



Vinesh Phogat after defeating Japan's Yui Susaki at Champ-de-Mars Arena in Paris on Tuesday. PTT

NAME SPELLS COURAGE: JANTAR MANTAR TO PARIS PODIUM

Vinesh Phogat

Defeats unbeaten Yui Susaki of Japan on way to historic final today



MIHIR VASAVDA
PARIS, AUGUST 6

VINESH PHOGAT started the day by slaying a giant and ended it by breaking a barrier. By making it to Wednesday's final in the 50-kg category, assured of at least a silver, she rose to a height that no Indian woman wrestler has ever reached.

After overcoming the defending champion, the so-far unbeatable Japan's Yui Susaki, in the first round, Phogat outclassed Cuba's



Vinesh Phogat being dragged away by Delhi Police which detained her at Jantar Mantar on May 28, 2023. She became the face of the protests by wrestlers against the then WFI chief and former BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who they accused of sexual harassment. ANI file

Yusneylis Guzman Lopez 5-0 in the semifinal to be a win away from an Olympic gold. From the middle of the first round, when she got a point due to her opponent's passivity, Phogat was the more dominant wrestler in the bout, and settled the matter with two separate takedowns in the second period.

It was, however, Phogat's win over Susaki, one of the biggest upsets of these Games, that made the entire Olympic universe stand up and acknowledge her. An outcome that has shaken the wrestling world.

There isn't a direct parallel that captures Susaki's perceived invincibility on the wrestling mat. The closest, perhaps, would

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Rollback after criticism: Indexation benefit on sale of property before Budget brought back

New 12.5 per cent tax on LTCG will apply to all property sales after July 23

AANCHAL MAGAZINE & SUKALP SHARMA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

FOLLOWING OUTRAGE and concerns from certain quarters over the Budget proposal to remove indexation benefits on long-term capital gains (LTCG), the government Tuesday decided to offer taxpayers a choice to pay 20 per cent LTCG tax with indexation benefit on sale of property acquired before July 23, 2024.

The other option introduced in the Budget to pay the tax on LTCG at a reduced rate of 12.5 per cent without indexation will also be available to taxpayers, as per the list of amendments moved by the government in the Finance Bill. Taxpayers can pay the lower tax amount of the two options.

These amendments are being seen as a major rollback of the LTCG-related announcements pertaining to the real estate sector in the Budget. While the government had defended the new LTCG tax regime saying

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Sweeping terms in draft broadcast Bill raise red flags on free speech

APURVA VISHWANATH & SOUMYARENDRA BARIK
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

EXPANDING ITS remit from OTT content and digital news to include social media accounts and online video creators; defining a "digital news broadcaster" in sweeping terms; requiring prior registration with government to prescribing standards for content evaluation, the latest draft of the Broadcasting Services

E Widening the ambit

THE LATEST draft seeks to include individual creators of content on social media including those outside India, covering all kinds of speech. It also seeks to validate the Code of Ethics prescribed under the IT Rules, 2021, which has been stayed by two High Courts.

UNDER UK RULE, SHE CAN'T SEEK ASYLUM FROM OVERSEAS

Question mark over her London plans, Delhi ready to host Hasina

Ousted Bangla PM wants refuge because she fears persecution if sent back home

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

OUSTED BANGLADESH Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who landed in India Monday evening after fleeing Dhaka, is expected to remain here for "a while" because her plans to travel to the UK face a "technical roadblock,"

The Indian Express has learnt. New Delhi is drawing up plans to host her in the country for "as long as it takes", sources said.

Hasina was planning to travel to London as her sister Sheikh Rehana's daughter Tulip Siddiq is a member of the British Parliament. Tulip is economic secretary to the Treasury and Labour MP for Hampstead and Highgate.

The "technical" challenge emanates from the UK's Immigration rules which have

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A FIGHTING CHANCE
BY PRATAP BHANU MEHTA
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Official vehicles seen entering the Hindon air base near Delhi where ousted Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina landed on Monday after fleeing her country. PTT

REPORTS, P.9,22

India advised restraint, dialogue: Jaishankar on Bangladesh protests

LIZ MATHEW & DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

SAYING THAT there was growing tension and polarisation in Bangladesh politics since the January elections, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar told Parliament on Tuesday that India "repeatedly counselled restraint" and dialogue, but "various decisions and actions taken thereafter only exacerbated the situation".

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Dhaka dissolves House, frees Khaleda, Yunus appointed head of interim govt

ANISUR RAHMAN
DHAKA, AUGUST 6

BANGLADESH PRESIDENT Mohammed Shahabuddin dissolved Parliament on Tuesday, paving the way for fresh elections, and an interim government was taking shape, a day after Sheikh Hasina abruptly resigned as Prime Minister and fled the country following weeks of violent anti-government protests.

As the Army took charge on Monday and the death toll in the violence in which temples were also attacked rose to 440, the President appointed Nobel laureate Mohammad Yunus, 84, as the head of the interim government. The decision was taken at a meeting of Shahabuddin with chiefs of the three services and a 13-member delegation of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement at Bangabhaban, President's Press Secretary Md. Joynal Abedin said.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chief and ex-premier Khaleda Zia was freed from house arrest, according to

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EC TEAM ARRIVES TOMORROW

On J&K street: Talk of elections with some fingers crossed

BASHAARAT MASOOD, NAVEEDI IQBAL & ARUN SHARMA
SRINAGAR, JAMMU, AUGUST 6

THE SUPREME Court has directed the government to conduct Assembly elections in Jammu & Kashmir by September and expedite the process of restoring statehood. J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has said there should be no doubt elections will be held. And indeed, the Election Commission of India commences its three-day visit to the Union Territory on August 8 to review the preparations for elections.

But amid talks about imminent polls and an elected government, there are some fingers

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TOMORROW
Laying down hard line

5 YEARS SINCE AUG 5
AN EXPRESS SERIES PART-3
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OMAR ABDULLAH
VICE PRESIDENT, NATIONAL CONFERENCE

THE WORLD
AFTER DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION, HARRIS PICKS TIM WALZ AS RUNNING MATE
HEZBOLLAH SENDS ATTACK DRONES, ISRAEL WARJETS FLY OVER BEIRUT PAGE 22

AM/NS INDIA
ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India
REIMAGINEERING INFRASTRUCTURE
#RE/MAGINEERING BHARAT
SMARTER STEELS BRIGHTER FUTURES



Govt. of Haryana



Mhara Haryana

Non-Stop Haryana

We salute our Agniveers with assured jobs in Government sector

Exemption from written exam in Group-C recruitments

10% reservation for Agniveers in Constable, Mining Guard, Prison Warder, Forest Guard posts with age relaxation

