

ARMY PROMISES INTERIM GOVT AFTER ESCALATING STUDENT PROTESTS LEAD TO HER EXIT — AND A POLITICAL VACUUM

Hasina falls, flees; Army takes Dhaka

Celebration and uncertainty as protesters storm her home; son rules out her comeback

RUMA PAUL & SUDIPTO GANGULY
DHAKA, AUGUST 5

BANGLADESH PRIME Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned and fled the country on Monday after hundreds of people were killed in a crackdown on demonstrations that began as protests against job quotas and swelled into a movement demanding her downfall.

Jubilant crowds stormed into the opulent grounds of the presidential residence unopposed, carrying out looted furniture and TVs. One man balanced a red velvet, gilt-edged chair on his head. Another held an armful of vases.

Elsewhere in Dhaka, protesters climbed atop a statue of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and began chiselling away at the head with an axe.

The flight into exile — she landed at the Hindon airbase near Delhi in the evening and was taken to a safe house for the night, while her likely destination is London (see accompanying report) — ended a 15-year second stint in power for Hasina (76), who has ruled for 20 of the last 30 years as leader of the



Sheikh Hasina leaves Dhaka in a helicopter; people greet Army personnel in Dhaka as they celebrate her resignation; protesters vandalise Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's statue. PTI, Reuters, ANI

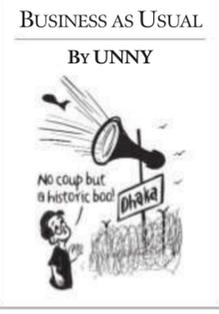


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Hasina lands in India, meets Doval, taken to safe house; set to go to UK

SHUBHAJIT ROY & MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5

HOURS AFTER she resigned as Bangladesh Prime Minister and fled the country, Sheikh Hasina landed in India — at the Hindon airbase in Ghaziabad — on Monday evening, where she met National Security Advisor Ajit Doval. Sources said she was taken to a "safe house", and is likely to travel to the United



Kingdom (UK). Hasina's unceremonious exit and the turmoil on Dhaka streets has got India worried and concerned that the popular anger against her may also singe Delhi, seen as a trusted ally and supporter of the Awami League.

On Monday night, Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) and took stock of the situation in Bangladesh. Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WATCHING DHAKA
By SHYAM SARAN

EXIT HASINA
Former Bangladesh PM has reaped wages of authoritarian politics. Delhi should work to limit damage, protect ties

EXPLAINED

STRATEGY
INDIA & HASINA: A 50-YEAR-OLD BOND

New Delhi needs to deal with new Dhaka: 5 challenges beyond 1971

Identified with Hasina, must reach out to Opp, realise it can't shape Bangla politics

CRAJA MOHAN
WARSAW, AUGUST 5

INDIA WILL need much political and diplomatic skill in dealing with the consequences of the fall of Sheikh Hasina that could rattle the geopolitics of the subcontinent, if not reshape it.

Five broad questions stand out for Indian statecraft in a crisis that has just begun to unfold.

First, can India stand by its friends? The Indian establishment has certainly ensured that Hasina was flown to safety before the angry protestors broke through to her residence in Dhaka. The story was quite different 50 years ago, when Delhi



Hasina with PM Narendra Modi during her visit to India in June this year. File

2021-23
34 tiger deaths in Bandhavgarh, nine more in Shahdol: SIT flags lapses

ANAND MOHAN J
BHOPAL, AUGUST 5

INSUFFICIENT INVESTIGATION into possible poaching cases, lapses during postmortem, and medical negligence leading to deaths — these are some of the red flags raised by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) that was looking into the deaths of 43 tigers between 2021 and 2023 in Madhya Pradesh's Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve (34 deaths) and Shahdol Forest Circle (9 deaths).

The SIT, headed by State Tiger Strike Force in-charge Ritesh Sarothia, submitted its report to acting Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) on May 14 and the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & Head of the Forest Force (PCCF-HoFF) on July 15.

According to the report, there appeared to be insufficient investigation into at least 10 cases of tiger deaths. There was a "lack

Rattled by US and Japan, markets crash over 2.5% on global sell-off

HITESH VYAS
MUMBAI, AUGUST 5

DOMESTIC STOCK market indices Sensex and Nifty crashed over 2.5 per cent — their biggest fall in two months — as fear of a recession in the US, the unwinding of Yen carry trades after the Bank of Japan hiked interest rate and geopolitical tensions in the Middle East rat-

tled investors resulting in the selling of riskier assets.

The BSE's 30-share Sensex plunged 2,222.55 points, or 2.74 per cent, to close at 78,759.40 and the Nifty 50 fell 2.68 per cent, or 662.1 points, to finish at 24,055.6. During the intraday trades, both indices declined over 3 per cent. This is the sharpest single-day fall since June 4, when Sensex and Nifty tanked 6 per cent after the

Lok Sabha election results were announced.

The market capitalisation, or the total value of all listed shares, of the BSE-listed firms dropped by Rs 15 lakh crore to Rs 441.84 lakh crore on Monday.

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SC rejects AAP Govt plea: L-G can nominate aldermen to MCD

ANANTHAKRISHNANG
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5

IN A setback to the Arvind Kejriwal government, the Supreme Court ruled on Monday that the Delhi Lieutenant Governor has the power to nominate persons with expert knowledge to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), and is not dependent on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers.



Delhi L-G
VK Saxena

India D Y Chandrachud and Justices P S Narasimha and J B Pardiwala, which had reserved its verdict in the matter on May 17, said in its order, "The statutory power under Section 3(3)(b)(i) to nominate persons of special

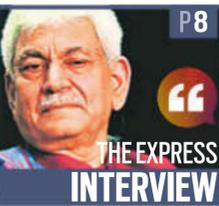
knowledge was vested in the Lt Governor for the first time by the 1993 amendment to the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957 to incorporate the Constitutional changes through Articles 239AA, 239AB and introduction of Part IX-A relating to municipalities. The power to nominate is therefore not a vestige of the past or a power of the Administrator that is continued by default. It is made to incorporate change in the Constitutional structure of NCTD."

Behind Valley's terror dip: Sprawling security net and a hard clampdown

NAVEED IQBAL
SRINAGAR, AUGUST 5

ON JUNE 16 this year, after a security review in New Delhi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah directed the security apparatus in J&K to "replicate the successes achieved in Kashmir valley through area domination plan and zero terror plan in Jammu division".

A stringent security clampdown in Kashmir has ensured minimum casualty for the uniformed forces and also civilians over the last five years. With the theatre of violence shifting to Jammu, the number of security personnel killed there in 2023 tripled to 21. In contrast, last year saw 11 deaths of security per-



'I WILL WORK TOWARDS A FINE BALANCE WITH ELECTED GOVT'
MANOJ SINHA
LT GOVERNOR, JAMMU & KASHMIR

sonnel in the Valley. The number of "militancy related incidents" has also steadily dropped in the Valley since J&K lost its

special status and the erstwhile state was split into two Union territories.

There are several factors to the sense of "control" established in Kashmir over the last five years, sources in the security establishment said. From cutting the wings of mainstream political parties to a hard stop of recruitment to local militant ranks, cracking down on separatists, booking supporters of militants under the stringent anti-terror law UAPA, and holding back service verifications for those with alleged links to militancy, the government trained its guns on what it calls the "terror ecosystem".

Besides bringing J&K directly under the Centre's control as an

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ON ARREST IN EXCISE CASE HC rejects CM's plea: 'No malice on CBI's part...'

SOHINIGHOSH
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5



Arvind Kejriwal. File

IN A setback to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the Delhi High Court Monday dismissed his plea challenging his arrest by the CBI, ruling that there was "no malice" on part of the investigating agency, and further disposed of his plea seeking bail while granting him liberty to move trial court in the matter.

In relation to Kejriwal's plea challenging his arrest as illegal, the court ruled that the agency's action of arresting him after over 1.5 years of the FIR is "well-explained by the CBI and does not reek of malice". "It is not on account of malice or a well-planned strategy as has been argued on behalf of the petitioner that the accused was not arrayed as an accused or arrested soon after the registration of the FIR. It is only after sufficient evidence was collected and the sanction was obtained in April 2024 that the CBI proceeded with further investigations in this matter, against the petitioner and his eventual arrest," the court recorded.

The court of Justice Neena Bansal Krishna accepted the prosecution's case that Kejriwal is "not an ordinary citizen of this country" and that "the control and the influence which he 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 of (Kejriwal)... Also, it establishes that the loop of evidence against (Kejriwal) got closed after collection of relevant evidence after his arrest. No malice, whatsoever, can be gathered from the acts of the respondent (CBI)."

Kejriwal was formally arrested by the CBI on June 26, despite the FIR being registered in August 2022; the FIR at the time had not named him as an accused.

Kejriwal, in his plea before HC, had sought that the arrest on April 26 and all subsequent remands — of three days — and incarceration be declared as illegal.

The CBI's arrest had come weeks after he was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on March 21 in connection with a money laundering case related to the excise policy case. Kejriwal is facing charges of corruption by the CBI in relation to the now scrapped excise policy of 2021-2022. Kejriwal had earlier argued before the HC that the CBI arrest is an "insurance arrest" to ensure that he stayed in prison. The CBI, on the other hand, had countered that it was collecting, interrogating, investigating the other co-accused and was collecting the relevant evidence in this case and had only moved an application seeking sanction to prosecute in January 2024, which was then granted in April.

The CBI had further submitted that since the SC had then granted Kejriwal interim bail under PMLA in light of Lok Sabha elections, it had, in "reverence" of SC's order, "held back its hands and no investigation was carried out by CBI for the period when he was out on interim bail."

Meanwhile, deciding on a separate plea by Kejriwal seeking bail, Justice Krishna disposed of the plea while taking into account that while both the HC and the trial court has concurrent jurisdiction to decide on bail, "but at the same time it has been held time and again by the Apex Court that the party must first approach the court of first instance."

AS IT HEARS SISODIA'S BAIL PLEA 'Where do you draw line between policy, criminality?' SC asks ED

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5



Former deputy CM Manish Sisodia. File

"WHERE DO you draw the line between policy and criminality?" — this is what the Supreme Court asked the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday as the central agency alleged that it has "documents to show the neck-deep involvement" of former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia in the Delhi excise policy case. The query came from a two-judge bench of Justices B R Gawai and K V Viswanathan while hearing the bail plea of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader.

"From an academic, purely criminal law jurisprudence point of view...commission is increased in a given case from 5% to 12%...and profits are made by distributors...Is it enough to draw an inference on a Cabinet decision per se?" Justice K V Viswanathan asked.

He added, "There is a book by a former cabinet secretary TSR Subramanian. He said that when India decided to import coal, due to acute shortage, it was instantly decided to import from the available source. "An FIR was registered saying that 'if only you had waited, you would have got a better price'...Now, should you not go

to Section 10 of the Evidence Act to unlock a prima facie nature of the conspiracy? Show something more than all this, otherwise, Cabinets can't function. Forget this case. This has been a raging issue...I want some clarity...Where do you draw the line between policy and criminality? How do you perse in-fir?...?" he asked.

The CBI and ED have registered separate cases in connection with the alleged scam.

Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, appearing for the ED said, "It is not a case of mere 5% or 10% (commission). That's not our case. There are many circumstances, many factual things which have happened... meetings have happened."

He said the accused "wanted to make money out of this exercise". "For this, the whole excise policy had to be changed. So they constituted an expert committee under excise department official Rajeev Dhawan. At that time, the wholesalers were getting 5%. This

Ravi Dhavan committee said — 'appoint government companies as distributors and retain the 5%... to get over this, they invited objections...now there is evidence to show that this particular gentleman engineered certain emails and told certain interns to write a particular type of email...so that they could make a case for not accepting the Ravi Dhavan report," the ASG added.

Pointing out that Sisodia also headed the Group of Ministers, which was in charge of the excise policy, he said that an amount of Rs 100 crore was demanded as a bribe to fund the Goa assembly election campaign. Of this, Rs 45 crore has been traced.

"I have documents to show his neck-deep involvement. He is not an innocent person who was picked up. Even the constitution of the group of ministers was a facade", Raju contended.

Senior advocate A M Singhvi, appearing for Sisodia, pointed out "the delay in trial".

He said 17 months have passed since his arrest in March 2023. "When the trial is not proceeding for reasons not attributable to the accused, the court, unless there are good reasons, may well be guided to exercise the power to grant bail," he said.

Vijender Gupta is back as BJP's LoP in Delhi Assembly

JATINANAND
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5

THE BHARATIYA Janata Party (BJP) on Monday announced the appointment of its Rohini MLA, Vijender Gupta, as the next Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Delhi Legislative Assembly.

Gupta has been elected leader of the BJP's seven-member Legislative Party and will now be the Opposition's voice in the 70-member House dominated by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). This will be his second stint as the LoP. He was the leader of the BJP's three-member and then four-member opposition in the Assembly from 2015 to 2020.

"I am grateful for being given the opportunity to serve once again by the party's national leadership. My first and foremost priority is going to be to expose the administrative and governance paralysis that the capital is suffering from because of the AAP government which has lost touch with the people both in the Assembly as well as the MCD," Gupta told *The Indian Express*.

"We have been, and will continue to demand, the convening of a session of the Delhi Assembly

to discuss issues which actually affect the people of Delhi from lack of potable water in the summer to deaths due to drowning in the monsoon. Significant departments like social welfare are headless while deaths are occurring at facilities like Asha Kiran," he also said.

The post had been vacant since June 18 when former LoP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, who was elected from South Delhi and is now a Member of Parliament, formally wrote to BJP national president Jagat Prakash Nadda to relieve him from its responsibility.

A senior BJP leader said the appointment was not only crucial as per the rules but also bearing in mind that the Delhi Assembly may convene for one of its final, if not the last, sittings with the Delhi Assembly elections, scheduled in early 2025, just around the corner.

Party sources said Gupta, a two-time MLA, was chosen for the post yet again in appreciation of his work during his first term as well as his proficiency in legislative rules and procedures.

Reacting to his appointment, the AAP said it hoped that Gupta would engage in "positive politics."

BRIEFLY Protest in Ggn after man is electrocuted

Gurgaon: A 32-year-old man was electrocuted after uninsulated wires on a pole grazed his hand on Sunday in Bilaspur, police said. The incident took place on Sunday night while Navneet, a factory worker, was heading home on his bike. Following his death, locals protested against the electricity department's officials, prompting police to file an FIR at Bilaspur police station. **ENS**

Man held over 'supporting Pak' posters

New Delhi: An elderly man from Rohini in Delhi was detained on Sunday after purported videos were circulated on social media showing posters in support of Pakistan at his house. He was mentally unstable and staying alone at his flat, said police. The posters have been seized from his home. **ENS**

Over 30K demolitions in Delhi in 5 yrs: Data

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5

VARIOUS LAND-owning agencies in Delhi carried out 30,853 demolitions in the past five years, with more than half of all such actions taking place in 2023 alone, according to government data provided to the Rajya Sabha Monday.

Replying to a question by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MP Sanjay Singh, Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Tokhan Sahu said demolitions had been carried out by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), the



Demolition was carried out in Tughlaqabad's Bengali Colony last year. File

Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB), and the Central Public Works Department (CPWD), among others, under provisions of various Acts.

From 2019 to 2023, a total of 30,843 demolitions were carried out by various agencies. This year, a total of 2,624 demolitions have

been carried out so far, it said. The number fluctuated from 4,804 in 2019 to 2,967 in 2020 to 2,927 in 2021 to 4,017 in 2022, before spiking to 16,138 in 2023. This, the MoS's written reply stated, included "11,060 residential structures and 23 commercial units demolished by DDA".

The DDA has cleared a total of 316.72 acres of encroached land from 2019 till now, it said.

"As per record available with these agencies approximately, there are 20,643 persons affected by these demolitions... As per information made available by various agencies, the expenses incurred for demolition is approximately Rs 103.27 crore," the reply stated.

New academic block inaugurated at govt school

New Delhi: Delhi Education Minister Atishi and Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel on Monday inaugurated a new four-storey academic block and multipurpose hall at a government school in Dilshad Garden.

The new school block at Sant Eknath Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya has 24 modern classrooms, a staff room, a lift, an activity room, and a library. The multipurpose hall can accommodate 300 people, according to a press release by the Delhi Education Department on Monday.

"With the multipurpose hall coming up, there will be opportunities for students to participate in



Atishi at the inauguration. Praveen Khanna

extracurricular activities apart from academics," Atishi said. **ENS**

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● SIT report on MP tiger deaths

HOW THE TIGERS DIED, ACCORDING TO SIT REPORT

Reason for death	Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve	Shahdol forest circle
Electrocution	3	3
Infighting	17	0
Disease/illness	4	0
Senility	2	0
Body parts seized	2	0
Poisoning	0	1
Road accident	0	1
Unconfirmed	6	4
Total	34	9

Figures for 2021-2023 period



of interest by higher authorities and Forest Range Officers in discharging their duties, resulting in arrests in only two out of five cases where unnatural causes of death were found/body parts were seized," it said, while flagging a "disinterest in recovering missing body parts (10 out of 34 cases) from the tiger carcasses".

In many cases where tigers were found dead due to electrocution, there was an "absence of various vital evidences like mobile forensics, CDR, electric trip data in the investigation of the cases and no efforts were made to extract information on revenue and private land ownership", the report said. It said in 17 cases, there was a tendency to portray tiger deaths as a result of infighting without detailed investigation.

The SIT was formed on orders of the state Chief Wildlife Warden to look into the high number of tiger deaths in the two areas.

Wildlife activist Ajay Dubey, who had filed a petition on poaching cases in the state, told *The Indian Express* he would approach the Madhya Pradesh High Court with the report. "In their reply to the court, the state has claimed poaching cases are under control. This report sheds light on multiple irregularities by higher authorities," he said.

Acting PCCF Subharanjan Sen said there were "some shortcomings" in the department's functioning. But "the report also points to the fact that there is no organised gang working in these forests. We are facing a staff shortage. In BTR, the post of deputy director is still vacant and other officers are holding double responsibilities. An NTCA (National Tiger Conservation Authority, the apex tiger conservation body) team has given us recommendations and we are working on them," he said.

The findings of the SIT report include:

Shortcomings in probe

■ On May 14, 2021, the skeletal remains of a male adult tiger were found. Three people were arrested for poaching after it was found that 12 nails and all of the animal's vital organs and whiskers were missing. The SIT noted that an "erroneous and inadequate final report was submitted to NTCA", and the "competent authority failed to identify the seized body parts from the accused, leading to the immediate release of all three suspects on bail". The cause of death remained "uncertain due to improper and incomplete investigation..."

■ On August 29, 2021, a 14-year-old tigress was found dead in a well in BTR. The cause of death was stated as electrocution, but the SIT ruled it was poaching, noting one missing nail, one canine, and whiskers. "The tigress was poached by electrocution, but no substantial scientific evidence was collected," the SIT said.

■ On January 28, 2022, a 10-year-old tigress was found dead in

BTR with burn marks on its right and left thighs. The initial report suggested infighting, but no investigation was conducted until the SIT's arrival. The cause of death was later attributed to electrocution, but no efforts were made to "get the electric trip data" from the electricity board.

■ On September 15, 2023, an adult tiger was found with nine nails, the head, atlas vertebrae, all four canines, whiskers, skull, skin, and underlying tissues of the head missing. According to the report, the case was not investigated properly - while the cause of death is cited as electrocution, postmortem and laboratory findings suggested poaching.

■ On April 1, 2023, the bones of a tiger were found in a well. The SIT didn't rule out the possibility of them being dumped there. "Dog squad was not called to the crime scene," the SIT report said. "No whiskers and hair samples were recovered from the well."

Post-mortem issues

According to the SIT, "sample collection and sealing were not done by the Veterinary Officer/Wildlife Health Officer, affecting the chain of custody in court cases", and case diaries and documentation of many tiger deaths "were not adequately prepared".

■ On May 27, 2021, the skeletal remains of a tiger aged 5-7 years were found. Cause of death remained unestablished.

■ On November 23, 2021, a 12-year-old tiger was found dead. A suspect, who claimed to have killed the tiger by electrocution, was held along with 12 others.

■ On May 17, 2023, an 8- or 9-year-old tiger was found dead, with its canines and nails missing. This tiger died due to poaching, and two people were arrested.

In all three cases, the cause of death could not be established, with the SIT report saying autopsies were conducted by veterinarians of the Animal Husbandry Department who had no previous experience of "doing PM of wild animals".

Other gaps

■ On January 17, 2021, a mutilated head of a 4- or 5-month-old tiger was found. According to SIT, there was "no application of scientific investigation" - the cause of death allegedly remained unconfirmed, no efforts were undertaken to ascertain its age or sex, the autopsy was conducted by a veterinarian doctor, and, despite faecal droppings of another animal found at the site, no efforts were made to identify if it was involved in a fight with another animal.

■ A 15-month-old tiger was initially said to have died of natural causes on January 7, 2022, at BTR. However, the SIT, after reviewing post-mortem reports and photos, concluded that the tiger died due to infighting. The dog squad was not called, nor was the animal with which the tiger fought identified, the report said.

FROM PAGE ONE FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Hasina falls, flees; Army takes Dhaka

political movement inherited from her father, assassinated with most of his family in a 1975 coup. Hasina left the country for her own safety at the insistence of her family, her son Sajeeb Wazed Joy told the BBC World Service. Hasina was "so disappointed that after all her hard work, for a minority to rise up against her", Joy said. She would not attempt to mount a political comeback, he said.

Earlier, Army Chief General Waker-Uz-Zaman announced Hasina's resignation in a televised address to the nation and said an interim government would be formed. He said he had held talks with leaders of major political parties - excluding Hasina's long-ruling Awami League - and would soon meet President Mohammed Shahabuddin to discuss the way ahead.

"The country is going through a revolutionary period," said Zaman, 58, who had taken over as Army Chief only on June 23. "I promise you all, we will bring justice to all the murders and injustices. We request you to have faith in the Army of the country," he said. "Please don't go back to the path of violence and please return to non-violent and peace-

ful ways." Bangladesh has been engulfed by violence since student protests last month against the quotas, which reserve some public sector jobs for veterans of the country's 1971 war of independence from Pakistan, seen as favouring allies of the ruling party. The protests escalated into a campaign demanding the overthrow of Hasina, and were met by a violent crackdown in which about 250 people have been killed and thousands injured.

The country, once one of the fastest-growing economies in the world, has been plagued lately by slow economic growth, inflation and unemployment.

Hasina's son Joy defended her record: "She has turned Bangladesh around. When she took over power it was considered a failing state. It was a poor country. Until today it was considered one of the rising tigers of Asia."

She had won a fourth straight term only in January this year in an election boycotted by the main Opposition party, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party of her nemesis Begum Khaleda Zia.

Hasina had ruled since winning a decades-long power struggle

with Zia in 2009. The two women inherited political movements from slain rulers - in Hasina's case, from her father Mujib; in Zia's case, from her husband Ziaur Rahman, who took power after Mujib's death and was himself assassinated in 1981. "Hasina's resignation proves the power of the people," said Tarique Rahman, the exiled eldest son of the two Zias who now serves as acting chairman of the Opposition party. "Together, let's rebuild Bangladesh into a democratic and developed nation, where the rights and freedoms of all people are protected," he posted on X.

Weeks of protests, violence

Student activists had called for a march to the capital Dhaka on Monday in defiance of a nationwide curfew, to press Hasina to resign after clashes across the country on Sunday killed nearly 100 people. On Monday, at least six people were killed in clashes between police and protesters in the Jatra Bari and Dhaka Medical College areas, the Daily Star newspaper reported.

Sunday's death toll, which included at least 13 policemen, was

the highest for a single day from any protests in Bangladesh's recent history, surpassing the 67 deaths reported on July 19 when students took to the streets against the quotas. Last month, at least 150 people were killed and thousands injured in violence touched off by student groups protesting against the job quotas.

The government declared the indefinite nationwide curfew starting at 6 pm on Sunday and also announced a three-day general holiday starting from Monday.

Over the weekend, there were attacks, vandalism and arson targeting government buildings, offices of Hasina's Awami League party, police stations and houses of public representatives. Garment factories in the country, which supply apparel to some of the world's top brands, were closed indefinitely.

Critics of Hasina, along with human rights groups, have accused her government of using excessive force against protesters, a charge she and her ministers deny. Hasina had said that "those who are carrying out violence are not students but terrorists who are out to destabilise the nation".

REUTERS

● Hasina lands in India, taken to safe house; UK likely destination

Rajnath Singh, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and senior officials of intelligence agencies were among those present. Jaishankar also briefed Modi, and apprised Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on the developments in the neighbouring country.

While Hasina, accompanied by her sister, landed at the Hindon airbase, near Delhi, Monday evening, sources said she is likely to travel to the UK. "At around 5.15 pm, Hasina landed at the Hindon airbase in a C-130J military transport aircraft of the Bangladesh Air Force. During her interaction with Doval, senior military officials and officials of the intelligence agencies were present," said sources.

A source in the security establishment said she was taken to a "safe house". A PTI report said Hasina is likely to meet her daughter Saima Wazed, who is based in Delhi. Wazed works as WHO's regional director for South-East Asia. "Two planes of the IAF left for

Assam from Hindon airbase and another from Lucknow to transport security personnel to secure border areas," said the source.

According to sources, top government officials also held meetings with the Armed Forces Monday evening to plan evacuation efforts. It is learnt that the IAF has been roped in to evacuate Indians stuck in Bangladesh, including high commission officials, and the effort is likely to begin Tuesday.

On Monday, a wary South Block watched scenes of protesters ransacking Hasina's office and residence, entering Parliament, attacking the ruling Awami League's party offices, and even vandalising the statue of Mujibur Rahman. New Delhi has stepped up security of Indian diplomatic facilities in Bangladesh but the concerns spread far beyond the immediate.

Since she returned to power in 2008, Hasina's presence next door has been a friendly and assuring one for New Delhi as both nations cooperated on the issue of counter-terrorism and cracked

down on anti-India terror outfits operating from Bangladesh soil.

This made her an important ally in the fight against extremism - both New Delhi and Dhaka were on the same page when it came to dealing with the Jamaat-Islami in Bangladesh. This, in turn, emboldened Hasina to go after the Opposition - starting with Jamaat, then rival BNP, and slowly and surely, dissenting voices in civil society and the media.

For over 16 years, India has backed Hasina - despite being questioned for her undemocratic ways when it came to dealing with the Opposition, civil society and the media. It has also given aid and assistance for infrastructure and humanitarian needs to meet Dhaka's requirements.

In recent years, Hasina faced questions of rigging elections from the West - especially the US. But Delhi stood firm behind her. In the last one year, she visited India thrice - once in September last year for the G20 summit and twice in June this year itself, the

first time for PM Narendra Modi's third-term swearing-in ceremony and then on a bilateral visit.

This reflected the proximity between the two countries, and the Indian government's backing of Hasina even as she faced growing anti-incumbency. In the last month or so, she battled with protesters and students, she went by her political instincts and framed them as being propped by the Opposition, especially the Jamaat. She used her old playbook of going after the Opposition - using the state machinery - and crushing dissent; firing at protesters; and shutting down the city by imposing curfew.

This transformed a leaderless movement by the youth - aspirational, ambitious and angry at lack of opportunities and jobs - to a larger movement, backed by the political Opposition. As the casualty hovered between 200 and 300 people, the anger on the streets could no longer be contained and protesters started asking for her head.

● Sensex, Nifty record biggest fall in 2 months on weak global cues

compared to Rs 457.16 lakh crore on August 2. While foreign institutional investors offloaded Rs 10,073.75 crore worth of Indian equities, domestic institutional investors bought Rs 9,155.55 crore, according to the exchange data.

Also, the rupee slumped 37 paise to settle at an all-time low of 84.09 against the US dollar following a sell-off in global markets. Wall Street's main indexes also slumped Monday as risk appetite among investors dropped on fears of a US recession following weak economic data last week.

"A disappointing job scenario in the US coupled with the fear of a reverse Yen carry trade, following an interest rate hike in Japan, led Asian markets to plunge on Monday with Nikkei falling more than 12 per cent," said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities.

The unemployment rate in the

US rose to 4.3 per cent in July, and nonfarm payroll employment edged up by 114,000, stoking fear of a deteriorating labour market and a possible recession in the economy. "Beyond the headline miss in job gains and the unemployment rate, the household survey indicated a rise in job losses, typically a warning sign for a pending downturn. An unusual rise in temporary layoffs and evidence of a negative weather effect raise the possibility that the rise in job losses is just a blip, rather than the start of a worsening trend," Nomura said in a report.

Last week, the US Federal Reserve kept the interest rates unchanged at 5.25-5.5 per cent and hinted at a rate cut in September.

Investors and analysts are debating if the Federal Reserve will need to accelerate its policy easing to support growth, Jasani said. The Bank of Japan recently

hiked its key interest rate to 0.25 per cent from 0.1 per cent, to check the fall in the Yen against the US currency. "The unwinding of the great Japanese Yen carry trade is the talk of the town today and pushing financial markets lower," said Apurva Sheth, Head of Market Perspectives and Research, SAMCO Securities. Carry trade is a trading strategy in which investors use a high-yielding currency to fund a transaction with a low-yielding currency.

According to market experts, the fall in the market was mainly on account of global factors and the Indian economy continues to remain resilient. They said retail investors should not panic and worry about their investments.

"India's economy and equity markets continue to be on a growth trajectory supported by strong corporate fundamentals despite some recent international

events along with rising geopolitical risks. In my view, long term investors should not be deterred by such global uncertainties. The focus should remain on the broader investment horizon of 10-15 years, leveraging the solid fundamentals of the Indian economy and its companies," said A Balasubramanian, MD & CEO, Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC Ltd.

The sell-off in the market was seen across the board, with all major indices ending in red. The Nifty Smallcap 100 dropped 4.57 per cent and Nifty Midcap 100 dipped 3.55 per cent. Sectoral indices Nifty Bank and Nifty Auto fell 2.45 per cent and 3.92 per cent, respectively. Among NSE firms, those that lost the most included Tata Motors (7.4 per cent), ONGC (6.39 per cent), Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (5.92 per cent), Tata Steel (5.61 per cent) and Hindalco Industries (5.25 per cent).

● Five challenges beyond 1971

could not prevent the murder of Hasina's father and the founder of the republic, Mujibur Rahman, and much of his family by the coup makers on August 15, 1975.

India had a similar failure in 1992, when the Pakistan-backed militant groups over-ran Kabul. Delhi could not evacuate President Najibullah out of trouble. Four years later, when the Taliban gained control of Kabul, it dragged Najibullah out of UN custody and hanged him by a lamp post.

Second, standing by friends in thick and thin is an important part of a major power's credibility in the region and beyond. But no nation can tie its fortunes in another to one individual or party. An immediate challenge for Delhi lies in distancing itself from Hasina and engaging her opponents.

The last decade and more has seen the dramatic transformation of bilateral relationship, thanks to the forward-looking vision of Hasina. But Hasina's drift to authoritarianism and weakening legitimacy at home have also cast a shadow on the sustainability of those gains.

Whether intended or not, Delhi is far too closely identified with Hasina and the mounting hatred against her is bound to rub off against India. That tension between support for Hasina and her growing unpopularity at home has been evident in the last few years.

When Hasina's declining political credibility was highlighted by the Biden Administration, the public discourse in India seemed to diss Washington rather than come to terms with a changing reality on the ground.

One hopes the government agencies were a little smarter than the public argument. Monochromatic discourse on foreign policy, with very little questioning of the assumptions underlying it, inevitably comes back to bite Delhi.

The next few days will reveal whether the Indian establishment had developed working relationships with key figures within the Bangla opposition who have a crucial role to play in calming the public anger, facilitating a stable interim government and sustaining the high stakes partnership between the two countries.

Third, Delhi must expect that Pakistan and China would try to exploit the current chum in Dhaka and nudge the new government away from India in the days ahead. India will need to work with its friends and partners like the US, UK and Europe to limit the vio-

lence at the current juncture and work with the Bangladesh Army in ensuring a peaceful transition to a new order within Bangladesh.

Besides Pakistan, Turkey has long fished in the troubled waters of Bangladesh. Delhi would want to work with its partners in the Gulf, especially the UAE and Saudi Arabia, to develop pathways for the economic stabilisation of Bangladesh and limit the dangers of extremism.

Fourth, painful as it might be, Delhi must stop romanticising the 1971 liberation of Bangladesh. That Bangladesh is deeply divided on interpreting its history is a reality that Delhi can't ignore. Many forces in Bangladesh do not buy into Hasina's (and Indian) narrative on the liberation of Bangladesh.

The backlash against Hasina's relentless effort to force her narrative down the throats of the population is already visible and could get stronger in the coming days. Delhi needs to engage with these "anti-liberation" forces without prejudice to history and on the basis of long-term mutual interest. While Hasina may have had reasons to get stuck with 1971, India has little strategic incentive to be tied down by it.

The story of India-Bangladesh relations is not just about 1971. The Partition of 1947 has never stopped casting a dark shadow over the relationship. The last few years have seen Delhi and Dhaka try and overcome many of Partition's bitter legacies. But the unfolding crisis in Bangladesh is a reminder that both sides are nowhere near closure.

Finally, Indian debates on the neighbourhood, however, tend to be self-referential. Indian foreign policy discourse must recognise that developments in the neighbourhood are not just about Indian resolve, good will or strategy. India's neighbours have politics of their own; these can't be determined by Delhi. They also have agency of their own in shaping their political destiny at home and the world.

India will need enormous strategic patience, faith in the logic of geography, belief in the centrality of commerce, and a strong political commitment to transcend the Partition pathologies in building relations with a changing Bangladesh.

(The writer is a visiting professor at the Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore, and Contributing Editor, international affairs, for *The Indian Express*)

● L-G can nominate aldermen to MCD

The judgment came on the plea of the AAP government challenging L-G V K Saxena's move to nominate 10 aldermen to the MCD without the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers.

Reading out the verdict, Justice Narasimha referred to Section 3(3)(b)(i) of the DMC Act, which provides that the L-G shall nominate 10 persons, who are aged not less than 25 years and who have special knowledge or experience in municipal administration, to the MCD and "the question for our consideration is whether the L-G carries the power of nomination as statutory duty attached to the office or is bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers".

The court then cited the ruling of the SC Constitution bench in the control of services matter wherein it was said if Parliament makes law in relation to any subject in state or concurrent list, the

executive power of the NCT Government of Delhi shall be limited to the law enacted by Parliament. It said Senior Advocate A M Singhvi, appearing for Delhi government, argued that vesting power in the administrator under Section 3(3)(b)(i) "is nothing but a semantic lottery as the word administrator has been used in many pre-1991 legislation which relate to subjects that now fall within the purview of the legislative assembly".

The ruling said: "It is... incorrect to suggest that the power vesting in the L-G constituted by default or semantic lottery."

In its plea, the Delhi government had sought quashing of the orders and notifications dated January 1, 2023, and January 4, 2023, issued by the L-G, naming 10 persons as nominated members of MCD under the DMC Act, 1957.

● Behind Valley's terror dip: sprawling security net and a hard clampdown

UT without an elected government, first and foremost was the manner in which the government "reduced the play that the mainstream political parties enjoyed with the Centre".

"The parties acted as a buffer between the people and the Centre. Also, those who were aligned with the separatist ideology, who said that they don't believe in the Constitution of India, also realised that the ground had shifted because then you cannot claim you need 370 which is part of the Constitution. So the discrediting of the separatist ideology, space and parties was also achieved," a senior J&K administration source said.

This, they claim, began in 2016 with the late separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani refusing to meet an all-party delegation led by then Home Minister Rajnath Singh. "This sort of led to the thinking that the doors of negotiations would now be shut," the source said.

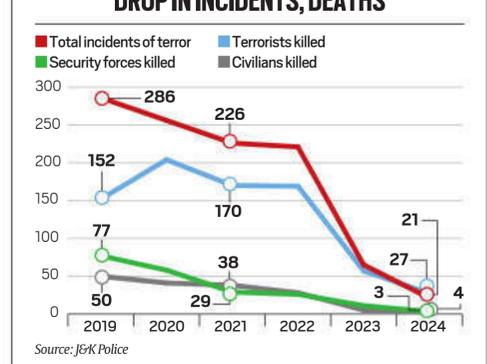
After 2019, the security apparatus also underwent a strategic shift in moving from attacking "active militants" to attacking "the terror ecosystem". Here, the key actions relate to cutting off recruitment to militant ranks. "The nodal

point of this were the large funerals allowed for deceased militants. Those funerals became a rallying point to recruit new individuals ready to replace those who were killed," a senior officer said.

At the time, the outbreak of the Covid pandemic became the "alibi" for not returning militant's bodies to their families and, in turn, taking away the possibility of large funerals beginning in April 2020. This has since become a precedent and officials believe that slowly "social sanction has emerged around this with the acceptance that the families of militants will not be given their bodies."

The bodies of local militants killed in encounters since have been buried in separate graveyards in the presence of their families wherever possible. Meanwhile, those involved in providing "shelter, weapons and logistics" have been systematically targeted under Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), not just the Public Safety Act (PSA). "While PSA is an executive detention, under UAPA, it is a more stringent but accountable detention," a source said. From 2021, the capacity of the police to conduct more thorough investigations was

DROP IN INCIDENTS, DEATHS



prioritised. First, the government created a State Investigation Agency (SIA) on the lines of the National Investigation Agency. Sometime later, Special Investigation Units (SIUs) were established at the district level to ensure proper investigation to secure convictions in the courts.

"Earlier cases would be registered but the personnel in-charge would not be equipped to handle investigations. Officers were brought in from the NIA to assist with capacity-building and train-

ing, which includes proper evidence collection, witness attendance and briefing and writing of chargesheets among other technical aspects to create dedicated police teams," a senior police official said.

