14246

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

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

- Base is 29/3 (4)
- Record of Chinese era (5)
- Hole contains quarter... quarter of gallon (4)
- Arts students wearing runners used on snow (6)
- Utter: "Not in? Correct!" (8)
- Build a castle having final part of staircase to go through the ceiling (8)

- Getting defeated by including sine in logarithmic abbreviation (6)
- Prisoner for ransom wrongly shot before time (7)
- Be quick to catch Labour leader in capital (7)
- Sailing yachtsman leaving NYC gets breathing problem (6)
- Where fags may end up throwing trash, say (8)
- Badly damaged peanut is powdered after starting to break by sweetheart (6-2)
- Gives back money as prey is mutilated (6)
- Setter consumes one litre in 8 furlongs (4)
- Saint has strange way of playing guitar (5)
- Air conditioning by Royal Engineers in Israeli city (4)

Down

- Task? Put one-fourth of rice into vessel (4)
- Veteran lays out law during commencement (8)
- Whispers, "I am covering old West Asian country" (6)
- Body part with the Spanish military officer (7)
- Benign fib: "While tie is knotted" (5,3)
- Mars soil covers top of pyramidal pole (6)
- Indian children getting one-twelfth of 8 (4)
- Locates vessel inside ship (5)
- A street in New York is horrible (5)
- Girl and boy with cape delight (8)
- Preliminary action from drama following shout from golfer (8)
- Some music over drink results in mutual understanding (7)
- Male assassins' item wrongly mentioned in hate note, for starters (3-3)
- Wrongly hears about maiden in zenanas (6)
- Madly in love? No, no! Wicked! (4)
- Yet another regular distance, for starters... (4)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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



FAITH

Doing one's duties

The importance of doing one's duties is seen from the story of a sage, said R. Narayanan in a discourse. The droppings of a bird fell on the sage. Angered, the sage looked up at the bird. His glare burnt down the bird. The sage felt that his *tapas* had endowed him with power. Joyfully, he went to the nearest village to get some food.

In the first house that he approached, the lady of the house asked him to wait until she had served food to her husband. The sage was furious when he was made to wait. He gave her an angry glare like the one which had burnt the bird. The woman asked, "Did you think you could burn me down as you burnt that bird?" Astounded, the sage asked her how she knew what had happened in the forest. She directed him to a shoemaker.

The shoemaker said, "Did the lady residing in the first house in the village send you to me?" He asked the sage to wait, while he bathed his aged parents and fed them." The sage realised that the man's spiritual power came from the fact that he never failed to do his duties. He now knew that the way to *moksha* was by doing one's duties. Everyone has their duties.

Saivite saint Appar saw it as his duty to clean temples. Thayumanavar said if he could be the servant of like-minded devotees, he would attain bliss.

IN BRIEF



Adani Energy Solutions raises ₹8,373.10 crore via QIP

Adani Energy Solutions Limited (AESL) on Monday said it had raised ₹8,373.10 crore via qualified institutional placement route to build capacity for evacuation of electricity from renewable sources. This is the company's first equity raise in the capital market since its merger and listing from Adani Enterprises Ltd. (AEL) in July 2015, AESL said in a filing. The transaction was introduced post-market hours on July 30 with a base deal size of ₹5,861 crore. PTI

Sundaram Finance Q1 net profit rises 9% to ₹308 crore

Sundaram Finance Ltd. reported standalone net profit for the June quarter increased 9% from the year-earlier period to ₹308 crore. Revenue from operations rose 27% to ₹1,425 crore. Disbursements grew by 7% to ₹6,908 crore. Assets under management rose 23% to ₹45,671 crore. Net interest income rose 20%, the NBFC said in a statement. Gross non-performing assets (NPA) declined to 2.21% from 2.96%, while net NPA contracted to 1.41% from 2%.

TII, Classic Legends to license BSA trademarks under JV

Tube Investments of India (TII) has entered into an agreement with Classic Legends Pvt. Ltd. (CLPL) to incorporate a JV company to license BSA trademarks. TII, CLPL and the proposed JVC will enter a trademark licensing arrangement to enable the use of BSA trademark by CLPL for manufacture and sale of motorcycles, parts and accessories in India, according to a regulatory filing. Initially, TII and CLPL would invest ₹50,000 each and hold equal stake in the JVC.

Sensex falls 2.7% amid global sell-off, rupee hits a new low

Japan's Nikkei index plunges 12.4%, its worst fall since October 1987, as fears of the U.S. economy tipping into a recession precipitates a wider equities slump; rupee weakens to 84.09 versus dollar

Lalendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The benchmark S&P BSE Sensex slumped almost 3% on Monday amid a deepening global sell-off, precipitated by fears that the U.S. economy may tip into a recession. Japan's Nikkei index plunged 12.4%, its biggest one day drop since October 1987, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average, the S&P 500 and the Nasdaq Composite fell 2.2%, 2.5% and 3.1%, respectively, as of 1404 GMT.



Sea of red: All major sectoral indices closed in the red, with metals and realty indices correcting sharply. PTI

The Sensex slid 2.74%, to close at 78,759.40. Losses were led by Tata Motors, which fell 7.3%, Adani Ports (5.9%), Tata Steel (5.3%), State Bank (4.3%), Power Grid (4.25%) and Maruti (4.17%).

"In the backdrop of weak global sentiment, the benchmark indices corrected sharply," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head - Equity Research, Kotak Securities. "All the major sectoral indices traded in the red, with metals and realty indices correcting sharply," he added.

The Indian rupee fell to its all-time low of 84.09 against the U.S. dollar, weakening by 37 paise in the session as the equity sell-off and foreign fund outflows weighed on sentiment in the currency.

Bharti Q1 net jumps twofold to ₹4,160 cr. as ARPU buoys

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Bharti Airtel reported a more than 2.5 times jump in consolidated profit to ₹4,160 crore in the April-June quarter, from the year-earlier period, driven by an improvement in average revenue per user (ARPU) and an exceptional gain of ₹735 crore.

Consolidated revenue from operations increased by 2.8% to ₹38,506.4 crore.

Mobile average revenue per user rose 5.4% YoY to ₹211 during the reported quarter, from ₹200.

July retail auto sales rise 14%, FADA flags record inventory

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

India's retail auto sales posted a 13.9% year-on-year rise in July, aided by 17.2% growth in two-wheeler sales. However, high inventory at dealerships was a 'significant concern' warned the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA).

While three-wheeler sales rose by 12.9, passenger vehicles (PVs) by 10.2% and commercial vehicles (CVs) by 5.93%, tractor off-take slid almost 12%.

"This growth is accompanied by a significant concern," FADA said. "Inventory levels have surged to a historic high of 67-72 days, equating to ₹73,000 crore worth of stock. This poses a substantial risk for dealer sustainability, necessitating extreme caution."



FADA urged PV OEMs to be vigilant about potential dealer failures due to these high inventory levels. "It is also crucial for the Reserve Bank of India to mandate financial institutions to implement stringent checks before releasing inventory funding, preferably requiring dealer consent or collaterals to prevent the escalation of NPAs."

"Despite uneven rainfall distribution, the auto retail sector grew 13.9%, with almost all categories witnessing an increase," said FADA VP C. S. Vigneshwar.

"The auto retail market is cautiously optimistic for the near term, driven by positive monsoon effects, festive season, and product introductions," FADA said on near-term outlook.

Services PMI signals mild dip; output prices surge

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Services sector activity was robust in July, with international sales growing at the third-fastest pace in almost 10 years, even as rising input costs compelled firms to raise prices at a 7-year high pace, as per the HSBC India Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), which eased to 60.3 last month, from June's 60.5.

July's performance marks three years of persistent output growth reported by about 400 services sector players surveyed for the index.

Overall private sector activity, factoring in manufacturing firms, indicated a slightly slower pace of growth than June, with the Index cooling to 60.7 in July from 60.9.

Manufacturing led the upturn for the sixth successive month, but output prices were raised at the swiftest pace in almost 11-and-a-half years in July with goods producers reporting higher cost pressures than services firms.

Demand spurs prices
Stronger demand emboldened services firms to raise output costs charged to customers yet again.

"Service-sector activity rose at a slightly slower pace in July, with new business increasing further, primarily driven by domestic demand," noted Pranjal Bhandari, chief India economist at HSBC. Optimism levels about growth prospects over the next year improved over June levels.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	78,759	-2.74
US Dollar	84.09	-0.44
Gold	72,800	-0.06
Brent oil	76.42	-

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter.	3038.20	-122.70
Adani Ports	1493.85	-94.15
Apollo Hosp.	6687.60	-22.55
Asian Paints	3093.40	-13.30
Axis Bank	1133.50	-27.35
Bajaj Auto	9485.05	-131.15
Bajaj Finserv	1567.70	-55.75
Bajaj Finance	6596.70	-128.30
Bharti Airtel	1465.70	-28.10
BPLCL	341.70	-5.40
Britannia Ind.	5697.90	-22.45
Cipla	1515.05	-13.75
Coal India	506.80	-17.70
Divis Lab	4826.95	-164.30
Dr Reddys Lab	6812.05	-152.10
Eicher Motors	4675.75	-59.55
Grasim Ind.	2612.25	-94.55
HCL Tech	1562.40	-46.90
HDFC Bank	1615.75	-43.40
HDFC Life	710.90	3.50
Hero MotoCorp	5183.90	-90.30
Hindalco	614.30	-33.75
Hind Unilever	2715.90	-23.35
ICICI Bank	1172.60	-23.95
Indusind Bank	1389.45	-14.85
Infosys	1751.90	-69.30
ITC	486.00	-3.10
JSW Steel	863.80	-35.75
Kotak Bank	1773.65	-29.80
L&T	3528.00	-137.70
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5390.10	-119.80
M&M	2678.95	-70.70
Maruti Suzuki	12200.85	-525.55
NestleIndia	2510.90	15.80
NTPC	413.25	-6.45
ONGC	310.25	-19.85
PowerGrid Corp.	342.80	-15.45
Reliance Ind.	2894.65	-104.00
SBI Life	1722.20	-22.70
State Bank	811.65	-36.20
Shriram Finance Ltd.	2891.45	-100.65
Sun Pharma	1720.35	-11.30
TataConsumerProduct	1199.40	-5.75
Tata Motors	1016.45	-80.20
Tata Steel	149.82	-8.40
TCS	4155.05	-128.00
Tech Mahindra	1456.35	-51.35
Titan	3375.95	-86.40
UltraTech Cement	11417.25	-347.25
Wipro	485.00	-17.15

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 05

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.65	83.97
Euro	91.60	91.95
British Pound	106.64	107.05
Japanese Yen (100)	58.59	58.82
Chinese Yuan	11.74	11.78
Swiss Franc	98.42	98.81
Singapore Dollar	63.31	63.56
Canadian Dollar	60.35	60.58
Malaysian Ringgit	18.88	18.98
Australian Dollar	53.95	54.17

Source: Indian Bank

GST receipts on health cover hit almost ₹10,000 cr. in FY24

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Goods and Services Tax (GST) receipts on health insurance premium payments by consumers rose by more than 54% between 2021-22 and 2023-24, yielding ₹8,262 crore last year, with health reinsurance levies delivering almost another ₹1,500 crore, data shared by the Finance Ministry in the Lok Sabha on Monday show.