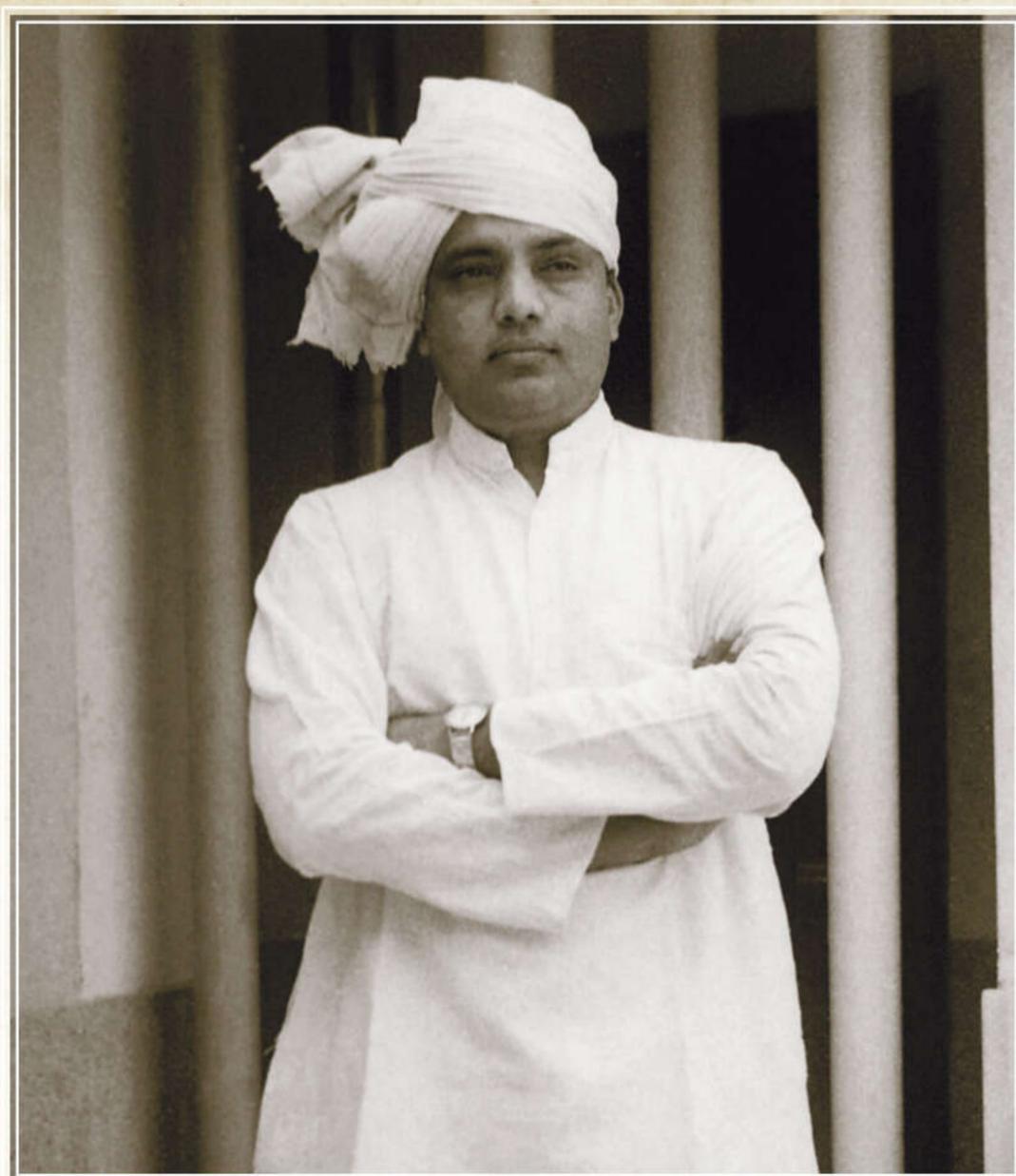
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Remembering Bauji Today... and Every Day...



FROM PAGE ONE FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Delhi prepares to host ousted Bangla PM Hasina

no provision for someone to be allowed to travel to the UK to seek asylum or temporary refuge.

It is not possible to apply for asylum from outside the UK.

Once in the UK, a person can seek asylum. But since she doesn't have a valid visa — she doesn't have a diplomatic or an official passport anymore — Hasina needs a visa to enter the UK, and then seek asylum. But since she is out of the UK, she cannot travel to seek asylum.

And once an asylum request is made, each asylum claim is carefully considered on its individual merits on a case-by-case basis.

Hasina wants to seek asylum or temporary refuge as she wants protection from political persecution. She fears that she will be called in as part of investigations against her by the rivals in the new government in Dhaka.

For the time being, her best bet is that she stays in India where she is "safe".

This has been the crux of the

conversations between Hasina, Delhi and London over the last 24 hours.

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, along with top officials in the establishment, had met her at the Hindon Air Force station near Delhi. She is learnt to be staying at a "safe house". Doval has briefed Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has been in touch with relevant officials as well.

The British position was amply clear when British Foreign Secretary David Lammy came out with his statement on Monday. "The last two weeks in Bangladesh have seen unprecedented levels of violence and tragic loss of life. A transitional period has been announced by the Chief of the Army Staff. All sides now need to work together to end the violence, restore calm, deescalate the situation and prevent any further loss of life."

"The people of Bangladesh deserve a full and independent UN-

led investigation into the events of the past few weeks. The UK wants to see action taken to ensure Bangladesh a peaceful and democratic future. The UK and Bangladesh have deep people-to-people links and shared Commonwealth values," he had said Monday.

There was no mention of the UK considering or granting asylum to Hasina.

She has been in touch with the British government, and London is learnt to have conveyed the message that those who need international protection should claim asylum in the first safe country they reach — that is the "fastest" route to safety.

In Delhi, while there is no stated asylum policy, there is no ambiguity on how to treat Hasina — despite her current unpopularity in Dhaka. She is seen as someone who helped India to quieten the borders between the two countries as she cracked down against anti-India terror groups.

Countering terrorism and religious extremism was her article of faith, and India found a reliable and strategic partner in her.

Sources made it clear that there was no question of "abandoning" her at this time of crisis.

Officials point out the history of Sheikh Hasina's family. Her father Sheikh Mujib, and seven members including her mother and brothers as young as 10-year-old Russell, had been assassinated in 1975, and Hasina escaped since she was in Germany at that time, with her sister Sheikh Rehana.

She came to India and lived here in Delhi's Pandara Road, where the Indian government gave her shelter — with former President Pranab Mukherjee and his family taking care of her.

At a time when she had to pack her bags and leave in a hurry on Monday — with just some essentials — Delhi is clear that they will offer her refuge. "This is her second home," a source said.

The fast-paced developments have put South Block in a tight spot, but New Delhi has decided to give her time and space to make up her mind — how long she wants to stay here and her destination.

Plans are being drawn up to house her at an appropriate place, if she chooses to stay, so that she has the highest level of security and there is no threat.

While there are "safe houses" that the intelligence establishment keeps, a call is yet to be taken whether she will be accommodated in a "safe house" for the time being or a place in the Capital's high security areas in full public glare.

All these are part of ongoing discussions between the top brass in the government — from the Ministries of External Affairs, Home Affairs, Defence and intelligence services. Sources however cautioned that all these discussions are "fluid" as the situation is "highly dynamic".

On J&K street: Talk of polls with some fingers crossed

crossed in Jammu and Kashmir as well. *The Indian Express* spoke with a cross-section of stakeholders, from mainstream politicians to the administration to the police and the armed forces and the Hurriyat, and could sense skepticism among political parties and apprehensions within a section of the security establishment.

One big reason behind this change in mood among parties is the Centre's decision to disempower the elected Assembly by vesting complete authority of law and order on the Lieutenant Governor and letting him take the final call on all key decisions, including appointments.