So, while the earlier police focus was on fighting terror through "militaristic means," efforts were made to shift to bring a "procedural focus" to cases of terror.

Additionally, use of UAPA also provided the police "exceptional powers" such as property attach-

ment. Over the last four years, properties of several organisations and individuals have been attached by the J&K Police. This began in 2022 with the police in Srinagar attaching five residential properties on charges of "wilful harbouring of militants".

The attachment of the properties entails that these structures cannot be transferred, leased or sold in any manner, "except with the prior permission of the DGP of J&K police." Another aspect of this is "weaponisation of verifications" - not just for seeking travel documents but also to scrutinise previous and future appointments, sources said.

Focus is also trained on schools and identification of teachers with separatist tilt. At least 50 "such teachers" have had to go through transfers from Kashmir to Jammu or remote locations within Kashmir. This, sources said, is with the aim to send a message to all that the administration is aware of your activities and is watching.

J&K DGR Swain believes that "disorderliness is caused by a handful of bullies." "The State is mandated to enforce law and order. We need to have a built-in disincentive for joining terror groups in public interest. Conversely, we need to have built-in incentives for not joining," he said.

With the security grid in Kashmir "in far better shape" than in Jammu, sources claim that forces are also more aware of mobility patterns of militants in the Valley. "In Jammu, the force concentration is weaker and therefore it takes time to organise a response to an attack," sources said.

This relative calm in Kashmir, however, belies the fact that civilians, specially outsiders and Kashmiri Pandits, have been militant targets for the past five years. More than 160 civilians have been killed in the Valley since 2019 in terror-related violence. A large number of these are labourers and artisans who come to earn a livelihood in Kashmir from across the country.

Lack of political representation on the ground has meant further alienation of people who are upset with the abrogation Articles 370 and 35A. The victory of Engineer Rashid - a politician with separatist tilt and in jail for the past five years over terror funding charges - against conventional political stalwarts such as Omar Abdullah and Sajjad Lone, many argue, is a sign that anger in the Valley remains latent and the "control" has been brought largely through security measures.

INPUTS FROM DEEPTIMAN TIWARY in New Delhi

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IN REMEMBRANCE Corps of Signals salutes its Signallers who left us for their heavenly abode during the month of Jul 2024.

(a) JC-392800P Naib Subedar Shaik Sandani Major Khedikar Nitin Wamanrao

(b) 15698318P Company Havildar Baljinder Singh Dinesh Telu

(c) 15700119H Havildar Baljinder Singh Dinesh Telu

(d) 15719626L Naik Pardeep Kumar Suman Kumar

(e) 15687143X Naik Suman Kumar

(f) 15757064H Signm Suman Kumar

On behalf of the Corps, we sincerely pray to Almighty for peace to the departed souls & strength to the bereaved families to bear this irreparable loss.

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL AUTONOMOUS STATE MEDICAL COLLEGE SULTANPUR

Letter No: ASMC/SULTANPUR/2024/674 Date: 03.08.2024

Office of Principal, Autonomous State Medical College, Sultanpur

Application are invited for regular faculty Positions of Professor Associate Professor and Assistant Professor in various departments of ASMC Sultanpur.

For more detail information visit DGM Website www.dgme.up.gov.in as well as college website www.asmscsultanpur.in

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

NIT No. 462455131 Date: 25.07.2024

SMM/EMU/GZB acting for and on behalf of President of India Invites E-Tender against Tender No. 462455131 dt- 25.07.2023. The details are as under :-

1 Name of work Micro Processor based Electronic Speed Indicator Cum Recorder and Energy Monitoring System as per RDSO Spec. No. RDSO/ PE/SPEC/EMU/0032-2002, Rev. 0 or latest.

2 Approx. cost of work 83,63,250/- (eighty three lakh sixty three thousand two hundred fifty Rupees)

3 Quantity 35 Set

4 Last Date & Time of submission of tender bid of tender 27.08.2024 (11:00 Hrs.)

5 Date of Time of Opening of tender document 27.08.2024 (11:00 Hrs.)

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

Note: (i) The tenderers must be registered on the Indian Railways E-Procurement System (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. (ii) Please refer to the tender document for all terms and conditions. (iii) No manual offers are acceptable.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2397/24

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of Tenders through E-Tendering (E-Procurement systems)

Sr.DMM, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the president of India invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items.

Sr. DMM/NS/LP/93246122 & 93246123/2024 Date: 05.08.2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2402/24

कौशल विकास एवं औद्योगिक प्रशिक्षण विभाग, हरियाणा

कौशल नवन, प्लाट नं० आई०पी०-२, सेक्टर-३, पंचकुला

वेबसाइट www.itharyana.gov.in

Twitter: @Haryana ITIs

औद्योगिक प्रशिक्षण संस्थानों में सत्र 2024-25 हेतु 'ऑन द स्पॉट' दाखिला नोटिस

हरियाणा राज्य में स्थित सभी राजकीय एवं निजी औद्योगिक प्रशिक्षण संस्थानों में रिक्त सीटों के प्रति 'On the Spot admission' दिनांक 12.08.2024 से 23.08.2024 तक प्रतिदिन संस्थान स्तर पर किया जाएगा और साथ ही नए आवेदन भी दाखिल पोर्टल www.admissions.itharyana.gov.in पर दिनांक 08.08.2024 से 23.08.2024 तक भरे जा सकते हैं। यह दाखिला नए एवं पुराने आवेदनों की समुदाय मॉडल के आधार पर किया जाएगा तथा इसमें कोई आरक्षण लागू नहीं होगा। प्रथम चित संस्थान में दाखिले के इच्छुक हैं वह उस संस्थान में दोपहर 12:30 बजे तक अपना मॉडल कार्ड जमा करवाएंगे तथा अपने सभी मूल प्रमाण पत्रों के साथ व मोके पर दाखिला फॉर्म ऑनलाइन जमा करवाने हेतु संस्थान में स्वयं उपस्थित होंगे। मॉडल कार्ड दाखिला पोर्टल www.admissions.itharyana.gov.in से खारजोड किया जा सकता है तथा संस्थान वाईव रिक्त सीटों की संख्या दाखिला पोर्टल पर देखी जा सकती है। सत्र 2024-25 के दाखिले की विवरण चक्रिका में बर्णित अन्य नियम व शर्तें यथावत लागू रहेंगी।

26540HRY महानिदेशक

Office of the Principal, Govt. College for Women, Pali, District Rewari (Haryana)

TENDER NOTICE

Tender is hereby invited for cleaning of premises and housekeeping etc. service in Govt. College for Women, Pali, District Rewari (Haryana) from the interested and eligible tenderers/ service agencies (approved by Govt. of Haryana) having at least three years' experience in similar services in prescribed form. Interested Tender/ service agencies can collect tender form from the office of Principal, Govt. College for women, Pali, District Rewari (Haryana) on any working day between 9:00 am to 2:00 pm by paying Rs. 500/- (payable Through demand draft/ banker cheque of any nationalized bank drawn in favour of Principal, Govt. College for women, Pali (Rewari). All terms and conditions will be attached with the form.

Last date of receipt of sealed tender document:- 20/08/2024

Date of opening of tender:- 24/08/2024

Sd/- Principal Govt. College for Women Pali (Rewari)

No. 28537

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 Selection of Owner's Engineer & Project Management Consultant for Dam Contract, Construction and Quality Control of Song Dam Drinking Water Project, Dehradun, Uttarakhand

Tender Fee Rs. 5,900-(Rupees Five thousand Nine hundred only) In the form of 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- 396802100016976, 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

IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED NAVRATNA COMPANY (A Govt. of India Undertaking) Website: www.ircon.org. CIN: L45203DL1978G0008171

e-Procurement Notice (National Competitive Bidding) e-Tender No: IRCON/ELECT/5021/RE/Pending Works Dated 05.08.2024

e-Tenders are invited from bidders meeting qualifying requirements for the following work: Name of Work : Pending works in the Banihal-Baramulla section of the RE USBRL Project in Jammu & Kashmir.

Estimated cost of the work Rs. 1,69,22,570.55

Last Date & Time of e-Bid Submission 25.08.2024 upto 15:00 Hrs.

For further details, visit website https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app. Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website. Addl. General Manager/Electrical, Holiday Home, Behind Bakshi Stadium, Tulsī Baagh, Srinagar-190008

उपसिदा 3090 राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण (State Industrial Development Corporation)

ई-निविदा सूचना

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि प्राधिकरण के विभिन्न जगहों में विद्युत औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों के विद्युत विकास कार्य हेतु आवश्यक विद्युत/संयोजक उपकरण/निष्पन्न/प्रतिरोध/परिचल/वायर निकालने में प्रयोग करने वाले विद्युत उपकरणों का अनुबंध हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

1. Network strengthening in remaining area and central verge of IA, Sikandra Site-C Distt. Agra. 19.92

निविदा आमंत्रित करने के साथ ही निम्नलिखित शर्तें लागू होंगी: 1. निविदा आमंत्रित करने के लिए आवेदन करने वाले को निविदा आमंत्रित करने के लिए आवश्यक सभी शर्तें पढ़नी होंगी। 2. निविदा आमंत्रित करने के लिए आवेदन करने वाले को निविदा आमंत्रित करने के लिए आवश्यक सभी शर्तें पढ़नी होंगी।

ई-निविदा सूचना

संचालनालय खेल और युवा कल्याण, मध्य प्रदेश, द्वारा "विभागीय खेल परिसरों व अकादमियों में साफ-सफाई व्यवस्था हेतु" अनुभवी फर्म/संस्था/ठेकेदार से ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र व निविदा की विस्तृत शर्तें www.mptenders.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है। ई-निविदा प्रकाशन उपरांत निविदा में कोई संशोधन व परिवर्तन किया जाता है तो वह मात्र उपरोक्त उल्लेखित ई-टेंडर पोर्टल पर ही उपलब्ध रहेगा।

म.प्र. माध्यम/115756/2024 संचालक

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority

Main Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar (U.P.) Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender are invited from firms/contractor registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned.

The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in & https://etender.up.nic.in. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments and corrigendum etc.

(भारतीय रुपये 30 लाख से रुपये 01 करोड़ तक)

Sl. No. Job Number Name of Work Amount Tender Publication

1. 07/Advt./SM/2024-25 ADVERTISING RIGHTS ON BOT BASIS FOR A PERIOD OF 02 YEAR AT MODEL TOWN NH-24 XING UNDERPASS, NOIDA 51,57,936.00 First Time

Which can be uploaded by date 20.08.2024 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 21.08.2024 at 11.00 AM. (V.K. Tyagi) S.M., Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

DEMAND NOTICE

Corporate & Registered Office : Unit No. 801, Centrum House, CST Road, Vidyaynagri Marg, Kalina Santacruz (East), Mumbai - 400098, CIN No. U65922MH2016PLC273826

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Centrum Housing Finance Ltd under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrowers (the "said Borrower"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notices issued to them that are also given below.

In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower to pay to Centrum Housing Finance Ltd, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest and other charges till date of repayment of the dues in full. As detailed in the said Demand Notices, from the dates mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrowers. As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to Centrum Housing Finance Ltd by the said Borrowers respectively.

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to Centrum Housing Finance Ltd as aforesaid, Centrum Housing Finance Ltd shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of Centrum Housing Finance Ltd. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made thereunder, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Place : Agra Date : 06.08.2024

Sd/- Authorised Officer For Centrum Housing Finance Ltd

GUJARAT STATE FERTILIZERS & CHEMICALS LIMITED

Regd. Office: PO: Fertilizernagar-391750, Dist: Vadodara, Gujarat, India

CIN No. L99999GJ1962PLC001121 Tel:(0265) 2242451/651/751

Email:ho@gsfcltd.com Web: www.gsfclimited.com

Extract of Standalone & Consolidated Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter ended 30th June, 2024 (₹ in Lakhs)

Table with 5 columns: Sr. No., Particulars, Standalone Quarter ended 30-Jun-24, Standalone Quarter ended 30-Jun-23, Consolidated Quarter ended 30-Jun-24, Consolidated Quarter ended 30-Jun-23

Notes: 1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites (http://www.nseindia.com and http://www.bseindia.com) and on Company's website (http://www.gsfclimited.com).

2 The statutory Auditors of the Company have conducted a 'limited review' of the results for the quarter ended on 30th June, 2024.

Date: 5th August, 2024 Place: Gandhinagar

For Gujarat State Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd. KAMAL DAYANI MANAGING DIRECTOR (DIN-05351774)

भारतीय कंटेनर निगम लिमिटेड Container Corporation of India Ltd. (A Govt. of India Undertaking) TENDER NOTICE (E-Tendering Mode Only)

CONCOR invites Online tender in single packet bid system from established, experienced & reliable manufacturers of OEM (Hyster) or/and from their authorized dealer for the Supply of Various hydraulic cylinders for Hyster RSTs at Container Corporation of India Ltd. ICD/Fughlakabad, New Delhi-110029, only through e-tendering mode. The bid document can only be downloaded after paying Rs. 1000/- through online from the website www.tenderzard.com/CCLIL.

Estimated Cost ₹ 71,08,340.53/-

Delivery Schedule Within 168 days from the date of PO

Earliest Money ₹ 1,42,167.12* through e-payment (NEFT/RTGS)

Tender processing fee (Non-refundable) ₹ 3540/- inclusive of all taxes and duties through online payment gateway.

Period of Tender Sale (online) From 06.08.2024 from 15:00 hrs to 27.08.2024 upto 16:00 hrs.

Date and time of Submission of Bid On or before - 27.08.2024 Up to 17:00 hrs.

Date and time of opening of Bid 28.08.2024 at 15:30 hrs.

Place of Opening and GGM TechAREA-1, Container Corporation of India Ltd. NSIC, MDPB BUILDING, 2nd FLOOR, OKHLA INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, New Delhi-110020

*Exemption for MSE. CONCOR reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof. For complete details login to www.tenderzard.com/CCLIL. ED/Arrea-

Indian Overseas Bank

Regional Office : Naseema House, 2nd and 3rd Floor, West Gandhi Maidan, Patna, Pin-800001, Telephone: 0612-2232663, E-mail: 2016gad@oib.in

NOTICE OF TERMINATION

Through this notice, the concerned and general public at large are hereby informed that the service of the below mentioned member will be terminated within 15 days of this notice as he is on unauthorized absence as detailed below.

Table with 6 columns: S. No., Name Mr./Ms., Roll No., Joining Date of Bank, Branch Attached to, Terminated w.e.f

General public is hereby cautioned that the above member have no authority of whatsoever nature to transact any business or to receive any money on behalf of the Bank. General public is alerted, not to enter into any transaction with him on behalf of Indian Overseas Bank, any person or customer dealing with him shall so at his/her own risk and responsibility. The bank shall not be responsible for the unauthorized and unlawful action of the above members in any manner.

Date: 06.08.2024 Place: Patna Chief Regional Manager

HARYANA STAFF SELECTION COMMISSION

BAYS NO. 67-70, SECTOR-2, PANCHKULA-134151 (www.hssc.gov.in)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Shortlisting of candidates for various Posts in Group 1 and 2 as advertised vide Advt. No 4/2024

Vide Announcement dated 31.07.2024, list of candidates shortlisted three times the number of advertised posts in various categories of Group 1 and 2 was published. Now, the consolidated list of four times the number of candidates (including the remaining one time the number of candidate) after addressing the grievances is published on official website of the Commission. This list shall supercede the earlier list of candidates three times to the total number of posts which was published vide announcement dated 31.07.2024.

The admit cards for the written examination shall be available in the Candidate's login in the URL- https://adv042024.hryssc.co.in shortly. Candidates will be able to download their admit cards by clicking on the link Admit Card Group 1 and Admit Card Group 2 in the left menu respectively.

Candidates are advised to keep visiting the Commission's website i.e. www.hssc.gov.in regularly.

Sd/- Deputy Secretary Haryana Staff Selection Commission, Dated: 03.08.2024

28545/HRY

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 (NCVET), 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.

Sd/- Joint Director, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

Place: New Delhi Date: 05.08.2024

CBC 63101/11/0004/2425

Careers

SDT WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY

1, Nathbali Thackersey Road, New Marine Lines, Mumbai - 400 020.

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for recruitment of total 66 Government aided posts of SDT Women's University, Mumbai in online format.

Table with 4 columns: Sr. No., Name of the Posts, No. of Posts, For details regarding subjects, reservations, pay scales, departments/constituent colleges, application fees and general instructions etc., please visit the University website at https://sdt.ac.in/vacancies

For details, visit the University website at https://sdt.ac.in/vacancies

Please note that, applicants who have applied for the above positions mentioned in the University's previous Advertisement No.03 of 2023, dated 14/12/2023, are also required to submit a fresh online application and follow the entire procedure.

The Last date for submitting Online Application forms for the post of Principal is 26/08/2024 and other posts is 04/09/2024. The last date for submission of the hard copy (printout of the online application along with relevant documents in three copies) to the University for the post of Principal is 02/09/2024 and for all other posts is 11/09/2024 upto 5.00 p.m.

Sd/- (Dr. Vilas D. Nandavadekar) REGISTRAR

DAYALBAGH EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE (Deemed to be a University) DAYALBAGH, AGRA-282005

Advt. No. DEI- 8 Non-Teaching Posts - July 2024

The Dayalbagh Educational Institute is a Deemed to be University under Section 3 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 as per Notification No. F.9-3/78-U dated 16.5.81 issued by the then Ministry of Education & Culture, Government of India. Applications are invited from Indian nationals (including Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) and Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs) for non-teaching positions at the various levels in its various Departments. Number sufficing the posts in bracket show the number of post(s).

RESERVATION: Reservation is applicable as per the norms of the State or Central Government of India. Candidates are requested to produce relevant certificates in latest format at the time of Aptitude/Trade Test/Interview.

Reserved for SC : Training & Placement Officer (Engg.), L-12 (1); Programmer (Computer Centre), L-7 (1); Office Assistant (CAO), L-2 (1); Laboratory Bearer (Edu.) L-1 (1); DEI Technical College : Instructor/Workshop (Smithy) (Mech. Engg.), L-6 (1)

Reserved for ST : Office Assistant (CAO), L-2 (1)

Reserved for OBC : Programmer (Computer Centre), L-10 (1); P.A. to Director (CAO), L-5 (1); Professional Assistant (Engg.), L-6 (1); Laboratory Assistant (Mech. Engg./English), L-3 (2); Office Assistant (CAO/Central Library), L-2 (2); Generator-Cum-Pump Operator (Works Dept.), L-2 (1); Clerk (Accounts), L-2 (1); DEI Technical College : Instructor Workshop (Shoe Design) (Mech. Engg.), L-6 (1); Junior Assistant, L-3 (1)

Un-Reserved : System Manager (Computer Centre), L-11 (1); Assistant Registrar (Accounts/Arts/Administration), L-10 (3); Demonstrator (Elect. Engg.), L-6 (1); Commercial Artist (Drawing & Painting), L-5 (1); Technician Grade-I (Physics & Computer Science), L-5 (1); Faculty Librarian Grade-II (Education), L-4 (1); Stenographer (CAO), L-4 (1); Laboratory Assistant (Education), L-4 (1); Laboratory Assistant (Works Dept./English), L-3 (2); Junior Assistant, L-3 (1); Tabia Accompanist (Music), L-2 (1); Technician Grade-III (Drawing & Painting), L-2 (1); Routine Clerk (CAO), L-2 (1); Office Assistant (CAO), L-2 (2); Laboratory Bearer (Mech. Engg.), L-1 (1); Laboratory Attendant (Home Sc.), L-1 (1); Manager in Agriculture Engg. (1); Assistant Manager in Agriculture Engg. (1)

DEI Technical College : Workshop Superintendent (Mech. Engg.), L-10 (1); Instructor/Workshop (Moulding) (Mech. Engg.), L-6 (1)

DEI Intermediate College: Principal, L-12 (1)

Note: For Non-Teaching Posts in Engineering Areas, in the DEI Technical College and DEI REI Intermediate College, only male applicants can apply at present.

The details of minimum qualification and experience etc. for the aforesaid posts are available on the institute's website www.dei.ac.in as well as in Employment News dated 10th August, 2024 or the Notice Board of the Central Administrative Office of the Institute. The last date for submission of completed application form is 31.08.2024 (Saturday).

29th July, 2024 Ph : (0562) 2570372 REGISTRAR

इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ बैंकिंग पर्सोनेल सिलेक्शन

INSTITUTE OF BANKING PERSONNEL SELECTION

CRP PO/MT-XIV and CRP SPL-XIV COMMON RECRUITMENT PROCESS FOR RECRUITMENT OF PROBATIONARY OFFICERS/ MANAGEMENT TRAINEES (CRP PO/MT-XIV for Vacancies of 2025-26) AND RECRUITMENT OF SPECIALIST OFFICERS (CRP SPL-XIV for Vacancies of 2025-26) IN PARTICIPATING BANKS

Authorised Website: www.ibps.in In case of queries / complaints please log in to https://cgrs.ibps.in

The Online Examination (Preliminary and Main) for the upcoming Common Recruitment Process (CRP) for Recruitment and Selection of Personnel for Probationary Officer/ Management Trainee posts, in the Participating Banks is tentatively scheduled in October 2024 and November 2024.

The Online Examination (Preliminary and Main) for the upcoming Common Recruitment Process (CRP) for Recruitment and Selection of Personnel in Specialist Officers' cadre posts in the Participating Banks is tentatively scheduled in November 2024 and December 2024. The tentative schedule of events is as follows:

IMPORTANT DATES

Table with 3 columns: Activity, PO/MT, Specialist Officers

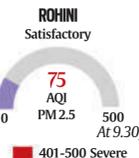
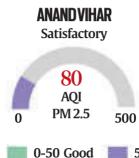
On-line registration including Edit/Modification of Application by candidates 01.08.2024 to 21.08.2024 01.08.2024 to 21.08.2024

Payment of Application Fees/Intimation Charges (Online) 01.08.2024 to 21.08.2024 01.08.2024 to 21.08.2024

Conduct of Pre-Exam Training * September 2024

<

6 THE CITY



SKYWATCH
August 6
Generally cloudy sky. Light to moderate rain/thundershowers. Strong surface winds during the day.
MAX: 34 (0.2°C below normal)
MIN: 27 (0.1°C above normal)

NOMINATION OF ALDERMEN TO MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF DELHI

Sanjay Singh: Decision against the people of Delhi, spirit of democracy

How SC's ruling has set the stage for battle between AAP, BJP in MCD



Sanjay Singh

SAMAN HUSAIN
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5

SETTING THE stage for a fierce battle between the ruling AAP and opposition BJP, the Supreme Court held Monday that the Lieutenant Governor (L-G) of Delhi can nominate aldermen to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) without requiring the consultation of the Delhi government.

With this, for the first time in the history of Delhi's civic governance, there is a chance that while the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will run the MCD, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) would have control over its purse strings.

According to the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957, the L-G can nominate 10 individuals over the age of 25 to the MCD. These nominees should possess special knowledge or experience in municipal administration and excel in fields such as health, education, sanitation, and the environment. Traditionally, aldermen are those who have had a long and distinguished service in the civic body, aiding the house in making decisions of public importance.

The nomination of aldermen has been a contentious issue, with the AAP viewing it as an attempt by the BJP to maintain influence over the MCD despite losing the elections. After L-G VK Saxena nominated 10 aldermen, all with affiliations to the BJP, the AAP challenged the move in the Supreme Court. The AAP argued that the L-G should not nominate aldermen without consulting the Delhi government. However, the Supreme Court ruled in favour of the L-G, stating that he has the authority to nominate aldermen independently.

MCD aldermen do not have

Meet the 10 aldermen

Amongst the 10 aldermen nominated by the L-G are people who have contested the MLA elections on a BJP ticket, members of temple committees, and an advocate, besides people who have been involved in social issues

<p>"I have been practising social work since last 45 years...an MCD issue that I will work on is the RWAs. The RWAs in Delhi face a lot of issues due to lack of coordination between the DDA and the MCD..."</p> <p>MOHANGOYAL, 60 FROM CIVIL LINES ZONE</p>	<p>"Sanitation, education and the condition of MCD dispensaries is something that I will focus on," said Luxman Arya. Arya has fought the MLA election twice — in 1998 and 2003.</p> <p>LUXMAN ARYA, 64 FROM NARELA ZONE</p>	<p>"I fought the Vidhan Sabha elections in 2003 but more than political causes I prefer working on social issues... I want to ensure every colony has ample parking space."</p> <p>MANOJ KUMAR JAIN, 55 FROM CENTRAL ZONE</p>	<p>"I work for the welfare of the poor, I help them get married. Besides, I have been assisting people with municipal work which has helped me understand the working of the corporation. An issue that I will work on is electricity in Burari. New houses in the area are unable to get electricity connections. I will work towards changing that"</p> <p>SANJAY TYAGI, 46 FROM THE CIVIL LINES ZONE</p>
<p>"I have mostly worked with RWAs and Mandir Committees. I stay in a village and it is extremely dirty. There is garbage everywhere and the drains are never desilted. This will be the main issue for me."</p> <p>MUKESH MANN, 58 FROM NARELA ZONE</p>	<p>"I have an expertise in sanitation. I have also been the head of Delhi BJP's Kisan Morcha. I have been working on the issue of sanitation in Delhi's villages and clusters so I will continue doing that even now..."</p> <p>VINOD KUMAR, 55 FROM NARELA ZONE</p>	<p>"Public works have come to a standstill ever since the AAP came to power, they have destroyed the system. The systems needs to be strengthened once again. I will focus on sanitation, healthcare."</p> <p>ROHTASH KUMAR, 54 FROM CENTRAL ZONE</p>	

The other aldermen are **SUNEET CHAUHAN** (Narela), **RAJKUMAR BHATIA** (Civil Lines) and **RAJPAL RANA** (Civil Lines)

voting rights in general matters but can vote in the elections of the standing committee, an 18-member key decision-making body that manages the corporation's finances. The aldermen also have voting rights during the elections of the ward committees. This ruling is expected to streamline the process for forming the ward and standing committees, which has been stalled for the past year due to the political deadlock.

Elections for the ward committees will first take place in each of MCD's 12 zones. In each zone, all elected councillors are part of the ward committee, and they will vote to elect a chairman, a deputy chairman, and a standing committee member. Each ward committee will elect

one member, filling 12 of the 18 seats in the standing committee. The aldermen will also cast their votes to elect a standing committee member in their respective zones. All members of the house will then vote for the remaining six members.

The distribution of aldermen by the L-G has strategic implications. Four aldermen each were nominated for the Narela and Civil Lines zones, and two for the Central zone. In the Narela Zone, which has 16 elected councillors (Five from BJP, 10 AAP, and an Independent), the four nominated aldermen create a potential tie in the standing committee elections with the support of the Independent councillor. In the Civil Lines zone, which

has six BJP and nine AAP councillors, the addition of four aldermen gives the BJP a one-vote advantage. In the Central zone, which has 10 BJP, 13 AAP, and two Congress councillors, the two aldermen nominations could help the BJP surpass the AAP with the possible support of the Congress councillors.

Other BJP-dominated wards include Keshavpuram, Najafgarh, and Shahdara South, while the AAP has a clear majority in Rohini, City SP, Karol Bagh, West, and South zones.

The 18 members of the standing committee, once elected, will vote to elect the chairperson of the standing committee. This committee plays a crucial role in the financial management and policy

making of the MCD, making the current political maneuvering all the more significant.

The formation of an opposition-majority standing committee could have significant implications for the governance of the city. Generally, the commissioner sends matters of the MCD to the standing committee; once the standing committee approves the agenda matter, it goes to the MCD house for approval. In case the standing committee rejects an agenda, it will fail to reach the house for discussion. While the standing committee has full control of matters pertaining to finances and town planning, other decisions of the standing committee can be challenged by the house.

Unbecoming: L-G on officer 'involved' in hit-and-run case; recommends action

DANICS officer has been accused of driving under the influence of alcohol

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5

A DAY after DANICS officer Ramesh Chander Meena, who is serving as Excise Deputy Commissioner, was allegedly involved in a hit-and-run under the influence of alcohol, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Monday recommended his suspension to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

In his statement, the L-G underlined, "...Directorate of Vigilance proposed that the above act of DANICS (Delhi, Andaman & Nicobar, Lakshadweep, Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli (Civil) Services) amounts to serious misconduct and unbecoming of a government servant and the competent authority may take a view about placing the officer under suspension so that disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against Ramesh Chander Meena, DANICS, as per CCS (Central Civil Services) Conduct Rules".

The Delhi Police began its probe into the incident after a PCR call was received about a car

in flames in Central Delhi's Jhandewalan on Sunday. As police reached the spot, a bike too was found under the car.

Meena, police found, was allegedly driving an SUV, and around 1 am, he hit a man on the bike who was thrown in the air due to the impact of the collision. The bike, however, got stuck under the car and was dragged for around 2 km, eventually catching fire.

As he realised that the car too had caught fire, Meena was able to get out of the burning car in time. He was returning home in Civil Lines from a restaurant in West Delhi when he crashed into a bike that was being driven by Gurvinder, who works with a food delivery service app.

DCP (Central) Harsh Vardhan said that the motorcycle rider escaped with minor injuries and a case under BNS (Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita) sections — pertaining to rash and negligent driving — was filed based on his statement.

Meena's Medico-Legal report (MLC) confirmed alcohol consumption, the DCP added.

The government officer was let go after basic questioning, according to police.



The Delhi Police began its probe into the incident after a PCR call was received about a car on fire in Jhandewalan Sunday.

Man held for stabbing woman to death, injuring her daughter

NEETIKA JHA
NOIDA, AUGUST 5

HEMANT KUMAR, 42, was admitted to ESIC Hospital in Noida's Sector 24 on June 26 for a leg surgery. It has been more than a month, however, and his wait is still not over. "The doctors were to operate on July 31. But since the air conditioner is not working, the operation could not be undertaken," he said.

Renee Chauhan, who has come from Indore, said her husband is suffering from cancer and has been admitted to the hospital for over two months now.

The operation theatres at the Centre-run hospital have not been able to cater to patients for at least five days now. Non-functional centralised air conditioning system has compelled doctors to refer patients for operative procedures to other ESIC hospitals in Delhi's Okhla and Rohini, Gurgaon's Basai and Sahibabad in Ghaziabad for the last five days. Patients and staff

ACs not working, OTs go out of order at ESIC Hospital in Noida

NEETIKA JHA
NOIDA, AUGUST 5

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ESIC hospital, Noida.

members have also claimed that air conditioners in general wards have also not been functioning.

The labour rooms are located on the third floor of the hospital. Sonu Kumar, 25, and his wife became parents to a boy around three days ago. He complained about the conditions in the labour room. "There is no AC in the labour room too... We sleep outside on the chairs because of the heat," Kumar said.

A staff member said, "The disruption in air-conditioning has not stopped deliveries.

Today, in one of the labour rooms, the AC was restored."

The hospital in Noida has seven wards but only six are functional, according to officials. Each ward has 60 patients in them. The monthly budget of the seven-storeyed hospital is estimated to be around Rs 10 crore per month. The ESIC Hospitals offer treatment to those who are issued cards under the central scheme. "The registration applies to all non-seasonal factories or entities that employ 10 or more persons who have a maximum wage of Rs 21,000," according to the official website.

"We are working towards fixing the compressor of the air conditioners," said Deputy Medical Superintendent Dr Sona Bedi. She added that the administration has installed 60 wall-mounted fans in the ICU and general wards. "At present, a few patients are in Noida, out of their own accord, and those admitted for elective operation have been sent home. They will be given priority once the situation normalises," she said.

TAKES SUO MOTU COGNISANCE OF UPSC ASPIRANTS' DEATH IN FLOODED BASEMENT

'These places have become death chambers': SC rejects coaching centre federation appeal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5

THE SUPREME Court on Monday took suo motu cognisance of the deaths of three civil services aspirants due to flooding in the basement of Rau's IAS Study Circle in Delhi's Old Rajinder Nagar on July 27. As the apex court rejected a plea by the Coaching Centre Federation on compliance with fire and public safety norms, Justice Surya Kant said, "You are making the lives of young aspirants miserable. They have their dreams, work hard and this is how you deal with them." Justice Kant also observed that "these coaching places have become death chambers".

A bench of Justices Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan was hearing an appeal by the Coaching Centre Federation, challenging a December 14, 2023, Delhi High Court order regarding the proliferation of coaching institutes and commercial activities in



Outside the Rau's IAS Study Circle in Old Rajinder Nagar. Express

Mukherjee Nagar and their failure to comply with fire and public safety norms.

"We are not sure as to what effective steps in this regard have been taken so far by the NCT of Delhi or the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India," the bench said. Issuing a notice, the court asked them to explain what safety norms have been prescribed and steps taken to ensure compliance with such norms. The HC order had brought them on par with edu-

through the Chief Secretary, to show cause as to what safety norms have been prescribed so far and, if so, what is the effective mechanism introduced to ensure their compliance", the court ordered.

The bench also asked Attorney General R Venkataramani to assist it in the matter.

Observing that "a substantial part of the NCT falls within the states of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana," the court also directed that "both these states — through their respective Principal Secretary, Urban Development Department. — also be impleaded..." in the matter and notice be issued to them through their standing counsel.

Dismissing the coaching body's appeal, Justice Kant observed that "these places have become death chambers". The court further asked the appellant, "You want us to interfere in a simple order, you don't want to even comply with fire compliance norms?"

CJI: Daughters convinced me to go vegan for life

SOHINIGHOSH
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5

INAUGURATING a new cafe on the Delhi High Court premises, managed and run by neurodivergent people, Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud Monday hailed the project, referring to his daughters who are "specially abled" and have now convinced him to go-vegan for life.

CJI Chandrachud also launched the e-DHCR portal, which will contain all reportable judgments delivered by the Delhi HC in an accessible format. Delhi HC Acting Chief Justice Manmohan noted that the e-DHCR initiative has been established with an "objective to identify the legal issues raised in the judgments and crystallise it."



CJI Chandrachud on Monday.

At the cafe's inauguration, CJI Chandrachud said, "My daughters...Priyanka and Mahi are specially abled young children, they continue to inspire me everyday... I have gone vegan for the last one year, vegan for life and the reason was because our little Mahi said, 'well you must practise a cruelty-free life, not only in what you eat but also in what you wear.'"

COACHING CENTRE DEATHS

Kin of deceased aspirants join students as protest enters Day 9

PRAGYNESH
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5

"HER MOTHER still isn't able to speak. She just keeps looking blankly at everyone. Shreya was the only hope of helping her family financially."

Paras Nath, the uncle of Shreya Yadav, one of the three students who lost their lives after the recent flooding at a basement library in Old Rajinder Nagar, is yet to come to terms with the death of his "happy and confident" niece whom he had met just a few days before the fateful night of July 27. Nath was among the relatives of the deceased students who joined the protest outside Rau's IAS Study Circle as the stir by stu-

dents entered its ninth day.

Nath said he was "extremely thankful" to the students who are compromising their studies to get justice for his niece. "I am happy that the CBI will investigate the matter. My trust in Delhi authorities (MCD, Delhi Police) is none..." he said.

SR Biju, maternal uncle of Nevin Dalwin, remembered his nephew as someone who wanted to enter the civil services to work for the environment.

"He was inspired by his mother, a geography professor," he said.

"How will we ask for compensation? The government should itself think what does a family, which has lost its son, its hope, deserve. People from Rau's came and



At the protest on Monday. Express

offered Rs 50 lakh. Feels like they are mocking us and the students." Biju also hailed the Supreme Court for pulling up the Coaching Federation of India and fining it Rs

1 lakh on Monday. "This a slap on their (coaching centres') faces by the SC. They are still trying to avoid responsibility. I have joined the protests to give a message to all

parents: Please don't enrol your students without checking the institute for safety," said Biju.

Shreya's uncle said that she had been in Patel Nagar for just three months but was already confident about cracking the exams. "She was a very happy child. Very confident. I am protesting against all the fees charged by these landlords and institutes. She had to shift to Patel Nagar since the rent was cheaper. I went to our village a few days after meeting her. I told her father in the morning that she was alright, that I met her. The same evening, the accident happened," he said.

Among the protesters was Anandan Krishnan, 29, an aspirant who had come all the way from Thiruvananthapuram. "I lived

here (in Rajinder Nagar) in 2015 and I know how everything works here. Now I want to be of help. In my city, we have an association which helps students deal with brokers and fraud institutes..." he said.

Sohum Kumar, an economics teacher, said, "They (the students) come here to study. But there is a lot of loot here in the name of education. One month brokerage, expensive libraries..." In the evening, the students also organised a nukkad natak, mocking the landlords, brokers, library owners, and coaching institutes. "The government has made a lot of promises. Everything is long-term. This bill, that law. We want some action today, now," said one of the students.

Shivraj announces ₹18Kcr for horticulture clusters, says will talk to agri ministers

'Govt will soon launch oilseeds mission to boost domestic output, reduce imports of cooking oils'

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5

UNION AGRICULTURE Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan Monday announced ₹18,000 crore expenditure on setting up 100 export-oriented horticulture clusters in the next five years to boost farm income and said that he will meet all state ministers, irrespective of party, to resolve farmers' issues as central schemes cannot be implemented without the states.

Chouhan also said the government will soon launch an oilseeds mission with an outlay of ₹6,800 crore to boost domestic output and reduce imports of cooking oils.

Replying to a discussion on work in his ministry in the Rajya Sabha, Chouhan said farmers should not be treated as a vote bank but humans and targeted Congress saying that while they talk of direct benefits, they have never come up with a scheme like PM Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) for assistance to farmers.

