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Hindustan Times

HC upholds Kejriwal's arrest by CBI in liquor policy case

Shruti Kakkar
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NEW DELHI: The Delhi high court on Monday rejected chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's petition to release him from jail in the case registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in connection with the Delhi excise policy case, saying that the arrest was neither illegal nor without justifiable reasons as the probe agency projected "evidently enough evidence" to justify his detention and remand.

Upholding the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief's June 26 arrest, the high court opined that there was no illegal exercise of power by the IO (investigating officer) and the former's detention was with the written orders of the special judge, in accordance with the procedure laid down under law.

In its 48-page ruling, the high court upheld the trial court's June 29 order remanding Kejriwal to judicial custody. It said that the CBI had explained its reasons while seeking further remand, and the special judge had considered all the relevant facts, including the CM's "evasive replies" and "non-truthful-
continued on →11

What the high court said

ON ARREST BY CBI
The arrest was neither illegal nor without justifiable reasons as the probe agency [Central Bureau of Investigation] projected "evidently enough evidence" to justify his [Arvind Kejriwal] detention and remand

'NOT AN ORDINARY CITIZEN'

"The control and the influence which he [Kejriwal] has on the witnesses is prima facie borne out from the fact that these witnesses could muster the courage to be a witness only after the arrest...No malice whatsoever can be gathered from the respondent's acts"

ON BAIL REQUEST

In the changed circumstances, when the charge sheet has already been filed, it would be in the benefit of the petitioner, to first approach the court of the sessions judge



WHAT AAP SAID

"Kejriwal will approach the apex court against the decision. The Supreme Court has already granted him interim bail in the excise policy linked money laundering case by ED"

LG can appoint MCD aldermen: SC

Utkarsh Anand
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NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday affirmed the lieutenant governor's unilateral appointment of 10 aldermen to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) without consulting the state cabinet, in a decision that dealt a blow to the Aam

Aadmi Party (AAP)-led Delhi government while underscoring the unique power dynamics in Delhi's governance.

The verdict, delivered by a bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, centred on the interpretation of Section 3(3)(b)(i) of the Delhi Municipal Corporation (DMC) Act, which

grants the LG the power to nominate members to the MCD. The bench ruled that the LG's authority to make these appointments without consulting the state cabinet is consistent with the statutory framework and does not violate the principles of democratic governance outlined in Article 239AA of the Constitution. →P3

Markets crash nearly 3% as equities bleed worldwide

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MUMBAI: Tremors from Tokyo joined fears in the US to wreck a perfect storm on Monday, leaving a sea of red over stock markets worldwide.

Volatility shot up to nine-year high and Indian stocks tanked the most in two months, after the unwinding of yen carry trade and fears of recession in the US sparked selling across markets. Bloodied by losses in markets such as Japan, South Korea and Taiwan, foreign investors pressed the sell button in India, singeing investor wealth by a steep ₹15.4 lakh crore.

Domestic institutions stepped up to counter sales by foreign investors; however, profit-taking by investors who route money directly into markets worsened Monday's fall. How retail investors behave from now — through mutual funds and direct invest-



ments — will be key to ascertaining whether Indian markets can outperform global peers, market experts said.
"While headline indices trade

at fair value, mid caps and small caps trade way above their historic valuations and could face the music for longer, unless non-
continued on →11

PM: REVOCATION OF ARTICLE 370 A WATERSHED EVENT

HT Correspondent
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NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said that the abrogation of Article 370 was a watershed moment in the nation's history that started a new era of progress in Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. "With abrogation came security, dignity and opportunity for the women, youth, backward, tribal and marginalised communities who were deprived of development," Modi said on the five years the decision. →P8

COACHING CENTRES CANNOT BE DEATH CHAMBERS, SAYS SC

Abraham Thomas
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NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday said that coaching institutes cannot be "death chambers", playing with the lives of students who enrol from across the country in pursuit of their career goals. "What is it that we are reading that these places have become death chambers," a bench led by justice Surya Kant said, taking suo motu cognizance of the death of three students at an IAS coaching centre in Delhi. →P4

STARMER PROMISES STRICT ACTION AS ANTI-IMMIGRANT RIOTING CONTINUES

LONDON: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said violent protesters who had targeted Muslim communities would swiftly face the "full force of the law" as he sought to quell days of anti-immigration rioting.

Starmer, who convened an urgent meeting on Monday, said a "standing army" of specialist police would be set up to deal with rioting. UK police have arrested 378 people since rioting in English towns and cities began after a deadly knife attack against children a week ago. →P3

HEADLESS BODY OF NEWBORN CHILD FOUND IN AMAN VIHAR

NEW DELHI: Police on Monday said they recovered a headless body of a newborn in Aman Vihar, outer Delhi, after passersby spotted a dog carrying it at a park in Rohini Sector 22.

DCP (Rohini) Guriqbal Singh Sidhu said the incident was reported at 10.08am on Saturday. The officer said the body appeared decomposed and prima facie, appeared to have died after being dumped in the park.

Police said there is a private hospital located within a kilometre of the park and they are making enquiries. →P4

Proposed tweaks in Waqf law spark row

Smriti Kak Ramachandran and Vrinda Tulsian
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NEW DELHI: A set of contentious potential amendments to the Waqf Act kicked up a political controversy on Monday with the government claiming the proposed changes would modernise the rules, and the Opposition alleging they were aimed at depriving Muslims of their land and assets.

According to a note from the ministry of minority affairs, the amendments are set to incorporate recommendations from both the 2006 Rajendra Sachar Committee report and the 2008 Joint

Parliamentary Committee report. The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024 with about 40 amendments might be introduced this week in the Rajya Sabha.

The bill is likely to include a provision calling for judicial scrutiny to determine whether a property is a Waqf asset and make mandatory the registration of such properties with district collectors for their valuation.

Opposition parties, including the Rashtriya Janata Dal, Samajwadi Party and the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, attacked the proposed changes and accused the government of interference in personal laws. →P7

24-YR-OLD KILLED OVER INTERFAITH MARRIAGE IN GUJ

AHMEDABAD: A 24-year-old man was hacked to death allegedly by his wife's relatives over their interfaith marriage in Devbhumi Dwarka district of Gujarat, police said on Monday, adding six people and a minor have been held over the crime. The victim Yagnik Dudhrejia was allegedly attacked by the accused Adam Musa Deth, Hothi alias Dado Kasam Deth, Juma Musa Deth, Osman Musa Deth, Sajid Isha Deth, Salim Hussain Deth and a minor. →P7

{ MANY MORE IN CONTENTION } LAST LEG A CHALLENGE

In the mix, not over the hump: 4th place finishes cost India five medals



Lakshya Sen

It is perhaps the worst place to be in if not on the podium. An early exit can be shaken off moving forward after the initial jolt. A deeper run can be taken in stride and built upon for the future. But a fourth-place finish? That fumbling feeling with the finish line in sight?

Three Indian Paris Olympians across two events experienced it on Monday, in

half an hour of heartbreaks for India about 300 kilometres apart at the 2024 Games.

In Paris, badminton hope Lakshya Sen was leading by a game and eight points to three in the second before he dramatically imploded to lose the men's singles bronze medal match 21-13, 16-21, 11-21 to Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia. Minutes
continued on →9



Rutvik Mehta HT IN PARIS

NUMBER THEORY

B'desh, large nations and the limits of exports-led growth

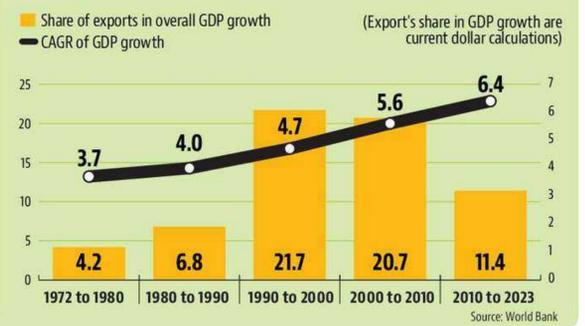
By Roshan Kishore

Not too long ago, Bangladesh was, in some ways, what a lot of countries in the global south aspired to become: a global leader in labour-intensive exports. Its garment exports are the second largest in the world after China. But — as exemplified by the sudden resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who also fled the nation — almost everything else about Bangladesh is worrying. It has massive economic inequality, volatile politics, a deeply divided society and prolonged civic unrest. The protests in the country, which culminated in Hasina's resignation, saw around 300 deaths and thousands arrested, and were another reminder that countries with large populations will do well to guard against seeing just export-led development as a silver bullet for all of their problems. Here are three charts that explain this.

1 Bangladesh is a classic case of export-led growth

Numbers from World Bank's World Development Indicators speak for themselves. Bangladesh has seen a rise in compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of its GDP in every decade since it came into being in 1971. This trend fits perfectly well with the tailwinds generated from growth from the country's exports. In current dollar terms, merchandise exports contributed to more than one-fifth of the overall growth in Bangladesh's GDP in the 2000s and 2010s, a massive jump compared to what this number was in the 1980s and 1990s. Bangladesh's export growth story is just garments. Data from The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) — an association of garment exporters in the country — shows that ready-made garments had a share of just 4% in Bangladesh's exports in 1983-84. This number increased to 85% by 2022-23.

Bangladesh exports and GDP growth

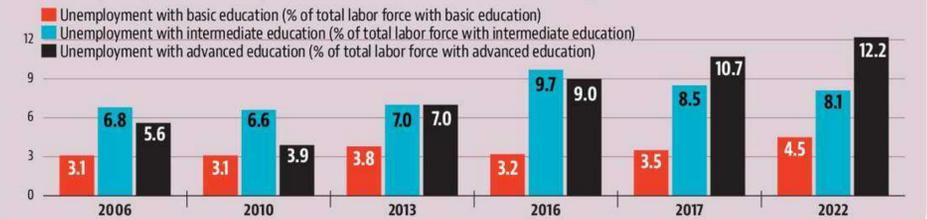


2 But the structural transformation and jobs generation story is not as impressive

This appears to be the case whichever way one looks at it. Let us look at the most important question of shifting jobs from agriculture to non-agriculture sectors. Agriculture had a share of 27% and 64% in GDP and employment in 1991 in Bangladesh, the earliest period for which sector-wise employment data is available in the World Bank database. This number came down to 11% and 38% by 2021, the latest period for which these numbers are available. This means that close to 40% of the workers actually have a very small claim on Bangladesh's economic output. To be sure, a bigger problem for Bangladesh in the recent period could be a mismatch between economic aspirations which the growth, even if unequal, has generated and the failure to meet these

aspirations. This can be seen in a sharply growing unemployment rate among workers with advanced education even though these numbers are relatively flat for less educated workers. These numbers need to be read with a growing discontent in the country over suppressed earnings in the garment sector. A 2023 Financial Times story reported how workers are blaming exporters for low incomes while the latter are blaming their buyers for not paying "ethical prices". It is not very difficult to understand why an already agitated educated cohort of unemployed workers exploded when the government announced large-scale reservations for government jobs, a move seen as favouring supporters of the ruling party.

Unemployment by education level in Bangladesh

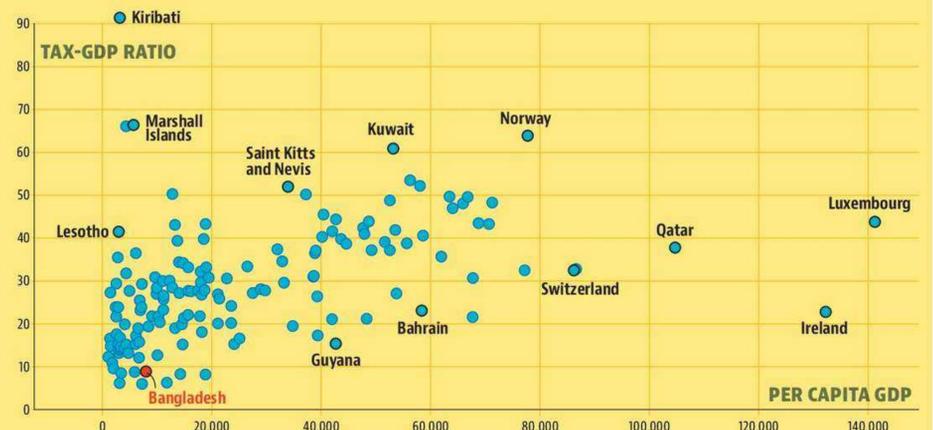


3 And the otherwise impressive growth has done little for the govt's own finances

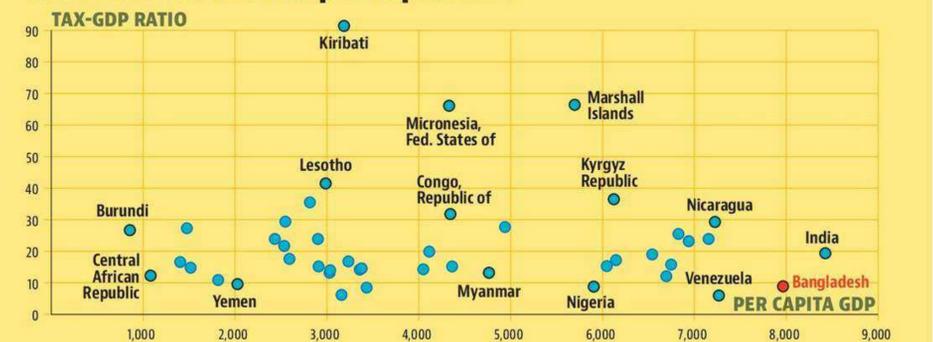
This perhaps is the most damning indictment of the nature of growth in Bangladesh. World Bank data shows that Bangladesh's tax-GDP ratio barely increased in the 2000s and has fallen since. In fact, a comparison of Bangladesh's tax-GDP ratio with its per capita income levels — direct taxes are largely a function of per capita incomes — using IMF data show that it punches much below its economic weight in revenue mobilization. Not only is its tax-GDP ratio worse than countries with

higher per capita incomes, it is lower than many with much lower per capita incomes too. Bangladesh's poor performance in collecting taxes means that there is either widespread tax evasion in the economy or income is extremely concentrated. What is more likely is a mix of both. Its most tangible effect as far as the contract between the government and the people is concerned is that it cannot spend enough on welfare without jeopardizing macroeconomic stability.

Bangladesh has among the lowest tax-GDP ratios



And its tax-GDP ratio is much worse than many countries with lower per capita GDP



Per capita GDP in Purchasing power parity; international dollars per capita. tax-GDP ratio in percent.

Source: IMF data for 2022

An unequal growth that creates a growing mismatch between aspirations and reality without boosting government finances in a democracy which is increasingly turning authoritarian is the recipe for a perfect storm. Its

wider ramifications notwithstanding, Bangladesh should serve as a good reminder to development economists that exports alone cannot be a silver bullet for countries with large populations.



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HASINA FLEES BANGLADESH

PM's 15-year rule ends after weeks of violent protests in Bangladesh; Hasina lands at Hindon airbase, meets NSA Doval, may leave for the UK

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NEW DELHI: Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh's longest-serving prime minister, resigned in the face of massive public protests and fled to India on Monday, even as army chief General Waker-uz-Zaman announced an interim government would be formed to run the country.

Hasina, 76, was left with no option but to quit as public anger grew over the death of more than 300 people in a crackdown by her administration on a movement that began as protests against a controversial quota in government jobs and transformed into a mass mobilisation demanding her resignation.

Her flight came a little more than six months after she began a fourth consecutive term — and the fifth overall since 1996 — by winning general elections in January that were boycotted by the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party. The elections were marred by a low turnout of 40% and her last few years in power were marked by a crackdown on the Opposition, including the jailing of leaders, stifling of dissent, and muzzling of media.

Hasina and a small entourage that included her sister Sheikh Rehana were flown in a military helicopter from her official residence to a military airbase, where the group boarded a C-130 transport aircraft

of the Bangladesh Air Force, people familiar with the matter said on condition of anonymity.

The Indian side agreed to a request from Bangladesh for the aircraft to use Indian airspace and the C-130 arrived at Hindon airbase late on Monday afternoon. National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and senior Indian air force officers met Hasina at the airbase and she would be kept at a safe location, possibly at Hindon itself, the people said.

Hasina is expected to travel to London though it was unclear how long her stopover in the Indian capital would be, the people said. There were also indications of her travel plans being affected because of certain assurances that the former premier has sought from British authorities, they said.

There was no immediate word on the developments from the Indian government, which has maintained in recent weeks that the protests in Bangladesh were an "internal matter" of that country. Hasina was seen as one of the closest partners of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the neighbourhood and Bangladesh was the main beneficiary of India's "Neighbourhood First" policy, with billions of dollars poured into creating physical and energy connectivity between the two sides.

Modi chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security, which included home minister Amit Shah, defence minister Rajnath Singh

continued on → 11



(Clockwise from top) Protesters storm former Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina's palace in Dhaka; Demonstrators climb atop a statue of Hasina's father and former PM Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the country's capital; People take away a painting from her official residence; and Hasina leaves the country in a military aircraft on Monday.

Army takes control, Zia release ordered

NEW DELHI/DHAKA: Less than two months after he took over as Bangladesh army chief, General Waker-uz-Zaman announced the resignation of former PM Sheikh Hasina on Monday and unveiled a plan to restore normalcy in the country. Zaman said that after consultations with leaders of Bangladesh's political parties, excluding Hasina's Awami League, an interim government would be formed. "The honourable PM has resigned, and we will form an interim government to do our work," he said.

...We will form an interim govt to do our work.



President Mohammed Shahabuddin ordered the release of jailed former PM and Hasina's arch rival Khaleda Zia. She was sentenced to 17 years imprisonment for corruption in 2018. → P2

Dhaka debacle Delhi's biggest diplomatic test

Prashant Jha
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WASHINGTON: The situation in Bangladesh is a massive setback to Indian foreign policy. The dramatic events underline both Sheikh Hasina's obduracy and authoritarianism in Dhaka, and New Delhi's unwillingness over the years to help reorient Bangladesh's politics towards perhaps a more stable, even if less pliable, direction through democratic channels.

The setback in Bangladesh comes at a particularly difficult time in the neighbourhood. India's Act East policy is not working in the immediate vicinity

for, just next to Bangladesh, Myanmar remains caught in a vortex of military authoritarianism, ethnic insurgencies and democratic resistance.

Down south, Maldives recently saw the election of a regime that is explicitly hostile to Indian interests and keen to deepen ties with China. Up north, Nepal has just witnessed the return of a leader who is more amenable to Beijing's interests than that of Delhi. To the west, despite its own economic troubles, Pakistan appears to be making a renewed bid to cause trouble in Kashmir. And all of this when there are no signs of a resolution to the border standoff with China. → P2



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PAGE ONE PLUS  PARIS OLYMPICS

INDIA'S SCHEDULE TODAY

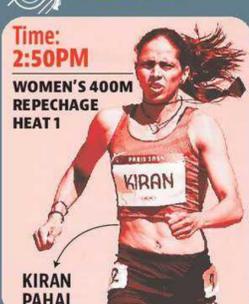
TABLE TENNIS
Time: 1:30PM
MEN'S TEAM
ROUND OF 16
INDIA VS CHINA



HARMEET DESAI

SHARATH
KAMAL

ATHLETICS
Time: 2:50PM
WOMEN'S 400M
REPECHAGE
HEAT 1

KIRAN
PAHAL

**MEN'S JAVELIN
THROW
QUALIFICATION**

GROUP A
Time: 1:50PM
KISHORE
JENA

GROUP B
Time: 3:20PM
NEERAJ
CHOPRA



HOCKEY
Time: 10:30PM
MEN'S SEMI-FINAL
INDIA VS GERMANY



HARMANPREET SINGH

WRESTLING
Time: 2:30PM
WOMEN'S FREESTYLE 50KG ROUND OF 16

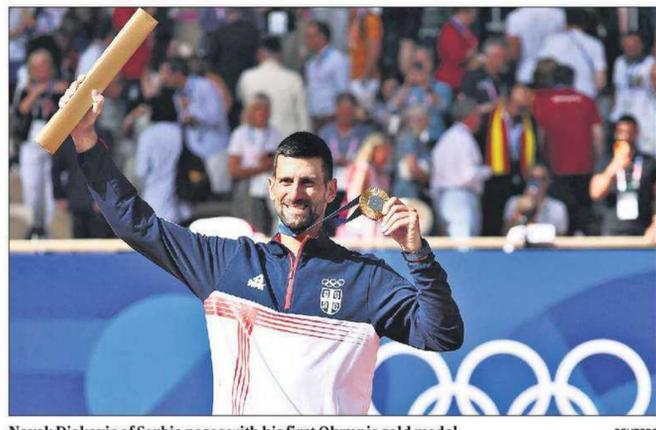
Vinesh Phogat faces a tough opener against Yui Susaki in the women's freestyle 50kg Round of 16. The Japanese is the reigning Olympic champion and also a four-time world champion. She also won the Asian Championships twice in 2017 and 2024.

All timings in IST



COUNTRY	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
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 Korea	11	8	7	26
6 Britain	10	13	17	40
7 Japan	10	5	11	26
8 Italy	9	10	6	25
9 Netherlands	6	5	4	15
10 Germany	6	5	3	14
11 Canada	5	4	8	17
12 New Zealand	3	4	1	8
13 Hungary	3	3	2	8
14 Romania	3	3	1	7
15 Ireland	3	0	3	6
16 Brazil	2	4	5	11
17 Sweden	2	3	2	7
59 INDIA	0	0	3	3

setting the pace



Novak Djokovic of Serbia poses with his first Olympic gold medal.

REUTERS

Persistent attack did the trick for old dog Djokovic

Ashish Magotra

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At Wimbledon, Novak Djokovic had looked old. As Carlos Alcaraz had mercilessly hammered him and reduced the match to a no-contest, fans had knowingly nodded to each other — his time was now up. The injuries were piling up, he hadn't won a title in 2024, the younger players were getting better, and it was all adding up for the Serbian. But Djokovic had not said a word then. He had miraculously recovered from his knee surgery and reached the final of Wimbledon. The world thought he was done, but he had just smiled. He was saving it all for the Olympics.

He had won hundreds of matches over a long career and won almost everything there was to win but there was no Olympic gold in his cabinet. For 16 years, it had eluded him and he wanted it badly. But standing in the way of successfully completing his quest was Alcaraz... again. The Spaniard clearly didn't fear the Serbian but the old dog, having had a few more days to recover from his surgery, had a few tricks up his sleeve as well. The games were intense, bringing back memories of the kind of tennis that Nadal and Djokovic would often dish out when they faced each other.

Alcaraz is 16 years younger than Djokovic and that difference has usually shown in the power of his forehand. At Wimbledon, on the grass, he did not miss... he just couldn't. But here on the terre battue a different set of tactics came into play.

Djokovic knew that he didn't have the luxury of a five-setter to fall back on. Lose the first set and Alcaraz might steamroll him again. So, he attacked. He swung freely. He went for the lines far more than in previous encounters, he went for the tough angles and he worked the drop shot like a charm. The Serbian's success was also down to hitting the ball deep into the opponents' court, giving Alcaraz less time to react; less time to run around the backhand and unleash the forehand. He would often pin the Spaniard to his backhand and then throw one out to the forehand. With the feet not set, the forehand didn't have the same venom.

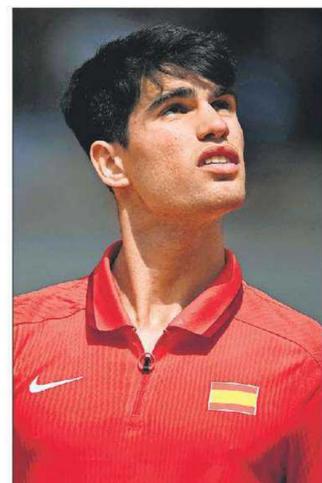
At the same time, Djokovic kept moving forward, taking the ball early himself. The Spaniard is quick no doubt but if one gives him less time to react, the game changes. There was aggression borne out of experience. Djokovic incredibly used that to his advantage. Very often one can be lulled into thinking that aggression is just about the big, power plays. But Djokovic showed that subtlety can be just as lethal. He was very direct and this challenged Alcaraz in a different way. The first set — a mixture of mind numbingly long rallies and intense games — lasted 93 minutes, and when Djokovic took it, the roar of the Serbians in the stands showed that this was no ordinary match.

The second set was just as intense. It was like two boxers going at each other, throwing in feints and punches, setting up the other. By the end they were exhausted but neither ready to give up. There was very little in it but whatever little there was, it was in Djokovic's corner. It took two tie-breakers to separate them. Djokovic stayed steady all through while, after 2 hours and 50 minutes, the kid buckled. Alcaraz has shown that he learns from his defeat but that is true of Djokovic too. Would this match mark the start of another riveting rivalry? "We almost played three hours for two sets. It was an incredible battle, incredible fight," Djokovic said. "When the last shot went past him, that was the only moment I actually thought I could win the match. I mean I believed that I could win, but to actually win it, because he keeps on coming back. He keeps on asking me to play my best tennis."

At 37, Djokovic has now become the oldest player to complete the singles career 'Golden Slam' — all four Grand Slams and Olympic gold in singles — alongside Steffi Graf (1988 Olympic champion), Andre Agassi (1996), Rafael Nadal (2008) and Serena Williams (2012).

The victory, though, felt very special because it was for his country. "Three out of four Olympic Games, I lost in the semi-finals. I won a bronze medal in Beijing, which was my first Olympic Games. I carried the flag for Serbia in 2012, in London, which was one of the best feelings I ever had in my life, in my professional tennis career. I was so blessed to win everything pretty much there is to win in my sport, but this is something different. This supersedes everything that I've ever felt on the tennis court after winning big trophies. It's just incredible joy."

The journey to the gold was anything but smooth but at this stage of his career, nothing motivates him more than unattained goals. Perhaps Djokovic needed this too. He has seemed like an eternally hungry champion — one trapped in a never-ending chase for glory. But just for one night perhaps he might have slept with a satisfied grin plastered on his face. "I don't know what to say. I'm still in shock, honestly," said Djokovic after his win. "I put my heart, my soul, my body, my family, my everything on the line to win Olympic gold at age 37. I finally did it."



Carlos Alcaraz.

AFP

{ LOOKING BACK } FEATS TO REMEMBER

Athletics: Iconic moments

While Usain Bolt's gold-winning exploits from 2008 to 2016 are immortalised, let's go further back in time and revisit other memorable Olympic feats



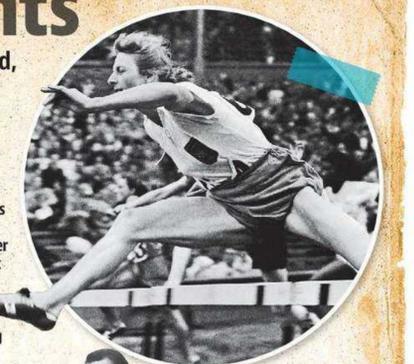
Bob Beamon's long jump (1968)

At the 1968 Games in Mexico City, Bob Beamon, 22 at the time, set a world record when he jumped 8.90m on his very first attempt, eclipsing the then record by nearly two feet. When the American landed near the far end of the sand pit, the device that had been set up to measure distances was not equipped to track a jump of such length. The officials consequently had to use a tape to measure the distance of the jump manually. The world record stood for 23 years, until Mike Powell of the United States bettered it in 1991. Beamon's jump still stands as an Olympic record.



Fanny Blankers-Koen's gold rush (1948)

The Dutch track and field athlete was 30 years old and a mother of two when she won four gold medals in the 1948 Olympics in London, earning her the nickname of 'The Flying Housewife'. Having made her Olympic debut as a high jumper in 1936, she couldn't compete during her peak years due to World War II. But she still reigned supreme in London, winning 100m, 200m, 80m hurdles and relay. She could have had more success if not for a rule limiting women to three individual events in track and field.



Flo-Jo's record-breaking runs (1988)

Florence Griffith-Joyner, known as Flo-Jo, broke a slew of records in Seoul in 1988 and established herself as the fastest woman in the world. She won the 100m gold with a timing of 10.54s, beating her nearest rival to the world record, Evelyn Ashford, by 0.30 seconds. In the semi-final of the 200-metre event, she set the world record of 21.56 seconds and then broke the record by 0.22 seconds in the final with a time of 21.34s. Both her 100m and 200m world records haven't yet been broken.



Jesse Owens defies Hitler (1936)

In Berlin, the black American won gold in four events — 100m, 200m, 4x100m relay and long jump — and instantly became a track and field great. Owens's legacy goes beyond athletics, for his achievements defied Adolf Hitler, the leader of Nazi Germany, who wanted the 1936 Games to showcase what he believed to be the superiority of the Aryan race.

Abebe Bikila's barefoot marathon (1960)

In Rome, Abebe Bikila became the first Olympic gold medalist from Ethiopia when he won the marathon in world record time (2:15:16.2) while running barefoot. Considered one of the greatest marathon runners, Bikila was added to the Ethiopian team only at the last minute after Wami Biratu was injured while playing football.

According to the Olympics website, "He initially tried running with a pair that weren't quite the right size but didn't like them and so, on the day of the marathon, he reverted to running barefoot." Bikila said: "I wanted the world to know that my country, Ethiopia, has always won with heroism." He won in 1964 Tokyo too, this time wearing shoes.

Paris pictograms push the envelope on innovation but not picture perfect

Susan Ninan

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BENGALURU: When Tokyo was picked as the 1964 Olympic host city, there was a tiny hurdle. Language. Japanese was largely unintelligible to most outside the country. It was the first time that the Games were being held in Asia. The need to communicate with international visitors who would pour into the Japanese capital city led to the first systematic use of visual, wordless icons at the Olympics — sports pictograms.

A team of designers led by Masaru Katsumi and graphic designer Yoshiro Yamashita conceived 20 symbols to convey each sport — minimalist, and showing human forms in motion, playing each sport. The idea of a picture-based language is argued to have drawn inspiration from the symbol-based Japanese Kanji writing system. In a nod to their legacy, the 2024 Tokyo Games opening ceremony had performers dressed in blue and white outfits acting out the pictogram sequence through dance and music.

In addition to the pictograms, Tokyo 1964 also came up with 39 general information pictograms. The signage used in public spaces today, such as those for men's and women's toilets, have their origin in those Games.

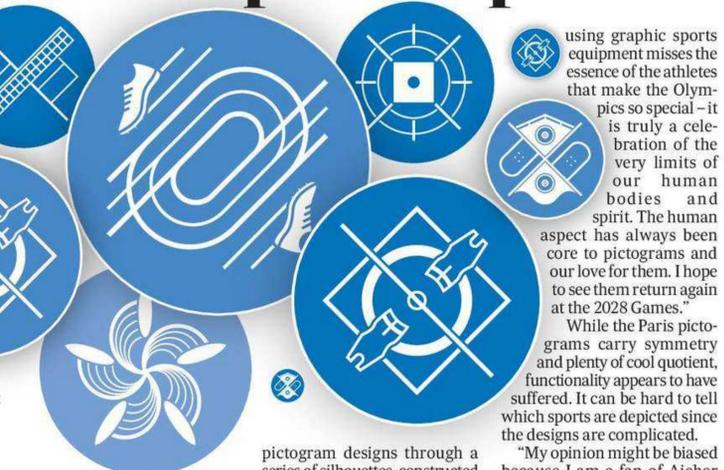
Sports pictograms though have since evolved and taken on a life of their own. The pictograms we see being used at the Paris Games are a stark departure from the previous ones. The 62 pictograms of the Olympic and Paralympic

Games are intricate, complex, and move away from serving as 'mere visual aids to striking coats of arms that serve as rallying cries for sports fans', according to the organisers.

While the designs are distinctive, stylish and push the envelope on innovation, not everyone's a fan.

"Design for sports is like no other kind of design — we start with the fact that sports fans are the most ardent brand loyalists on earth. Our work as sports designers is scaled up to mammoth proportions — it also needs to succeed in applications as small as a social media avatar. It's applied to motion graphics, it's rendered in a staggering variety of mediums, and so much of it is attached to actual human beings who are out there doing remarkable things — while creating memories that are sometimes discussed for generations," says New York based graphic designer Todd Radom, who has three decades of working with professional sports leagues on him.

"Simplicity, in my opinion, is key. Distilling the human form down to a series of recognisable shapes for this exercise serves as a great example of one of the core tenets of design — combining form and function. The 2024 pictograms really are a series of complex illustrations, embel-



lished with a ton of extraneous details. We've got an abundance of repeated shapes, implied motion lines, and all sorts of detailed renderings of sporting equipment. Some contain a great deal of contrast while others don't. This approach makes for a disjointed total package, in my opinion."