"It is impossible to say anything for sure on an issue that is surrounded with so much suspense and uncertainty," former Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President Mehbooba Mufti told *The Indian Express*. Her colleague in the party and former minister Naeem Akhtar summed it up. "The public representatives, at best, would be the interlocutors between the people and the LG. They can only take the petition from the people and hand it over to the LG."

J & K has been without an elected Assembly since June 2018 when BJP walked out of a coalition government with the PDP in the state. The constitutional changes

that revoked J&K's special status, split it into two, and downgraded the state to a Union Territory on August 5, 2019, had always fuelled apprehensions that the Centre doesn't want to let go its hold on J&K.

While former Chief Minister and National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah says it would be difficult for the Centre to justify postponement of an election mandated by the Supreme Court (full interview on Page 15), it is clear he won't contest this time and also not become the CM if his party came to power. "I am not going to sit outside the waiting room of the Lieutenant Governor and ask him, Sir, I want to change the DG, please sign the file," he said. Mehbooba Mufti too has said she plans to stay away from electoral politics for a while.

While the BJP has been blaming dynastic politics — by the Abdullahs and the Muftis — to be the root cause of the Kashmir problem, the party leadership's efforts to prop up an alternative in the form of new political parties and leaders has come a cropper. For instance, the new political parties formed after August 5, 2019 — Altaf Bukhari's Apni Party and Chulam Nabi Azad's Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) which are seen as the proxies of the BJP — couldn't secure a lead

even in one Assembly segment in the Lok Sabha election.

Seen as a key stakeholder in the border state, the Army, is wary and points out that no new crop of young leaders — as expected by the Central leadership — has emerged over the last five years. Hopes that new leaders would emerge from District Development Councils (DDC) polls held in J&K for the first time in 2020 have been belied. "The old political set up (National Conference and the PDP) persists. Leaders, whom the Centre is banking on like Altaf Bukhari, have no mass following," said an official in the security establishment, pointing out that terror incidents have sharply dropped only because of a hard clamp-down.

While the L-G is trying his best to move the needle on governance, people's connection with bureaucracy is limited.

With the BJP's proxies failing, the Centre is now experimenting with a new idea — to push the banned Jamaat-e-Islami into the electoral fray. The Centre hopes that Jamaat's entry and a possible alliance with non-PDP and non-NC political forces would dent the prospects of the two mainstream political parties. An official in the security establishment said, "This is like playing with fire." He said Engineer Rashid's win has

spooked many. "Imagine what will happen if Jamaat, Altaf Bukhari, etc come together..." he said. The sources said the Army wanted the current set-up to remain in place for sometime since "the security agencies have a free hand to deal with anti-national elements". In an interview to *The Indian Express*, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said the J&K police and the administration would continue with their action against the Jamaat and its leaders. "It is difficult to say, given their past activity..." he said, when asked if the ban on Jamaat would be revoked.

For the separatists, who have been completely isolated by the Centre, these elections don't mean much. "As long as they (New Delhi) control everything, this election doesn't mean much," Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq told *The Indian Express*. "Fine, whosoever wants to govern let them govern. We will welcome good governance but our focus is not on people but on resolution... People feel alienated, angry and sadly that anger is turning into hate. We can wait for Pakistan, but you need to first talk to people, listen to them, engage with them," he said.

Be that as it is in the Valley, the BJP has started campaigning aggressively across the Jammu division. "We will definitely form a government on our own. We expect to get between 35-38 assem-

bled seats in Jammu division and get a double figure in Kashmir Valley," said Sunil Sethi, a senior advocate and BJP's chief spokesperson in J&K.

The party has chalked out a massive public outreach programme as it prepares its election manifesto. "The teams of our senior leaders will be visiting different districts to interact with a cross section of the society and ascertain their views on varied issues confronting them and the UT, and bring them in the party's manifesto as per their aspirations," he said.

Of the 286 sammelan (meetings) planned by BJP's different wings across Jammu division, the party workers have already held 235 during the last one month, said former minister Bali Bhagat. "We are working aggressively at the grassroots level. After finishing these sammelan in Jammu division, we will move towards Kashmir," he said.

Riding high on populist measures, coupled with Pakistan's attempts to revive terrorism in the otherwise peaceful Jammu division where over 50 soldiers have been killed in different terror attacks since 2021, the party hopes to get majority during the polls and form the government on its own. "We have no plans to have a pre-poll alliance so far," said a senior BJP leader when asked about the prospects of BJP having ties with J&K Apni Party.

Vinesh defeats unbeaten Yui Susaki on way to final

be Rocky Marciano's otherworldly run of 49 unbeaten boxing bouts. The Japanese legend's record, however, puts a shadow on Marciano's: she had been undefeated in 95 international matches in her entire career as a wrestler that began as a junior in 2010.

Until Tuesday, Susaki is blessed with agility, speed, strength and flexibility. But she didn't possess what Phogat had: stubbornness and rage. That heady, intangible combination — along with a shrewd game plan executed to the T — propelled Phogat to an improbable win. Minutes later, she beat Ukraine's Oksana Livach 7-5 in the quarter-finals.

The Japanese media, cocksure of another gold medal sweep in women's wrestling, lined up to talk to Phogat. She had her blinkers on and did not even glance at those around her as she walked from the mat to the athlete's lounge. "It's the biggest news in Japan today," said one reporter.

Susaki, stunned by the reversal, exited the Champ-de-Mars Arena, at the foot of the Eiffel Tower, in tears. "This Olympics wasn't just about me. Many people came here to watch me, my family, people from my company, my friends," she said. "I can only apologise to them. I can't believe that it has all ended here."

This wasn't how many expected the script to play out. When the draw came out on Monday, the instinctive reaction for most in Phogat's corner was that of dread.

There has been no one like Susaki in international wrestling. She is the first wrestler to have won a complete set of world titles — right from the under-17 category to under-20, under-23, senior and the Olympics, which she won three years ago in Tokyo without conceding a point. The 25-year-old has four world titles, winning her first at 18 years in 2017, and was crowned champion again in 2018, 2022 and 2023.

When Susaki was pocketing titles for fun, building her appetite for the big one — the Paris Olympics gold — Phogat was on the streets of New Delhi, leading the protests against former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, accused of sexual harassment by some of the country's elite wrestlers.

Phogat spent most of 2023 away from wrestling arenas. She, along with Olympic medalists Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia,

was at the forefront of the protest against Singh, then a BJP MP.

The protest first began with a sit-in at Jantar Mantar last January, which was later called off following assurances from the Centre. In April, the wrestlers resumed their protest, and continued for about two months.

The protest took an ugly turn on May 28 last year, the day the new Parliament building was to be inaugurated. Delhi Police asked the wrestlers to evacuate the protest site, but they didn't comply. Phogat and Malik were dragged on the streets and carried to the police van. Days later, the wrestlers travelled to Haridwar and threatened to immerse their medals in the Ganga. However, they later changed their minds, following last-minute interventions by family and friends.

After Singh's reign at WFI ended, his loyalists won the elections. Phogat again went public, saying Singh would have control by proxy, and announced her decision to return her Khel Ratna and Arjuna awards. Meanwhile, after being named in the Delhi Police FIR, the court framed charges against Singh, and the case is on.

For months, the idea of returning to the sport seemed improbable to Phogat, who was preoccupied with bigger issues — fighting for the safety of women wrestlers and her honour, and taking on the establishment that, she felt, had been "targeting" her.