Over the last three financial years, GST levies on health insurance premiums added up to more than ₹21,255 crore.

Reinsurance premia paid by insurers yielded about ₹3,274 crore of GST revenues over this period, rising 79.7% between 2021-



MoS (Finance) Pankaj Chaudhary speaking in Parliament on Monday. PTI

tion in the rate of GST on life insurance and health insurance premiums.

"GST rates and exemptions are prescribed on the recommendations of the GST Council, which is a constitutional body comprising representatives from both the Centre and the States/UTs," Mr. Chaudhary said.

On lowering GST levies on raw materials for fertilizers such as sulphuric acid and ammonia, as recommended by a Parliamentary panel, the Minister said that the GST Council had discussed the matter on six occasions, including at its last meeting held in June, when it was referred to the Group of Ministers (GoM) tasked with the rate rationalisation exercise.

SEBI directs heads of AMCs to deter market abuse

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

CEOs, managing directors (MD) or any equivalent officials of asset management companies (AMC) will be held 'responsible and accountable' for implementing mechanisms to deter potential market abuse, regulator SEBI said in a circular on Monday.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India released the circular outlining the amendments made to the SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996, directing AMCs to set up institutional mechanisms to deter market abuse, including front-running and fraudulent transactions.

LIC unveils term cover products for youth

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Life Insurance Corporation of India has introduced LIC's Yuva Term/Digi Term and LIC's Yuva Credit Life/Digi Credit Life non-par, non-linked, life, individual, pure risk plans providing term insurance and safety net against loan repayments.

The Yuva Term/Digi Term will provide financial protection to the insured's family in the event of the policyholder's death during the policy term. It is a non-par product under which benefits payable on death are guaranteed, LIC said on Monday.

IndiGo 'stretches' product to include business class

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

In a pivot away from its all-economy cabin, IndiGo unveiled a tailor-made business-class product called 'IndiGoStretch,' which will roll out on its flights from mid-November for metro-to-metro flights.

The product offering essentially includes seats with advanced comfort, enhanced legroom and a holder for electronic devices. The seats will be added to the A321 neo aircraft joining the fleet. Each aircraft will include 12 of the seats and have two instead of three seats on both sides of the aisle in three rows.

Passengers flying to Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad,



Bengaluru, Chennai and Kolkata will be able to avail this product.

Airline Co-founder Rahul Bhatia told *The Hindu* that the product will bring affordable business class travel to Indian air travellers on domestic flights.

"IndiGo democratized travel and economy class," Mr. Bhatia said. "We are doing exactly the same,

but with a stretched product," he added.

To address concerns over IndiGo shifting from low-cost structure, he said, "while adding complexity brings additional costs, if the rewards of complexity outweigh the cost, then introducing complexity in a thoughtful and meaningful manner should be a no brainer," underlining it will continue to fiercely hold on to its age old mantra of structural cost leadership.

On the airline's long-haul ambitions, he said, "much of the international traffic is exported to carriers residing outside India. I think it is critical upon us and AI to bring that economic growth back into the country."

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ISLAMABAD

Ties with U.S. should be repaired but not at China's expense: Pak. PM



Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that Pakistan wants to repair ties with the U.S. but not at the cost of its ties with China as no other country could do what Beijing was doing for his cash-strapped country. Sharif said that work was progressing fast in the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. PTI

NEW YORK

Nine employees 'may have been involved' in Oct. 7 attack, says UN



The United Nations said on Monday nine employees of its agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) "may have been involved" in the October 7 attack on Israel by Hamas. "We have sufficient information to take the actions that we're taking -- which is to say, the termination of these nine individuals," UN spokesman said. AFP

SEOUL

North Korea deploys 250 missile launchers to southern border



North Korea has deployed 250 ballistic missile launchers to its southern border, with leader Kim Jong-un describing the weapons as a "powerful treasured sword" to defend its sovereignty, state media said on Monday. It was the first time North Korea had publicised the scale of an arms transfer to its border units. AFP

ISTANBUL

Erdogan slams social media 'fascism' amid Instagram battle



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan accused social media networks of "fascism" and censorship on Monday as his government blocked Instagram for a fourth day. The U.S.-owned platform has been accused by government officials of censorship and failing to remove posts the authorities deem offensive. AFP

Bangladesh's 'iron lady' falls from grace

The Awami League leader was credited with turning around the economy but started facing the heat after the Ukraine war pushed up cost of fuel and food imports; amid economic worries and booming unemployment, public anger against a job reservation system had triggered mass protests

Reuters
DHAKA

Sheikh Hasina, who resigned as Bangladesh's Prime Minister and fled the country on Monday following weeks of protests, has been one of the dominant figures in its politics since the assassination of her father, independence leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, nearly a half-century ago.

Her flight came less than seven months after she celebrated a fourth straight term in power – and fifth overall – by sweeping a national election in January that was boycotted by the main opposition.

Protests began in June after student groups' demands for the scrapping of a controversial quota sys-

tem in government jobs escalated into a movement seeking the end of her rule.

Her political career was rooted in bloodshed.

Her father, who led Bangladesh's fight for independence from Pakistan in 1971, was assassinated with most her family in a military coup in 1975. She was fortunate to have been visiting Europe at the time.

Born in 1947, in southwestern Bangladesh, then East Pakistan, Ms. Hasina was the eldest of five children. She graduated in Bengali Literature from Dhaka University in 1973 and gained political experience as a go-between for her father and his student followers.

She returned to Bangladesh from India, where she lived in exile, in 1981 and



Billowing rage: Protestors set fire at the 'Bangabandhu memorial museum' in Dhanmondi locality in Dhaka on Monday. AFP

was elected head of the Awami League.

Ms. Hasina later joined hands with political foe Khaleda Zia, chief of the rival Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), to lead a popular uprising for democracy that toppled mili-

tary ruler Hossain Mohammad Ershad from power in 1990.

But the alliance with Ms. Zia did not last long and the bitter rivalry between the two women – often called the "battling begums" – went on to domi-

nate Bangladeshi politics for decades.

Ms. Hasina first led the Awami League party to victory in 1996, serving one five-year term before regaining power in 2009, never to lose it again.

As time went on, her rule has been marked by mass arrests of political opponents and activists, forced disappearances and extrajudicial killings. Rights groups warned of a virtual one-party rule by the Awami League.

Ms. Zia, herself a former Prime Minister and the widow of Ziaur Rahman, a former President of Bangladesh who was assassinated in 1981, was jailed in 2018 on graft charges that the opposition says have been trumped up. She was barred from political activ-

ity. The BNP and rights groups say Ms. Hasina's government arrested 10,000 opposition party workers on trumped-up charges in the lead-up to the January election, which the opposition boycotted.

Despite criticism of her years in power, Ms. Hasina was credited with turning around the economy and the massive garments industry, while winning international praise for sheltering Rohingya Muslims fleeing persecution in neighbouring Myanmar.

But the economy has also slowed sharply since the Russia-Ukraine war pushed up prices of fuel and food imports, forcing Bangladesh to turn last year to the International Monetary Fund for a \$4.7 billion bailout.

Australia lifts terror threat level from 'possible' to 'probable'

Associated Press
MELBOURNE

The Australian government on Monday elevated the nation's terrorism threat alert level from "possible" to "probable," citing concerns about increasing radicalisation among young people and community tensions over the Israel-Hamas war.

It is the first time the threat level has been elevated to the midpoint of the five-tier National Terrorism Threat Advisory System since 2022. The level had been "probable" the previous eight years.

'No specific threat'

But Prime Minister Anthony Albanese added that while government officials

Rise in radicalisation among youth and community tensions over Gaza war are cited as reasons

think the current climate makes terrorism an increased danger, they did not know of any specific threats.

"I want to reassure Australians probable does not mean inevitable, and it does not mean there is intelligence about an imminent threat or danger," Mr. Albanese told reporters.

He said the government was acting on the advice of the Australian Security Intelligence Organization, the nation's main domestic spy agency known as ASIO.

UN seeks urgent de-escalation in West Asia; Iran reserves right to strike back

Agence France-Presse
GENEVA

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk on Monday called for an urgent de-escalation in West Asia over fears that the Gaza war could spread.

"I am deeply worried about the rising risk of a wider conflict in the Middle East [West Asia] and plead with all parties, along with those states with influence, to act urgently to de-escalate what has become a very precarious situation," Mr. Turk said in a statement.

Iran on Monday said it had the "legal right to punish" Israel over last week's killing of Palestinian armed group Hamas's political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran.

Israel, which has not



Sad moment: Men bury bodies that were taken and later released by Israel during a mass funeral in Khan Yunis on Monday. AFP

commented on the killing but did admit to carrying out a strike on Beirut that left Hezbollah military chief Fuad Shukur dead, has been fighting a war in Gaza since the October 7 attacks by Hamas. It is now exchanging daily cross-border fire with Hezbollah in Lebanon.

The international community fears Iran, a backer of Hezbollah and Hamas, could join the conflict.

"Everything, and I mean everything, must be done to avoid this situation spiralling further into an abyss that will only have even more terrible consequences for civilians."

U.S. President Joe Biden was to hold crisis talks with his national security team on Monday as fears grow of an Iranian attack on Israel.

Mr. Biden will also call Jordan's King Abdullah II as part of a flurry of diplomacy.

Gaza's Civil Defence agency said it received the bodies of 80 unidentified Palestinians from Israel on Monday, which it buried in a mass grave.

"We received 80 bodies inside 15 bags, with more than four martyrs in each bag, each wrapped in a single shroud," Civil Defence director Yamen Abu Suleiman said.

Abu Suleiman said Israeli authorities did not provide any information about the bodies, including their names or where they were found.

Taliban allow foreigners with old visas to stay in Afghanistan

Associated Press
ISLAMABAD

Afghanistan's Taliban government said on Monday it would allow people in the country on visas issued by the former Western-backed government to stay for now, but that they would not be allowed back in without documents from a Taliban-approved diplomatic mission.

The announcement by the Taliban's Foreign Ministry on the social media platform X clarified its July 30 announcement that the regime would no longer accept documents from consulates and diplomatic missions abroad staffed by members of the former go-



On the edge: Foreigners can stay for now but that they will not be allowed back in without documents certified by the new regime. AFP

vernment of the country. The move is part of the Taliban's efforts to gain control of Afghanistan's representation abroad since returning to power in 2021.

The Taliban's blacklisting of diplomatic missions

in Canada, Australia and several European countries means that many people may have to travel hundreds of even thousands of miles to get documents issued, renewed, or certified.

Myanmar junta loses control of Lashio base

Associated Press
BANGKOK

Myanmar's military regime acknowledged on Monday it had lost communications with the commanders of a strategically important Army headquarters in the northeast.

The fall of the Army's Northeast Command in Lashio would be a significant blow to Myanmar's military government this year as an offensive launched by an alliance of powerful militias of ethnic minority groups continues to make broad gains in the country's civil war.