"They (opposition) will not understand but the amount of ₹6,000 matters to small farmers. Due to this Kisan Samman Nidhi, farmers have become self-reliant, farmers have also become empowered and the respect of farmers has also increased. They (opposition) cannot see the respect of farmers," he said and cited incidents of firing on farmers by Congress governments in states.

Congress leaders, including Digvijay Singh, who comes from the same state and was CM for 10 years, wanted to raise issues like demand for a legal guarantee on MSP and also alleged inaccuracies in the minister's statement. They also accused Chouhan of firing on farmers during his tenure as chief minister of MP. But, Singh and others were not allowed to speak following which the Congress walked out.

During his speech, he said that amendments will be made in pesticide management legislation while over 1,500 more mandies will be integrated with the e-NAM platform.

Speaking on the schemes that the government was working on to help farmers and make India a food basket of the world by 2047, he said that farmers will



Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in Rajya Sabha, Monday.

receive a digital identity — similar to Aadhaar — under the Digital Agriculture Mission. It will be linked to land records, crop details through videography, and damage assessment done through remote sensing, which will prevent any manipulation of records.

The minister said that the government has a vision of developing 1,500 new varieties of climate resilient crops, which can for instance withstand higher temperatures. The government was also working to diversify crops, including farming of flowers, fruits, and medicinal plants and the focus is on developing climate-resilient villages, expanding micro-irrigation, and restoring traditional crop varieties. He said there will be focus on organic farming, where farmers can utilise not all of their land, but part of it to do so.

Later, at a media briefing, AICC general secretary Randeep Surjewala said the entire opposition, under the leadership of CPP chief Sonia Gandhi, boycotted Chouhan's remarks and walked out as the Modi government's policies and actions are "anti-farmer".

"Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's lie was caught red handed because the Modi government gave an affidavit in the Supreme Court on February 6, 2015, saying that cost + 50% cannot be given to the farmers of the country because this will spoil the market," he said.

Chouhan admitted on the floor of the House that the government buys crops at MSP only whenever the need arises which means that the government accepted it does not buy the crops at MSP because it does not consider it necessary, he said.

Surjewala said a case of 'breach of privilege' will also be raised against Chouhan on the charge of "misleading" the House and the country.

Congress MP Digvijaya Singh alleged that Chouhan has a "habit of lying". "Under the leadership of Kamal Nath ji, the Congress government of Madhya Pradesh had waived the loans of about 37 lakh farmers. Former CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan had also given a statement that farmers' loans had been waived off during the Congress regime," he said.

WITH PTI INPUTS

TMC MP: Inflation forcing farmers to sell cattle, cows dying without food

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5

HIGHLIGHTING "EXORBITANT hike" in prices of cattle and poultry feed, TMC MP Saayoni Ghosh attacked the BJP in Lok Sabha Monday saying although the party talks about cows but they have failed to provide enough fodder or protect them from lumpy cow disease infection.

Participating in a debate on the demands for grants for the Ministry of Fishing, Animal Husbandry and Dairy, the TMC's Jadavpur MP said wholesale fodder inflation hovering between 25% and 28.6% in the last two to three years.

"What will a farmer, his family and cattle eat. This forces farmers to sell their cattle, and pushes them eventually to suicide," she said, adding, "In the last 10 years, 1,12,000 farmers have died by suicide."

"Our farmers worship their cattle and crops like mother and bow down to the land, which they plough. But does this major sector get support from the government?" she said.

"They talk about gau-raksha (protecting cows), people should know there is a fodder crisis in India," she said, adding that the minister has admitted there is a fodder shortage in a written reply. "It means cows are dying without food in government-owned gaushalas (cowsheds), especially in BJP-ruled states," she said.

"If you ask farmers of the country, they will just reply — Chai se shuru hui thi sarkar, gaay par atak gayi, aur vikas ki mausi das saal mein raste mein bhatak gayi. (The government started with tea, got stuck on cow and development lost direction in the last 10 years,)," she said. Ghosh said 32.7 lakh cattle got infected with lumpy cow disease, and 2.4 lakh cattle heads died within months. "They say the cow is their mother, but they can't protect it," she said.

"India is at the first position in milk production, but since the government has not been able to bridge the gaps, we have turned into an importer... Price of milk has gone up by 55% in last 10 years," she said.

Stressing on the need to increase allocation for fisheries, she said, "The government might have an allergy to the word Manipur but the fact remains that 1.5 years of lack of governance in the state has led to endangering fish species in the Loktak lake."

BJP MP Dushyant Singh lauded budgetary grants for the ministry, and said the PM took measures to double farmers' income. He said Modi brought a "Blue Revolution" to promote fisheries and milk production has increased by 57%.



TMC MP Saayoni Ghosh in Lok Sabha, Monday.

NCERT TEXTBOOK REVISIONS

Meant to harmonise understanding of perspectives: MoS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5

DELETIONS AND modifications in NCERT textbooks have been "necessitated to harmonise understanding of different perspectives" and contents of textbooks "have been modified to help students build a positive mindset", MoS for Education Jayant Chaudhary said in Lok Sabha Monday in response to a question on textbook revisions.

MPs Selvaraj V and Subbarayan K of CPI and V K Sreekandam of the Congress had asked whether revisions had been made in NCERT textbooks of history and political science for classes 9 to 12 since 2016, and if yes, what were the changes.

Some key changes made in class 12 political science NCERT textbooks this year are — no mention of Babri Masjid (it's called a "three-domed structure"), pruned Ayodhya chapter from four to two pages, deleted details of BJP's yatras from Somnath in Gujarat to Ayodhya, the role of kar sevaks in Ayodhya agitation, communal violence in the wake of the demolition of Babri Masjid, President's Rule in BJP-ruled states, and the BJP's expression of "regret over the happenings in Ayodhya".

In the revised class 12 history textbook, a chapter on origins and fall of Harappan civilisation includes an assertion that recent studies of ancient DNA obtained from archaeological sources at Rakhigarhi, an Indus Valley site in Haryana, call out Aryan immigration and calls for more research into whether the Harappans and



Minister of State for Education Jayant Chaudhary

the Vedic people were the same.

The modified class 11 political science textbook says vote bank politics in India is associated with "minority appeasement" and this means that political parties "disregard the principles of equality for all citizens and give priority to the interests of a minority group". The earlier version of the textbook did not include "minority appeasement".

In his response to the question, Chaudhary said during the Covid-19 outbreak, students struggled to continue their learning online and concerns related to curriculum load "including the content load spread over syllabi and textbooks had been raised from different corners".

"Therefore, NCERT rationalised and updated content of textbooks, as per extant procedures, across grades and subjects in 2021-22. Specific criteria were also developed for rationalisation of content load, including overlapping content, high difficulty level etc. These textbooks are continuing from 2022-23 session. Subsequently, some updates have been included in 2023-24 due to evolution of knowledge, facts and their interpretations," he said.



LAUGHTER SESSION

BJP Lok Sabha members Ravi Shankar Prasad and Anurag Thakur at the Parliament House complex on Monday.

Bill for ST representation in Goa Assembly introduced in Lok Sabha

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5

THE GOVERNMENT introduced on Monday the Readjustment of Representation of Scheduled Tribes in Assembly Constituencies of the State of Goa Bill, 2024, aimed at providing reservation to STs in Legislative Assembly of Goa and to provide for the readjustment of Assembly constituencies.

The Bill was introduced by MoS (Independent Charge) Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal in Lok Sabha. At present, the Goa Assembly has 40 seats, of which one is reserved for SCs, while no seat is reserved for STs.

"The government has received multiple representations from various sources, with a request to direct the initiation of the process to identify and determine the seats to provide for reservation to the ST community in Legislative Assembly of the State of Goa," state the Statement of Objects and Reasons.

"Since, the exercise of delimitation was initiated in 2002, the population of STs in the State of Goa was recorded at that time in the census figures of 2001 as only 566, whereas the total population of the State of Goa was more than 13 lakh...," it said.

The government added three new communities, namely, Kumbi, Gawda and Velip in the List of STs in Goa. This increased

the ST population in the state.

"Thus, a peculiar situation has arisen in the state, wherein the population of STs in the State vis-à-vis the population of SCs is considerably higher... but no seats are reserved for STs and they are unable to avail constitutional benefit of reservation afforded to them by Article 332," states the Statement of Objects and Reasons.

"It is imperative to enact a law to provide for enabling provisions empowering the EC to make amendments in Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 2008 and readjust seats in Legislative Assembly of the State of Goa for STs," it said.

Initiating discussion on work-

Derek O'Brien: Slash GST on health cover, burden on middle class

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5

SPEAKING DURING the Zero Hour in Rajya Sabha Monday, TMC MP Derek O'Brien demanded that the government reduce 18% GST on health insurance and said, "this is an issue which is burdening people, mainly the middle class."

"Insurance penetration is low in India. Internationally, it's more than 7%. In India, it's just about 4%. That's why it should be reduced," he said.

Pointing out that life insurance accounted for 75% of total policies and medical insurance 25%, he said, "Two of the MPs here have raised this, my CM has written a letter to Finance Minister (Nirmala Sitharaman) to reduce it. They won't listen to us. At least listen to the Cabinet Minister (Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Gadkari) who has also written to the Finance Minister."

He said the government's argument that only GST Council can change this was "flawed" as NDA members make up a larger chunk of the body.

Initiating discussion on work-



TMC MP Derek O'Brien

ing of Ministry of New and Renewable energy in RS, O'Brien said government should "think nationally and act locally" and it should consult stakeholders — state governments, local bodies, communities and private sector.

He demanded discussions over the functioning of home and defence ministries.

Meanwhile, MoS for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary in a written reply in LS said the government has collected ₹8,263 crore towards GST on health insurance premium in 2023-24 fiscal year.

To a question on whether there is a demand from industry for withdrawal of service tax, he said government has received representations requesting for exemption or reduction in GST rate on life and health insurance.

In 2023-24, GST collection from health insurance premium was ₹8,262.94 crore, while ₹1,484.36 crore was from health reinsurance premium.

Lok Sabha passes Bill allowing Centre to draw from Consolidated Fund for 2024-25

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5

THE LOK Sabha Monday passed the Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2024 by a voice vote, authorising the Centre to draw money from the Consolidated Fund of India to meet expenditure estimated for the financial year 2024-25.

After a discussion on the demands for grants related to the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Speaker Om Birla guillotined discussions on Budgets for several ministries at 6 pm, and took up the Appropriation Bill-2024-25 for consideration and passage.

He first put all cut motions moved by members before the House and they were rejected by a voice vote.

Finance Minister Nirmala

"In West Bengal, as per the Blue Revolution Project (relating to fisheries), projects worth ₹41.44 crore have been approved. And ₹272 crore, the contribution of the Centre, has been released to Bengal. The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana, which began in 2020, was not accepted by the Bengal government till 2022. Now they have realised its importance. Whatever is the due as per Bengal, the Centre will fulfil. Respected Prime Minister Narendra Modi-ji does not discriminate against any state," Singh said.

Regarding Kerala, he said projects worth ₹1,355 crore have been approved in the last decade.

The state where the highest number of schemes under PM Matsya Sampada Yojana have

been accepted is Andhra Pradesh, he said. According to the minister, projects worth ₹1,853 crore have been accepted for the northeastern states. He asserted that ₹1,482 crore have been allocated for Maharashtra.

"Sometimes, our fishermen enter Sri Lanka territory and vice versa. There is a joint working group of India and Sri Lanka that discusses all this. ISRO has put in place a transponder for the benefit of the fishermen. Through this, fishermen can communicate with family or coastguards, and get an alert if they are about to cross India's maritime boundary. This facility has already been installed in close to 1 lakh vehicles," the Singh said.

He said India was second in the world in fishery production and the first in dairy production.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5

THE BUDGETARY allocation for health has seen a "remarkable" increase by 164% to ₹90,958 crore in 2024 from ₹33,278 crore in 2013-14, Union Health Minister JP Nadda said Monday.

Replying to discussion on Demands for Grants of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Nadda said this shows the commitment to prioritising healthcare and well-being of our citizens.

By emphasising on Ayushman Bharat free drugs and diagnostic facilities and free screening, he said, "we have reduced out-of-pocket expenditure from 62% to 47.1%." "The government is committed to bringing down out-of-pocket expenditure."

Nadda said the government is



Union Health Minister JP Nadda in Lok Sabha on Monday.

focusing on providing effective and affordable medicines, with a special emphasis on cancer treatment. "Our flagship initiative, the Jan Aushadhi Yojana, has already made significant strides. We have established 13,000 outlets, providing affordable medicines to the people," he said, adding the move is aimed at enhancing ac-

cessibility in healthcare.

Nadda said PM Narendra Modi has resolved to further expand this network to 25,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras in next 5 years. "This ambitious goal will ensure that affordable medicines are within easy reach of the poor and vulnerable populace, improving health out-

comes and saving lives," he said. He said the government is working to provide free drug and diagnostic facilities through the National Health Mission, which plays a vital role in enabling states to strengthen their healthcare infrastructure and logistics.

NHM accounts for a significant 55% of overall healthcare budget, he said. The government has made substantial investments in tertiary healthcare, with an allocation of ₹13,900 crore towards the PM Swasthya Suraksha Yojana over the past decade, he said.

Nadda also said the government is moving in the direction of achieving the 2.5% target of health expenditure. He said the expenditure on health has increased from 1.1% of GDP to 1.9% of GDP.

Later, LS approved the Demands for Grant of the Ministry of Health through voice vote.

'I will work towards a fine balance with the elected govt to achieve peace, prosperity... If this is the objective, where is the possibility of a clash?'

Five years after August 5, 2019, MANOJ SINHA, Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, spoke to P VAIDYANATHAN IYER in an exclusive interview at his Raj Bhavan office in Srinagar. Excerpts:

It's been four years since you took charge as L-G of Jammu and Kashmir. How far have you progressed in achieving the objectives you set out?

I will talk about the last five years. We have brought peace, prosperity and development to Jammu and Kashmir... I believe, August 5, 2019, played a key part in this journey. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we have met with reasonable success in meeting the aspirations of the common man of fast and inclusive development. We have also been successful in ensuring equal opportunity to every citizen without any discrimination. All institutions such as school, college, university, hospitals, and businesses — are functioning without any hartal or protests or stone-pelting... Based on work over the last five years, J&K witnessed a record voter turnout of 58.46 per cent. This is the highest in 35 years. For the first time since independence, an international event, the G20 tourism working group meetings, was held in Srinagar. Organising it, India was successful in sending a message to the world. Through Lok Sabha elections, people's faith in democracy has strengthened, and they believe jamhooriyat is the way forward. People have come out of the slogans of the past. We have also been able to set up a system in undertaking administrative and financial reforms.

Kashmir has remained largely incident-free, Jammu has emerged as the area of concern.

As far as security is concerned, the situation is much better. Yes, in the last year to year-and-a-half, there have been some incidents in Jammu. But we have a strategy in place to tackle this. However, if you look at overall numbers such as killings of civilians, or that of security personnel, there has been a sharp drop. In Kashmir division particularly, almost all top militant commanders have been eliminated by the security forces. Recruitment (of local militants) is also at its lowest levels. The Modi government's zero tolerance policy is in place.

Our neighbour is unable to digest the peace, progress and development, and also the successful conduct of the Lok Sabha elections. It has its own set of internal problems too. Hence, it is actively trying to disturb the Jammu region in the last 12-18 months... trained militants are being sent. A few regrettable incidents have happened in the last 2-3 months. It is true that due to normalcy over a long period of time, the deployment of Army, police or the CRPF, had reduced in strategic positions. But I don't think it is because of moving troops from Jammu to Ladakh. Troops were moved because of the prevalence of peace in Jammu. At the highest level, in meetings chaired by the Home Minister, it has been decided to expedite the deployment of additional police, CRPF and Army forces in appropriate positions.

I want to emphasise that it is not just terrorists who have been eliminated. The government's attack on the terror ecosystem has been remarkable too. We are starting this right away in Jammu.

How worried are you about the situation in Jammu, what are the challenges?

The situation is unfortunate. I am not too worried. I am sure we will tackle it effectively. It is Pakistan's design too. The biggest challenge is local recruitment. The forces would take care of infiltration. Recruitment, by and large, is zero. This is a big achievement. The Army and Police will tackle it. We have input that some infiltration has occurred. As I said earlier, forces have started taking positions. The strategy is in place, and I am fully confident that a Counter-Terrorism grid would be set up soon. People of Jammu have fought militancy. It has been decided to give automatic weapons to VDC members. The Home Minister is closely monitoring it.

The policy of zero tolerance to terror in Kashmir is the reason for peace and calm?

You must have seen during your stay in Srinagar in the last couple of days that the zero tolerance policy against terror has ensured that there is no violence on the streets. The common man enjoys night life in the city. You will see people and activity in Lal Chowk, Polo View and Jhelum river front. You will be able to see music concerts. This is a big change.

But the zero tolerance policy has also

I welcome constructive criticism. But we have to keep note of a fine line in Jammu & Kashmir. The country's security should not be put in jeopardy. Those who are mindful of this red line, they can criticise anything... I want to tell journalist friends that they are free to criticise, give suggestions, and I would be happy to address it.

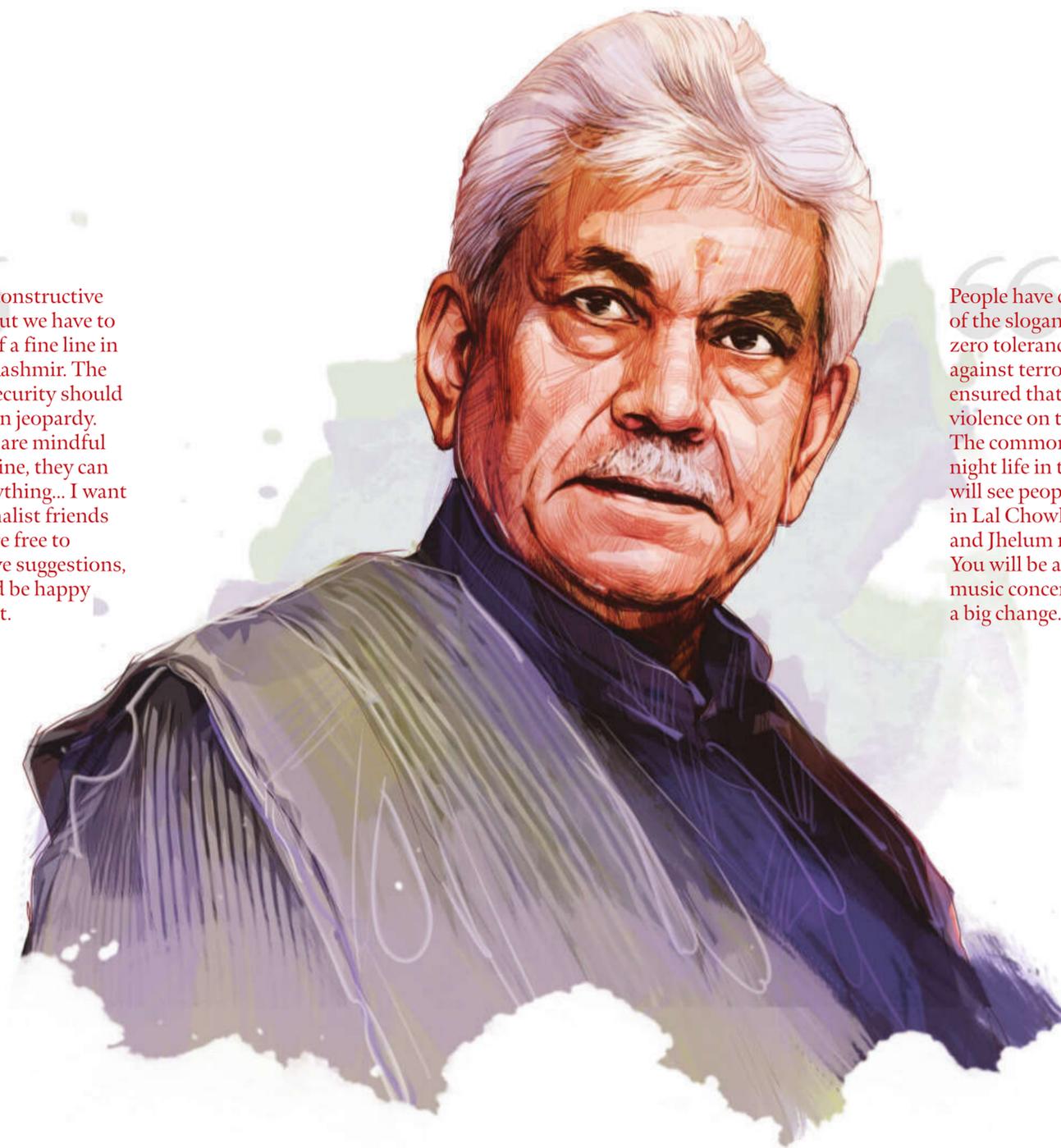


Illustration: Suvajit Dey

meant a hard clampdown on people.

As I said, we have met with success in bringing about transparency, accountability and establishment of systems over the last five years. And the results are showing now. When I came here, I remember there were only 26 services being offered online to citizens; now 1,140 public services are on online mode. In fact, we are Number 1 in the country in governance ranking among the Union Territory category... We have put all services under the Public Service Guarantee Act under the auto appeal mode. Suppose, you need land records. The Tehsildar is the appropriate authority to issue it. You apply for it online. Under the PSG Act, you should get it in 15 days. If you don't, it would escalate to the higher authority. The moment it escalates, the Tehsildar is liable for financial penalty and administrative action. In the system, administrative action is difficult. But financial penalties have been imposed on many. This has brought relief to the common man. We have recently launched a grievance portal, JK Samadhan, and a related app.

Where do you see the state economy and finances?

Financial prudence has improved over the years. Every rupee is accounted for. The state's GSDP has increased from Rs 1,59,000 crore in 2018-19 to Rs 2,45,000 crore in 2023-24. The GST collections have risen from Rs 5,134 crore to Rs 9,700 crore during the period, excise collections from Rs 1,219 crore to Rs 2,400 crore, stamp duty collections from Rs 265 crore to Rs 650 crore.

Overall, expenditure under the PMDP (Prime Minister's Development Programme) has increased from Rs 21,000 crore to Rs 50,000 crore. About 42,000 government jobs have been filled transparently based on merit during the last four years. About 10,000 more will be recruited in several exams that have been recently conducted.

As far as industry is concerned, since in-

dependence, there has been an investment of about Rs 14,000 crore till we announced the new industrial scheme. We announced incentives worth Rs 28,400 crore. We added 46 industries to the existing 64.

Investment to the tune of Rs 7,000 crore has already happened, and production has started. Work in projects worth about Rs 20,000 crore is currently in progress. We have received investment proposals to the tune of Rs 1,25,000 crore, and we are trying to expand our land bank. Tourist influx too has increased more than two-and-a-half times to 2.11 crore last year. We have identified 75 offbeat sites too now.

So, are you all set for Assembly elections? Will it happen by September?

I will answer this question like this. That elections will not happen in India is not possible. Elections have to happen. When the J&K Reorganisation Act was passed in Parliament, the Home Minister had said three specific things: i) First, delimitation. People often express it in political terms. But the fact is elections cannot happen without delimitation. Who would decide the boundary? The J&K government cannot. And it is a long process, requiring stakeholder consultations. The Justice Ranjana Desai-led Delimitation Commission came to J&K thrice. Political parties also met the Commission in Delhi. Finally, the report is in. ii) Assembly elections then. The Election Commission is visiting the UT now. When the Prime Minister was here, he also said elections would happen at the earliest. The Election Commission will decide the dates. There should be no doubt about elections. iii) Statehood at appropriate time.

What about elections to the urban local bodies and panchayats?

We put in place the three-tier system and empowered it in a short time. The District Development Councils and the Block

Development Council have a significant role to play in framing the district capex plan. Elections for DDCs were held towards the end of 2020. DDC councillors are in place in all districts in Jammu as well as Kashmir. But the tenure of panch and urban local bodies is over. There was no reservation for OBCs here. After the J&K Reorganisation Act, many OBCs and STs have got reservation. There were many representations about particular seats that needed to be reserved. We had to resolve it. A month before Lok Sabha elections, a retired judge committee was set up to identify the seats that should be reserved. So, immediately after the Assembly elections, polls for panchayats and local bodies would also be held.

A key concern has been the possibility of demographic change, protection of land and jobs for the local people. This is a genuine fear.

I think it is a hypothetical question. I believe it is politically influenced. I am telling you this with full responsibility. The protection that is available to Himalayan states Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, that protection is available to Jammu and Kashmir also. It is there in law. Agricultural land cannot be bought by anyone from outside J&K. Class

For the first time since independence, an international event was held in Srinagar... Our neighbour is unable to digest the peace, progress and development, and also the successful conduct of the Lok Sabha elections.

3 and Class 4 services cannot be given to anyone from outside. This is the law. Fear has been spread deliberately to mislead people. Except for industry, land has not been given to anyone. If organisations belonging to the Government of India need land for building an office, then it is our dharma to allot them land. It has been given in the past too.

Have individuals also bought land?

Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Rural, we took a decision to give land to 478 landless families so that they can get their homes built. There were protests that this was a conspiracy to alter the demography of J&K. But those given land were people in the 2017 census. I asked people in public meetings if there is a single person from outside who has got land; the reality is that only a person who is in the 2017 census list can be a PMAY beneficiary. I cannot add any person even if I want to... I am saying this with full responsibility that nobody from outside has bought agricultural land. There is full protection of agricultural land, and full protection for jobs.

Lok Sabha elections saw a record voter turnout. How do you view the win of Engineer Rashid? Many people say some slogans raised then by some people were suggestive of separatist sentiments.

I view the election results as an endorsement of the people's belief in democracy. I wouldn't want to question the wisdom of voters. But I feel politicians have said what they want to. The public is free to elect whoever they want. But I would like to say that we would not allow radicalisation to take roots again in the Valley.

One of the important feedback mechanisms has been the press in the absence of an elected government. But the local press has been pressured by the administration... For instance, there was

no coverage of protests by locals over the water shortage recently in Baramulla district's Pattan town.

I want to clearly state that I welcome constructive criticism. But we have to keep note of a fine line in Jammu & Kashmir. The country's security should not be put in jeopardy. Those who are mindful of this red line, they can criticise anything. There is always scope for improvement by the government. I want to tell journalist friends that they are free to criticise, give suggestions, and I would be happy to address it. There has been a water shortage due to inadequate rainfall. The water levels have fallen. The Jal Jeevan Mission work is on. About 20 per cent of people are still not covered by Jal Jeevan Mission. I accept this. Tankers are being deployed to supply water.

Journalist colleagues continue to face problems with the administration questioning them often.

I will emphasise once again that I welcome constructive criticism. Their suggestions are welcome too. If people are having problems getting basic amenities, then they must report.

So far, 74 people have been terminated by the J&K government under Article 311 (2) (c) of the Constitution. In many cases, there are no FIRs and the people do not have an opportunity to present their defence. Isn't this an overreach by the government?

With all the authority at my command, and full responsibility, this has not happened in even a single case. A full dossier is made on each of these persons. A committee studies this. The law department vets it. Then it comes to me. I can give you the details of any case that you want.

Shouldn't an opportunity be given to the accused as due process?

There is not a single case, where there is no FIR, where there is no history or solid evidence. Not just one FIR, there may be many FIRs. There may be evidence that the person is talking with someone across the border. There has been a debate when Article 311 was being drafted in Constitution. Sardar Patel has himself said that if there is a threat to the state, and there is irrefutable evidence, then there is no need to give an opportunity to the person. He/she should be removed.

Many youth applying for jobs with the government and even private sector are being denied service verification... Having 'liked' a social media post a decade ago or being related to militant are being seen as reasons to reject verification.

If anyone feels (wronged), they can represent and we will evaluate it. We are open. In two cases, I myself ensured verification was given after representations were found to be genuine. But if someone says I will change my behaviour now, but has a dubious past, then how can we give them the service verification.

Once the elected government is in place, what role do you see for yourself?

The elected government will have many powers. In our constitution, everyone's roles are defined. If everybody works as per the Constitution, there will be no problem. There are such examples in our country. Not one, but many. If we remain within the confines of the powers provided in the Constitution, then everything will be fine. I will work towards achieving a fine balance with the elected government to achieve peace, prosperity and development. Doesn't everyone want this? If this is the objective, then where is the possibility of a clash?

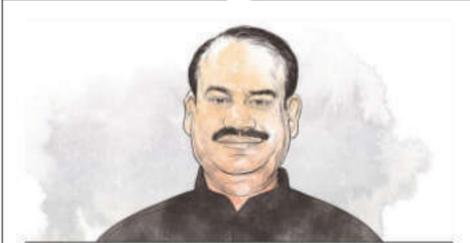
If the elected government in the Assembly passes a resolution seeking restoration of Article 370, how will you look at that?

The country's topmost court — the Supreme Court — has given a decision on this. Now, there is no scope for legal scrutiny. I feel those who take oath in the name of the Constitution, they must remember that going against the law of the land, or going against the decision of the Supreme Court, is not under their purview. What is the legal sanctity of doing something which is not under your authority? It has been decided by the Honourable Supreme Court after having heard every stakeholder. There is no scope after that.

9 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



SILENCE PLEASE

IT SEEMS MPs are missing Central Hall days, when they would leisurely discuss issues over cups of tea, in the new Parliament building. On Monday, when some members were engaged in a conversation inside the House, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla asked them not to chat among each other. "Several members do jan sampark abhiyan (people connect drive) here. They start from here and go there, meeting several people (on the way)," Birla said. He pointed out that the talkers include several senior members too, who go around meeting fellow MPs.

COURT REUNION

MONDAY WAS literally a reunion day for Justices PS Narasimha and Sanjay Kumar of the Supreme Court as they shared a bench for the first time after becoming judges of the top court. Former classmates at Delhi University while studying law in the 1980s, they also shared the same room at PG men's hostel. Justice Kumar was promoted as Additional Judge of the Andhra Pradesh High Court in August 2008. As Additional Solicitor General, Justice Narasimha appeared before Justice Kumar when the latter was the Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court.

NAME AND IDENTITY

ADDRESSED AS 'Jaya Amitabh Bachchan' yet again in the Rajya Sabha, the Samajwadi Party MP told Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar Monday that she had no problem with the name and she was proud of her husband and his achievements, but male MPs too should be referred to by the names of their wives. To this, Dhankhar jokingly said many a time he has introduced himself as Dr Sudesh Pati — the husband of Dr Sudesh.

Wayanad landslides due to illegal mining activity, unchecked construction, says Union Minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5

IN HIS first comments after the Wayanad landslides last week, Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav said "illegal mining, uncontrolled construction and unregulated commercial activity" coupled with heavy rainfall led to the disaster. The landslides in the early hours of July 30 claimed over 220 lives, while an equal number are still missing.

Yadav said with the exception of an in-principle approval granted for a road project involving construction of a twin tunnel near Meppadi, where the disaster occurred, the Environment Ministry had not granted clearance to any project in the region in the last decade.

"Wayanad incident gives us a lesson that illegal mining and illegal habitation can put lives in danger... When we set up habitations and projects in these regions, it's important to understand soil topography, geomorphology, what is the slope angle, what is the vegetation? That is why we saw this disaster following heavy rain," said Yadav.

Yadav said the government was in the process to finalise the draft notification on declaring ecologically sensitive areas (ESA) in Western Ghats. He said the ex-

EXPLAINED
Kerala's twin-tunnel project

THE PROJECT involves construction of 8.735 km-long 4-lane twin-tunnel road between Anakkampoyil in Kozhikode and Kalladi-Meppadi in Wayanad districts. Last year, Environment Ministry gave the project in-principle forest clearance for diversion of 17 hectares of forest land.

pert committee, formed under the chairmanship of former director general of forests Sanjay Kumar, was appraising the submissions of the six Western Ghats states — Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

Ministry sources said the government could also issue state-specific notifications for declaring ESAs since different states face different problems while finalising villages to be declared ESAs. In 2014, the former UPA government at the Centre had declared 60,000 sqkm in the six Western Ghats states as ESA in a draft notification. This was based on the recommendations of an expert panel led by space scientist K Kasturirangan.

Opp parties to oppose changes to Waqf Act, Govt defends plan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5

SEVERAL OPPOSITION parties have said they would resist any plans by the government to bring a Bill in Parliament to make changes in the Waqf Act, 1995. The BJP has said such a Bill is necessary to bring "transparency" in the management of waqf properties across the country. The Congress, though, is yet to comment on the issue.

Government sources told *The Indian Express* that as many as 40 amendments to the Act are under consideration, including curtailing the powers of waqf boards, through a Bill likely to be tabled in Parliament this week. Among other things, the amendments will make it mandatory to

include women in waqf bodies, said sources in the government, adding that "the move comes in the backdrop of demands from within the Muslim community".

Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju said Monday that continuous demands and representations had been made by the community to make the regulation of waqf properties more "transparent" and "efficient", as per a report by PTI. However, the minister did not comment on whether there were plans for a Bill.

Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav said his party will oppose any such Bill, and accused the Narendra Modi government of "trying to snatch the rights of Muslims", adding: "First, they snatched the rights of Anglo-Indians by snatching the representation they had in the Lok

NIGHT CUREW ALONG BORDER IN MEGHALAYA

Bangladesh political crisis: BSF issues high alert on border, steps up troop deployment

Leave cancelled; field commanders told to remain on ground, deploy all personnel on border duty immediately

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5

THE BORDER Security Force (BSF) on Monday issued a high alert across all its formations along the 4,096-km India-Bangladesh border and increased its troop strength in the area.

BSF Director General Daljit Singh Chawdhary, Additional Director General (Eastern Command) Ravi Gandhi, and Inspector General (South Bengal) Maninder Pratap Singh "made an important visit to India-Bangladesh border in North 24 Parganas district and Sunderbans area of West Bengal... to review the operational preparedness and strategic deployment of BSF in these important border areas," a BSF spokesperson said.

Chawdhary, who is the DG of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), was given additional charge of the BSF last week till the appointment of a regular incumbent or until further orders, after then BSF DG Nitin Agrawal was repatriated to his state cadre.

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

"All the field commanders have been directed to be on

ground and deploy all personnel on border duty immediately... Their leaves have been cancelled and they have been asked to not to allow entry anyone without valid documents," a senior officer said.

According to a statement issued by the BSF, Chawdhary was first briefed on the "strategic scenario and operations" of the Eastern Command. He then went to Dhamakhali, in North 24 Parganas, where the commandant briefed him on the battalion's water border responsibilities. He also visited an outpost in the Sunderbans.

West Bengal shares a total of 2,217 kilometres of its border with Bangladesh, along with Tripura (856 km), Meghalaya (443 km), Assam (262 km) and Mizoram (318 km).

"The visit of the BSF DG highlights the dedication and vigilance of the BSF in safeguarding India's borders, ensuring peace and security in the region. The ongoing efforts of the BSF in the Sunderbans and North 24 Parganas are vital in preventing international crimes and maintaining the sovereignty of the nation," the spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, the Meghalaya government imposed night curfew in areas along its 445-km long international border with Bangladesh as a "proactive move" to "protect the interests of the state and the nation".

250-300 trucks stuck across border, Petrapole port closed

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA
KOLKATA, AUGUST 5

MOVEMENT OF goods through the Petrapole land port on the India-Bangladesh border has stopped on Monday, and the train service between Kolkata and Dhaka remained suspended, as the latest spurt of violence in Bangladesh claimed at least 300 lives and forced Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to resign and flee the country.

There are 250-300 Indian trucks stuck on the Bangladesh side, said Kartik Chakraborty, secretary, Clearing Agents Staff Welfare Association of Petrapole — the land port on the Indian side of the border with Bangladesh.

"At 3.30 pm today, all movement of trucks and goods — import and export — stopped. The situation is volatile in Bangladesh. There is fear and panic here too. There are about 250-300 Indian trucks at Benapole (the Bangladesh side of the land port). They are yet to unload the goods," he said.

"We request the new Bangladesh administration to ensure the safety of the trucks, goods and drivers," Chakraborty said. He also said there was little movement of goods from Benapole to other parts of Bangladesh in last few days, leading to trucks being stuck.

As protests in Bangladesh had turned violent last month, movement of goods through



Bangladesh nationals celebrate the fall of Hasina government, in Kolkata, Monday. Partha Paul

Parties should refrain from making provocative remarks, says Mamata

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, AUGUST 5

WEST BENGAL Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday appealed to leaders of all political parties to refrain from making "provocative comments" on the unfolding Bangladesh crisis, saying it "might jeopardise peace in the state or in the neighbouring country".

Speaking to mediapersons outside the state secretariat after the Assembly session, the CM said it is the Centre that will take a call on how to approach the issue.

"Some BJP leaders have al-



West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee

ready commented on it. They should not have," Banerjee said, adding, "I appeal to people of all communities with folded hands to remain calm and not engage in any communal behaviour or take the law into their hands. If our brothers and sisters who are there face some trouble, the Government of India and the Government of Bangladesh will look into it. We will do what the

Government of India asks. I urge leaders of all political parties and everyone else to not post anything that will disrupt peace here."

She further said, "We are all concerned about the situation in Bangladesh but one must not write or post something under the influence of their emotions that may disrupt peace in Bengal or in the country. I will say this to everyone including the BJP. Some BJP leaders have already posted certain things, which I feel isn't appropriate. I will also urge our leaders not to say or post such things."

The West Bengal Police too cautioned people against sharing "provocative videos".



Security arrangements outside the High Commission of Bangladesh in New Delhi on Monday. Tashi Tobgyal

Petrapole had stopped on July 20, before resuming on July 24.