Her first comeback bid, last year, was derailed by an injury that forced a knee surgery. In her second attempt, the wrestler had to make a big decision: changing her weight category from 53 kg to 50. It meant that Phogat, whose normal body weight is 55-56 kg, had to shed weight to remain eligible to fight in her new category and fight against faster, lighter opponents.

All this while Susaki kept adding titles to her name, annihilating opponents, making them writhe in pain with upper-body strength that belies her, and outfoxing them with her lightning-fast deceptions.

In Paris, Susaki was seeded number 1, and Phogat was unseeded. In theory, it meant that the Japanese was to get an easier opponent in the opening round and the Indian, the toughest.

In this backdrop, Phogat woke up on a hot Parisian morning with the montages of the last year-and-a-half playing in her mind and the luck of the draw completely eluding her, pitting the wrestler, who

has only endured heartbreaks at the Olympics, against one of the greatest of all times.

Then again, those who know Phogat will vouch that she is at the most dangerous when, in her mind, the universe conspires against her. This, however, wasn't a performance driven just by rage and a sense of injustice.

With Hungarian coach Woller Akos, equally abused and insulted after the Tokyo Games, in her corner, Phogat had a plan: to keep the scores as close as possible until the last few seconds and then launch a blistering counterattack. It's easier said, though. In Tokyo, Susaki scored 41 points in four bouts to romp through the entire field and finish on top of the podium. Against Phogat, she could get just two — and none from her own attack.

The Indian only defended for roughly 5 minutes and 50 seconds; rotating in circles, maintaining a distance from Susaki so she couldn't easily attack her ankles to initiate a takedown, cleverly evading her leg grabs and blocking her dominant right hand while keeping a constant vigil on the left, a surprise weapon she uses in tight situations.

Although Phogat herself did not attack, she never let Susaki get a grip on the bout as well. It cost her two points, one each for being too defensive. But in the bigger picture, her high-risk tactic was paying high rewards.

With only 10 seconds remaining, Phogat did the first dramatic thing of the bout — she mustered all her strength, the advantage of competing in a higher weight category earlier, and just charged towards Susaki. It looked like a pre-planned move and there was no attempt to hold her leg and pin her on the mat. Surprised by the speed of Phogat's attack and the force with which she came at her, Susaki lost her balance and fell on the mat resulting in two points being awarded to the Indian.

By the time the wrestlers got back on their feet, the time had run out. The score was 2-2, but since Phogat had a high-point takedown (2), she was the winner.

What followed was delirium — an arena stunned, the Japanese delegation looking in disbelief, Susaki sat on her knees unable to soak it in, while Phogat sprinted in the direction of her coach. Midway, she jumped in elation, slapped the mat and lay down on her back, exhaling deeply.

It was the only time she showed any emotion.

Terms in draft broadcast Bill

(Regulation) Bill, 2024, raises questions on the freedom of speech and expression and the government's powers to regulate it.

The Bill, which seeks to replace the 1995 Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, deals with television broadcasting. In November last year, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had invited comments on a new draft Bill that consolidates the legal framework for the broadcasting sector and extends it to OTT content and digital news and current affairs as well. However, it is learnt that the Ministry has revised the draft Bill, significantly altering its focus.

The latest draft seeks to define "digital news broadcasters" to include "publisher of news and current affairs content" means any person who broadcasts news and current affairs programmes through an online paper, news portal, website, social media intermediary, or other similar medium as part of a systematic business, professional or commercial activity but excluding replica e-papers.

In the earlier version, it specifically excluded publishers of newspapers and replica papers of such newspapers, which means that it now covers digital content published by a newspaper that is not in the newspaper. This definition could include users on YouTube, Instagram, even X, who generate advertising revenue through paid subscriptions or monetise their social media accounts through affiliate activities. The earlier draft stated that television broadcasting networks will have to register with the Central government, while OTT platforms must provide an intimation after meeting a certain threshold of subscribers.

The Bill also seeks to validate the "Code of Ethics" prescribed under the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 which has been stayed by the Bombay High Court and the Madras High Court. "The various 'do's' and 'don'ts' of the Programme Code may be relevant for a programme

carried in the cable service but per se cannot bind writers/editor/publishers of content on the internet to express views which may be against good taste or even may not be decent. If a writer/editor/publisher has to adhere to or observe the Programme Code in toto, he would necessarily be precluded from criticizing an individual in respect of his public life," the Bombay HC had said in August 2021.

"The indeterminate and wide terms of the Rules bring about a chilling effect qua the right of freedom of speech and expression of writers/editors/publishers because they can be hauled up for anything if such committee so wishes. The 2021 Rules are, thus, manifestly unreasonable and go beyond the IT Act, its aims and provisions," the HC ruling by Justices Dipankar Datta (now in SC) and GS Kulvankar said.

The draft Bill also seeks to regulate broadcast of news and current affairs programmes (excluding print news). Such programmes will have to comply with the prescribed programme code and advertisement code.

A senior government official said one key reason behind the significant expansion of scope in the current draft Bill compared to the version which was released for public consultation in November 2023 has been the "role a number of independent content creators played in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha polls".

"There were a number of instances where creators made videos on current affairs which made some sensational claims about the government and its senior leaders in the run up to the elections. That's when it was decided that there has to be an accountability measure for these creators as well, to create a level-playing field between mainstream press and independent creators," the official said. On June 4, the day the election results were announced, the Ministry sent a notice to stakeholders regarding a meeting on the draft Bill. Since then, industry executives said at least six meetings have taken place with the Ministry.

India advised restraint, dialogue: Jaishankar on protests

Reading out a statement in both Houses a day after Sheikh Hasina resigned as Bangladesh Prime Minister and fled to India, Jaishankar said she sought approval to come to India "for the moment" at "very short notice". He also expressed concern over the security of minorities, and said India was monitoring the situation and was "in regular touch with the authorities in Dhaka".

Briefing an all-party meeting earlier in the day, Jaishankar said India was maintaining a wait-and-watch strategy while keeping its security forces on alert.

"Since the election in January 2024, there has been considerable tensions, deep divides and growing polarisation in Bangladesh politics. This underlying foundation aggravated a student agitation that started in June this year. There was growing violence, including attacks on public buildings and infrastructure, as well as traffic and rail obstruction. The violence continued through the month of July," Jaishankar said in Parliament.

"Throughout this period, we repeatedly counselled restraint and urged that the situation be defused through dialogue. Similar urgings were made to various political forces with whom we were in touch. Despite a Supreme Court judgment on July 21, there was no let-up in the public agitation. Various decisions and actions taken thereafter only exacerbated the situation," he said, adding that the agitation "coalesced around a one-point agenda, that is that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina should step down."

"On August 5, demonstrators converged in Dhaka despite the curfew. Our understanding is that after a meeting with leaders of the security establishment, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina apparently made the decision to resign. At very short notice, she requested approval to come for the moment to India. We simultaneously received a request for flight clearance from Bangladesh authorities. She arrived yesterday evening in Delhi," he said. "Properties of individuals associated with the regime were torched across the country. What was particularly worrying was that minorities, their businesses and temples also came under attack at multiple locations. The full extent of this is still not clear," he said.

"There are reports of initiatives by various groups and organisations to ensure their (minorities') protection and well-being. We welcome that, but will naturally remain deeply concerned till law and order is visibly restored. Our border guarding forces have also been instructed to be exceptionally alert in view of this complex situation," he said.