The Paris pictograms appear to have been built around the field of play and equipment of each sport — two barbells to depict weightlifting, riding helmets that also resemble a horse's head; what's missing strikingly is the human form — the athlete. The brains behind the 1972 Munich Games, German designer Olt Aicher — who was also coming up with the directional signage at the Frankfurt airport at the same time — is often credited for reinventing

pictogram designs through a series of silhouettes, constructed on angles of 45 degrees or 90 degrees, which have served as the template for later pictograms.

"As a university design student, I remember discovering and loving the Olympic pictograms used in the '72 Olympics in Munich," says Bill Frederick, another graphic designer from New York who's worked with the NHL. "To me, the ability to communicate so many different sports through simplistic graphics of athletes was magnificent. It seemed as fundamental as cave drawings that used few lines to describe an animal. While I fully appreciate the concept and craft of the ones being used in Paris, I feel that the tradition of the pictograms has been lost to a decorative approach."

using graphic sports equipment misses the essence of the athletes that make the Olympics so special — it is truly a celebration of the very limits of our human bodies and spirit. The human aspect has always been core to pictograms and our love for them. I hope to see them return again at the 2028 Games."

While the Paris pictograms carry symmetry and plenty of cool quotient, functionality appears to have suffered. It can be hard to tell which sports are depicted since the designs are complicated.

"My opinion might be biased because I am a fan of Aicher who designed the 1972 pictograms," says Prof. GV Sree Kumar of the Industrial Design Centre at the Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai. "There are too many things happening in the Paris Olympics pictograms, they've probably taken some inspiration from Cubism, and the cultural elements incorporated in them appear to be distracting. Of course, there is a drastic change in the audience of 1972 and 2024. Now a spectator can find the venue of a sport using a smartphone."

"Then the question arises: Do we stick to simple visual forms which represent a sport or can we explore this 'coat of arms'? It is debatable. As a designer, I believe that a pictogram should make life easier for the user and communicate the idea with maximum clarity."

"For me, creating pictograms

SC upholds LG's power to nominate MCD aldermen

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NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday affirmed the lieutenant governor's unilateral appointment of 10 aldermen to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) without consulting the state cabinet, in a decision that dealt a blow to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-led Delhi government while underscoring the unique power dynamics in Delhi's governance.

The verdict, delivered by a bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, centred on the interpretation of Section 3(3)(b)(i) of the Delhi Municipal Corporation (DMC) Act, which grants LG the power to nominate members to MCD. The bench ruled that the LG's authority to make these appointments without consulting the state cabinet is consistent with the statutory framework and does not violate the principles of democratic governance outlined in Article 239AA of the Constitution.

The ruling comes as a setback to the AAP government, which had challenged the LG's actions as unconstitutional and overreach of his authority. It also has significant implications for the ongoing power tussle between the Delhi government and LG VK Saxena, highlighting the complexity of governance in the national capital where the distribution of powers between LG and the elected government has been a constant bone of contention, often requiring the Supreme Court to intervene.

The judgment solidified the

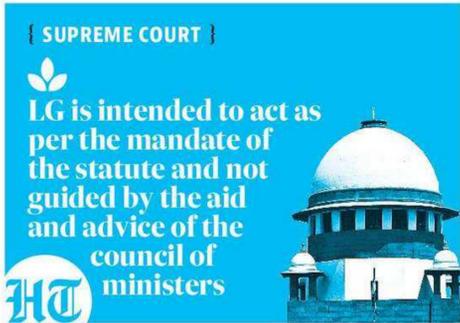
LG's position as the central authority in Delhi's governance structure, with powers that, in certain areas, supersede those of the elected government. Furthermore, at stake in this judicial battle are the core functions of the city's administration, including the upkeep of roads and work on sanitation and waste management — areas where the Capital is still playing catch-up with other global megapolises.

The decision may effectively bring an end to the uncertainty that stalled the functioning of the MCD's standing committee. The inability to form this panel due to the pending case resulted in administrative delays as well as stalemates on financial and policy matters within the MCD.

The judgment is particularly significant as it came amidst severe criticism of MCD's handling of essential services, notably its management of drains and storm-water systems. The inadequate management has been linked to the tragic deaths by drowning of three civil services aspirants in the basement of a coaching centre in Old Rajendra Nagar.

The judgment was pronounced by justice Narasimha on behalf of the bench. Reading out its operative part, justice Narasimha held that the appointment of aldermen was a "statutory duty" cast on LG and in performance of this duty, LG was not bound by the aid and advice by the state cabinet.

Senior counsel Abhishek Manu Singhvi represented Delhi government while senior advocate Sanjay Jain appeared for LG's office.



According to the bench, Section 3(3)(b)(i) of the Delhi Municipal Corporation (DMC) Act, as amended in 1993, empowered LG to appoint the aldermen and that this authority with the administrator of Delhi was neither a "relic of the past" nor an overreach.

"The power to nominate is therefore not a vestige of the past or the power of administrator that is continuing by default. It is made to incorporate the changes in the constitutional structure... The context in which the power is located confirms that LG is intended to act as per the mandate of the statute and not guided by the aid and advice of the council of ministers. The power to be exercised is a statutory duty of LG and not the executive power of the state," it said.

The court shot down the Delhi government's contention that the power under the DMC Act seemed to be a "semantic lottery", emphasising that the statutory provision

in question clearly empowers LG to make these appointments independently, and this authority has been exercised within the bounds of the law. In its judgment, the bench also relied on the constitution bench ruling in 2023 that had decided a legal battle between the Centre and the Delhi government over the control of bureaucrats in the Capital. While that ruling had held in favour of the elected government to control bureaucrats in the absence of a central law to regulate "services".

The bench noted that the provision in the DMC Act empowering LG to nominate aldermen was an instance of Parliament authorising him to act in exercise of his statutory duty without seeking aid and advice of the state cabinet.

The verdict followed a protracted legal process that began over 15 months ago, with the court concluding its hearings on the matter in May 2023.

After the AAP won MCD in 2022, LG appointed 10 aldermen. The petition of the Delhi government demanded the quashing of the orders whereby LG nominated these 10 persons to MCD.

During the proceedings last year, the Delhi government submitted to court that Saxena nominated members of the BJP as aldermen without consulting the government.

The Delhi government's plea further stated it was the first time since Article 239AA came into effect in 1991 that such a nomination was made by LG completely bypassing the elected government, "thereby arrogating to an unelected office a power that belongs to the duly elected government".

According to the petition, the only two courses of action open to LG were to either accept the proposed names duly recommended to him for nomination to MCD by the elected government, or to differ with the proposal, and refer the same to the President.

Defending his actions, Saxena's affidavit filed in May 2023 said that the governance of the MCD drew its existence from Part IX-A of the Constitution (inserted in 1993), which provides for municipalities, and has nothing to do with Article 239AA of the Constitution and the GNCTD Act. "The MCD is an institution of self-government and the role of the administrator (L-G) within the meaning of the Delhi Municipal Corporation (DMC) Act, 1956 is not a mirror image of what is provided either under Article 239AA or under the GNCTD Act," the affidavit maintained.

Understanding impact of aldermen verdict, and what it means for MCD

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NEW DELHI: The top court ruled that the lieutenant governor has the power to nominate aldermen in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) even without the Delhi government's aid and advice, thereby resolving the political dispute over the 10 nominated members and paving way for the long pending elections to the wards and standing committee.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) welcomed the verdict while the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has termed it a "big setback for Indian democracy". The control over the standing committee — an 18-member panel which controls MCD's purse strings — will now be the next battle between the AAP and the BJP to wrest MCD's control.

Even though the MCD elections in Delhi were held in December 2022, the civic body's deliberative wing has remained incomplete in the absence of key panels due to the dispute on appointment of aldermen. On ground, this has translated to a complete policy paralysis with all major projects being stuck. The verdict will now lead to first holding elections for the wards committees (12 decentralised panels to oversee each administrative zone in Delhi) and then the standing committee.

Genesis of the dispute
The three erstwhile corporations were unified in May 2022 in the hope of smoother administration. Elections were held in December 2022 which the AAP won securing a simple majority with 134 mem-

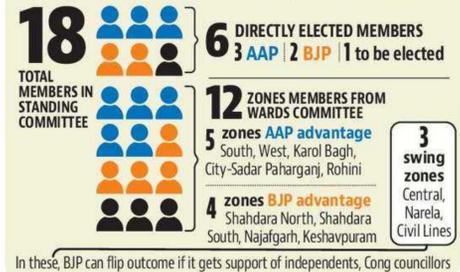
bers in the 250-member MCD house. Later in January 2023, LG VK Saxena appointed 10 aldermen to MCD directly — a move that was criticised by the AAP. It argued that these nominations in the past were made through the aid and advice of the government and took the matter to the court.

The Delhi Municipal Corporation Act states that LG has the right to make 10 nominations, but both the AAP and the BJP are at loggerheads over it. While these aldermen, a titular position, have no direct voting rights in the house of councillors, their right to vote in the wards committee can help alter the power balance in those panels. Even though the AAP had majority, the zonal distribution of councillors from both parties leaves the control over standing committee to be an open contest.

Importance of control over standing committee
The standing committee is an 18-member powerful body that controls MCD's finances — all policy proposals and budget are presented first here and only after approval do they end up with the House. A senior MCD official said that the panel also clears the expenditure sanctions for all projects above the financial implication of ₹5 crore, policy matters with financial implications as well as layout plans of major projects.

Out of the 18 standing committee members, six are elected directly by the members of the House and remaining 12 are elected by the 12 zonal wards committees of the 12 administrative zones in MCD. Once the 18 mem-

The fight for standing committee



In these, BJP can flip outcome if it gets support of independents, Cong councillors

bers are finalised, a member is elected as the panel's chairman — a key position in the MCD set-up that rivals the mayor's powers.

Former chief law officer of MCD, Anil Gupta, said that the nominated aldermen do not have voting rights in the house meetings, but according to the 2015 Onika Malhotra judgement of the Delhi high court, aldermen have voting rights in the zonal committees, and so they end up helping political parties tip the balance in their favour. The AAP had alleged that with 10 nominated members, who are from BJP background, it will go against the verdict delivered by people in the MCD polls.

No standing committee
In the absence of the panel, a series of projects and policy decisions have remained stuck over the last 20 months. A senior MCD official said that the layout plans of major infrastructure projects can only be cleared by the standing committee

and more than 60 such projects are currently stuck. "Among those are projects for appointing new companies for clearing the landfill sites under which new operators need to be hired for biomining of legacy waste. We are also unable to appoint a new operator for collection of toll tax in the capital and the contractor of the previous operator was originally ending on April 10," the official said.

A senior MCD official said that the MCD commissioner has power to clear a project up to ₹5 crore, but larger projects need standing committee approval along with layout plan approval for projects such as new DTC township in Hari Nagar, hostel towers for DU, IIFT Maidangarhi and another tower on DDU Marg. "We are also undertaking the process for layout plans of three model colonies for regularisation of unauthorised colonies but this will also need the panel's approval," the official added.

Even though the AAP-led MCD

House passed a resolution on January 15 saying that approvals for contracts with expenditures greater than ₹5 crore be given by the corporation, the logjam could not be cleared in the absence of directions from the court.

MCD has thus been forced to provide extensions to private operators in multiple cases, including the contract to manage garbage in MCD's central zone, which covers several VIP pockets in New Delhi, among other projects.

What next?
The verdict now opens the battle for control of the standing committee. Former CLO Gupta said that the municipal secretariat will now hold elections for the 12 wards committees — each of which will elect a chairman, deputy chairman and a standing committee member. "One of the six directly elected standing committee members — Kamaljeet Sehrawat — has resigned after being elected the West Delhi MP, so an election will be held for the post. Together the 18 members will elect the chairman. The entire process may take 1-1.5 months," he added.

MCD oversees an area of 1,397.3 sq km which is divided into 12 zones. Based on distribution of councillors, the BJP has a clear advantage in four of these — Shahdara North, Shahdara South, Najafgarh, Keshavpuram. The AAP has an advantage in five. "Distribution of nomination of 10 aldermen shows that two have been nominated in central, four in Narela and four in Civil Lines. These are likely to see the close contest," an official said.

Liquor policy rate change not enough to show criminality: SC in Sisodia case

Abraham Thomas
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NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday hearing the bail petition of former Delhi deputy CM Manish Sisodia told ED and CBI that the decision taken by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government to hike commission rates for wholesale liquor dealers from 5% to 12% would "per se" not be

enough to allege criminality as a clear distinction exists between policy decision and criminality.

With the arguments spilling over to Tuesday, a bench headed by justice BR Gavai told additional solicitor general (ASG) SV Raju representing the two agencies, "It is your submission that commission (for wholesale dealers) was increased from 5% to 12% and this ensured profits for private retail-

ers. Is this cabinet decision per se enough to hold criminality."

The bench, also comprising justice KV Viswanathan said, "As a purely academic question in criminal law, I wish to know at the stage of bail, where do you draw the line between policy decision and criminality. You have to show something more otherwise Cabinet decision alone cannot be gone into."

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ई-नीलामी में अमानत राशि जमा एवं बोली दिनांक 04.08.2024 से लगाई जा सकती है
भूखण्डों की ई-नीलामी दिनांक 08.08.2024 से 30.08.2024 तक

184

आवासीय एवं व्यावसायिक एवं आवासीय मय व्यावसायिक प्रयोजनार्थ भूखण्ड
पूर्ण भुगतान के लिए एक वर्ष का समय, 15 दिवस में पूर्ण राशि जमा कराने पर 2 प्रतिशत की छूट देय है

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25 गणेश गुवाड़ी आवासीय योजना	07 अर्जुनलाल सेठी नगर आवासीय योजना	01 वी.के. कॉल नगर आवासीय योजना
25 कोटडा आवासीय योजना	01 कोटडा आवासीय मय व्यावसायिक योजना	12 महाराणा प्रताप नगर आवासीय योजना
07 विजयराजे सिधिया नगर आवासीय योजना	13 हरिभाऊ उपाध्याय नगर विस्तार आवासीय योजना	07 पंचशील नगर ई-ब्लॉक आवासीय योजना
02 पंचशील नगर आवासीय योजना	02 राजस्व ग्राम लोहागल जलाना योजना	12 वैशाली नगर आवासीय योजना
10 चन्द्रवरदाई नगर आवासीय योजना	01 पृथ्वीराज नगर आवासीय योजना	04 जे.पी नगर आवासीय योजना
10 दौंसपोट नगर व्यावसायिक योजना	03 हरिभाऊ उपाध्याय नगर मुख्य आवासीय योजना	02 अर्जुन लाल सेठी नगर आवासीय मय व्यावसायिक

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{ EXCISE POLICY CASE } CBI CASE

Will move SC, says AAP; HC verdict proves CM's role: BJP

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: After the Delhi high court disposed of Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's plea challenging the legality of his arrest by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in a case of alleged irregularities in the now-scrapped excise policy of 2021-22, Delhi BJP said the judgment "made it clear" that Kejriwal "played a major role" in the scam and was the mastermind of it.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), meanwhile, said they will challenge the high court judgment in the Supreme Court.

(BJP) unit president Virendra Sachdeva said: "The high court's decision has clarified that Arvind Kejriwal and his party have been looting Delhi, a fact that the BJP has been consistently stating."

"It is necessary for Arvind Kejriwal to resign from his position for the smooth administrative functioning and for the service of the people of Delhi. The government of Delhi has become paralysed and all administrative system has come to a standstill, and Kejriwal's insistence on running the government from jail has resulted in zero governance in Delhi," Sachdeva said.

The AAP hit back, saying the BJP was trying to mislead the

public about the case and the verdict of the court.

In a statement, the AAP said: "The petition before the high court was challenging certain technical aspects of the law, as to non-compliance by prosecution of certain legal provisions. The CBI case has not been decided on merits. We respectfully disagree with the HC and will challenge it before the Supreme Court."

"The ED case has been decided on merits and it has been conclusively held that there exists no evidence against Arvind Kejriwal ji. Both the special court, as well as the Supreme Court, have already granted bail," the AAP said.

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HAVE FUN WITH FACTS ON SUNDAYS

Catch the latest column of **TWTW** THE WEEK THAT WAS

A quiz on the week's development.

Coaching institutes can't be 'death chambers': Top court

Abraham Thomas
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday said that coaching institutes cannot be "death chambers" playing with the lives of students who enrol from across the country in pursuit of their career goals, as it set out to examine the mechanism to enforce safety norms on these institutions across the country in the aftermath of a recent tragedy where three young civil service aspirants drowned to death at a coaching institute in Delhi.

Taking up the issue suo motu (on its own) in a petition concerning implementation of fire safety norms for coaching institutions in Delhi, a bench led by justice Surya Kant said, "We should do something about this issue. What is it that we are reading that these places have become death chambers. You are playing with the lives of students."

The court was hearing a petition filed by Coaching Federation of India against a December 14, 2023 order passed by the Delhi high court requiring coaching institutes to obtain mandatory fire no-objection certificates (NOC) and certificate in terms of the Master Plan for Delhi-2021 and Safety Norms for Buildings/Structures under the Unified Building By-laws of 2016.

Dismissing the petition as "frivolous" with a cost of ₹1 lakh, the court expanded its scrutiny to pan-India level to ascertain the safety norms prescribed for coaching institutions, and the statutory mechanism available with the Centre and Delhi government to enforce it.

"The gruesome, unfortunate incident taking away the lives of some of the young aspirants who joined a coaching centre for their career pursuits are an eye opener for one and all," said the bench, also comprising justice Ujjal Bhuyan, referring to the July 27 incident at Rau's IAS Study Circle at Delhi's Old Rajendra Nagar where three students - Tanya Soni, Shreya

What the apex court said

The Supreme Court was hearing a petition filed by Coaching Federation of India against a Dec 14, 2023 Delhi HC order requiring coaching institutes to obtain mandatory clearances.



ON RAJENDRA NAGAR DROWNINGS

"The gruesome, unfortunate incident taking away the lives of some of the young aspirants who joined a coaching centre for their career pursuits are an eye opener for one and all."



Yadav and Nevin Delvin - drowned in the waterlogged basement of the building housing a library.

Issuing notice to the Union ministry of housing and urban development and the Delhi government through the chief secretary, the bench said, "We deem it appropriate to suo motu expand the scope of these proceedings and issue notice to Union of India and Delhi government to show-cause as to what safety norms are being prescribed so far and if so, what is the effective mechanism introduced to ensure their compliance."

The court held, "No coaching institute, not only in Delhi but even within NCR, should be allowed to be approved unless there is meticulous compliance of the safety norms and other fire safety norms necessary for students, besides other basic amenities necessary for dignified human life... All people

ON DANGER TO STUDENTS
"We should do something about this issue. What is it that we are reading that these places have become death chambers. You are playing with the lives of students."

ON SAFETY NORMS
"No coaching institute, not only in Delhi but even within NCR, should be allowed to be approved unless there is meticulous compliance of the safety norms and other fire safety norms necessary for students, besides other basic amenities necessary for dignified human life."

THE TOP COURT HIGHLIGHTED THAT WHEREVER THE INSTITUTIONS FAIL TO CONFORM TO SAFETY NORMS, THEY MUST SHIFT TO ONLINE MODE WITHOUT ENDANGERING THE LIVES OF STUDENTS

coming from different parts of the country come with a lot of expectation thinking they will get all facilities."

Describing what these safety norms would entail, the bench said, "Such safety norms must necessarily include proper ventilation, safety passage, air and light, and such other requirement as may be prescribed through statutory measures or guidelines."

It said that where the institutions fail to conform to the safety norms, they must shift to online mode without endangering the lives of students.

"For the time being, coaching should go on online unless

there is compliance with building, fire norms," the bench said, as it pulled up the petitioner federation for carrying an appeal to the top court to interfere in a simple case requiring them to comply with fire safety norms.

The matter was argued by advocates NP Singh and Kedar Nath Tripathy, who pointed out that this petition had nothing to do with the recent incident involving illegal use of basement, as the coaching federation wanted to apply for fire safety certificate but faced ambiguity with the MPD-2021 not specifying whether these institutions fall under educa-

MCD seals six properties in central Delhi

NEW DELHI: MCD on Monday sealed six properties for violating building bylaws in South Patel Nagar and Ranjeet Nagar of Karol Bagh, the civic body said in a statement.

MCD sealed the basements and ground floor of these six properties, which were illegally operating as gyms and libraries, officials aware of the matter said.

"MCD has also issued notices to coaching centres and property owners for misuse of property and violation of building bylaws in all the zones. MCD is also conducting a survey to identify coaching centres and other properties violating rules in basements across all zones," an MCD spokesperson said.

tional institutions, mixed land use or residential buildings

The bench shot back: "It is a very inappropriate time for filing such a petition. Is this the moment to file this petition?" Singh informed the court that the petition was meant to be listed during the summer vacation but could not be heard at the time.

The Delhi high court order had sought fire safety norms to be enforced by coaching institutes following a fire incident last year that left 61 students injured in Delhi's Mukherjee Nagar.

The top court held office-bearers of the coaching federation responsible for the cost, and threatened to initiate contempt action in three weeks if the amount of ₹50,000 each was not deposited with the Supreme Court Advocate on Record Association (SCORA) and SC Advocates Welfare Fund.

{ TUGHLAKABAD } 16-YEAR-OLD APPREHENDED

Boy bludgeons grandmother to death for not giving money

Hemani Bhandari
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A 16-year-old boy allegedly killed his 65-year-old grandmother with a hammer at their house in Tughlakabad on Saturday after she refused to give him more money for online betting, police said on Monday, adding that the suspect was apprehended from the spot after the horrific murder.

The minor was produced before a court and sent to an observation home, police said, adding that the boy allegedly stole and sold his family's gold to get money for betting.

"Investigation has revealed that the boy had lost ₹2 lakh while playing games online. On Saturday, he asked his grandmother for money and when she refused, he hit her several times with a hammer," said deputy commissioner of police (south east) Rajesh Deo.

Police said that their control room received a call at 1pm on Saturday from a man saying that a woman related to him was lying injured in a house in Tughlakabad Extension.

When police reached the spot, they found the woman lying in a pool of blood on the ground floor of her house. She was taken to

POLICE SAID THAT THE BOY STARTED GAMBLING ONLINE AFTER CLASS 10 EXAMS THIS YEAR. HE ALLEGEDLY SOLD HIS FAMILY'S GOLD FOR MONEY

AIIMS where she was declared dead.

The victim lived on the ground floor with her husband. Their 47-year-old son lived on the third floor with his wife and two children aged 16 and 17. The other two floors were on rent - which was the source of income for the deceased woman and her husband.

Police questioned the victim's family. Her 17-year-old granddaughter told police that she returned home at 1pm, but no one opened the door despite her ringing the bell several times.

"The first-floor tenants opened the main door. She entered the ground floor house and spotted her brother washing his blood-stained shirt. He said he was getting ready to go to school for the evening shift, but had come to meet their grandmother, and that his shirt got blood stains on

it after he was scratched by their grandmother's bangles," said an investigator. Police said that the boy had come to the ground floor house around 12.15pm.

The girl went to the third floor and told their mother about the blood, said police. The mother ran downstairs and saw the elderly woman lying dead in her room, said police.

Police said that the 16-year-old boy was apprehended from the spot and the murder weapon was recovered.

The suspect's 47-year-old father told HT that he was unemployed for the last two months due to ill health, and had a strained relationship with his parents because they were not helping his family financially for the last six months. He told HT that his son found online betting as a way to help them financially but he lost all their savings.

"After Class 10 exams this year, he started using an app to place bets and earn money. He made some money initially but eventually, he started losing. We told him to stop betting but he didn't listen... We suspect he also sold our gold," the father said.

He added that the minor lost ₹2 lakh in online betting, which was his and his wife's emergency savings in their bank accounts.

{ SHOCKING CASE } ROHINI SECTOR-22

Mutilated body of an infant found near private hospital in NW Delhi

HT Correspondent
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NEW DELHI: Police on Monday said they recovered a headless body of a newborn in Aman Vihar, northwest Delhi, after passersby spotted a dog carrying it at a park in Rohini Sector 22. A case has been filed and a probe is under way, police said.

The incident was reported at 10.08am on Saturday. The body appeared decomposed and prima facie, appeared to have died after being dumped in the park, said deputy commissioner of police (Rohini) Gurij-

bal Singh Sidhu. Police said there is a private hospital located within a kilometre of the park and they are making enquiries.

Also, there was no guard or security staff deployed at the location.

"The local police found a mutilated headless body of a newborn baby. It may have been kept in the park a day or two ago. The dead body was shifted to hospital and preserved for post-mortem examination," DCP Sidhu said.

Police said the gender of the newborn could not be ascer-

tained due to the severity of the mutilation. "Many body parts, including the head are still missing. We suspect they were eaten by animals," a senior police officer said.

"CCTV footage of cameras in the vicinity is being obtained and scanned to ascertain the identity of the person who dumped the baby or the body. There is no CCTV camera in the park," the officer said.

A case under Section 94 (concealment of birth by secret disposal) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita was registered at Aman Vihar police station.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Directorate of Floriculture, Gardens & Parks Department Kashmir
Tele-fax: 0194-2482032, e-mail: kashflori@rediffmail.com

GIST of e-Tender Notice No. 18 of 2024 Dated:- 02.08.2024

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K UT, bids are invited from the registered Plant Material Importers, Growers, producers, suppliers for **Supply of Plant Material** as indicated in the detailed Tender Notice/BOQ:-

S. No.	Period of contract	Value of security deposit (Rs.)	Cost of tender document (Rs.)
1.	01 (One) year from the date of award of contract	40,000.00 (Rupees Forty thousand only)	2000.00 in the shape of e-challan favouring Accounts Officer, Department of Floriculture Kashmir

The bidding document(s) consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, terms and conditions and other details can be seen/downloaded through the www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1.	Period of downloading of bidding document	03.08.2024 from 03.30 PM to 23.08.2024 up to 02.00 PM
2.	Bid submission Start Date	03.08.2024 from 04.00 PM
3.	Bid submission End date	23.08.2024 up to 02.00 PM
4.	Date and time of Opening of Tenders (Online)	27.08.2024 at 02.00 PM

In case of any eventuality (online) the date of opening will be considered on any other convenient working day.

Sd/-
Accounts Officer,
(Member Secretary)
Floriculture Department, Kashmir
DIPK-4148-24

झारखण्ड सिल्क, टेक्सटाइल एण्ड हैण्डिक्राफ्ट डेवलपमेंट कॉरपोरेशन लिमिटेड
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निविदा संशोधित शुद्धिपत्र
पत्रांक-962 दिनांक-05/08/2024
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Address for Correspondence
प्रबंध निदेशक, झारखण्ड प्रबंध निदेशक उद्योग भवन, प्रथम तल, रात रोड, झारखण्ड झारखण्ड, राँची
Contact: Tel: 0651 2280042, 9313343008 PR 331882 (Jharkhand Silk Textile Handicraft Dev. Co. Ltd.(JHARCRAFT))24-25'D

Have fun with facts on Sundays

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HT TWTW
THE WEEK THAT WAS

A quiz on the week's development.

GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI
DIRECTORATE OF TRAINING AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
MUNI MAYA RAM MARG, PITAM PURA, DELHI-88
[E-II Branch]
www.tte.delhigovt.nic.in, Email: ngbranchdtte@gmail.com, 011-27321014

NOTICE

The applications are invited from the eligible candidates for engagement of **Part Time Instructors (herein after referred as PTIs)** on hourly basis, in the Government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), under the aegis of Directorate of Training & Technical Education (DTTE, Training Wing), Government of NCT Delhi for the Academic Session 2024-2025. The honorarium will be payable as per the rates mentioned below:

Staff Category	Rate per Hour		Maximum monthly ceiling of honorarium
	Theory Classes	Practical Classes (adopting general guidelines)	
Craft Instructor/Instructor Drawing/Workshop Calculation & Science Instructor	Rs. 500/-	Rs. 250/-	Rs. 30,000/- (Rupees thirty thousand only) per month
In case of senior retired staff equivalent to Group Instructor or above, from DTTE/ Industry/ Armed forces at attaining of 60 years of age.	Rs. 800/-	Rs. 400/-	

The interested candidates can download the prescribed application form and other terms & conditions, from the website of DTTE i.e. www.tte.delhigovt.nic.in. NCIC under CITS is must for all the NTC/NAC/STC qualified Candidates applying, however for the trades in which CITS is not available, applications of such candidates will be considered subject to the full filling of other criteria of selection. Candidates having Degree/Diploma in the relevant trade/field must follow relevant DTTE notification dated 15th November 2016.

Applicants are advised to read carefully the guidelines as given with the application form, before filling up the application form. Candidates shall submit duly filled application form offline, (for the institute of his choice), to the cluster concerned ITI only, (any application submitted at DTTE HQ or elsewhere by any means (Online/Offline) other than the mentioned cluster, will be considered as null & void and applicant will not claim any benefit or his/her right for such an application) within 15 days from the date of advertisement, along with one set of self attested copies of all the certificates of qualification, cast, PwD and experience etc. Applications received after 15 days of advertisement will not be entertained. All the Part Time Instructors who were engaged in the academic session 2023-24 will also have to submit their requisited application. It is also to mention that the Part Time Instructors enlisted in court cases, OA-2302/2019, OA-1339/2020 and OA-3288/2023 are also mandatorily required to submit their requisited application. A candidate can apply for as many trades he/she wants to but in one cluster only. If a candidate applies in more than one cluster, his/her application shall be liable for cancellation. The candidates are advised to keep in contact with cluster for the schedule of interview.

For any query, candidates can contact the Principal/Head of the concerned cluster.

Dy. Director (E-II)
Directorate of Training and Technical Education
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APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one unidentified dead body of Child Namely: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 1-2 Month, Height: 30 CM, Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Naked. ID: Bitten by Dog on body, who was found near back side of Police Station Rohini Sector-22, some part of his body is also found in Banswala Park, Sector 21 Rohini, Delhi. In this regard a case FIR No. 463/24. U/S 94 BNS DD. No.35A dt. 03.08.2024 has been registered at PS: Aman Vihar, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the above deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

Sd/- SHO
P.S: Aman Vihar, Delhi
Ph. 9870128024
DP/10335/RD/2024

HT TWTW
THE WEEK THAT WAS

Take a cue from the clues

Authors who are not authors, leaders who no longer lead, a beauty queen wades her last walk, and cracks appear in a Himschal village. More happened this week. Take the quiz to find out.

Answer Booklet (right) is the author of the children's book Alice and Sparkles (above). Whose family name is it?

Answer: Booklet is well known author or illustrators, but the "twice" Alice is of course, a children's book which has sold over 200 copies since it was first published in December. It features characters with names that sound like Alice and Sparkles, who usually appear in the first two chapters.

She's a famous Member and was briefly a DJ. Her partner Chirag Gupta is a Suburban Her neighbor. She attended the UN Women Assembly at three times. Last week, she said, "You can be your own boss." Who?

The Chief Minister of the State of Jharkhand in 2023. How many times has he been elected to the assembly? How many times has he been elected to the state assembly? How many times has he been elected to the state assembly? How many times has he been elected to the state assembly?

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{ ASHA KIRAN CASE }

'Deaths not coincidence': HC tells DJB to test water

Shruti Kakkar
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Delhi high court on Monday directed the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) to test the quality of water at the Delhi government-run Asha Kiran shelter home for the mentally challenged, while stressing that the 14 deaths of inmates in such a short span of time cannot be a coincidence.

A bench of acting chief justice Manmohan and justice Tushar Rao Godeala also directed the Delhi government's social welfare secretary to visit the shelter home and file a report on the conditions there. The bench added that salvaging the situation and taking corrective measures are the need of the hour.

"How can deaths take place in a shelter home? It can't be a strange coincidence that all die simultaneously. Some deaths can take place no. See they were seriously ill. Most of them had tuberculosis. There are too many deaths in a short span of time. 14 deaths in number. It cannot be a coincidence," the bench told standing counsel Sameer Vashisht, who represented the Delhi government. The court stressed that it is "time for action", and directed that the shelter home be decongested.

The bench added: "If there is a problem, some curative measures need to be taken care of at



Of the 14 inmates of the Asha Kiran shelter home who died in July, 13 were adults and one was a minor. HT PHOTO

the earliest... This matter brooks no delay. Please ensure that the social welfare secretary visits the place. Whatever repairs need to be done. If there is a shortage of drinking water in the shelter home, it must be ensured that enough water is available. If there is a problem of hygienic conditions, it must be ensured that enough staff is available. If there are so many people cramped up there, ensure that they are shifted... It's a time for action."