On average, 450-500 trucks move from India to Bangladesh through Petrapole — the largest

land port in South Asia — every day. About 150-200 trucks come the other way. Yearly, about 22 lakh people cross the border through the Petrapole checkpoint.

Indian airlines cancel flights to Bangladesh

New Delhi: IndiGo, Air India and Vistara on Monday announced cancellation of their scheduled flights to Dhaka. While IndiGo and Vistara said all flights to Bangladesh scheduled for Tuesday were cancelled, Air India said it was suspending flights "with immediate effect".

As per data, IndiGo operates 35 weekly flights to Dhaka from Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai, while Air India operates 14 a week, all from Delhi. Vistara operates 10 a week, 7 from Mumbai, three from Delhi. ENS

IS THERE QUANTIFIABLE DATA TO SHOW BACKWARDNESS, ASKS CJI-LED BENCH

Supreme Court asks Bengal to explain process it followed for adding communities to OBC list

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5

THE SUPREME Court on Monday asked the West Bengal government to explain the process it followed to classify 77 communities, mostly Muslim, as Other Backward Class, making them eligible for reservation benefits.

Asking the state if there was quantifiable data to show the backwardness of the communities so included, a three-judge

bench presided by CJI D Y Chandrachud also sought to know if the state had undertaken any consultation for the sub-classification of OBCs.

The SC was hearing an appeal by the West Bengal government challenging a May 22 Calcutta HC order cancelling all OBC certificates issued since 2010. The HC had held that "religion indeed appears to have been the sole criterion" for granting OBC status to the 77 communities.

While issuing notices to the

private litigants, the SC bench, also comprising Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, asked the state to file an affidavit "explaining the process followed for classification of 77 communities as OBCs: (1) the nature of survey (and) (2) whether there was a lack of consultation with the Commission (state backward panel) in respect of any communities in the list of 77 communities designated as OBCs".

On the consultation part, Senior Advocate Indira Jaising,

appearing for the state, said the HC had held that it is the prerogative of the backward classes commission and not the government. The process is that the commission first identifies which are the OBCs based on data and then the state applies its mind, Jaising said.

Appearing for the petitioners, Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi and P S Patwalia pointed to the lack of any survey done to include the communities in the OBC list.

Bengal minister quits for threatening woman officer, not first such row for TMC leader

SANTANU CHOWDHURY
KOLKATA, AUGUST 5

WEST BENGAL'S Minister for Correctional Administration Akhil Giri, who resigned Monday over a threat to a woman forest officer, after he was told to do so by TMC leadership, is no stranger to controversy.

The Ramnagar MLA who has been with TMC since its formation, Giri claimed on a WhatsApp chat in November last year he had "scandalous information" on why Governor C V Ananda Bose had gone to inaugurate a puja organised by TMC state general secretary Kunal Ghosh.

In 2022, Giri courted controversy with remarks that were seen as derogatory towards President Droupadi Murmu. In a video clip that went viral, Giri was heard saying, "He (Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari) said I am not good-looking. How handsome is he? We don't judge anyone by their appearance. We respect the office of the President (of India), irrespective of how our President looks."

The BJP demanded Giri's arrest at the time and said he should be sacked from the Cabinet. CM Mamata Banerjee had then offered an apology on behalf of TMC for the comment. In the latest controversial

Rahul meets EAM; Opp MPs say Govt should give statement in Parliament

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5

CONGRESS LEADER and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Monday met External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and discussed the developments in Bangladesh, party sources said Monday, while others called for a statement by the government in Parliament.

Gandhi met Jaishankar inside the Parliament complex on the sidelines of the Budget Session proceedings, sources said.

Commenting on the crisis in Bangladesh, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said he hopes the neighbouring country will "soon return to the path of progress and economic development".

"As neighbours, friends and well-wishers, we in India have a direct interest in peace and stability in Bangladesh. After the loss of 300 lives in the violence of the last five weeks, I hope and pray for peace for all Bangladeshis..." said Tharoor in a post on X.

Tharoor's party colleague and MP Manish Tewari said he hoped the government will make a statement on Bangladesh in both Houses of Parliament on Tuesday.

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi said she hoped the government would take care of the interests of Indians in Bangladesh. "The atmosphere of instability in Bangladesh is regrettable. Especially because it has been a long-standing ally for our country and their growth trajectory was going in the right direction. If they are moving towards anarchy, it will be bad for our strategic interest," she said.

CPI leader P Sandosh Kumar welcomed Hasina's resignation and said it showed that people "will not accept autocrats". "The election held in Bangladesh (earlier this year) was not free and fair... The allegation of the opposition that the ruling front sabotaged the elections was correct. It has again been proven that autocrats cannot survive," Kumar said. BJD MP Sasmit Patra said his party will support the Government of India's stand on the issue.

Akhil Giri's remarks on Murmu in 2022 had sparked a row

video featuring him, Giri is seen threatening an on-duty woman forest officer heading a team tasked with clearing encroachments in Tajpur, Purba Medinipur. Giri, accompanied by a group of local residents, is seen purportedly telling the woman forest officer, "You are a government employee, bow your head (in front of me) while speaking. See what happens to you within a week... These goons... will ensure you aren't able to go home at night. Mend your ways, or else... I'll beat you with a danda (stick)".

Following the incident, the BJP again demanded Giri's removal, and sought action.

On his way to the Assembly Monday morning, Giri remained unapologetic. "My party asked me to resign. I did. But I will not apologise to anyone. I will go to the Assembly as I am an MLA."

A senior TMC leader on condition of anonymity said by removing Giri, Banerjee has sent a clear message to her party colleagues that she will not tolerate such acts by any leader, even by a Cabinet colleague.



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

EXIT HASINA

Former Bangladesh PM has reaped wages of authoritarian politics. Delhi should work to limit damage, protect high-stakes relationship

SHAIKH HASINA'S DOWNFALL is a surprise only to those unwilling to see the writing on the Bangladesh wall. Though Hasina's party, the Awami League, won a third consecutive term in January, the credibility of the election was clouded by boycott by the main Opposition parties and allegations of rigging. Arrests of Opposition leaders, suppression of dissent and crackdowns on free speech — a disturbingly recurring feature of the Hasina regime in the past decade — seemed to have become more frequent in the past six months. The development narrative, once Hasina's trump card, has been past its utility date for at least four years now. Though Bangladesh continues to be amongst the fastest-growing economies in South Asia, progress has not kept pace with people's aspirations in a country where more than 60 per cent of the population is in the 15-65 age group. Many enterprises have still not recovered from the Covid-induced crisis. For several weeks last month, Bangladesh was wracked by its most serious episode of civil unrest in two decades. What started as a peaceful agitation on campuses against the controversial quota in government jobs for descendants of freedom fighters, in less than a week, swelled into nationwide unrest. The Supreme Court's decision, on July 21, to scale down the reservation led to only a temporary lull. When the protests resumed on Saturday, the Hasina government responded with its over-used strong arm. More than 100 people have lost their lives to trigger-happy security men in the past two days — and at least 300 have died in the past two months. Mounting anger against her has forced Hasina to resign and flee the country. Her fate is a cautionary tale — whatever its temporary returns, the quest for total domination and an Opposition-mukt politics is doomed to fail.

It is also true that Hasina represented the secular and modernising version of Bangladeshi nationalism. However, her relentless efforts at pushing the Awami League's version of history and refusal to engage with other arguments and forces were unsustainable in a country that has been vertically divided between secular nationalists and Muslim nationalists who did not support the war of liberation in 1971. Time and again, the former PM made the Awami League's leadership of Bangladesh's freedom movement her calling card. Her denunciation of the agitating students as "razakars" — a pejorative term used for collaborators with the Pakistan Army during the liberation struggle — aggravated the outrage against her. Her authoritarian rule may have unfortunately cleared the way for the resurgence of an Islamist minority and pro-Pakistan politics in the country. The schizophrenia of Bangladesh society, rooted in the trauma of Partition, continues to stoke anxieties.

A big challenge for India in recent years has been how to distance itself from Hasina's authoritarianism while working with her to build a more cooperative state-to-state relationship. While there has been much progress on the latter under Hasina's rule, the costs of identifying with her have also been significant. New Delhi should be worried that Islamists were amongst the ranks of the protesters. It must now actively work to limit the damage from Hasina's fall and ensure that the high stakes relationship is protected. This could involve near-term setbacks that must be handled with strategic patience.

FALL AND CORRECT

Stock markets tumble as concerns over US economy gain traction. Global, domestic factors will shape market trajectory

LAST WEDNESDAY, THE US Federal Reserve, while holding rates steady, signalled a shift in approach. The change in the tone of the commentary — from being fixated on inflation to being "attentive to the risks to both sides of its dual mandate" of inflation and employment — had raised the possibility of an interest rate cut at the Fed's September meeting. The Dow Jones index rose in anticipation of a policy pivot. However, subsequent data released by the US Bureau of Labour Statistics raised concerns over the state of the economy and posed the question: Was the Fed being too slow to act? Non-farm payrolls increased by 1.14 lakh in July, significantly below market expectations and the unemployment rate rose to 4.3 per cent. This has raised fears of a deterioration in the labour market, and the possibility of a recession. The labour market data has roiled global markets, and India is no exception.

On Friday, the Dow Jones fell by 1.5 per cent, and the Indian markets fell by more than 1 per cent. The fall intensified on Monday. The BSE Sensex plunged by 2,393 points or 2.95 per cent during the early hours of trade. The Sensex ended the day down 2.74 per cent. The BSE Midcap also fell 3.6 per cent, while the small cap index was down 4.21 per cent. The Nifty VIX, a measure of volatility, rose by a staggering 42.2 per cent, indicating investor nervousness. Other Asian markets were also in the red. The Nikkei fell by 12.4 per cent and Kospi by 8.77 per cent. European markets — the DAX and the FTSE — also opened in the red. US stock futures tumbled as the sell-off pressure intensified. Global markets have been wary of risks stemming from the Bank of Japan raising interest rates and fears of the conflict escalating in the Middle East.

While the immediate triggers for the fall appear to be largely external, for some time now there have been concerns over valuations in parts of the Indian stock market, especially the small and midcap segments. A recent report by Kotak Institutional Equities had said that the market "continues to be a mix of optimism and euphoria". In the near term, besides the global factors, domestic factors — the RBI's monetary policy committee meeting this week, and the release of economic data subsequently — could also have a bearing on the market's trajectory.

BORN TO DANCE

Yamini Krishnamurthy's death marks epochal shift in world of classical dance. She will remain its breakthrough moment

IN FILMMAKER K Viswanath's National Award-winning *Sagara Sangamam* (1983), Balakrishna (Kamal Haasan), a classical dancer living in penury exclaims at the name Yamini Krishnamurthy in a dance brochure. The reference that reached the medium of popular culture, came from the '60s, '70s and '80s, when dance found the proscenium besides status and reputation. Young girls and boys and dance aficionados filled up auditoriums to watch Krishnamurthy, and marvel at the dazzling precision of her line and form. The dancer who mastered Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi and Odissi died on August 3.

Krishnamurthy was born into a family of scholars in Madanapalle, Andhra Pradesh. Her interest in dance came from the stone sculptures depicting deities and legends in the 2,000-year-old Thillai Nataraja Temple in Tamil Nadu's Chidambaram, where the family lived later. Her father enrolled her in Kalakshetra under the aegis of Rukmini Devi Arundale, where she learned the grammar of the art form. But since when has grammar been enough in classical dance? As Krishnamurthy would say, "you also need poetry", which meant that you needed expression and style. She needed a greater dimension and she found that under varied nattuvanars such as Elappa Pillai and Kitappa Pillai later.

When Ashoka Hotel was inaugurated in Delhi, then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru was keen that it have a robust cultural wing. After she arrived in Delhi on then-Union Minister Karan Singh's invite, Krishnamurthy's fast-paced jatis, intricate footwork and glamorous presence took Delhi by storm. She was among artists such as Pt Ravi Shankar, Ustad Allah Rakha and Ustad Bismillah Khan, who travelled globally, took Indian culture places. Krishnamurthy was honoured with the Padma Shri in 1968, more honours followed. She held the title of Asthana Narthaki (resident dancer) of the 2,000-year Tirupati Tirumala. Krishnamurthy's death marks an epochal shift in the world of classical dance. She will remain its breakthrough moment.



SHYAM SARAN

THE OLD ORDER in Bangladesh has changed irreversibly and India will have to adjust to the change. A student protest against reservation morphed into a wider people's movement against the increasingly autocratic and corruption-ridden rule of Sheikh Hasina. She has resigned and left the country and may take shelter in India. India should not deny her that. The Bangladesh Army appears to have taken charge though it has promised an interim government of "stakeholders" to pave the way for free and fair elections. Whether the protests will die down and the current unrest on the streets of Dhaka will be stemmed remains to be seen.

Sheikh Hasina's rule was tolerable as long as the Bangladesh economy, centred on export of garments, was registering sustained growth and delivering on jobs and better living standards. However, the pandemic in 2020 and a slowing global economy, thereafter, hit the garment industry badly. A toxic mix of economic distress and the increasingly high-handed behaviour of the government and its Awami League party members turned a student protest into a full-scale anti-government people's movement. Whatever decision Delhi takes concerning Sheikh Hasina's possible stay in India, it must acknowledge that the people of Bangladesh have rejected an unpopular government and have the legitimate right to chart their own future.

This reminds me of 2006, when a people's movement in Nepal gathered in the capital, Kathmandu, asking for an end to an increasingly dictatorial monarchical rule and restoration of multi-party democracy. India chose to align itself with popular sentiment in Nepal, declaring that it would respect whatever choice the people of Nepal made. This defused a potentially ugly situation since there was a widespread belief in Nepal that India was pro-monarchy. In the current evolving situation in Bangladesh, India as a vibrant multi-party democracy, should be

Watching Dhaka

With Bangladesh, Delhi should exercise caution and not let the situation turn against India

There is no doubt that both Pakistan and China will see the political change in Bangladesh as an opportunity to challenge India's presence in the country and try to tar it with a pro-Hasina brush. This may even get some traction. However, India should bid its time and allow the logic of economic interest to assert itself. There are also strong people-to-people affinities and close cultural relations which are assets that have prevailed even when political relations have been strained and a negative political sentiment has been deliberately stoked in Bangladesh.

seen as supporting the expression of populism will in a sensitive neighbouring country. This may also go some way in diluting the negativity born out of the admittedly close relations between the two governments and Indian and Bangladesh leaders.

Since 2009, the rule of Awami League leader, Sheikh Hasina, helped transform India-Bangladesh relations into a success story for India's neighbourhood policy. The gains for India are significant. Bangladesh is no longer a sanctuary for elements hostile to India's Northeast. Connectivity projects between the two countries, including the restoration of cross-border river transportation, have advanced mutually beneficial economic integration. India has also emerged as a major source of power for Bangladesh, and this has been a critical factor in that country's economic success.

A benign political dispensation in Dhaka provided the opportunity to put in place long-term interdependencies, which should survive a change in government. India should express its readiness to expand the bilateral economic engagement with a successor government. The temptation to brand the ongoing political change as anti-India or anti-Hindu should be avoided.

There is no doubt that both Pakistan and China will see the political change in Bangladesh as an opportunity to challenge India's presence in the country and try to tar it with a pro-Hasina brush. This may even get some traction. However, India should bid its time and allow the logic of economic interest to assert itself. There are also strong people-to-people relations and close cultural affinities which are assets that have prevailed even when political relations have been strained and a negative political sentiment has been deliberately stoked in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh has a border only with India, except for a short stretch with Myanmar. This is a challenge, but it is also a strategic advan-

ce. Delhi should let the current storm dissipate, be cautious and discreet in its reactions. A new dispensation in Dhaka may adopt hostile policies similar to what one witnessed when Mohamed Muizzu took over as the President of the Maldives. The Indian reaction was mature and kept the door open for the continuance of close and mutually beneficial ties through discreet engagement and dialogue. Relations have returned to an even keel. That is a good template to follow.

It is not clear who will constitute an interim government. Will the Bangladesh National Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami be represented? Will the Army also insist on being part of the government or will it operate at arm's length? Should the unrest and street violence continue despite Sheikh Hasina's exit, will the Army take on a direct political role? After all, it has done so in the past. Sheikh Mujibur Rehman's statue in the capital was vandalised. Does that presage a wholesale repudiation of his legacy as leader of the liberation of Bangladesh and its establishment as an independent nation?

There are sections within Bangladesh society who rejected the separation from Pakistan. Even though that history cannot be reversed, will the posture towards India once again become sharply adversarial as has happened in the past, when Bangladesh was led by such elements? All these are questions to which there are no ready answers and should not influence Delhi's policy in this fluid situation. The situation in Bangladesh is changing rapidly. Several questions will remain to be answered in the coming days. The time-tested diplomatic response to this should be that we are waiting and watching to see how things will develop and to reiterate our friendly sentiments for the people of a close and important neighbour. So let us wait and watch.

The writer is a former foreign secretary



ISHAN BAKSHI

THE WAY OF THE MARKET

Fear of missing out and greed are behind irrational investor exuberance

THE INDIAN STOCK markets tanked on Monday, with the BSE Sensex ending the day down 2.74 per cent. The immediate trigger for the drop is external, not internal — there are growing concerns over the US economy, with recent employment numbers coming in significantly below expectations. While markets in India have, in recent times, been driven more by domestic flows, the question is whether this is just a temporary hiccup. Or, does it mark the beginning of a deeper correction?

Predicting the market can be a difficult endeavour — hazardous even, for an individual's reputation. On October 16, 1929, Irving Fisher, one of the most well-known American economists of that time, famously said that stock prices have reached "what looks like a permanently high plateau". Fisher was dead wrong. On October 28, the Dow fell by 13 per cent, and by 12 per cent the next day. The downward spiral continued, and by November, the index had lost almost half of its value.

For some time now it has been apparent that stock valuations in India have risen from being expensive to levels that defy logic. You can pick and choose the metric on which to assess, but that's the conclusion. Unlike the US, where the tech sector has captured the imagination of investors, in India, this irrational exuberance has not been confined to a particular sector, but has been a more widespread phenomenon.

The bulls have, thus far, marshalled a range of explanations to justify the continuous upward movement in prices. But with each passing day, their arguments have been wearing thin. What's sustaining these stratospheric valuations isn't equal parts fundamentals, sen-

timent and liquidity, but more the fear of missing out, greed, sentiment and liquidity. The current cycle is one of flows begetting returns begetting flows.

In recent times, the Sensex has been trading at a price-to-earnings ratio that is similar to levels seen during the last stages of the bull market in 2007. In the case of the small and midcap stocks, and segments like that of public sector companies, the euphoria has been of another order. Signs of the exuberance have also been witnessed in the IPO market, where most investors, or rather traders, have only been participating for the sake of listing gains, and in the futures and options market, where many trade despite losing money. Investors have been discounting concerns not only over lofty valuations, but in many cases also mediocre growth and a sluggish operating environment, as well as the regulator's concerns and the company management's commentary which can hardly be described as upbeat. There are numerous examples.

Take Whirlpool. On February 20, Whirlpool Corporation sold part of its stake in Whirlpool of India. Its CEO, Marc Bitzer, told a news channel that "if we have a business which is trading at 50 times multiple and your own company (parent entity) trades at a lot lower, it is basic arbitrage". On February 19, the share price of Whirlpool of India was Rs 1,331. It has only risen since.

Or look at Asian Paints. While announcing the January-March 2024 results, its CEO said that "the GDP correlation (with the business) has really gone for a toss, in the current year. I also feel that today, I am not very sure as to how the GDP numbers are coming." More re-

cently, he noted that "the quarter (April-June 2024) has been tough and overall, I think the demand conditions have been fairly challenging because of a host of reasons." The stock is trading at a PE ratio in excess of 50.

Or take HUL. The company saw sales grow by 2 per cent and earnings per share by 3 per cent in the April-June quarter. The stock is trading at a PE ratio of more than 60. Comparisons with valuations over the past four-odd years make no sense considering that's the length of the bull market. In the case of small and midcap stocks, even the comments of the stock market regulator have not, it seems, led to investors reassessing their positions.

The story of markets is, however, one of an unending upward march. And this bull run may still continue, punctuated by minor corrections. But the question is: Over four years into this bull market, how much longer can it last? Will markets now take a more pragmatic view of valuations and growth prospects?

Considering that each small market correction has been bought into, it's difficult to say. The Dotcom bubble — when almost every company with a ".com" attached to it soared, including the infamous Pets.com — ran from the mid 1990s to 2000. But, after the crash, it took Nasdaq several years to return to its peak.

There are fears that a sharp correction would scare away millions of new investors. But the rise in the number of SIP accounts suggests that perhaps many have bought into the age-old adage of investing for the long run. In any case, most failed traders often end up becoming long-term investors.

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AUGUST 6, 1984, FORTY YEARS AGO

MADRAS BLAST

INDIA IS UNLIKELY to agree to Sri Lanka's call for a joint inquiry into the bomb blast at Madras airport; "the question does not arise", the Indian High Commissioner JS Chhatwal, told PTI. The Sri Lanka Prime Minister, R Premadasa, proposed such a joint inquiry. The PM's statement came amid claims and counterclaims on who is responsible for the attack.

SPECIAL COURTS' TRIAL

MOST OF THE top Akali leaders held under the National Security Act may be prosecuted and tried in special courts on charges of waging a

war against the country and sedition. In the main case, registered in connection with the fighting between the Army and the terrorists in the Golden Temple complex on June 5 and 6 the investigation is still in progress. GS Tohra, president and all members of the executive committee of the SGPC, will be challaned in this case even if they had not taken any part in the fighting.

INDIA BUYS MiG-29s

INDIA HAS FINALISED a deal with the Soviet Union for the outright purchase of advanced air superiority fighter aircraft MiG-29. These are considered by western mili-

tary experts as having F-16 fighting capability by falcons and the F-18 Hornet aircraft.

INDIA FOR PEACE

THE PRIME MINISTER, Mrs Indira Gandhi, said that India firmly believed in non-alignment and desired peace and friendship with all countries. Mrs Gandhi pointed out that some foreign powers were giving arms to poor countries but not aid for development purposes. Their intentions were clear, she said. They aimed at utilisation of resources of developing countries and ensuring that they got allies in case of a world war.



11 THE IDEAS PAGE

Partners in food security

India and Africa can learn from global developments, and from each other to overcome their nutrition-related challenges



FROM PLATE TO PLOUGH
BY JOACHIM VON BRAUN AND ASHOK GULATI

INDIA IS HOSTING the 32nd International Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE) from August 2-7 in Delhi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the chief guest and Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan is the guest of honour.

It is interesting to note that the last time India hosted this ICAE was in Mysore in 1958, with Jawaharlal Nehru, the then prime minister of India, as the chief guest. If one digs a little deeper, one finds that ICAE actually has its roots in India. The founding president of ICAE was Lord L K Elmhirst, the British agronomist. Rabindranath Tagore cabled Elmhirst at Cornell in the spring of 1921, requesting for a meeting in New York. When they met, Tagore told Elmhirst of his concern for the villages around Santiniketan, north of Calcutta, which seemed to be on the verge of disintegration. He said that he had already acquired a farm in the village of Surul that could be used as a centre for assisting the villages, but had not yet found the appropriate means of doing this. He invited Elmhirst to join him, which Elmhirst agreed to do. He arrived about a year later, bringing with him a promise of financial help from Dorothy Straight, his wife-to-be.

Tagore made clear his attitude to the villages: "If I can free only one or two villages from the bonds of ignorance and weakness, there will be built, on a tiny scale, an ideal for the whole of India... Our aim must be to give these few villages complete freedom - education for all, the winds of joy blowing across the village, music and recitations going on, as in the old days... Our people need more than anything else a real scientific training that could inspire in them the courage of experiment and initiative of mind which we lack as a nation"

From those roots, ICAE has flourished over time. This is perhaps the biggest congregation of agricultural economists committed to world's food and nutritional security, which is becoming an increasing challenge in the face of climate change and geo-political conflicts.

India's success in ushering in the green revolution and white (milk) revolution is well known. But the African continent is still struggling to overcome food shortages. Nutritional security, especially of children below the age five, still remains a challenge for India and Africa. Given that the African Union was invited to be a permanent member of G20 during India's Presidency, it opens the gates for India and Africa to learn from global developments in food and agriculture, and also promote South-South collaboration and learning from each other to overcome their food and nutritional security challenges.

In this context, ICAE has a special session where the experiences of 20 major Indian states were compared with 15 African countries from 2004-05 to 2019-20. The two regions have a lot of experiences to share. The findings of this unique study show that: One, high debt service ratios result in lower agricultural spending relative to social protection;



CR Sasikumar

two, African countries consistently underfund agriculture compared to Indian states, hampering productivity and efforts to reduce child malnutrition; three, enhancing public spending on agricultural R&D and extension is crucial, as both regions underinvest in these high-return areas; four, the study suggests reforming subsidies and reallocating resources to infrastructure and R&D to boost agricultural growth and improve child nutrition outcomes. Agricultural investment pays off in poverty reduction and saves on social spending. Food hand-outs have their role in food crises but must not impair growth and job creation in rural areas.

At the global level, in its fight against global hunger, the human and financial costs of complacency are alarming. As a result of recent developments - including growing conflicts, the climate crisis and economic slowdowns - and the lack of concerted global action, achieving the established goal of the United Nations of zero hunger by 2030 seems increasingly infeasible. A new study from University of Bonn (ZEF), Germany, and FAO shows that it would require additional investments of \$21 billion annually in agriculture and rural areas to end global hunger by 2040.

India's leadership in G20 last year has had a good impact in setting the global agenda focusing on food security and ending hunger and presenting for the first time a strategy paper on bioeconomy for G20. This is now followed up by Brazil's G20 presidency even more concretely with G20 nations. China too recently launched its bioeconomy strategy. It is commendable that India facilitated on-

It is commendable that India facilitated on-boarding the African Union to the G20 platform during its presidency. It is now all the more important to get the South-South collaboration on vibrant mode. The developed countries of G20 can help to solve the problems of food and nutritional security in the Global South by addressing climate change with support for resilience and by sharing science and innovation for food systems transformation. This is what Africa and South Asia, that together account for almost 3 billion people on this planet, can call for.

boarding the African Union to the G20 platform during its presidency. It is now all the more important to get the South-South collaboration on vibrant mode. The developed countries of G20 can help to solve the problems of food and nutritional security in the Global South by addressing climate change with support for resilience and by sharing science and innovation for food systems transformation. This is what Africa and South Asia, that together account for almost 3 billion people on this planet, can call for. The investment in climate resilience requires adaptation, mitigation and system transformation, the latter is facilitated by building the bioeconomy which would benefit from global investments, including the Global Climate Fund. The sequence of G20 presidencies over these four years 2022-25 - Indonesia, India, Brazil and next year South Africa - shows indications of change in governance of food systems. A well-functioning global food system is mainly in the interest of the Global South. It shows when they are in the driver's seats.

We hope the Indian Prime Minister will take this agenda of the south in G20, and also provide dynamism in agri-food relations between Africa and India for the common good of almost one third of humanity.

Braun is former President of International Association of Agricultural Economists, and former Director General of International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and currently professor, Bonn University (ZEF). Gulati is Distinguished Professor at ICRIER. Views are personal

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"American Katie Ledecky and other swimmers have voiced suspicions about their Chinese counterparts in the pool. [But] protecting individual Chinese swimmers from possible false accusations is yet another reason WADA owes the world a full, accurate accounting."
- THE WASHINGTON POST

In Britain, a riot system

Anti-immigration violence has deeper causes. It also seems to be a deliberate challenge to the newly-elected Labour government



MUKULIKA BANERJEE

THE RIOTS ACROSS the UK were seemingly triggered by an act of random violence in the town of Southport (near Liverpool), where a 17-year-old man was arrested and charged with stabbing to death three little girls and seriously injuring several others. The children were spending the morning at a summer holiday dance camp learning the routines of pop star Taylor Swift, who recently concluded a hugely successful tour of Britain.

It soon became public that the arrested man lived locally and had been born in the UK, of Rwandan parents. The police made it known early on that they did not think it was a terrorist act, and that mental health issues seemed more likely.

This was an awful incident that should be understood primarily as symptomatic of a global trend of rising violent crime by males against females (and secondarily, perhaps, as reflecting the growing mental health care issues in the UK, though whether that was a relevant aspect will be clarified in due course by the trial). However, the heinous crime was swiftly weaponised by far-right groups in support of their anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim agenda, despite Rwanda not being a Muslim country.

Fake news was soon pumped out, falsely identifying the arrested man as a Muslim, along with videos - made using AI - showing "Muslim men" - wielding knives and shouting "anti-British" slogans. Following these social media activities (and as always there is a strong possibility of the involvement of other states with an interest in destabilising democracies), there were "protests" outside of, and attacks upon, mosques, Muslim-owned businesses, and hotels believed by the mobs to be housing asylum seekers. Windows were smashed, fires started, cars overturned, and police injured.

A judge waived the usual anonymity of an under-18 charged with a serious crime in order to make clear that the arrested man was not a Muslim. However, violence continued to spread across over a dozen cities, including London and Leicester, as groups with names like "English Defence League", "Britain First" and "Patriotic Alternative" have run riot and clashed with anti-racism groups who have mobilised in response. This disorder recalls the race riots of the 1970s and 1980s when Indians, Pakistanis and those from the Caribbean were frequently attacked and abuse was commonplace.

Why has it erupted again now? In part, it seems a deliberate challenge to the new peacefully-elected Labour government.

Insights from the study of communal riots in India are helpful. In 2004, Paul Brass outlined what he called the "institutionalised riot system" to explain Hindu-Muslim riots in India. A "riot system" is an interconnected network of the media, criminal groups, the local political and administrative leadership, and police, that whips up communal divides for political gain, directly fuelling and exploiting riots and bloodshed.

Brass identified three specific phases of a riot: Preparation, activation and explanation.

Turning to Britain, the first phase of "preparation" started in 2001 when Islamophobia was legitimised globally in a post-9/11 world. The past 14 years under Conservative rule have seen officially endorsed right-wing activism fuel the move to Brexit and induce anti-immigration sentiment and growing "culture wars" in which any historically informed arguments (by the beloved National Trust, for example) exploring Britain's colonial record, or the vital role of precarious immigrant workers in cutting costs and fuelling capitalist growth were dismissed as "woke".

These years also saw the deliberate erosion of the "resilience" of the British state and society through an ideological cult of austerity, which systematically underfunded the police, courts and prisons, and left the system of law and order - and health services - teetering on the edge of collapse. The border force and immigration services faced their own cuts causing huge delays in processing applications and thus the need to house ever more applicants for ever longer. Rishi Sunak dealt with these challenges by housing them in expensive temporary accommodation in hotels, funded by taxpayers. Others were proposed to be flown to Rwanda to be held in centres there, again at huge cost to the UK taxpayer. All this while most Britons have experienced cost of living challenges from rising food, fuel and housing costs, and living standards that have been stagnant since 2010.

The past week in Britain was the second or "activation" phase of the institutionalised riot system. Right-wing leaders and activists sought to harness wider frustrations and anger built up through those years of Conservative extremism and incompetence and send it out onto the streets through violence. The recent electoral success of Reform UK and its leader Nigel Farage, who was finally elected an MP after eight failed attempts, emboldened their efforts further. Farage was quick to support some of the conspiracy theories circulating on social media.

In Brass's typology, the third phase of "explanation" or interpretation involves controlling the narrative of how and why these riots occurred, including avoiding any blame being assigned to the political groups responsible. This is usually the case when the government is ideologically in sync with the rioters. Thankfully, however, in Britain, this is not the case. The Labour Prime Minister Keir Starmer, his Home Secretary, and cabinet have been unequivocal in criminalising the violence, calling it "far right thuggery", not protest, and promising hundreds of arrests and prosecutions: "This violent mob does not represent our country and we will bring them to justice," Starmer said. Around 250 arrests have already been made. Civil society groups such as Hope Not Hate have been tackling anti-immigrant violence for years and local community groups have come together to rebuild damaged mosques and provide protection to immigrants.

The famous British slogan of Keep Calm and Carry On is being repurposed, perhaps inspired by Taylor Swift's anti-prejudice and anti-hate anthems, "You Need to Calm Down" and "Shake it Off".

The writer is Professor of Anthropology, LSE and author of Cultivating Democracy

Why Hasina had to flee

Economic progress cannot come at the cost of democracy, civil liberties



SYED MUNIR KHASRU

AS FRIENDS AND neighbours of Bangladesh watched the political drama in the country unfold over the last few weeks, a question on top of everyone's minds was: Will the longest-serving prime minister of Bangladesh manage this crisis as she has done on many occasions in the past? After coming to power in 2009 through a free, fair, and credible election, she subsequently presided over largely non-participative and controversial polls on three occasions - 2014, 2018, and 2024. She appeared to be near-invincible, her hold on power complete.

In a shocking turn of events, Hasina resigned on Monday, bringing an abrupt end to her 15-year reign. What began as peaceful student demonstrations quickly evolved into a nationwide movement, exposing the deep-seated discontent with Hasina's increasingly authoritarian rule and the unchecked corruption, nepotism, and high-handedness that overshadowed whatever economic and development successes she flaunted, both at home and abroad.

This unexpected development serves as a stark reminder that economic progress alone cannot sustain a leader's popularity in the face of eroding democratic values and civil liberties. Hasina's tenure was marked by noteworthy economic achievements. Under her leadership, Bangladesh transformed from one of the world's poorest nations into one of the fastest-growing economies in the region, even outpacing its larger neighbour, India. The coun-

try's per capita income tripled in a decade, and the World Bank estimates that over 25 million people were lifted out of poverty in the last 20 years. Hasina's government undertook ambitious infrastructure projects, such as the \$2.9 billion Padma Bridge across the Ganges, using a combination of domestic funds, loans, and development assistance.

However, these economic gains came at a considerable cost. Parliamentary elections in 2014, 2018, and 2024 were marred by low turnout, violence, and boycotts by opposition parties. Hasina's government increasingly relied on hard power to maintain control, creating a climate of fear and repression. The Digital Security Act, implemented in 2018, became a potent weapon for the government and ruling party activists to silence critics and stifle freedom of expression, particularly online. Press freedom suffered, and civil rights were systematically suppressed as Hasina consolidated her position as the sole centre of power.

While the economy grew, so did the disparity between the haves and have-nots. Bank scams proliferated, and the list of loan defaulters ballooned. Companies like CLC Power, Western Marine Shipyard, and Remex Footwear topped the list of defaulters, with bad loans ranging from 965 crore to 1,649 crore Bangladeshi Taka. The growing economic inequality, coupled with rampant corruption, fuelled public discontent despite the overall economic progress.

The recent student movement that ulti-

mately led to Hasina's downfall began as a simple demand for quota removal in civil service jobs. What started as peaceful demonstrations at the University of Dhaka quickly spread to other elite institutions and then to the general public. The situation escalated when members of the Awami League's student wing, Bangladesh Chhatra League, began attacking protesters, transforming a non-political movement into a broader uprising.

Hasina's response to the protests proved to be her undoing. Her decision to deploy police and paramilitary forces against the students late last month backfired, igniting widespread public anger. The government's heavy-handed approach, including the imposition of a strict curfew with a "shoot-on-sight" order, only served to galvanise the movement. Hasina's ill-advised labelling of the demonstrators as "Razakars" - a term associated with collaborators during the 1971 war - further inflamed tensions.

As the protests gained momentum, they attracted support from diverse segments of society, including parents, teachers, and cultural activists. The movement transcended its initial demands and became a collective expression of frustration against 15 years of fear and harassment. The students' refusal to engage in talks with the Prime Minister until their demands were met reflected the deep-seated mistrust and resentment.

Sheikh Hasina's fall from grace serves as a cautionary tale for leaders who prioritise eco-

nomics development at the expense of democratic values and civil liberties. Unlike her predecessors, such as the unpopular army chief H M Ershad who was jailed but did not flee the country, Hasina's departure marks a significant shift in Bangladesh's political landscape. Her departure like a tinpot dictator fleeing in a helicopter from a secret location was a raging mob looting her official residence into a reminiscent of scenes in movies.

The events in Bangladesh underscore the importance of balancing economic progress with democratic governance as well as transparency and accountability in the absence of which only few benefit at the expense of many. While Hasina's economic achievements were commendable, her exercise of hard power and disregard for democratic norms ultimately led to her downfall. As Bangladesh moves forward, it faces the challenge of regaining its economic momentum while restoring faith in its democratic institutions and addressing inequalities that have emerged in recent years.

The resignation of Sheikh Hasina serves as a lesson that resonates not only in Bangladesh but across the globe, highlighting the delicate balance between socio-economic progress and democratic values, that matter no less to people for whom these have never been mutually exclusive.

The writer is chairman of IPAG India, an international think tank. Views are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A COLOSSAL LOSS

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'She was the benchmark: Doyenne of Indian classical dance Yamini Krishnamurti dies at 83' (IE, August 4). With Yamini Krishnamurti's passing, we have lost the most outstanding Bharatanatyam dancer in recent times. I recall that I was responsible for bringing her to Delhi and presenting her to Delhi audiences. When the newly built Ashoka Hotel was ready, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had specifically said that we should have a strong cultural wing so that it becomes more than just a hotel, rather a cultural centre for the capital. It was in this context that we invited Krishnamurti and her daughter to come to Delhi. The sheer energy that she put into her *jatis* with her intricate foot work was a joy to see. She stayed on in Delhi for several decades and received three Padma Awards. Her Kuchipudi was also superb and in fact, along with Raja and Radha Reddy whom we also presented at Ashoka Hotel, they introduced this second great South Indian classical dance to Delhi audiences. Unfortunately, her health faded towards the end and she has passed away, but her memory will always remain with people who had the privilege of seeing her dance for several decades.