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Short term e-Tender Notification
KUIDFC invites tenders under NGT Environmental Compensation funds for below mentioned projects from the eligible Contractors. The tender document will be available on KPP Portal of GoK (<https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>)

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Package No.	Amount put to Tender (Incl GST) Rs in Crore	Earnest Money Deposit Rs in Lakhs
1	Construction of "Faecal Sludge Treatment Plants (FSTP) including Operation and Maintenance for 5 years under NGT Environmental Compensation funds on DBOT model"	Package 5 (Call-3)	22.57	22.60
2		Package 7 (Call-4)	30.74	30.80
3		Package 10 (Call-4)	22.46	22.50
4		Package 12 (Call-4)	24.86	24.90

1) Tender Publish Date: 03.08.2024. 2) Pre-bid meeting Date & Time: 13.08.2024 Time: 11.30 AM. 3) Last Date & Time for Bid submission: 20.08.2024 Time: 4.30 PM. 4) Date & Time of Opening of Technical bid: 21.08.2024 Time: 5.00 PM. 5) Date & Time of Opening of Financial bid: 28.08.2024 Time: 11.30 AM.
Interested bidders may view, download & upload the tenders only through KPP portal. Any further notification will be through KPP portal and KUIDFC official website only.
Sd/- Executive Engineer
Project Monitoring Unit, UWM-KUIDFC, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/1280/MAA/2024-25

REIGNING SUPREME

Denmark's Axelsen retains men's badminton crown



RITU RAJ KONWAR

Denmark's Viktor Axelsen retained his Olympic badminton title on Monday, demolishing Thailand's world champion Kunlavut Vitidsarn in the men's singles final in Paris. Backed by a vocal crowd of Danish fans at La Chapelle Arena, the second-seeded Axelsen battled past his eighth-seeded opponent 21-11, 21-11 in 52 minutes.

DOMINANT

South Korea's An wins badminton women's singles title



AFF

South Korea's An Se-young consolidated her status as the top player in women's badminton by winning the Olympic gold on Monday, beating China's He Bingjiao in the final. Reigning world champion An, who has held the No. 1 ranking for the past year, beat her sixth-seeded opponent 21-13, 21-16 at La Chapelle Arena.

ITALIAN JOB

Italy claims mixed team skeet gold; Li clinches 25m rapid fire pistol



AFF

Italy claimed the final shooting gold of the Games in the mixed team skeet final as Gabriele Rossetti and Diana Bacosi secured a 45-44 win over fancied US pair Vincent Hancock and Austen Smith. China's Li Yuehong won the men's 25 metres rapid fire pistol event with a comfortable 32-25 win against Cho Yeong-jae of South Korea.

RECHARGE

Olympic champion swimmer Titmus to take 'extended break'



GETTY IMAGES

Four-time Olympic gold medallist Ariarne Titmus said on Monday she will take an "extended break" from swimming with the aim of being back to her best for 2028 Los Angeles Games. The Australian, who won two golds and two silvers in Paris, said she may spend up to a year away from the sport as she looks to recharge her batteries.

Lakshya succumbs to nerves in bronze medal tie

The Indian begins well by taking the first game 21-13 and going up 8-3 in the next; however, he loses his way and allows Lee to stage a comeback and secure a podium finish



Jonathan Selvaraj
PARIS

Serving 3-1 up in the opening game of his Olympic bronze medal encounter against Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia, Lakshya Sen attempted a high serve against his Malaysian opponent. Sen lifted the shut-

tle high trying to force a high clear from his backtracking opponent. Lee took a look at the trajectory of the projectile and simply left the shuttle as it sailed over the backline of the court.

Service errors are fleeting in men's badminton. Just a day before he had made another service error while three game points up against Viktor Axelsen. The Dane would make the most of his opportunity, save the remainder of the game points and end up winning it. He'd win the match and end up defending his title from Tokyo.

While Lakshya's error had come at a critical time

against Axelsen, the one against Lee had come very early on. There was enough time to recover. But the fact that he made one at all, suggested there was something in what Axelsen had said a day before about competing in the Olympics.

"These rings, they do funny things." Indeed they do. Before this meeting, Lakshya Sen had played Lee five times. He'd beaten the Malaysian in four of them including at their last encounter at the 2024 All England Championship.

After the opening 30 minutes, it looked like Sen was going to blitz past Lee. He had taken the first game

21-13 and was up 8-3 in the second. He had all the answers.

Then all of a sudden, the Malaysian won the next 9 points in a row. Lakshya tried to mount a comeback but there was none. He'd go on to claim the match and the bronze medal 13-21 21-16 21-11 against the Indian.

The shift happened almost imperceptibly, and yet was incredibly evident.

Lee would take a 12-8 lead but Sen would fight back. He'd close in to 14-15. Then inexplicably he hit another long serve. The first one, early in the match, was perhaps inconsequential. The second won was far from it. The

lead extended.

Lee would never trail again.

The Malaysian ran away with the third. You almost pitied the Indian for having to stay on the court. Smashes were missed, line calls were wrongly guessed. "I just didn't have any answers," he'd say later.

Lakshya would later be asked what he thought went wrong. With a thousand yard stare and his voice barely audible over the cheers of the Malaysian fans, he held on to his injured elbow, the pain of returning without a medal further exacerbating his agony.

"I don't know," he concluded.



Spirited show: Lakshya missed out on a maiden Olympic medal despite his best efforts. RITU RAJ KONWAR



Joy unbound: Coach Costantini and the players celebrate after Manika seals the deal. AFP

Indian women's team surges into the last eight

TABLE TENNIS

Y.B. Sarangi
PARIS

Riding on her killer instinct to win, paddler Manika Batra recorded victory in both her singles matches, including the high-pressure decider as India – playing for the first time as a team – recorded a superb 3-2 win over a higher-placed Romania in the women's team pre-quarterfinals of the Olympics at the South Paris Arena here on Monday.

Doubles pair Sreeja Akula and Archana Kamath gave India a positive start by winning the opening match against Adina Diaconu and Elizabeta Samara 11-9, 12-10, 11-7.

The duo coordinated well and secured the first two games even after getting a good challenge from the Romanians.

The Indians erased two-point deficits in the second and third games en route to victory.

World No. 28 Manika made it 2-0 as she punched

above her weight to upset 10th-ranked Bernadette Szocs 11-5, 11-7, 11-7 in the singles encounter.

Manika used her fine forehands to race away from 5-5 and pocket the opening game.

She displayed more control and varied the pace of her shots to take the second and benefitted from the Romanian's errors in the third.

In the second singles match, Sreeja frittered away her lead twice to lose to Elizabeta 11-8, 4-11, 11-7, 6-11, 8-11. Sreeja never looked comfortable against the left-hander.

Catching up

In the decider, the Indian played well to catch up with Elizabeta but the Romanian regained her lead and ultimately won the contest.

Romania levelled things at 2-2 after Bernadette beat Archana 5-11, 11-8, 7-11, 9-11.

Manika rose to the challenge in the decider and defeated Adina 11-5, 11-9, 11-9. She executed some spectacular drives and backhand drop shots to

surge ahead and clinch India's quarterfinal spot.

"We played with confidence and started really well with doubles. That gave me confidence. I am really happy how we all supported and cheered each other and played our best games," Manika told *The Hindu*.

Delighted

Coach Massimo Costantini was delighted with Manika's effort. "Her entire game is to be patient. Every time she rushes, there is a risk of making mistakes. She managed very well. "She did some proper variation. Her game is to confuse the opponent. So, the more you vary, the better you will be. The doubles win was crucial," said Costantini.

The results (pre-quarterfinals):

India bt Romania 3-2 (Sreeja Akula-Archana Kamath bt Adina Diaconu-Elizabeta Samara 11-9, 12-10, 11-7; Manika Batra bt Bernadette Szocs 11-5, 11-7, 11-7; Sreeja lost to Elizabeta 11-8, 4-11, 11-7, 6-11, 8-11; Archana lost to Bernadette 5-11, 11-8, 7-11, 9-11; Manika bt Adina 11-5, 11-9, 11-9).

India has a job on hand against dominant Germany

HOCKEY

Y.B. Sarangi
PARIS

After showing its steely resolve and getting past Great Britain in the quarterfinals despite being a man down, India will be ready to tackle the situation arising out of defender Amit Rohidas' absence when it takes on World champion Germany in the men's hockey semifinals of the Olympics at the Yves du Manoir Stadium here on Tuesday.

Rohidas was suspended for one match due to a red card he received against Great Britain. Hockey India's appeal against the decision was rejected on Monday, rendering Rohidas ineligible for the crucial last-four clash.

Having played three quarters without Rohidas in the quarterfinals, India has already done a simulation of living life without him.

The defence has overcome its shortcomings to grow stronger. It passed the Great Britain test in flying colours and will be eager to present the same grittiness and composure against Germany, which has scored the maximum goals and has won five out of its six matches in the tournament so far.

India, which thwarted the German challenge in the bronze medal contest in Tokyo, recorded a win and a loss against it during the FIH Pro League in June.

But that was in the build-up phase when teams were trying out different things. In the Olympics proper, the intensity may be at another level.

While Manpreet Singh did a good job in place of Rohidas at the back and is likely to carry out the res-



Up for it: Harmanpreet's men will be keen on putting up yet another impressive defensive show. RITU RAJ KONWAR

India-Germany H2H in Olympics

YEAR	CITY	RESULT
1936	Berlin	India won 8-1
1956	Melbourne	India won 1-0
1964	Tokyo	Match drawn 1-1
1968	Mexico	India won 2-1 (West Germany), 1-0 (East Germany); Bronze: India won 2-1 (West Germany)
1976	Montreal	India lost 2-3
1984	Los Angeles	Match drawn 0-0
1988	Seoul	Match drawn 1-1
1992	Barcelona	India lost 0-3
1996	Atlanta	Match drawn 1-1
2012	London	India lost 2-5
2016	Rio	India lost 1-2
2021	Tokyo	India won 5-4 (bronze medal match)

ponsibility again. India will have to manage with one player less on the bench and it may impact the rolling substitution.

The team will look to carry on its well-coordinated efforts with an emphasis on keeping its post safe from German penetration, which has produced 14 field goals for the World champion.

In contrast, India has scored eight of its 11 goals through penalty corners or strokes.

Needless to say, drag-flicker Harmanpreet will be crucial to the team's

scheme of things in the absence of Rohidas – who also works as a penalty corner specialist and a rusher to block opponents' corners.

Germany, which has gained from its prolific scorers, including Christopher Ruhr and Justus Weigand, will try to continue its dominance and put India under pressure after seeing off Argentina in the quarterfinals.

With Germany on top of its game and India keen to shine in adversity, the duel may offer a treat to the eyes.

Maheshwari and Anant Jeet narrowly miss a podium finish

SHOOTING

Press Trust of India
CHATEAURoux

The Indian shooting duo of Maheshwari Chauhan and Anant Jeet Singh Naruka fought tooth and nail before missing out on a bronze medal by a whisker in the skeet mixed team event, finishing fourth on Monday. Italy edged the United States 45-44 for the gold.

Maheshwari and Anant Jeet shot 43 to end behind China's Yiting Jiang and Jianlin Lyu (44) in a thrilling match for the bronze.

Earlier, the Indians finished fourth in the qualification after both teams were tied on 146 at the end of the three-round, 150-shot process, forcing a shoot-off.

In the qualification, Maheshwari shone with 50/50 in her final two rounds while Anant Jeet notched scores of 25, 23 and 24 in the three rounds.