Jaishankar said there were 19,000 Indians in Bangladesh, of which 9,000 were students, and the government was in "close, continuous touch" with the Indian community through its diplomatic missions.

"The bulk of the students have already returned to India in the month of July on the advice of the High Commission. In terms of our diplomatic presence, in addition to the High Commission in Dhaka, we have Assistant High Commissions in Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna and Sylhet. It is our expectation that the host government will provide the required security protection for these establishments. We look forward to their normal functioning once the situation stabilises," he said.

"In the last 24 hours, we have also been in regular touch with the authorities in Dhaka. This is the situation as of now. I seek the understanding and support of the House in regard to sensitive issues regarding an important neighbour on which there has always been strong national consensus," he said.

Jaishankar said in a post on X.

Jaishankar briefed the parties on the possible impact on India. When Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi asked about the possible role of external forces, Jaishankar said the government only has "information about a Pakistan diplomat's changed DP that shows his support to the uprising", sources said.

Asked about Hasina's plans, Jaishankar is learnt to have said that India had spoken to her about her future course of action, but the details could not be disclosed at the moment.

Sources said Gandhi also asked about the possible role of any "foreign forces, particularly China" in Bangladesh and the safety of minorities there. Jaishankar responded that the minorities were under attack, and the Indian government would take appropriate steps to ensure their safety.

Jaishankar told the meeting that the Centre has alerted its security forces and was in touch with the Bangladesh Army too. "Work is underway to ensure the safety and security of our country," he was quoted as saying by a leader who attended the meeting.

Responding to Gandhi's question on the government's short-term strategy, Jaishankar said India was prepared to take all necessary steps if the situation deteriorates, said sources.

Khaleda freed

the Presidential spokesman. The 79-year-old former Prime Minister has long battled various ailments, including issues related to the kidney, lung and heart.

In a video posted on social media early Tuesday, Nahid Islam, one of the key coordinators of the student movement, proposed Yunus as the head of the interim government. He said they have already talked with Yunus, who has agreed to take the responsibility to save Bangladesh.

"No government other than the one proposed by the students will be accepted. As we have said, no military government, or one backed by the military, or a government of fascists, will be accepted," said Nahid, flanked by two other coordinators.

Yunus is currently out of the country but welcomed the ouster of Hasina's regime, describing the development as the "second liberation" of the country. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for his anti-poverty campaign through the Grameen Bank, a mode which was replicated across continents.

"If the students can sacrifice so much, if the people of the country can sacrifice so much, then I also have some responsibility. Then I told the students that I can take the responsibility," Yunus said ahead of his appointment.

Yunus had been locked in a protracted row with the Hasina government due to obscure reasons while authorities initiated a series of investigations against him after she came to power in 2008. He was charged under dozens of cases. In January, Yunus was sentenced to six months in jail by a court on charges of labour law violation. A number of Hindu temples, households and businesses were vandalised, women assaulted and at least two Hindu leaders affiliated with the Awami League party that is headed by Hasina were killed in the violence in Bangladesh after she fled the country, according to two community leaders in Dhaka.

Indexation benefit back

that the removal of indexation was more than made up for by the lower tax rate of 12.5 per cent in a vast majority of transactions, the proposals had led to a backlash with calls for relief coming from various sections, including real estate investors and property owners.

The amendment, however, makes it clear that for purchases of property after the cut-off date of July 23, 2024, only the new regime with LTCG tax at the rate of 12.5 per cent without indexation will be applicable.

Indexation is the process of adjusting the original purchase price of an asset or investment; it allows a taxpayer to neutralise the impact of inflation while paying tax on capital gains. It involves revising upwards the cost of acquisition of an asset based on the inflation over the period for which it was held. Without indexation, particularly in cases where the asset was held for an extended period, the gains may appear extremely high, but they may not paint a realistic picture.

With these amendments, effectively all properties purchased before the Budget presentation date — July 23 — have been grandfathered. In the original proposal, there was no grandfathering for properties bought after April 1, 2001. For properties purchased before that date, the fair market value as on April 1, 2001 was to be taken as the cost of acquisition. Put simply, grandfathering is a provision that allows an old rule or law to be applicable to some or all situations up to a certain date, while the new rule or law is applicable to all situations after that date.

It may be noted that the amendments provide for a choice between the old and the new LTCG tax regimes only for properties acquired before July 23. "In the case of transfer of a long-term capital asset, being land or building or both, by an individual or HUF (Hindu Undivided Family), which is acquired before the 23rd day of July, 2024, the taxpayer can compute his taxes under the new scheme (at the rate of 12.5 per cent without indexation) and old scheme (at the rate of 20 per cent with indexation) and pay such tax which is lower of the two," a source said, explaining the key amendment.

Notably, the amendments have brought back the indexation benefit for immovable property only and not other unlisted assets like gold. For unlisted securities or shares, the capital gains would be taxed at 10 per cent for transfers before July 23 and 12.5 per cent on or after July 23.

The biggest fear under the Budget proposal on LTCG taxations was that the changes would result in a jump in LTCG tax liability for those looking to sell property. Sensing the anxiety, the Finance Ministry and the Income Tax Department issued multiple clarifications in a bid to assure taxpayers. According to the government, the new LTCG tax regime, even without the benefit of indexation, would be beneficial in a vast majority of cases, as nominal real estate returns are generally in the region of 12-16 per cent per annum, much higher than inflation.

Only where returns are low — less than about 9-11 per cent per annum — the earlier tax rate would be beneficial, the IT Department had said, adding that such low returns in real estate are "unrealistic and rare". The government had also clarified that rollover benefits had not been touched, which means that if capital gains are invested in Section 54EC bonds or used for buying or constructing residential real estate up to specified limits, LTCG would continue to be exempt from tax. Notwithstanding the government's claims that the new simplified LTCG tax regime shall be beneficial in a majority of cases, concerns persisted. The other major criticism was the absence of grandfathering for purchases made over the past 24 years. There was a clamour for all properties purchased before the Budget presentation date to be grandfathered, and the government has now given into that demand with the amendments to the Finance Bill.

There have also been concerns that the new regime without indexation benefit may result in higher frequency of secondary market real estate sales as people would not want to hold on to assets beyond 3-5 years. Another concern that has been flagged by some industry watchers and even Opposition MPs is that the new regime may incentivise use of more cash in property transactions, as sellers will be tempted to deflate the actual transaction value on paper to pay less tax.