The high court was responding to a plea filed by Samadhan Abhyan, an NGO, which sought the constitution of an independent committee headed by a retired high court judge to conduct a court-monitored probe into the deaths or a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation.

The plea sought directions to the Delhi government to conduct a social security audit of all shelter homes run by it to give an accurate picture of the social impact and living conditions there.

The petition, filed by advocates Abhigyan Siddhant and Anurag Sahay, stated that the inquiry which the Delhi government has ordered to be conducted by its additional chief secretary cannot be said to be impartial as the government is in direct control of the shelter home and DJB. The plea went on to add that the Delhi government is trying to be a judge in its own cause, which cannot be allowed.

During the hearing on Monday, standing counsel Sameer Vashisht, representing the Delhi government, handed over a chart specifying the reasons on

account of which the deaths had occurred in the shelter home in July 2024. He stated that all the cases were of intellectual disability and 13 out of the 14 inmates had died in the hospital due to comorbidities.

The negligent conditions at Asha Kiran shelter home, in Rohini, north Delhi, emerged in media reports on Friday, putting the authorities in a fix and triggering the probes.

The Delhi government ordered a magisterial inquiry into the case, while lieutenant governor (LG) VK Saxena directed chief secretary Naresh Kumar to initiate action against the administrator of the facility and bring out a white paper on the running of all homes by the social welfare, and women and child departments and Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board, within three weeks.

According to the report submitted by the social welfare secretary to LG on August 2, a total of 28 inmates have lost their lives at the shelter home since January 2024. Of the 14 who died in July, 13 people were adults and one was a minor.

Delhi revenue minister Atishi ordered an investigation, directing the additional chief secretary to submit a report within 48 hours. She also directed officers to recommend measures to prevent such occurrences.

BJP DECIDES ON VIJENDER GUPTA AS LEADER OF OPPN FOR DELHI

Alok KN Mishra
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NEW DELHI: The legislature unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which is the Opposition in Delhi assembly, on Monday elected Rohini legislator Vijender Gupta its leader in a meeting at the state office, BJP leaders aware of the development said.

BJP has seven MLAs in the 70-member assembly. The BJP MLAs will convey their decision to the assembly, after which a formal notification is likely to be issued declaring Gupta as the leader of the Opposition.

The LoP position has been vacant since June 18, when Ramvir Singh Bidhuri resigned from the assembly upon being elected a member of Parliament from the South Delhi constituency.

"Ghonda MLA Ajay Mahawar proposed the name of Gupta for leader of the party in the assembly. MLAs Mohan Singh Bisht, OP Sharma, Anil Bajpai, Abhay Verma and Jitendra Mahajan seconded the proposal... unanimously electing Gupta as the party leader," BJP said in a statement.

Vijender Gupta, a former Delhi BJP chief, said, "This responsibility comes at a critical time when governance in Delhi has completely failed under the AAP government."

The Aam Aadmi Party has 61 MLAs in the assembly. A party official said they hope Gupta will engage in positive politics.



Light rain on National Highway 48 in Gurugram on Monday. PARVEEN KUMAR/HT PHOTO

Delhi breathes easy, rain in offing today

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Capital on Monday recorded an air quality index (AQI) of 58, which is classified as "satisfactory" by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), according to the central agency's daily air quality bulletin, continuing a trend of consecutive "satisfactory" air days — AQI on Sunday was 62 — buoyed by rainfall over the past week.

Officials with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Delhi is likely to receive light to moderate rainfall from Tuesday to Thursday, and issued a yellow alert for the three days. Parts of Delhi may even record heavy rain, due to the monsoon trough moving closer to the national capital region (NCR), officials said.

Mahesh Palawat, vice president at Skymet, a private weather forecasting service, said there is a cyclonic circulation currently over Rajasthan, with the monsoon trough also moving closer to the Capital again. "Based on these two factors, we are expecting an increase in rain intensity. Most parts should record moderate rain, with some places in NCR recording heavy rain too," he said.

Parts of the Capital received scattered and light rain on Monday, with strong surface winds of 30-40 kmph being recorded throughout the day, keeping Delhi's air quality in check.

The lowest AQI recorded so far this year is 56 (satisfactory), on July 7. An AQI below 51 is considered "good", meaning Delhi has yet to record a single good air day this year.

Forecasts said a similar wind speed was likely on Tuesday, with the Centre's early warning system (EWS) for Delhi predicting "satisfactory" air days to continue. "Delhi's air quality is likely to be satisfactory from Tuesday till Thursday," the daily EWS bulletin said.

On Monday, the Safdarjung weather station, representative of Delhi's weather, recorded 4.5mm of rainfall between 8.30am on Sunday and Monday. Between 8.30am and 5.30pm on Monday, "trace" rainfall was recorded, according to IMD.

Delhi's maximum temperature was 33.4°C on Monday, a degree below the normal and down from 36°C recorded a day earlier. The minimum temperature was 26°C, a degree below the normal and down from Sunday's minimum of 27.4°C.

HT

2 held after chase for assault, robbery

NEW DELHI: Two men were arrested after a 5km chase for allegedly assaulting and robbing a 35-year-old man in Vasant Kunj on Saturday, police said on Monday. The two, who were on a bike, drove adjacent to an SUV and gestured to the driver that oil was leaking from his car. When he stopped and stepped out, they robbed him. **HTC**

24-year-old man stabbed to death

NEW DELHI: A 24-year-old man was stabbed to death allegedly by at least four men in Sangam Vihar in south Delhi on Sunday, police said. One suspect has been detained and is being questioned. Police said the murder was an act of revenge because the deceased man allegedly killed a man in 2015. **HTC**

Police station dengue drive finds violations

NEW DELHI: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has found large-scale violations in the form of mosquito breeding sites on the premises of police stations, malkhanas and paramilitary complexes during a drive over the last week to check mosquito breeding, MCD said on Monday. **HTC**

Atishi inaugurates school in east Delhi

NEW DELHI: Delhi education minister Atishi inaugurated a new four-storey academic block and multipurpose hall at a government school in Dilshad Garden on Monday. "It is expected to benefit children in areas such as Dilshad Colony, Kalandara Colony, Kusht Colony, and Tahirpur," she said. **PTI**

LG RECOMMENDS SUSPENSION OF RC MEENA OVER CAR ACCIDENT

NEW DELHI: Delhi lieutenant governor VK Saxena recommended the suspension of Ramesh Chander Meena, deputy commissioner in the excise department, after he was allegedly found involved in an accident reported in Karol Bagh, central Delhi, in the early hours of Sunday in a drunken state.

"Meena was driving his car in an inebriated state, hit a bike and dragged it for 2km before the vehicles burst into flames. The bike rider escaped with minor injuries," an official from the LG secretariat said, adding that Meena's medical examination at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital confirmed alcohol consumption.

Police said a case was registered under sections of BNS on charges of rash driving, endangering human life, and mischief by fire. HT reached out to Meena for a comment but he did not respond. **HTC**

{ GOLF VIEW CONDOS } POSSESSION OF FLATS ON Tiles fall off at new DDA flat in Dwarka

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NEW DELHI: Pieces of tiles fell off from the external walls of the first luxury segment society of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) at Sector 19B in Dwarka on Sunday morning and one of the homebuyers had a narrow escape. The incident took place at a time when DDA has started handing over physical possession of flats at the Golf View Condos, said an allottee on Monday.

The tiles fell off from the first-floor balcony of a building at Tower C when some of the allottees, who have made full payment, visited the site while taking possession of their houses. From the video of the incident shared by the allottees, the balcony appears to be about 10-feet long and five pieces of tiles, each

about two-feet long, fell off from one balcony.

The incident has made the owners apprehensive, and they said that DDA must ensure their safety. "The person who was there when the tiles fell off was about to walk right inside the tower. He had only gone to check if everything was fine before taking possession of his flat. He shared the video and has complained to DDA," said one of the allottees on condition of anonymity.

DDA said that it will get joint inspections conducted at the time of handover of flats along with the allottees and will rectify any shortcomings immediately.

"To ensure quality is maintained and workmanship is up to the mark, officers of the rank of assistant engineers have been deputed for each tower," a DDA spokesperson said.

Stalker arrested after stabbing mother of 35-year-old woman

HT Correspondent
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NEW DELHI: Six days after a 25-year-old man allegedly stabbed to death an elderly woman and also injured her daughter at his house in Santgarh near Tilak Nagar in west Delhi, the Delhi Police arrested the accused on Sunday, officers aware of the matter said on Monday.

Police identified the suspect as Rahul Tarun, who used to work as a private driver, and the victims as Beena, 60, and Tanya, 35, (both identified by single names). Tarun allegedly attacked the two women after they visited his house to complain against him to his parents as he used to harass Tanya for the last five to six months, they added.

Tanya is married and is a mother of two, said a senior police officer on condition of anonymity.

"Tanya lives with her husband and two children in Delhi and often used to visit her mother's home in west Delhi. Tarun and his family members are known to the mother-daughter duo.

Tarun, who is unmarried, started harassing her despite her objections. She then informed her mother about it," added the officer, who is associated with the case.

On July 30, Beena and Tanya went to Tarun's house and an altercation broke out between the victims and his family members, said deputy commissioner of police (west) Vichitra Veer.

"On investigation of his mother, Pooja (identified by single name), Tarun stabbed Tanya and her mother with a knife," said DCP Veer.

HT Unforgettable

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Forest dept to drop 10,000 seed balls for plantation at Asola

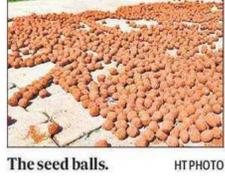
Jasjeev Gandhiok
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NEW DELHI: Delhi's forest and wildlife department said on Monday that it will experiment with "seed balls" to carry out a pilot project on August 10 at the Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary where over 10,000 such balls will be dispersed using drones and catapults, among other techniques, in order to boost the green cover in the sanctuary.

The balls — made from a mixture of soil, cowdung and neem cake — all have a seed in the centre and will be dropped in different areas of the sanctuary as part of a mega-plantation drive that starts on Saturday.

A total of 100,000 such seed balls are planned to be dispersed across Delhi this monsoon.

The idea, said additional principal chief conservator of forest (APCCF) Suneesh Buxy, is to assess the success of such a technique on the ground, based on which future plantation drives can be carried out in a similar



The seed balls. HT PHOTO

manner.

"We will use drones and paramotors, which will fly above a terrain and drop these seeds. Catapults will be used to throw these seeds long distances as well. We also plan to test a technique called dibbling, where shallow pits are created and the seeds are dropped by hand. On Saturday, we plan to drop close to 10,000 such seeds," said Buxy.

The experimental use of seed balls to boost the green cover of Aravallis has been done unsuccessfully in 2020 in Haryana.

Experts said that seed balls can work as a method of regeneration but they need to be dispersed before monsoon.

MCD seeks new ways to fight landfill fires

HT Correspondent
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NEW DELHI: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has reached out to the fire department to suggest new techniques or equipment to douse landfill fires as conventional methods were not working, the civic body told the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in a report on the three-day-long fire that broke out at Ghaziipur

landfill in April, officials aware of the matter said.

HT has seen a copy of the report. MCD also said that the fire in April was the only one at a city landfill this year and that preventive measures at all three landfill sites were beginning to work.

Responding to the submission, a fire official said that landfill fires generally pose a challenge as the origin of the blaze is difficult to find.

Delhiwale
EXPERIENCE YOUR CITY LIKE NEVER BEFORE

'Ye Dilli hai mere yaar'

A cloud watcher's guide to the currently cumulus city

{ PUBLIC INTEREST } The high-rises are moving. Actually, the clouds drifting about these office towers are causing the optical illusion, here in Greater Noida.

No matter where in Delhi you might be, do look up. Blue sky speckled with cottony clouds is a rare sight for our smoggy megapolis. This is the gift of saawan, the fifth month in the Hindu calendar. It is a time of showering barsat, when the city sky loses its customary dullness, turning even a jaded citizen into an excited nophophile, a cloud connoisseur. Yesterday, Lakshmi Nagar's Yumna Alvi shared a Facebook reel of her cloud-filled bike ride along the Akshardham flyover with the film song, "Ye Dilli hai mere yaar, bas ishq mohabbat aur pyar."

Even the business-like Gurugram has been affected by the season's poetry. One afternoon last week on Golf Course Road, the trinity of the sky, the sky-touching towers, and the clouds floating past the towers were faintly evoking the dreamy haze of Monet's impressionistic paintings.

The season's classic cumulus scenes are to be encountered while driving along the Delhi-Meerut Expressway, on the stretch between the Ring Road and Akshardham Temple. A segment of the route passes over the glassy sheet of Yamuna. The sprawling riverbanks on both sides of the highway lie festooned with peacefully moving clouds, the dhooop frequently playing hide-and-seek with the clouds. Each time the sun disappears, or reappears, the shift of its light floods the environ with a new temperament.

Almost as hypnotic is the highway commute between Gurugram's Shankar Chowk and Mahipalpur, especially during the rush-hour evening when the twilight clouds stain the sky with shades of red, blue and pink.

Four saawans ago, a most ethereal twilight shone upon Ghaziabad's Vasundhara. The afternoon showers created a large puddle in a vacant

plot of prized real estate. As the sun was dipping into the west, a pink cloud rained its reflection into the puddle, kindling the rain water into a pit of volcano lava. A high-rise stands today where the puddle was, but poetry-inducing sights continue to exist in the vicinity. Last Sunday, during his evening walk in Adarsh Park, retired PWD engineer Kshetrapal Singh was so moved by the cloud-clotted sky that he instinctively uttered aloud a Tulsidas chaupai from his beloved Ram-charitmanas.

Varsha kal megh nabh chhaye, Garjat laagat param suhat.

(During rainy season when clouds cover the sky, Their thunder spreads utmost happiness).

Mayank Austen Soofi

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Proposed changes to Waqf Act spark political slugfest

Smriti Kak Ramachandran and Vrinda Tulsian

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NEW DELHI: A set of contentious potential amendments to the Waqf Act kicked up a political controversy on Monday with the government claiming the proposed changes would modernise the rules and expand the representation of women, and the Opposition alleging they were aimed at depriving Muslims of their land and assets.

Waqf is the permanent dedication of properties for religious, pious or charitable purposes as recognized by Muslim law. The Waqf Act was first passed by Parliament in 1954. It was later repealed and a new act was passed in 1995, which granted more powers to Waqf boards. In 2013, the act was amended to grant the Waqf Board extensive powers to designate property as Waqf property.

There is speculation that the Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024, with about 40 amendments, might be introduced this week in the Rajya Sabha, where the Bharatiya Janata Party is the single-largest party with 87 lawmakers but without a majority.

The party is confident of passing the bill though both the YSR Congress Party and the Biju Janata Dal, which helped the government push bills through the Rajya Sabha over the past five years, have not indicated their support, the people added. The BJD has eight members, while the YSRCP has 11 members in the Upper House, and both have turned strongly anti-government. All eyes will also be on NDA members JD(U) and TDP given the contentious nature of the changes.

The government is pushing the proposed amendments as a "much-needed reform" and is hopeful of getting support from parties that are neither aligned to the NDA nor to the INDIA bloc, said people aware of the details.

The bill is likely to include a provision calling for judicial scrutiny to determine whether a prop-

Decoding the bill and the proposed changes

WHAT IS WAQF?

Waqf is the permanent dedication of movable or immovable properties for religious, pious or charitable purposes as recognized by Muslim law. It implies the endowment of property to God by a Muslim, under the premise that the transfer will benefit the needy. There is a central Waqf board and several state boards

WHAT IS THE WAQF ACT?

The Waqf Act was first passed by Parliament in 1954. It was later repealed and a new Act was passed in 1995, which granted more powers to Waqf Boards. In 2013, the Act was amended to grant the Waqf Board extensive powers to designate property as Waqf Property

WHAT IS THE STATUS OF WAQF PROPERTIES?

The Waqf Board currently controls nearly 900,000 properties spanning 9.4 lakh acres across India, with an estimated value of ₹1.2 lakh crores. Making them the third largest landowner in India

WHAT ARE THE AMENDMENTS?

The government is planning to bring about 32-40 amendments to the Act, including making it mandatory for the Waqf Board to register its property in the District Collector's office so that the property can be evaluated. The amendments also aim to enhance inclusivity by ensuring women's representation on the Central Waqf Council and state boards



erty is a Waqf asset and make mandatory provision of registration of properties with district collectors for their actual valuation.

"This is a progressive bill, we do not anticipate any hurdles in its passage... one has to look at the broader issues that will be addressed by the bill," said a government functionary, declining to be named.

Some opposition parties, including the RJD, SP and AIMIM, attacked the proposed changes and accused the government of interference in personal laws.

"Opposition to the bill is from those quarters that have vested interests. The amendments proposed will address the biggest concern, the absolute powers that the board has to determine what is their property...the proposed amendments also address the issue of gender parity by making it mandatory to have women members as part of Waqf boards," said the functionary cited above.

Asked whether the government reached out to the Opposition and allies, the functionary said the process of communication had begun for the bill that also pro-

poses to expand the composition of the Central Waqf Council and State Waqf Boards (SWBs), and make provisions for an online system for tracking revenue and expenditure.

The Waqf Board currently controls nearly 900,000 properties spanning 940,000 acres across India, with an estimated value of ₹1.2 lakh crores, making it the third largest landowner in India.

According to a note from the ministry of minority affairs, the amendments are set to incorporate recommendations from both the 2006 Rajendra Sachar Committee report and the 2008 Joint Parliamentary Committee report. The Sachar Committee's suggestions include regulating Mutawallis (custodians of Waqf), enhancing record management, and involving non-Muslim technical experts in Waqf management.

The proposed amendments are expected to make it mandatory for Waqf boards to register properties with the collector's office for evaluation. The government is considering involving district magistrates in monitoring Waqf properties to prevent misuse and ensuring that

properties undergo fresh verification to resolve disputes. The amendments may also increase women's participation in the Central Waqf Council by amending Sections 9 and 14.

The demand to revisit the Act has been on the agenda of the BJP's ideological fount, the Rashtriya Swamysavak Sangh, for decades. The introduction of the bill is also a sign that the BJP wants to assert its dominance despite running a coalition government, said a senior party functionary.

"There is a perception that the BJP, which won only 240 seats has to accommodate the allies and therefore will not be as decisive as it was in the last two terms. Introduction of this bill and its passage will be a message..." added the second functionary.

A BJD functionary said the government has not contacted them. A YSRCP leader said the party is unlikely to support the bill.

The Opposition slammed the government. "The Modi government wants to interfere in personal laws and that itself is against freedom of religion," said Asaduddin Owaisi, AIMIM lawmaker.

SC LIKELY TO HEAR MARITAL RAPE PETITIONS FROM AUGUST 13

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday indicated that the hearing on petitions regarding the immunity to husbands from prosecution for marital rape would commence on August 13. The case has not been effectively heard since January 2023.

Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, who heads the bench in the matter, said the hearing is most likely to begin on August 13 for final arguments. The CJI's statement came after senior counsel Indira Jaising and Karuna Nundy mentioned the matter.

The court is seized of a batch of petitions that relate to the exception in Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) exempting forcible sexual intercourse by a man with his wife from the offence of rape.

A set of public interest litigations (PILs) have challenged the validity of the immunity clause on the grounds of discrimination against married women sexually assaulted by their husbands. The Delhi high court's split verdict in May 2022 is also pending before the top court for a final word.

The judges of the high court disagreed with each other in their 2022 judgment with one of them terming the clause protecting husbands from prosecution for non-consensual sex with their wives "morally repugnant", while the other said it did not violate any law and could continue to exist.

One petition before the Supreme Court is an appeal by a man, whose trial for raping his wife was approved by the Karnataka high court in a March 2022 ruling. The top court in July 2022 stayed the trial in this case.



READ: Govt. Criminalising marital rape will have ramifications

Man killed by wife's kin over interfaith marriage

HT Correspondent

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AHMEDABAD: A 24-year-old man was hacked to death allegedly by his wife's relatives and others over their interfaith marriage in Devbhumi Dwarka district of Gujarat, police said on Monday, adding six people have been arrested and a minor detained in connection with the suspected hate crime.

A senior police officer said that a case for the offence of mob lynching was registered at the Bhanvad police station under Section 103 (2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) based on a complaint from the mother of the deceased.

The incident occurred on Sunday in Shedhakhai village and the deceased was identified as Yagnik Duhrejia, a local resident, police said. Duhrejia was allegedly assaulted with sticks and axes by the accused, follow-

SIX MEN HAVE BEEN ARRESTED AND A MINOR DETAINED IN CONNECTION WITH THE HATE CRIME OCCURRED IN DEVBHUMI DWARKA DISTRICT

ing which he was rushed to a government hospital in Jamnagar, where he succumbed to his injuries on Sunday evening.

"The victim, who belonged to the Sadhu caste, had married a Muslim woman. The accused, all Muslims, were involved in the murder due to the interfaith marriage," superintendent of police (SP) Nitesh Pandey told HT over the phone.

The police arrested six men, including the relatives of the wife of the deceased, and

detained a juvenile in connection with the murder, the SP said. "Further investigations are on."

According to the complaint filed by the victim's mother Nir-mala Duhrejia, the accused conspired to commit the crime. The accused were identified as Adam Musa Detha (42), Hothi alias Dado Kasam Detha (27), Juma Musa Detha (40), Osman Musa Detha (35), Sajid Isha Detha (26), and Salim Hussain Detha (32), all locals. The identity of the juvenile has not been disclosed as per the law.

Besides BNS Section 103(2) pertaining to murder committed by five or more individuals acting in concert on grounds of race, caste, or community etc, the accused were also booked under sections 189(2) and 191 for unlawful assembly and rioting.

"While the situation in the area is peaceful, we have maintained strict police patrolling," the SP said.

Stalker assaults woman in B'luru, arrested: Cops

Coovercolly Indresh

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BENGALURU: A 25-year-old man has been arrested for sexually assaulting a woman in Bengaluru after CCTV footage of the incident emerged on social media, sparking widespread outrage.

The accused, Suresh KN, accosted the 34-year-old woman at around 5am on August 2, when she was waiting for her friends to go for a morning walk in Krishna Nagar area of Bengaluru, police officers said.

The video, which has since been widely shared on social media, shows the man approaching the woman from behind and attacking her. The woman can be seen struggling to escape.

The video led to the quick arrest of the accused on Monday, police said. The accused works

NIA RECREATES CAFE BLAST WITH TWO ACCUSED IN B'LURU

BENGALURU: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday brought two accused arrested in the Rameshwaram Cafe blast case to the spot for inspection as part of its probe into the March 1 incident, officers aware of the matter said.

Main accused Mussavir Hus-sain Shazib was brought to the cafe under heavy security in order to reconstruct the events leading up to the blast that left 10 people injured. A police officer aware of the matter said: "Shazib was dressed in attire similar to what he allegedly wore on the day of the bombing, including a cap and mask."

"The entire reconstruction was recorded on video, which will be used alongside the original CCTV footage for forensic analysis. NIA plans to conduct analysis to determine if Shazib's movements match those of the suspect captured on the surveillance video," said a senior police officer. HTc

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- Improvement of yard in the section of ADEN/JHL in c/w/ improvement of yard and post attention survey of track (longitudinal & lateral) for design mode in the section of ADEN/JHL. (NIT 57-W-IV-24-25)
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4. Date and Time of submission of tender and opening of tender.
 Bidding Start date for work no. Up to 15:00 hrs. on 13.08.2024 opening of e-Tender at 15:00 hrs. on 27.08.2024

5. Website particulars, published e-tender, notice location etc. complete details of tender can be seen and web site where the tender form can be downloaded. Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

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(R-35) Dy. GM (Personnel/HOD (EE), NCL, Singrauli

Indian Ports Association
1st Floor, South Tower, NBCC Place, B.P.Marg, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003
Tel. No. 011-24369061/63, 24368334
Email: ipa@nic.in

GAD/772/Engagement Manager Civil (Contract)/2024 Date: 06.08.2024

Indian Ports Association (IPA) invites applications till 05.09.2024 from eligible candidates for engagement to the post of Manager (Civil) in IPA on contract basis. The detailed advertisement may be seen on <http://www.ipa.nic.in> under the head-Career.

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DATE OF E-AUCTION
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Online registration starts : 06.08.2024 (Tuesday)

Last date for online registration/submission of mandatory documents with EMD is 21.08.2024 (Wednesday) upto 6.00 PM

For further details of the sites and procedure kindly visit the e-auction website <https://dusib.ewizard.in> or DUSIB website www.delhishelterboard.in.

Dy. Director (RP)
(Mob. No. 882697456)

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HARYANA STATE COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE, INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY (HSCSIT)
(DIRECTORATE OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION, HARYANA)
BAYS 35-38, SECTOR-2, PANCHKULA-134112
PHONE: 0172-2563439, 2560339, 2561339
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PRE-BID MEETING

Experienced and reputed agencies having sufficient past experience in similar works in India are invited to participate in the Pre-bid meeting for "Tender for Supply, Installation, Integration, Testing and Commissioning of Full Dome Digital 2D Multi-channel Projection System, shows, dome cleaning and associated works with 3 years Comprehensive Onsite Warranty at Kalpana Chawla Memorial Planetarium at Kurukshetra". Purpose of pre-bid meeting is to invite clarifications (if any) from the interested experienced agencies regarding the Minimum technical specifications, Scope of work, other terms & conditions related to this tender. Participating agencies are also required to submit their clarifications in written on the day of pre-bid meeting. However, HSCSIT at its option shall answer such clarifications as are felt necessary. It is discretion of HSCSIT to incorporate changes/amend the existing tender document as per changes (if any) proposed by the agency (ies) in this meeting. Draft tender document can be downloaded from the department's website i.e.: <https://dst.highereduhry.ac.in>. Interested agencies may also visit the planetarium at Kurukshetra on any working day by prior liaison with the planetarium's office. The meeting shall be held on date: 12.08.2024 at time: 10.00 am at 1st Floor in the Conference Room in office of Haryana State Council For Science, Innovation & Technology (HSCSIT) at Bays 35-38, Sector-2, Panchkula, Haryana. No clarifications, amendments, suggestions shall be entertained from the agencies after publication of tender.

RO No 1099/11/25/2025/28546/19/7 Secretary/EC, HSCSIT

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Assam Integrated River Basin Management Programme
Vacancy Announcement

Applications along with Prescribed Application Form, attested copies of all Certificates, Mark Sheets, recent passport size photo, experience certificates etc. are invited from intending candidates, who are Indian Citizens, for engagement on contract basis under ASDMA (AIRBMP Project).

The applicants may have to appear for a written test/interview at the venue, date and time as decided and directed by the Authority, at their own cost. No TA/DA shall be paid for the purpose. Candidates not having the requisite qualifications are liable to be summarily rejected. Therefore, candidates are advised that they fulfil the prescribed eligibility before applying, details of which are available on ASDMA website. The Authority also reserves the right to accept or reject any application without assigning any reason thereof. Canvassing in any form will lead to summary disqualification.

Sl.No.	Name of the Post	No. of posts
1	Component Lead for Flood Shelter	1 (one) No.

Last date for submission of Application is 20/08/2024 till 5 PM and addressed to:

The Chief Executive Officer,
Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA),
Ancillary Block-I (Opp. SBI Sect. Branch), Janata Bhawan,
Dispur, Guwahati-781006, Assam.

Applications received at Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) after the deadline will be summarily rejected.

The applicant should mention the name of the post applied for on top of the envelope containing the application. Further details and prescribed application form may be seen/downloaded at the ASDMA website <http://asdma.gov.in> / or <https://asdma.assam.gov.in>

Candidates can also apply online by sending their filled application form along with supporting documents duly signed and scanned at piu.asdma.proc@gmail.com within the stipulated deadline.

Project Officer
Assam State Disaster Management Authority
Project Implementation Unit, Assam Integrated River Basin Management Programme

Janasanyog /DF/719/ 24/6-Aug-24

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FIRST VOICE. LAST WORD.

Art 370 move watershed event, says PM; Oppn sharpens attack

HT Correspondent
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NEW DELHI: The abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution was a watershed moment in the country's history that brought security, dignity and opportunity to women, youth, backwards, tribals and other marginalised communities in Jammu & Kashmir (J&K), Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday, marking the fifth anniversary of Parliament scrapping the provision that conferred special status to the region.

The opposition Congress criticised the policy of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for J&K, saying it neither respects "Kashmiriyat" nor upholds "Jamhuriyat" (democracy).

"Today we mark 5 years since the Parliament of India decided to abrogate Articles 370 and 35(A), a watershed moment in our nation's history. It was the start of a new era of progress and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh," Modi wrote in a post on X. "It meant that the Constitution of India was implemented in these places in letter and spirit, in line with the vision of the great men and women who made the Constitution."

With abrogation came security, dignity and opportunity for the women, youth, backward, tribal and marginalised communities, who were deprived of the fruits of development, the PM said. "At the same time, it has ensured that corruption, which plagued J&K for decades, has been kept at bay. I assure the people of J&K and Ladakh that our Government will keep working for them and fulfil their aspirations in the coming times," he added.

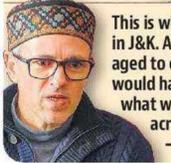
5 years of abrogation of Article 370

This transformative decision (on abrogation) has ushered in a new era of empowerment for marginalised sections and strengthened grassroots democracy in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh

— Amit Shah, Union home minister

The Modi government had claimed that the move would help to fully integrate Jammu & Kashmir, boost the economic development and prevent terrorism and separatism. However, the reality is starkly different...

— Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress chief



This is what passes for democracy & free speech in J&K. A handful of BJP 'leaders' are encouraged to celebrate today while those who would have registered their protest against what was done to J&K are locked up in homes across the Valley

— Omar Abdullah, NC leader

On August 5, 2019, the Modi government abrogated Article 370, which provided special status to J&K, and bifurcated the erstwhile state into two Union territories — Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh. The scrapping of Article 370, a decades-old promise and part of the core agenda of the BJP, came less than two months after the party swept the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, winning 303 seats.

The BJP government also scrapped Article 35A, which empowered the J&K legislature to define the erstwhile state's permanent residents and their special rights and privileges.

Union home minister Amit Shah, who piloted the move to abrogate Article 370 in Parliament, thanked Modi for "this landmark decision and reaffirm our dedication to advancing the region's aspirations and transformative progress".

"Today marks five years since the historic abrogation of Article 370 and 35A under PM Shri @narendramodi Ji's leadership," Shah posted on X. "This transformative decision 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 Govt's efforts to foster peace and comprehensive development a grand success, the home minister added.

Meanwhile, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge alleged the reality is starkly different from what is claimed by the BJP and the Union government. "BJP's policy on Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh neither respects 'Kashmiriyat' nor upholds 'Jamhuriyat'," the leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha said in a post on X. "The Modi Govt had claimed that this move would help to fully integrate Jammu and Kashmir, boost economic development of the region and prevent terrorism and separatism. However, the reality is starkly different..." he said.

In Parliament, National Conference lawmaker Aja Syed Rullullah Mehdi criticised the government, saying "whatever happened five years ago was good for you but not for the country and democracy". "All the members here are discussing the funds allocated to the department of fishing and husbandry because the situation in their respective regions is normal. It's their good luck. They have equal, first-class rights and so are able to participate in these debates. This luxury is not granted to us," the Srinagar MP said in the Lok Sabha.

Former J&K chief minister and Democratic Progressive Azad Party founder Gulam Nabi Azad said: "The day Article 370 was revoked, I said in Parliament that it's unconstitutional, goes against the wishes of the people, and is a huge blunder. I still stand by my words—nothing has changed."

LEADERS IN J&K ALLEGE HOUSE ARREST; CONG, PDP HOLD STIR

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SRINAGAR: Leaders of political parties in Jammu & Kashmir alleged they were kept "locked" inside their homes on Monday, on the fifth anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370.

In a post on X, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chief Mehbooba Mufti said she had been placed under house arrest and called August 5, 2019 — when Article 370 was scrapped — a "dark day" for both Jammu & Kashmir and Indian democracy.

"I have been placed under house arrest while the PDP office has been locked. The day when a semi-autonomous state was disempowered and robbed of everything special," the former J&K chief minister said.

A police truck was placed outside the residence of National Conference chief Farooq Abdullah at his Gupkar residence.

As Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders celebrated the Centre's decision, NC leader Omar Abdullah posted on X: "This is what passes for democracy & free speech in J&K. A handful of BJP 'leaders' are encouraged to celebrate today while those who would have registered their protest against what was done to J&K are locked up in homes across the Valley. In Jammu, Congress and PDP rallied together to demand the restoration of statehood and special status for J&K."

BENGAL ASSEMBLY UNANIMOUSLY CLEARS RESOLUTION AGAINST DIVISION

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KOLKATA: The West Bengal assembly on Monday unanimously passed a resolution opposing any efforts to divide the state, as both the ruling TMC and opposition BJP, in a rare show of bonhomie, criticised a proposal for the inclusion of the northern part of the province with Northeast India and sought the development of the region instead.

This came days after Union minister and Bengal BJP chief Sukanta Majumdar sparked a controversy on July 24, saying he proposed the inclusion of north Bengal under the ministry of development of north eastern region (DoNER) to Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a meeting. His comments led to fresh demands for a separate state of Greater Cooch Behar by another party MP, Ananta Maharaj.

Speaking in the House, chief minister Mamata Banerjee said: "We believe in cooperative federalism. We are opposed to any attempt to divide the state... Let us work together for the development of northern West Bengal..."

Leader of Opposition Suwendu Adhikari proposed the inclusion of a line in the motion: "We want overall development... We are against any attempt to divide Bengal. But this motion that was read out here sounds more like the pamphlet of a political party. We think that this resolution can be passed unanimously if the line I had mentioned can be included."

As Banerjee accepted Adhikari's proposal, the resolution was unanimously passed even as BJP MLA Vishnu Prasad Sharma walked for not being allowed to address the assembly.

Proceedings in RS hit as Chouhan launches fresh attack on Cong

Zia Haq

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NEW DELHI: Union agriculture minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Monday accused the Congress of neglecting farmers under its United Progressive Alliance regime in the past, prompting the opposition party to disrupt the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha and later stage a walk out.

Continuing his address from Friday, the farm minister sought to outline the government's "vision" for the farm sector in the Upper House. "The Congress has of course always talked about helping farmers directly. But it has never done that. It was PM Narendra Modi who launched the PM-Kisan scheme," Chouhan said. PM-Kisan is the Centre's flagship cash-transfer programme for farmers.

The attack on Congress triggered vehement protests by lawmakers Randeep Singh Surjewala and Digvijaya Singh, who were joined by their AAP colleague Sanjay Singh. The discussion on the farm ministry was raised by Surjewala on Friday, when Chouhan delivered the first part of his speech.

Attacking Chouhan, Digvijaya Singh referred to the BJP leader's tenure as chief minister of Madhya Pradesh, during which six protesting farmers were killed in police firing in Mandsaur.

In response, Chouhan warned, "I have said don't needle me. If you do, I'll not spare you," and then went on to list instances of farmers' killing under various Congress governments.

"Digvijaya Singh has blood on his hands... 24 farmers were



Shivraj Singh Chouhan

killed. In 1986, 23 farmers were killed by police during Congress rule in Bihar. In 1988 in Delhi, on the death anniversary of Indira Gandhi ji, two farmers fell to police bullets. In 1988, they killed five farmers in Meerut. In August 1995, six farmers in Haryana were killed in police shooting," Chouhan said.

The Congress then pressed its demand for a right to reply, which chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar rejected. "There is no right of reply under rule 238(2). If any grievance is raised according to correct provisions, I will consider," he said, at which point the Congress, AAP and Trinamool Congress staged a walk out.

During the course of the proceedings, Surjewala and Digvijaya Singh sent two letters to the chairman, one seeking a right to reply since the agriculture minister had taken names of Congress prime ministers and the other on Chouhan naming Digvijaya Singh himself. Continuing his speech after the walkout, Chouhan said he had read all speeches of former PMs made from the ramparts of the Red Fort on Independence Day celebrations.

The Congress later said it will bring a privilege motion against Chouhan for "misleading the House on various counts".

Venugopal may head key Parliament panel

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NEW DELHI: Congress lawmaker KC Venugopal, and not Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, will lead the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament, people aware of the details said on Monday.

PAC, which is Parliament's audit watchdog, was earlier headed by Congress floor leaders Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and Mallikarjun Kharge in the 17th and 16th Lok Sabha, respectively.

"The Congress has conveyed to the Speaker that Venugopal (who is also the party general secretary), and not Gandhi, will head the PAC," one of the persons cited above said, seeking anonymity. The panel is one of the three financial committees of Parliament.



KC Venugopal

Two Congress leaders indicated that Gandhi has several political responsibilities as LoP. "Therefore, he won't be able to do justice to the role of PAC chairman and Venugopal, with years of experience as an MP and as a former minister, is best suited for the role," they said.

Lok Sabha officials said even as the PAC chairman's post is loosely associated with the LoP, there have been instances when a senior leader, who is not the LoP, had headed the panel.

KHEDKAR MOVES HC AGAINST UPSC ORDER TO CANCEL HER CANDIDATURE

NEW DELHI: Former Indian Administrative Service (IAS) probationer Puja Khedkar, accused of cheating and forgery, on Monday approached the Delhi high court challenging the decision of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) to cancel her candidature and debar her from all future examinations and selection procedures.

The matter, mentioned before a bench of acting chief justice Manmohan and justice Tushar Rao Gedela, is slated to be heard on Wednesday.

A Delhi court, on August 1, refused to grant anticipatory bail to the former IAS probationer in a case of cheating and forgery filed against her by the UPSC, noting that her custodial interrogation is required to unearth the whole conspiracy.

{ 250 ITEMS RECEIVED OVER THE YEARS }

Gifts given to Presidents go under the hammer

Vrinda Tulsian

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NEW DELHI: A shell craft painting of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, an 18kg replica of the Hoayaleshwara Temple and a model of the oldest working steam locomotive are among the 250 gifts received by four former presidents and President Droupadi Murmu that went up for auction on Monday, with the proceeds earmarked for children in need.

The items, previously owned by former presidents Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, Pratibha Patil, Pranab Mukherjee and Ram Nath Kovind, apart from gifts presented to President Murmu, have been categorised into Traditional Art and Painting, Divine Art, Models, and Mementos, with prices ranging from ₹2,700 to ₹4,02,500.

The most expensive item up for auction is the shell craft



painting of Bose. Weighing over 14kg and presented to President Murmu, the painting commemorates Bose hoisting the Tricolour in Port Blair, the gift's description read. It has a starting price of ₹4.02 lakh.

Other items include an 18kg

SC seeks Bengal's data on including castes in OBC list

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NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday directed the West Bengal government to provide a detailed explanation for its decision to designate 77 communities, the majority of which are Muslim, as Other Backward Classes (OBCs), clarifying that the state will have to adduce data on the social backwardness and inadequacy of representation of the designated communities.

The directive by a bench, led by Chief Justice of India Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, followed an appeal by the state against a ruling by Calcutta high court on May 22, which invalidated the OBC certificates awarded to these communities since 2010, declaring the classification process illegal.

The bench, also comprising justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, issued a notice on the state's appeal and considered its plea to stay the high court's judgment. However, before deciding on any interim relief, the bench mandated that the Mamata Banerjee-led government submit an affidavit by August 11, explaining the criteria and procedures used to classify these communities as OBCs.

The apex court specifically asked the West Bengal government to shed light on the nature of the survey or enquiry it conducted regarding the "inadequacy of representation and social backwardness" of these 77 communities, emphasising the need for clarity on the methodology and data that underpinned the state's decision to grant OBC status.

"The state of West Bengal would submit an affidavit explaining the process for the inclusion of 77 communities as OBCs. It will explain specifically that nature of the survey carried out as regards the inadequacy of representation and social backwardness of these communities," said the bench, fixing August 16 as the next date of hearing.

Furthermore, the bench ques-

SC QUESTIONED THE EXTENT OF CONSULTATION WITH THE BENGAL BACKWARD CLASSES COMMISSION

tioned the extent of consultation with the West Bengal Backward Classes Commission, particularly in light of the high court's findings that such consultations were either lacking or entirely absent, especially concerning 37 of the communities.

The state government was represented in the top court by senior counsel Indira Jaising and advocate Astha Sharma, while senior counsel Mukul Rohatgi, PS Patwalia, S Guru Krishna Kumar, Shyam Divan, Ranjit Kumar and advocate Bansuri Swaraj appeared for the respondents — the petitioners before the high court.

During the proceedings on Monday, Jaising vehemently argued for a stay of the May 22 judgment, contending that the entire reservation policy in the state has come to a standstill after the high court verdict.

"There is no roster, no schedule of the reservation in the state anymore because the high court has struck down the relevant provisions of the 2012 Act. Our case is that it is for the Commission to only identify the communities, but the state is authorised to designate them and determine the percentage of reservation for such communities. The high court, however, held otherwise," she argued.

The group of senior lawyers on the other side, however, supported the high court judgment. They argued that the state had usurped the power of the commission and included the 77 communities, mostly Muslims, in the OBC list only because the chief minister made a political promise in this regard in February 2010. They pointed out that the high court called the state's action "a fraud on the Constitution".

{ MONSOON SESSION }

LS passes Appropriation Bill

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NEW DELHI: The Lok Sabha on Monday passed the Appropriation Bill 2024, which authorises the government to use certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2024-25.

The Lower House also approved the budget estimates for expenditure contained in the demands for grants for various ministries after applying a guillotine — a process to consider and approve demands for grants for several ministries together without a discussion. The House has already dis-



Proceedings underway in the Lok Sabha on Monday.

cussed demands for grants related to four ministries — railways, education, health and fisheries.

The Appropriation (No 2) Bill, 2024 was introduced in the Lok Sabha by Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman



JP Nadda

INDIA'S PUBLIC HEALTH SPENDING REACHES 1.9% OF GDP: NADDA IN LS

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NEW DELHI: The country's public health spending has increased to 1.9% from 1.1% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) earlier, Union health minister JP Nadda told Parliament on Monday.

The figure, however, is still significantly short of the target of 2.5% by 2025, as set in the National Health Policy in 2017.

"The health policy released in 2017 had set a target of 2.5% of GDP for the healthcare sector by 2025. In this year's budget, the allocation for the health sector is 1.9% of the GDP and we are on track to achieve the target," Nadda said during a debate on the demand for grants for the health and family welfare ministry in the Lok Sabha.

Nadda said that in 2013-14, the budget for the health sector was ₹33,278 crore, and today, it stands at ₹90,958 crore, which is an increase of 164%.

Listing the achievements of the health ministry under the Narendra Modi government in the past 10 years, he said: "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."

On concerns voiced by the Opposition on out-of-pocket expenditure, Nadda said the Modi government has succeeded in reducing it from 62% to 41% by strengthening Ayushman Bharat initiatives, making available free drugs and diagnostic facilities, and free screening. He also dismissed the Opposition's allegations of reduction in allocations under the PM-Ayushman Bharat Healthcare Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM).

Sukhbir apologises to Akal Takht for 'mistakes'

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CHANDIGARH: Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal has sought "unconditional forgiveness" from the Akal Takht for "all mistakes" committed when the party was in power in Punjab, according to a letter released by the Secretariat of the highest temporal seat of Sikhs on Monday.

The contents of the letter was made public days after Badal, on June 24, appeared before the



Sukhbir Singh Badal

Akal Takht with a written explanation on rebel party leaders' allegations that he did not "represent the sentiments of the panth".

In his letter, Badal said he

was a humble servant of the Guru and always dedicated to the Guru Granth Sahib and the Akal Takht.

"Whatever has been written against us, I present myself before the great throne of the Guru, seeking unconditional forgiveness from 'Guru Sahib' and 'Guru Panth'," he said.

As head of the family, Badal said he took all the "mistakes" upon himself. "Whether these mistakes are from the party or the government, I am seeking forgiveness for all these mis-

takes, which took place knowingly or unknowingly," he said.

The SAD chief said he and his companions will accept with humility every order issued by the Akal Takht, according to 'Gurmat' traditions.

On July 15, the Jathedar had directed Badal to appear in person before the Akal Takht and submit a written explanation on the allegations within 15 days. On July 1, the rebel leaders had submitted an apology letter to the Jathedar over "four mistakes".

JUDGES' PANEL SET UP FOR STRIFE-TORN MANIPUR GRANTED 6-MNTH EXTENSION

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NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday extended the tenure of a high-powered committee of retired judges, constituted to evaluate the effectiveness of relief and rehabilitation efforts in strife-torn Manipur since May 2023, by six months.

A bench, led by Chief Justice of India Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, issued a brief order extending the tenure of the panel that expired on July 15.

Senior counsel Vibha Makhija, who was appointed the amicus to represent the committee, mentioned the matter before the bench, also comprising justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra. She submitted that an extension is necessary for the committee to continue its monitoring of humanitarian efforts in the violence-hit state. Agreeing with her, the bench passed the order: "The tenure of the committee, chaired by justice Gita Mittal, shall be extended by six months."

Set up in August 2023, the all-women committee of three former high court judges — justices Mittal (former chief justice of the Jammu & Kashmir high court), Shalini P Joshi (former Bombay high court judge) and Asha Menon (former Delhi high court judge) — was tasked with enquiring into the nature of violence against women and ensuring physical and psychological well-being of those housed in the relief camps, besides the payment of damages to the victims.

Illegal mining, constructions led to Wayanad tragedy: Min

Jayashree Nandi

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NEW DELHI: Illegal mining, uncontrolled construction and unregulated commercial activity aggravated the disaster in Wayanad, Union environment minister Bhopender Yadav said on Monday, as he blamed the Kerala government for ignoring key aspects of the region before granting approvals for such projects.

The environment ministry clarified that the Centre did not grant environmental clearances for any developmental activities in Wayanad, except an in-principle nod for a Tube Unidirectional Tunnel Road (2+2 Lane) with Four Lane Approach (from existing roads) last year. The tunnel was envisioned to provide direct connectivity between Aanakampoyil-Kalladi-Meppadi in Kozhikode and Wayanad districts of Kerala. The construction for the project, however, is yet to start.

"When such projects are approved, it is important to understand what is the soil topography,



At least 221 people have died after multiple landslides hit Wayanad district of Kerala on July 30.

geomorphology, what is the slope angle and vegetation in the region. In the past 10 years, the state government did not pay attention to these matters. That is why when a huge rain event happened, we saw a massive disaster of this scale," Yadav said.

Senior officials at the ministry pointed out that in the last three years, Kerala granted environmental clearance for three quarries, two of which are for granite stone

in Wayanad district.

Two landslides hit Wayanad district in the early hours of July 30 after two to three days of continuous rainfall in central and northern parts of Kerala. So far, 221 people have died in the district, with scores missing.

"Illegal mining, uncontrolled construction and unregulated commercial activity led to the cause of the disaster," Yadav said in Parliament on Monday.

Kerala forest minister AK Sasendran condemned Yadav's statements, saying it was the wrong time to blame one another. "To say that this disaster was caused by Kerala's wrong actions, raises the suspicion that the Centre may be planning to deny the rightful financial assistance to the state. Kerala has collectively demanded that this tragedy be declared as a 'national disaster'. The Union environment minister's stand to not help the state at this time will be seen as injustice to the people of the state..." Sasendran said.

Officials said that a draft notification to notify ecologically sensitive zones in the Western Ghats was prepared on the recommendations of the Madhav Gadgil and K Kasturirangan committees. States, however, flagged different issues. The environment ministry constituted a high-level committee under Sanjay Kumar, former director general and special secretary at MoEFCC, the officials said.

"States have agreed to notify ESZ in principle but the main issues are cropping up when

ground truthing is being done. There are local pressure groups that are also opposed to the idea of curbing certain activities. We have also said that the Western Ghats ESA draft notification shall be taken into consideration for publishing final notification of Western Ghats Ecologically Sensitive Area in a phased manner either state-wise or through a combined final notification," a senior official said requesting anonymity.

In 2011, the Gadgil committee, set up to assess the environmental sensitivity of the Western Ghats and the possible impacts of the climate crisis in the region, recommended that 75% of the 129,037 sq km area of the mountain range be declared ecologically sensitive due to the presence of dense forests, several endemic species and unique geology.

It also recommended placing Sulthan Bathery, Vayittiri, Manantavadi in Wayanad district in the ESZ (eco-sensitive zone; also called ESA or eco-sensitive area) 1 category, which refers to the highest ecological sensitivity.



PM Narendra Modi chairs a Cabinet Committee meeting on Bangladesh, in New Delhi on Monday.

PM chairs Cabinet meet over B'desh civil unrest

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NEW DELHI: As political turmoil plunged Bangladesh into uncertainty and questions loom over the impact on India of Sheikh Hasina's ouster as prime minister, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday convened a hurriedly called meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) to assess the dramatic turn of events and the situation in that country, officials aware of the matter said.

Modi was briefed on the situation there, the officials said asking not to be named.

Those who attended the special meeting of the CCS included defence minister Rajnath Singh, home minister Amit Shah, external affairs minister S Jaishankar and finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, cabinet secretary Rajiv Gauba, principal secretary to PM PK Mishra, Research & Analysis Wing chief Ravi Sinha and Intelligence Bureau director Tapan Deka. India's ministry of external affairs did not react to the developments in Dhaka till late Monday.

Hasina is seen as being close to New Delhi, and India's longstanding support of her, across governments, has led to some ire against the country in opposition circles in Bangladesh.

On Monday evening, Hasina arrived at the Hindon airbase where she met national security advisor Ajit Doval. The Bangladesh Air Force flew her to the base, outside Delhi, in a C-130J Super Hercules special operations aircraft.

She stepped down after leading Bangladesh for 15 years after violent anti-government protests

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION IN THE LOK SABHA RAHUL GANDHI ALSO HELD A MEETING WITH JAISHANKAR IN PARLIAMENT, A CONGRESS FUNCTIONARY SAID

erupted in mid-July over a quota order and soon escalated into calls for her ouster. The controversial quota system provided for 30% reservation in civil services for the families of veterans who fought the 1971 liberation war.

Bangladesh army chief General Waker-uz-Zaman, flanked by the air force and navy chiefs, announced in a televised address that Hasina had resigned, and an interim government would be formed soon.

Amid the tumultuous situation in Bangladesh, Lok Sabha's Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi had a meeting with Jaishankar in Parliament building on Monday on the Bangladesh situation, Congress party has confirmed.

While the details of the conversation have not been made public, a section of the Congress said, the two leaders discussed the Bangladesh situation.

"Rahul Gandhi met EAM Jaishankar on sidelines, in Lok Sabha, Parliament House complex and the discussed recent developments in Bangladesh," said a Congress functionary.

In the Lok Sabha, some leaders tried to raise the Bangladesh situation, but weren't allowed to do so.

INVOLVEMENT OF B'DESH IN COMBAT DRILL UNCERTAIN

Rahul Singh

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NEW DELHI: A question mark hangs over the Bangladesh Air Force's participation in Tarang Shakti 24, the biggest multilateral air combat exercise to be hosted by India in August-September, officials aware of the matter said on Monday, hours after Sheikh Hasina resigned as Prime Minister and fled the country following weeks of violent anti-government protests.

The first phase of the exercise is set to begin on Tuesday at the Sulur air base in Tamil Nadu. Phase two, which involves the Bangladesh Air Force, will take place from August 29 to September 14 in Jodhpur, said an official, requesting anonymity.

"There's a political crisis in that country and the armed forces appear to have taken control of the situation. We will have to wait and see if Bangladesh will still take part in the exercise as the priorities are different now," said a second official.

Tarang Shakti 24 will involve a variety of various simulated combat missions in a realistic environment. The combat drill will boost mutual trust and help the global air forces explore avenues for interoperability.

Each phase of the drills will involve the participation of 70-80 aircraft including fighter planes, helicopters, special operations planes, mid-air refuellers and airborne warning and control system (AWACS) aircraft.

{ ₹187.33 CRORE FRAUD } KARNATAKA

SIT files charge sheet in Valmiki corp case

Arun Dev

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BENGALURU: In the ongoing investigation into the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribe Development Corporation scam, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) has filed a preliminary charge sheet, detailing the arrest of 12 individuals and the recovery of assets and cash amounting to over ₹49.96 crore.

In an official press release, SIT disclosed that it has registered eight cases, leading to the seizure of substantial cash and assets. The preliminary charge sheet, which consists of seven volumes and 3,072 pages, has been filed in High Grounds police station.

The accused face charges under several sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), including 120(B) for criminal conspiracy, 406 for criminal breach of trust, 409 for criminal breach of trust by a public servant, 421 for cheating, and 465, 468, 470 for forgery-related offences.

"The Investigating Officer of the Special Investigation Team has filed a preliminary charge sheet containing seven volumes and 3,072 pages in High Grounds Police Station Case No. 118/2024 against the above-accused persons u/s 120(B), 406, 409, 420, 465, 468, 471 IPC in the Hon'ble 3rd ACMM Court, Bengaluru and further investigation is continued," read the press note.

SIT's investigation revealed that out of the ₹187.33 crore involved in the scam, ₹88.63 crore was illegally transferred

THE SIT PROBE REVEALED THAT ₹88.63 CRORE WAS ILLEGALLY TRANSFERRED FROM THE VALMIKI CORP TO AT LEAST 217 DIFFERENT BANK ACCOUNTS

to at least 217 different bank accounts, including those belonging to 18 firms in Telangana. This money was allegedly diverted from accounts within the government treasury to the Union Bank of India's MG Road branch in Bengaluru. Among the assets seized by SIT are ₹6.83 crore in cash, 16,2546 kg of gold valued at ₹11.70 crore, cars worth ₹4.51 crore, and an account officer's bank balance of ₹3.19 crore. Additionally, frozen accounts contained ₹13.72 crore.

Opposition parties have demanded the resignation of chief minister Siddaramaiah, alleging that he knew of the scam. The scandal has already resulted in the resignation of Minister B Nagendra, who is currently under investigation by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and is in judicial custody. However, the SIT charge sheet doesn't mention the minister.

The scam initially came to light following the suicide of the corporation's accounts superintendent.

In his suicide note, the victim detailed the fraudulent transfer of funds and the involvement of corporation and bank officials.

India-Bangladesh border security bolstered as tensions bubble over

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SHILLONG/SILCHAR/AGARTALA: Security arrangements have been strengthened along the India-Bangladesh borders in West Bengal and the northeast in the wake of the civil unrest in the neighbouring country, people familiar with the matter said on Monday.

The Border Security Force (BSF) on Monday issued a "high alert" across all its formations along the 4,096-km India-Bangladesh border in the wake of the developments in the neighbouring country, officials said.

BSF DG (acting) Daljit Singh Chawdhary and other senior commanders toured the front in Bengal to review the security situation.

Chief minister Mamata Banerjee, meanwhile, urged people to not "behave in a communal manner and take law in your own hands".

In Meghalaya, the government imposed an indefinite night curfew along the 443km-long international border following the prevailing situation in Bangladesh.

"As proactive measures we need to take for the interest of the state and for the country as a whole, today, we have decided to impose a night curfew all along the international border with Bangladesh starting from tonight itself," said deputy chief minister in charge home (police) Prestone Tymsong.

In Assam, Border Security Force (BSF) and state police have bolstered security arrangements along the international border in

Barak Valley. Assam shares 265.5 kilometres of borders with Bangladesh and 120.6 kilometres of this falls under the Barak Valley part of the state which includes Karimganj and Cachar. "Some senior officials visited the areas last week and we have taken some additional measures," an official said.

In Mizoram, too, inspector general of BSF's Mizoram & Cachar Frontier, SK Misra, examined the status of the unfenced gaps along Kuchiyara River and other parts on August 2. "We keep a 24/7 vigil on the border areas but it has been strengthened multiple times now. We won't allow spillover of violence..." an official said.

In Tripura, a senior official aware of the matter said: "Today, patrolling and security in the bordering areas have been tightened."

SC REFUSES TO STAY EX-MUMBAI COP'S CONVICTION TO FIGHT MAHA POLLS

Abraham Thomas

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NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday refused to stay the conviction of former Mumbai Police encounter specialist Pradeep Sharma in a 2006 fake encounter case and enable him to contest the Maharashtra assembly elections later this year, saying he is no longer "entitled to benefit of doubt".

Hearing Sharma's application to stay his conviction, by the Bombay high court in March this year, to contest the state elections for a second time, a bench headed by justice Hrishikesh Roy said: "Today, your position is not of somebody who is entitled to benefit of doubt. The materials are sound enough that leads to reasonable doubt. Also, you are on bail and our order of May 10 states that you were on bail during trial."

Sharma had contested the 2019 polls from Nalasopara constituency on an undivided Shiv Sena ticket and lost the election. On March 19, the high court directed Sharma to surrender and awarded him life imprisonment for his involvement in the fake encounter killing of Ram Narayan Gupta, an alleged member of the Chhota Rajan gang in 2006. On May 10, the top court directed Sharma to surrender within a week and ordered the trial court to grant him bail on such conditions as the court deems fit.

{ FROM PAGE 1 }

4TH PLACE FINISH

ago, at the shooting ranges of Cha-teauroux, the mixed skeet team of Anantjeet Singh Naruka and Maheshwari Chauhan fell short by a solitary hit in a 44-43 defeat to China's Lyu Jianlin and Jiang Yiting in the bronze medal playoff.

Indians have been all too familiar with the freaky fourth feeling at this Paris Olympics. A total of five fourth-place finishes featuring seven Indians have kept the country's medal tally to three. All of them did well enough to find their way up there and remain in the mix for a crack at the medal, yet weren't good enough to grab it when fronted up with that high pressure moment.

The spread goes from shooting to archery to badminton. It began with the men's 10m air rifle shooter Arjun Babuta and rubbed into the mixed archery team of Dhiraj Bommadevara and Ankita Bhakat. Pistol shooter Manu Bhaker, a two-time Paris medalist going for her third, also wasn't immune to it in the 25m final before it crept into the mixed skeet team and Lakshya.

Among them, Lakshya, 22, seemingly took it the hardest in the immediate aftermath. Lost for words he stood blank, wrapped in the blanket of regret. "He said, visibly dejected.

That's a far cry from the fourth-place finishes years ago that were also celebrated in India's Olympic history. Milkha Singh's 1960 Rome Olympics 400m medal miss is perhaps the most revered and still talked about. More than two decades later, PT Usha would follow suit on the track in women's 400m

SC stays criminal proceedings against PepsiCo in 2007 case

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday stayed criminal proceedings against soft drinks major PepsiCo in a 2007 complaint accusing the company of "misbranding" under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA). The top court noted that criminal proceedings were initiated under the PFA, 1954, which has been replaced by the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 from August 2011. Under the FSSA, misbranding is a civil wrong (punishable with fine) with no penal consequences.

HC reserves order on Maneka's plea against election

LUCKNOW: The Allahabad high court has reserved its judgment on a petition by former BJP MP Maneka Gandhi challenging the election of Samajwadi Party's Ram Bhuwal Nishad from Sultanpur Lok Sabha seat. Justice Rajan Roy of the Lucknow bench reserved the order after the hearing of arguments was completed. During the hearing, it was revealed that the election petition was filed seven days after the deadline for filing such pleas had expired, raising questions about its maintainability.

hurdles by one hundredth of a second. Although few and far between before this century, there have been more such in India's sporting folklore that evoke memories of some despair but also a speck of delight.

Now, it's largely despair. Lakshya certainly felt so. So did a disheartened Babuta who vowed to move on. Manu, a two-time medalist having gone places no Indian ever has before in these Games, still did not "feel amazing" after finishing fourth in her third event. "This could have been better," Manu said. The archers, though, also chose to look at it from a more positive lens. Defined by early ousters and a sense of underachievement, Indian archery produced its highest finish in Paris in the mixed team event. "It's very disappointing when you finish one step short of a medal. But the way we're looking at this fourth is an improvement," Dhiraj said.

THE MARCH OF TECHNOLOGY IS UNSTOPPABLE: CJI

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud on Monday advocated for evolution of the legal system in line with technological advancements saying that the march of technology is unstoppable, and courts must embrace these changes to enhance accessibility and efficiency.

Speaking at the launch of e-DHCR portal, a user-friendly official platform for reporting the judgments of the Delhi high court, the CJI underscored the role played by technological advancements and urged for supporting the transformative changes to ensure that justice remains within everyone's reach.

"As technology advances, the legal system must evolve accordingly. Lawyers and litigants relying on electronic tools cannot be asked to revert to outdated paper systems. The march of technology is unstoppable, and our courts must embrace these changes to enhance accessibility and efficiency," he said.

"Urge each one of you to continue to support and advocate for these transformative changes to ensure that justice remains within reach for everyone," Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud said.

Happy English School's Reading Project: A Gateway to a Love for Books

HT Correspondent

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reading by exploring various genres and "D.E.A.R Time" where the entire school reads together. These events are complemented by book talk sessions and reading assemblies, fostering a community of readers. Students are given ample opportunities to showcase their understanding related to various story elements. The recent one was where they participated in the National Young Authors Fair 2023, co-founded by the Bri Books and Education World. Here, students got the opportunity to write, publish and promote their own storybooks. The school was also acknowledged and awarded the Literary excellence award leading us to become the top five schools in East Delhi which promotes creative writing and literary excellence amongst the students. Happy English School promotes reading to inspire students to explore and cherish the world of books.

Happy English School, Sharad Vihar innovative Reading Project is transforming the way students engage with literature. The project fosters a profound engagement with stories by leading learners through a progression of reading levels, starting with picture books and advancing to intricate texts. It promotes this connection through discussions and creative tasks. Key components include book fairs that promote 'reading by choice' an annual "Book Week Celebration" focusing on developing the interest of students

and other distinguished members of Vidyalaya Managing Committee. It was a solemn occasion where the young stalwarts were proud to don the mantle of the stewardship amidst the blessings of their parents, teachers, and fellow students as they were decorated with sashes. Principal Anupma Bhardwaj administered the oath of allegiance to the new leaders, and they pledged to carry out their responsibilities with integrity. The Chief Guest congratulated the new leaders, urging them to be diligent and resilient. The event featured a cultural fiesta with dance and Bhangra, and meritorious students of classes X and XII were awarded scholarships. The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks from the new Head Girl, Amrit Saini, embodying the event's spirit of dedication and leadership.

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PACE NEWS | Hindustan Times MEDIA MARKETING INITIATIVE

Investiture Ceremony at Jain Bharati Mrigavati Vidyalaya



As is rightly said, "Leaders are not born but made." Jain Bharati Mrigavati Vidyalaya, GT Karnal Road, endeavored to nurture future leaders of society as it organized the Investiture Ceremony for the newly selected members of the Prefectorial Board. The ceremony was graced by the benign presence of the Chief Guest, Dr. Jitendra Bhai Shah, Director, L. D. Institute of Indology, Ahmedabad, Gujarat; Vidyalaya Chairman D.K. Jain; Vidyalaya Co-Chairman, Vipin Jain; Honorary Manager, Manish Jain; Ashok Jain, Secretary Atma Vallabh Jain Snarak Shikshan Nidhi; Vidyalaya Principal, Anupma Bhardwaj;

Sparkling a Love of Reading: RSJMS Celebrates Book Week

R.S. Junior Modern School, Humayun Road, hosted its Book Week. This engaging celebration aimed to immerse students in the magic of books and promote literacy in a fun and interactive way. During Book Week, both pre-primary and primary students were actively involved in a range of activities. Renowned authors visited the school to conduct author talks, inspiring young readers with their stories and experiences. A vibrant book fair was set up on the school premises, allowing children the joy of browsing and purchasing books of their choice. Professional storytellers captivated the pre-primary kids with enchanting tales. Books were distributed among the students as a token of celebration. The festivities also saw students dressing up as their beloved literary characters, sharing reviews of the books they read and crafting bookmarks, showcasing their creativity. The week-long event fostered a love for reading among students, unlocking a world of boundless opportunities for growth and inspiration.



Universal Public School hosted MUNEXUS 2.0

august gathering the other eminent guests included Professor VP Gupta, Janardan Gupta (Founder, Chairman, Sr. Sec. Private Schools) and Dr. L.K. Dubey (HOS Rajkiya Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya). The Principal, Monita Gopal welcomed the guests and delegates from different schools. The Director Principal, Maya Gupta along with Secretary General (MUNEXUS 2.0), Riddhima Solanki officially opened the conference with 168 delegates from twenty schools all over Delhi and Delhi-NCR headed by the Executive Board. The conference concluded with an award ceremony where the delegates of each committee and the participants were awarded merit certificates and trophies for their extraordinary performance. Director Generation services of Principal, Maya Gupta, and Secretary of Principal, Monita Gopal jointly declared the ceremony welcomed. Among the



Universal Public School, Preet Vihar, hosted MUNEXUS 2.0, a Model United Nations conference.