What swung the match in China's favour was the incredible form of Jianlin who did not miss a single shot on way to the podium,

even as his partner Yiting recovered after a rare three straight misses to help the pair to victory.

At the start of the medal round, the Chinese earned perfect scores of 4/4 against India.

In reply, Anant Jeet missed out on one of the four targets (3/4) in the first station. Maheshwari shot a score of 4/4 to get off to a good start.

Trailing China (8/8) after the first station, India (7/8) fought back in station two and restored parity heading into the third station. What helped the Indians at this stage was the three successive misses by Yiting.

Even as Jianlin continued with his flawless shooting, Yiting missed one but then got his act together to finish on a strong note.

In order to win a bronze, India was left with the task to hit all eight targets while hoping that China would miss a few. The Indians fired all four targets in the decider, but the Chinese kept their nerves and succeeded in all their attempts to edge out the Indians by just one point.



Tough loss: Maheshwari and Anant Jeet went down fighting to China in the bronze medal contest. GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF



Brazil's Andrade beats Biles to the Olympic floor crown

Brazil's Rebeca Andrade beat Simone Biles to the floor gold on the final day of the Olympic gymnastics competition on Monday, ending the US gymnastics great's bid for a fourth title at the Paris Games. Biles stepped out of bounds twice during her floor routine to take silver, while her teammate Jordan Chiles took bronze.



Brilliant Zou Jingyuan defends parallel bars title with ease

China's Zou Jingyuan handily beat his rivals to retain the Olympic parallel bars title on Monday, picking up his third medal of the Paris Games and giving his country a second gold in gymnastics. The 26-year-old, nicknamed 'King of Parallel Bars' for his dominance on the apparatus, earned a staggering 16.200 points.



D'Amato wins balance beam, Biles finishes fifth after fall

Italy's Alice D'Amato won balance beam gold as a fall doomed US gymnastics great Simone Biles's bid for a fourth title. Biles finished fifth. D'Amato delivered a solid routine for a score of 14.366 points to take gold ahead of China's Zhou Yaqin and Italy's Manila Esposito.



Oka pips Barajas on the horizontal bar for his third gold

Japan's Shinnosuke Oka's fairytale debut Olympics continued with him adding the horizontal bar gold to his team and all-around titles. The 20-year-old scored the same 14.533 score as Colombia's Angel Barajas, but took gold on the strength of higher execution mark. China's Zhang Boheng and Taiwan's Tang Chia-Hung shared bronze.

GOLDIES

- Germany:** Triathlon Mixed Relay
- Li Yuehong (Chn):** Men's 25 Metres Rapid Fire
- An Se-young (Kor):** Badminton Women's Singles
- Zou Jingyuan (Chn):** Gymnastics Men's Parallel Bars
- Alice D'Amato (Ita):** Gymnastics Women's Balance Beam
- Shinnosuke Oka (Jpn):** Gymnastics Men's Horizontal Bar
- Rebecca Andrade (Bra):** Gymnastics Women's Floor Exercise
- Viktor Axelsen (Den):** Men's Badminton Singles
- Finn Butcher (New Zealand):** Men's Kayak Cross
- Noemie Fox (Aus):** Women's Kayak Cross
- Italy (Gabriele Rossetti & Diana Bacosi):** Shooting Mixed Team Skeet
- Great Britain (Emma Finucane, Sophie Capewell and Katy Marchant):** Cycling Track Women's Team Sprint

GOING FOR GOLD

- Athletics:** Women's Hammer Throw, Men's Long Jump, Men's 1500m, Women's 3000m Steeplechase, Women's 200m
- Boxing:** Women's 60kg
- Cycling Track:** Men's Team Sprint
- Diving:** Women's 10m Platform
- Equestrian:** Jumping Individual
- Sailing:** Women's & Men's Dinghy
- Skateboarding:** Women's Park
- Wrestling:** Men's Greco-Roman 60kg & 130kg, Women's Freestyle 68kg

Brash and brilliant Lyles underlines his class on the biggest stage of them all

'I did this against the best of the best... here I am, my first Olympics in 100m, going around now as the Olympic champion'



Jonathan Selvaraj
PARIS

9.79 seconds, and it was all over. Noah Lyles was the Olympic men's 100m champion.

The marquee event of the Paris Games couldn't have been any closer. Lyles needed to record a new personal best and even then it nearly wasn't enough. He got off to a horror start – the slowest off the blocks in the eight-man final. A 100m of perseverance later, he finished 5/1000th of a second ahead of Jamaica's Kishane Thompson – 9.784 to 9.789.

Lyles is no stranger to drama. At a press conference before the Games, he declared himself the fastest man alive. "It's me. It's always going to be me."

For all his bluster, the fact is that until he came to Paris, the 27-year-old didn't have the hardware to back himself up. He only had a bronze in the 200m



On top of the world: Lyles' yellow metal marks USA's first men's 100m gold since Gatlin won it in 2004 at the Athens Games. GETTY IMAGES

at Tokyo. He might have three gold medals – in the 100m, 200m and 4x100m – at the World Championships last year but he's not the fastest this year – that is still Kishane Thompson.

Having talked the talk, Sunday at 9:50 p.m. was his time to walk the walk – or at least sprint the sprint.

"It feels good to back it up," Lyles said. "I've seen tons of scenarios where athletes come in as a favourites and it doesn't work out for them. I came in

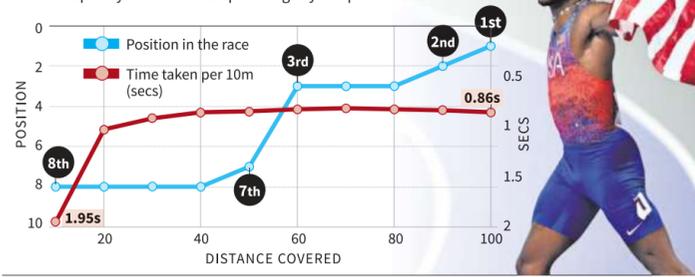
third-fastest from the semi-finals. I'm like "This is going to be serious, this is not going to be easy". And I had said OK, my therapist said, 'you need to relax and you need to be yourself'."

"I did this against the best of the best, on the biggest stage, with the biggest pressure," Lyles said.

"And I wasn't even entered in the 100 in 2021. You know, here I am, first Olympics in the 100, going around now the Olympic champion."

100m final: race progression

A break-up of Lyles' incredible sprint to glory in a photo-finish



Pioneer: Sable is the first Indian man to enter the 3,000m steeplechase final. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Sable storms into the 3,000m steeplechase final

Jonathan Selvaraj
PARIS

India's Avinash Sable, with a fifth place finish in the qualifying heat of the men's 3,000m steeplechase, qualified for the final with a timing of 8:15.43. He is the first Indian Olympic track finalist since Lalita Babar in the women's 3,000m steeplechase in 2016.

A year ago, Sable was in Budapest for the World Championships. Confident of making the final, he felt he should conserve energy for the big race.

He realised too late that he was getting boxed in with no space to break out even to vault the barrier or water jump. He tripped and did not qualify.

In the months that have passed, Sable's repeated a mantra to whoever has asked him. "Don't try to be cute. Don't think, you are going to make the final just because you run. Run every race as if it's your last."

That's what he did here on Monday. Sable maintained his lead for the first lap. He'd pushed hard enough at the start that instead of being forced to run in a pack, he was in front of a thin line of runners. The pace Sable had

THE INDIA SHOW

A look at some of the Indian performances on Monday:

- Athletics:** Women's 400m (round 1): Kiran (seventh in heat 5, enters repechage); Men's 3000m steeplechase (round 1): Avinash Sable (fifth in heat 2, qualifies for final).
- Badminton:** Men (bronze medal match): Lakshya lost to Lee (Mas) 21-13, 16-21, 11-21.
- Sailing:** Men's Dinghy: Vishnu Saravanan (18th overall), DNQ for medal race; Women's Dinghy: Nethra (21st overall), DNQ.
- Shooting: Skeet:** Mixed team (bronze medal match): Maheshwari & Anantjeet lost to Jiang & Lyu (Chn) 43-44.
- Table tennis:** Women's team (round-of-16): bt Romania 3-2.
- Wrestling:** Women's freestyle 68kg: 1/4 final: Nisha lost to Pak (North Korea) 8-10; 1/8 final: Nisha bt Rizhko (Ukr) 6-4.



My goal was just to finish in the top five. Because of this, I did not go all out in my final lap

forced at the start meant that his timing was faster than Olympic champion Soufiane Al Bakalli and Olympic silver medalist Lamecha Girima who topped their heats.

Medals table

Country	G	S	B	T
1 China	21	17	14	52
2 USA	19	29	27	75
3 Australia	13	11	8	32
4 France	12	15	18	45
5 Great Britain	11	13	17	41
6 Korea	11	8	7	26
7 Japan	10	5	11	26
8 Italy	9	10	6	25
9 Germany	6	5	4	15
9 Netherlands	6	5	4	15
59 India	0	0	3	3

INDIANS IN ACTION

A look at some Indians who will compete on Tuesday:

- Athletics:** Men's javelin qualification: Group A (Jena), 1.50 p.m. IST; Group B (Neeraj), 3.20 p.m.
- Women's 400m:** Repechage (Kiran), 2.50 p.m.
- Hockey:** Men (semifinal): vs Germany (10.30 p.m.).
- Table tennis:** Men's team (round-of-16): vs China (1.30 p.m.).
- Wrestling (session begins at 2.30 p.m.):** Women's freestyle 50kg (1/8 final): Vinesh vs Susaki (Jpn).

Neeraj begins quest to defend his crown today

Jonathan Selvaraj
PARIS

At noon time in Paris, at the Stade de France, Neeraj Chopra will get the campaign to defend his title underway in the qualifying round of the men's javelin throw competition.

Neeraj will either have to be among the top 12 throwers in the qualification round or will have to make a throw of 84m in three attempts to automatically qualify for the final on August 8.

A total of 32 competitors will take part in qualification across two groups of 16 athletes of whom 11 have already thrown over 85m this season.

Knowing Neeraj, he will likely try to qualify in his very first throw without waiting to find out what the rest of the field does. He says he learned this the hard way at the 2017 World Championships in London where he tried to conserve energy only to not make the finals of his first world



Get the job done: Neeraj will aim to seal a place in the final with one of his early throws. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

event. At the Tokyo Games, he qualified with his very first throw of the competition – which was also the longest throw across all the competitors. That effort set a statement that reverberated all the way to the final and marked Neeraj as one to watch out for.

At Paris, Neeraj's reputation will precede him but there will be other claimants who will want to raise their profiles.

While Germany's Johannes Vetter isn't going to be around, compatriot Max Dehning, the only athlete to have thrown over 90m this season, Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem, and two-time World champion Anderson Peters of Grenada will be some of the athletes competing alongside Neeraj in the Group B.

Kishore Jena, the other Indian in the fray as well as Czech Republic's Jakub Vadlejch, who has beaten Neeraj earlier this season, are in Group A.