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मेरठ विकास प्राधिकरण की योजनाओं के अन्तर्गत गैर आवासीय श्रेणी में विभिन्न उपयोग की सम्पत्तियों को e-Auction से प्राप्त करने के सम्बन्ध में दिनांक 29-07-2024 से 05-08-2024 तक की अवधि का प्रोग्राम समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित किया गया था तथा प्राधिकरण की वेबसाइट www.mdameerut.in पर अपलोड किया गया था।

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| Event id for e-Auction dt-12/08/2024 | Event id for e-Auction dt-13/08/2024 |
|--|---|
| 29666, 29668, 29669, 29670, 29671, 29676, 29677, 29678, 29679, 29680, 29681, 29682, 29683, 29684, 29685, | 29654, 29656, 29657, 29658, 29659, 29660, 29661, 29662, 29663, 29664, 29665, 29672, 29673, 29674, 29675 |

उपरोक्त दिनांक को सम्पन्न होने वाली e-Auction में 20 मिनट की समयवृद्धि असीमित रहेगी। दिनांक 29-07-2024 से 13-08-2024 तक का प्रोग्राम प्राधिकरण की वेबसाइट www.mdameerut.in के e-auction लिंक पर उपलब्ध है।

सचिव Advt No. 21/MDA/2024-25 उपाध्यक्ष



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Tarun Verma
PLM Planning Manager
America, Shell

9th August 2024
PHD House, New Delhi

Topics of Discussions

1 Agile Logistics: Flexibility and Adaptability for Cost-Effective Operations in Dynamic Markets

2 Towards a Greener Future: Navigating Sustainability and ESG in Logistics Industry

3 Shaping the Future: Adapting Supply Chains in Geopolitical Uncertainty

4 Building Trust in Supply Chain: The Role of Standardization and Certification

5 Simplifying Regulatory Processes for Ease of Doing Operation in Logistics

6 Charting New Paths: Navigating Logistics Innovation through Dedicated Freight Corridors

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6 THE CITY

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| ANAND VIHAR Moderate 115 AQI PM 10 | BAWANA Satisfactory 69 AQI PM 10 | R K PURAM Good 50 AQI PM 10 | ROHINI Satisfactory 75 AQI PM 10 |
|---|---|--|---|

0-50 Good 51-100 Satisfactory 101-200 Moderate 201-300 Poor 301-400 Very Poor 401-500 Severe

SKY WATCH
August 7
Generally cloudy sky. Light to moderate rain/thundershowers
MAX: 32 2.2°C below normal MIN: 27 0.1°C below normal

BRIEFLY

Discom issues I-Day advisory: Don't use kite strings coated with metal

New Delhi: Ahead of Independence Day celebrations, the BSES Yamuna Power Limited issued an advisory warning people not to use metal-coated manjha (threads) for flying kites. "Kite flying can quickly turn dangerous, even fatal, with the use of metal-coated manjha, a potent conductor of electricity. This dangerous material not only poses a serious threat to kite flyers but also risks widespread power disruptions," the advisory said.

AC system now working at Noida's ESIC hospital

Noida: The air-conditioning at ESIC hospital in Noida's Sector 24 was restored Tuesday, five days after surgeries were hit due to a non-functional centralised AC system in operation theatres. "The situation has returned to normalcy," said the hospital's Deputy Medical Superintendent, Dr Sona Bedi. Over the past few days, doctors had to refer patients for operative procedures to other ESIC hospitals in Delhi's Okhla and Rohini, Gurgaon's Basai and Sahibabad in Ghaziabad. "Today, 12 operations were conducted at the hospital. Those who had been sent home have been called back for treatment," said Bedi.

MCD notice for 'illegal' use of dairy plots

New Delhi: The MCD has given a three-day notice to occupants of dairy plots that are illegal or unauthorised use in Bhalswa Dairy colony Tuesday. "A survey of Bhalswa Dairy colony was undertaken by the department wherein it found that occupiers of the dairy plots had carried out construction unauthorised and illegally... which is against the terms and conditions of allotment for operating the dairy plot in the form of dairy farming units," the notice read. In a recent order, the HC had shown displeasure on the misuse of dairies. **ENS**

RESERVES ORDER ON HIS BAIL PLEA IN EXCISE POLICY CASE

SC to ED on Sisodia trial: When do you see end of the tunnel?

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

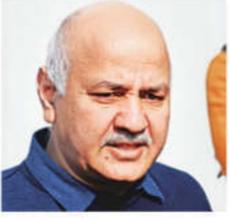
HEARING FORMER Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's bail plea in the excise policy case, the Supreme Court Tuesday asked the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to give a "realistic" answer on when it expects to conclude the trial.

"Realistically you tell me, when do you see the end of the tunnel, considering that there are 493 witnesses," Justice K V Viswanathan said.

The two-judge bench, presided by Justice BR Gavai, reserved its order in the matter.

While Sisodia has pointed to the delay in the commencement of the trial to seek bail, the ED has contended that he was causing the delay by filing one application after another.

On Tuesday, the court pointed to an "incongruity" in the ED's submissions, saying that while it held Sisodia responsible, it had



Sisodia was arrested by the ED on March 9, 2023. *Archive*

also sought further time in June to file its chargesheet/prosecution complaint. "Last chargesheet comes on June 28... then you say you are in the process of filing supplementary chargesheet. It means that even you felt (that) unless all chargesheets were filed... trial can't (start)... Now, to say that you could have proceeded and they delayed... some incongruity is there," Justice Viswanathan observed.

Additional Solicitor General

(ASG) SV Raju, who represented the ED, said the judgment of the Supreme Court Bench presided by Justice Sanjiv Khanna, on Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's plea challenging his arrest, was in the agency's favour. They "have accepted that merits have been dealt with by Justice Khanna. They pleaded and submitted before courts that the matter has to be heard only on delay," he said.

He said the chargesheet was filed on May 4 last year and cognisance was taken. The trial could have proceeded, irrespective of whether there was further investigation or not, Raju said, adding that while Sisodia did not file any discharge application, he kept filing other irrelevant applications.

The bench pointed out that most of these applications were allowed by the trial court, and asked the ASG to show any order where the trial court had said the applications were frivolous or intended to delay or take advantage.

Appearing for Sisodia, Senior Advocate A M Singhvi termed

the prosecution's arguments as "sham" and "completely prejudicial". He said Sisodia had already spent 17 months in custody, which was almost half of the minimum possible sentence.

Singhvi said the court had said pre-trial detention should not become a punishment. He said delay must be one of the factors to decide bail under Section 45 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) as the right to liberty under Article 21 is higher than anything else.

Raju said in terms of Section 226 of the CrPC, the prosecution would open its case by describing the charge brought against the accused and trial can then proceed on a day-to-day basis.

Singhvi, however, asked how that could be done without even framing the charges. "My learned friend is suggesting that trial will go on day to day... without framing of charge of 40 accused? Why? Because it is important to keep this one person in jail? We have to be real," he said.

Worker killed, 4 injured after crane rams into room at slum

SOPHIYA MATHEW
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

A 33-YEAR-OLD migrant worker from Uttar Pradesh was killed and four others were injured after a heavy-duty crane rammed into their room in Lohar Basti, on the Mehrauli Badarpur (MB) Road, in the early hours of Tuesday.

According to DCP (Southeast) Rajesh Deo, the crane had been deployed for work on an ongoing Delhi Metro project at the Okhla T-Point. A PCR call was received at 3.56 am at Pul Prahladpur police station after which the SHO and other staff reached the spot.

Police said a guard deployed at the Metro site told them the crane driver was trying to turn towards Tughlakabad on MB Road when the incident took place. "He lost control and the crane rammed into the wall of this room situated on the opposite carriageway," said the DCP, adding that the driver fled.

Police filed an FIR against unknown persons under BNS sections 281 (driving or riding on a public way so easily or negligently as to endanger human life, etc.) and 125A (act endangering life or personal safety of others).

According to Delhi Metro Rail Corporation officials, the crane accidentally hit the brick structure. "Prima facie, it looks like a road accident," officials said.