Karan Singh, New Delhi

MAINTAIN BALANCE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Before the landslide' (IE, August 3). The critical challenge of our era is maintaining a delicate balance between conservation and economic development. The areas demarcated as ecologically sensitive areas should have certain restrictions imposed on them. Construction and infrastructure development activities like roads, mining, polluting factories, etc should be banned. Increasing private tourism operators and construction of resorts and hotels degrade land leading to environmental crises. Tourism should be regulated to ensure that it remains environmentally sustainable and does not disrupt ecological balance.

Koyal Shende, Nagpur

ROLE OF OPPOSITION

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Rahul's politics of enemies' (IE, August 3). The article's critique of Rahul Gandhi's leadership and parliamentary conduct is unwarranted. It unfairly labels him as a "destructive force" and dismisses his arguments on caste as "flimsy" and "hysterical". Such rhetoric undermines the role of a robust Opposition in a democracy and ignores the importance of representation and social justice.

Arya Salunke, Mumbai

'You have to understand what exit polls can — and cannot — do'

Prof Sanjay Kumar, co-director of the Lok Niti programme at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), on the Lok Sabha election results and how exit polls went wrong. The session was moderated by Monojit Majumdar, National Editor, Explained



(Left) Prof Sanjay Kumar, co-director of the Lok Niti programme at CSDS, with Monojit Majumdar

conducting exit polls or surveys should be willing to answer how their exercise was funded, they cannot evade these questions.

On judging reliability of exit polls

In recent years, there has been a race towards conducting the biggest surveys, with samples in the lakhs. I don't think the size of a sample is as important as how representative it is. For this, randomised sampling is a must. With regard to judging a survey's reliability, first and foremost is the voteshare estimate. If you get the voteshare estimate horribly wrong then we have every reason to say that the survey was flawed. However, even with the right vote share estimate, seat-share estimates might go terribly wrong. This is because India follows a 'first past the post' system. The problem is that the news channels are not satisfied with only vote share — they want the number of seats, and even specific seats. That is what draws viewers to the show.

On what can go wrong

Two kinds of problems can still emerge. While the 'swing model' that we use can give a broad range of seats, it might not be accurate if one party wins a large number of seats by a small margin of votes. But more than that, many respondents simply refuse to answer the voting question. The pollster has to take this number into account. The other problem is that while a randomised sample is likely to be representative of the population, it might not be so vis-a-vis the population's actual voting behaviour. Electoral results can swing on the basis of which community turns out to vote, and in what numbers. Differential turnout, however, make the pollsters' sample unrepresentative. You also need to calculate the margin of error. For our polls, which had a sample size of 19,662, we calculated a margin of error of 3.08 per cent vote share. When pollsters give massive seat ranges, I think it looks very funny. If your margin is say 280 to 360 votes, the real test of your poll is how much the actual result deviates from the midpoint of your range. But many people nowadays simply look at convenience — *neeche wale se match kar liya toh humara poll achcha* (if our poll matches even the lower limit, it is good).

Lok Sabha elections, if a party got 12 seats from 20 per cent of the vote share, we can estimate what seats it might get with a 25 per cent voteshare. This is done with the help of a computer programme.

However, I am not sure if this is how others are doing their survey, especially those providing seat-wise predictions. To do that, one needs a sizeable sample in each constituency. I think pollsters are taking multiple shortcuts when it comes to seat projection. One obvious reason behind this is cost-cutting.

On the cost of an exit poll

The method of data collection has a huge relationship with expenses. Collecting data over the telephone is far less expensive compared to field surveys. The latter can be very expensive because when you create a randomised sample, you have to visit all kinds of places — even in the interiors. For maintaining the sanctity of the methodology, surveyors have to cover whatever the sample throws up.

In fact, one of the problems with these polls is that both people who carry out the survey and people who want to engage survey agencies want things done at a lower cost. This has resulted in compromise about how surveys are conducted. That's why some errors are creeping in. There must be some transparency with regard to who is funding the survey, as well. People

AUDIENCE QUESTIONS

On ethics in social science research

First is transparency. People have the right to know what our survey is about, how we are funded, what the data is going to be used for and so on. Second, the very first question we ask a respondent is if they are willing to be interviewed. Very few people refuse, but if they do, we do not interview that person. Specifically with regard to the voting question, we reiterate that we will maintain complete secrecy.

On the role of media and the advertising industry

In our pre-poll survey, we used a particular phrase — "the reluctant BJP voter." This is because a large number of people said that they would vote for the BJP even though they themselves did not want the government to be re-elected because the Opposition was not united. The media had a role in creating the perception that Narendra Modi would win.

margin of error was arrived at, what the margin of error was.

On how a survey process works

First comes the sampling process. We do randomised sampling of parliamentary constituencies, polling stations and pick voters who need to be interviewed. Surveyors also have to be trained on questions they should ask and how to go about them. We hire people from various universities, mostly students. Nowadays, the survey instrument comes in the form of a mobile app in which questions flow one after another. It is important to maintain secrecy of the voter's preference. That is why we tell our surveyors to pass the phone to the respondent for that ques-

tion. The respondent then clicks on the symbol they voted/will vote for.

The app used for the survey is geo-enabled, meaning we can track the movement of the investigator and actually see how much time they spent per respondent and whether they asked every question or not. After the interview is complete, the data automatically gets uploaded on to our server. The surveys basically give us the voter's preference, who they will/have cast their vote for. Collating this data gives us parties' vote shares. This then has to be converted into seats. This is done based on what we call the "probability factor", which takes into account vote shares and corresponding seat shares of the previous Lok Sabha elections. So, in the last



SCAN THE CODE TO WATCH VIDEO

WORKING TO RESTART KEDARNATH YATRA IN 2 WEEKS: UTTARAKHAND

Dehradun: As rescue operations continue in the Kedarnath valley following landslides on July 31, the Uttarakhand government said Monday that it was working to restart the

Kedarnath Yatra within the next two weeks. This came after several officials surveyed the affected areas as per the instructions of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami. ENS

SC panel: Bar pvt vehicles in Sariska reserve, raise tiger protection force

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5

TO PROTECT tigers and their habitats in Sariska Tiger Reserve (STR), Rajasthan, from adverse impacts of vehicular traffic, the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) of the Supreme Court has recommended a ban on entry of private vehicles by March 2025 and the creation of a special tiger protection force.

The STR sees heavy traffic of unregulated vehicles as a large number of devotees visit the numerous temples inside the reserve, including the famous Pandupol temple that is located 22 km inside the core area.

The CEC has recommended using electric shuttle buses in lieu of ban on private vehicles and said that other options of transportation such as tramway, elevated road, motorable twin tunnel or ropeway could be considered based on feasibility studies.

The CEC's report to the top court was submitted on July 22 in a matter which is examining various issues affecting tiger conservation in the STR. Unhindered movement of vehicles, impact of villages inside the reserve as well as encroachments by hotels and

resorts are some of the issues under examination. According to the CEC report, 75,353 private vehicles with pilgrims plied inside the STR in 2023-24, of which 35,483 were cars; 34,406 were two-wheelers and 464 were buses.

The CEC report also detailed the impact on tiger conservation, breeding and their habitats. The increase in human presence has resulted in habitat degradation, pollution, encroachment and fragmentation, further exacerbating the challenges faced by the wildlife populations, the report said. It underlined that the number of pilgrims going from Sariska gate is much more than Tehla gate.

"...the tigers have virtually ignored the area south of these roads for breeding purposes," it noted. The last occasions when tigers gave birth on these roads were in August 2012 and August 2014.

The CEC recommended the creation of a Special Tiger Protection Force in the STR. "Given the increasing number of tigers in STR and villages present in and around the tiger reserve, the chances of man-animal conflict and poaching remain high. Hence, it is very important to raise and deploy the Special Tiger Protection Force in Sariska Tiger Reserve," its report said.

Another cheetah cub dies in Kuno, had fracture in vertebral column

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BHOPAL, AUGUST 5

A FIVE-MONTH-OLD cheetah cub died at Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park on Monday, wildlife officials said. The cub was born to a cheetah named Gamini, which was among those brought to Kuno from Africa. Gamini had given birth to six cubs in March, and in June, it had lost its first cub.

Officials said that during routine monitoring on July 29, they saw the cub that died on Monday being seemingly "unable to lift the hind portion of its body". An official said: "It was immediately taken to the hospital. It was found that the cub's vertebral column was fractured". Acting Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) Subharanjan Sen said: "We must wait for Kuno officials to ascertain how the cub sustained the injury. We have heard that it got injured while playing with its siblings."

"The cause of death will be known after autopsy. The remaining 13 adult cheetahs and 12 cubs are healthy and normal. Adult cheetahs have been given necessary treatment for prevention of tick and other parasitic infections. All cheetahs are being monitored regularly," an official statement read.

10 get life in jail for murder of three friends 16 years ago in UP

Meerut: A court in Meerut on Monday sentenced 10 people, including a woman, to life imprisonment in the 2008 triple murder case. Also known as

Gudri Bazaar murders, the May 23, 2008 crime hit the headlines for its brutality as the eyes of three friends were gouged out before their throats were slit.

A total of 14 people were arrested in connection with the murders of three men — Sunil Dhaka (27), Puneet Giri (22), and Sudhir Ujjwal (23).

One of the accused, a minor at the time of the crime, was not charged due to lack of evidence.

A plea of another accused is pending in the Allahabad High Court. The murders led to protests with college students calling for a shutdown of Meerut. ENS

बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम, लि० पटना
(बिहार सरकार का उपक्रम)
राष्ट्रीय स्पर्द्धा ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं०-10/2024-25

- विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता : मुख्य महाप्रबंधक, बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लि०, अस्पताल रोड, शास्त्रीनगर, पटना-800023
- निविदा आमंत्रण की तिथि : दिनांक: 03.08.2024
- निविदा कागजात प्राप्त (अवलोकन) करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक: 18.08.2024 से 09.09.2024 को 15:00 बजे तक।
- निविदा जमा (अपलॉड) करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक: 10.09.2024 को 15:00 बजे तक।
- निविदा विक्री का स्थान : केवल वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर
- बी-बीड मीटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान : दिनांक-27.08.2024 को 16:00 बजे संबंधित उप महाप्रबंधक के कार्यालय कक्ष में।
- बी-बीड मीटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान : दिनांक: 28.08.2024 को 16:00 बजे, मुख्य महाप्रबंधक, बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लि०, अस्पताल रोड, शास्त्रीनगर, पटना-23
- निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय (टेकनीकल बीड) : दिनांक-11.09.2024 को 15:00 बजे।
- निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय (वित्तीय बीड) : तकनीकी मूल्यांकन के बाद।
- निविदा वैधता की तिथि : 120 दिन
- कार्य का विवरण

क्र०	विकास का नाम	कार्य का नाम	प्रामाणिक राशि (अनुवृत्ति एवं रैर अनुवृत्ति) (₹) में	अवधि की तिथि(दि०)	परिमाण विवरण का मूल्य (अवधि/वर्गमीटर/दि०)	Bid Processing Fee	कार्य समायोजित की अवधि(माह)	उप महाप्रबंधक का नाम
1	पटना	राज्यत्व सर्वे प्रशिक्षण संस्थान, शास्त्रीनगर, पटना के प्रशासनिक भवन एवं छात्रावास भवन में विभिन्न कार्य।	₹25,40,000.00	₹5,70,800.00	₹10000.00	As per website	06 (दि०)	पटना

12. निविदा केवल ई-निविदा पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर निष्पादित किया जाएगा। ई-निविदा प्रक्रिया से संबंधित जानकारी Toll Free No.-18005726571 से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।

विस्तृत जानकारी state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar से प्राप्त की जा सकती है। मुख्य महाप्रबंधक बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लि०, पटना नरेश से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार

PR. No. 005458 (B & C) 2024-25

प्रबंध निदेशक बिहार राज्य भंडार निगम, पटना

नरेश की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

बिहार सरकार
बिहार राज्य भंडार निगम
बी-2, प्रथम तल, मौर्यलोक परिसर, पटना-1
केवल ई० निविदा पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in> पर ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या :- ED-03 / 2024-25

कार्य का विवरण:-

क्र०	कार्य का नाम	प्रामाणिक राशि (₹. में)	परिमाण विवरण का मूल्य + 18% GST (₹. में)	अवधि की राशि (₹. में)	वेदुर्न को देय राशि (₹. में)	कार्य समाप्त की अवधि (माह में)
1	विनाग्रीय गोदान मसौदी परिसर में (1000 + 500) मेट्रन अवधि 1,500 मेट्रन गोदान निर्माण का कार्य।	1,81,80,135.00	11,800	3,63,603.00	As per eproc 2	चारह माह

- विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता : प्रबंध निदेशक, बिहार राज्य भंडार निगम, पटना
- निविदा आमंत्रण निर्गत की तिथि : दिनांक 02.08.2024
- परिमाण विवरण विक्री (अवलोकन) करने की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक 20.08.2024 से 09.09.2024 को 6:00 बजे अपराह्न तक
- निविदा प्राप्ति (अपलॉड करने) की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक 13.09.2024, 6:00 बजे अपराह्न तक
- निविदा खोलने (तकनीकी बीड) की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक 17.09.2024, को 2:00 बजे अपराह्न
- वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : तकनीकी बीड के मूल्यांकन के पश्चात
- परिमाण विवरण की विक्री स्थान : वेबसाइट (<https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>)
- निविदा प्राप्ति का स्थान : वेबसाइट (<https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>)
- प्रिबीड मीटिंग की तिथि समय एवं स्थान : दिनांक 21.08.2024 को 12:30 बजे अपराह्न में बिहार राज्य भंडार निगम, मुख्यालय, पटना के समानांतर कक्ष
- निविदा वैधता की तिथि : 120 दिन (तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि से)
- ई-निविदा में भाग लेने वाले इच्छुक संवेदकों को ई-प्रोक्चुरमेंट, eproc2 हेल्प डेस्क, mjunction services limited, RJ Complex, 2nd Floor, Canara Bank Campus, Khajpura, Ashiana Road, P.S. - Shastri Nagar, Patna 800014, Bihar (Toll Free Number: 1800 572 6571, Email id: eproc2support@bihar.gov.in) पर संपर्क किया जा सकता है।

विस्तृत जानकारी www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

प्रबंध निदेशक बिहार राज्य भंडार निगम, पटना

PR. No. 005458 (B & C) 2024-25

नरेश की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking) Corporate I.D. No. UA40109UP2001SGC025867/2358, V.C.V. Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwalli Road, Dehradun-248001, Ph. No. 0135-2763672-75, Fax 0135-2763830, Website: www.tenderwizard.com/UPCL

E-TENDER NOTICE
TENDER SPECIFICATION NO. 02 TO 06/SE/(MM)/2024-2025

Superintending Engineer(MM), Uttarakhand Power Corporation Ltd., V.C.V. Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Dehradun invites e-tender for sale of Various type scrap material on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" available under ESD/EWD, Dehradun/Haldwani. The last date of online request of tender document/submission/opening date of tender are as given below:-

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Name of Division under which Scrap is Available	Name of Scrap Material	Total Quantity (Unit in MT)	Average Turnover for Previous 3 Years (In Rs.)	Earnest Money/ FDR/ CDR (In Rs.)	Cost of tender Document including GST (Draft) (In Rs.)	Last Date & Time of online request for purchase of the tender document & submission of tender in online & offline mode	Date of opening of Bid part list in online & off line mode
1	Tender No. 02/SE/(MM)/2024-2025	ESD	Iron Scrap	1267.95 MT	627.63 Lakh	8.37 Lakh	17700.00	28.08.2024 Up to 17.00 Hrs.	29.08.2024 at 14:30
2	Tender No. 03/SE/(MM)/2024-2025	EWD/ESD	Al. Coil Scrap and other Al. Scrap	304.70 MT	607.55 Lakh	8.11 Lakh	17700.00	28.08.2024 Up to 17.00 Hrs.	29.08.2024 at 15:00
3	Tender No. 04/SE/(MM)/2024-2025	EWD/ESD	Al. Coil Scrap and other Al. Scrap	182.31 MT	400.00 Lakh	4.85 Lakh	11800.00	28.08.2024 Up to 17.00 Hrs.	29.08.2024 at 15:30
4	Tender No. 05/SE/(MM)/2024-2025	EWD/ESD	Cu. Coil Scrap and other Al. Scrap	74.86 MT	625.19 Lakh	8.34 Lakh	17700.00	28.08.2024 Up to 17.00 Hrs.	29.08.2024 at 16:00
5	Tender No. 06/SE/(MM)/2024-2025	EWD/ESD	Cu. Coil Scrap and other Al. Scrap	31.60 MT	357.44 Lakh	3.58 Lakh	11800.00	28.08.2024 Up to 17.00 Hrs.	29.08.2024 at 16:30

For Further details, please visit www.uktenders.gov.in

No.- 372/EE/(CM)/UPCL/A-2 Date:- 05.08.2024

Superintending Engineer (MM)

SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION". Customer Care No.- 18004190405 "Pay Electricity Bill Online 24x7 from www.upcl.org" (For information on Electricity Theft, Informer may report to Toll Free No. 18001804185 / Fax No 0135-2760911)

****TENDER NOTICE: CAFETERIA****

The President AFFWA (L) invites sealed tenders for running a cafeteria within the secured premises at Umeed Niketan on rent basis at this station. The tenure shall be up to 11 months, extendable up to five years. Applicants must have sound financial status and business experience.

****PREFERENCE WILL BE GIVEN TO:****

- Sanginis
- War widows
- Widows of Defence personnel killed on duty
- Disabled soldiers
- Ex-servicemen
- Spouses/widows of ex-servicemen

****Cafeteria Umeed Niketan (Maude Line)**-Base Price: Rs.40,000 Per Month**

****TENDER FORMS:****
The blank Tender Forms can be collected from Rock View Enclave Guard Room, AF Stn Palam from 0930 to 1830 hrs wef 06 Aug 24 to 09 Aug 24 (All Days) on cash payment of * 100/- (Non Refundable).

****SUBMISSION DEADLINE:****
Submit filled forms by 1200 hrs on 10 Aug 24, at the AFFWA (L) Office.

****FOR QUERIES, CONTACT:****
Time: 1000 hrs to 1700 hrs (All days) Mobile: 9310168080, 8699555114

****LOCATION:****
Air Force Station, Palam, Maude Lines, Delhi Cantt. New Delhi-10

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank
Corporate Office: Royapettah, Chennai- 600014.

IMAGE (Indian Bank Management Academy for Growth and Excellence), MRC Nagar, Chennai invites on-line tender for engagement of contractor for Housekeeping, Maintenance and Catering services in the Campus. For further details, please refer our website www.indianbank.in/tender and GeM portal ref. no. BID NO:GEM/2024/B/5251133 dated 05.08.2024.

Deputy General Manager / Principal 044-24955602

BRIEFLY

MANIPUR
Justice Gita Mittal panel gets extension

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday extended by six months the tenure of the Justice Gita Mittal committee set up to oversee relief and rehabilitation of the victims of ethnic violence in Manipur. A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra extended the term of the panel after it was informed that its tenure ended on July 15. "The committee chaired by Justice Gita Mittal stands extended by six months," the bench said. On August 7 last year, the bench had ordered setting up of the committee of three former women high court judges to oversee relief and rehabilitation of the victims and compensation to them besides asking former Maharashtra police chief Dattatray Padsalgikar to monitor the probe in criminal cases. **PTI**

CHHATTISGARH
Deputy CM's nephew drowns in waterfall

Raipur: Chhattisgarh Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao's nephew drowned in a waterfall in Kabirdham district on Sunday. The deceased has been identified as Tushar Sahu. The incident took place around 4 pm when Tushar was on an outing with his friends at Rani Dahra waterfall, a popular tourist spot in Kabirdham. "There are some waterfalls at the spot and we received information that Sahu and his two friends were in the pond of one of the waterfalls that was 40-feet-high. While two of his friends managed to swim, Sahu could not reach a safe point," said a police officer. Police said that this was the first drowning incident at the spot this year. **ENS**

RAJASTHAN
3 killed in wall collapse due to heavy rain

Jodhpur: Three persons killed and 10 were injured when a wall of a timber factory collapsed on adjoining makeshift huts following heavy rain Monday, police said. Several incidents of wall collapse were reported across Jodhpur as rain lashed the district through the day, flooding low-lying areas. All the victims of the factory wall collapse were labourers, they added. The foundation of the wall had weakened due to sinking of the sand below building due to heavy rain, a police officer said, adding, "Due to this, the wall could not hold up and collapsed burying 10 makeshift huts built along the wall of the factory." **PTI**

SUANSHU KHURANA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5

PONNANI, A sleepy little hamlet on the outskirts of Malappuram in Kerala, is not where hip-hop is likely to find an inflection point. But for the last three weeks, 31-year-old rapper Sooraj Cherukat aka Hanumankind has drawn the world to a traditional, rickety maut ka kuan (well of death) inside 'Sree Sai's Great Indian Maruti Circus' in the beach town. It's here that Cherukat calls himself a 'big stepper' and soon enough, just lets it rip. The Bengaluru-based Malayali rapper, standing in the centre of the clay pit, starts to quarry thoughts about identity. The skin colour like the bourbon/ A worldwide sign that we face close curtains/ Out here yo, nothing's ever certain/ Only thing that's promised is that promises

Padma Shri awardee held for '₹7-cr fraud'
Sundar Menon, an NRI businessman from Thrissur, faces several cases

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, AUGUST 5



Sundar Menon, chairman of Sun Group International, was arrested on Sunday. File

PADMA SHRI awardee Sundar Menon, chairman of Sun Group International, was arrested on Sunday for allegedly defrauding investors of ₹7 crore. He was remanded to judicial custody by a court in Kerala's Thrissur. According to police, Menon faces 18 cases of alleged cheating. He had allegedly accepted investment from the public on behalf of two firms - Heewan Nidhi Limited and Heewan Finance - of which he was one of the directors. According to Thrissur City Police Commissioner R Ilango, Menon did not repay the investors

upon the maturity of the schemes they deposited money in. Instead, he allegedly diverted the money. The money totalled ₹7.87 crore, collected from 62 people. "The assets of the firms' directors, including Menon, have been frozen and steps have been initiated for the assets to be confiscated. Another director, Puthenveetil Biju Manikandan, who is in the City Police's 'rogues list', was also arrested in the case," the Commissioner said. Menon, 63, is also the president of the Thrissur-based Thiruvambady Devaswom (Temple) Board. In 2016, he was conferred the Padma Shri in the field of social work. An NRI businessman from Thrissur, Menon has faced several cases. In September 2023, a PIL was moved in the Kerala High Court seeking the awarding of the Padma Shri to Menon be declared illegal. The petitioners, V R Jyothish of Thrissur and C K Padmanabhan of Kozhikode, said conferring the award to Menon

was contrary to the principles and procedures to be followed in granting prestigious national awards. They said Menon was involved in more than one criminal case -- a fact that, according to them, had not been noticed when the award was given to him. The court dismissed the petition, saying that it did not find anything of public interest in it. "However, it is open to the petitioners to make a request before the concerned authority to cancel or annul the award..." the court said. He has also received an honorary doctorate from the European Continental Community University in the US, and was also facilitated at the Asia Pacific Entrepreneurship Awards in 2015.

'POST COMES WITH A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY'

MP High Court upholds dismissal of judge accused of corruption

ANAND MOHAN J
BHOPAL, AUGUST 5

UPHOLDING THE dismissal of an Additional District Judge facing corruption allegations, the Madhya Pradesh HC said that the post "comes with a great responsibility and he was under obligation to conduct himself in a manner befitting the post held by him". On August 12, 2011, a complaint was filed accusing Suliya of indulging in corruption with the support of one stenographer in deciding bail applications arising out of the offences under Section 34(2) of the Madhya Pradesh Excise Act. It was alleged that Suliya had allowed four bail applications despite the fact that seized liquor quantity was more than 50 bulk litres and dismissed 14 bail applications of similar nature as the seized quantity was more than 50 bulk litres. Even though there may "not be direct evidence to show corrupt or improper motive by the judicial order, the bail orders re-

"meticulously" by inquiring authority, the HC said. "In some of the cases bail was granted in a liberal manner without considering relevant provisions whereas in most of the cases, the same approach was not adopted which amounts to application of double standard." On August 12, 2011, a complaint was filed accusing Suliya of indulging in corruption with the support of one stenographer in deciding bail applications arising out of the offences under Section 34(2) of the Madhya Pradesh Excise Act. It was alleged that Suliya had allowed four bail applications despite the fact that seized liquor quantity was more than 50 bulk litres and dismissed 14 bail applications of similar nature as the seized quantity was more than 50 bulk litres. Even though there may "not be direct evidence to show corrupt or improper motive by the judicial order, the bail orders re-

veal he had acted in a manner which cannot be approved whatsoever", the court said, adding, "the inference of improper motive and extraneous consideration was properly drawn against the petitioner." In 2013, the HC issued a show cause notice and Suliya refuted the allegations. However, the inquiry authority found the charge of adopting "double standards in deciding bail applications stood proven against him" and the report was forwarded to the HC. The Administrative Committee (Higher Judicial Services) recommended his removal from service and a full court of HC endorsed it, following which the State Law and Legislative Department issued the removal order on September 2, 2014. This was challenged by Suliya through an appeal before the Madhya Pradesh Governor, which was rejected on March 17, 2016 and he filed the present petition.

8 kanwariyas electrocuted in Bihar's Hajipur

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PATNA, AUGUST 5

EIGHT KANWARIYAS were electrocuted and six others were injured in Sultanpur village in Hajipur Industrial Area Police Station on Sunday night, police said. According to police, all victims belonged to the same village. The incident took place around 11.45 pm when over three dozen kanwariyas, with a team of disk jockey (DJ), were preparing to visit Pahleja Ghat of Ganga river to take water to offer at Hariharanath Temple in Sonepur. As the DJ vehicle came in contact with high tension wire, eight kanwariyas were electrocuted and six others were injured. Hajipur Aadar sub divisional officer Rambabu Baittha said: "Locals have complained against the electricity department for not responding to their calls to disconnect power supply when DJ vehicle was about to cross through areas having high tension wire."

Chhattisgarh seeks 15K houses for violence-hit families, ex-Maoists

State seeks Centre's approval for 15 lakh units under PMAY-G at CM's meeting with Minister on July 29

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5

THE CHHATTISGARH government has urged the Centre to approve over 15 lakh houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin), including 15,000 houses for families of Maoists who have surrendered, families affected by Maoist violence and next of kin of security personnel killed in anti-Maoist operations. The request was made by the state days before Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and his deputy Vijay Sharma met Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in New Delhi on July 29. The Rural Development Ministry released a statement, saying that "positive discussions" were held on various topics, including PMAY-G, during the meeting. According to the statement, Chouhan assured the state that no poor will be deprived of housing under the PMAY-G. "The Central Government is already giving adequate funds to the State Government under public welfare schemes; the present State Government will work seriously in this regard and make good use of the funds," the

ministry stated. Days before coming to Delhi, Chief Minister Sai wrote two letters to Chouhan, in which he sought the Centre's approval for 15.18 lakh PMAY-G houses for eligible families in the state. He also urged the Centre to approve 15,000 PMAY-G houses for families of Maoists who have surrendered or are likely to surrender, and families affected by Maoist violence, including those of security personnel killed, under the Special Projects. These 15,000 families are spread across 15 districts affected by Left Wing Extremism, sources said. Under the framework for implementation of the PMAY-G, which was released in 2022, up to 5 per cent of the targets are reserved for Special Projects, which includes "settlement of surrendered militants and their families". The PMAY-G is a flagship Central scheme involving the states that aims to provide pucca houses with a minimum area of 25 sq m with basic amenities to people in rural areas who are homeless or live in kutcha and dilapidated houses. Each beneficiary gets funds up to Rs 1.2 lakh in the plains and Rs 1.3 lakh in hilly states, difficult areas, and

tribal and backward districts under the Integrated Action Plan (IAP). The funds are to be split in a 60:40 ratio between the Centre and states, respectively. The Centre has decided to increase unit cost under the PMAY-G from the existing Rs 1.2 lakh to Rs 2 lakh in plain areas, and Rs 1.3 lakh to Rs 2.2 lakh in IAP districts/Hilly/North Eastern States and difficult areas from FY 2024-25. In 2022, implementation of the PMAY-G was disrupted in Chhattisgarh after the then Bhupesh Baghel government failed to contribute the state's share in the funding of the scheme. Due to non-release matching funds by the state government, the Centre withdrew its target from the state. The Centre had set a target of building 2.95 crore PMAY-G houses by 2024, of which 11.76 lakh were to be constructed in Chhattisgarh. The state has been able to complete 10.89 lakh houses until now. Chhattisgarh's demand comes at a time when the Centre has announced plans to construct 2 crore more houses under the rural housing scheme. These houses will be over and above the 2.95 crore target.

24-year-old man clubbed to death over interfaith marriage, six held

GOPAL KATESHIYA
RAJKOT, AUGUST 5

A 24-YEAR-OLD man was allegedly beaten to death by his in-laws who disapproved of their interfaith marriage in Devbhumi Dwarka. As tension gripped the village after the incident, police said that a case of murder had been registered and six persons, including the woman's brother and uncles, were arrested Sunday. Those arrested have been sent to judicial custody Monday. The victim, identified as Yagnik Dudhrejiya, was allegedly assaulted with sticks and axes in Shedhakhai village between 2 pm and 3 pm on August 3. He was rushed to a

government hospital in Jamnagar city where he died late in the evening, the police said. A native of Shedhakhai village, Dudhrejiya had married a woman from a different community around a year and a half ago. "However, the woman's family members disapproved of her marriage to a man from another community. The couple persisted and were living elsewhere. But they returned to Shedhakhai around 45 days ago," Bhanvad police Sub-inspector KK Maru told *The Indian Express*. She added that the couple had welcomed a baby girl about a month and a half ago. However, the threats from the woman's family persisted.

"Dudhrejiya was catching some fresh air at a bus station near his home in Shedhakhai when the accused, wielding wooden sticks, iron pipes and an axe came rushing and beat him severely," the PSI said. Maru said all the accused are family members of Dudhrejiya's wife Rajma. "Sajid is Rajma's brother, while the rest of the accused are her distant relatives," she said, adding, one teenage boy was also involved in the alleged assault. "We produced the six accused in a court Monday. We have already recovered weapons used for committing the crime and we did not require custody of the accused as of now. Therefore, the court sent the six to judicial custody," said Maru.

Kashmir parties say leaders confined to homes on the 5th anniversary of Art 370 revocation

NAVEED IQBAL
SRINAGAR, AUGUST 5

ON THE fifth anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, several mainstream politicians in the Valley said they were detained in their homes while others were "advised" not to leave their premises. The local BJP unit, meanwhile, took out a celebratory procession in Srinagar saying that "Kashmir gained freedom on August 5". National Conference chief spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq and its youth president Salman Sagar were detained in their homes, the party said. Iltija Mufti, daughter of former J&K chief minister and PDP leader Mehbooba Mufti also posted pictures of the gates to her house being locked. "If Kashmir is as normal as GOL claims it to be, why does J&K Police place us under illegal house arrest on 5th August every year? The arrogance is such that SHO Nowgam has locked us up inside our own house and taken the keys away. Cops or new age jailers? You decide." The PDP office was also locked up on Monday. In a statement, the National Conference said, "The Government has once again unjustly placed our leaders under



Congress workers during a protest marking the fifth anniversary of Article 370 abrogation, in Jammu, Monday. PTI

house arrest, effectively isolating the party headquarters, Nawa-e-Subha, in Srinagar. This blatant suppression of mainstream democratic activities only serves to showcase the administration's underlying fear and exposes the hollowness of their claims." Terming August 5, 2019, "a stark reminder of the disempowerment of the people of J&K", the party also highlighted the absence of a democratically elected government in the region. Referring to BJP's celebration in Srinagar, NC vice-president Omar Abdullah said on X, "This is what passes for democracy and

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." People's Conference chairman Sajad Lone also termed August 5 "an ugly reminder" of the complete disempowerment of the Kashmiri people. "Five years on, there is no elected Assembly... And sadly there aren't enough powerful voices to ask questions on why J&K has been selectively targeted for such humiliating existence," he said.

Transfer staff from their home districts: Admin

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, AUGUST 5

FOLLOWING AN Election Commission communique to J&K chief secretary and chief electoral officer on July 31, the UT administration asked all its administrative secretaries to transfer officers from their respective home districts and those who have completed three out of four years in the district. This comes ahead of the visit of Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar along with Election Commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and SS Sandhu to J&K from August 8-10 to review Assembly elections preparedness in view of the September 30 deadline fixed by the Supreme Court. On the first two days, the commission is likely to hold meetings with political leaders and also review poll preparations with election officers, district police chiefs, the chief secretary and the DGP. On August 10, the commission will visit Jammu for a review meeting with enforcement agencies.

Breaking boundaries: Sooraj Cherukat aka Hanumankind is trending for putting Indian hip-hop under the spotlight



Rapper Sooraj Cherukat aka Hanumankind. Tanay Shetty

are broken/ Yeah, so we findin' ways to cope then... he sings in a gravelly voice. The explosiveness and the slick production are magnified by the addition of some swashbuckling motorists zipping around a Freddy Mercury-esque Cherukat - he is dressed in a white ganji and pants, and sporting a moustache - in the velodrome made of wooden planks alongside some gnarly and gritty beats. Cherukat's latest single outing, 'Big Dawgs', has the world talking. The song on YouTube, created in collaboration with producer Kalmi Reddy and directed by Bijoy Shetty, has raked in over 15 million views and over 50,000 comments that are mostly aligned on one thing - 'Big Dawgs' is a summer banger. In the track, Cherukat, who has signed up with the label Def Jam Recordings India, gives a shout-out to Project Pat, the

another one of our songs," says Hyderabad-based Reddy, a mechanical engineer-turned-independent music producer who's been working with Cherukat for five years. Among significant reasons for the phenomenal global response, says Shetty, are facts that the rap is in English, Cherukat's command over it lyrically and his accent. "In the past, Indian hip-hop was restricted to the space it belongs to, which is why many English rappers couldn't make it. And which is why I had to use the aggressive idea of the well of death," says Shetty, who wasn't surprised by the racist comments amid the brown togetherness and global appreciation that entered the timeline. While one comment spoke of Cherukat feeling like "he'd come out of a call centre", another seemed to know what the place "smelled like". Another, who was

impressed with the song, said, "He's not Indian". "This is how India is still understood and which is why when English rappers make videos, they create the kind where they are perceived larger than life. But this is the most Indian video we could have made," says Shetty about the piece that was shot in a day. The song, he says, began on a Zoom call, after Reddy really liked a sample - one that's been worked to sound like a car engine in the beginning of the number - and told Cherukat about it. "How he pens down his realisations is what's interesting. My job is to uplift that idea, and him and I bounce off well in the studio. Staying authentic is key," says Reddy, who is also working on an upcoming album with Cherukat. **FULL REPORT ON**
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EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED ON 30 JUNE, 2024

(Rs. in Lakhs)

	3 months ended 30.06.2024 UNAUDITED	Year ended 31.03.2024 AUDITED	3 months ended 30.06.2023 UNAUDITED
1 Total Income from operations	6,897.65	39,789.00	7,022.50
2 Net Profit/(Loss) before tax (before Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	482.75	10,873.84	968.60
3 Net Profit/(Loss) before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	482.75	10,873.84	968.60
4 Net Profit after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	357.98	8,102.54	724.90
5 Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	371.42	8,148.84	713.60
6 Paid-up Equity Share Capital (Face Value - Rs. 10 each)	3,046.81	3,046.81	3,046.81
7 Other Equity (excluding Revaluation Reserve) in the audited Balance Sheet as at 31 st March, 2024		43,237.16	
8 Earnings per Equity Share on net profit after tax (fully paid up equity share of Rs. 10):			
(a) Basic	1.17	26.59	2.38
(b) Diluted	1.17	26.59	2.38

NOTES

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of the Quarterly/Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/Annual Financial Results are available on the Company's website (www.eihassociatedhotels.in) and on the websites of the National Stock Exchanges of India Limited (www.nseindia.com), BSE Limited (www.bseindia.com).
- The above financial results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at the meetings held on 05th August 2024. The statutory auditors have carried out a limited review of these financial results.

VIKRAMJIT SINGH OBEROI
MANAGING DIRECTOR
DIN: 00052014

Gurugram
5th August 2024

PROTESTERS ERUPT IN CHEER AS BANGLADESH PM QUILTS, FLEES COUNTRY

After 15 years, Hasina's reign ends

Among the longest-serving heads of govt, she provided stability to the once military-ruled Bangladesh, but was criticised by opponents as 'autocratic'

KEY EVENTS



JUNE 5

Protest erupts after court reinstates 30% quota in government jobs for relatives of veterans who fought in the 1971 war, which was abolished by Hasina in 2018

JULY 16

6 killed as protests turn violent across Bangladesh

JULY 18

Govt imposes internet blackout, toll crosses 30

JULY 19

Toll over 60, Govt imposes curfew

JULY 21

Supreme Court scales back quota to 5%; toll 140

JULY 25

Hasina makes 1st public appearance since curfew

JULY 31

Protests resume, demanding action over killings



AUG 1

Govt bans Opposition Jamaat-e-Islami under stringent anti-terrorism law.