The opening ceremony commenced with the lighting of the lamp accompanied by the recitation of shlokas. The event witnessed several esteemed guests which included, Rakesh Jain (Founder President of Rotary Club, Delhi Central), Vinay Singhal (Chairman, Rotary Delhi Central Charitable Trust) and Chandra Shekhar Raghunath (Director, New Generation services of Rotary Club, Delhi Central) who were warmly welcomed. Among the

Happy English School's Reading Project: A Gateway to a Love for Books



reading by exploring various genres and "D.E.A.R Time" where the entire school reads together. These events are complemented by book talk sessions and reading assemblies, fostering a community of readers. Students are given ample opportunities to showcase their understanding related to various story elements. The recent one was where they participated in the National Young Authors Fair 2023, co-founded by the Bri Books and Education World. Here, students got the opportunity to write, publish and promote their own storybooks. The school was also acknowledged and awarded the Literary excellence award leading us to become the top five schools in East Delhi which promotes creative writing and literary excellence amongst the students. Happy English School promotes reading to inspire students to explore and cherish the world of books.

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OPINION

The
Hindustan Times
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OUR TAKE

Lessons from Hasina's debacle

Chaos in Bangladesh shows a regime can't tide over economic and social anxieties with force

The end came swiftly. Five decades years after her father, the founder of Bangladesh, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was assassinated in his own home, the curtain fell on Sheikh Hasina's uninterrupted but controversial 15-year-long rule over Bangladesh. She was unceremoniously bundled out of the country in a helicopter, her legacy irrevocably tarnished by the blood of the hundreds of student protesters shot dead over the past three weeks by government forces and ruling party workers. The immediate trigger for the stir may have been a lopsided reservation policy that set aside a third of government jobs for descendants of freedom fighters — a contested category with ample room for corruption — but anger was building over an election widely seen as a sham, the subversion of the democratic process, sweeping suppression of dissent and crippling anxiety among young people over quality jobs and the possibility that they might lead a life worse than the previous generation.

Hasina's fall presents a challenge for India, which is now surrounded by a string of regimes that are either diffident or downright unfriendly in the neighbourhood. The 76-year-old leader had deep ties with India and was considered New Delhi's staunchest friend even as she tried to strike a balance with China. With the country in turmoil, expect Beijing to turn more aggressive in its attempts to fish in troubled waters alongside its old ally, Pakistan.

Moreover, the sentiment on the street is currently against New Delhi, seen as an ally of Hasina. When an interim government is created and new elections are called, if at all, it will be key to gauge the foreign policy outlook of the new regime. In sum, even as New Delhi looks to become a global fulcrum between the Great Powers, it will need to carefully evaluate its options in a tricky neighbourhood where it has few friends left and portents of instability cropping up — from Dhaka to Kathmandu.

But there are bigger takeaways at a time when intolerant regimes are mushrooming across the world. Bangladesh's street uprising — among the first such political action by Gen Z anywhere — was presaged by years of slow erosion of civil liberties, accompanied by sputtering growth amid a downturn in every sector except exports. Hasina refused to heed the warnings, believing that repression could quell genuine anger and a popular homegrown protest could be spun as foreign conspiracy. She was wrong and had to flee. The world should take note.

Restoring statehood is J&K's key question

Five years after the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution that granted "special status" to Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), the question to ask is: What are the right metrics to judge the effectiveness of the move? Its proponents point at visuals of normalcy in the Valley, zero incidents of stone-pelting or chants of *azaadi* by mobs, and a sharp rise in tourist footfalls. They also point to the increased penetration of central welfare schemes in the Union Territory (UT). But there's the sense of a task left unfinished. The economic and infrastructure gains from abrogation notwithstanding, restoration of statehood remains the key issue after five years. That alone will fulfil the democratic aspirations of the people of J&K.

Assembly elections — likely to take place by a court-imposed September 30 deadline — will do little in terms of passing the baton to the people if the Centre continues to be firmly in charge. Just last month, it gave the office of the Lieutenant Governor sweeping powers on key appointments and services. If the L-G has the final say on almost everything, including the functioning of the entire senior bureaucracy in the UT as also its topmost law officers, it would reduce any mandate from the people to a mere token.

Till the time the Centre sees governance as a proxy for democracy and not a product of it, hearts and minds, especially in the Valley, can't be won. To be sure, if the Centre sticks to its promise of restoring statehood soon after the election, in effect, displaying its confidence in the people of J&K, it is likely the latter will respond in kind — reposing their confidence in the Union. With a spate of attacks in Jammu already hinting at a revival of insurgency, aided by forces across the border, only this can ensure that the scrapping of Art 370 achieves its desired objective.

Improving Kerala's climate resilience

The state must ban construction and quarrying in the Western Ghats. And a raft of state legislation will need updating to focus on the climate action needed

The Wayanad landslides have put Kerala under the spotlight again. Extreme rainfall, flooding, and landslides have become a recurring phenomenon in the state since 2018. Multiple studies point to these being the result of the climate crisis. Kerala is particularly vulnerable due to its complex geology and ecology — a steep valley nestled between the Western Ghats on the east and the Arabian Sea on the west. The Western Ghats are a geomorphic feature of immense global importance. Unfortunately, indiscriminate infrastructure development has degraded this unique and fragile ecosystem.

In 1805, tropical forests covered 50-75% of Kerala's three regions. This had fallen to 36% by 1956 (when United Kerala was formed), and to 12% by 1990. The highest levels of deforestation (65-80%) happened in the hilly districts of Wayanad and Idukki. An added problem was the extensive quarrying from the 1980s and the construction boom. Of the over 5,000 quarries in Kerala (legal and illegal), about 1,700 are in the Western Ghats. They (along with indiscriminate infrastructure development) are major contributors to the landslides and landslides.

About 13,000 sites in Kerala have

been identified as prone to landslides, and 17,000 as susceptible to landslides. During the 2018 floods, there were over 5,000 incidents of landslides and landslides, of which 3,000 were in Wayanad and Idukki. In these districts, construction is permitted only on 7% of the land; however, this restriction has not been adhered to. About 70% of the 5,220 kilometre-long rivulets or streams feeding into the Kabi river in Wayanad were encroached and levelled for construction or agriculture.

Paddy fields (wetlands), at over 8.8 lakh hectares in 1980s, captured substantial water run-off during the monsoons. Sadly, around 80% of these have been destroyed for housing or commercial purposes. Further, large-scale encroachment of inland lakes and floodplains such as the Vembanad lake, the largest inland water body in Kerala, has exacerbated flooding prospects. In addition, Kerala's 720 sq km of coastal mangroves (marine and inland), which act as natural bulwarks against storm surges, have now been reduced to a mere 24 sq km (as in 2021). Another challenge in Kerala is the dumping of urban garbage in drains and streams, resulting in clogging during excessive rains.

The ecological destruction and resultant increase in Kerala's susceptibility to climate-related calamities and disasters has led to huge losses to life and property. Thus, a long-term vision for building a climate-resilient Kerala, with particular emphasis on disaster

risk reduction, has become imperative.

Kerala's Ecorestoration Policy, announced in December 2021, is a step in the right direction but this needs to see action on the ground. Additionally, some key elements still need to be made part of it. Based on the Madhav Gadgil Committee Report, plantations should be reconverted and nursed back to biodiverse forests. Agro-forestry should be adopted with the cooperation of the locals. All further construction in the Western Ghats should be banned and illegal encroachments removed. Mountain edges sliced for roads need to be sloped, and dense re-wilding done to prevent landslides. The concept of 'limited tourism', followed by Bhutan, should be adopted in key tourist locations.

People living in areas most prone to landslides (Zone 1 in the Gadgil report), such as Wayanad, should be relocated to safer places. Further migration to the hills and quarrying should be fully banned, and a 'catchment area treatment plan' should be prepared for denuded areas of river catchments. The decimation of hills for paddy fields should be stopped or at least minimised. The current method of constructing uniform elevations of concrete walls upto 18 feet high and filling them with soil from destroyed hills for building roads needs to stop. Besides Wayanad and Idukki, hill destruction is rampant in Kannur and Kasaragod. Hills in these districts from where 16 rivers originate should be declared as protected areas.



G Madhusoodanan



Praveena Sanjay



Extreme rainfall, flooding, and landslides have become a recurring phenomenon in Kerala since 2018

AFP

Erosion by the sea is another major climate-related challenge in Kerala. Many sea walls constructed so far have been swallowed by the sea. The real solution would be mangrove restoration with people's participation.

Except in heavily populated former paddy fields where streams could be carved out to facilitate drainage of flood waters, these wetlands need to be restored by reclaiming them. Most of the rain gauges are in urban or semi-urban areas. They need to be established in areas now known for excessive precipitation, especially in fragile zones. Kerala could also have its own centralised flood monitoring station for real-time alerts.

The government's famous "room-for-rivers" slogan should be implemented in letter and spirit. Kerala did begin successful restoration of some of its water bodies. This has stopped now. Their extensive restoration should be undertaken under the government's job guarantee programmes. Encroachments should be removed and punitive measures for garbage dumping into water bodies should be enforced.

For building climate resilience, it is imperative that policies and plans do not end up being mere roadmaps, but also fuel action to strengthen institutional and financial governance for "preparing and planning, coping, recovering, and importantly, adapting to adverse climate events." Transitioning from being "environment-friendly" to "climate-relevant" is the need of the

hour. This would entail establishing a multilevel, climate governance framework. The World Institute of Sustainable Energy (WISE), Pune, carried out a study to assess how governance in Kerala needs to be transformed. Based on WISE's findings and the first author's own research to write Kerala's environmental history, the following recommendations are suggested.

Climate action must be mainstreamed into developmental planning, with supporting regulation and adequate enforcement. Promulgation and implementation of a more comprehensive land-use policy would be an integral step forward. In the context of emerging climate challenges, there is an urgent need to update and amend existing Acts, rules and regulations.

Streamlining inter- and intra-departmental cooperation in and between local and state departments, and working in partnership with non-state actors would ensure inclusive and participatory action for building climate resilience. Creating a climate fund and introducing monitoring and reporting mechanisms to track progress on climate action, assessing the adequacy of funding and its utilisation, and capacity building for climate action, would also be necessary.

G Madhusoodanan is director general of the World Institute of Sustainable Energy (WISE), Pune. Praveena Sanjay is director, Centre for Climate and Sustainability, WISE. The views expressed are personal

Trim the monuments list, not all are worthy

India currently has 3,695 Monuments of National Importance (MNIs) that are managed by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. The majority of these were inherited from a colonial-era list of protected monuments, along with a few hundred others from the princely states. Some changes have been made over the decades, but there was no systematic attempt to rationalise the list, that is until now.

In our EAC-PM report titled 'Monuments of National Importance: An Urgent Need for Rationalization' (<https://n.run/tNqLU>), published in January 2023, we pointed out that there were many monuments that were simply missing or were unworthy of being on the list of 'national monuments'. The issue of missing monuments has also been raised in Parliament several times. On March 8 this year, ASI issued a gazette notification to delist 18 monuments that have not been found despite years of effort. Suggestions and objections by the public were sought within two months. Now that two months have elapsed, the final notification is awaited. This is the first attempt to delist missing monuments since 1978.

However, there is an equally important problem with monuments that are unworthy of being deemed of national importance. While some of these monuments may be of local importance and should be transferred to respective states for protection, there are many monuments that are simply not worthy of special treatment. As recommended by our report, such monuments need to be removed from the list of MNIs. This would include around 75 graves/cemeteries of British officers and soldiers of neither architectural significance nor cultural importance that are currently protected as MNIs. The good news is that the process of delisting for this category, too, has begun. The initial notification of delisting the statue of John Nicholson, which once stood in Kashmiri Gate in Delhi, was issued in end-July 2024.

Note that the grave of John Nicholson, across from Kashmiri Gate Metro Station, is also an MNI. This brings us to the intriguing question: Who was this John Nicholson in whose memory we grateful Indians have protected two national monuments?

John Nicholson (1821-1857) was a British

THE DELISTING OF MONUMENTS OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE (MNI) NOT WORTHY OF BEING ON THE LIST IS NOT MERELY ABOUT DE-COLONISATION BUT ALSO ABOUT SOLVING A PRACTICAL PROBLEM. THE TAG MEANS THAT A 100 M RADIUS IS CONSIDERED 'PROHIBITED AREA'

brigadier-general who played a crucial role in suppressing the Great Revolt of 1857-58. His brutal methods were considered excessive even by the standards of the time. Lord Canning, then governor general, wrote that Nicholson "sweeping the country like the incarnation of vengeance had struck terror into wavering hearts". Nicholson himself made his feelings clear: "I dislike India and its inhabitants more every day". Even colonial apologists like writer Charles Allen have commented on Nicholson's extreme brutality. Another British writer William Dalrymple dubbed him as a "great Imperial psychopath". He was fatally injured while fighting Indian rebels during the capture of Delhi, and died a few days later. He was then buried in a cemetery near Kashmiri Gate which is now called Nicholson Cemetery.

In the early 1900s, the British colonial government erected a statue of Nicholson in front of Kashmiri Gate. They included both the statue and the grave in their list of protected monuments. This list was unquestioningly adopted by independent India. In 1958, on the request of Lord Brookeborough, then Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, the statue was shipped to Nicholson's birthplace of County Tyrone in Northern Ireland. While rededicating the statue in County Tyrone in 1960, Louis Mountbatten said that he "well remembered" the statue when it stood outside Kashmiri Gate.

Although the statue was sent abroad in 1958, the spot remains to this day in the list of MNIs! The only sign of its existence now is a memorial stone at the site that pays tribute to other British officers killed in 1858. If one visits Nicholson Cemetery, just a short walk away, the grave is to the immediate right of the entrance. It is well-marked and fenced and has a blue ASI board that threatens dire consequences to anyone who may damage the site. Nicholson's statue and grave are hardly the only examples of unworthy national monuments. Our report has listed several others. The state of Nagaland, for instance, has only four MNIs and three of them are graves of minor colonial officials who had been killed by the Nagas!

The delisting of unworthy MNIs is not merely about de-colonisation but also about solving a practical problem. Being deemed an MNI means that a 100-metre radius is considered a 'prohibited area' where all construction activity is banned. An additional 200 metres is considered a 'regulated area' where special permissions are needed. As one can imagine, this leads to all manner of red tape and rent-seeking, especially in a dense urban area like Kashmiri Gate.

It is good to see that ASI is finally beginning to rationalise the list of MNIs. The removal of several missing monuments can be expected soon. With the recent notification regarding Nicholson's statue, the effort to delist unworthy monuments has also begun.

Sanjeev Sanyal is member, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) and Jayasimha is Consultant, EAC-PM. The views expressed are personal

{ VOLKER TURK } UN HUMAN RIGHTS CHIEF

I am deeply worried about the rising risk of a wider conflict in West Asia and plead with all parties to act urgently to de-escalate

In Venezuela, a long night of dictatorship & decline

For a country facing the world's largest displacement crisis in peacetime, grappling with violent crime and inflation,

Venezuela is a tinderbox that can explode at any minute. The recently held presidential elections on July 28 add to this uncertainty and have captured global headlines. It is no secret that the electoral process in Venezuela is marred by irregularities, with numerous presidential candidates jailed or disqualified in the run-up to the elections, and opaque reporting of the results by the National Electoral Council. The incumbent government led by Nicolás Maduro claims they have won the elections, obtaining 51% of the vote, with 44% going to opposition candidate Edmundo González. The opposition asserts they received 67% of the vote, more than double the votes for Maduro. In this polarised environment, there are two narratives in response to the Venezuelan elections.

The first and more dominant narrative is that Maduro's repressive regime needs to go. Maduro is often referred to as an autocrat, one who has co-opted most of the country's democratic institutions, systematically silenced his critics and secured the support of the armed forces by bestowing them with control over the country's critical resources. Consequently, the response from an overwhelming majority of countries has been to either reject the results announced by Maduro's government or call for a transparent count of votes, tabulated and verified by observers. Several Latin American countries have reacted strongly, cutting off diplomatic ties or recalling their diplomats from Venezuela. Maduro has retaliated in equal measure, recalling diplomats from Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Peru, Panama, and Uruguay. Even the leaders of countries that maintain a cordial relationship with Maduro, like Brazil and Colombia, have questioned the veracity of the poll results. Unfortunately, there remains little hope for a transparent and fair verification of all electoral data.

The second narrative is limited mostly to Maduro's own government and his dwindling number of supporters, and a clique of autocratic countries. The list of countries that have recognised Maduro's victory is small, but it includes two major powers that have a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council — China and Russia. The narrative espoused by the Maduro's officials is far more telling. Venezuela's defence minister, Vladimir Padrino Lopez, a four-star general who has occupied the post since 2014, declared effu-

sively in a televised speech that "we are witnessing a *coup d'état* once again plotted by these fascist factors of the extremist Right, supported by imperial factors, American imperialism together with its stooges and lackeys." The Venezuelan armed forces' continued support of Maduro has not swayed even in the slightest throughout the recent electoral process.

Understandably, the future of Venezuela seems clouded by instability, but three things are unlikely to change. First, Venezuelans will continue to flee in search of greener pastures. A recent poll found that "18% of respondents plan to flee Venezuela if Maduro remains in power after the election." They will join nearly eight million Venezuelans who have already left the country. Second, Venezuela's economy will continue to saunter. Although inflation has steadied from its six-digit highs to only 50% in 2023, jobs are scarce, industries have shut down, and investments are few and far between. Third, political repression will also continue, evident by the recent remarks made by Jorge Rodríguez, president of the National Assembly of Venezuela. Rodríguez referred to the entire opposition coalition using the term 'fascists,' who do not deserve 'procedural benefits.' His recent speech at the national assembly calling for opposition leaders to be jailed was met with fervent applause and a standing ovation.

India will be watching the events in Venezuela with rapt attention. The reason? Venezuela is home to the world's largest oil reserves. A decade ago, Venezuela was the third-largest supplier of oil to India, behind only Saudi Arabia and Iraq. India stopped importing Venezuelan oil in late 2020 due to US secondary sanctions. However, India's largest private oil major, Reliance Industries, received a waiver just last week from the US State Department to import Venezuelan oil. The recent turmoil in Venezuela will perhaps push Maduro's regime to look even more closely at India, which will remain among a select few countries that can refine Venezuela's extra-heavy crude oil, and also have the political appetite to deal with a country heavily sanctioned by the US and the western world. India has already shown its willingness to buy oil from another sanctioned country, Russia, and adding Venezuela to the list may help reduce India's oil import bill.

Hari Seshasayee is co-founder of Consilium Group and visiting fellow at Observer Research Foundation. The views expressed are personal

SPOTLIGHT | BANGLADESH CRISIS

How student protests ousted Sheikh Hasina

Protests that began as student-led demonstrations against govt hiring rules in July culminated on Monday with the PM fleeing abroad. At least 300 people were killed in more than a month of protests that ended the autocratic rule of Hasina.

July 1

BLOCKADES BEGIN

University students build barricades blocking roads and railway lines to demand reforms of a quota system for sought-after public sector jobs. The quotas sparked anger among students grappling with high youth unemployment, as nearly 32 million young people are out of work or education in a population of 170 million.

July 16

VIOLENCE INTENSIFIES

Six people are killed in clashes, the first recorded deaths in the protests, a day after bitter violence when protesters and pro-government supporters fought in Dhaka with sticks and hurled bricks at each other. Hasina's government orders the nationwide closure of schools and universities.

July 18

PM REBUFFED

Students reject an olive branch from Hasina, a day after she appeals for calm and vows that every "murder" in the protests would be punished. Protesters chant "down with the dictator" and torch the headquarters of state broadcaster Bangladesh Television and dozens of other government buildings. The government imposes an internet blackout.

July 21

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

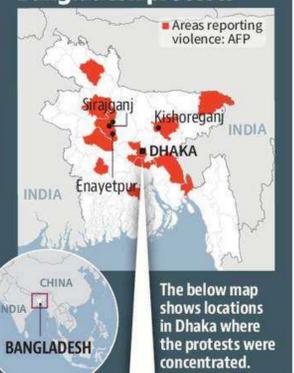
The Supreme Court, seen by critics as a rubber stamp for the will of Hasina's government, rules the decision to reintroduce job quotas was illegal. But its verdict falls short of protesters' demands to entirely abolish reserved jobs for children of "freedom fighters" from Bangladesh's 1971 independence war against Pakistan.

August 5

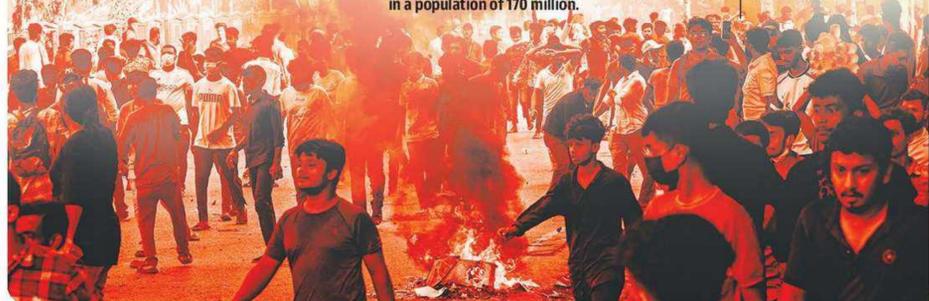
HASINA FLEES

Hasina flees Dhaka by helicopter as thousands of protesters storm her palace, with millions on the streets celebrating, some dancing on the roof of armoured cars and tanks. Her departure comes a day after the deadliest day of protests in which at least 94 people were killed countrywide, many in battles with her supporters.

Bangladesh protests



The below map shows locations in Dhaka where the protests were concentrated.



Dhaka poses a massive foreign policy challenge for New Delhi

India will now have to scramble to respond to the swift changes in Bangladesh — one that can extract a massive cost due to their shared porous border

Prashant Jha

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WASHINGTON: The situation in Bangladesh is a massive setback to Indian foreign policy. The dramatic events underline both Sheikh Hasina's obduracy and authoritarianism in Dhaka, and New Delhi's unwillingness over the years to help reorient Bangladesh's politics towards perhaps a more stable, even if less pliable, direction through democratic channels.

First the caveats.

It is indeed true that Hasina's Awami League brought much-needed political stability to Bangladesh after a period of tumult when she returned to power in 2008 and eventually consolidated. It is true that her rival, Begum Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), led a thoroughly corrupt and violent force that had encouraged Islamists in power and continued to work with it while in opposition.

It is true that Hasina took a public position in favour of deepening ties with India, never an easy proposition in a neighbourhood where nationalism is defined as standing in opposition to India amid the insecurities that come with being dependent on a larger neighbour.

It is true that Hasina followed up this public position with specific actions, especially on countering terrorism by cracking down on groups hostile to India and deepening connectivity. And it is true that BNP retained its ultra-nationalist character, continued to adopt a publicly hostile position against India, and was allied to external and internal forces that were not friendly to Delhi.

As one top Indian official told this writer last year, "If Hasina fell, it means BNP was back. If BNP was back, it meant Jamaat



People shout slogans as they take part in a protest against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her government demanding justice for the victims killed in the recent countrywide deadly clashes, in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on Monday.

was back. If Jamaat was back, it meant ISI (Inter-Services Intelligence) was back. If ISI was back, it meant China's security presence was even more intense. And if Dhaka had a government that was internally reliant on Islamists and externally reliant on Pakistan, it meant that our Northeast was even more fragile. It is a no-brainer that we would support Awami."

But here was the problem. Hasina's domestic legitimacy in the past decade was slipping, and disillusionment kept growing. She centralised power and stifled both internal channels of feedback and external channels of dissent in civil society and media. She crippled institutions that help mediate disputes that occur in polity. She dealt with any expression of discontent against the regime — an inevitable feature of any democracy, but definitely of South Asian

democracies dealing with high levels of deprivation — with repression. Her ability to deliver public goods slipped and economic troubles increased. And, most critically, she and her party appeared to have an unfair advantage in three consecutive elections in which the Awami swept to power.

India knew this. But since it was comfortable with Awami, and didn't want to risk BNP returning, it legitimised Hasina's new authoritarian turn, both in the final few years of the Manmohan Singh-led United Progressive Alliance government and then under the Narendra Modi-led government in the last decade. It worked as long as it worked, but there was never a plan for the day after when it would not work — and it couldn't work forever. New Delhi will now have to scramble to respond to the swift changes

in its neighbouring country — one that can extract a massive cost due to their shared porous border.

High-risk game

The larger takeaway here is that democracies produce outcomes that may not be palatable to many — but democratic politics also ensures that discontent is expressed peacefully; citizens get a chance to vent their anxieties through intermediary institutions in civil society; governments change and elites circulate, but within an overall framework constitutional stability.

India was playing a high-risk game when it backed Hasina. It was a strategy that ran the risk of alienating Bangladeshi citizens increasingly furious with Hasina, and by extension, with India that was seen as enabling her. It also ran the risk of alien-

ating other Bangladeshi political forces. And it ran the risk of buying peace in the short term but instability in the long term because the channels for peaceful transfer of power had closed. In a nutshell, it ran the risk of leaving India's eastern frontier volatile.

There were moments over the last few years when India could have changed course. There were analysts, including scholar Avinash Paliwal in these pages, who regularly warned South Block that Hasina's run was unsustainable. There were friendly Western officials, including in Washington DC, who alerted India that there was a severe crisis of legitimacy that Hasina confronted, only to be told that they didn't understand Bangladesh. There were private signals by BNP that it was willing to engage with India and address Delhi's security con-

cerns, but they were rebuffed by the Indian officialdom that was worried about what Hasina would think if they engaged with her rivals.

One cannot but think of another mass movement in the neighbourhood close to 20 years ago. In Nepal, when an autocratic monarch took power, India displayed remarkably creative diplomacy and peacemaking skills in bringing together democratic parties and Maoists together and supporting a popular agitation to restore democracy in 2005-06. It required thinking out of the box, getting out of one's comfort zone, sacrificing the quick returns by backing an autocracy over the long term returns of having democracy. In the process, Delhi won the goodwill of Nepali citizens as well as the Nepali political class.

The setback in Bangladesh comes at a particularly difficult time in the neighbourhood. India's Act East policy is not working in the immediate vicinity for, just next to Bangladesh, Myanmar remains caught in a vortex of military authoritarianism, ethnic insurgencies and democratic resistance.

Down south, Maldives recently saw the election of a regime that is explicitly hostile to Indian interests and keen to deepen ties with China. Up north, Nepal has just witnessed the return of a leader who is more amenable to Beijing's interests than that of Delhi.

To the west, despite its own economic troubles, Pakistan appears to be making a renewed bid to cause trouble in Kashmir. And all of this when there are no signs of a resolution to what is now a four-year long border standoff with China.

It is time for Indian diplomacy to get back to working quietly to rebuild bridges and influence in the neighbourhood. And yes, doing so with greater commitment to democratic values, with flexible diplomacy, with an openness to diverse points of view, and with a more calibrated approach that does not back just one leader and one party in another country.

Bangladesh 2024 offers a cautionary lesson and throws up a big challenge for India's neighbourhood policy.

Bangladesh has been ruled by the army for long spells in the 1970s and 1980s, and two of the key parties that participated in the consultations with Zaman — the BNP and Jatiya Party — were formed by military rulers Ziaur Rahman and Hussain Mohammad Ershad, respectively.

The military first staged a coup in August 1975 after assassinating Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the father of the nation. This was followed by another coup in November 1975 that allowed former army chief Ziaur Rahman to seize power and become president.

Less than a year after Ziaur Rahman's assassination in May 1981, Ershad assumed power in a bloodless coup in March 1982.

Sudden escalation, losing grip caught Hasina off-guard

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NEW DELHI: The quick escalation of events in Bangladesh took Sheikh Hasina by surprise, and the former prime minister appeared to be in a state of shock when her C130J aircraft landed in Hindon airbase on the outskirts of Delhi, according to people aware of the matter.

Though the Indian establishment was anticipating for the last few days that the situation in Bangladesh may become untenable for Hasina, the speed at which events moved meant that a series of measures had to be put in place on Monday morning.

To this end, external affairs minister S Jaishankar and national security adviser Ajit Doval held a series of meetings with top military commanders, including army chief General Upendra Dwivedi and air force chief VR Chaudhuri. Hasina, who was met by Doval at Hindon on Monday evening, was at the airbase till late at night and is likely to stay there until she leaves the country, the people indicated.

Hasina has travelled to India with her sister Sheikh Rehana, and the two are likely to travel to the UK. They could also go to a Scandinavian country, or a Gulf country. There is also a possibility that Rehana may leave first, and Hasina may follow a day or two later, the people said.

An assessment by Indian



Army personnel stand guard in Dhaka, on Monday.

security officials suggests the main protagonist of the uprising in Bangladesh was army chief Waker-uz-Zaman, who is seen as close to China. Though he was appointed by Hasina on June 23, and is related to her, some Bangladeshi officials had indicated to India at the time that naming him as the army chief may be a mistake.

Zaman said on Monday that efforts had started to set up an interim government, but the fact that the new establishment ordered the release of Hasina's political rival Khaleda Zia as one of its first decisions suggests that the military is making peace with the Jamaat, the people said.

They added that this was not good news for India because it could lead to an escalation in tensions along the eastern frontier.

India-Bangladesh trade 'halted', flights to Dhaka cancelled amid turmoil

Press Trust of India

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KOLKATA/NEW DELHI: India-Bangladesh trade has 'halted' on Monday amid unrest in the neighbouring country due to large-scale protests that resulted in President Sheikh Hasina resigning on Monday, according to traders. On Sunday, the Bangladesh government announced a three-day trade holiday, excluding essential services, through a notification.

West Bengal Exporters Coordination Committee secretary Ujjal Saha said that due to lack of clearance from Bangladeshi customs at their land ports, export and import activities were stalled in all land ports. "There had been some movement in the morning, but later it stopped," he said.

Air India, IndiGo cancel flights to Dhaka

Air India and IndiGo cancelled scheduled flights to and from Dhaka with immediate effect on Monday due to the emerging situation. A Vistara official said it operated the flight from Mumbai on Monday and the situation is being monitored for operations to Dhaka on Tuesday.

While Air India operates two daily flights from Delhi to Dhaka, Vistara flies daily flights from Mumbai and three weekly services from Delhi to the Bangladesh capital.

IndiGo has flights to Dhaka from the national capital, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata.

Unrest in B'desh to hit global apparel firms

DHAKA: The current political unrest in Bangladesh is expected to disrupt the country's clothing industry, potentially affecting global apparel retailers from H&M to Zara as they head into the key holiday season.

Garment factories in the country have been closed indefinitely. According to the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), the readymade garment industry accounts for 83% of the country's total export earnings.

Bangladesh was the third-largest exporter of clothing in the world last year, exporting \$38.4 billion worth of clothes in 2023.

"In view of the emerging situation in Bangladesh, we have cancelled the scheduled operation of our flights to and from Dhaka with immediate effect," an Air India spokesperson said in a statement on Monday.

IndiGo said in view of the ongoing situation in Dhaka, all flights scheduled for tomorrow have unfortunately been cancelled.

Army chief unveils plan to restore 'normalcy' in country

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NEW DELHI: Less than two months after he took over as Bangladesh Army chief, it was left to Gen Waker-uz-Zaman to formally announce the dramatic resignation of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and unveil a plan to restore normalcy in the country of 170 million people roiled by violent protests.

Zaman, who has had a stint as principal staff officer in the Prime Minister's Office, said after consultations on Monday with leaders of Bangladesh's political parties, excluding Hasina's Awami League, that an interim government would be

formed to restore peace and order following demonstrations across the country since last month.

"The honourable prime minister has resigned, and we will form an interim government to do our work. Please have patience, give us some time," Zaman said, speaking in Bengali.

"God willing, we will be successful in solving all the problems by working together. Don't go on the path of confrontation and return to the path of peace and order."

Zaman, 58, an infantry officer who became the army chief on June 23, pledged that all deaths and acts of injustice during the recent protests will be investi-



General Waker-uz-Zaman

gated by authorities. More than 300 people, many of them students and youngsters, were killed in the government's crackdown on protesters.

"I give you my word that there will be justice for all kill-

ings and acts of injustice. Please have faith in the military. I am taking all the responsibility for your lives and property, and I give you my word that you should not give up hope," he said.

Zaman said he had held talks with leaders of major political parties, including Jamaat-e-Islami chief Shafiqur Rahman and top leaders of the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the Jatiya Party, and would meet President Mohammed Shahabuddin to discuss the formation of the interim government.