Nisha crashes out after dislocating her shoulder

Press Trust of India
PARIS

Indian wrestler Nisha Dahiya was left sobbing in pain after she lost her quarterfinal bout against North Korea's Pak Sol Gum 8-10 in the women's 68kg freestyle category at Paris Olympics. Leading 8-1 with just over 90 seconds left, Nisha sustained a dislocated shoulder which left her in pain as she wept inconsolably. Following a medical break, Nisha didn't have any strength left in her right hand and it became a cake-



Painful exit: Nisha suffered an injury when she was leading 8-1 with just over 90 seconds left. AFP

walk for Pak, who won nine straight points. In fact, with 10 seconds left, the scoreline was 8-8

but the Nisha was on the wall for Nisha surrendered in the dying moments without a fight.

India surprised by Sri Lanka's strong showing, admits Nayar

Assistant coach says his side has to reflect and improve after committing the same mistakes; defends shuffling the batting order and lauds the hosts for a superb bowling performance



Punching above their weight: Vandersay, centre, on his knees after taking a wicket in the second one-day. AP

CRICKET

S. Dipak Ragav
COLOMBO

India's assistant coach Abhishek Nayar conceded the team was surprised by Sri Lanka's strong showing in the One-Day International series so far following his side's 32-run defeat in the second game on Sunday. At the same time, he felt the conditions had played an outsized role in the outcomes.

"When you play a sport, you never take anything for granted," said Nayar after the match. "Was it a shock? Yes, there was a surprise. But you anticipate and try to understand that the game can turn on its head

because there is so much spin on offer." Commenting on the middle-order collapse in the first two matches against the spinners, Nayar said, "Scoring runs against the new ball is relatively easier, even if you see the previous game. As the ball gets older, especially batting second, it gets much tougher. (Jeffrey) Vandersay bowled the ideal length in these conditions. He used his googlies well and kept to a stump-to-stump line."

"Sometimes in tough conditions, especially in a 50-over format, these things happen. Yes, you have to go back, rectify it and try to understand why it happened twice. The day before yesterday, at least

we had some partnerships; today, we lost quite a few wickets in a bundle," he added. The 40-year-old also remarked that the conditions were on the expected lines and praised the hosts' performance. "When we came and practised, we understood that there would be turn on offer. Sri Lanka has played well, their bowlers have bowled well, and they've scored important runs in the middle order. So credit to them for the way they have played. We have one game; we will try to come back hard."

With the first match ending in a tie, India will look to win the final game on Wednesday and avoid a first bilateral series defeat

to Sri Lanka in ODIs since 1997. The former India cricketer also defended the shuffling of the batting lineup by explaining that the team looked to have a left-right combination in the middle.

"Positions only matter if you play in different phases of the game. We lost wickets in the middle phase, which means (they) batted where they were supposed to. It was not as if the middle-order batted towards the end.

"They had an off-spinner and a leg-spinner, so the thought process was right. The (idea) is about having the left-right combination so that we can capitalise on the conditions," Nayar explained.

Former England batter Thorpe passes away after battling 'serious illness'

Agencies
LONDON

Former England and Surrey batter Graham Thorpe has died aged 55 after battling a "serious illness" since 2022, the country's cricket board announced on Monday.

Considered one of the finest batters of his generation, Thorpe was hospitalised shortly after being named the head coach of Afghanistan in 2022 but the details of his medical condition are not known.

He is survived by his wife Amanda and four children, Henry, Amelia, Kitty and Emma.

"It is with great sadness that the ECB shares the news that Graham Thorpe, MBE, has passed away," ECB said in a statement, without giving the exact cause of his death.

"There seem to be no appropriate words to describe the deep shock we feel at Graham's death. More than one of England's finest ever batters, he was a beloved member of the cricket family and revered by fans all over the world," the statement



The accumulator: Thorpe was the key in back-to-back series wins in Pakistan and Sri Lanka in 2000-01. FILE PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

read. Thorpe began his Test career in 1993 with an Ashes century and repeated the feat on the return tour, in Perth in February 1995.

The left-hander was instrumental in England's back-to-back series wins in Pakistan and Sri Lanka during the 2000-01 season.

He went on to play 100 Tests for England between 1993 and 2005 and averaged 44.66 with 16 centuries.

He also represented the Three Lions in 82 ODIs, collecting 2830 runs at an average of 37.18.

Thorpe enjoyed success at the county level as well. He was picked at the under-11 level by Surrey and played for it for 17 years, scoring close to 20,000 runs.

He started his coaching career in Australia, where he worked with the likes of Steve Smith and David Warner at New South Wales. He then joined the England national team set up as a batting coach in 2010.

He served as an assistant coach for the England men's team under Trevor Bayliss and Chris Silverwood but was axed after the side suffered a 0-4 whitewash in the 2021-22 Ashes series Down Under.

He was then appointed the head coach of Afghanistan in March 2022 but fell ill and couldn't take up the role.

Sebastian Korda completes a father-son double

DC OPEN

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

Sebastian Korda completed a father-son double at the Mubadala Citi DC Open on Sunday for his second ATP Tour title.

Thirty-two years after father Petr won the then-

Sovran Bank Classic, the fourth-seeded Korda defeated 10th-ranked Flavio Cobolli of Italy 4-6, 6-2, 6-0 in a match delayed at the start because of rain.

The 24-year-old Korda, a 6-foot-5 right-hander, is the younger brother of golf stars Nelly and Jessica Korda.

His mother, Regina

Rajchrtova, played on the WTA Tour.

Korda is the first American to win the Washington event since Andy Roddick in 2007.

His previous victory came in May 2021 in the Emilia-Romagna Open, an ATP 250 tournament.

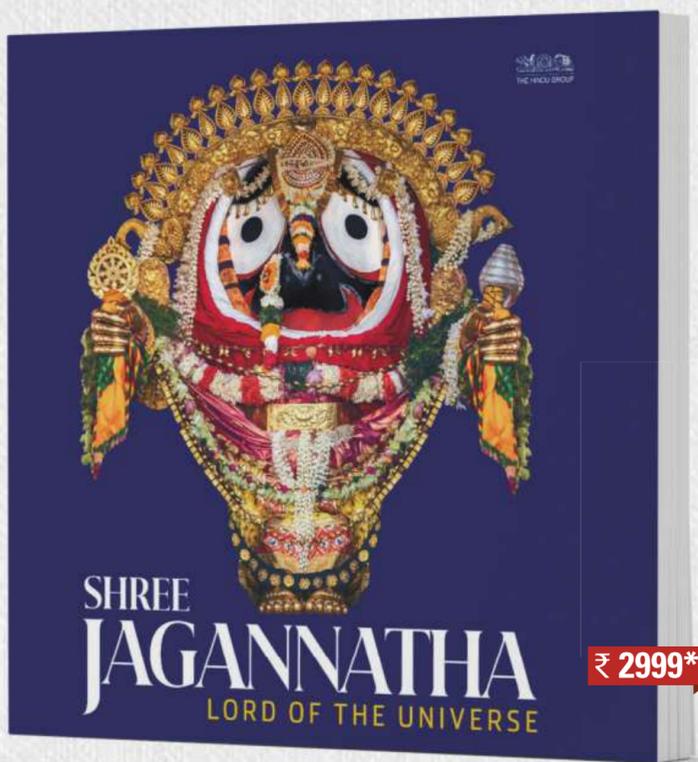
In the women's final, Paula Badosa of Spain won

her first title following a back injury, beating Marie Bouzkova of the Czech Republic 6-1, 4-6, 6-4 in a rain-interrupted match.

The match was delayed twice because of rain.

The results (finals):
Men: Sebastian Korda bt Flavio Cobolli 4-6, 6-2, 6-0.
Women: Paula Badosa bt Marie Bouzkova 6-1, 4-6, 6-4.

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP



Shree Jagannatha- Lord of the Universe is a picture-rich coffee-table book on the fascinating Lord Jagannatha temple in Puri, Odisha.

The book is a collection of pictures and articles by well-known writers from Odisha on culture and religion. It covers the temple's history, the unique rituals that characterise Jagannatha-worship and, of course, the famous Ratha Yatra.

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INBRIEF



Dinesh Karthik appointed SA20 League ambassador

Former India wicketkeeper-batter Dinesh Karthik was on Monday appointed the ambassador of SA20 League. Karthik, who is the first Indian player to be associated with the South African tournament, retired from all forms of cricket earlier this year.

Udit rallies past Svamnyu; Medhavi battles past Aparaj

Second seed Udit Kamboj fought his way past qualifier Svamnyu Singh 5P7, 6-1, 6-3 in the men's first round off the HPCL Mittal ₹200,000 AITA ranking tennis in Chandigarh on Monday.

The results (first round): Men: Neeraj Yashpaul by Yashvardhan Singh 6-1, 6-4; Tanik Gupta bt Utkarsh Tiwari 6-4, 0-6, 6-4; Aman Dahiya bt Deep Munim 6-3, 6-2; Sarthak Sudan bt Jagmeet Singh 7-6(8) (retired); Jatin Nain by Rakshit Dhankar 2-6 6-7(4) (retired); Vansh Nandal by Tushar Mittal 3-6, 6-2, 7-6(3); Moksh Puri bt Praneel Sharma 7-6(6), 6-2; Upnishad Bhardwaj bt Rhythm Malhotra 7-6(0) (retired); Prag Sheoran by Rohan Mittal 6-4, 1-6, 6-4; Suraj Prabodh bt Varun Dhandhukia 6-1, 6-1; Sajal Kesarwani bt Ricky Chaudhary 6-3, 1-6, 6-2; Akshat Dhull bt Shubh Negi 6-2, 7-5; Parv Nage bt Mayank Yadav 6-2, 6-0; Udit Kamboj bt Svamnyu Singh 5-7, 6-1, 6-3.

Women: Anjali Rathi bt Shefali Arora 6-2, 6-1; Divya Sharma bt Ganya Gupta 6-0, 6-0; Masika Khanna bt Mrinalini Sharma 6-3, 6-3; Saily Thakkar bt Tanushri Pandey 6-1 (retired); Chevika Reddy bt Himaanshika Singh 7-5, 6-1; Samruti Punyani bt Aditi Tyagi 6-7(9), 7-5, 6-3; Shagun Kumari bt Ananya Yadav 6-2, 7-6(3); Samaria Malik bt Bhumika Dahiya 6-3, 7-5; Bhumika Tripathi bt Sylvie Pal 6-4, 3-6, 6-2; Diva Bhatia bt Sanya Yadav 6-0, 3-0 (retired); Riya Sachdeva bt Kanupriya Rajawat 6-4, 6-4; Ayushi Singh bt Rutuparna Choudhary 6-4, 7-6(6); Medhavi Singh bt Aparaj Khandare 6-3, 6-6, 7-6(3); Shatakshi Chaudhary bt Pavithra Reddy 6-2, 6-0; Sahira Singh bt Sara Yadav 4-4 (retired).

LIVE TELECAST

Olympics 2024: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 11 a.m. onwards
Football: Durand Cup, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 3.30 & 6.30 p.m.

America has more depth but gold medals harder to come by

It finished with just eight golds, its fewest since the 1988 Seoul Games, and one ahead of its biggest rival Australia

SWIMMING

Associated Press
NANTERRE

No one can match America's depth at the pool. That said, claiming the top step on the Olympic medal podium is no longer a given for U.S. swimmers.

Nine days of thrilling competition at La Defense Arena wrapped up on Sunday night with the Americans barely pulling out the lead in the gold medal standings thanks to a victory in the last race.

The U.S. finished with just eight golds, its fewest since the 1988 Seoul Games and one ahead of its biggest rival, Australia.