AUG 3

Hasina proposes talks. Protesters turn down offer, call for non-cooperation



AUG 4

Over 100 die in clashes across country



Protesters atop a public monument as they celebrate the news of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's resignation in Dhaka on Monday. AP

Her fall from glory: Country's 'Iron Lady' to abrupt and dramatic ouster

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DHAKA, AUGUST 5

SHEIKH HASINA, who was elected for a record fourth consecutive term and fifth overall term this year, was always admired by her supporters as an "Iron Lady" before the dramatic development that abruptly ended her 15-year rule in Bangladesh.

Hasina, who provided stability to the once military-ruled Bangladesh but at the same time criticised as an "autocratic" leader by opponents, was among the world's longest-serving female heads of government.

The 76-year-old daughter of Bangladesh founder Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had been ruling the strategically located South Asian nation since 2009. She was elected for a record fourth consecutive term in January in an election boycotted by the main opposition party Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of former premier Khaleda Zia and its allies.

Born in erstwhile East Pakistan in September 1947, Hasina became active in politics while studying at the University of



Vehicle set on fire inside Ganabhaban, the Prime Minister's official residence in Dhaka, on Monday. Reuters

Dhaka in the late 1960s. She served as her father's political liaison during his imprisonment.

After Bangladesh gained independence from Pakistan in 1971, her father Mujibur Rahman became the president and then prime minister of the country. However, in August 1975, Rahman, his wife and their three sons were assassinated in their home by military officers. Hasina and her younger sister Sheikh Rehana survived the purge as they were abroad. She spent six years

in exile in India and was elected as the leader of the Awami League.

In 1981, Hasina returned home and became vocal about democracy in the country ruled by the military, which placed her under house arrest multiple times. In the 1991 general elections, the Hasina-led Awami League failed to secure a majority. Her rival Khaleda Zia of the BNP became prime minister.

Five years later, Hasina was elected prime minister in the 1996 general elections. Hasina was

voted out of office in the 2001 elections but returned to power with a thumping victory in 2008 polls. Khaleda Zia-led BNP has been left in the lurch since then.

Hasina escaped an assassination bid in 2004 when a grenade exploded at her rally. Soon after coming to power in 2009, Hasina set up a tribunal to try 1971 war crimes cases. The tribunal convicted members of the opposition, sparking violent protests.

Hasina presided over one of the world's fastest-growing economies and improved living standards in the past 15 years. Hasina won praise for the handling of the world's biggest refugee crisis as over a million Rohingyas have taken shelter in Bangladesh after fleeing Myanmar. She is also credited for skilfully negotiating the rival interests of India and China as Bangladesh is virtually sandwiched between the two Asian giants. Political opponents described Hasina's government "autocratic" and corrupt.

Hasina is the mother of a mental health expert daughter and an ICT specialist son, who is her ICT adviser. Her husband was a nuclear scientist who died in 2009.

TOOK OVER TOP ARMY POST ON JUNE 23 Weeks after he was named Army Chief, General in spotlight

REUTERS
AUGUST 5

JUST OVER a month after he became Bangladesh's army chief, General Waker-Uz-Zaman has been thrust into the limelight, announcing the resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina who fled the country on Monday.

Zaman said in a televised address that after discussions with "all political parties", it was decided that an interim government would be formed. It was not clear if the army would play a role, but Zaman said: "We will go to the president of the country, where we will discuss about the formation of the interim government, form the interim government, and manage the nation," he said.

Zaman, 58, assumed the duties of army chief on June 23 for a period of three years - the normal tenure for the position.

Born in Dhaka in 1966, he is married to Sarahnaz Kamalika Zaman, the daughter of General Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman,



General Waker-Uz-Zaman

who was army chief from 1997 to 2000. Zaman holds a Masters degree in Defence Studies from the National University of Bangladesh and a MA in Defence Studies from King's College, London.

Prior to becoming the army chief, he served as the Chief of General Staff - in which he oversaw military operations and intelligence, role in UN peacekeeping operations, and budget. In a career spanning three-and-a-half decades, he has also worked closely with Hasina, serving as the principal staff officer at the Armed Forces Division under the Prime Minister's Office.

Ex-PM won't make political comeback, says son Joy



Sajeeb Wazed Joy, Sheikh Hasina's son

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DHAKA, AUGUST 5

BANGLADESH'S OUSTED prime minister Sheikh Hasina will not make a political comeback, her son and former official adviser Sajeeb Wazed Joy said on Monday, asserting that she left the country for her own safety on her family's insistence.

Hasina, 76, resigned and left the country for London earlier in the day amid mass protests against her government.

In an interview to Newshour on the BBC World Service, Joy said there would be no political comeback for his mother.

He said that Hasina had been considering resigning since Sunday and had left the country for her own safety after her family insisted.

Joy said that his mother, who ruled Bangladesh for 15 years, was "so disappointed that after all her hard work, for a minority to rise up against her", according to the report. Expressing Hasina's disappointment, he said, "She has turned Bangladesh around. When she took over power, it was considered a failing state. It was a poor country. Until today it was considered one of the rising tigers of Asia. She's very disappointed."

Rejecting accusations that the government had been heavy-handed in dealing with the protestors, mostly students, Joy said, "You've had policemen beaten to death - 13 just yesterday. So what do you expect the police to do when mobs are beating people to death?"

EXPLAINED
E.

Tough time ahead for nation

HASINA'S RESIGNATION and departure after 15 years at the helm does not mean easy days ahead for a deeply troubled Bangladesh. She has long crushed opposition and put many leaders in prison, but the process of agreeing on an interim government could be bumpy. Interparty animosity and anger is widespread and deep-rooted, even at the local level.

Iran, Hezbollah can attack Israel in next 24 to 48 hrs, Blinken tells G7 members: Report

Iran says it does not want regional escalation but must 'punish, deter' Israel

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, AUGUST 5

US SECRETARY of State Antony Blinken told his counterpart from G7 countries that Iran and Hezbollah could start attacking Israel in the next 24-48 hours, US news service Axios reported, citing three sources briefed on the call. But Blinken said the US doesn't know the exact timing of attacks, the sources said.

When asked about the report, the State Department referred to a readout of the call, where it said the ministers discussed "the urgent need for de-escalation in the Middle East."

Regional tensions have increased following the assassina-



Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Commander-in-Chief, Major General Hossein Salami in Tehran on Sunday. Reuters

tion on Wednesday of Ismail Haniyeh, the leader of Hamas, in Tehran a day after an Israeli strike in Beirut killed Fuad Shukur, a senior commander from Lebanon's

Hezbollah. Iran and Hamas have blamed Israel for Haniyeh's killing in the Iranian capital, and they, together with Hezbollah, have vowed revenge.

The Pentagon said Friday it would deploy additional fighter jets and Navy warships to the region. "The overall goal is to turn the temperature down...deter and defend against those attacks, and avoid regional conflict," Jonathan Finer, the White House's deputy national security adviser, told CBS.

Meanwhile, Iran's foreign ministry spokesperson said Monday it is not looking to escalate regional tensions but believes it needs to punish Israel to prevent further instability. "Iran seeks to establish stability in the region, but this will only come with punishing the aggressor and creating deterrence against...the Zionist regime," Nasser Kanaani said, adding action from Tehran was inevitable. WITH AGENCIES

Will use full force of law, says British PM as riots over Southport stabbings intensify

REUTERS
LONDON, AUGUST 5

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.

The stabbing to death of three young girls in the northwest English town of Southport last week has been seized on by anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim groups, with disinformation spread online and amplified by high-profile far-right figures to spark disorder in towns and cities.

"Whatever the apparent motivation, this is not protest, it is pure violence and we will not tolerate attacks on mosques or our



Police officers during an anti-immigration protest in Rotherham in England on Sunday. Reuters

Muslim communities," Starmer said on Monday after an emergency meeting with police and prison chiefs. "The full force of law will be visited on all those who are identified as having taken part."

Protests, mostly involving a

few hundred people, have continued across the country, with bricks thrown at police officers, shops looted and mosques and Asian-owned businesses attacked. Cars have been set on fire and unverified videos on social

media show ethnic minorities being beaten up.

The violence erupted last Tuesday after social media posts said the suspected attacker in Southport was a radical Islamist who had just arrived in Britain and was known to intelligence services. Police say the 17-year-old suspect was born in Britain and they are not treating it as a terrorist incident.

Interior minister Yvette Cooper said rioters had felt "emboldened by this moment to stir up racial hatred". She promised a reckoning to those involved, saying the government would back punishments ranging from jail sentences to travel bans. Police have arrested 378 people since the start of the disorder, Britain's National Police Chiefs' Council said.

15 ECONOMY

SENSEX: 78,759.40 ▼ 2222.55 (2.74%) NIFTY: 24,055.60 ▼ 662.10 (2.68%) NIKKEI: 31,458.42 ▼ 4,451.28 HANG SENG: 16,698.36 ▼ 247.15 FTSE: 7,950.44 ▼ 224.27 DAX: 17,112.63 ▼ 548.59

GOLD	USD RATE	OIL	SILVER
₹72,800	₹84.09	\$79.02	₹84,200

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) per barrel as of August 2

International market data till 1900 IST

FEAR OF US RECESSION & YEN CARRY TRADES LEADS TO GLOBAL MARKET MELTDOWN

Rupee falls to all-time low of 84.09 against dollar; FPIs pull out \$1.2 bn

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, AUGUST 5

THE RUPEE slumped 37 paise to settle at an all-time low of 84.09 against the US dollar on Monday following a sell-off in global markets amid rising geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, worries over recession in the US and carry-over trade in Japanese yen.

The decline in the currency came on the back of a sharp downturn in the equity markets and foreign capital outflows. Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) pulled out Rs 10,073 crore (\$ 1.20 billion) from the markets on Monday, putting pressure on the rupee, exchange data showed.

The currency opened at 83.78 and settled at its fresh record low level of 84.09 against the American currency.

According to Jateen Trivedi, Research Analyst, LKP Securities, the decline comes amid fresh economic concerns, including the appreciation of the Japanese yen due to rising interest rates in Japan for the first time since August 2006. "This rate hike has triggered a sell-off in risky assets, causing panic among borrowers," he said.

The Japanese yen surged to seven-month highs against the dollar on Monday as traders aggressively unwound carry trades after a week of economic data last week raised the prospect of a US economic downturn and bigger rate cuts from the Federal Reserve.

Weak US jobs data, along with disappointing earnings reports

from large technology firms and heightened concerns over the Chinese economy, have sparked a global sell-off in stocks, oil and high-yielding currencies in the past week as investors sought the safety of cash.

Japanese index suffered its worst day in 37 years. Tokyo's Topix fell 12.2 per cent, the sharpest sell-off since "Black Monday" in October 1987 and more than erasing its gains for the year. South Korea's Kospi benchmark fell 8.8 per cent while the Australian S&P/ASX dropped 2.5 per cent. In Europe, the benchmark Stoxx Europe 600 shed 2.2 per cent. The UK's FTSE 100 fell 2 per cent.

The rupee's weakness persisted despite a sharp drop in the dollar index from \$104 to \$102.20, and a significant decline in crude prices from \$78 to \$72 in WTI. FPIs had offloaded shares worth Rs 3,310.00 crore on Friday, according to exchange data.

Ajit Banerjee, Chief Investment Officer of Shriram Life Insurance Company, said fears of the US starting at a recession intensified after the July jobs report, which threw a big downside surprise with fairly broad-based signs of weakening. US unemployment rate jumped to 4.3 per cent, its highest level in nearly three years and marking the fourth consecutive monthly increase. Besides, poor manufacturing PMI numbers and very poor new order numbers added further to the fear about weakening in the US economy.

EXPLAINED Why rupee fell

THE DECLINE in the currency came on the back of a sharp downturn in the equity markets and foreign capital outflows. Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) pulled out Rs 10,073 crore (\$ 1.20 billion) from the markets on Monday, putting pressure on the rupee, exchange data showed. Weak US jobs data, along with disappointing earnings reports from large tech firms and heightened concerns over the Chinese economy, have sparked a global sell-off in stocks, oil and high-yielding currencies as investors sought the safety of cash.



Bloodbath in domestic stock markets: Sensex and Nifty tanked nearly 3% on Monday



Onlookers outside the BSE on Monday. PTI

Wall Street plunges on US recession fears

Bengaluru: Wall Street's main indexes slumped on Monday as risk appetite among investors dropped on fears of a US recession following weak economic data last week, sending tremors across global markets.

The so-called Magnificent Seven group of stocks - the main driver for the indexes hitting record highs this year - were set to lose a combined \$650 billion in market value. Apple fell 3.9 per cent after

Berkshire Hathaway halved its stake in the iPhone maker, in a sign that billionaire investor Warren Buffett is growing wary about the broader US economy or lofty stock market valuations.

Nvidia slid 6.1 per cent, while Microsoft and Alphabet fell about 3 per cent each. At 11:30 a.m. ET, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 863.70 points, or 2.17 per cent, at 38,873.56, the S&P 500

was down 129.55 points, or 2.42 per cent, at 5,217.01, and the Nasdaq Composite was down 465.25 points, or 2.77 per cent, at 16,310.92.

A weak jobs report and shrinking manufacturing activity in the world's largest economy, coupled with dismal forecasts from the big US technology companies, pushed the Nasdaq 100 and the Nasdaq Composite into a correction last week. **REUTERS**

CEA: Should study if welfare schemes are discouraging youth from seeking jobs

AGGAM WALIA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5

POLICYMAKERS SHOULD study whether well-intended welfare schemes might be deterring India's youth from seeking employment, Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran said in his keynote address at the launch of 'The State of Rural Youth Employment Report 2024'. In his address on Monday, Nageswaran also emphasised the need for data on India's post-Covid gig economy to determine if the country's labour market has become "more informal rather than becoming more formal".

Drawing from studies conducted in the United States and Europe, Nageswaran noted that welfare schemes may have "a certain behavioural consequence in terms of willingness to offer the supply of labour on the part of the youth".

"Just a couple of days ago in the United States, there was a paper that was released based on a pilot study done in two states... (it is) showing that something similar to universal basic income, which was implemented in those states, actually led to a lower willingness on the part of the labour to offer their supply," Nageswaran said in his address.

He said that when looking at unemployment, it is impor-



V Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Advisor. File

"... when we design [schemes], we must think about eligibility conditions, sunset clause, sunset terminal dates, and eventually the idea is to enable people to participate in economic activity. Economic activity happens outside the government, not inside the government, and that is what we should be facilitating with our welfare schemes and non-welfare schemes as well..."

tant to find out how much of it is involuntary and how much is voluntary unemployment.

"Sometimes, we do many of these things with very good intentions but the behavioural signals that they send are very different... I have nothing more to add except to say that when we design (schemes), we must think about eligibility conditions, sunset clause, sunset terminal dates, and eventually the idea is to enable people to participate in economic activity. Economic activity happens outside the government, not inside the government, and that is what we should be facilitating with our welfare schemes and non-welfare schemes as well,"

he said. Nageswaran also raised concerns about the potential "informalisation" of the labour force post-Covid, particularly in relation to the growing gig economy.

"We need to study whether Covid by any chance contributed to actually returning to formalisation of the labour force. That is something we need to get more data (on) and see if that happened because this phenomenon of gig workers is something that we need to understand a lot more. If so, we need to address it because it does lead to certain lack of protection, social security," he said.

STATE OF RURAL YOUTH EMPLOYMENT REPORT 2024

'Up to 85% employed youth in rural areas seek to change job'

AGGAM WALIA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5

BETWEEN 70-85 per cent of currently employed youth in rural areas desire to change their jobs, the 'State of Rural Youth Employment Report 2024' has found. The report also indicated that agriculture and self-employment, traditionally key sources of rural labour absorption, are no longer seen as aspirational career paths by many young people in rural India.

The report, prepared by the Development Intelligence Unit (DIU), a joint initiative of Transform Rural India (TRI) and Sambodhi Research, and the Global Development Incubator (GDI), surveyed 5,169 'opportunity youth' across 21 states. It defines opportunity youth as those who are either unemployed or underemployed, who collectively account for 70 per cent of all rural youth in India. Of those currently em-

ployed rural youth who wish to change jobs, a majority preferred running small businesses, including manufacturing, retail, and trading, or seeking salaried jobs in public and private sectors. Among those interested in starting businesses, 90 per cent male and 50 per cent female respondents said they needed support in accessing seed capital, while only 10 per cent said they needed a full training course.

Notably, the report also found that a majority of respondents did not consider agriculture aspirational in its current state, and 70 per cent of them attributed the reasons to low productivity and insufficient profits. They added that sufficient technical support to

increase productivity, support for crop diversification, and access to high quality and affordable agri-inputs were key to making agriculture aspirational.

At the same time, over 60 per cent male and 70 per cent female respondents said they preferred to find work in or close to their villages, even when income was 20-30 per cent lower, highlighting the need to significantly ramp up employment opportunities in and around rural areas. "Based on the above, a clear insight is that young people prefer to stay within or close to their villages even with a lower income. At the same time, agriculture and self employment / entrepreneurship - key sources of rural labour absorption - are not in their current state - aspirational employment pathways for rural youth. Thus, there is a clear need to address this gap to create sustainable rural labour absorption at scale," the report said.

Bangladesh political crisis: Indian exporters stare at disruption in goods flow, brace for payment delays

RAVI DUTTA MISHRA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5

THE POLITICAL turmoil in Bangladesh that deepened on Monday with Sheikh Hasina resigning as the country's prime minister and flying out has raised concerns among Indian exporters, who see the ongoing political turmoil potentially leading to disruption in the flow of goods at the India-Bangladesh border and payment delays to Indian traders. There is, however, hope among traders that the situation may not take too long to normalise.

Monday's developments in Bangladesh came at a time when the country is grappling with an economic crisis. High inflation has eroded Dhaka's US dollar reserves, limiting the country's ability to import critical goods such as agricultural items, iron and steel, electricity, and plastics from India.

INDIA-BANGLADESH TRADE (in US\$ bn)

	FY22	FY23	FY24	% change FY24 over FY22
India's exports to Bangladesh	16.2	12.2	11.1	-31.5
India's imports from Bangladesh	1.9	2.0	1.8	-5.3
Bangladesh trade deficit	14.3	10.2	9.3	-34.97

Source: GTRI

While New Delhi's imports from Dhaka were stable over the past two years, Dhaka's imports tumbled by 31.5 per cent to \$11.1 billion during 2023-24 (FY24), commerce and industry ministry data showed. In contrast, India's imports from Bangladesh slipped by just 5.3 per cent to \$1.8 billion in FY24 compared to FY22.

Even during the current financial year, economic activity has been slowing in Bangladesh as its imports of petroleum prod-

ucts from India slipped 8 per cent in June compared to May. Similarly, imports of spices fell 42 per cent, rice by 54 per cent, man-made yarn by 38 per cent, and coal and mineral imports by 13 per cent.

Think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said that as Bangladesh experiences political turmoil, it is essential for all political factions to protect garment and other factories and keep supply lines open across the

border to sustain trade and economic activity. Bangladesh chiefly relies on garment exports to earn foreign exchange.

"Bangladesh's exports to India are concentrated in a few categories, with textiles, garments, and made-ups making up 56 per cent of their exports. These items benefit from zero tariffs under the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) agreement, extended by India," GTRI said.

GTRI founder Ajay Srivastava stated that India-Bangladesh trade is witnessing an increasing imbalance in favour of India. The persistent trade imbalance can be attributed to the highly diversified nature of India's exports and Bangladesh's exports being concentrated in a few sectors.

"India's exports to Bangladesh are highly diversified, covering sectors such as agriculture, textiles, machinery, electronics, auto parts, iron and steel, electricity, and plastics. Notably, most of these exports to

Bangladesh are subject to full tariffs and fall outside the SAFTA agreement," he said.

"We were facing some disruptions due to the issues in Bangladesh, but we are expecting that the situation will be restored soon and trade will not face any challenges," Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) Director General Ajay Sahai said.

FIEO Regional Chairman (Eastern Region) Yogesh Gupta said the development would impact bilateral trade. "Such incidents hurt the movement of goods at borders," Gupta said.

PSY Ltd owner Pravin Saraf said the crisis in Bangladesh would have long-term implications. "We were already facing payment delay issues in that country because of the forex shortage there, and now this development would further hurt bilateral trade. We do not know when the situation will be normalised," Saraf said.

BRIEFLY

Trading of bonus shares: Uniform timeline proposed

New Delhi: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) on Monday proposed a uniform timeline to ensure timely credit and trading of bonus shares in a bid to streamline the process to enable T+2 trading of such shares after the record date. In its consultation paper, the Sebi proposed that bonus issue of shares will be available for trading within two days (T+2) from the record date. Here, T stands for the record date. "Thus, the absence of any specific guidelines on this aspect leads to non-uniformity," Sebi said. **PTI**

ADIF moves CCI against Google on online advertising

New Delhi: The Alliance of Digital India Foundation (ADIF) on Monday said it has filed a complaint with the Competition Commission of India (CCI) against Google's alleged anti-competitive practices in online advertising. **PTI**

IndiGo launches business class, loyalty plan in move away from budget model

SUKALP SHARMA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5

INDIA'S LARGEST airline IndiGo will have its "tailor-made" business class product—IndiGo Stretch—from mid-November on the Delhi-Mumbai route, and ticket sales for the same will start from Tuesday at an introductory price of Rs 18,018.

The carrier, which has been seen as a budget airline for long, is now gravitating towards a hybrid product offering. It will have business class on 12 domestic routes connecting major Indian metropolitan cities with one another. All these 12 routes are likely to see the business class offering by the end of 2025. This move, which was ostensibly in the works for some time now, marks a strategic shift in IndiGo's product offering. In nearly two decades of its existence, IndiGo has championed the one-size-fits-all single-class cabin configuration, like other successful budget airlines globally. But with changing dynamics and evolution of India's aviation market, the airline is trying to reorient itself accordingly. As part of its 18th anniversary celebrations, apart from



The business class seats of IndiGo. Express photo

unveiling its business class product, IndiGo also announced a loyalty programme—IndiGo BluChip—and a few other initiatives. Loyalty programmes, like business class seating, are not usually associated with traditional low-cost carriers (LCCs). The airline also announced that it will launch flights to another seven international destinations before the end of the current financial year, taking its total international stations to over 40.

Here to stay with IndiGo: Bhatia

New Delhi: IndiGo founder and MD of parent InterGlobe Enterprises (IGE) Rahul Bhatia on Monday clarified that the recent sale of 2 per cent stake in the airline by IGE was only meant to fund the group's new businesses and for general corporate purposes, suggesting that the move in no way pointed to a major stake dilution by the parent company. **ENS**

offering

IndiGo's business class cabin will have 12 seats from global plane seat maker Recaro in a two-by-two configuration. The business class meals will be curated by Oberoi Hotels. The business class product will be offered on Airbus A321 aircraft, and apart from the 12 business class seats, the cabin will have 208 economy class seats. "IndiGo Stretch's seats come with a six-way adjustable headrest with neck support, 5-inch deep recline to relax, electronic

device holder, 60-watt USB-Type C power supply, and a three-pin universal power outlet to stay charged during the journey. IndiGo Stretch customers will also enjoy a host of complimentary benefits such as no convenience fee, specially curated vegetarian meal box, wide choice of beverages, and advance seat selection at no additional charge along with priority check-in and anytime boarding," the airline said in a statement.

Foundation for global expansion

The airline's decision to introduce a business class cabin on select domestic routes is being seen as a precursor to it offering a business class product on its international routes as well, particularly on those that see high business travel as well as medium and long-haul international routes that the airline plans to operate over the coming years by inducting aircraft like the A321XLR—the extra long-range variant of the narrow body A321 aircraft—and the wide body A350, which can operate long-haul flights. **FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com**

Services PMI eases slightly in July; still above 60-mark

New Delhi: The HSBC India Services Business Activity Index, or services PMI, stood at 60.3, data released by S&P Global showed. The monthly services' activity index stood above the 60-mark for the seventh consecutive month in July, as new business gains and "rosy demand" acted as the main drivers of growth, S&P Global said.

The latest reading, however, was marginally lower than 60.5 recorded in June, but was above the neutral 50-mark for the 36th straight month. According to S&P Global, the rise in output reflected a sustained increase in sales volumes in July, with survey participants particularly commenting on buoyant demand, tech investment and a growing online presence.

The composite PMI, a weighted average of both manufacturing and services PMI, stood at 60.7 in July, slightly down from 60.9 in June, signalling a continuation of the strong growth momentum seen recently. Data released on Thursday showed manufacturing PMI eased to 58.1 in July from 58.3 in June. **FE**

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MAJALGAON, DIST. BEED 431131 Email- mmajalgaon@gmail.com

E-Tender Notice/No.01/2024-25

Municipal Council Majalgaon Dist. Beed Invites Online tender for Road, Drain and other civil works under the scheme Vaishishipurn kamasathi vishesh Anudan Scheme from experienced and appropriate contractors who fulfill all the terms and conditions.

All the details, terms and conditions regarding this tender notice can be seen and downloaded as well as filled tender and may be uploaded from date **06/08/2024 at 11:00 am** to date **13/08/2024 at 4:00 pm** on website <http://mahatenders.gov.in> All interested contractors may kindly visit the website <http://mahatenders.gov.in> for further details and procedure. Corrigendum if any or other information will be Published on website only.

Chief Officer
Municipal Council Majalgaon

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of India Undertaking)

Head Office, Udhampur - Srinagar - Baramulla Rail Link Project, Satyam Complex, Marble Market, Greater Kailash, P. O. Sainik Colony, Jammu - 180011, Jammu & Kashmir, Tel: +91-191-2484778, Tele Fax: +91-191-2484859

EOI Notice No.: KR/PD/J&K/EOI/Curator/Museum/Chenab/1/2024 dated 05.08.2024

Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. Invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from the reputed National Curators for providing consultancy services of curator for Chenab Bridge Museum on Katra-Dharam Section of Udhampur - Srinagar - Baramulla Railway Link (USBRL) Project in the U.T of Jammu & Kashmir, India.

The information about the project, scope of work and the formats for submitting EOI is provided in the EOI document, which can be obtained from 05.08.2024 onwards from the following address:

- Office of the Executive Director/Project, Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd., Head Office USBRL Project, Satyam Complex, Marble Market, Greater Kailash, P.O. Sainik Colony, Jammu -180 011, Jammu & Kashmir, Tel: +91-191-2484778, Mob: 9596757357
- Office of OSD/NDLS at room No.314, COFMOW Building, Railway Office Complex, Tilak Bridge, Bahadur Shah Jafar Marg, New Delhi-110002.

EOI document will also be issued through email. The written request by the agency will be submitted to aen.sunil@krcl.co.in

The EOI shall be received up to **15:00 hours on 16.08.2024** in the Office of Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd., USBRL Project, Satyam Complex, Marble Market, Greater Kailash, P.O. Sainik Colony, Jammu - 180011, Jammu & Kashmir. This invitation of EOI is not a part of the bidding process.

Contact: AEN/W
Mobile: 9596757357, email - aen.sunil@krcl.co.in.

India & Hasina: a 50-year-old bond

India helped liberate Bangladesh, former PM lent hand in terror fight

SHUBHAJIT ROY
 NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5

ON MONDAY, Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana landed in Delhi as jubilant crowds thronged the streets of Dhaka and roamed the rooms and grounds of the Prime Minister's residence, and the army declared it was taking charge of the country. In 1975, the sisters had taken refuge in India after soldiers assassinated their father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, along with seven members of the family, including Mujib's 10-year-old son Russell (named after the British philosopher Bertrand Russell). Hasina escaped because she was then in Germany with her husband and Rehana.

Army in politics

The chequered history of Bangladeshi democracy has seen periodic interventions by the military. The army appointed Chief Justice Abu Sadat Mohammad Sayem as president in November 1975, and the country was ruled by a military junta. In 1977, Gen Ziaur Rahman became president; he was assassinated in 1981 and his successor Abdus Sattar was removed in a coup in 1982. Army chief H M Ershad took control, but mass unrest led to his resignation in 1990.

The civilian governments of Khaleda Zia, widow of Gen Ziaur Rahman (1991-96 and 2001-06), and Sheikh Hasina (1996-2001) followed. In between, there was an attempted coup in 1996.

Following widespread unrest at the end of Khaleda's term in 2006, the military asked the then president to declare an emergency. A caretaker government was in charge from January 2007 to December 2008.

After Hasina came back to power in 2008, she made sure that the army returned to the barracks. In 2010, the Supreme Court reduced the scope for military interventions through legal loopholes, and reaffirmed the secular principles of the Bangladesh constitution.

Hasina's goodwill

Hasina's regime brought political stability and economic growth to the country. India was one of the beneficiaries of her return, and a benefactor as well.

In 2009, the Manmohan Singh government reached out with humanitarian aid and assistance. It helped that Hasina had deep personal ties with the Gandhi family; Indira Gandhi had played a pivotal role in the liberation of Bangladesh. Hasina's personal rapport with Sonia Gandhi, as well as Rahul and Priyanka, was evident when she visited India in June.

Former President Pranab Mukherjee acted as Hasina's local guardian when, in the years after Mujib's assassination, she lived on Delhi's Pandara Road. Mukherjee's wife Suvra is said to have introduced Hasina as her relative. Decades later, Hasina would attend both their funerals.

These early experiences left an indelible impact on Hasina, and she developed a deep gratitude for the Indian leadership and its people. She received bipartisan support in India — after assuming office in 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also reached out to

her. The core concerns of fighting religious extremism and countering terrorism was the strategic glue that bound successive Indian governments with Hasina's regime.

With this bi-partisan support, the outstanding maritime boundary issue was resolved, followed by the land boundary agreement. As Bangladesh's economy grew rapidly, India extended it billions of dollars in lines of credit, and supported its infrastructure and humanitarian requirements.

India's attitude

As Hasina won election after election — in 2013, 2018, and 2024 — she faced questions of legitimacy and alleged rigging, especially from the US and the West. But she could bank on India for full-fledged, no-questions-asked support.

This support was founded on India's experience during the BNP-Jamaat rule in 2001-06, when anti-India terror groups operated with impunity from Bangladeshi soil. On returning to power, Hasina went after these terror groups and their benefactor, the Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh.

She extended her crackdown to the main opposition BNP as well — the war tribunal hanged Jamaat leaders for 1971 war crimes, jailed BNP leader Khaleda Zia for alleged corruption, and jailed hundreds of Opposition leaders and activists. As India looked the other way for its own national security and strategic reasons, Hasina's crackdown extended to the dissenting voices in civil society and media as well.

As she landed in India on Monday — some say she may be headed to London — National Security Advisor Ajit Doval met her at the Hindon Air Force station. New Delhi will have to work towards ensuring her safety — even as it is likely to face some questions from the new regime in Dhaka about giving refuge to an unpopular leader.

For New Delhi, Hasina will always be the leader who helped make its eastern borders quiet and stable.

The way forward

New Delhi has its diplomatic task cut out going forward. It shunned the BNP and Jamaat for the past decade-and-a-half, choosing Hasina's Awami League as its favoured party in Bangladesh. During these years, the Bangladeshi opposition viewed India as backing Hasina, and the West as being on their side.

There is a real risk of blowback from the Bangladeshi people as well. What attitude the new power centres in Dhaka — some of whom will carry past grudges — take towards India will be critical.

The challenges encountered during the earlier BNP-Jamaat years could well resurface. New Delhi cannot afford to have another front open when the LoC and the border with Pakistan is hot again, and the Indian Army is in a long standoff with the PLA in eastern Ladakh. The Myanmar border remains extremely volatile, and the source of unrest in India's Northeast.

The army chief will play an important role. New Delhi has had robust links with the Bangladeshi security establishment due to the common threats from terrorism and extremism. Those ties might come in handy now, as "anti-India elements" take charge.



Smoke rising from Ganabhaban, the PM's residence, which was stormed by public shortly after Hasina's resignation. Reuters

From 1975 to 2024: the role of Army in Bangladesh politics

ALIND CHAUHAN
 NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5

IN HIS address to the media on Monday, Bangladesh Army Chief General Waker-uz-Zaman said he was "taking responsibility" in the country, and urged the people to maintain peace and order.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had just resigned and fled to India, thousands of people were celebrating in the streets, and many had stormed her official residence in Dhaka.

Significantly, television pictures appeared to show protesters hammering at the head of a statue of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the father of independent Bangladesh. Mujib was assassinated during a coup in August 1975, just four years after Bangladesh won its independence from Pakistan.

The army controlled politics in Bangladesh directly or indirectly for the next 15 years. It now holds the key to the country's future.

During Liberation War

In the Pakistani election of 1970, Mujibur Rahman's Awami League swept East Pakistan, winning 160 of the 162 seats; Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's PPP won 81 of the 138 seats in West Pakistan.

Pakistan Army Chief General Yahya Khan, who was ruling the country through martial law at the time, refused to hand over power to Mujib. This sparked unrest across East Pakistan, where an agitation powered by Bengali cultural nationalism and against the imposition of Urdu was already underway.

On March 7, 1971, Mujib gave a call for an all-out struggle for independence. In response, the Pakistan Army launched the infamous Operation Searchlight — an operation to crush the protests in a brutal campaign of killings, rape, arson, and illegal arrests.

Soon afterward, Bengali soldiers in East Pakistan revolted, leading to the outbreak of the Bangladesh Liberation War in which India intervened. The Bengali soldiers joined forces with civilians to form the Mukti Bahini, and carried out guerilla war-



Bangladesh Army Chief General Waker-uz-Zaman. Express

fare against the Pakistan Army.

Coups after independence

Once Bangladesh attained independence, members of Mukti Bahini became part of the Bangladesh Army. However, in the years following independence, tensions began to emerge within the army due to discrimination against those Bengali soldiers who had not rebelled against Pakistan in the lead-up to the Liberation War.

THE FIRST MILITARY COUP: The discontent came to a boil on August 15, 1975, when a handful of young soldiers assassinated the Bangabandhu and his entire family except his daughters Sheikh Hasina (the deposed Prime Minister) and Sheikh Rehana (who accompanied Hasina to India on Monday) at his residence in Dhaka.

This paved the way for the first military coup in Bangladesh, led by Maj Syed Faruque Rahman, Maj Khandaker Abdur Rashid, and politician Khondaker Mostaq Ahmad. A new regime was established — Mostaq Ahmad became president and Maj Gen Ziaur Rahman was appointed as the new army chief.

SOON, A SECOND COUP: The new rulers did not stay in power for long. On November 3, Brig Khaled Mosharraf, who was seen as a supporter of Mujib, led another coup, and appointed himself as the new army chief. Mosharraf put Ziaur Rahman under house arrest, as he believed that the latter was behind the Bangabandhu's killing.

A THIRD COUP: And then came the third coup on November 7. This was launched by left-wing army personnel in collaboration with left-wing politicians from the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal. The event was known as the Sepoy-Janata Biplob (Soldiers and People's Revolution).

Mosharraf was killed and Ziaur Rahman became president.

Ziaur Rahman formed the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) in 1978, which won the election of that year. But in 1981, he was himself overthrown by a mutinous army unit headed by Maj Gen Manzur, who accused the president of favouring soldiers who did not participate in the war against Pakistan — and those who had come from West Pakistan after independence.

GEN ERSHAD'S COUP: On March 24, 1982, then army chief Lt Gen Hussain Muhammad Ershad took power in a bloodless coup, suspending the constitution and imposing martial law — he overthrew President Abdus Sattar (of BNP) who had succeeded Ziaur Rahman.

Ershad founded the Jatiya Party in 1986 and allowed the first election in Bangladesh since the 1982 coup. His party won a majority, and Ershad remained president till 1990 — he had to leave office after pro-democracy protests engulfed the country.

Continuing interference

Although parliamentary democracy returned to Bangladesh in 1991, the interference by the army did not stop.

In 2006, political turmoil erupted after the BNP-Jamaat government's term ended. BNP and Awami League locked horns over choosing a candidate to head the caretaker government before fresh elections could take place.

In October that year, President Iajuddin Ahmed declared himself leader of the caretaker government, and announced that elections would be held in January of the following year.

However, on January 11, 2007, Army chief Lt Gen Moeen Ahmed led a coup, forming a military-backed caretaker government. Fakhruddin Ahmed, an economist, was appointed head of government, while Iajuddin Ahmed was forced to maintain his presidency.

Moeen extended his tenure as army chief by one year, and the rule of the caretaker government for two years. Military rule ended late in 2008 after national elections were held in December, and Sheikh Hasina came to power.

Hasina exit may hurt trade, infra links between Dhaka & Delhi

ANJISHNU DAS
 NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5

BANGLADESH HAS been a key ally to India since Sheikh Hasina came to power in 2009. From eradicating anti-India terrorist groups which operated out of safe havens in Bangladesh to facilitating greater economic, social, and cultural ties, Hasina's tenure has fostered a healthy relationship between New Delhi and Dhaka.

Her exit could jeopardise this — affecting growing trade ties, restricting the movement of people and goods, and stalling a potential free trade agreement (FTA) between the two countries.

Bi-lateral trade

In trade terms, Bangladesh is India's biggest partner in the subcontinent, and India is Bangladesh's second biggest partner in Asia after China. Their total bilateral trade amounted to \$13 billion in the financial year 2023-24, according to the Union Ministry of Commerce.

Bangladesh is the biggest export destination for India's cotton, accounting for 34.9% of India's total cotton exports (some \$2.4 billion in FY24). Other major Indian exports to Bangladesh are petroleum products and cereals. India's top import from Bangladesh are readymade garments, amounting to \$391 million in FY24. In recent years, Bangladesh has emerged as a major global hub for textiles.

In October 2023, India and Bangladesh began discussions on an FTA during a meeting of the Joint Working Group on Trade in Dhaka. An FTA would reduce or eliminate customs duties on goods traded between India and Bangladesh, and ease norms to help promote further trade and investments.