The victim, Gariba, hailed from Thagari village in Lalitpur, UP. He is survived by his wife and three children. The injured workers — a couple, Rameshwar, 41, and Harkunwar, 38; Ganshyam,



The room in Lohar Basti, on MB Road, Tuesday. *Gajendra Yadav*

24; and Khemchand, 28 — were also from the same village. They were admitted to AIIMS Trauma Centre, police said.

The workers had moved to the city on June 28 and claimed they were construction labourers with the Public Works Department (PWD).

Recounting the incident, Ganshyam said, "Rameshwar and I had gone to EPD road at 10 pm for work and returned at 3.15 am. It had just been 10 minutes since we slept when, suddenly, bricks started falling on us."

Arvind, also a migrant worker from Thagari village, who stayed in a room adjacent to the one affected, said he woke up to screams at 4 am. When he tried to rush out, he realised his door was jammed so he got his wife, Phoolwati, 22, and their one-year-old daughter out through the window. "When I looked under, I saw Gariba bleeding under a collapsed wall... I pulled him out. He had died by then," said the 24-year-old.

Arvind said he and six others were brought to Delhi on June 28 by a contractor. They were later handed over to another contractor who assured them they would be working on a PWD project and would receive higher wages. The contractor also assured them of shelter at Lal Kuan near Lohar Basti, he claimed.

Nirmal Gorana Agni, Coordinator, Working Peoples' Charter, alleged: "This incident... is a result of government's negligence. Under the Inter-State Migrant Workmen Act, 1979, it is mandatory to register contractors bringing migrant labourers and labourers themselves. However, these labourers were... illegally... made to work for nominal wages... by contractors under the guise of... PWD work. Delhi and central governments (DMRC) should provide compensation of Rs 1 crore to families of the deceased and Rs 5 lakh to the injured."

The PWD did not respond when contacted for comment.



OPENING SOON

Trial run begins on the newly constructed 1.4-km Anand Vihar-Ramprastha flyover in East Delhi, Tuesday. *Praveen Khanna*

Ceiling leaks, basement still clogged: Weeks on, no change at Noida's paediatric hospital

NEETIKA JHA
NOIDA, AUGUST 6

LEAKY CEILINGS, water seeping through walls and a flooded basement — 10 days after the Uttar Pradesh government asked the Director of Noida's Super Speciality Paediatric Hospital to explain his "administrative failure" which has "damaged" the quality of the institution, caused "inconvenience to patients and visitors", and "affected its image," nothing has changed.

On July 21, *The Indian Express* had reported about the dilapidated condition of the Sector 30 hospital. On July 25, in a stern warning, UP's Principal Secretary (Health) Partha Sarthi Sen Sharma asked Director Arun



A part of the ceiling collapsed outside the ICU, Wednesday. *Express*

Kumar Singh to explain his position within 15 days.

Hospital director Singh said he is preparing an explanation for the letter sent by the UP government. "I have not submitted my explanation yet," he said. "In a government depart-

ment, getting work done takes time. We will set up agencies, they will prepare the estimate and then work will begin," Singh said when asked why nothing was done even after weeks.

On Wednesday, around 8 pm when Delhi-NCR saw heavy rainfall, a part of the ceiling fell in the visitors' room; the walls started dripping, filling the room with knee-deep water. The hospital administration kept plastic gallons, buckets and mugs to collect the dripping water on all floors of the five-storey hospital. The basement which was already flooded with sewage had rainwater too.

"There was knee-deep water," said Deepak Kumar. "By afternoon, the water receded, no cleaning staff came to clean it."

Deepak, an administrative supervisor at Kailash Hospital, was at the paediatric facility for more than a week with his 28-day-old son who is suffering from a brain infection.

A part of the ceiling also fell Wednesday. "It fell around 8 pm; it is scary to sleep here," said Rishi Chauhan, whose month-old child was admitted to the hospital.

"At times, electricity goes for more than 10 minutes. How is there no power backup? There are newborns here," said Sapna, Rishi's wife. Their son has been battling a spine infection in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

"Water leaks into the NICU as well... On Tuesday night, a woman slipped on the water," added Reshma.

Health secy 'secretly' gave false affidavit in HC, says Bharadwaj

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

DELHI HEALTH Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj Tuesday accused his own department of "secretly" submitting a "wrong" affidavit containing "false information" on shortage of doctors, specialists, paramedics, and medicines in hospitals to the High Court.

He said the affidavit was approved by the health secretary and submitted by the 'lawyer of the services department which comes under the L-G'. At a press conference Tuesday, Bharadwaj alleged it was a conspiracy and that he would write to the law department on the issue.

Officials in the L-G Secretariat, however, said the minister was making false and misleading statements. "Yet another misleading and false statement made by the press conference minister, this time to not only mislead the people of Delhi, but judiciary as well. This Secretariat will react substantively to statements made by the health minister where substantive points are raised, not to inanity of the PC minister," they said. According to Bharadwaj, the

HC has been hearing a petition on the city's health services since 2017. He added that the HC formed a panel under Dr S K Sarin, which presented its report. Based on this, the court passed an order that the Delhi government should work as per the panel's recommendations.

He said for several months, he has been writing letters to the Health Secretary and Chief Secretary informing them of the huge shortage of medicines in Delhi government hospitals and mohalla clinics. Despite that, the minister said, a false affidavit was presented in the HC stating that there was no shortage. The main purpose behind this lie is to maintain shortage of medicines, harass the public, and defame the government among the people of Delhi, he added.

"... the health department is a department of the elected government of Delhi and in this case, Advocate Satyakam has been the constant lawyer of the Delhi government. But suddenly, Delhi government's lawyer Satyakam was removed and this affidavit was given to the HC by the standing counsel of the 'services' department," Bharadwaj alleged.

Not invited to all-party meet on Bangladesh, AAP hits out at Centre, PM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

NOT INVITED to Tuesday's all-party meeting on the Bangladesh crisis despite being a national party, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) criticised the central government for its "omission".

The meeting was attended by leaders of national parties and was convened to discuss national security concerns in light of the Bangladesh crisis.

AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said national security transcends partisan preferences and urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to adopt an inclusive approach. "When it is a matter of national security, it cannot depend on which party the PM is happy or unhappy with... the Prime Minister has to take everyone along. In such a situation, not inviting a national party like the AAP, which has 3 MPs in Lok Sabha and 10 MPs in Rajya Sabha, to the all-party meeting shows the non-seriousness of the central government and its pettiness," he stated.

NON-BAILABLE WARRANT OUT FOR SUB-INSPECTOR

Drug ring, 'mastermind' on the run: How tip-off led cops to one of their own

ARNABJIT SUR & NIRBHAY THAKUR
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

THE TIP-OFF came at 8.40 am on January 2.

"Surojit Bepari and a 17-year-old, who live in a house in Ashram's Siddharth Nagar, will receive a large ganja consignment there," the informer told his source at the Anti-Narcotics Squad of Delhi Police's Southeast district, adding, "That house is a storehouse from where drugs are distributed to peddlers."

Though a team of plain-clothes officers formed a cordon around the house by 9.35 am to bust the drug ring, the accused only turned up on a black motorcycle at 11.30 pm. In the arrests and seizures that followed, police were in for a much ruder surprise than the gang members they had managed to nab — during questioning, Surojit, 29, told them the narco ring was being run by one of their own, Sub-Inspector (SI) Naresh Kumar. Police started searching for SI

Kumar. Now named as the "main conspirator" in this drug syndicate, the accused SI was posted with the Anti-Extortion and Kidnapping Cell of the Crime Branch before he went "missing".