Responding to question on whether the erstwhile ruling party was invited to the meeting, he said: "There was no one

from the Awami League."

He also gave an assurance that all the demands of the protesters would be fulfilled and peace and order restored in the country. "Please cooperate with me and abstain from all the destruction, killing, fighting and conflict," he said.

Zaman said the army will continue maintaining peace and order, and that it is the responsibility of students, political leadership, workers and media to help the military to control the situation.

He said he had also directed the army and police not to fire at protesters. "If peace is restored, there is no need for curfew or other emergency measures," he added.



(From left) Protesters shout slogans as they celebrate Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's resignation; protesters break into the PM's official residence; demonstrators vandalise the Bangabandhu memorial museum; and people set fire to public infrastructure during protests against Hasina and her government, in Dhaka on Monday. Hasina has resigned and fled the country with her sister as anti-government protesters converged on the capital, on Monday. AP, AFP, BLOOMBERG

Hasina's rise & fall: Tragedy to complete control to exile

Her ouster came after weeks of relentless protests and clashes with security forces that have claimed nearly 300 lives

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DHAKA: Sheikh Hasina, the longest-serving prime minister in Bangladesh's history, resigned and fled the country on Monday, bringing a tumultuous end to her 15-year rule as an extraordinary wave of protest succeeded in toppling her government.

Her ouster came after weeks of relentless protests and clashes with security forces that have killed nearly 300 people since mid-July, according to local media reports.

What began as peaceful demonstrations by students frustrated with a quota system for government jobs unexpectedly grew into a major uprising against Hasina and her ruling Awami League party.

The recent upheaval was the largest and last crisis for the 76-year-old leader, the world's longest-serving female head of government, who won a fourth consecutive term in January in an election boycotted by the main opposition amid concerns that the polls were not free or fair.

Hasina first became prime minister in 1996, and then returned in 2008 to win the office she held until Monday.

Analysts who have tracked her rise say her political life was driven by tragedy. On August 15, 1975, her father and the first leader of independent Bangladesh, Sheikh Mujib Rahman, was assassinated in a military coup.

That fateful night, while 28-year-old Hasina was in Germany with her younger sister, a group of army officers burst into the family's Dhaka home and killed her parents, three other siblings and the household staff — 18 people in all.

Some say the brutal act pushed her to consolidate unprecedented power. It was also what motivated her throughout her political career, analysts say. "Hasina has one very powerful quality as a politician — and that is to weaponise

B'desh: A history of political upheavals

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's resignation after weeks of violent protests, announced on Monday in a televised address by the army chief, has brought focus once more to the country's history of coups and political upheavals.

1975
On August 15, 1975, a tragic event reshaped Bangladesh's political landscape. A group of army officers, led by Khondaker Mostaq Ahmad, orchestrated a coup, assassinating the nation's founding leader, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Mostaq Ahmad assumed the presidency, but his rule was short-lived. Just months later, in November 1975, another coup led by Ziaur Rahman toppled Mostaq's regime.

1977
On April 21, 1977, Ziaur Rahman, who was then the Army Chief, seized power in a bloodless coup, ousting the acting government under President Sayem. Ziaur Rahman declared martial law and became President. His tenure, though authoritarian and marred by human rights abuses, also saw economic growth and infrastructure development. Ziaur Rahman's rule ended abruptly with his assassination in 1981.

1982
Another significant coup occurred on March 24, 1982, when Army Chief Hussain Muhammad Ershad ousted President Abdus Sattar, who had succeeded Ziaur Rahman. Ershad justified the coup by pointing to widespread corruption and mismanagement. He declared martial law and appointed himself as Chief Martial Law Administrator. Ershad's rule was marked by political repression, but also economic development. He was eventually forced to step down in 1990 amid mass protests.

1996
MILITARY INTERVENTION
In 1996, Army Chief Abu Saleh Mohammad Nasim played a crucial role in pressuring PM Khaleda Zia's government to conduct fair elections. Nasim's actions led to Zia's resignation and the establishment of a caretaker government to oversee the electoral process. Although the military did not directly seize power, this intervention was viewed as a "soft coup".

2007
MILITARY-BACKED CARETAKER GOVT
The political scene in Bangladesh took another dramatic turn in January 2007 when the military supported a caretaker government led by Fakhruddin Ahmed. The caretaker government assumed control amid widespread accusations of corruption and electoral manipulation. During its tenure, the govt implemented reforms and prosecuted several high-profile politicians. It oversaw elections in 2008, after which it peacefully handed over power to the newly elected government.

2024
PM Sheikh Hasina flees the country, with the nation's army chief saying he'll work to form an interim government.

trauma," Avinash Paliwal, a former university lecturer who specialised in South Asian strategic affairs, said in January ahead of the general election.

To Hasina, her father was the founder of independent Bangladesh after its forces, aided by India, defeated Pakistan in 1971. After the assassination, Hasina lived for years in exile in India, then made her way back to Bangladesh and took over the Awami League.

But the country's military rulers had her in and out of house detention all through the 1980s until, after a general election in 1996, she became prime minister for the first time.

What followed was a decades-long power struggle between Hasina and former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, the chief of the main opposition Bangladesh

Nationalist Party, who's now ailing and under house arrest.

The two women ran the country alternatively for years in a bitter rivalry that polarised Bangladesh politics. Hasina has often accused the BNP of courting hard-line extremists that her party, which calls itself moderate and secular, had worked to stamp out, while Zia's BNP claims the Awami League is using oppressive tactics to stay in power.

The two traded blame as the recent protests turned violent. The BNP, which backed the student protesters, repeated calls for Hasina to step down while she accused them of stoking the violence.

She said the protests had been overtaken by the BNP and another opposition party that her government banned

recently. After Hasina lost the general election in 2001, she became the leader of the opposition. Political violence, unrest and military interventions marked the years until she was reelected.

Back in power, she fixed her sights on the economy and built infrastructure previously unseen in Bangladesh: a strong electricity grid that reaches far-flung villages and big-ticket projects such as highways, rail lines and ports.

The country's garment industry became one of the world's most competitive.

The development gains sparked other advances. Girls were educated on par with boys, and an increasing swell of women joined the workforce. Those close to her described Hasina as hands-on and passionate about uplifting women and

poor people.

On the international stage, Hasina cultivated ties with powerful countries including both India and China. But the United States and other Western nations expressed concerns over violations of human rights and press freedoms, straining relations. In January, after she won a fourth consecutive term, the US and the United Kingdom said the polls were not credible, free and fair. Previous elections in 2018 and 2024 were also marred by allegations of vote rigging and a boycott by opposition parties.

Bangladesh felt the real force of the 1947 partition's economic disconnect from India after liberation.

Pakistan's half-hearted attempts to augment jute and textile production and exports from East Pakistan, failure to enhance industrial and infrastructure capacities, and inability to manage unionism meant that economic disenfranchisement with West Pakistan drove Bengali separatism as much as language politics. During Operation Searchlight, Bangladesh's

WATCH: Viral video shows protesters inside Hasina's palace

Mujib's death: A turning point in B'desh's history

Avinash Paliwal

In the early hours of August 15, 1975, a group of soldiers led by Major Shariful Haque Dalim entered Mujib's Dhanmondi residence and killed the Bangabandhu with all his family members and their personal guard. The assassins then dashed to the radio station and announced Khandkar Mosh-taque Ahmed as president. Around two hundred people were killed that day after a nationwide curfew was imposed. The youngest was Sheikh Russel, Mujib's 10-year-old son. The killings marked a dangerous turn in regional geopolitics.

Informed about these developments just before her Independence Day speech at the Red Fort, Indira Gandhi was shaken. It fuelled her paranoia about what her own enemies could do — a fear that developed in parallel with India's rise as a paramount subcontinental power after 1971 and led to the imposition of Emergency in June 1975. She used Mujib's assassination to justify the imposition and continuation of the Emergency. In four years of liberation, India lost an ally in Dhaka, and R&AW, the Machiavellian architect of Bangladesh's liberation, stood humiliated. India saw Mujib's assassination as Pakistan's "striking back".

New Delhi had feared for Mujib's life. Ten days before the assassination, [RN] Kao visited Dhaka to warn Mujib about such threats and requested he shift his residence to 'Bangabhaban'. Mujib refused. But now that Mujib was dead, New Delhi engaged with the new regime. It debated the merits of such engagement and also considered arming pro-Mujib figures. To understand India's actions after Mujib's death, it's critical to understand how it viewed Bangladesh's economic and political situation before the act.

Bangladesh felt the real force of the 1947 partition's economic disconnect from India after liberation.

Pakistan's half-hearted attempts to augment jute and textile production and exports from East Pakistan, failure to enhance industrial and infrastructure capacities, and inability to manage unionism meant that economic disenfranchisement with West Pakistan drove Bengali separatism as much as language politics. During Operation Searchlight, Bangladesh's

human capital received a further blow as its educated and business elite were targeted.

Inheritance of such a troubled economy ensured that feeding all Bangladeshis and stabilising the economy were pressing concerns for Mujib. Unfortunately, he failed to develop systems that could prevent famine. Food grain production was not the problem; lack of distribution capacities coupled with corruption and instability was. Bangladeshi leadership's failure to overcome internal fissures helped create the 1974 famine. Mujib's 'drastic' response to ban political parties and create a one-party system known as the Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awami League (Baksal) — a Moscow-backed idea that Mujib termed a 'second revolution' — topped the list of structural causes for his assassination in India's reading.

As someone who lived through the famine remembers, "during 1974 all we used to eat was rice water, and my mother owned just two saarees". For an economist, it was "1943 re-enacted". The traumas of the 1974 famine, which occurred after the flooding of river Padma, are documented in *The Unfashionable Tragedy* by filmmaker John Pilger.

He notes that it was "possibly the greatest famine in recorded history". The official death estimate stands at 27,000, but unofficial estimates range between 1 to 1.5 million. Indian officials noted that the famine led to another spurt in cross-border displacement and the BSF intercepted about 50,000 Bangladesh nationals between August 1974 and July 1975. Most were 'pushed back'.

Mujib needed to urgently augment food production and streamline distribution. But to fill the gap, food donations from India and the US were critical. The US food aid, as part of the PL480 programme, helped preventing famine before 1974.

But it was contingent on Cold War geopolitics. Washington, DC cancelled two large shipments scheduled for delivery in September 1974. Why? Because the aid came with a clause that recipients must not trade with countries blacklisted by the US (Cuba in this case). Indian food aid itself had stopped in July 1972 due to drought in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, and West Bengal.

Bangladesh's tiny forex reserve and a global food grain price hike in the early 1970s worsened the

situation. India offered to rebuild destroyed infrastructure and improve bilateral trade as solutions. But that counted for little.

The speed and scale of Bangladesh's economic collapse meant that India was first in line for people's fury. Propaganda blaming India for destroying the Hardinge bridge and Indian engineers who repaired it for stealing Bangladesh property was pervasive.

Bilateral ties tensed over Ganga river water sharing. The existence of Farakka barrage and hitherto abortive talks with Pakistan meant that 'India is drying us up' became a popular refrain. In April 1972, India offered 40,000 cusecs of water, as opposed to Mujib's demand for 35,000 cusecs, to subsidise the issue. But a popular feeling that India was exploiting Bangladesh took root. Worried that Indian private interests were encouraging smuggling, Dhaka demanded government-to-government economic interactions only...

Indian diplomats felt that Mujib's 1975 emergency measures were too little, too late. From Dhaka, Jyotindra Nath Dixit, India's ambitious deputy high commissioner, reported that Mujib's plan to shift the 'centre of gravity from the District headquarters to the Taluk headquarters' was done in the 'pious hope' of shifting the state's distributive capacities in rural Bangladesh.

Instead, it alienated elites, and 'did nothing to remove the burden on ordinary Bangla citizens'. Although Mujib was still popular, Baksal's failure could 'result in his elimination from the political affairs'. The authoritarian anticipations on Mujib's part had come true.

As Amartya Sen notes in his seminal 1981 study, Bangladesh's food grain production in 1974 was higher than in previous years. It was post-Emergency measures, including the creation of Baksal, that were ineffectual. Bangladesh was played a bad economic hand in 1971, and there were limits to what any government could have done. But Mujib made the situation worse, and many people believe that he paid the price for it with his life.

A week after his assassination, Indian officials noted the 'deep scepticism of Mujib's capacity to improve matters' tilted the balance against Bangabandhu.

Edited excerpts from "India's Near East: A New History" by Avinash Paliwal

Lebanon's Hezbollah launches drone attack on northern Israel

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JERUSALEM: The Lebanese militant group Hezbollah said it launched a drone attack on northern Israel that the Israeli military said wounded two Israeli troops. The violence came amid fears of an all-out regional war following the killings last week of a senior Hezbollah commander in Lebanon and Hamas' top political leader in Iran.

The Iranian-backed Hezbollah said it targeted a military base in northern Israel in response to "attacks and assassinations" by Israel in several villages in southern Lebanon. The attack did not appear to be the more intense retaliation that's expected from Iran and its allied militias.

Israel and Hezbollah have exchanged near-daily strikes for the past 10 months during the war in Gaza. Last week's assassinations of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran



Rockets fired from Lebanon intercepted by Israel's Iron Dome air defence system, in northern Israel, on Sunday. AFP

and Hezbollah commander Fouad Shukur in Beirut have heightened regional tensions. On Monday, the head of Iran's Revolutionary Guard warned Israel, saying it was "digging its own grave" with actions against Hamas. Meanwhile, Israel's defense minister stated that the military is prepared for a "swift

transition to offense." President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris will meet with the White House national security team later on Monday. Biden is also scheduled to speak with King Abdullah II of Jordan, following a rare visit by Jordan's foreign minister to Iran over the weekend.

{ AFTER SOUTHPORT RIOTS }

UK PM vows criminal sanctions

Agencies
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LONDON: UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Monday vowed "swift criminal sanctions" following an emergency meeting on the far-right riots that broke out across England last week over the murder of three children.

The prime minister met with ministers and police chiefs, including Scotland Yard boss Mark Rowley, to discuss how to quell the violence that first broke out in Southport, northwest England, on Tuesday.

Over the weekend, several police officers were injured and scores of people were arrested as mobs throwing bricks and flares clashed with officers, burnt and looted shops, and smashed the windows of cars and homes.

As part of a "number of actions" to come out of Monday's meeting, the government will "ramp up criminal justice" to ensure that "sanctions are swift", Starmer told the media. He also said a "standing army"



A police officer clashes with a protester outside a hotel in Rotherham, Britain, on Sunday. REUTERS

of specially-trained police officers was ready to be deployed to support local forces where any further riots break out. "My focus is on making sure that we stop this disorder," he added. Clashes erupted in Southport a day after three young girls were

killed and five more children critically injured during a knife attack at a Taylor Swift-themed dance class.

False rumours initially spread on social media saying the attacker was a Muslim asylum seeker, but police said the sus-

pect was a 17-year-old born in Wales, with UK media reporting he has Rwandan parents.

However, that has not stopped mosques from being targeted.

Police have since arrested hundreds of people in towns and cities nationwide, with anti-immigration demonstrators and rioters facing off against police and counter-protestors, including groups of Muslims.

Online warning

The prime minister on Sunday warned rioters they would "regret" participating in England's worst disorder in 13 years, while his interior minister Yvette Cooper told the BBC on Monday that "there will be a reckoning". Cooper also said that social media put a "rocket booster" under the violence, and Starmer stressed that "criminal law applies online as well as offline". Police have blamed the violence on people of the English Defence League, an anti-Islam organisation founded 15 years ago whose supporters have been linked to football hooliganism.

UKRAINE HITS A RUSSIAN SUBMARINE AND AIRFIELD

Associated Press
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KYIV: Ukraine has sunk a Russian submarine and hit a Russian airfield in the past 24 hours, in line with a surge of long-range attacks against Russian targets, officials said. Russia said Ukrainian drones also hit an apartment building, killing one person.

The uptick in attacks since July comes as Ukraine mounts pressure on allies to allow it to use long-range missiles to strike targets in Russia. Western allies, in particular the US, have so far resisted, fearing escalation from Moscow.

Ukraine struck a Russian Kilo-class submarine and an S-400 anti-aircraft missile complex in the Moscow-occupied Crimean peninsula, according to a statement from the General Staff on Saturday.

The air defence system was established to protect the Kerch Strait Bridge, an important logistics and transport hub supplying Russian forces.

buzz

Union MoS addresses Indian Organ Donation Day event

Anupriya Patel stressed the need for organ donation from deceased and "brain stem dead" individuals to meet the country's demand. She noted that Prime Minister Modi emphasises that a single donor can save up to eight lives. This was shared at the 14th Indian Organ Donation Day ceremony, in the presence of Dr V K Paul, Member (Health) at NITI Aayog. Addressing the occasion, Patel lauded the family of deceased organ donors for "doing the greatest service to mankind by saving the lives of numerous people".

NHRC, India takes note of thirteen deaths due to negligence

NHRC, India took suo moto cognisance of a media report that at least 13 lives were lost in Delhi-NCR including six due to electrocution and four due to drowning after falling into overflowing drains amid heavy rain, magnifying the creaky infrastructure and civic negligence. Recently, the Commission had also taken suo moto cognisance of two news reports revealing a painful loss of human lives due to drowning and electrocution in the National Capital indicating negligence of the authorities.

ALLEN announces special scholarship for NEET repeaters batch

ALLEN Career Institute announced a special scholarship for repeater students preparing for NEET UG and JEE Entrance examinations. Repeater batches of the medical entrance exam NEET-UG 2025 and engineering entrance exam JEE Mains and Advanced are starting from the first to the last week of Aug. ALLEN Career Institute Kota President, Vinod Kumawat said that previously, there have been students who joined ALLEN's NEET-UG repeaters batch and achieved a hike in their marks.

BHEL secures demo of methanol firing in gas turbine

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) received the first-ever order for the demonstration of methanol firing in a gas turbine at the 350 MW Kayamkulam Combined Cycle Power Plant (CCPP) of NTPC, installed in the Alappuzha district in Kerala. This will be the first such demonstration project of its kind in India. Significantly, this demonstration will pave the way for reviving utilised gas turbine sets in the country which are inoperative due to the unavailability of natural gas and naphtha.

POWERGRID to collaborate with AIIMS for the benefit of underprivileged patients

RK Tyagi, Chairman and Managing Director, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) met M Srinivas, Director, AIIMS, Delhi in the presence of other Senior Officials of POWERGRID, AK Mishra, ED (NR-I), A Nagaraju, ED (ESMD) and Vikram Singh Bhal, ED (CC-CMG). Discussions were held for collaboration in CSR support to AIIMS for better service to the poor and underprivileged through automation and facilities provision. POWERGRID as a responsible corporate citizen has



made a 300-bed Vishram Sadan at AIIMS, Delhi for providing a comfortable and cost-effective stay to the patients and their relatives during their treatment is underway.

CM Vishnu Deo Sai celebrates 'Hareli Tihar' at residence

CM Vishnu Deo Sai celebrated 'Hareli Tihar' at his residence on Aug 4. He extended his greetings to the people of the state and addressed the people present at the celebration, stating that his Govt's top priority is to bring prosperity and well-being to farmers. He said that Chhattisgarh is an agriculture-dominated state, with 80 per cent of the population dependent on farming. The Chief Minister highlighted the



significant decisions taken by former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Prime Minister Narendra Modi to enhance agriculture and benefit farmers.

Sri Aurobindo College hosts International Conference

Sri Aurobindo College (Evening), University of Delhi, in collaboration with Let's Do It India Foundation, organised an International Conference on "Exploring India-New Zealand Partnership for a Sustainable Future" on Friday, August 2. The event took place on the college premises and featured prominent speakers from industry and academia from both nations. The conference was graced by the kind and encouraging words of Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State (Independent



RailTel and Cylus announced a collaboration to strengthen the cybersecurity framework of Indian Railways infrastructure. RailTel known for its extensive

PMBI and ESIC sign MoU to provide high-quality medicines



pan-India optic fibre network and pivotal role in ICT services, partnered with Cylus to integrate and deploy CylusOneTM, Cylus' rail-specific cybersecurity solution.

NHRC takes note of death of twelve inmates

NHRC, India took suo moto cognisance of a report that 12 inmates died within one month between July 15 and July 31 at a Delhi Govt-run shelter home, Asha Kiran for people with mental impairment in Rohini. Reportedly, they included ten women and two men. Their symptoms were similar which were diarrhoea and vomiting. Several other inmates are reportedly undergoing treatment at the hospital. As per the medical care unit of the shelter home in July, 54 inmates were sent outside the facility for treatment.

Indian-origin Irish councillor visits New Delhi

Supriya Singh, elected Councillor for Raheny-Donaghmede, Dublin Bay North, visited New Delhi. She met with BJP Delhi wing president Virendra Sachdeva, MP Manoj Tiwari, and Vijay Chauthaiwala, in charge of Foreign Affairs. Supriya shared that her family has always been BJP supporters, and she is delighted to meet the leaders dedicated to India's betterment. A former journalist from New Delhi with an impressive background, Singh won the local election seat for Raheny-Donaghmede in Dublin Bay North in the 2024 elections.

Museum professionals participate in conclave

The Ministry of Culture organised a State Museum Conclave, Stakeholder Consultation, and Capacity Building Workshop from Aug 1 to 3, for the upcoming Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum, which is a part of the Central Vista Redevelopment Project. The event focused on engaging key actors in both State and Central museum ecosystems, fostering collaboration between Central and State governments in management, and building capacity with expertise. The conclave, brought together several Govt museum professionals.



NCRTC was honoured with the 14th Platinum Global Sustainability Award 2024 for its RRTS Project. This accolade, presented by the Energy and Environment Foundation (EEF), was part of the 15th World Renewable Energy Technology Congress held in New Delhi on August 2.



VIT held its 39th annual convocation with Prof Anil D Sahasrabudhe, Chairman, NETT, MBA, Exec Committee-MAAC as the chief guest. TR Parasuraman, Chairman, ASSOCHAM KSCDC and senior executive advisor, Toyota Industries Engine India, was the guest of honour, Dr G V Sivanathan, presided the convocation.



"The Role of Climate Co-Benefit Methodologies for Strengthening Climate Action by Indian PSEs", a workshop organised by SCOPE and GIZ, was inaugurated by SK Gupta, Chairman, SCOPE & CMD, GAIL (India) Ltd, in the presence of Taina Dyckhoff, HoD Climate & Environment, German Embassy.



"VIRAASAT", a fortnight-long exhibition dedicated to celebrating 10th National Handloom Day began at Handloom Haat in Jampath on Aug 3. NHDC is organising the handloom expo under the aegis of the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India which will conclude on Aug 16.



The ICG, Indian Army, and IAF successfully rescued three personnel stranded at Soojipara Waterfalls on Aug 3. During their morning combining operation along the river banks from Mundakai to Soojipara, the ICG search team sighted three individuals stranded near the waterfalls.



Tata Power-DDL successfully steered a comprehensive training program on "Best Practices in Smart Metering" for senior officials from Senegal National Electricity Agency (SENELEC), Senegal in line with its vision to capacity building in various fields of the power distribution sector.



ICG successfully conducted its maiden night landing of the ICG Dornier aircraft at Agatti Airport in the Lakshadweep Islands on Aug 2. Located approximately 460 kilometres west of Kochi in the Arabian Sea, Agatti features the only airstrip in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep.



Union Minister of Food Processing Industries, Chirag Paswan chaired the Industry Meet with industry leaders and micro-entrepreneurs of food and allied sectors, on Aug 3. He expressed that he would always work towards the upliftment of farmers and take the food processing sector to his home state.

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Winning by a whisker

Breaking down Noah Lyles's Olympic 100m victory by 5000ths of a second, in a race where all 8 finalists clocked sub-10 seconds for the first time. Races are decided by the torso of the athlete that crosses the line first.



Position every 10m



Previous winning margins

	Tokyo 2020 Final	Rio 2016	London 2012	Beijing 2008	Athens 2004	Sydney 2000	Atlanta 1996	Barcelona 1992	Seoul 1988	LA 1984	Moscow 1980
1ST	Marcell Jacobs 9.8Secs	Usain Bolt 9.81	Usain Bolt 9.63	Usain Bolt 9.69	Justin Gatlin 9.85	Maurice Greene 9.87	Donovan Bailey 9.84	Linford Christie 9.96	Carl Lewis 9.92	Carl Lewis 9.99	Allan Wells 10.25
2ND	Fred Kerley 9.84Secs	Justin Gatlin 9.89	Yohan Blake 9.75	Richard Thompson 9.89	Francis Obikwelu 9.86	Ato Boldon 9.99	Frank Fredericks 9.89	Frankie Fredericks 10.02	Linford Christie 9.97	Sam Graddy 10.19	Silvio Leonard 10.25

With bronze in sight against Jia, Lakshya caves in to the pressure

Indian shuttler led 21-13, 8-3 before a spectacular slide saw him lose the playoff

As the shuttle brushed his knee and landed on his side of the court, Lakshya Sen looked across to Lee Zii Jia. The Malaysian walked up to the net and the two exchanged a lengthy embrace, after which the Indian stood and acknowledged the crowd.

Lakshya then trudged towards his box and slammed the racquet on his bag. It was the first real display of frustration from the youngster. Otherwise, it was all sadness. Of not just losing the bronze medal men's singles match but caving in spectacularly in it. Of letting a match slip out in no time that was well within grasp. Of having to live with a similar feeling twice in two days. Of falling painstakingly short of a medal after just about qualifying for the Olympics and wriggling out of a difficult group stage draw.



take away was a 21-13, 16-21, 11-21 scoreline. As those numbers stayed put for a while on the giant screen on the court, Lakshya walked off the court. A few moments later, he was largely at a loss of words to explain it all.

"How do I start?" he said, his first few words barely audible.



How about when the sensational slide started, at 21-13, 8-3 as Lee won eight straight points and zoomed past in a flash to leave him in a state of blur? "I started this match really well, but couldn't keep the lead. Once he started playing well, it was hard for me to find the answers for the rallies," Lakshya said, the first sentence he could barely piece together.

Lakshya had hoped to find the answers to something similar a day earlier on Sunday. Then, against the eventual gold medalist Viktor Axelsen, he let a 20-17 edge in the first game and 7-0 gap in the second go up in the air to lose in straight games. Axelsen, from his own experience, was sure the Indian's mind, looking too far ahead, faltered there. Maybe he did



Lakshya Sen and Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia after their men's singles bronze medal playoff.

again with a lot more to lose the next day.

"Mind training is important," the legendary Prakash Padukone, Lakshya's mentor who was seated courtside, told reporters after the match. "Across sports, we don't give enough attention to sports psychology, which is very important. Especially in the Olympics."

In his young and promising career, Lakshya has been there and done that several times — at the 2021 World Championships

(bronze), at the 2022 Commonwealth Games (gold), during India's 2022 Thomas Cup triumph. He even beat the same opponent earlier this year at the All England Championships. The Olympics, and its "lot of unexpected moments", as Lee put it, was where the mind did not complement the body.

"At times when the score is crucial, you have to be mentally really strong. Credit to him (Lee), he played a solid game in the second,"

Lakshya said.

Lakshya was solid all through the first game and the first bit of the second. He was sharp, his smashes were sensational and, unlike against Axelsen, he pounced to convert the first game point opportunity. Opening an early lead in the second, a lucky net chord too dropped the shuttle on the other side. Everything seemed to be going Lakshya's way. Until everything went the other.

A couple of errors into the net

from Lakshya kickstarted a run of eight straight points by Lee. At the break, coach Vimal Kumar rushed to Lakshya, perhaps sensing a tipping point. Lakshya rallied to make it 12 points apiece, but Lee was at it again, revving up the pace and intensity behind his strokes and forcing Lakshya to go into the defensive. "I tried to turn the game to an attacking game," Lee said.

It left Lakshya bruised, literally too as his right elbow had to be frequently attended to and taped. Lee raced to a 9-2 lead in the decider after a tentative back line misjudgement by the Indian. Lakshya was clouded. Lee was thunderous. At 16-8, the Malaysian leapt forward full stretch, both legs up in the air, put the shuttle back dipping across, got up on his feet and placed it over the Indian's head. It was the first point Lee celebrated animatedly as Lakshya stood stunned at the net.

Lakshya remained so after the match. Padukone minced no words in saying it was introspection time for the youngster.

"Ultimately, even the federation, the foundation, the academies can only do so much. Ultimately players also have to take responsibility and go and deliver when it matters the most," Padukone said. "They have beaten the same players in some other tournaments. So when it comes to the Olympics, we are not able to... we need to introspect, the players also need to introspect, 'okay, am I doing enough?'"

"Maybe the players are not working hard enough. Maybe it is not enough to get a medal at the Olympics."

Indeed, the Olympics of maybes this will be for Lakshya.

Ab hoga desh ka sapna poora, Sammaan Se!

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India go down to China in skeet bronze playoff

HT Correspondent
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NEW DELHI: India's Anant Jeet Singh Naruka and Maheshwari Chauhan gave a tough fight to China's Lyu Jianlin and Jiang Yiting but lost a tense bronze medal playoff in skeet mixed team at the Paris Olympics on Monday. It was yet another heartbreaking fourth place finish for India as they lost by just one hit (44 to 43).

The Chinese pair began with scoring eight out of eight hits in the 48-shot (24 each shooter) final. Anant Jeet missed one shot in the first series that put China in the lead 8-7. After a change of station (firing point), India started first but both shooters missed one shot each. China had an even poor round with Jiang missing three in a row and that drew the scores 13-13.

China's Jiang had another miss in her next sequence of four shots but the Indian pair failed to capitalise. Chauhan also dropped a shot and both teams had 20 hits each after three rounds. China then took a one-hit advantage in the next series of eight shots (28-27). Even as Anant Jeet and Chauhan did not miss any in the next sequence, China was equally on target holding on to the slender one-point lead. It all boiled down

to the last eight hits for both pairs. Shooting from station No. 5, India held their nerves to score eight out of eight. But China's Lyu, who had a perfect 24 hits in the match, and Jiang shot brilliantly under pressure to sail through.

Italy claimed the gold as Gabriele Rossetti and Diana Bacosi beat favourites Vincent Hancock and Austen Smith of the United States 45-44.

This is the first time that mixed team skeet event was being held at the Olympics. Earlier Naruka and Chauhan, both shooters hailing from Rajasthan, made a surprise cut in the bronze medal match, setting up a clash against China in the 15-team qualification. Anant Jeet and Maheshwari shot 146 to qualify in 4th place. Maheshwari was impressive notching up 50/50 in her final two rounds. She missed one target in the first round. Naruka, on the other hand, had scores of 25, 23 and 24 in his three rounds.

Naruka, 25, has been taking big strides in the event. At the Asian Games in Hangzhou, he won individual silver besides team bronze alongside Angad Vir Singh Bajwa and Gurjoat Khangura. He ensured an Olympic quota place for India by winning silver at the Asian Championships in Kuwait City, this year.



India's Maheshwari Chauhan and Anant Jeet Singh Naruka after the skeet mixed team event on Monday.

Biles caps campaign with floor silver after beam fall

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PARIS: US gymnastics superstar Simone Biles polished off a redemptive Paris Olympics campaign with a floor exercise silver on Monday, shrugging off a balance beam fall to finish runner-up to Brazilian Rebeca Andrade.

Biles went into the final day of competition with a chance to push her tally of Paris gold to a record-setting five in one Games.

She had already led the US to team gold, regained the all-around crown she first won as part of a four-gold haul in Rio in 2016 and soared to vault gold. She couldn't

find her way back to the top of the podium on Monday, but Biles said she'd leave Paris proud of all four of the medals that took her career total to 11.

"I've accomplished way more than my wildest dreams not just at this Olympics but in the sport," said Biles, who owns a jaw-dropping 41 world and Olympic medals — 30 of them gold. "So I can't be mad at my performances," she added. "A couple of years ago I didn't think I'd be back here at an Olympic Games, so competing and then walking away with four medals, I'm pretty proud of myself."

Two errors proved costly in Biles's breathtaking floor routine.



Sable qualifies for final of 3000m steeplechase

Avinash Sable became the first Indian man to qualify for the 3000m steeplechase final after finishing fifth in his heat but quarter-miler Kiran Pahal failed to book an automatic semi-final berth in women's 400m following a seventh place finish in her heat on Monday. Sable, easily the most decorated track and field athlete after Neeraj Chopra in the current contingent, timed 8:15.43 minutes to finish fifth in the second heat.