More notably, the rest of the world totalled more victories (20) than the United States and Australia combined, the first time that's happened since the 1996 Atlanta Games.

Improved show

The Americans will certainly be intent on improving their performance heading into the home games at Los Angeles in 2028, when swimming will have in its largest, most spectacular setting yet with a capacity for some 38,000 fans.

Still, with more and more international swimmers getting their training in the U.S. — and prominent American coaches



Changing times: Finke, who swam to a WR in the 1500m, says the sport is growing and it is a great thing. GETTY IMAGES

such as Bob Bowman spreading their knowledge to other countries — a more diverse list of gold medallists is likely to be the norm going forward.

"This sport is growing and I can't help but feel like we've been a part of that," American gold medallist Bobby Finke said. "It's something we should take home and be proud of."

Two of the biggest swimming stars in Paris, France's Leon Marchand and Canada's Summer McIntosh, train in the U.S. but won a bevy of medals for their home countries.

The U.S. certainly had its shining moments in Paris. Katie Ledecky won two more golds, moving her into a tie for second place among all athletes on the career list with nine. She

also joined Phelps as the only swimmers to win the same event at four straight Summer Games with her victory in the 800m freestyle.

The women's team produced several more stars, including Torri Huske (three golds, two silvers), Gretchen Walsh (two golds, two silvers) and Regan Smith (two golds, three silvers).

But there were plenty of disappointments, particularly on the men's side. In all, the American men produced only two gold medals, and they didn't pick up an individual victory until Finke's world record in the 1,500 freestyle on the final night. Three of the four world records set at the meet came from the Americans, two of them in relays.

Australia will need to work hard to win, says McGrath



Looking forward: McGrath is one among many eagerly awaiting India's tour of Australia later this year. R. RAGU

CRICKET

Tarun Shastry
CHENNAI

Glenn McGrath, former Australian cricketer, fast-bowling legend, and the current Director of Coaching at the MRF Pace Foundation, expressed his excitement about the highly anticipated five-test series against India.

The series, which will commence in November down under, is widely expected to unfold as a fiercely competitive and intense battle between the two formidable sides.

India stunned the host in the previous series when the Ajinkya Rahane-led injury-stricken second-string side defied the odds to beat the Aussies 2-1 in a series that created history.

Speaking to the media on his third visit to the Foundation this year, McGrath said, "I am looking forward to this series. I think it is going to be result-oriented. You've got two teams that are aggressive in the way they play. So, I think we will have five



India won the last two series down under, and now it is up to Australia. It used to be a place where India would come, and Australia would dominate

different results in the series. Apart from the weather, there will be a result in all the matches.

"India won the last two series down under, and now it is up to Australia. It used to be a place where India would come, and Australia would dominate, but not anymore, as India has backed themselves and found a way, and they have done well."

When asked if Australia will have the edge with home advantage, the 54-year-old said, "The home team always has an advantage because they know the conditions well. But Australia will need to work hard, as India has beaten them in their own conditions. The Indian team has a lot of experience, but

Australia will be keen to come out and play well because this is the series they will look to win."

When asked about the possibility of other young Indian fast bowlers being given a chance in light of Mohammed Shami's injury, McGrath responded, "He is not young. It depends on Shami himself. If he's motivated to get back, given his injury and his road to recovery, it creates an opportunity for young pacers like Arshdeep Singh, Khaleel Ahmed, Prasad Krishna, and Avesh Khan."

Gautam Gambhir, the newly appointed head coach, will travel to Australia for the first time since taking over the position from Rahul Dravid.

When asked about his former Delhi Daredevils teammate's elevation to the top job, McGrath said, "It is interesting as he is a slightly different character from Rahul Dravid. But he has a lot of passion for the game. He can be intense but loves the game, so we'll have to wait and see."

Managing a healthy pool of fast bowlers even more important, says Bharat Arun

CRICKET

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
CHENNAI

With reference to the workload management for the Team India fast bowlers, former India and current Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) bowling coach Bharat Arun on Saturday spoke about the importance of grooming a pool of emerging fast bowlers.

"We have a healthy pool. We always had good fast bowlers. But how we manage them is even more important.

"Because, if you are going to play five Test matches in Australia, you need at



Arun. S. PRASANNA VENKATESAN

least six bowlers. Maybe, three or four would be playing in a game.

"But then, to keep them

fresh for five Test matches, you need to rotate among six bowlers. So, to have six bowlers, you must work with ten or a dozen bowlers.

BCCI has policy in place "I think the BCCI has a policy in place. They are calling all fast bowlers to work with the NCA.

"So, if that is happening, I think it's fantastic," he said on the sidelines of the Pondicherry Premier League (PPL) team Yanam Royals' jersey launch event here.

Mentioning Mayank Yadav, Umran Malik, Khaleel Ahmed, and Avesh Khan as the bowlers who could be

kept around the Test team, he said that getting them mentally, physically, and tactically prepared to step up whenever needed would be a significant challenge.

"Apart from those who are playing for India, you do have a good pool of bowlers who could really come to the party when it matters the most.

"But how prepared are they? That's going to be the biggest challenge.

"How prepared they are mentally, physically, and tactically, is the biggest challenge for them. They have the potential, we need to prepare them."

Protectors get the better of Mumbai City

DURAND CUP

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

CISF Protectors surprised the Indian Super League Cup winner Mumbai City FC 2-0 to register its first win in a Group C league match of the 133rd Durand Cup football at the Kishore Bharati Stadium here on Monday.

Early lead

Santosh Kumar gave the paramilitary outfit an early lead when he latched on to a fine cross from Bebe-to. Sahil Kumar doubled the lead late in the second half injury-time to help the CISF side collect full points against Mumbai City, which fielded its re-



Memorable day: Protectors celebrate after Sahil seals it with a late goal. DEBASISH BHADURI

serve team.

Former ISL league shield winner FC Goa got the better of local team Rangdajied United FC by the odd goal in seven in an absorbing Group F league match at the Jawaharlal

Nehru Stadium at Shillong.

Rangdajied United, an I-League 3 side that was drafted in after ISL team Hyderabad FC pulled out at the last minute, took the lead in the 19th minute

when Owanjih Pajuh scored an opportunistic goal.

Goa came back strongly after the break and found the target four times through Leander D'Cunha (48th, penalty), Devendra Murgaokar (58th), Lalthangliana (79th, penalty) and Wellington Fernandes (90+6) in that order.

Pynbhalang Suting (61) and Apborlang Kurbah (85) scored Rangdajied's goals in the second half.

The results: Group C (Kolkata): Mumbai City FC 0 lost to CISF Protectors 2 (Santosh Kumar 3, Sahil Kumar 90+6).

Group F (Shillong): FC Goa 4 (Leander 48-pen, Devendra 58, Lalthangliana 79-pen, Wellington 90+6) bt Rangdajied United FC 3 (Owanjih 19, Pynbhalang 61, Apborlang 85).

Manipur team warms up with 9-0 win

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Porompat Sabal Leikai High School, Manipur, defeated Army Public School, Patiala, 9-0 in a group-C league match of the 63rd Subroto Cup under-17 girls' football tournament in Gurugram on Monday.

The tournament was inaugurated by Air Marshal R.K. Anand at the Ambedkar Stadium.

The results: Group-A: Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya bt Coast Guard PS, Nani Daman, 4-1. Sri Lanka School FA drew with Betkuchi HS, Guwahati, 2-2. **Group-C:** The Porompat Sabal Leikai HS, Manipur, bt Army PS, Patiala 9-0. **Group-G:** Government HS, Kohima drew with Home Mission, 1 Mizo Bn NCC, Aizawl, 0-0.

N R I Doublepower lives up to her billing in S. Rangarajan Memorial Cup

HYDERABAD: Mr. Ravinder Reddy Male's N R I Doublepower, piloted by Suraj Narredu, justified her favoritism by winning the S. Rangarajan Memorial Cup, the feature event of Monday's (Aug. 5) races. The winner is trained by D. Netto.

1. PALAMPET PLATE (DIV. II): PONTFRAC (Afroz Khan) 1, Wind Sprite (Abhay Singh) 2, Fara (Rafique Sk.) 3 and Briar Ridge (Kuldeep Sr.) 4. 4-1/2, 1/2 and 1-1/4. Im, 13.60s. ₹28 (w), 11, 24 and 15 (p). SHP: 87, THP: 41, SHW: 16 and 32, FP: 309, Q: 186, Tanala: 1,299. Favourite: Santa Barbara. Owners: M/s. Ayyadevara Srinivas, Bharat Venkatapur & Shashidhar Kamini. Trainer: L. D' Silva.

2. ASCOT PLATE: ARIETTE (Neeraj Rawal) 1, Rolls Royce (R.S. Jodha) 2, Bellingham (B.R. Kumar) 3 and Sargent (Mukesh) 4. Not run: Linda. 2-1/2, 1-1/2 and 1-1/4. Im, 8.28s. ₹35 (w), 13, 11 and 18 (p). SHP: 31, THP: 34, SHW: 22 and 11, FP: 86, Q: 38, Tanala: 323. Favourite: Rolls Royce. Owner: Mr. & Mrs. Shapoor P. Mistry rep. Manjri Horse Breeders Farm Pvt. Ltd. & Mr. Anil V. Poduval. Trainer: N. Rawal.

3. JANGAON PLATE: AMPERE'S TOUCH (Neeraj Rawal) 1, Caraxes (Shivansh) 2, Grand Duke (Gaurav



Rewarding a winner: N R I Doublepower's owner Ravinder Reddy Male, left, receiving the S. Rangarajan Memorial Cup from Ramesh Rangarajan, Director, The Hindu Group of Publications, in the presence of HRC chairman R. Surender Reddy. G. RAMAKRISHNA

3 and Federer (Ashad Asbar) 4. 3/4, Neck and Nose. Im, 43.16s. ₹57 (w), 15, 12 and 29 (p). SHP: 23, THP: 73, SHW: 26 and 13, FP: 172, Q: 55, Tanala: 1,340. Favourite: Caraxes. Owner: Mr. N. Shyam Sunder. Trainer: N. Rawal.

4. SHAMIRPET CUP: PANGHO (Ajay Kumar) 1, Mix (The Magic (Mohit) 2, Assured Success (Kuldeep Sr.) 3 and That's My Love (Akshay Kumar) 4. Im, 14.20s. ₹109 (w), 22, 14

and 13 (p). SHP: 33, THP: 39, SHW: 81 and 21, FP: 552, Q: 208, Tanala: 2,682. Favourite: Antidote. Owner: Mr. K. Pradhyumna Reddy. Trainer: N. Ravinder Singh.

5. PALAMPET PLATE (DIV. I): WARWICK (A. ASHAD ASBAR) 1, Adhbut (Akshay Kumar) 2, Dyanooosh (M. Mark) 3 and Burgundy Black (Mohit Singh) 4. Head, 6-1/2 and 2. Im, 13.01s. ₹59 (w), 19, 10 and 26

(p). SHP: 33, THP: 64, SHW: 10 and 14, FP: 136, Q: 37, Tanala: 648. Favourite: Adhbut. Owners: M/s. Sunil Kumar Sethi, E. Anoop Kumar Reddy, Bharat Venkatapur, Ayyadevara Srinivas & T. Rakesh Reddy. Trainer: Ananta Vatsalya.