A 2012 working paper published by the World Bank estimated that a full FTA for goods would increase Bangladesh's exports to India by 182%, whereas a partial FTA could lead to a 134% increase. However, an FTA accompanied with improved transport infrastructure and better connectivity could see Bangladesh's exports rise to 297%. India, too, would see an increase to its exports by as much as 172% in this scenario. A successful FTA would substantially expand Bangladesh's market reach and give Indians access to more manufactured goods.

It is unclear if and how an FTA plan would proceed under the interim Bangladesh government, or the dispensation to follow.

Infra & connectivity

Infrastructure and connectivity has been a growing part of India-Bangladesh ties, according to the Minister of External Affairs. India has extended three lines of credit to Bangladesh since 2016 amounting to \$8 billion for the development of road, rail, shipping and port infrastructure. In November 2023, two joint projects — the Akhaura-Agartala cross-border rail link and Khulna-Mongla Port rail line — were inaugurated.

The latest Akhaura-Agartala link, which provided an alternate route from mainland India to the Northeast, was the sixth cross-border rail line between the countries. This has cut down the travel time (by train) between Agartala and Kolkata from 31 hours to 10 hours and was expected to boost tourism, trade, and people-to-people exchanges between the two countries.

A disruption in Indo-Bangladesh ties could thus restrict India's access to the Northeast, which will be connected to mainland India only through the narrow "Chicken's Neck" — only 22 km at its narrowest — between West Bengal and Assam.

Besides rail, there are currently five operational bus routes between India and Bangladesh, including connections from Kolkata, Agartala and Guwahati to Dhaka. In 2023, the countries had agreed to operationalise the agreement for the usage of the Chittagong and Mongla ports to ease the movement of cargo between mainland India and the Northeast.

DRISHTI JUDICIARY
 An initiative by Drishti IAS
JUDICIARY FOUNDATION COURSE
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Prayagraj English Medium | 22 August | 6 PM | सुबह 8 बजे
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Stunning photo finish: How Noah Lyles won the greatest ever 100 m race

NIHAL KOSHIE
 NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5

THE OLYMPICS had never seen such a rush at the finish line of a 100 m final as it did on late Sunday night, at the iconic Stade de France in Saint-Denis.

In the end, US track and field star Noah Lyles leaned forward at the perfect time to be just 0.005 seconds faster than Jamaica's Kishane Thompson to win a gold in a photo finish. All eight sprinters, bunched together for most of the race, finished with sub-10 second timings.

People have run faster races in the past, but no race has been as close as this one.

A close bunch

For collective brilliance, Sunday's race was absolutely the greatest 100 m final of all time, as for the very first time in history, all eight men clocked sub-10 second timings under legal wind conditions. According to World Athletics, "a 100 m sprint time will only be considered 'wind legal' if the wind speed is 2m/s or less".

Jamaica's Oblique Seville finished last, but his 9.91 seconds timing would have been good enough for a third place finish at the Tokyo Olympics, three years ago. Defending champion Marcela Jacobs of Italy finished fifth with a timing of 9.85 seconds, good enough for a second place in the Beijing Olympics when Usain Bolt set the

then Olympic record 9.69 second timing. All in all, sprinters from the fourth to eighth place recorded best-ever times in a 100 m race.

Photo finish for gold

In real time, the race was too close to call. Both Lyles and Thompson were credited with a time of 9.78 seconds, which flashed on TV screens across the world. On air, commentators felt that Thompson had won the race by a whisker, but broadcast cameras are simply incapable of giving an accurate picture for such close finishes.

This is where the fully automated timing and photo finish system, which records the timings of all athletes, comes in. This comprises three things:

- The starter's pistol, resembling a



Photo finish: Lyles (in red and blue) is seen leaning forward at the line. Reuters

modern-day gas lighter, triggers a flash of green light and a sound mimicking the crack of a gun from small speakers behind athletes' starter blocks. It also kickstarts the timing device.

■ Sensors are embedded on the starting block to catch false starts. They measure the pressure of an athlete's foot on the block, 4,000 times a second. World Athletics rules deem a reaction time of less than a tenth of a second as a false start because the human mind cannot react to the starter's pistol faster than this.

■ At least two cameras on either side of the finish line provide a composite image of the sprinters. World Athletics requires these cameras to be able to take a minimum of 1,000 images per second. Omega, the official time-keeper of the Olympics, has been

using cameras that take 40,000 images per second at the finish line in Paris, up from the 10,000 images per second taken during the Tokyo Games.

The photo finish cameras at the finish line found Lyles to have just edged out Thompson, despite overhead cameras showing that Thompson's foot crossed the line ahead of Lyles. This is because the athlete's torso has to cross the finish line to be counted, not his head, arms, neck, or feet.

Lyles won by five-thousandths of a second because he got his torso to break the line first. Rewatch the race in slow motion to see Lyles dip just slightly quicker using his right shoulder, with his experience of being a 100 m, 200 m and 4x100 m relay world champion coming good in the big final.

MAHARASHTRA ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (MEDA) (A Government of Maharashtra Institute) Aundh Road, Opposite Spicer College, Near Commissionerate of Animal Husbandry, Aundh, Pune - 411 007 | E-mail: gmsolar@maharaja.com | Tel. No.: 020-35000450

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

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

नगर निगम, प्रयागराज ई-निविदा सूचना

Office of the Executive Engineer Tenughat Dam Division, Tenughat Very Short e-Procurement Notice

South East Central Railway Tender Notice for Electrical Work

IMPORTANT Whist care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy...

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

OFFICE OF THE RANCHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, RANCHI {ENGINEERING SECTION}

NORTHERN RAILWAY (E-Auction Notice)

SALUTE THE SOLDIER CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE Chhattisgarh

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

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PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED (Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)

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JAPIT (An Autonomous body under Department of Information Technology & e-Governance, Govt of Jharkhand)

NORTHERN RAILWAY 1st CORRIGENDUM

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED (Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON (SEE SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON (See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)

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Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Pinki Gupta W/o Vishal R/o D-1814, Jahagir Puri, D-Block, North West Delhi-110033, have changed my name to Pinki Sahu for all future purposes.

I, Manoj S/o Shri Prakash R/o 491/3B/3, Mahavir Block, Bhola Nath Nagar Delhi-110032 have changed my name to Manoj Kumar for all future purposes.

I, Karan Jain S/o late Nirmal Jain R/o B-137 Surajmal Vihar Delhi-110092 informed that my late father's correct name is Nirmal Jain instead of Nirmal Kumar Jain for all future purposes.

I, Kanika Sharma W/o Rahul Sharma R/o E-2/39, Gali No.1, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-110052 have changed my name to Kanika Sharma

I, KM Gita Ghelata W/o Manoj Kumar R/o Flat No.1-1008, Ajnara Homes, Sectot-16B, Greater Noida West, UP-201306 have changed my name to GITA VARMA for all future purposes.

I, Hajari Lal Sah S/O Late Dinkar Sah R/O F.1, B1/73, DLF Extn 2, Near Agrawal sweet corner Bhopura, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201005 have changed my name to Hajari Lal Sah Jauhari for all purposes.

I, Chanderjeet S/o Muneswar, R/o B-205, Sanjay Camp, Dakshin Puri, South Delhi, Delhi-110062, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Chandrajeet Ram.

I, Banti Devi W/o Durgesh Singh R/o Village Chandinovan, Post-Kashichak, Distt Nawada, Bihar-805130, have changed my name to Nitu Singh for all future purposes.

I, BASHIL KURIAKOSH, S/O, P J KURIAKOSE R/O D-54, S/5, Dilshad Colony Delhi-110095 hereby change my name from BASHIL KURIAKOSH to BASIL KURIAKOSE for all purposes.

I, Anu Rakesh W/o Rakesh Mon Raju R/O A-315 New Ranjeet Nagar, Delhi-110008, have changed my name to Anu M Mathew for all future purposes.

I, Anita Kumari W/o Sandeep Kumar, R/O-1-1303, Great-Value Sharnam, Sector-107, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar-201301, Uttar Pradesh, have changed my name to Anita Kumari to Anita, for all future purposes

I, Aarush S/O, Vijay Ranjan R/O H.No. - Z-315, prem Nagar, Kashmiri Colony Najafgarh, delhi-110043 have changed my name to Aarush Ranjan for all purposes.

I, Shobhit Kumar S/O Hariraj Singh Tyagi R/O H.No. -19 R K Puram Behind Shipra Hotel Bhoor Bulandshahr Uttar Pradesh. Have Change My Name To Shobhit Kumar Tyagi For All Future Purposes.

I, Satish Pal s/o sh. Mam Chand C-3/5 Near Nehru academy Vashit park New Delhi-110046 have changed my Name From Satish to Satish Pal for All Future Purposes.

I, Ritika Gauba Dhringa w/o Ravi Dhringa, R/o 109 A Block, Sainik Colony, DAV School, Sector 49, Faridabad, PO: Faridabad NIT, DIST: Faridabad, Haryana, 121001 do hereby solemnly declare that I have changed my name to Ritika Gauba and this name to be used for all future correspondence.

I, Parvati Rawat W/o, Yashwant Singh Rawat, Aged 58 years Residence A-82, Sector-12, Noida, GB Nagar, my names i.e., Parvati Devi and Parvati Rawat are the names of the same person.

I, Parvati Rawat W/o, Yashwant Singh Rawat, Aged 58 years Residence A-82, Sector-12, Noida, GB Nagar, my names i.e., Parvati Devi and Parvati Rawat are the names of the same person.

I, Priyanka Gupta W/o Dhanraj Babu Gupta R/o Old No-40/41, F/F, Front Side, RZ-40A, Hans Park, West Sagarpur, Nangal Raya, South West Delhi-110046, have changed my name from PRIYANKA TANWAR to PRIYANKA GUPTA for all future purposes.

I, NIKHAT PARVEEN, w/o-Mohammad kalimuddin, R/o 12-A prasadi mohalla khanpur dhani new usmanpur north east delhi-110053 have changed my name to Nikhat parveen

I, Ajay Kumar Jain S/O A.P. Jain, R/o-Pocket D-II, H.No-24-25, Sector-11, Rohini Delhi-110085, have changed my minor daughter's name from Adaya Jain to Vinaya Jain.

I, Dinesh Seth, S/O-Lakhi Narayan Khatri, R/O- L1402, Samridhii Grand Avenue, Sector Techzone 4, Greater Noida West, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201306, have changed my name to Dinesh Narayan Seth.

I, Komal Singh S/o Mr. Shival R/o Village Ranmochna Lehar, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh-202133 have changed my name from Komal Prasad to Komal Singh for all future purposes.

I, Anita Devi W/o Suresnder Kumar Garg R/o 77, Upper Ground Floor, Kapil Vihar, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 have changed my name to Anita Rani for all purposes.

I, Ridhika Gupta, D/o Mohan Lal, R/o F-1/6, Ground Floor, Budh Vihar Phase-1, Delhi-110086, have changed my name to Ridhika.

It is for general information that I, Prem Dass, S/o Bichchu Presently residing at H.No-474, Sector-6, R.K. Puram, New Delhi, Delhi-110022. Permanently residing at Nadipar Katta, Mauranipur, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh-284204, declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as Prem Dass Verma and Vishvanath in my Arms Licence No- SDLC/7/2006/14. The actual name of mine and my father is Prem Dass and Bichchu.

I, Pridhi Goyal W/o Nishank Aggarwal R/O C-51, Surajmal Vihar Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Paridhi Aggarwal.

I, Abida W/o Sujat Zakir Husain, R/O Khor Basai, Mahwan (88), PO. Rewasan, Distt. Mewat (Haryana)-122103, have changed my name to Abaida.

It is for general information that I, Asher, S/o Rehan Ahmad, R/o House No.30, Block-C, Fifth Cross Road, Near Jai Hospital, Beta-1, Post-Ahla, Greater Noida, Dist.-Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201310, declare that my father name has been wrongly written as Christopher Satur in my all Educational Documents. The actual name of my father is Rehan Ahmad which may be amended accordingly.

I, BASHIL KURIAKOSH, S/O, P J KURIAKOSE R/O D-54, S/5, Dilshad Colony Delhi-110095 hereby change my name from BASHIL KURIAKOSH to BASIL KURIAKOSE for all purposes.

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I, Dinesh Seth, S/O-Lakhi Narayan Khatri, R/O- L1402, Samridhii Grand Avenue, Sector Techzone 4, Greater Noida West, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201306, have changed my name to Dinesh Narayan Seth.

I, Smriti Sharma, W/o Dushyant Kumar, R/O 55, Niti Khand-2, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad-201014, have changed my name to Smriti Sudhanshu Dwivedi.

I, Smriti Dushyant Kumar Sharma, W/O Dushyant Kumar R/O-55, Niti Khand-2, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad-201014, have changed my name to Smriti Sudhanshu Dwivedi.

I, Shilpa D/o Charanjeet Singh R/o Plot.No-10-B/U/T/F, Kh.No-41/72/2, Chander Vihar, Nilothi Extn, Nangloi, Delhi-110041, have changed my name to Shilpa Kaur Gill.

I, Satwant Singh R/O, S/O-221/85, street, no.2, Vishnu Garden, Tilak-Nagar, New Delhi-110018, have changed my minor Son's name, from Gurjot Singh to Gurjot Singh Batra.

I, SURENDER RATHEE S/O HARISH CHANDER R/O VILLAGE +POST BHAPRODA JHAJJAR HARYANA-124501, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SURENDER KUMAR.

I, SUMEET S/O RANBIR SINGH RAJPUT residing at B-2/62-D, LAWRENCE ROAD, 4TH FLOOR, DELHI-110035, have changed my name to SUMEET RAJPUT, for all future purpose.

I, Raminder Kaur Alagsh, D/O Manpreet Singh R/O C-720, S/F, Vikas Puri, West Delhi, Delhi-110018, Have Changed my Name to Raminder Kaur.

I, RITIK JHA S/O-RAKESH KUMAR JHA R/O-O-255 GALI NO-13 NANGLOI EXT-2 DELHI-110041, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RITIK KUMAR JHA.

I, RAMESH JAIN, S/O NATTHI LAL, R/O RZ-224/396, GALI NO.12, SHIVPURI, SAGARPUR, SOUTH-WEST DELHI-110046, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAMESH CHAND JAIN.

I, Prashant S/O Naresh Tyagi R/O H.No-98, Chhapraula, Gautam Budh Nagar, have changed my name to Prashant Tyagi.

I, SUMAIYA D/O MOHAMMAD AZHER JAVED, R/O-1168, MAHAL SARAI CHOORI WALAN JAMA MASJID DELHI-6, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SUMAIYA KHANAM.

I, hitherto known as Subham Kothari, S/O SH. Mahendra Kothari, R/O H.No.39, First Floor, Street.No.2, Krishna-Nagar, Chander Nagar, Delhi-110051, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS SHUBHAM KOTHARI.

I, hitherto known as Prakash, S/O- Manohar Lal, R/o, flat.no.301, dev apartment, rajendra park, block-F, gurgaon, haryana-122001, Have changed my name to Prakash Gupta.

I, hitherto known as DINESH KUMAR alias DINESH CHAUDHARY, S/O SH. AMAR SINGH CHAUDHARY, R/O, CB-45C, SHALIMAR BAGH, DELHI-110088, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS DINESH KUMAR CHAUDHARY S/O AMAR SINGH CHAUDHARY.

I, Vinay S/O Bhpender Bhardwaj, R/O- SRS-55, Piplawali Gali, Peera Garhi Sunder Vihar Delhi-87, have changed my name to Vinay Bhardwaj.

I, Vikas Goyal, S/O Rajender Kumar Goyal R/O Mohalla Peerwala, Mirzapur Road,, Dankaur, Gautam Budh, Nagar-203201, have changed my name to Vikas Mohan Goyal.

I, VINITA W/O SURENDER KUMAR R/O VILLAGE +POST BHAPRODA JHAJJAR HARYANA-124501, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO KAVITA.

I, UMANG, D/O SITA RAM, R/O 3A/125 BP, NEAR-CHIMNI BAI, FARIDABAD HARYANA-121001, HAVE CHANGE MY NAME TO UMANG CHAUDHARY, permanently.

I, Namita Mathur, W/O Yuvraj Baghwala, R/O Alaknanda 415, Jaivayu Towers Sector -56 Gurgaon-122011, have changed my name to NAMITA BAGHWALA, Permanently

I, Namikshaa D/o Shri Manoj Kumar Gupta, R/o 125,3rd Floor, Right Side Gautam Nagar, Andrewsganj South Delhi, Delhi-110049, have changed my name from Namikshaa to Namikshas Gupta, for all future purposes.

I, Mukesh S/O-Lakshmi Narayan, Address-B-57, Ambica enclave Nangloi Punjabi Bagh Delhi-110041, changed my name to Mukesh Rao.

I, Louisa Peter Datta, W/o Sh. I.P Datta, R/O D-7/8, street, no.3, begum vihar, Begumpur, Distt North-West Delhi, Delhi-110086, declare that Louisa Peter Datta both are the same and one person. In future I will be known as Louisa Datta for all purpose.

I, Sonia Devi w/o Sandeep Kumar, R/o vpo-aghwanpur, Sonipat, Haryana-131101, have changed my name to sonia.

I, Soni Devi W/o-Virendra Singh Add-A2/200A, phase-5 Ishwar colony Aya Nagar Delhi-110047, changed my name to Sonalika Panwar.

I, Devender Kumar, S/O Ram Prit, R/O 110-A Jamroodpur Greater Kailash, Delhi-110048, Have Changed My Name To Devendra Kumar For Future.

I, Krishan Kumar, S/o Udey Bhan, R/O H.No.986, First Floor, Behind Bal Bhawan, Sector-4, Urban Estate, Gurugram (Haryana)-122001, have changed my name to Krishan Kumar Narula.

I, Km. Seema Rani, W/O Rishi Pal Singh, R/O House, no-J-3/87, Sangam vihar, New Delhi-110062, have changed my Name to SEEMA Permanently.

I, Kailash Soni, aged 58yrs, S/o Sh. Hari Ram Soni R/O-1/5422, Gali, No.15 Rishi Raj chowk balbir-Nagar Ext., Shahdara, Delhi-110032 have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as kailash chand soni as declared before the Notary public vide affidavit number IN-DL27338274801154W Dated-30/07/2024 kailash soni and kailash Chand Soni both are same and identical person.

I, Prmatman Maurya, S/o- Rajendra Prasad Maurya, R/O Plot.No-48, Room.No-16 Nawada-Road Naharpur Kasan Mansar Gurgaon, have changed my name to Parmatma Nand Maurya.

I, SANJEEV KUTHIALA, S/O RAVINDER LAL KUTHIALA ADDRESS: F/1, D/M FLATS, HARI NAGAR, NEW DELHI 110064, changed my name to SANJEEV KOTHIALA.

I, Vipin S/o Ram Parkash, R/O H.No.-435, Pocket-G-30, Sector-3, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name Vipin Kumar.

I, KAMNA KAPIL MISHRA, W/O ANUP KUMAR MISHRA, R/O- PLOT NO-95, FLAT NO-101, GYAN KHAND-1, INDIRAPURAM, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201014, have changed my name to KAMNA KAPIL.

I, Jitender S/O Satish Kumar R/O, Flat.No-39, 5th-Floor, Triveni-Heights DDA MIG-Flat, Pocket-2, Sector-16B, Dwarka, New Delhi-110078, have changed my name to Jitender Dahiya.

I, Janak R/o Harbans Lal R/O 28/8, Grand Floor, Punjabi Bagh Extension, New Delhi-110026, have changed my name to Janak Gandhi for all purposes.

I, Inderjeet Singh Verma@ I. J. S. Verma, S/O Late, Sh. Naunihal Singh Verma, R/O, H.No.G.M-2/265, Niti Khand 1, Indirapuram, Shipra Sun City, Ghaziabad, UP-201014, have changed my name, form Inderjeet Singh Verma@ I.J.S.Verma to Inderjeet Singh Verma, for all future Purposes.

I, Pooja Papnai, W/o Hemant Bhatt, R/O H.No-302, Sector-11, Vasundhara Ghaziabad, U.P-201012, have changed my name to Pooja Bhatt.

I, Pooja Doda, D/o Manohar Lal Doda, W/o Hemant Kumar, R/O D-46, 4th-Floor, Uppals Southend Sohna Road, South City-II, Gurugram (Haryana)-122018, have changed my name to Pooja Rani.

I, PRIYA KANHAIYA, W/O KANHAIYA, R/O B-14/1, SHAHABAD DAIRY, SHAIBABAD DAULATPUR, DELHI-110042, have changed my minor daughter name, FROM AAYAT MOHAMMED SHAHIR TO AAYAT KANHAIYA.

I, Gori Chopra W/O Deepak Dawar, R/O JG-2/253A, Vikas Puri, West Delhi, Delhi-110018, Have Changed my Name to Gori Dawar.

I, Gurpreet Duggal W/O Puneet Duggal R/O B-226, First Floor, Ramprastha Colony, Ghaziabad (UP), have changed my name to Gurpreet Kaur.

I, Gori Chopra W/O Deepak Dawar, R/O JG-2/253A, Vikas Puri, West Delhi, Delhi-110018, Have Changed my Name to Gori Dawar.

I, Dushyant Kumar Ashokkumar Sharma, S/O Ashok Kumar, R/O-55, Niti Khand-2, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad-201014, have changed my name to Dushyant Kumar.

I, Dushyant Kumar Sharma, S/O Ashok Kumar R/O-55, Niti Khand-2, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad-201014, have changed my name to Dushyant Kumar.

I, DEEPAK S/O VASUDEVA, R/O 17/5, BLOCK-17, GEETA COLONY, Delhi-110031, have changed my name to DEEPAK POPLI Permanently.

I, ARIJUN GURUNG, S/o-Som Bahadur Gurung presents Address and correct address, D-13 Gali no-11, near-vijay deep public school west karawal-nagar North East, Delhi-110094, wrongly Adress in my passport Documents, D-13, Gali, no-10, 28, futra road karwal-nagar D-Block Delhi-110094, Delhi India.

I, ANIL SRIVASTAVA, S/O RAM KUBER SRIVASTAVA, R/O 2B-116, VAISHALI, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201012, have changed my name to ANIL KUMAR SRIVASTAVA.

I, Shabbir S/o Mohd Sajir R/O 711, Jhandapur, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Mohd Shabbir.

I, Suman Bala Bandil W/o Anoop Bandil, R/O Flat no. 1204, Tower 17, Lotus Boulevard, Sector 100, Noida, 201304, U.P. has changed my name from Suman Bala to Suman Bala Bandil for all future purpose

I, Shilpa Deshpande W/o Makarand L Deshpande R/o 53-105, Eldeco Amantran, Sector-119 Noida Uttar Pradesh have changed my name to SHILPA MAKARAND DESHPANDE.

I, Shiveta Sharma D/o Ashok Sharma R/o F-174B, Mangal Bazar, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Shiveta Sharma, for all purposes.

I, Sandeep Kumar, S/O Balvir Chand, R/O B-29/3, SF, Kh No-27/7, Uday Vihar, Nilothi Extn, Nangloi, Delhi-110041, have changed my name to Sandeep Singh.

I, Krishan Kumar, S/o Udey Bhan, R/O H.No.986, First Floor, Behind Bal Bhawan, Sector-4, Urban Estate, Gurugram (Haryana)-122001, have changed my name to Krishan Kumar Narula.

I, Sanjay Singh Bhadana R/O T-4, Ward No-6, Mehrauli, Delhi-110030 have changed my name to Sanjay Bhadana

I, S. Girish S/o Shri A.S. Srinivasan R/O, Flat.No.A-1/7, Plot.No.B-3 COMPESE, Triveni-Apartment, Vasundhara-Enclave, Delhi-110096, have changed my name to Girish Srinivasan.

I, Rishav Singh Bhadana S/o Sanjay Bhadana R/O T-4, Ward No-6, Mehrauli, Delhi-110030 have changed my name to Rishav Bhadana

I, SANJEEV KUTHIALA, S/O RAVINDER LAL KUTHIALA ADDRESS: F/1, D/M FLATS, HARI NAGAR, NEW DELHI 110064, changed my name to SANJEEV KOTHIALA.

LOST & FOUND This is to inform the General Public that I, Anil Bhekar residing at HCL Towers Sector 62 Noida want to inform, that the original Allotment and Possession Letter of 13, HCL Towers, B-9/16, Sector 62, Noida 201301, has been misplaced and not traceable. If anybody found, please return/sent at above address.

I, Surajit Praharaj aged 60 years S/O Late Dr. A. Praharaj, Residence B-3/88 Aravali, Sector-34, Noida lost the property documents such as Allotment letter from the Noida Authority, Possession letter from the Noida authority as well as registration deed from Noida SRO associated with my above-mentioned address while enroute near around Sector-34, Noida. 0040742013-1

I, Lakshmi Narayana Sharma@ L N Sharma S/O Garga Narayan Sarma, R/O Flat. No.4/C Pocket-A-10, Kalkaji Extension-110019, have lost my original Allotment-Letter, DDA Possession-Letter, Sale Deed etc. of property bearing No. Flat No.4/C Pocket-A-10, Kalkaji-Extension-110019. Finder-please contact at. Mob.No.6000769070.

I, PRINCE KUMAR JAIN S/O RAJINDER JAIN R/O H-97, NARAINA VIHAR, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110028 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as PRINCE JAIN in my minor son HARDIK JAIN aged 14 years in his school record and birth certificate. My father's name is 10114757. The actual name of mine is PRINCE KUMAR JAIN, which may be amended accordingly.

Public at large is hereby informed that my clients Sh. Madhukar Sharma S/O Late J.C. Sharma, R/O D2/179, Jeevan Park, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-59, have severed all kinds of relations with his wife Smt. Suman Sharma and his/her sons Prerak Sharma and Leksh Sharma, since they do not have any respect for my client and my client have debarred them from their all kinds of movable and immovable properties. If any persons deals with Suman Sharma, Prerak Sharma and Leksh Sharma he/she/they shall be doing so at his/her/their own risk and costs and my client shall not be responsible for any act or deed committed by them.

Public at large is hereby informed that my clients Babu Lal S/O Shri Suresh Singh Sant, Somwati W/O Babu Lal R/O H. No. 23 Church Lane & 32 (second Floor) at Samman Bazar Bhogal Jangam New Delhi-14 has downs and debar their son Mr. Desh Raj, Tara Chand and grandson Yash, Ishant & Lav, Dishaan of Kaur and their daughter Laxmi W/O Anil Kaur and her son (1) Kirti (2) Madhu (3) Nikhil from their all movable and immovable properties due to their cruel and non-cooperative conduct as such the aforementioned i.e. Desh Raj, Tara Chand and Smt.Laxmi had never come forward to either maintain or provide any kind of assistance to us. My clients also breaks all kind of relation with them, if anyone deals with them deals at their own cost and consequences. My client shall not be responsible, for their any act deed or conduct.

The general public is hereby intimated that my clients Sh. Satish Saini, S/o Sh. Rishal Singh and Smt. Namita, W/o Sh. Satish Saini, both R/O C-38, C Block, Yadan, Samarpur, Libapur, Samajpur, Delhi-110042 have debarred their only son namely Mr. Anandjeet Saini and his wife namely Ms. Pooja Jain, D/o Sh. Mukesh Kumar Jain and from their both movable and immovable properties and has no concern with both of them in future due to their cruel, mischievous and disrespectful behavior and misconduct towards my clients (and my clients) is no further nor liable for their any act whatsoever being done in past or will be done in future.

I, Genrail Singh S/o Amrik Singh, R/O A-130, Chander-Vihar, Nilothi Extn, Nangloi, Delhi-110041, have changed my name to Jarnail Singh.

I, Dushyant Kumar Sharma, S/O Ashok Kumar R/O-55, Niti Khand-2, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad-201014, have changed my name to Dushyant Kumar.

I, DEEPAK S/O VASUDEVA, R/O 17/5, BLOCK-17, GEETA COLONY, Delhi-110031, have changed my name to DEEPAK POPLI Permanently.

I, ARIJUN GURUNG, S/o-Som Bahadur Gurung presents Address and correct address, D-13 Gali no-11, near-vijay deep public school west karawal-nagar North East, Delhi-110094, wrongly Adress in my passport Documents, D-13, Gali, no-10, 28, futra road karwal-nagar D-Block Delhi-110094, Delhi India.

I, ANIL SRIVASTAVA, S/O RAM KUBER SRIVASTAVA, R/O 2B-116, VAISHALI, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201012, have changed my name to ANIL KUMAR SRIVASTAVA.

I, Shabbir S/o Mohd Sajir R/O 711, Jhandapur, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Mohd Shabbir.

I, Suman Bala Bandil W/o Anoop Bandil, R/O Flat no. 1204, Tower 17, Lotus Boulevard, Sector 100, Noida, 201304, U.P. has changed my name from Suman Bala to Suman Bala Bandil for all future purpose

I, Shilpa Deshpande W/o Makarand L Deshpande R/o 53-105, Eldeco Amantran, Sector-119 Noida Uttar Pradesh have changed my name to SHILPA MAKARAND DESHPANDE.

I, Shiveta Sharma D/o Ashok Sharma R/o F-174B, Mangal Bazar, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Shiveta Sharma, for all purposes.

I, Sandeep Kumar, S/O Balvir Chand, R/O B-29/3, SF, Kh No-27/7, Uday Vihar, Nilothi Extn, Nangloi, Delhi-110041, have changed my name to Sandeep Singh.

Public Notice NOTICE is hereby given that Mrs. Ritika Nayyar (hereinafter referred to as the said Mortgagee/Borrower), is purchasing Plot No. 215, addressing 48.00 Sq. Mtrs. Block B, Pocket 14, Sector 8, Indira Park, New Delhi-110087. Aggravator S/o Sh. Shri Krishan Aggarwal, who is it's owner vide Sale Deed dated 30.06.2023 bearing Document No. 7552. The Borrowers will create mortgage in respect of the said property in favour of our clients IDFC First Bank Ltd., 2nd Floor, Express Building, 9-10, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002.

Public Notice NOTICE is hereby given that Mrs. Meera Phandwal w/o Mr. Mahesh Khandwal (hereinafter referred to as the said Mortgagee/Borrower), is the owner in possession of Entire Upper Ground Floor (without roof rights) along with 14th share in still parking built on Plot No. 253, area measuring 200 sq. yds. in Block A, in The Janta C.H.B.S. 1st, now known as Meera Bagh, Pocket 14, Sector 8, Indira Park, New Delhi-110087. (hereinafter referred to as the said property) vide Sale Deed dated 06.07.2023, regd. as Doc. No. 4813, Book No. 1, Vol. No. 4580 on pages 6 to 21 on 05.07.2023. The Borrowers will create mortgage in respect of the said property in favour of our clients IDFC First Bank Ltd., 2nd Floor, Express Building, 9-10, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002. Any person, body, individual, institution having any claim and/or objection in respect of the said property by way of sale, exchange, lease, lien, mortgage, charge, encumbrance, gift, trust, assessment, maintenance, inheritance, testamentary disposition or otherwise or having in their custody any title documents pertaining to the said property shall communicate the same to the undersigned at our address within 07 days from the publication of this notice with documentary evidence in support thereof, failing which all the claim, of such person shall be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned. Any objections raised after the completion of the 07 days shall not be binding upon the said property or my client.

Public Notice Be it known to all that, my clients GURJI SHANKAR RAY S/O Ram Swarni Ray & RAU KUMARI W/O Gauri Swarni Ray R/O Plot No R-3/A/19, Gali No-3, Mohan Garden, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-59 have disowned their sons SATYENDRA SINGH & GANESH K

Padukone unimpressed: 'Maybe, the players are not working hard enough'



WITH ONLY five days left for the closing ceremony of the Paris Olympics, India is staring at the possibility of returning with fewer medals than the seven won at the Tokyo Games. And Prakash Padukone isn't amused.

"Let's be frank," the badminton legend said. He has called for the players to 'introspect' and ask themselves whether they are 'doing enough' to win a medal at the Olympics. Sounding stern, he added that the players 'cannot keep asking for more and more and more' and urged the government and federations to be a 'little firm' with those who don't deliver.

"Maybe, you know, the players are not working hard enough. Maybe, it is not enough to get a medal at the Olympics. So you (players) need to work also," Padukone

said after Lakshya Sen squandered an early advantage to lose his bronze-medal playoff on Monday.

India came to Paris feeling sanguine about their chances of a double-digit medal haul for the first time. But as the Olympics enters its 11th day, they stare at the embarrassment of not even matching the haul from the previous edition.

The 100-plus contingent has so far only won three medals — all of them bronze, and all in shooting. Out of those three, shooter Manu Bhaker has played a role in two, winning a medal each in the 10m air pistol individual and team events.

While shooting delivered medals after back-to-back Olympic flops, sports like badminton, where India has won a medal in each of the last three Games, and boxing, which has fetched medals in three out of the last four editions, have drawn a blank. Other heavily-funded sports, like archery, have continued to disappoint.

Padukone isn't impressed. The 69-year-old speaks from a position of authority. Not just as a legend of Indian sport, but as someone who continues to be closely involved in administration too. He runs a badminton academy, coaches top players, runs a high-performance centre in

Maybe, you know, the players are not working hard enough. Maybe, it is not enough to get a medal at the Olympics... I hope the players also realise... when you ask for certain things, they also need to deliver. If they don't deliver, then I think you need to be a little firm. Maybe the federation or the government can be. Let's be frank."



PRAKASH PADUKONE,
LAKSHYA SEN'S MENTOR

Bengaluru in partnership with Rahul Dravid, and is a co-founder of Olympic Gold Quest, a private body that supports India's top athletes.

In touch with the ground reality, Padukone said it is 'high time' the players start taking responsibility and 'go and deliver when it matters the most'.

"You have a full sports science support team. Each of the players has their own

physios, strength-and- conditioning trainers and nutritionists. How much more can you do? I don't think any other country... including the US and all, will have so much facilities."

The federations, Padukone added, "need to focus more on the next line while you continue to support" (the current stars). "Like what China does. They don't depend only on one. By the time the one top player retires, they already have 4-5 of them in each of the events, focus on them and give them all the encouragement," he said.

Future tense

After the Paris Olympics, India stares at an empty cupboard in women's singles badminton and weightlifting, to name a couple of disciplines.

The responsibility to groom the next generation doesn't fall on the federations alone, Padukone added. "A lot of top players have to show the way to younger gen," he added, citing the example of how Sindhu has 'done a lot' for badminton; similarly others have done for shooting, wrestling and boxing.

But for the current Olympics, he said the athletes "cannot blame the federations or the government" because "they have done whatever they can".

Last month, The Indian Express reported that the government had spent Rs 72 crore under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) during the three-year Olympic cycle from Tokyo in Covid-hit 2021 to Paris. The money was spent on customised training programmes, with the athletes getting almost everything they wanted — from a big entourage to specialised coaches to hi-tech equipment.

When asked if the players were pampered to such an extent that it affected their hunger to win, Padukone replied: "Maybe, to some extent. That (pampering) is also required. I hope the players also realise... when you ask for certain things, they also need to deliver. If they don't deliver, then I think you need to be a little firm. Maybe the federation or the government can be. Let's be frank."

Padukone said he was "not happy" with Sen's surrender to Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia in his bronze-medal match after taking an early lead. ("Eventual gold medallist Viktor) Axelsen might say he is the next best. But that's not good enough," he added. "Of course, he's still young. He must realise it himself and not give it as an excuse. In terms of facilities, nobody can do anything more."

With the Paris Olympics entering its home stretch, some of the big guns are about

to take centre stage. On Tuesday, defending javelin throw gold medallist Neeraj Chopra will make his first appearance at these Games. Later in the day, the hockey team will hope to continue its brave run when they face world champions Germany in the semifinals. After two Olympic heartbreaks, Vinesh Phogat hopes to be third-time lucky when she competes in her preliminary rounds. Her other wrestling teammates and weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, sweating over her fitness, will be in action later in the week.

These stars can still salvage India's campaign but Padukone wants the authorities to start addressing key issues. On top of his list is 'mind training'.

"Across sports, we don't give enough attention to sports psychology, which is very important. Especially at the Olympics. (That is) One of the reasons probably why Manu Bhaker has done well despite not being a favourite."

Ultimately, however, he held the athlete responsible. "Even the federation, the academies, can only do so much. We can provide everything we can. It's not that we are expecting (too much)... they have beaten the same players in some other tournaments. (Only) when it comes to the Olympics, we are not able to..."

Men's badminton still medalless

Sen's loss in bronze medal match means this is first Olympics in 12 years without a medal for Indian shuttlers

SHIVANI NAIK
AUGUST 5

WINNING A badminton Olympic medal requires reaching the 21st point of the final set played in a bronze playoff. To put it in the most blasé fashion, Lakshya Sen fell 10 points short of that in his 21-13, 16-21, 11-21 loss to Lee Zii Jia, and took 72 minutes, the longest amongst Paris shuttlers, to lose a medal.

Sen played more matches than anyone else in Paris, and was on court the longest this last week, but will sign off from Paris with an enhanced stature, but a 4th place finish, amounting to nothing in the all-important medals column.

It will hurt, for this is also India's first Olympics in 12 years without a badminton medal. But Prakash Padukone and Vimal Kumar, will have a few things to say in a debrief, bluntly, before Sen moves on from this. You could be the brightest prodigy from your country, have scalped the biggest names at the Games early, played an extraordinary valiant match against the eventual gold medallist and impressed the whole world, but Sen needed to beat Zii Jia for a bronze, and he floundered.

Indian men's badminton remains medal-less, and Sen's absolute effort in a gutting result showed just how tough it is to nail down, and why the biggest names from Pulela Gopichand to Kidambi Srikanth, and now Sen, haven't managed to do it. Sen's falling apart on two consecutive days, increases appreciation for PV Sindhu and Saina Nehwal, who got the job done in similarly difficult fields.