Olympic bronze medalist Sarabjot Singh (centre) lights the lamp alongside Union telecom minister Jyotiraditya Scindia during the release of the commemorative postage stamp to mark the 2024 Paris Olympics.

India beat Romania to enter quarter-finals

India defeated higher-ranked Romania 3-2 to enter the quarterfinals of the women's table tennis team competition. Sreeja Akula and Archana Kamath beat Adina Diaconu and Elizabeta Samara 11-9, 12-10, 11-7 in the doubles. Manika Batra beat Bernadette Szocs 11-5, 11-7, 11-7. In the second singles match however, Sreeja went down 11-8, 4-11, 11-7, 6-11, 8-11 to Samara and Archana lost 11-5, 8-11, 7-11, 9-11 to Bernadette to squander the lead. Manika then blanked Adina 11-5, 11-9, 11-9 to seal the tie in India's favour.



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With a spot in final at stake, India confident of getting past Germany

The Tokyo Games bronze winners bid for a better medal by beating the world champions in semis

Harmanpreet Singh believes there is something in it. Something in the way they pulled off the heist of hockey at these Games. Something in the way they rallied together against Great Britain. Something in the way that victory against adversity felt.

"Yes, the kind of situation that happened in the match and we still managed to win, I think something is there," the India skipper said when asked if a win like that made him believe in destiny. "We are just two steps (away)."

The first step, towards improving the colour of the Tokyo Olympics medal and gunning for the ultimate golden prize, will be taken on Tuesday in the semi-finals against Germany, the team they beat 5-4 for the bronze medal three years ago.

That doesn't matter now. Nor does the shootout victory against Great Britain on Sunday after which emotions ran high. The race is still on, those last couple of hard strides still to be taken.

That they're very much in it to do that shows how far the 2021 bronze medallists have progressed over the course of this campaign, in which both the Tokyo gold medallists (Belgium) and silver medallists (Australia) were knocked out in the last eight. India dug in and came out stronger, with 10 fighting men on the park for nearly three quarters of the game.

They will have to do with one less man in the squad against Germany too, with Amit Rohidas suspended for one match by the FIH technical delegate for his red card against Great Britain. It was appealed and upheld by the FIH jury on Monday.

That will be another big test of the players' mental resilience, which Paddy Upton, the team's mental conditioning coach who planned an adventure trip up in the Swiss Alps coming into the Games, has seen enough of.

"We've worked hard on it, but it was only ever going to be revealed when the rubber hit the road. If ever it was going to get



tested, I hoped it would come through. Now we've seen they have resilience," said Upton.

Germany, champions of the World Cup held in India last year and ranked world No.2, will also come in with momentum. A 3-2 quarter-final win against Argentina scoring a late goal underlined their toughness. The Pool A toppers have scored more goals than India -- they beat hosts France 8-2 -- a greater volume of field goals and have dashing drag-flicker Gonzalo

Peillat in their armoury. India's penalty corner defence will again have to stand tall in the absence of their primary first rusher Rohidas, like they did against Great Britain.

"An hour ago, we were up against it. And now, we are talking about the semi-final," head coach Craig Fulton said after that win. "So,

we go slowly up there. Slowly, slowly."

Slowly is exactly how India have grown into this Olympics, right from the first day when they swung to action against New Zealand. A 3-2 win followed by a 1-1 draw with Ireland was too tight for comfort. Contrast that to the fluid, attacking and engrossing

hockey they displayed against Australia, who have forever snapped them in big tournaments.

Contrast that to the masterclass in defence and doggedness against Great Britain, against whom they sprinted up and down the turf in numbers to take the contest to a shootout.

"If we can win from one man down, then we can definitely beat any team playing with 11 men. If we have beaten Australia, we can beat any team in the



RUTVIK MEHTA
HT IN PARIS

world. The confidence is sky high in the team right now," said midfielder Manpreet Singh, the captain of Tokyo.

Which is why the captain of Paris, Harmanpreet, believes there is something in it. He can smell that team spirit, and sense a different medal from Tokyo. For that, Germany will have to be scaled first.

"The belief is there. The team is very confident after the (Great Britain) game. We are going to go higher and higher," he said.

but Vinesh, who has camped in Hungary with coach Woller Akos in the run-up to Paris, will draw some confidence from her triumph -- albeit in a depleted field -- at Grand Prix of Spain last month.

In the more competitive field at the Budapest Ranking Series in June, Vinesh lost her quarter-final to China's Jiang Zhu. In Paris, she will open her campaign against defending champion Yui Susaki. The Japanese legend has never been beaten internationally, and her three career losses have come against compatriot Irie Yuki in various national trials.

"In our sport, a day lost in training sets us back by 7-10 days. You can well imagine how hard Vinesh has had to work to get here. She is in a very tough division but I back her to get a medal."

"The build-up has been far from ideal, but I back her to come home with a medal," says Bajrang, back in Sonepat after a short stint in the US.

"Vinesh is a winner. In my opinion, she is already a medalist. Her struggle is worth more than any medal," adds the four-time Worlds medallist. "I spoke to her over the weekend and she is in great mental space. Her knee is also fine and she is maintaining the weight nicely."

Still, competing in the lowest weight division won't be a cakewalk. The younger, slippery wrestlers, particularly the Japanese, will be tough to get past

third, and possibly the final, Olympics. While her competitors have had the required mental, physical, and technical conditioning for the biggest stage, Vinesh had to summon soul-stirring strength to simply reach this far. And the journey hasn't even begun yet.

"It was a big decision. From cutting the weight to going back to training to start competing at the elite level, it was going to be very tough. But if anyone could do it, it had to be Vinesh."

"She is what we call a *kattar* (hardcore) wrestler. She brings the same spirit to her life. She doesn't give up, that's something I have realised about her in so many years spent with her. Having taken on the might of Brij Bhushan, she knew she could take care of the mat," adds Malik.

Eight months from that meeting, 12 months since she underwent surgery on her left knee, and 15 months after being mercilessly dragged and shoved on Delhi's streets, Vinesh finds herself in Paris, ready to star in her

Her career boasted of successes at Commonwealth and Asian Games and two World Championships medals, but that missing Olympic medal gnawed at her.

"She said she wanted to give it a shot. She believed she still had enough time to do it, and me and Bajrang were more than happy to support her," Malik



Nisha Dahiya (R) in tears after suffering a shoulder injury against North Korea's Pak Sol Gum in Paris on Monday.

Nisha exits after shoulder injury

Avishk Roy
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NEW DELHI: Nisha Dahiya was cruising through her Olympics quarter-final bout against Pak Sol Gum of North Korea but dramatically ended on the losing side after a shoulder injury and left the mat in tears and pain.

Competing in 68kg class, Nisha, the Asian Championships silver medallist, started on an attacking note and comfortably led 6-1 in the first period. She went up 8-1 after a brilliant counter in the second period but hurt her finger in the process. Till then Nisha was looking good to sail through but tragedy struck twice on the mat for Nisha. With a minute left, she was in pain holding her hand and took time out for treatment. Back on the mat after taping her finger, Nisha was pushed out of bounds by 18-year-old Sol who was now applying great pressure on the Indian sensing an opportunity. Sol went for an underhook and

dragged Nisha down. It was in this move that Nisha was badly hurt. She clutched her hand and groaned in pain. Officials asked whether she would like to continue. Nisha came back once again and Sol immediately locked her in a firm grip, bringing her down on the mat and rolled her over for six points. Scores were levelled but Nisha was still ahead on criteria and bravely stayed on the mat. Another swift attack by Sol gave her a lucky 10-8 win and ended Nisha's hopes of advancing to the semi-final. It was learnt that Nisha was immediately taken to the hospital. An Indian coach in Paris said it seemed she had dislocated her shoulder and fractured her finger.

The incident reminded one of Vinesh Phogat's knee injury on the mat at the 2016 Rio Olympics that ended her campaign. Earlier, Nisha defeated Tetiana Sova Rizhko of Ukraine 6-4.

'By getting to the Olympics, Vinesh is already a winner'

Shantanu Srivastava
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NEW DELHI: Sometime in December last year, days after Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh-backed Sanjay Singh faction swept the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) elections, Bajrang Punia, Sakshi Malik, and Vinesh Phogat met at Sakshi's Delhi home, not too far from where the trio had staged a protest earlier that year.

Sakshi had announced her retirement in an emotional press conference by then. Bajrang had returned his Padma Shri, and Vinesh had returned her Khel Ratna and Arjuna Awards. The mood, to put it mildly, was sullen.

"We were tired and broken, we had no idea what to do next. The mood, as we sat to discuss the future of our struggle, wasn't great," recalled Sakshi. In the course of the deliberation, it became clear that Vinesh still nurtured the desire for Olympics glory. She had been to the Games twice but had to contend with a quarter-final finish on both tries.

Her career boasted of successes at Commonwealth and Asian Games and two World Championships medals, but that missing Olympic medal gnawed at her.

"She said she wanted to give it a shot. She believed she still had enough time to do it, and me and Bajrang were more than happy to support her," Malik

adds. Antim Panghal had already won a quota in Vinesh's pet 53kg class, so the 29-year-old decided to drop to the 50kg class.

"It was a big decision. From cutting the weight to going back to training to start competing at the elite level, it was going to be very tough. But if anyone could do it, it had to be Vinesh."

"She is what we call a *kattar* (hardcore) wrestler. She brings the same spirit to her life. She doesn't give up, that's something I have realised about her in so many years spent with her. Having taken on the might of Brij Bhushan, she knew she could take care of the mat," adds Malik.

Eight months from that meeting, 12 months since she underwent surgery on her left knee, and 15 months after being mercilessly dragged and shoved on Delhi's streets, Vinesh finds herself in Paris, ready to star in her



{ BAJRANG PUNIA } TOKYO BRONZE WINNER

You can well imagine how hard Vinesh has had to work to get here. She is in a very tough division but I back her to get a medal.

but Vinesh, who has camped in Hungary with coach Woller Akos in the run-up to Paris, will draw some confidence from her triumph -- albeit in a depleted field -- at Grand Prix of Spain last month.

In the more competitive field at the Budapest Ranking Series in June, Vinesh lost her quarter-final to China's Jiang Zhu. In Paris, she will open her campaign against defending champion Yui Susaki. The Japanese legend has never been beaten internationally, and her three career losses have come against compatriot Irie Yuki in various national trials.

"In our sport, a day lost in training sets us back by 7-10 days. You can well imagine how hard Vinesh has had to work to get here. She is in a very tough division but I back her to get a medal. She has enough experience to help her," Bajrang says.

"A lot of people want her to fail. She has copped a lot of online abuse and trolling. Mentally, she was put under immense pressure. But whenever she is pushed to the brink, Vinesh pushes back harder. She thrives when the going gets tough."

On her part, Vinesh believes she has already fought her toughest bout. "I feel our fight against the system was the toughest bout of my life. An Olympic medal will be a nice addition but nothing comes close to the protest," she had told HT after qualifying for the Olympics. Bout of her life done, now for some action on the mat.

Neeraj, an affable global champion, seeking a repeat

Rutvik Mehta
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PARIS: It's only when you step inside the cauldron that is the 80,000-seater Stade de France packed to the rafters that you realise how global the Olympics, and its heartbeat of track and field, truly is.

There are a couple of athletes from Somalia hanging around outside the arena. There are three Ukrainians winning medals on the same evening and speaking emotionally about giving joy to their war-hit nation. There's a fan from Denmark cheering on for Norwegian Jakob Ingebrigtsen. There's American Noah Lyles doing Noah Lyles things.

It's here that an Olympic champion from India, still as hardly believable as it sounds, returns in his quest to do further barely imaginable things.

Neeraj Chopra begins his 2024 Paris Olympics on Tuesday with the qualification round of the men's javelin throw, an event he had made his own at the Tokyo Olympics.

From Tokyo to Paris, Chopra, older by three years and richer by two World Championships medals, hasn't changed the way he looks at his sport and the immense dedication it demands. What has changed, however, is how the world of athletics looks at the 26-year-old Indian.

Going into Tokyo as an Asian Games and Commonwealth Games champion, Chopra became an Indian phenomenon with that gold. It boosted the stocks of athletics in the country and his own popularity and marketability.

Coming into Paris as the reigning world champion and a recurring presence in elite Diamond League meets, Chopra has evolved into a global face of javelin. It transcends nationalities and cuts across the spread of events in athletics. "I think with his Olympic victory and the other successes, he brought more attention to the javelin throw and athletics," Max Dehning, the 19-year-old sensation from javelin-rich Germany, told HT in a chat. "He is one of the most famous athletes there is."

At the Sportcamp Saar in Germany's Saarbrücken where he camped last month in the company of more than 400 athletes from around the world, Chopra was the star sighting. At the Athletes' Village in Paris where he checked in last week, Chopra's presence turned into the "lucky charm" for the rest of Indian contingent. In Doha where he opened his season in May and visited a local school, children flocked to Chopra to catch a glimpse. Speaking before the Doha Diamond League, Miltiadis Tentoglou, the

reigning Olympic long jump champion from Greece, brought up Chopra when asked about his own dream distance. "I will be really happy if Neeraj throws 90m," Tentoglou, a track and field star in his own right, said as Chopra smiled seated next to him.

Part of Chopra's far-reaching appeal is his affability. Ukraine's Kokhan Mykhaylo, the Games' hammer throw bronze medallist of Sunday night, was an emotional man after winning a medal for his friends still duty bound amid the war and for his country gripped in continued fear. Amid those poignant thoughts, he remembered the dining room greetings and chats with Chopra when they land up in the same international meets.

"We know each other. We talk between our competitions. In the dining room, we always say 'good luck' to each other. And then also 'good job' later. He's a good guy. He's very kind. You can always talk with him," Mykhaylo, 23, said.

When Chopra won the Tokyo gold, Dehning was still "observing" from afar the way javelin throwers like Chopra go about their medal-winning business at that level. The teenaged German, whose rapid rise this year was headlined by that 90m throw early in the season, finally met Chopra in person and as a competitor in June this year at the Paavo Nurmi Games. In the prestigious meet where Chopra finished on top and Dehning seventh, the youngster took away a few lessons and some warming cream from the "world star".

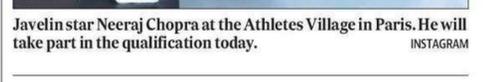
"I found it very interesting to start in the same field with the world star. You can learn a lot from him when it comes to being calm," Dehning said.

"Neeraj is an athlete who is very interested in you and also happy to help. I sustained an injury during the competition and the first person who came to me was Neeraj. He asked if everything was okay and even gave me some warming cream."

Like Chopra, Mykhaylo too spends most of his training time away from home. His training base is in Antalya, Turkey, a place Chopra too often visits. "We were once together in a training camp," Mykhaylo said. While the Ukrainian has been forced to train away for the last couple of years due to the situation at his home, the Indian likes to detach himself from the attention he gets back in India.

Now that Mykhaylo has got the medal he came for in Paris, he genuinely hopes Chopra gets it too. "I wish him good, good luck to secure his Olympic title here," Mykhaylo said. "He's a great guy and I know he can do it."

He did do it in Tokyo three years ago, through a glittering medal that painted a country gold and pinned the humble Indian's evolution to worldwide stardom. What does Paris have in store for javelin's global face?



Javelin star Neeraj Chopra at the Athletes Village in Paris. He will take part in the qualification today.

howindiafared

TABLE TENNIS
Women's team Round of 16
India beat Romania 3-2

ATHLETICS
Women's 400m Round 1:
Kiran Pahal ended 7th in Heat 5, qualified for repechage

Men's 3,000m steeplechase Round 1 Heat 2: Avinash Sable ended 5th, qualified for final

WRESTLING
Women's freestyle 68kg quarter-final
Nisha Dahiya lost 8-10 to Pak Sol Gum (PRK)

SHOOTING
Skeet mixed team bronze medal playoff

Maheeswari Chauhan & Anant Jeet Singh Naruka lost 43-44 to Jiang Yiting & Lyu Jianlin (CHN)

BADMINTON
Men's singles bronze playoff
Lakshya Sen lost 21-13, 16-21, 11-21 to Lee Zii Jia (MAS)

SAILING
● Women's dinghy: Nethra Kumanan ended 21st
● Men's dinghy: Vishnu Saravanan ended 18th

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION, NASHIK E-Tender Notice No.13 for 2024-25 (Online)

Online E-Tenders in "B-1" Form for the following works invited by Executive Engineer, P.W.Division, Nashik Phone No. (0253/2583761-64, 2575324) for and on behalf of Governor of Maharashtra State From Capable of P.W.Deptt. Registered/ Unregistered Contractor or International Contractor whose Sub company / branch in India and also complete terms and conditions mentioned in tender document.

Tender document download on our website https://mahatenders.gov.in Right of rejection of E-tender / cancellation of E-tender reserved by The Executive Engineer, P.W.Division, Nashik. * Conditional Tender will not be accepted.

Note:- Above mentioned E-Tender Notice including Total 20 (Twenty) (Costing below from Rs. 1000.00 Lacks) Work And details of mentioned E-Tender Notice available on below website.

- 1. www.mahapwd.gov.in 2. https://mahatenders.gov.in

Table with columns: Tender Document Sale Start and End Date Time, 05.08.2024, TO, 12.08.2024, From 11:05, Upto 17:00

- * Blank E-Tender form Fees (Non refundable) and EMD amount will be accepted Online only. * Post Qualification criteria condition included in tender document. * All eligible/intrested Contractors are required to be enrolled on portal https://mahatenders.gov.in before downloading tender documents and participate in e-tendering. * The information of E-Payment Gateway available on E-Tendering website https://mahatenders.gov.in

Please Note this to all Registered / Unregistered Contractors. Sd/- Executive Engineer Public Works Division, Nashik DGIPR/2024-25/ROC 1603

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION, NASHIK E-Tender Notice No.11 for 2024-25 (Online)

Online E-Tenders in "B-1" Form for the following works invited by Executive Engineer, P.W.Division, Nashik Phone No. (0253/2583761-64, 2575324) for and on behalf of Governor of Maharashtra State From Capable of P.W.Deptt. Registered/ Unregistered Contractor or International Contractor whose Sub company / branch in India and also complete terms and conditions mentioned in tender document.

Tender document download on our website https://mahatenders.gov.in Right of rejection of E-tender / cancellation of E-tender reserved by The Executive Engineer, P.W.Division, Nashik. * Conditional Tender will not be accepted.

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- * Blank E-Tender form Fees (Non refundable) and EMD amount will be accepted Online only. * Post Qualification criteria condition included in tender document. * All eligible/intrested Contractors are required to be enrolled on portal https://mahatenders.gov.in before downloading tender documents and participate in e-tendering. * The information of E-Payment Gateway available on E-Tendering website https://mahatenders.gov.in

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL EDUCATION (Govt. of Madhya Pradesh)

Office : 6th floor, Satpura Bhawan, Madhya Pradesh, INDIA- 462004 Tel: 0755-2551717; Fax: 0755-2578844 Website : www.medicaleducation.mp.gov.in, Email : dme12001@yahoo.com

No. 534/2/YoVi/PPP/DME/2024 Bhopal, dated : 02 Aug. 24

A 'Technical PPP Support Committee' had been formulated at the directorate of Medical Education 6th Floor Satpura Bhawan. All interested bidders can visit at any working day between 10 am to 6 pm for any queries and suggestions related to the tender document or its conditions.

- 1) Dr. Himanshu Jayswar (Dy Director) Mob No. 98262 15665 2) Mr. Rajkumar (Consultant PWC) Mob No. 98366 87770 3) Mr. Vipul Singh (Consultant, MPPSC) Mob No. 98739 00869

Kindly note, that all queries and suggestions may also be submitted at dmetenders@gmail.com Dy. Director (Projects) Department of Public Health and Medical Education Govt. of Madhya Pradesh G-14551/24

NORTHERN RAILWAY Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems) The Sr. Divisional Engineer-IV, Northern Railway, Delhi Division for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender on prescribed form for the following work.

Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board (UTDB) Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Paryatan Bhawan, Near O.N.G.C. Heli pad, Nimbuwala, Garhi Cantt, Dehradun - 248003 (UK) Phone No.- 135-2559898

Ref.No.:2529/2-4-107/2024-25 Date: 05 August, 2024

UTDB invites proposals for the selection of a service provider on a PPP mode based on DBFOT for the development, maintenance, and management of a temporary tent city at Tehri Lake Front, District Tehri, Uttarakhand, and the organization of the "Tehri Mahotsav."

Details may be obtained on website: uktdenders.gov.in and uttrakhandtourism.gov.in from 3:00 PM on 06.08.2024. A pre-proposal meeting is scheduled at 12:00 Noon on 14.08.2024. Prospective Bidders may seek clarification till 3:00 PM on 16.08.2024 through E-mail: pppcell.utdb@gmail.com with CC to procurement.utdb@gmail.com. Any Addendum/Corrigendum including date extension will be uploaded only on uktdenders.gov.in. Proposals must be submitted online through uktdenders.gov.in only. The last date for submission of proposals is 02.09.2024 till 3:00 PM. Chief Executive Officer

Office of The Inspector General of Registration & Superintendent of Stamps, Madhya Pradesh

E-mail- igrs.sampada@mp.gov.in Website www.mpigr.gov.in Phone No.- 0755-2441953

Tender Notice

Office of The Inspector General of Registration & Superintendent of Stamps, Bhopal Madhya Pradesh inviting online tender from reputed and experience IT companies.

Table with columns: S. N., Name Of Project, Tender fee, Earnest Money Deposit, Duration of work

Key Dates of e-tender of DSC

Table with columns: S.N., Information, Details

All information related to tender are present in e-procurement portal (https://mptenders.gov.in). Tender document can be seen & downloaded from e-procurement portal (https://mptenders.gov.in). No separate publication in any news paper would be informed apart from e-procurement portal. All filled format shall be uploaded in online e-procurement portal (https://mptenders.gov.in). If Govt. of M.P. declare any Public holiday on key date, next working day would be used for the mentioned activity. IGR will cancel or derail the tender without any reason and clarification. IGR is expounded to accept or reject any or all bids without declaring any reason or clarification.

Project Officer "SAMPADA" Madhya Pradesh For Inspector General of Registration and Superintendent of Stamps Madhya Pradesh G-14564/24

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Large advertisement for HT Classifieds featuring various job categories: EMPLOYMENT, MEDICAL, HOTEL/RESTAURANT, BUSINESS, CHANGE OF NAME, EDUCATION, ADMISSIONS, PUBLIC NOTICES, and LOST & FOUND. Includes a '15th AUGUST HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY' banner and 'MEWAR INSTITUTE' advertisement.

Sensex, Nifty nosedive nearly 3% to month low

The stock market crash came amid global equity rout on US growth concerns

Press Trust of India
feedback@livemint.com

MUMBAI: Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty crashed nearly 3% on Monday following extremely weak trends in global equity markets amid fears of a slowdown in the US economy. The 30-share BSE Sensex plummeted 2,222.55 points or 2.74% to settle at over a month's low of 78,759.40, marking its worst single-day retreat since June 4, 2024. During the day, it tanked 2,686.09 points or 3.31% to 78,295.86. The NSE Nifty slumped 662.10 points or 2.68% to settle at 24,055.60. During the day, it tumbled 824 points or 3.33% to 23,893.70. Nifty also saw its worst single-day fall since June 4, 2024, when markets crashed more than 5% due to general election results. An over 12% plunge in Japan's Nikkei and geopolitical tensions in the Mid-



Sensex plummeted 2,222.55 points to close at 78,759.40, while Nifty slumped 662.10 points to settle at 24,055.60.

dle East dented market sentiment, analysts said. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled sharply lower. Japan's benchmark stock index plunged 12.4% on Monday, compounding a global market rout set off by investor concerns that the US economy could be headed for recession. A report on Friday showing hiring by US employers slowed last month by much more than expected convulsed financial markets, vanquishing the euphoria that had taken the Nikkei 225 to all-time highs of over 42,000

in recent weeks. On Monday, the Nikkei closed down 4,451.28 points at 31,458.42. It had dropped 5.8% on Friday, making this its worst two-day decline ever. Its worst single-day rout was a plunge of 3,836 points, or 14.9%, on October 19, 1987, a global markets crash that was dubbed "Black Monday" but proved to be only a temporary setback despite fears it might have augured a worldwide downturn. European markets were also trading with deep cuts. The US markets ended significantly lower on Friday.

From the Sensex pack, Tata Motors slumped over 7%. Adani Ports, Tata Steel, SBI, Power Grid, JSW Steel and Maruti were the other big laggards. However, Hindustan Unilever and Nestle ended in positive territory.

The global markets were jolted into a cautious mode by recessionary fears in the US following disappointing job statistics and unwinding of carry trade following the rapid rise of the yen. The effects were felt by the domestic market as well and are expected to impact in the near term," said Vinod Nair, head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹3,310 crore on Friday, according to exchange data. "The global market is reeling as bears enter with a cocktail of bad news. The fear of a reverse Yen carry trade, following an interest rate hike in Japan, was the initial catalyst. This was compounded by fears of a recession in the US after extremely poor jobs data, which spooked market sentiment," said Santosh Meena, head of Research, Swastika Investmart Ltd.

Services sector growth eases slightly in July

Press Trust of India
feedback@livemint.com

NEW DELHI: India's services sector growth recorded another month of robust expansion in July, albeit at a slightly slower pace than in June, largely supported by robust demand conditions and investment in technology, a monthly survey said on Monday.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Services Business Activity Index was at 60.3 in July, down only fractionally from 60.5 in June. In the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction. "Service sector activity rose at a slightly slower pace in July, with new business increasing further, primarily driven by domestic demand. Looking ahead, services firms remained optimistic about the outlook for year ahead," Pranjal Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC, said. New export orders increased at the third-strongest pace since the inception of the series in September 2014, amid strengthening demand for Indian services from across the world. Some of the sources of rising export orders mentioned by panellists



The July services sector PMI was at 60.3, fractionally down from 60.5 in June.

included Austria, Brazil, China, Japan, Singapore, the Netherlands and the US. Favourable economic conditions and optimistic expectations for output supported recruitment among services firms, the survey said. On the price front, higher wage and material costs continued to push up business expenses, with the overall rate of inflation quickening from June. Stronger cost pressures and positive demand trends contributed to the steepest rise in prices charged for the provision of services for seven years. Looking ahead, services firms remained strongly optimistic about growth prospects. Around 30% of the survey panel forecast

greater output volumes in the next 12 months, while only 2% expect a decline. The overall level of sentiment rose since June and was aligned with its long-run average. Anecdotal evidence suggested that confidence in the outlook for demand and sales, alongside improved customer engagement and new enquiries, boosted optimism. Meanwhile, the HSBC India Composite Output Index posted 60.7 in July, down only fractionally from 60.9 in June and above the crucial 50.0 no-change mark for the thirty-sixth month running. "India's composite PMI recorded another month of robust expansion in July, albeit at a slightly slower pace than in June," Bhandari said. Composite PMI indices are weighted averages of comparable manufacturing and services PMI indices. Weights reflect the relative size of the manufacturing and service sectors according to official GDP data. Robust demand conditions, reflected by increased new orders from both domestic and international markets, led firms to increase hiring levels, Bhandari said, adding that on the price front, higher wages and material costs led to a further increase in input costs.

RUPEE TUMBLES TO ALL-TIME LOW OF 84.03 AGAINST THE US DOLLAR

Press Trust of India
feedback@livemint.com

MUMBAI: The rupee slumped 31 paise to settle at an all-time low of 84.03 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, following a sell-off in broader global markets amid rising geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and worries over recession in the US. Forex traders said the downfall in the domestic unit came on the heels of a sharp downturn in the Indian equity markets and significant foreign fund outflows. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.78 and touched an intra-day high of 83.76 and a low of 84.03 against the dollar during the session. It finally settled at its fresh record low level of 84.03 (provisional) against the American currency, down 31 paise against its previous close. On Friday, the rupee settled 1 paise higher at 83.72 against the US dollar in a range-bound trade. "We expect the rupee to trade with a negative bias on risk aversion in the global markets. Escalation of geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and outflows by foreign investors may further pressure the domestic unit," said Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhani by BNP Paribas. However, a weak US dollar and declining crude oil prices may support the rupee at lower levels. Any intervention by the Reserve Bank may also benefit the rupee, Choudhary added. Traders may take cues from US ISM services PMI data. Investors may watch out for the RBI's monetary policy decision this week. USD/INR spot price is likely to trade in a range of ₹83.60 to ₹84.20, Choudhary said. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, dropped 0.65% to 102.54. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, fell 1.91% to \$75.34 per barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Friday as they offloaded shares worth ₹3,310.00 crore, as per the exchange data.

Sebi reforms to aid retail participation in markets: Experts

Neha Joshi
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NEW DELHI: The Securities and Exchange Board of India's (Sebi) series of initiatives, such as quicker transaction settlements and shorter listing timelines for public issues, have enhanced transparency and will aid greater participation in the capital markets, say experts.



Sebi has reduced the IPO listing timeline from T+6 to T+3 days.

Regulatory reforms and innovations have brought investors an annual benefit of ₹900 crore, and the full adoption of certain other initiatives could potentially add ₹3,000 crore more through freed-up capital, according to a 30 July report by NSE Data and Analytics, a unit of National Stock Exchange of India Ltd.

The Indian Capital Markets: Transformative shifts achieved through technology and reforms report highlighted the substantial growth of Indian capital markets, which have outpaced the global average in market capitalization. All thanks to Sebi's regulatory reforms and BSE's innovations. The report said Sebi has democratized mutual fund investments through low-ticket SIPs (systematic investment plans) and lumpsum investments. It took note of the regulator's proposal to introduce a ₹250 SIP to include lower-income segments in the market.

The report added that reducing the mutual fund redemption timelines to T+2 days could potentially accrue annual benefits worth ₹100 crore. Radhika Gupta, managing director and chief executive of Edelweiss Mutual Funds, said these moves enhanced mutual funds' transparency and investor-friendliness, which was pivotal in the industry's growth.

Sebi has reduced the IPO listing timeline from T+6 to T+3 days, freeing up liquidity for investors and enabling faster access to capital for issuers.

This could result in a potential annual benefit of approximately ₹130 crore, according to the report.

In 2021, Sebi introduced the Application Supported by Blocked Amount (ASBA) procedure for primary markets, allowing investors to apply for shares in public and rights issues without making any upfront payment.

Experts said that in cases of unsuccessful applications or oversubscriptions, ASBA ensures prompt refunds without any hassles or delays. The NSE report quantified the annual monetary benefit of this measure at approximately ₹320 crore. A facility like ASBA was also introduced for secondary markets in January.

"This could potentially unlock up to ₹2,800 crore of annual benefits for investors, in the scenario where all investors shift to ASBA-based trading," the report said.

The report also mentioned the T+1 settlement cycle that Sebi introduced in 2021 for all securities in the equity segment. This shift reduced settlement risk and increased liquidity in the market by approximately ₹350 crore in annual benefit to investors, it said.

The regulator also introduced an optional T+0 settlement cycle in March 2024, which could lead to a potential annual benefit of ₹180 crore, the report added.

Google, Amazon, Walmart seek to join RBI's e-rupee pilot

Reuters
feedback@livemint.com

MUMBAI: GooglePay, Walmart-backed PhonePe and AmazonPay are among five payment firms seeking to join the Indian central bank's digital currency pilot by offering transactions via the e-rupee, three sources directly involved in the discussions said. Indian fintech firms Cred and Mobikwik are the other two that have applied to join the pilot, the sources added. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) started a pilot for the e-rupee, a digital alternative to the

physical currency, in December 2022. After an initial surge, e-rupee transactions have declined, reflecting the struggle central banks globally have faced in popularising digital currencies. Google Pay and Amazon Pay are payments applications offered by Alphabet Inc's Google and Amazon.com, respectively, that facilitate retail payments over India's widely used Unified Payments Interface (UPI). Initially, the central bank had permitted only banks to offer e-rupee via their mobile applications, but in April it said pay-

FINTECH FIRMS CRED AND MOBIKWIK ARE THE OTHER TWO THAT HAVE APPLIED TO JOIN THE PROJECT

ment firms could also offer e-rupee transactions via their platform once approved by the RBI. Payment firms are working closely with the RBI and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the domestic

payments authority, and are expected to roll out access to e-rupee over the next three-to-four months, the sources said. The sources declined to be identified because they are not authorised to speak to media. The RBI and NPCI did not respond to emails seeking comment while the five companies declined to comment. While transactions using the digital currency had risen to over 1 million a day late last year, they have since declined sharply to about 100,000-200,000 a day, one of the sources said. Allowing popular payment

firms to offer e-rupee should help lift volumes by widening the user base, the second source said. Together these five payment firms account for over 85% of digital payments via UPI, which averages about 13 billion transactions each month. While continuing to try and popularise the e-rupee, the central bank has no immediate plans to do a full-scale launch of the digital currency, the second source said. "The e-rupee is likely to stay in the pilot stage for the next couple of years," the source added.