6. S. RANGARAJAN MEMORIAL CUP: N R I DOUBLEPOWER (Suraj Narredu) 1, Blazing Gun (Mukesh) 2, Malibu (Md. Ekram) 3 and Reigning Beauty (Afroz Khan) 4. 1-1/4, Neck and Neck. Im, 25.95s. ₹14 (w), 10, 12 and 35 (p). SHP: 29, THP: 55, SHW: 10 and 12, FP: 45, Q: 34, Tanala: 433. Favourite: N R I Doublepower. Owner: Mr. Ravinder Reddy Male. Trainer: D. Netto.

7. FAIRWAY PLATE: ALCAPOL FREE (Rafique Sk.) 1, Desert Sultan (Mukesh) 2, Planet Super (Kuldeep Sr.) 3 and Char Ek Char (P. Sai Kumar) 4. 3/4, 2-1/2 and 1-1/2. Im, 28.49s. ₹135 (w), 42, 16 and 12 (p). SHP: 62, THP: 70, SHW: 57 and 17, FP: 692, Q: 431, Tanala: 2,243. Favourite: Planet Super. Owner: Mr. B.E. Vasanth Kumar. Trainer: B. Mukesh Kumar. Jackpot: 70%: ₹75,218 (4 tkts.), 30%: 1,264 (102 tkts.). Treble: (i) 2,094 (14 tkts.), (ii) 1,047 (53 tkts.), Mini Jackpot: (i) 5,011 (8 tkts.), (ii) 15,952 (6 tkts.).

THE HINDU AT THE GAMES PHOTO CONTEST

The incumbent Sports Minister of the Rajasthan Government, Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, won a silver medal in which event at the 2004 Olympic Games?

Scan QR code or visit newsth.live/THOPH to take the quiz. Top 3 winners' every day win gift vouchers.

Answer to yesterday's quiz: Bhubaneswar

How a resilient Dube revived his international career

The Mumbaikar was staring at a future of lumbering from IPL franchise to franchise, and not really setting the domestic stage alight, either; then, Chennai Super Kings happened — they gave him a stable position in the upper middle-order, infused in him the confidence and belief that he could destroy the best with his power and timing

R. Kaushik
COLOMBO

“Woh shot dekha? Reminded you of Yuvi, didn't it?”

Ravi Shastri, then India's head coach, made this observation at Auckland's Eden Park on 26 January 2020, seconds after Shivam Dube had clubbed Tim Southee over long-on for the six that sealed victory in the second of five Twenty20 Internationals.

It was the left-handed Mumbaikar's 10th T20I; he had announced himself with an unbeaten 30-ball 54 just a month and a half previously, against West Indies in Thiruvananthapuram. Dube was 27 at the time, with a long future ahead of him in white-ball cricket owing to his propensity to hit the ball a long way and the rare tag of a potential all-rounder who could also bowl medium-pace.

Few knew at the time, not even the prescient Shastri, that following the end of that New Zealand series, Dube wouldn't play international cricket for three and a half years. The early promise was studiously ignored, the comparisons with 'Yuvi', aka Yuvraj Singh, quickly forgotten. Dube threatened to figure in the list of the could-have-beens, lumbering from IPL franchise to franchise and not really setting the domestic stage alight, either.

Turning point

Then, Chennai Super Kings happened. At the IPL mega auction in 2022, the multiple-times former champions dished out ₹4.40 crores for the man from Mumbai, who had moved from Royal Challengers Bangalore to Rajasthan Royals with limited success. The sceptics tut-tutted, amazed that CSK would invest so much in someone who had done so little. Hardly did they know that a turning of the corner was imminent.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Stephen Fleming assigned Dube a specific role — the takedown of spin in the middle overs. They gave him a stable position in the upper middle order, infused in him the confidence and belief that he could destroy the best with his power and timing. The backroom staff spent hours working on his mind, and even more hours getting his range-hitting prowess up and running.

The results were spectacular; Dube responded with 289 runs at an average of 28.90 and a strike-rate of 156.22. When he backed that up with 418 runs the following season at corresponding numbers of 38.00 and 158.33, it was impossible for the India selectors to keep looking beyond him.

Thus began Dube's second coming in international cricket, with a 'second' team against Ireland in Malahide in August 2023. A month and a half later, he was part of the gold medal-winning team at the Hangzhou Asian Games and while he hadn't had too many chances to showcase his ball-striking skills, combined returns of 47 runs (undefeated) in 35 balls in those two events since his comeback earned him a shot at Afghanistan at the start of this year.

Dube responded in spectacular style, backing up an unbeaten 60 in Mohali with 63 not out in Indore. Out of nowhere, he had stormed into contention for a place in the T20 World Cup in the Americas, locked in a battle for the middle-order slot/finisher's role with Rinku Singh, the exuberant youngster from Uttar Pradesh and Kolkata Knight Riders.

IPL 2024 wouldn't seal the deal, but it wouldn't hurt either. Dube made the most of getting enough opportunities to bat and reiterate his power-hitting, while Rinku was unfortunate that between Phil Salt, Sunil Narine and the two Iyers, skipper Shreyas and Venkatesh, hardly allowed him a look-in. That was that, Dube was on the flight to North America with Rinku in tow as one of the reserves.

The introduction of the Impact Player is one of the more divisive topics in IPL history. Originally designed to bolster bowling strengths and ensure that teams no longer had to patch together a makeshift fifth option, it has had the exact opposite effect, with batters emboldened to keep firing away even when early wickets have fallen in a clutch because of the insurance of an additional batting choice.

In many ways, as even Rohit Sharma has pointed out, it has stunted the growth of the Indian all-rounder. Where, in the past, a Venkatesh Iyer broke into the national team because he could also bowl medium-pace, there was no need for his bowling skills to be utilised anymore. Ditto for Dube; in IPL 2023, when the



K.R. DEEPAK

Impact Player concept first reared its head, he didn't bowl at all and last year, his appearance at the bowling crease was limited to six deliveries.

There is no Impact Player in international cricket, but that didn't prevent India from investing in Dube. After all, they did have Hardik Pandya, the premier pace-bowling all-rounder. Dube was picked as a pure batter, and he didn't disappoint at the World Cup, where he showcased another facet of his batting — the ability to bat according to the situation.

That was on a decidedly dodgy surface at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York, the home of incalculable surfaces during the World Cup. India was all but through to the Super Eights but woe betide the team if it lost to United States! The latter had already conquered Pakistan in the Super Over and was eyeing its second big scalp on the bounce, defending a meagre 110 for eight with a desperation that beggared belief.

Saurabh Netravalkar, formerly of Mumbai and India Under-19, packed off Rohit and Virat Kohli in his first spell, Pakistan-born Ali Khan accounted for Rishabh Pant. At 39 for three, India was in a pickle; 72 needed off 75 with seven wickets in hand might have appeared a walk in the park, but it was anything but. The ball did things as if it had a mind of its own, as if it enjoyed making the best look mediocre, as if there was a perverse pleasure to be had in driving batters ragged. Even Suryakumar Yadav, then the No. 1 T20I batter in the world, couldn't impose himself on the bowling.

Dube struggled for timing, but didn't throw it away. He bided his time, aware that India needed him to step up in Suryakumar's company. The big strokes were put away in cold storage, the ones and twos became the staple diet. By the end, the two Mumbaikars hauled the team home with ten deliveries to spare, Dube's contribution in the stand of 72 — a measured 31 off 35. One four, one six. Not just a six-hitter, but capable of batting at other gears too.

As the tournament moved solely to the



K.R. DEEPAK

Caribbean for the Super Eights, the pitches got better and the Dube of CSK fame resurfaced — 34 off 24 against Bangladesh, 28 off 22 against Australia and a vital 27 off 16 in the final against South Africa at a time when Kohli went without a boundary for 35 consecutive deliveries. Dube had done what he was picked for — not to score conservative half-centuries but to provide the final kick, the last push that could so often be the difference between victory and defeat.

Further reward, apart from a World Cup winner's medal, came in the form of a recall to the One-Day International set-up, more than four and a half years after his only 50-over game for the

country, against West Indies in December 2019. He made nine off six and went for 68 in his 7.5 overs at Chepauk, with West Indies cantering to an eight-wicket win.

Jettisoned after that misadventure, he is back in the 50-over mix in Sri Lanka. In Friday's first ODI, he picked up his maiden wicket, Kusal Mendis, trapped in front, and almost took India past the finish line with 25 off 24 after coming in at No. 8. Two nights later, promoted to No. 4, he was transfixed by a ripping leg-break from Jeffrey Vandersay, trapped in front as he played right back and missed the line. Hazy shades of Yuvi there too, Ravi? Dube's reintegration with the one-day format must be construed as a middling long-term option, as an insurance for Pandya. Fitness concerns and workload management combined to ensure that India's T20 captaincy in the wake of Rohit's retirement was conferred on Suryakumar.

The CSK batter's return to the ODI landscape must also be viewed through the same prism. He will get his chances to prove his worth, but his permanence will largely depend on Pandya. In any case, until the start of the Champions Trophy in late February, India have just four more ODIs and it's anyone's guess which of Dube or Pandya will start its final assignment before that tournament, the three-match home series against England in February.

Dube is a seasoned 31 years old, but he has much work ahead of him, especially when it comes to his fielding and catching. He isn't the fastest mover on the park nor the most assured catcher, both red flags in modern-day cricket, whether at the international level or below that. Dube isn't naturally athletic and there's precious little that can be done about it at this stage of his career, where T20Is will still be his preferred cup of tea.

But if he is desirous of a longer innings in a longer format, the onus is on him to become a better fielding version of himself. He has shown the hunger and the desire with the bat; if he can translate that into other aspects of his cricket, he potentially still has another T20 World Cup (in 2026) in him. At the very least.

THE GIST

At the IPL mega auction in 2022, Chennai Super Kings dished out ₹4.40 crores for the man from Mumbai, who had moved from Royal Challengers Bangalore to Rajasthan Royals with limited success

As the T20 World Cup moved to the Caribbean for its later stages, the Dube of CSK fame resurfaced — 4 off 24 against Bangladesh, 28 off 22 against Australia and a vital 27 off 16 in the final

Further reward, apart from a World Cup winner's medal, came in the form of a recall to the One-Day International set-up, more than four and a half years after his only 50-over game for the country, against West Indies in December 2019

Gene that helps race horses manage BP could help human athletes, too

In June, researchers from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Uppsala reported discovering a DNA sequence in horses that underlies superior racing performance. The sequence influenced levels of two proteins involved in regulating blood pressure

D.P. Kasbekar

Humans have entertained themselves with horse racing for hundreds of years. Even so, who would have guessed that some day the sport might help us understand how our blood pressure is regulated during exercise?

On June 17, researchers from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Uppsala reported discovering a DNA sequence in horses that underlies superior racing performance. The sequence influenced the levels of two proteins involved in regulating blood pressure. Their results were published in the journal *PLoS Genetics*.

“By shedding light on the intricate mechanisms governing blood pressure modulation, the findings hold promise for advancing our understanding of cardiovascular health and disease,” the researchers wrote in their paper. They added that the implications also encompass “a myriad ... physiological processes influenced by hormone signalling”.