Sen started tremendously on Monday, before the blues struck. But he's been finishing poorly all through the qualification period, and his game, however spectacular it looks, remains incomplete.

He was error-free in the opening set, hammering those cross courts, and finding the back lines, till the famously fragile Malaysian began finding his own radar on the back lifts. Sen had a Plan B on the day. He charged the net imperiously with his explosive stride and led from start to finish going from 14-9 to 21-13.

So far, so good. The Malaysian who carries hopes of an entire nation, a badminton obsessed nation, in men's singles, where they have three silvers, is not merely ordinary. He was 1-4 against Sen going into this playoff, but he boasts of an extraordinary attack in his steep smashing game, dependable control on the backhand at the net, and endless points to prove to those he's bickered back



Lakshya Sen led 21-15, 8-3 before bowing out in three games against Malaysia's Lee Zee Jia on Monday. PTI

Sen started tremendously on Monday, before the blues struck. But he's been finishing poorly all through the qualification period, and his game, however spectacular it looks, remains incomplete

home with. A former All England champion, he knew to pounce on Sen at the first hint of the Indian lapsing.

Sen led the second 8-3. He was finding ridiculous angles on the cross, furious on the net kills, when Zii Jia started ping-pong him with body smashes at 8-6.

Sen's errors suddenly started piling up,

and a large part of it was down to the lifts.

His inadvertent and deliberate lifts just didn't go high and deep enough, and were easiest put-downs for Zii Jia on his forehand at the midcourt. Sen criminally flicked and whatever little circumspection the Malaysian had on his radar was cured in a jiffy.

From 8-3 up, Sen went into a shell, ceding 8 straight points. In a clump, Zii Jia leveled at 12-12 and raced away to take the set 21-16.

Sen took a bunch of medical timeouts to tend to an elbow bleed. But all the bandaging was only tampering his own focus, as his poise came undone in the decider. Sen's defense can seem outrageously good, but like Axelsen, Zii Jia has a big attack that

can rumble deep, kicking out the doors.

The Malaysian took the lead at 7-2 in the decider. But the next rally showed how badly he wanted this medal.

He slipped and stumbled and was on all fours on all axis, barely hanging in three different ways. But he stuck it out there to win a humongous rally.

Next, Sen showed indecision (and tiredness) on the backline twice, letting the shuttle fall in. It was the start of the decline. His usually reliable net tumble cost him points as Zii Jia grew in confidence, and his weak lifts did him no good.

It was passivity all over again just like against Axelsen as he watched the match and the bronze slip by.

It wasn't even the crunch. He was a good 10 points adrift.

An Se Young, Axelsen win singles golds

REUTERS
PARIS, AUGUST 5

SOUTH KOREA'S **An Se-young** beat He Bingjiao of China 21-13 21-16 to capture the badminton women's singles Olympic gold medal, while Denmark's Viktor Axelsen defeated Kunlavut Vitidsam of Thailand, 11-21 11-21, to successfully defend the men's title.



Upon winning, Axelsen wrapped a Danish flag around himself and did a victory lap before giving his badminton racket to a child in the crowd.

"To win here in front of I don't know how many thousands of Danish supporters as well," said Axelsen, who spoke with the King of Denmark, Frederik X, after winning his country's first gold medal in Paris. "To do it once is crazy, to do it twice is — I don't know what to say, I'm still a little bit in shock."

Axelsen becomes only the second men's singles shuttler to win consecutive gold medals after China's Lin Dan, widely thought to be the best badminton player of all time as a twice Olympic gold medallist and a five-times World champion.

"Lin Dan is the G.O.A.T. for me... I'm just very, very happy and proud to be on the same level in Olympic terms but in my eyes he stands as the best ever," Axelsen said.

Ranked eighth in the world, Vitidsam's silver was Thailand's first badminton Olympic medal in history, and first medal in Paris across all sports. Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia bagged the bronze after defeating India's Lakshya Sen, 13-21 21-16 21-11, at the Port de La Chapelle Arena in Paris on Monday.

Indonesia's Gregoria Tunjung took the women's singles bronze by default as her would-be opponent, Spain's Carolina Marin, was forced to retire midway through her women's singles semi-final against China's He on Sunday with what appeared to be a serious knee injury. "We met in the medical centre after the matches," Tunjung said, adding that Marin congratulated her. "Carolina said her condition was very bad. I hope she can continue playing badminton."

An was already the women's singles world's number one and world champion. Her presence on court has been compared to that of China's Lin Dan.

On Monday, An had large bandages strapped around her right leg, which she injured at the 2023 Asian Games. She had to withdraw during the 2024 India Open in January after causing further damage.

WHAT TO WATCH

INDIA VIEWFINDER: NEERAJ BEGINS TITLE DEFENCE

ATHLETICS
WOMEN'S 400M, MEN'S JAVELIN: 2.50 PM ONWARDS

KIRAN PAHAL, NEERAJ CHOPRA, KISHORE JENA

After their Asian Games 1-2 finish, Neeraj Chopra and Kishore Jena will be hoping to reach the final in Paris together.

WRESTLING
WOMEN'S FREESTYLE 50KG: 2.30 PM ONWARDS

VINESH PHOGAT

Vinesh Phogat has endured a couple of heart-breaking Olympic campaigns in the past, but managed to qualify for Paris by going down to the 50kg. But she faces a massive test against the defending champ right off the bat.

HOCKEY
MEN'S SEMIFINAL: 10.30 PM

INDIA VS GERMANY

In a rematch of the bronze medal contest that India won in Tokyo, they take on world champions Germany in what promises to be another tough contest.

TABLE TENNIS
MEN'S TEAM ROUND OF 16: 1.30 PM

SHARATH KAMAL, HARMEET, MANAV

Manika Batra and Co began their campaign with a 3-2 win against Romania to reach the QF. But the men's team face a huge ask to follow suit as they begin their campaign against the mighty Chinese.



VINESH PHOGAT

WOMEN'S FREESTYLE 58 KG

WORLD VIEWFINDER: US TEAMS LOOKING TO MAKE MORE HISTORY

TRACK AND FIELD
WOMEN'S 200M FINAL: 1.10 AM (WEDNESDAY)

GABRIELLE THOMAS

It will be 100m champion Julien Alfred and America's Gabrielle Thomas for the gold after favourite Sherricka Jackson withdrew with injury.

DIVING
WOMEN'S 10M PLATFORM FINAL: 6.30 PM

QUAN HONGCHAN

The dominant defending champion, 17-year-old Quan Hongchan of China, dominated proceedings in the semifinals and looks to be a favourite for gold, even if she does not reproduce her world record feats.

BOXING
WOMEN'S 69KG FINAL: 2.36 AM (WEDNESDAY)

KELLIE HARRINGTON

The first gold medal in boxing is on offer, as reigning Olympic champion Kellie Harrington take on China's Yang Wenlu in the final.

FOOTBALL
WOMEN'S EVENT SEMIFINAL: 9.30 PM

USA VS GERMANY

A new look United States women's team, under former Chelsea manager Emma Hayes, are two wins away from a record-extending fifth Olympic gold medal, but a strong Germany presently stand in their way.

SKATEBOARDING
WOMEN'S PARK FINAL: 9 PM

YOSUZUMI SAKURA

Japan's Yosozumi Sakura attempts to defend her Tokyo title up against the Next Gen, with teenagers Sky Brown, Kusaki Hinano, Arisa Trew and Hiraki Cocona taking centre stage.

BASKETBALL
MEN'S EVENT SEMIFINALS: 1 AM (WEDNESDAY)

USA VS BRAZIL

Lebron James, Steph Curry, Anthony Edwards and co. are a few wins away from living up to their 'Dream Team' reputation, but Brazil, sporting a few NBA stars of their own, will be hoping to cause a major upset.

Sable starts fast, slows down in end to qualify for steeplechase final

MIHIR VASAVDA
PARIS, AUGUST 6

LIKE HE does before most competitions, Avinash Sable called his younger brother Yogesh the night before his big race. Only this time, he ended with an assurance: Of running Monday's race on his own terms. "I didn't want to make mistakes I have made in the past," Sable says.

The steeplechaser, who has historically fallen in the trap laid by others, did not want the rest of the field to dictate how he ran in the heats of the 3,000m run.

When the time came, he lived up to his promise. Sable punched the air as he looked behind to see if he was in the clear. Once sure he couldn't be overtaken, he glided towards the finish in fifth place – enough to make him the first Indian to qualify for the final of the men's race.

Sable crossed the line in 8 minutes, 15.43 seconds – a lot slower than the national record he recently set at the Paris Diamond 8:09.91. But he considerably reduced down his pace in the final lap, allowing others to overtake him once he knew there was

enough gap between him and the sixth-place runner. Only the top five from each of the three heats qualified for Wednesday's medal round.

Far away from the glitz and the lights of Paris, at his home in Mandwa, Sable's family gathered around a small screen. His parents don't understand the nuances of the sport, nor do they care about the Olympics. "They have no knowledge about the race, my competitors or what I do," Sable laughs. "But they watch me run."

This time, they have planned to make the final a big event at their village by installing a giant screen and inviting the whole village to watch their son's who put the nondescript place on the world map.

There's another incentive. "The home that we have been building is now constructed," Sable's brother Yogesh says. "Now, we hope to gather everyone from the village here and once Avinash is back, he will open the doors for the first time."

Constructed on one of the highest points of the terrain on which Mandwa is located, the mansion, far cry from a tiny tin-shed where Sable was born and grew up, offers an unobstructed, breathtaking view of the vil-



India's Avinash Sable leads the pack in the early laps of the second qualifying race for the men's 3000m Steeplechase at the Stade de France. PTI

lage: lush green slopes in the front where deer prance around and cattle graze, acres of family's farmland to the left and right along with a water bund to ensure year-round supply.

"He has been so focussed on preparing for these Olympics that he didn't even get to concentrate on his dream project. Since the Asian Games, he has stayed away from the family, and all other distractions so that he could make amends," Yogesh says.

No time for emotions

When he emerged from the tunnel on Monday, Sable says that for a fleeting few seconds, he got overwhelmed. "For someone from a rural area to be here, it felt special," Sable says.

But this was no time for emotions. Sable says he came into the race with one objective: not to repeat the mistake he committed at the World Championships last year and the Tokyo Olympics. "There, I had a lot of energy at the start but I thought I'll conserve it and began slowly. In doing so, I got involved in a scramble at the finish line," he says. "Today, I wanted to avoid that."

In a heats that comprised world number 3 Abraham Kibiwot of Kenya and world number 4 Samuel Firewu of Ethiopia, Sable set

himself a target of running the race at a speed that would help him finish in the range of 8 minutes 15 seconds. "I wanted to run at my pace. The strategy was to not be slow in the first kilometre. That way, I could have avoided the fight to be in the top 5. Get clear of the field so that at the finish line, there wouldn't be a fight for the fifth place," he adds.

Sable, Kibiwot and Firewu separated from the rest of the pack in the opening lap itself. "I looked at the others, and told them 'aage aa jao. Show me what you have planned'," Sable says with a smile. "They kept the pace that I found comfortable."

At the 2km mark, he turned to see a bunch was getting close to him. So, instead of getting boxed in – an old habit that has cost him dear – he made a move from the outside and stepped on the peddle.

Only after the last water jump, he began to relax. "After that, I got confident that I'll be in the top 5. I was happy I could execute my strategy, I made it quite easily," he says. "Today, I took it a little easy in the last lap because I was saving myself for the final. There, I'll use every ounce of my energy to run faster. I don't think a podium finish is tough, mentally I am prepared to give it all."



Algeria's Imane Khelif is guaranteed a bronze medal. Reuters

Khelif failed chromosome test, says IBA

REUTERS
PARIS, AUGUST 5

THE ALGERIAN and Taiwanese boxers embroiled in a dispute over gender in sport at the Paris Games were disqualified from the 2023 World Championships after a sex chromosome test ruled both of them ineligible, the International Boxing Association said on Monday. A storm erupted over the participation of Algeria's Imane Khelif and Taiwan's Lin Yu-ting at the Olympics after Khelif's Italian opponent pulled out of their bout less than a minute into the fight after taking a barrage of punches.

The boxing competition at Paris 2024 is taking place under International Olympic Committee rules after the IOC stripped the IBA of its status as the sport's global governing body over governance and finance concerns.

IBA chief executive Chris Roberts said he could not disclose the results of the gender eligibility tests but that the pair's disqualification from the 2023 women's World Championships meant the public could "read between the lines".

"The results of the chromosome tests demonstrated both boxers were ineligible," Roberts told a chaotic press conference that was late starting, suffered sound problems and was dominated by the IBA's Russian president's lengthy rants.

He said the results of the tests had been sent to the IOC in June last year and that it had done "nothing with it".

The dispute has revived debate over the balance between fairness and safety, particularly in women's sports, where differences of sexual development can result in a competitive advantage that might prove dangerous. The IOC says the IBA is a discredited organisation, mired in financial opaqueness and compromised by ties to the Russian leadership. "The content and the organisation of the IBA press conference tells you everything that you need to know about this organisation and its credibility," an IOC spokesperson said.

It has said that Khelif and Lin were "victims of a sudden and arbitrary decision by the IBA" to test them and that they were disqualified in 2023 without due process.

"We have two boxers who were born as women, raised as women, who have passports as women and who have competed for many years as women and this is a clear definition of a woman," IOC President Thomas Bach said on Saturday.

The IBA maintains it acted to protect women boxers. Relations between the IOC and IBA soured following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, with the IBA run by Russian Umar Kremlev and with Russian state energy firm Gazprom being its main sponsor, though Kremlev said last year that the sponsorship had ended.

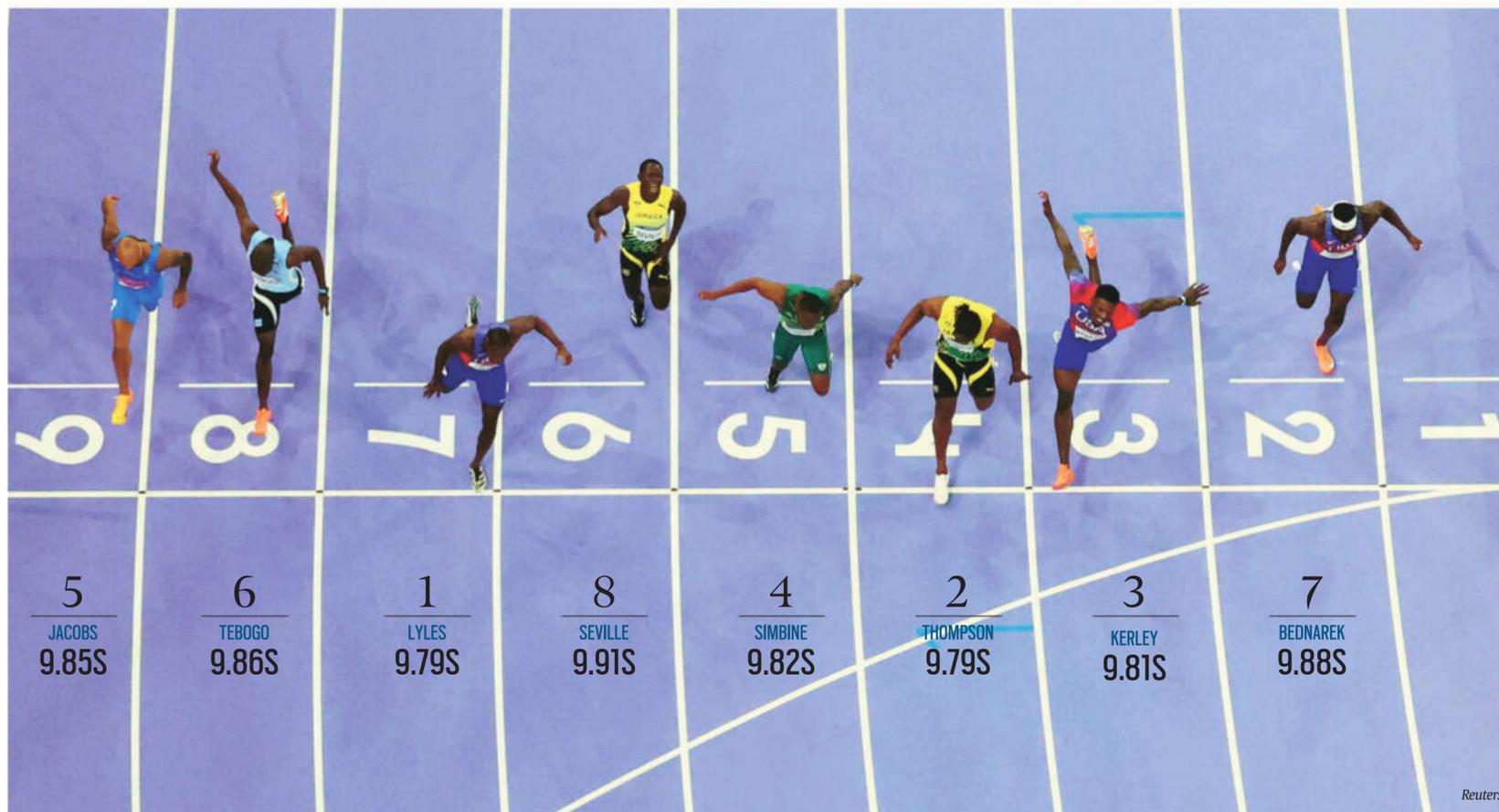
Bach has said the IBA's complaints are part of a broader campaign aimed at undermining the Paris Olympics, which Russia has been excluded from due to the war in Ukraine. In a long and rambling presentation, Kremlev meandered from personal attacks against Bach to railing against the Paris Olympics' opening ceremony and defending his own fight against corruption.

"Today we are witnessing the death of female boxing, the corruption of judges. All of this happens when Mr Bach (is) president," Kremlev told the IBA press conference by video link. Kremlev also said tests had shown both boxers had high levels of testosterone, without providing further details. The IBA's doctor Ioannis Filippatos said testosterone had not been tested for.

WINNER BY 0.005 SECONDS

Fastest man, finest margin

USA's Noah Lyles beats Jamaica's Kishane Thomson by five-thousandths of a second in a photo finish to claim 100m gold



HOW LYLES WENT FROM 8TH TO 1ST

Race phase	20m	40m	60m	80m	90m	100m
Lyles' place	8	8	3	3	2	1
Time	2.98s	4.76	6.44	8.09	8.93	9.79 (9.784)
Kishane's place	3	1	1	1	1	2
Time	2.93s	4.72	6.41	8.07	8.92	9.79 (9.789)

43.60kph The speed Noah Lyles touched at 65.15 metres, his fastest during the 100m final. He maintained that speed till the end of the race. Kishane's top speed was 43.3 kph.

9.91s Jamaica's Oblique Seville finished last, his time of 9.91 seconds good enough for fourth place three years ago at the Tokyo Olympics.

9.79s Though it came down to a photo finish, Lyles's winning time was the same as Ben Johnson's at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

9.85s 5th-place Marcell Jacobs' time. He would have been 2nd if he was in the final when Bolt set the then Olympic record of 9.69s at Beijing.

SHIVANI NAIK
PARIS, AUGUST 5

Noah's arc at the finishing line, his form leaning and tipping over the chalk line, has flooded the internet with myriad insights about something that essentially got over in 9.79 seconds. The 100m men's final at the Paris Olympics, and its resolutely attention-hogging champion, Noah Lyles, will be spoken of for years to come, as the literal first amongst almost-equals set alight the Stade de France for a week of sublime Track & Field.

The sport had been grumbling about what was to become of it, post Usain Bolt. The Jamaican legend made the 100 sprint a supernatural spectacle, as he found time in the middle of his 9.very few microsecond runs to grin at cameras, and mock his opponents by being utterly non-pareil.

Bolt was a tough act to follow, so Noah Lyles, an American who fears nothing and is reverential to no other sports being, decided to become a sensation by barely winning. The nonstop chatterbox, trailed the 8-man race for all save 0.004 seconds, the eventual margin of his photo finish victory over Kishane Thomson, a brooding Jamaican who also clicked 9.79. It was the absolute antithesis of Bolt's dominant strides, as Lyles won despite his silver medalist fitting in the same vertical frame as him. Except Lyles was technical enough to lean his torso forward while Thomson whose boot might have grazed the white chalk earlier, but the rules dictated that the body arc needed to cross the imaginary ribbon.

That figure of 9.79 is sorely defiled since Seoul 1988 when Ben Johnson ran in, all juiced up, as was later revealed. Lyles came along at a time when technology sits out 40,000 images per second that determined the dip of the gold wearing torso.



Noah Lyles (R) and Kishane Thomson wait for the official confirmation. Reuters

KEY RESULTS

MEN'S HAMMER THROW FINAL			WOMEN'S HIGH JUMP FINAL		
Rank	Name	Distance	Rank	Name	Height
1	Ethan Katsberg	84.12	1	Yaroslava Mahuchikh	2.00 (O)
2	Bence Halasz	79.97	2	Nicola Olyslagers	2.00 (XXO)
3	Mykhaylo Kokhan	79.39	3	Iryna Gerashchenko	1.95

The race itself was outrageous, not because it threw up an Olympic record. But because all 8 finished under 9.91 seconds, including 5th placed JL Marcell, who pulled his hamstring but still packed that in inside 9.85 seconds. At 50 metres, Lyles was literally joint last at 5.61 seconds. He had been uniquely last at 40 metres, on 4.76 seconds. Between the 50 metres and 60 metres, Lyles went from 7th place to 3rd. Thomson had led

"I did not think I won. I even went up to Kishane while we were waiting and said 'I think you got that one.' But then my name popped up and I thought 'oh my gosh, I'm amazing'."

NOAH LYLES 100M CHAMP

the fastest race, it was the tightest yet.

Lyles didn't stop at the finish line. At the press conference thereafter, he told his compatriot Kerley he would crumble him at halfway, on the turn of the 200m in upcoming days. Kerley wasn't the first American who Lyles had trash-talked to while being entirely serious about it.

Lyles had won the last World Championships at Budapest, and trolled American sporting royalty. In his inimitable fashion, he wondered why the NBA legends wore Championships rings and called themselves "World champions", when it was frankly a domestic league. His cackling and taunting extended to baseball and American football, all self-sufficient multi million dollar franchise leagues, while the hardworking Noah, actually busted his lungs to win a world title, but didn't get noticed. It wasn't a pleading rant, he laughed uproariously at NBA's audacity to call their ball game a world winning thing. Only an American could have seen the bleeding absurdity of it, and joked and jabbered on it, with global media watching.

Usain Bolt will be a T&F GOAT. But only a Noah Lyles could clock 9.79 alongside another fellow, and still pip him to gold, after declaring America's most popular sporting icons were 'meh'. At Paris Noah Lyles didn't walk the talk. He sprinted it in 9.79 by a chuckling 0.005 margin.

Katzberg adds Oly gold to kitty

Paris: Canada's Ethan Katzberg won gold in the men's hammer throw at the Paris Olympics on Sunday, cementing his dominance of the discipline after becoming the youngest ever world champion last year.

Katzberg, 22, who cuts a distinctive figure with his moustache and long curly hair, asserted himself with a first throw of 84.12 metres, and none of his rivals could respond.

"I don't think I expected it, but I had the preparation in mind to get a good round on the first throw, and to throw 84 metres felt really good," Katzberg said.

Hungary's Bence Halasz won silver with 79.97 and Ukraine's Mykhaylo Kokhan won bronze with 79.39.

The three hammer throwers jokingly took turns to put questions to each other in the press conference after their win, as journalists in the Stade de France thronged the men's 100-metre medallists instead.

A podium of Katzberg, Halasz, who was celebrating his 27th birthday on Sunday, and 23-year-old Kokhan, represented a changing of the guard as defending Olympic champion, Poland's Wojciech Nowicki, 35, finished seventh and his teammate, Tokyo bronze medallist Pawel Fajdek, was fifth, taking a bow after his final throw. **REUTERS**

OLYMPIC BRIEFS

GYMNASTICS

D'Amato makes the most of 'stroke of luck'

With big names Simone Biles and Sunisa Lee up against her in Monday's balance beam final at the Paris Olympics, Alice D'Amato did not expect to walk away with gold. The 21-year-old moved securely and confidently through her routine, sticking her dismount and clapping with a smile to celebrate her strong performance. On any other day, her clean exercise might not have been enough for the win but falls from Biles, Lee and other competitors paved the way for D'Amato's victory. "Beating Simone and Sunisa was only possible because both of them fell off the beam," D'Amato said, adding that she had benefited from this "stroke of luck". "But this is how a beam final works. The one who can best withstand the pressure, use it to her advantage & perform the best exercises will win. Today, this person was me." D'Amato, who also won silver in the team event, has a twin sister, Asia, who is also a gymnast on the Italian team but had to sit out with a knee injury. **REUTERS**

TENNIS

Zhang to take a break after 6-medal haul

China's Zhang Yufei has said she would like to take a break from swimming and experience other things in life after ending her Paris Games with six medals to become her country's most decorated Olympic swimmer. The 26-year-old claimed a bronze in the 50 metres freestyle and 4x100 metres medley relay on Sunday to take her career tally to 10 over the Tokyo and Paris Olympics after coming home empty-handed from her debut in Rio. "This is my third Olympics," Zhang told reporters. "I've spent 12 years fully concentrated on swimming and never tried anything else. After this Olympics I'd like to experience other aspects in life." Zhang won three other bronze medals in 100 and 200 butterfly and the 4x100 freestyle relay. She also won silver in the mixed 4x100 medley relay. Not adding to the gold medals she won in the 200 butterfly and 4x200 freestyle relay in Tokyo might have been a disappointment for some of her fans back home but not for Zhang. **REUTERS**

ATHLETICS

Tsimanouskaya rebuilds from scratch

Three years after she defected from her native Belarus at the Tokyo Games, sprinter Krystsina Tsimanouskaya says she rebuilt her life from scratch to compete in the Paris Olympics but wished her parents could have been there to see her run. She has not seen her parents since she refused to board a flight back home when she was removed from the Tokyo Games against her will by her team after she publicly complained about national coaches, in a saga that rocked the Olympics. Fearing for her safety if she returned to Belarus, she defected to Poland and was eligible to represent the country from August 2023. "I can't go to my country, to my home and because of this I feel not happy," she said on Monday, after finishing second in her 200 metres repechage heat. "These three years were very hard for me especially mentally." The sight of athletes hugging their families has been a welcome return to normal around Paris, after the COVID-quieted Tokyo Games saw competitors play to empty stands. **REUTERS**



WINNING THE FLOOR TEST

Simone Biles and her United States teammate Jordan Chiles bow in sync to Rebeca Andrade, the newly crowned floor exercise queen. *Reuters*

- Rebeca Andrade finally got her moment of glory, clinching the last gymnastics gold medal at the Paris Games on Monday to carve out a place in history.
- Earlier in the competition, Biles had paid Andrade the ultimate compliment by declaring her the only gymnast to "stress her out" by coming close to her sky-high scores on the various events.
- Andrade did more than stress out Biles on Monday, beating her by a razor-thin 0.033 of a point to capture the title. She had placed second behind Biles in the all-around and vault events.
- Andrade already made history in Tokyo three years ago by becoming the first female Brazilian artistic gymnast to win an Olympic medal when she finished behind Sunisa Lee in the all-around.
- Despite the less than ideal finale, the Paris Games still marks a triumphant comeback for the 27-year-old Biles, who led the U.S. to the team title and won the all-around and vault gold medals.

Away from war, Ukraine wins battle

Yaroslava Mahuchikh and Co paint a picture of resilience inside the Parisian Coliseum, winning three medals including a gold



EXPRESS AT OLYMPICS

MIHIR VASAVDA
PARIS, AUGUST 5

YAROSLAVA MAHUCHIKH'S trademark yellow-and-blue eyeliner, the colours of the Ukrainian flag she has draped herself in, sparkle under the bright lights of the Stade de France. The high jump gold medalist, who broke a 37-year-old world record last month, hugs compatriot Iryna Gerashchenko, the bronze winner.

At the other end of the field, Mykhaylo Kohkan, part of Ukraine's National Guard (its military force), watches his compatriots run a lap of honour. The hammer-thrower hopes he too can join them, his event isn't over yet. "(I) had prayed to God. 'Can I please stay in the medals?'," he would say later. "I thought it would be very nice if I get the medal also, and we could celebrate together on this magical Olympic evening."

Kohkan's effort of 79.39 metres gets him the bronze. Gerashchenko -- who, like Kohkan, had finished fourth at the Tokyo Olympics -- grins. "We did it! We are happy today!"

Inside this Parisian coliseum, the trio is painting a picture of resilience. It's Ukraine's finest hour at the Paris Olympics, winning three medals including a gold. On X, the war-



Yaroslava Mahuchikh of Ukraine celebrates her high jump gold with compatriot Iryna Gerashchenko, who finished third in the event. *Reuters*

ravaged country's president Volodymyr Zelenskyy showers praise on the trio: "We are very proud! Thank you for this result... Ukrainians know how to be strong and how to win."

At the stadium, the Ukrainians exit the ground to let the 100m sprinters take centre stage and walk into a dull, cramped room where reporters from close to two dozen countries surround them. Kohkan has an easy smile and oozes natural charm. But a crease appears on his forehead when asked if he'll

have to join the battlefield now that the Olympics are over. "I don't know," he mutters.

Next to him, Gerashchenko breaks down, fearing for her friends and family. "I have many friends who are fighting now, and who died. It is very hard. They are very strong... This medal is for them. I can be here because they are at the frontline," she says.

In a quavering voice, Mahuchikh calls the moment "incredible", given the circumstances. "In my country, the Russians killed people and almost 500 sportsmen died in this

war... they will never compete and celebrate and feel this atmosphere."

On the "biggest night" of her life, Mahuchikh's mind constantly goes back to the well-being of her family in Dnipro, her hometown. Home to military hospitals and rocket factories, Ukraine's industrial hub has been a regular target since the beginning of Russia's invasion in February 2022.

"Unfortunately, even at an Olympic Games, the war goes on," Mahuchikh says. "We've had a lot of alarms and explosions in my region. It's really tough for us, but we're fighting on every field. We do our best."

To put it mildly, doing their best hasn't been easy.

Among the countries that were once a part of the Soviet bloc, Ukraine has been the best performer at the Olympics after Russia. When they left their homes, paused their lives and started afresh at new bases in new countries, these athletes wondered if Ukraine's sporting fortunes would dip.

It hasn't, at least given the situation. As of Monday afternoon, Ukraine, represented here by 142 athletes, has six medals, including two gold -- the second won in fencing. Every medal and every medallist, though, has a story to tell. Since the war began, hundreds of sports facilities across Ukraine have been destroyed. In Mariupol, the port city that's now occupied by Russia, an aquatic centre was bombed, forcing diver Stanislav Oliferchuk to alter his training plans.

In 2023, Valentyn Vozniuk, a track and field coach who nurtured past and future generations including hurdler Anna Rhyzykova -- the London Olympics bronze medallist --

was among 46 people killed by a missile that hit an apartment building in Dnipro.

Mahuchikh woke up one February morning in 2022 to a loud bang which signalled that her hometown had become a target of Russian aggression. The explosion was caught on camera and "created panic". The jumper tried to ignore the warning sirens and the blasts around her, but she decided to flee her home. Initially, she moved to a nearby village to live with her coach, where they would "rush to a basement when the sirens would go off". Eventually, on March 6, 2022, Mahuchikh had to leave her country. A three-day, 2,000 km road trip took her to Belgrade where she continues to live.

Her teammate Gerashchenko escaped from Kyiv with her "husband and dog", leaving everything else behind, including her spikes. "Our families (are) in Ukraine, we have friends who are fighting for our country. I cannot forget about this," Mahuchikh says.

Kohkan tries to explain why he is playing sports while his friends and colleagues in the Army are fighting a war. It's a question he's been wrestling with internally, the hammer thrower admits. He found motivation to fight through sport, which, he says, is also for a "national cause".

"I am more useful here than there," he says. "I started my career as an athlete so I know how to do it. I can do this (practice) because I am preparing for the Olympics, to lift our flag and remind people that we still have war (going on) and we have to do something."

It's why Mahuchikh also wears the yellow-and-blue eyeliner. For her, it isn't a style statement. It's a simple act of defiance.

Batra leads historic march to last 8 Against Germany, India to miss Rohidas

ANIL DIAS
AUGUST 5

MANIKA BATRA has a knack of showing up when India needs her the most. On Monday, against Romania in the women's table tennis team event at the Olympics, she showed why she's been the flagbearer of the sport for all these years.

After stunning World No. 10 Bernadette Szocs in straight games, Manika was up against the very dangerous youngster Adina Diaconu in the decider. It was the first time they were facing each other and though the Romanian was the underdog, she played with a nothing-to-lose attitude. Manika who often found herself trailing, kept her calm, defended, and then launched attack after attack of her own. Adina was beaten, Romania was conquered, with Manika once again on the frontline, absorbing all the fire. Playing a higher-ranked Romania was always going to be a tough battle for India but the team of Manika, Sreeja Akula and Archana Kamath prevailed, reaching the quarterfinal against the winner USA vs Germany. The team event starts with the doubles match and then has four singles. Each player can play in only two matches. Though Sreeja is

higher ranked than Manika, the latter is more experienced and therefore coach Massimo Constantini's choice to play the two singles.

Sreeja and Archana, who combined to win the doubles title at the WTT Contender in Lagos, took off from where they left, beating the experienced pair of Adina and 35-year-old Elizabeta Samara in straight games to put India ahead in the match. It's imperative that India do well in their doubles matches further into the tournament and it's something that coach Constantini has been focusing on since he took over only two months ago.

"It's the first match of the tie. Table tennis is all about momentum. If we win that match, we need to win only two of the four singles. Manika and Sreeja can beat anyone on their day," Constantini had told *The Indian Express*.

Manika vs Bernadette was always going to be a blockbuster. Good friends off the table, but the fiercest rivals when facing each other. Bernadette was the higher-ranked player and even led their head-to-head 5-4. That didn't matter in the form Manika was in as she won in three games.

Suddenly, India was just one victory away

from advancing to the quarterfinal and Sreeja was up against the experienced Samara. After going 2-1 up it seemed India were going to wrap it up in straight games but Samara banked on her experience to fight back. But Sreeja, who lost to World No. 1 Sun Yingsha in the women's singles Round of 16 despite having nine game points in the first two games, couldn't close it out.

Romania could smell a comeback as Bernadette then took on Archana. Though the Indian, ranked 121st in the world, managed to pull one game back, she was no match for Bernadette who won 3-1 to send the tie into the decider.

It was then a Manika show. The only time Adina was ahead was in the second game when she led 8-5. But Manika stuck to her basics. She defended with the pimpled rubber on her backhand before launching into forehand attacks of her own. It was more of the same in the third as Manika and India took the match.

Somehow, the Indian women beating a World No. 4 team is no longer called an upset. That's credit to the level Manika and Sreeja have reached in the past couple of years. At the Olympics though, tougher tests await them.

VINAYAKK MOHANARANGAN
AUGUST 5

THE INDIAN men's hockey team's defeat in the penultimate game of their group against Belgium was, perhaps, the first sign. If not for a streaky goal conceded, or if not for a stunning save by the man at the post in the dying minutes off a Harmanpreet drag flick, India could have drawn. The performance, divorced from the result, was encouraging after a not-so-impressive start in the first three matches.

India's head coach Craig Fulton has consistently spoken about how process matters more than the results. "I think philosophy-wise I'd like to defend to win. I'd like to have our defensive structures in place because that's the first step of attacking. If we try to play a counter-attacking style it doesn't help if you can't defend, so you would never win the ball back to counter attack."

Defend to win, indeed. That is what India had to do for a large part of the quarterfinal against Great Britain as they pulled off a stunning backs-to-the-wall performance after playing with 10 men for 42 minutes in regulation time after Amit Rohidas

was shown the red card.

The signs were also there for a while now. Despite losing 0-5 against Australia recently, they were hardly ever outplayed in four out of the five matches. The deep defence was regularly good in dealing with waves of attacking pressure from the likes of the Kookaburras as well as Belgium and Netherlands in the Pro League.

The question now, however, is how will India approach Germany in the semifinal? "We've got two ways of playing. We always have the high presses in the DNA of the Indian men's team, but the half-court and playing a little deeper is something we need to get really confident with," the coach had said last year.

Some of India's attacking hockey against Australia in the famous win a few days ago was breathtaking. But with Rohidas suspended for the semifinal and India having only 15 players on the matchday squad (instead of the regular 16), Fulton might have to dip back into that well of pragmatism. Of course, India can't afford to be as defensive as they were against GB, but Germany will be more enterprising in their attacking game than the Brits were. There will be more diagonal passing, there will be a few

decisive aeriels, and there will be a lot of pace.

Rohidas' absence also means India will be without one of the best first-rushers in the world when it comes to defending penalty corners. Indian defenders will have to be extra careful in conceding too many PCs, something which was a concern against Ireland, for instance. Manpreet Singh is also a world-class rusher, but India would be better off in not tempting fate.

Once again, though, these are the situations that Fulton had prepared his side for. Manpreet frequently played defence during the Pro League, while Fulton also has on occasion said how he wants his side to get used to playing with a man short, be prepared for all eventualities.

Having led India to the Asian Games gold shortly after taking over, Fulton achieved his first goal of overseeing a dominant Asian Games performance. Coming into Paris, he wasn't hyping India's chances, but even the usually stoic South African couldn't hide his emotions on the sidelines. India are ever so close to return to the podium, and they'd hope Fulton's rooted philosophies can come to their aid once more.