Indian economy expected to grow at 7-7.2% in FY25: Deloitte

Press Trust of India
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NEW DELHI: India's economy is expected to grow at 7-7.2% in the current fiscal year driven by robust economic fundamentals and continuity in domestic policy reforms, Deloitte India said on Monday.

The August update of Deloitte's India Economic Outlook said several initiatives in the Union Budget 2024-25 toward improving agriculture productivity, creating jobs for the youth, and in manufacturing and addressing the challenge of access to finance for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), would help improve supply-side demand, curb inflation, and prop up consumer spending, especially in rural areas. Deloitte India Economist Rumki Majumdar said, India will witness robust growth in the second half after a period of uncertainty in the first six months of the year.

"Key contributing factors include the continuity in domestic policy reforms, reduced uncertainties in the US post-elections, and more synchronous global growth within



Deloitte's projection is at par with RBI, which estimated FY25 growth at 7.2%.

a low inflation regime. "Additionally, improved global liquidity conditions, as central banks in the West ease their monetary policy stance, will enhance capital flows and drive higher investments, particularly in the private sector," Majumdar said. Observing that strong economic fundamentals would drive GDP growth between 7% and 7.2% in FY25, the Economic Outlook report said effectively addressing the urban-rural consumer spending gaps, inflation, and employment concerns can significantly enhance the affordability of aspirational rural consumers. "The much-desirable policy

pivot was evident in the Union Budget presented last month. Reducing the urban and rural spending gap in the coming years will ensure sustained consumer demand from a larger consumer base," it added.

Deloitte India's growth projection is at par with that of RBI, which projected FY25 growth at 7.2%. It is higher than Finance Ministry's Economic Survey which estimated GDP expansion between 6.5-7%.

The Indian economy grew at 8.2% in 2023-24 fiscal year. The report further said despite strong growth, private consumption spending has remained modest over the past five years. The pandemic, high global and domestic inflation, consequent tightening of financial conditions, and the effects of poor agriculture output on rural demand seem to have capped private consumption growth in India.

But a Deloitte research showed that India is witnessing distinct and broad-based shifts in consumption patterns. There is a broad-based shift in the composition of consumption towards more non-food and discretionary items, reflecting changing lifestyles and preferences that are here to stay.

July PV sales up 10% on new launches, discounts: Fada

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NEW DELHI: Passenger vehicle retail sales in India witnessed a 10% on-year jump in July driven by new model launches and enhanced discounts, industry body Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) said on Monday.



Heavy rains, low consumer sentiment, and intense competition posed challenges but dealers managed to sustain sales.

Total passenger vehicle retail sales rose to 3,20,129 units in July, as compared to 2,90,564 units in July 2023. "Dealers reported benefits from good product availability, attractive schemes, and a wider range of products," the Fada vice president CS Vigneshwar said in a statement. Heavy rains, low consumer sentiment, and intense competition posed challenges but dealers managed to sustain sales

through strong promotions and incremental discounts, he added. Vigneshwar, however, noted that the growth is accompanied by high inventory levels which has surged to a historic high of 67-72 days, equating to ₹73,000 crores worth of stock. "This poses a substantial risk

for dealer sustainability, necessitating extreme caution. Fada urges PV original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) to be vigilant about potential dealer failures due to these high inventory levels," he stated. 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, he added.

Two-wheeler retail sales last month stood at 14,43,463 units, an increase of 17% over 12,31,930 units in July 2023.

The segment experienced notable growth due to a thriving rural economy, positive monsoon effects, and the government's support programs enhancing rural incomes, Vigneshwar noted.

"The introduction of new products and better stock availability also contributed significantly, despite market slow-downs in certain regions, excessive rains, and increased competition," he added. Commercial vehicle retail sales grew 7% year-on-year to

80,057 units last month. "Positive factors included growth in the construction and mining sectors, while challenges such as continuous rainfall, negative rural market sentiment, poor finance availability, and high vehicle prices were also noted," Vigneshwar said.

Tractor sales declined 12% year-on-year to 79,970 units in July. Fada, which collated vehicle registration data from 1,568 out of 1,645 RTOs across the country, noted that the near-term outlook across the auto retail segments shows a blend of optimism and caution.

Two-wheeler sales are expected to be buoyed by factors such as a growing rural economy, positive monsoon impacts and the introduction of new products.

{ THE CROSSWORDS }

CRYPTIC CLUES

- ACROSS**
- Such charges may be dropped (5)
 - Stinker of a place to renovate (7)
 - Manage to smuggle (3)
 - Type a letter (9)
 - He's best giving orders (7)
 - The fool goes around by deep gorge (5)
 - Fairness in the issue of shares (6)
 - Fear of making the initial blunder (6)
 - The best stuff around the East (5)
 - Often found in domestic service (7)
 - The address of a single person (9)
 - One about to reveal anger (3)
 - Everything turns grey - a rash reaction perhaps (7)
 - Accepts a new edition of Keats (5)

DOWN

- Bad rule may become permanent (7)
- Accommodation for top people? (9)
- Even dull writers deliver some kicks (5)
- Quietly uplift with applause (6)
- Unofficial news of an escape (7)
- Reduced share of the profits (3)
- Acts on a revolving stage? (5)
- It's a rigid rule (9)
- He falls about though able to hold drink (7)
- Maybe fire Les and get others to take over (7)
- Empty article from a country (6)
- It separates many in a deep sleep (5)
- Not inclined to build (5)
- Find love in Manila (3)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS (16930)

CRYPTIC

ALL THE SAME
I R M D X T
LEAVE BOUNCER
E T A O L E A
V I S I T E D A L L I N
T O Y T S
A N N A L S R E N T A L
T H E T R A
H E N N A O U T P O S T
A O T S I J E
N O U G H T S T E A R S
S N E U H N
S T R I P T E A S E

QUICK

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

PUZZLE 16931 © Gemini Crosswords 2018 All rights reserved



QUICK CLUES

- ACROSS**
- Small miserable dwelling (5)
 - Forestall (3-4)
 - Nothing (3)
 - French tragic actress, died 1923 (9)
 - A flavouring substance (7)
 - Domineering (5)
 - Partially dried grape (6)
 - Dazed state (6)
 - Pop music ensemble (5)
 - Sad and abandoned (7)
 - Director of Jurassic Park (9)
 - Dejected (3)
 - Richly luxurious (7)
 - Pleasing in flavour (5)
- DOWN**
- Northwest German city (7)
 - Italian-American silent film actor (9)
 - Malicious defamatory publication (5)
 - Social outcast (6)
 - Show publicly (7)
 - Disfigure (3)
 - Shabby (5)
 - Ancient Greek playwright (9)
 - A sudden inclination (7)
 - Flee (3,4)
 - Accomplish (6)
 - Zest (5)
 - Completely (5)
 - Acknowledgement of debt (3)

{ SUDOKU } DIFFICULTY LEVEL ★★★★★



Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, column and each of the 9x9 squares contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

{ WEATHER }

TEMPERATURE HIGH * LOW

TUESDAY
Generally cloudy sky with moderate rain
34°C | 27°C

WEDNESDAY
Generally cloudy sky with moderate rain
33°C | 27°C

THURSDAY
Generally cloudy sky with moderate rain
32°C | 26°C

ALMANAC Today is 6th August 2024

• 1 Saffir, 1446
• 17 Shivana, Shukla
Paksha, 2
• Samat 2081
☀️ Sunset: Tuesday at 07:08 pm
☀️ Sunrise: Wednesday at 05:46 a.m.
🌙 Moonrise: Tuesday at 07:22 a.m.
🌙 Moonset: Tuesday at 08:27 p.m.

TEMPERATURE IN FOUR METROS

Delhi 34°C | 27°C
Mumbai 30°C | 26°C
Kolkata 30°C | 26°C
Chennai 34°C | 24°C

HAVE FUN WITH FACTS ON SUNDAYS

Catch the latest column of

HT TWTW
THE WEEK THAT WAS

A quiz on the week's development.



WESTERN RAILWAY-AHMEDABAD DIVISION

SIGNALING WORK

Inviting Tender No. - EPC ADI WR SnT 06; DRM/S and T acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No EPC ADI WR SnT 06 closing date 02.09.2024, 15:00 Bidders will be able to submit their original/ revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. (1) Name of Work: Provision of EI & MSDAC based Automatic signaling along with provision of EI & other signaling systems in Sanand - Samakhiali (219.09 route km, 23 stations) section of Ahmedabad Division of Western Railway. (2) Estimated Cost of Work: ₹ 3,29,09,31,790.01/- (Rs Three Hundred Twenty Nine Crore Nine Lakh Thirty One Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Rupees and One paisa only). (3) Earnest Money Deposit: ₹ 1,64,54,700/- (Rs. One Crore Sixty Four Lakh Fifty Four Thousand Seven Hundred only). (4) Date and time of Pre-Bid Meeting: 11:00 hrs of 12.08.2024, At DRM office Ahmedabad. (5) Date and time of Opening Technical Bids: Opening on 10.09.2024 at 15:30 hrs. (6) Web site of E-Tendering: www.irops.gov.in 134
Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRly

HAVE FUN WITH FACTS ON SUNDAYS

Catch the latest column of

HT TWTW
THE WEEK THAT WAS

A quiz on the week's development.

HT
FIRST VOICE. LAST WORD.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. : JHS-NW-48-24 Date : 03.08.2024
E-TENDERING NOTICE
Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Jhansi, DRM's office, Jhansi, for and on behalf of President of India invite open Tender through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following works:
Description of work : Comprehensive annual maintenance of Medha make Electronic Interlocking at 9 Stations as Antri(ARI), Bilanagar (BLNR), Bamror (BAO), Sank (SQ), Morena (MRA), Sanichara (SAC), Gohad (GOA), Soni (SONI), Bhand (BIX) of Jhansi division for a period of three years.
• Approx Cost : Rs.41248247.04 • Earnest Money : Rs.356300/- • Cost of Tender Form : Nil. • Opening of tender : 27.08.2024 time 15.00 • Completion period from issue of letter of acceptance : 36 Months
• Tender on line can be submitted upto 15.00 hrs on 27.08.2024. • For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.irops.gov.in (NORTH CENTRAL RLY/JHANSI DIVISION-SAND T) 1388/24 (C)
North central railways @ www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @ CPRONCR

Government of Punjab
Municipal Corporation Ludhiana
Inviting Request for Proposal
No. 57/SE(TIC), Date 05.08.2024
Municipal Corporation Ludhiana invites request for proposal from the eligible Agency/Societies/Firm/Organisations/Company for the Selection of Contractor for Implementation of remediation of legacy waste and Reclamation of the Land parcel at Jainpur for the Municipal Corporation Ludhiana.
Tender Submission: The Tender document including formats can be downloaded from www.eproc.punjab.gov.in. The completed tender documents should be uploaded on www.eproc.punjab.gov.in by 04.09.2024, 17.00 PM.
In case of enquiries please reach us on seticmcl1@gmail.com
Sd/- Superintending Engineer (TIC)
Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana
36362

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender for the under noted work:
1 Name of Work with location Design, supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 25 KV AC OHE inconnection with Electrification of existing washing line 18, 19, 20 & 21 at Delhi Main Station.
2 Approx. Cost of work Rs. 1,20,25,793.71/-
3 Earnest Money Deposit Rs. 2,10,100/-
4 E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period 19.08.2024 (00:00 Hrs.) to 02.09.2024 (15:00 Hrs.)
5 E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time 02.09.2024 (15.00 hrs.)
6 Fund Allocation Capital (20427103)
7 Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen www.irops.gov.in
E-Tender No.: 15B-TRD-NDLS-2024-25 Dated: 05.08.2024 2398/2024
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Thane Municipal Corporation, Thane
Public works Department
Tender Notice
Thane Municipal Corporation invites tenders as per the E-Tendering procedure system from experienced & renowned contractors for the work of "Construction and Development of New Administrative Building of Thane Municipal Corporation with ancillary works, facilities and services within T.M.C. Limit on EPC (Engineering, Procurement & Construction) Mode. Contractor against those penal action of deregistration has been taken/ initiated by any Govt./semi gov. organization/ Public sector undertakings and corporations/ULB, etc will not be allowed to participate in this tender. Blank tender papers can be downloaded from the web site of TMC, www.mahatenders.gov.in from Dt.06/08/2024 to Dt.26/08/2024 up to 16.00 hrs. Online tenders shall be received on the web site up to 16.00 hrs on Dt.26/08/2024 and will be opened on Dt.27/08/2024 at 16.30 hrs if possible. TMC/PRO/PWD/HQ/236/2024-25 SD/- Dt 05.08.2024 City Engineer,
pls visit our official web-site Thane Municipal Corporation
www.thanecity.gov.in

नगर निगम, प्रयागराज ई-निविदा सूचना

नगर निगम, प्रयागराज की वाहनों / मशीनों में जी०पी०एस०डिवाइस लगाये जाने एवं 03 बचे के संचालन एवं अनुक्षण कार्य हेतु डूअल बिड ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है, विस्तृत विवरण निविदा प्रपत्र वेबसाइट में उपलब्ध रहेगा। निविदा प्रपत्र उत्तर प्रदेश की ई-प्रक्रोसेमेंट की वेबसाइट http://etender.up.nic.in से प्राप्त एवं देखे जा सकते हैं। निविदा के साथ मांग की गयी जमानत की धनराशि एफ०डी०आर० / आर०टी० जी०एस० रसीद की स्कैन कॉपी के रूप में संलग्न करना अनिवार्य होगा, जो मुख्य अभियन्ता (वि/या), नगर निगम, प्रयागराज के नाम प्लेज्ड होगा। बिना जमानत की धनराशि के निविदा अवैध मानी जायेगी। निविदा प्रकाशन के निर्धारित तिथि तक निविदा शुल्क की धनराशि नगर निगम, प्रयागराज के इण्डस्ट्रियल बैंक, रिविल लाइन्स, प्रयागराज शाखा में टेंडर कॉस्ट खाता संख्या-100116210130 व IFSCCode-INDB0000124 में जमा करना होगा। जिसकी रसीद तथा जमानत धनराशि के एफ०डी०आर० / आर०टी० जी०एस० रसीद की स्कैन कॉपी निविदा के साथ अपलोड करना अनिवार्य होगा। अतः की अनुपस्थिति में निविदा अवैध मानी जायेगी। किसी भी समय निविदा स्वीकृत / अस्वीकृत करने का अधिकार नगर आयुक्त महोदय को सुरक्षित होगा। निविदा खोले जाने की तिथि को किसी कारणवश अवकाश होने पर निविदा तिथि अगला कार्य-दिवस मानी जायेगी।

निविदा प्रपत्र वेबसाइट पर अपलोड करने की तिथि	08.08.2024	अपरान्ह 12.00 बजे से
निविदादाताओं द्वारा निविदा प्रपत्र वेबसाइट अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि	21.08.2024	अपरान्ह 5.00 बजे तक
निविदा खोलेने की तिथि	21.08.2024	सांयकाल 5.30 बजे तक

क्र० सं०	कार्य / वाहन का विवरण	निविदा फार्म का मूल्य	धरोहर की धनराशि
01	Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 286 nos. GPS devices for Vehicle Tracking System in Prayagraj Municipal Corporation including three (03) years of Operation and Maintenance	₹ 2000/- +18% GST = ₹ 2360/-	₹ 60,000.00

नोट- नियम व शर्तों का विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध रहेगा।

पत्रांक : सं 0डी-3141/न०सम्म०अचि०/2024,
दिनांक 05.08.2024

मुख्य अभियन्ता (वि/यां)
नगर निगम, प्रयागराज

Forensic Science Laboratory Govt. of National Capital Territory of Delhi Sector 14, Rohini, Delhi-110085

Tel: 011-27555811, Fax: 011-27555890

RECRUITMENT NOTICE

Forensic Science Laboratory required eligible candidates to fill 163 posts of Jr. Scientific Assistants on Contract basis.

Last date for submission of application is 23.08.2024 up to 05.00 P.M.

FOR DETAILS PLEASE LOG ON TO: fsl.delhi.gov.in and Delhi.gov.in

(DEEPA VERMA)
DIRECTOR:FSL

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0149/24-25

UPDCC Office of DGM-01, PIU Song Dam, UPDCC Ltd. Ground Floor, Lakhwad Field Hostel, Yamuna Colony, Dehradun-248001 E-Mail ID: songproject.gm@gmail.com

Request for Proposal
Office of the Deputy General Manager -1, PIU Song Dam, UPDCC Ltd, Dehradun invites RFPs from interested parties. Brief summary of RFPs given as below:

RFP No:03 / DGM-1/ PIU Song/ 2024-25 Dated 05.08.2024

Name of work	Tender Fee
Selection of Owner's Engineer & Project Management Consultant for Dam Contract, Construction and Quality Control of Song Dam Drinking Water Project, Dehradun, Uttarakhand	Rs. 5,900/- (Rupees Five thousand Nine hundred only) Informform Demand Draft issued by one of the Nationalized/Scheduled Banks in Indian fav or of General Manager, PIU Song Dam, UPDCC Ltd payable at Dehradun.

Or
NEFT/RTGS/IMPS Transaction-
Name of Account Holder- UPDCC Song Dam Drinking Water Project PIU, Bank Name- Punjab National Bank, Yamuna Colony, Dehradun, Account No- 3968002100016976, IFSC Code- PUNB0396800, Address- Chakrata Road, Yamuna Colony, Dehradun, Uttarakhand

Last date for Purchasing bid	20.08.2024 Time:12:00 PM
Pre bid Meeting	12.08.2024 Time:12:00 PM
Last date for submission of bids	20.08.2024 Time:03:00PM

The RFP documents and TOR (Terms of Reference) can be requested by email (songproject.gm@gmail.com) or can be purchased directly from office of PIU Song Dam at Dehradun from 06.08.2024 onwards after submitting the tender fee. Deputy General Manager-1

बैंक नोट मुद्रणालय, देवास (म.प्र.)
BANK NOTE PRESS, DEWAS (M. P.)
(आईएसओ : 9001 एवं आईएसओ : 14001 प्रमाणित इकाई)
(ISO : 9001 & ISO : 14001 Certified Unit)
भारत प्रतिभूति मुद्रण तथा मुद्रा निर्माण निगम लिमिटेड की इकाई
A Unit of Security Printing & Minting Corporation of India Limited
मिनिरात्रा कंपनी - I, सीपीएसई
Miniratna Company - I CPSE
(भारत सरकार के पूर्ण स्वामित्ववाली)
(Wholly owned by Government of India)
CIN: U22213DL2006GOI144763 Pin: 455001 (MP)
E-mail: bnppurchase@spmcil.com Phone.: 07272-255222
Website: www.bnppdewas.spmcil.com Fax: 07272-255111

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Bank Note Press, Dewas invites the sealed tender in the prescribed form for supply of below mentioned material/ Services on or before due date & time:-

1. Tender no. 01/BNP/PTGT/Chromium Bath/2024-25/OT dated 05-08-2024 for Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Hard Chromium Electroplating bath with electronic rectifier on turnkey basis.

For the details & tender documents, The General Manager, Bank Note Press, Dewas may be contacted. Also refer website <https://bnppdewas.spmcil.com> for tender document. All updates, amendments, corrigendum etc. if any will be posted on the above websites as and when required. There will not be any publication of the same through newspaper or any other media.

Sd/-
Joint General Manager (Materials)
For General Manager & HoD

NORTHERN RAILWAY Tender Notice

Invitation of tender through E-tendering (e-Procurement Systems)

Corrigendum 1:- For a condition in tender document.
NIT No:- 255138
Tender for "Contract for UST of Wheel disc and Axles, DPT of underlung parts & Bogie frame parts and MPI/MPT testing of springs at CNK."
Tender Cost: Rs. 49,97,419/- including GST (Rs. Forty Nine Lacs Ninety Seven Thousand Four Hundred Nineteen only)
• Corrigendum is issued for special condition at page 93 of 97 of Tender Document.

Existing condition	May be read as
Personal engaged in testing: Testing shall be done by only trained and having valid RDSO certificate or ISNT/ASNT Level II certificate in UST (Ultrasonic testing), MPT/MPI (Magnetic particle testing) and DPT/LPI (Dye penetration Testing), apart from this, all the certificates must be available with the contractor/operators at the time of filling tender, otherwise the tender will not be evaluated.	Personal engaged in testing: Testing shall be done by only trained and having valid RDSO certificate for UST of Axles. ISNT/ASNT Level II certificate is required for UST of wheel disc (Ultrasonic testing), MPT/MPI (Magnetic particle testing) and DPT/LPI (Dye penetration Testing).

The Due date for submission of above tender remaining same i.e., 21.08.2024. Also, other condition mentioned in tender document remains same. Tender No. 255138 Dated 05.08.2024 2393/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

अजमेर विकास प्राधिकरण, अजमेर
अजमेर विकास प्राधिकरण, अजमेर की ओर से विभिन्न कार्यों की अनुमानित लागत राशि 1238.39 लाख की ई-निविदा दिनांक 22.08.2024 सांय 06:00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा से संबंधित समस्त विवरण वेबसाइट (<http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>) एवं (<http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) <http://www.urban.rajasthan.gov.in/ada> पर देखा जा सकता है।
UBN No. :- AJD2425WS0B00077 - 79
राज.सं.सं.सं./24/3293

Government of Punjab
(Department of Health & Family Welfare, Punjab)
Tender Notice Bid Ref. No. :- e-tender/PHSC/Proc./RC/Medicines-EDL & JSSK/2024/160
The Punjab Health Systems Corporation, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali) invites online bids for Medicines under EDL & JSSK as per details enumerated in the tender document available on the website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in/>
Date, time and place of Pre-bid conference : 12.08.2024 at 11.30 a.m. in the Committee Room of Punjab Health Systems Corporation, Punjab School Education Building, 2nd Floor, Block-E S.A.S. Nagar - Mohali-160062. Phone no. 0172-2232245, 2232247.
Closing date & time : 29.08.2024 till 4.30 p.m.
For details log onto :- <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
Note: Any Corrigendum(s) to the tender notice shall be published on the above website only.
36371 MANAGING DIRECTOR

Government of Maharashtra
Office of Deputy Conservator of Forests, Pune Forest Division, Pune
Address:- Senapati Road, Symbiosis, Pune - 411004
E-mail address:- dycfpune@gmail.com Landline No. 020-25660593
E-Tender 2024-25
Deputy Conservator of Forests Pune department of Forests, Pune is inviting tenders through e-Tender System (Online) for the following works from the registered contractors of Forest Department, Government of Maharashtra. Tender documents should be downloaded from the Government website <http://mahatenders.gov.in>. Also, the Deputy Conservator of Forests Pune has reserved the right to accept or reject the tender.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Name of Work	Total Tender Amount	EMD Amount	Time Limit of Work	Blank Tender Amount
1	04/2024-25	Development Works of Kalkhairawadi Vanudhyan at Kalkhairawadi F.S. No. 473 in Baramati Range of Pune Forest Division.	33,96,462/-	33,965/-	03 Months	1000
2	05/2024-25	Development Works of Waghalwadi Vanudhyan at Waghalwadi F.S. No. 27 in Baramati Range of Pune Forest Division.	1,00,04,825/-	1,00,048/-	03 Months	1000

E-Tender Amount Rs. :- Available on website.
E-Tender Available Period :- Dated 05/08/2024 to 09/08/2024 upto 06.00 PM.
E-Opening of tenders :- Dated 13/08/2024 at 11:00 am (Next day office hours in case of Government holiday)
All the e-tender information is available on the following website.
1. <http://mahatenders.gov.in>.
(If there is any change in this tender, it will be notified on the above website.)
2. Conservator of Forests Pune Forest Department, Pune. Notice board in office
Outward No. A - Desk-2(2) /PLAN/E-Tendering/ 621/2024-25
Dt.02/08/2024
Office of Deputy Conservator of Forest Pune Forest Department, Pune- 411 004.
DGIPR/2024-2025/1577
Sd/-
(Mahadev Mohite)
Deputy Conservator of Forests Pune

Government of India
Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
Applications are invited for the post of Chairperson in National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVT), New Delhi, (a Non-statutory regulatory authority under Administrative Control of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship). The detailed advertisement along with the eligibility criteria, prescribed proforma and other necessary information are available at the website of this Ministry (<http://www.msde.gov.in>). Interested candidates may send their applications complete in all respect in the prescribed format to the Joint Director (E&P Wing) either by email (ecopol-msde@gov.in) or by post on or before 5.30 p.m., 30th September, 2024.
Place: New Delhi
Date: 05.08.2024
Sd/-
Joint Director
Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
CBC 63101/11/0004/2425

WESTERN RAILWAY-AHMEDABAD DIVISION

VARIOUS ENGINEERING WORKS

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 15 OF 2024-2025 DATED 30.07.2024

Sr. No.	E-Tender No.	Name of Work	Approximate NIT Cost (₹)	EMD Cost (₹)
01	DRM-ADI-105-2024-25	Out sourcing of track maintenance activities and associated work under the jurisdiction of Senior Section Engineer (PWay) Maliya - Miyana for 2 years.	2,31,45,213.82	2,65,700/-
02	DRM-ADI-106-2024-25	Out sourcing of track maintenance activities and associated work under the jurisdiction of Senior Section Engineer (PWay) Dhrangadhra - II for 2 years.	2,44,31,884.89	2,72,200.00
03	DRM-ADI-107-2024-25	Out sourcing of track maintenance activities and associated work under the jurisdiction of Senior Section Engineer (PWay) Halvad for 2 years.	4,84,61,951.71	3,92,300.00
04	DRM-ADI-108-2024-25	Out sourcing of track maintenance activities and associated work under the jurisdiction of Senior Section Engineer (PWay) Dharmghadra-I for 2 years.	3,65,88,095.04	3,33,000.00
05	DRM-ADI-109-2024-25	Out sourcing of track maintenance activities and associated work under the jurisdiction of Senior Section Engineer (PWay) Sanand for 2 years.	5,46,68,438.94	4,23,400.00
06	DRM-ADI-110-2024-25	Out sourcing of track maintenance activities and associated work under the jurisdiction of Senior Section Engineer (PWay) Viramgam for 2 years.	4,90,66,401.81	3,95,300.00
07	DRM-ADI-111-2024-25	Out sourcing of track maintenance activities and associated work under the jurisdiction of Senior Section Engineer (PWay) Ahmedabad for 2 years.	3,96,78,221.76	3,48,400.00
08	DRM-ADI-112-2024-25	Out sourcing of track maintenance activities and associated work under the jurisdiction of Senior Section Engineer (PWay) (BG) Sabarmati for 2 years.	2,83,53,942.04	2,91,800.00
09	DRM-ADI-113-2024-25	Out sourcing of track maintenance activities and associated work under the jurisdiction of Senior Section Engineer (PWay) Himmatnagar for 2 years.	3,78,66,891.17	3,39,300.00
10	DRM-ADI-114-2024-25	Out sourcing of track maintenance activities and associated work under the jurisdiction of Senior Section Engineer (PWay) Kalol for 2 years.	3,06,39,420.94	3,03,200.00
11	DRM-ADI-115-2024-25	Out sourcing of track maintenance activities and associated work under the jurisdiction of Senior Section Engineer (PWay) Ambliyanas for 2 years.	1,82,50,360.35	2,41,300.00
12	DRM-ADI-116-2024-25	Out sourcing of track maintenance activities in the jurisdiction of Senior Section Engineer (PWay) - North - Mahesana for 2 years.	6,80,33,530.31	4,80,200.00
13	DRM-ADI-117-2024-25	Out sourcing of track maintenance activities in the jurisdiction of Senior Section Engineer (PWay) - South - Mahesana for 2 years.	5,28,32,080.33	4,14,200.00
14	DRM-ADI-118-2024-25	Out sourcing of track maintenance activities in the jurisdiction of Senior Section Engineer (PWay) - Patan for 2 years.	5,79,50,555.64	4,39,800.00
15	DRM-ADI-119-2024-25	Out sourcing of track maintenance activities in the jurisdiction of Senior Section Engineer (PWay) - Palanpur for 2 years.	3,59,52,663.38	3,29,800.00
16	DRM-ADI-120-2024-25	Out sourcing of track maintenance activities in the jurisdiction of Senior Section Engineer (PWay) - Bhildi for 2 years.	4,59,41,609.61	3,79,700.00
17	DRM-ADI-121-2024-25	Out sourcing of track maintenance activities under jurisdiction of Senior Section Engineer (PWay) - Lakadiya on Mitha - Samakhiali Section for 2 years.	5,33,82,060.14	4,16,900.00
18	DRM-ADI-122-2024-25	Out sourcing of track maintenance activities under jurisdiction of Senior Section Engineer (PWay) - Aadesar on Mitha - Samakhiali Section for 2 years.	4,44,74,065.14	3,72,400.00
19	DRM-ADI-123-2024-25	Out sourcing of track maintenance activities under jurisdiction of Senior Section Engineer (PWay) - Radhanpur (West) on Mitha - Samakhiali Section for 2 years.	4,71,21,725.82	3,85,600.00
20	DRM-ADI-124-2024-25	Out sourcing of track maintenance activities under jurisdiction of Senior Section Engineer (PWay) - Radhanpur (East) on Mitha - Samakhiali Section for 2 years.	4,06,34,270.37	3,53,200.00
21	DRM-ADI-125-2024-25	Out sourcing of track maintenance activities under jurisdiction of Senior Section Engineer (PWay) - Bhachau on Samakhiali - Gandhidham Section for 2 years. (KRCL)	2,49,20,406.61	2,74,600.00
22	DRM-ADI-126-2024-25	Out sourcing of track maintenance activities under jurisdiction of Senior Section Engineer (PWay) - Gandhidham (East) on Samakhiali - Gandhidham Section for 2 years. (KRCL)	1,78,96,797.27	2,39,500.00
23	DRM-ADI-127-2024-25	Out sourcing of track maintenance activities under jurisdiction of Senior Section Engineer (PWay) - Bhachau on Samakhiali - Gandhidham Section for 2 years.	3,10,40,428.59	3,05,200.00
24	DRM-ADI-128-2024-25	Out sourcing of track maintenance activities under jurisdiction of Senior Section Engineer (PWay) - Gandhidham (East) on Samakhiali - Gandhidham - Kandla Section for 2 years.	2,67,69,282.13	2,83,900.00
25	DRM-ADI-129-2024-25	Out sourcing of track maintenance activities under jurisdiction of Senior Section Engineer (PWay) - Gandhidham (West) on Gandhidham - Bhuj Section for 2 years.	4,81,56,210.72	3,90,800.00
26	DRM-ADI-130-2024-25	Out sourcing of track maintenance activities under jurisdiction of Senior Section Engineer (PWay) - Bhuj (BG) on Bhuj - Naliya Section for 2 years.	3,85,71,874.35	3,42,900.00
27	DRM-ADI-131-2024-25	Out sourcing of track maintenance activities under jurisdiction of Senior Section Engineer (PWay) - Bhuj (MG) on Bhuj - Naliya Section for 2 years.	4,55,14,567.28	3,77,600.00
28	DRM-ADI-132-2024-25	Mitha - Samakhiali section - Providing side drain at various locations and other associated works under jurisdiction of DEN (NW) - Ahmedabad. (KRCL)	2,63,86,211.06	2,81,900.00
29	DRM-ADI-133-2024-25	Mitha - Samakhiali section - Repairing cess at various locations and other associated works under jurisdiction of DEN (NW) - Ahmedabad. (KRCL)	2,68,48,762.39	2,84,300.00
30	DRM-ADI-134-2024-25	Painting at station buildings, various Service buildings, FOBs, Fencings, Height Gauges & Quarters and repairing staff quarters in Samakhiali - Radhanpur - Mitha section under the jurisdiction of ADEN- Radhanpur.	1,58,78,730.75	2,29,400.00

For All above tenders: Closing date & time of e-tender: Date 23.08.2024 at 15:00 hrs; Office Address: Sr. Divisional Engineer, (Co. Ordination), Ahmedabad, DRM Office, Near Chamunda Bridge, Opp. New Swadeshi Mill, Naroda Road, Amdapura, Ahmedabad - 382 345. Website for participating e-tender: www.irops.gov.in 133
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