Six years ago, the researchers reported that horses with the genomic region ran faster. But at the time, they couldn't link the region to any underlying physiological trait. This has changed now.

Cold- and hot-blooded equines

The North Swedish draught horse is a sturdy breed that people in the Nordic region use for farm and forestry work. It is “cold-blooded”, in this context, meaning a large, heavy horse with an easy-going temperament. Faster, lighter, more energetic, and temperamentally more skittish horses are said to be “hot-blooded”. (The actual body temperature of all horses is 37.5-38.5 degrees C.)

By the early 1800s, people began to use the North Swedish horse in harness races, where the horse pulls a two-wheeled cart with a seat for the jockey. At first they used the farm horses, but inevitably, to gain a leg up, breeders began illegally crossbreeding the North Swedish horse with a hot-blooded American harness-racing breed called the standardbred.

Faced with this *fait accompli*, racing authorities divided the North Swedish into two new breeds: the North Swedish draught horse for farm work and the cold-blooded trotter for racing. Cold-blooded trotters share much of their genome with the North Swedish draught horse, but they also contain segments from the standardbred that enhance their racing ability.

The promoter and the enhancer

The horse genome has 32 chromosomes. Each chromosome is defined by a DNA molecule that runs throughout its length. Chromosomal proteins and RNA organise the DNA and regulate its expression.

Different cell types have different chromosomal proteins and RNA, but their DNA content remains constant. Each horse cell, like each human cell, contains two sets of the genome distributed in 64 chromosomes. One set is inherited from the father's sperm, and the other from the mother's egg.

The DNA molecule is like a ladder whose rails are made of a long series of alternating units of phosphate and



The gene, associated with superior racing performance, had 5,564 base-pairs. It differed from the 'non-enhanced' version by virtue of possessing different base-pair combinations in 14 positions on the DNA ladder. AP

deoxyribose (a sugar). Each deoxyribose unit is bonded to one of four chemical bases: adenine (A), cytosine (C), guanine (G), and thymine (T). The As and Cs on one sugar-phosphate rail form hydrogen bonds with the Ts and Gs on the other, making up the DNA ladder's rungs. The A-T and G-C base-pairs hold the two strands together as one large molecule.

In this way, each set of 32 chromosomes contains a little less than 3 billion base-pairs and code for just over 20,000 genes. Different horse breeds share much the same DNA sequence – just that about one in every few hundred base-pairs is different, giving rise to the breed's variations.

A gene is a stretch of a few thousand base-pairs. A cell ‘reads’ this sequence as an instruction to make a specific protein. Next to the protein-coding sequence is another sequence called the promoter. The promoter allows the cell to express the relevant gene. Other sequences called enhancers, located tens to thousands of base-pairs away from the gene, influence the activity of nearby promoters.

These promoter-enhancer interactions influence gene expression in different types of cells.

The prize-money enhancer

The Swedish Trotting Association has recorded data about the racing performance of all competing horses, including the prize money earned per race. The researchers collected DNA from blood and hair samples of 400 cold-blooded trotters that ran races between 2003 and 2015. In these DNA, they identified genes that both the cold-blooded trotters and the standardbreds shared but which trotters and draught horses didn't.

Next, by examining the racing performance data, they found that trotters that had a sequence derived from



By shedding light on the intricate mechanisms governing blood pressure modulation, the findings hold promise for advancing our understanding of cardiovascular health and disease

standardbred horses on one or both copies of one chromosome performed much better in races and won more money.

This gene, associated with superior racing performance, had 5,564 base-pairs. It was different from the ‘non-enhanced’ version by virtue of possessing different base-pair combinations in 14 positions on the DNA ladder.

When two DNA sequences are mostly identical and only a few base-pairs differ, the alternative versions are called haplotypes. Haplotypes are defined by listing the bases differing on one DNA strand. The ‘elite’ and the ‘sub-élite’ haplotypes were respectively called EPH and SPH.

Effects on blood pressure genes

Trotters with the EPH haplotype had significantly lower blood pressure during and after exercise than trotters with the SPH haplotype. There was no difference before exercise, which suggested to the researchers that the EPH's blood pressure regulation was related to exercise.

They also found the EPH haplotype decreased the levels of endothelin1 (EDN1) and increased the levels of endothelin3 (EDN3) – two proteins involved in regulating blood pressure – in the blood.

The EPH/SPH gene was located around 50,000 base-pairs away from the gene

that made the EDN3 protein, so the researchers surmised the haplotype served as an enhancer.

That is, if the EPH and the SPH haplotypes enhanced the expression of the EDN3 expression in different ways, they could result in different blood pressure regulation pathways, leading to the differences in racing performance.

Taking the rough with the smooth

The researchers found the EPH/SPH haplotype gene was located in chromosome 22 in horse cells and in chromosome 20 in human cells. They conducted an experiment using human heart tissue to identify the promoters that interacted with the corresponding human sequence.

They found all the promoters that interacted with this sequence belonged to known blood pressure genes. Some of the proteins encoded by these genes also interacted with the EDN3 gene. Thus, the researchers were able to confirm the human counterpart of the horses' “racing” gene had a role in regulating blood pressure.

“These results are key to understanding the biological mechanisms behind blood pressure regulation in both human and horse elite athletic performance,” the researchers wrote in their paper.

Had the Nordic breeders been more scrupulous, they may not have allowed the EPH haplotype to be smuggled into the cold-blooded trotter's genome. Had the race stewards been less scrupulous, corrupt practices such as doping or throwing the race might have made it harder to detect the superior performance because of EPH in the racing data. In this instance, the combination of human foibles and rectitude was just right.

(D. P. Kasbekar is a retired scientist.)



The face of the “Screaming Woman” mummy, discovered in 1935 at Deir Elbahari near Luxor and dating to about 1500 BC during ancient Egypt's New Kingdom period, at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. REUTERS

‘Screaming’ mummy woman may have died in agony

Reuters

It is a startling image from ancient Egypt: a mummy discovered during a 1935 archaeological expedition at Deir el-Bahari near Luxor of a woman with her mouth wide open in what looks like an anguished shriek.

Scientists now have an explanation for the “Screaming Woman” mummy after using CT scans to perform a “virtual dissection.” It turns out she may have died in agony and experienced a rare form of muscular stiffening, called a cadaveric spasm, that occurs at the moment of death.

The examination indicated that the woman was about 48 years old when she died, had lived with mild arthritis of the spine, and had lost some teeth, said Cairo University radiology professor Sahar Saleem, who led the study published on Friday in the journal *Frontiers in Medicine*.

Her body was well preserved, having been embalmed roughly 3,500 years ago during ancient Egypt's glittering New Kingdom period using costly imported ingredients such as juniper oil and frankincense resin, Ms. Saleem added.

The ancient Egyptians viewed the preservation of the body after death as crucial to securing a worthy existence in the afterlife. It was customary during the mummification process to remove internal organs aside from the heart, but

Her body was well preserved, having been embalmed 3,500 years ago during ancient Egypt's glittering New Kingdom period using costly imported ingredients such as juniper oil and frankincense resin

this had not occurred with this woman.

But the quality of the embalment ingredients “ruled out that the mummification process had been careless and that the embalmers had simply neglected to close her mouth. In fact, they mummified her well and gave her expensive funerary apparel: two expensive rings made of gold and silver and a long-haired wig made from fibres from the date palm,” Ms. Saleem added.

“This opened the way to other explanations for the widely opened mouth, that the woman died screaming from agony or pain, and that the muscles of the face contracted to preserve this appearance at the time of death due to cadaveric spasm,” Ms. Saleem said. “The true history or circumstances of the death of this woman are unknown; hence, the cause of her screaming facial appearance cannot be established with certainty.”

Cadaveric spasm, a poorly understood condition, occurs after severe physical or emotional suffering, with the contracted muscles becoming rigid immediately following death, Ms. Saleem said.

“Unlike postmortem rigor mortis, cadaveric spasm affects only one group of muscles, not the entire body,” Ms. Saleem added.

Ms. Saleem was unable to determine how the woman died, saying, “We frequently cannot determine the cause of death in a mummy unless there is CT evidence of fatal trauma.”

The “Screaming Woman” was found at the site of the ancient city of Thebes during excavation of the tomb of a high-ranking official named Senmut, the architect, overseer of royal works, and reputed lover of queen Hatshepsut, who reigned from 1479-1458 BC.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

The global effort to stop proliferation

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1
‘Proliferation’ is the term used to describe a condition in which countries that aren't recognised as ‘Nuclear Weapon States’ by the X treaty acquire nuclear weapons. Name X.

QUESTION 2
Name the U.S. representative to the U.N. Atomic Energy Commission who in 1946 floated a plan proposing to destroy the U.S. nuclear arsenal if the world's countries set up an “international atomic development authority” and a system to automatically sanction countries that tried to develop new nuclear weapons.

QUESTION 3
Name the three countries that are considered “threshold” states under the X treaty (in Q1) because they aren't part of this treaty but either have or are strongly believed to have the ability to quickly assemble and deploy nuclear weapons.

QUESTION 4
A thorny issue in safeguarding materials nuclear to make atomic weapons is ____-____ technologies, which are technologies that can be used for both civilian and military ends. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 5

Name the 1967 treaty that prohibits countries from placing nuclear weapons in orbit around the earth.

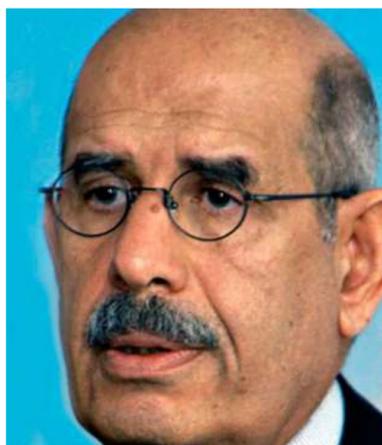
Answers to August 1 quiz:
1. Swedish chemist who discovered oxygen a year before Priestley – **Ans: Carl Wilhelm Scheele**
2. French nobleman who coined oxygen's name – **Ans: Antoine Lavoisier**
3. English chemist who identified the part of air required for combustion – **Ans: John Mayow**
4. Son of British psychologist noted for his studies of gases – **Ans: J.B.S. Haldane**
5. What oxygen becomes at more than 50 kPa to humans – **Ans: Toxic**

Visual: **Apollo 1**

First contact: Pranesh R. | Seema Das | Sadhan Panda | Shreya Arora | Anmol Agrawal

Answers to August 2 quiz:
1. Enzyme responsible for metabolising alcohol – **Ans: Alcohol dehydrogenase**
2. Adaptation in human foot for leverage and absorbing shocks – **Ans: Longitudinal arch**
3. Gene that allowed Europeans to have lighter skin – **Ans: SLC24A5**
4. Sweat gland that helps with thermoregulation – **Ans: Eccrine gland**
5. Adaptation that stores large amount of fat in the body – **Ans: Thrifty gene hypothesis**

Visual: **Palmaris longus**
First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Seema Das | Shreya Arora | Anmol Agrawal | Subhadip Paria



Visual: In 2005, this man and an autonomous U.N. body, which he was then director-general of, called Y, jointly won the Nobel Peace Prize for their “efforts to prevent nuclear energy from being used for military purposes.” Name him and Y. PUBLIC DOMAIN

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