But how exactly did the sleuths stumble upon their colleague's alleged role in the racket?

According to the police, a team led by inspector Vishnu Dutt Tiwari was formed to nab the suspected drug peddlers after the tip-off. Besides officers stationed around Siddharth Nagar, the informer was placed with two team members near the entrance to identify Surojit and the juvenile.

As soon as the accused arrived, the informer confirmed their identities. Police said, "Surojit parked the motorcycle and went to open the main door of the house. Police moved in but were spotted by Surojit. He rushed inside and tried to lock the door, but the officers stopped him. The juvenile was also detained."

The police team, stated the FIR, seized 35 kg of ganja kept in plastic bags in the house. During spot questioning, Surojit allegedly

named another syndicate member — Ravinder Kumar, 26. He allegedly said Ravinder's Ashram house was also used as a drug storehouse. Ravinder was nabbed and police seized over 74 kg of ganja from his house. His questioning revealed another name — Kanoon Shukla alias Kano, 28.

Police said both Surojit and Kanoon are from West Bengal, but have been living in Delhi for the last five years. "The two houses were being used as drop-off points for all contraband," a police officer told *The Indian Express*.

A case under sections 20 (punishment for production and sale of cannabis) and 29 (abetting or being a party to criminal conspiracy) of the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act was lodged against the arrested men. Subsequent questioning of the accused — much to the horror of officers — led to the discovery of SI Kumar's alleged role as the "main conspirator".

The accused, police said, claimed Kumar "procured ganja from Odisha and Northeast states" and "stored them in the (two)



The house in Siddharth Nagar, Ashram, where drugs were recovered on Jan 2. *Abhinav Saha*

houses in Ashram, from where he sold them to customers in the city".

Police contacted the head of the unit where SI Kumar was attached, but "he wasn't available". When police visited his house in Kalkaji, he was not there either. In fact, investigators said, SI Kumar "was nowhere to be found ever since his name came up in their investigation".

Kumar was served a notice under Section 67 of the NDPS Act to appear before the Investigating Officer (IO) on January 28. When he failed to show up, a local court issued a non-bailable warrant against him on July 10. Officers said they received inputs that the SI had fled to Nepal before taking the *dunki* (illegal migration) route to South Africa via Syria.

However, the IO told *The Indian Express*, "The information that SI Kumar is in South Africa seems to be misleading as there is no evidence to support that. In fact, we even contacted the law enforcement agency in South Africa, but they could not provide us with any leads. For us, his location is currently untraceable."

According to colleagues, SI Kumar joined the force in 1990 as a constable. Of his 34 years in police service, he spent a decade with the Crime Branch. They said he received two out-of-turn promotions during his tenure and that he was promoted to his current position in 2002.

His colleagues also expressed surprise over his alleged involvement in the drug ring. A former colleague told *The Indian Express* that Kumar had "busted several drug rackets during his service". The former colleague talked about two major operations involving the SI, during which a total of 2,700 kg — 1,200 kg and 1,500 kg — of ganja was seized. "He was either an IO or a witness in at least 14 FIRs registered in

connection with drug rackets," one of his colleagues said.

Since he went on the run, SI Kumar has moved two anticipatory bail pleas — a February petition that was rejected, followed by another one in early July before the NDPS Court in Saket. While Special Judge, NDPS, Arul Verma rejected his first anticipatory bail plea in an order dated February 16, the IO is yet to file a response to the accused officer's second prayer.

"... taking into account gravity of the offence, the role attributed to the accused herein, the fact that investigation has still not culminated, this court is of the opinion that bail ought not to be granted to the accused at this juncture," the February 16 order stated.

During the hearing of his first bail plea, police had said it had obtained CCTV footage showing SI Kumar entering the Ashram house. On December 28, 2023, SI Naresh Kumar is seen entering the above premises (the Ashram house) with some bags, from which recovery of ganja has been affected from co-ac-

cused Ravinder Kumar," police told the court in February.

Police also said call detail records (CDR) and WhatsApp chats showed Kumar was in touch with the arrested accused.

Senior advocate Sunil Dalal, appearing for SI Kumar in the first plea, argued that his client had been named as the "main conspirator" in the case because of "his previous enmity with a member of the Anti-Narcotics Squad, Southeast Delhi".

The lawyer submitted police only presented one CDR — that of the SI with accused Ravinder. Stating that police did not have other CDRs showing contact between Kumar and the other accused, the lawyer argued that Ravinder was a police informer for Sunlight Colony police station, where the case was lodged, and that "several officers were in touch with Ravinder due to this".

An officer with the Anti-Narcotics Squad said they want to question Kumar to "unveil a larger drug racket network that could possibly reveal international links".

OVER 39,000 FLATS TO BE OFFERED DDA set to soon launch three housing schemes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

A TOTAL of 39,573 flats — in affordable, mid-income, and high-income categories — will be offered in localities such as Dwarka, Rohini, Jasola, Narela, Loknayakpuram, and Siraspur under three housing schemes that shall be launched by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) in August, said officials.

Of these, 34,000 flats will be offered to low-income groups (LIC) and economically weaker sections (EWS) under the Sasta Ghar Housing Scheme. These affordable flats will be offered in Ramgarh Colony, Siraspur, Loknayakpuram, Rohini, and Narela. The scheme will operate on a first-come, first-serve (FCFS) basis with prices starting at around Rs 11.5 lakh, said officials.

The General Housing Scheme will offer around 5,400 flats for higher-income groups (HIG), middle-income groups (MIG), IIG, and EWS categories in localities such as Jasola, Loknayakpuram, and Narela. The flats will be priced at 2023 rates without any escalation, said officials, and the prices will start at approximately Rs 29 lakh.

The Dwarka Housing Scheme is set to offer around 173 flats — with starting prices of around Rs 12.8 crore — in Sectors

| THE LOWDOWN | | |
|--------------|----------------|--|
| No. of Flats | Starting Price | Area |
| 173 | Rs 1.28 crore | Sectors 14, 16B, 19B in Dwarka |
| 5,400 | Rs 29 lakh | Jasola, Loknayakpuram and Narela |
| 34,000 | Rs 11.5 lakh | Ramgarh Colony, Siraspur, Rohini, Loknayakpuram and Narela |

Source: DDA

14, 16B, and 19B of Dwarka. Targeted at those seeking upscale housing, this scheme offers categories such as MIG and HIG flats. The flats will be sold via electronic auction (e-auction).

The DDA has also approved the relocation of eligible households from the JJ cluster at Kali Bari to EWS flats in Narela. The JJ cluster is currently located on a Central Public Works Department (CPWD) land parcel, which will be allocated to a Mother and Child Care Hospital.

Alongside housing schemes, the DDA has introduced a policy for the management and use of community halls, including a revised fee structure and the operationalisation of ancillary facilities. These halls can be booked online on a first-come-first-serve basis up to 120 days in advance, with a maximum booking period

of five days, officials underlined.

Meanwhile, multipurpose community halls will be licensed through an e-auction for five years. Ancillary facilities such as gyms, yoga rooms, reading rooms, senior citizen rooms, indoor games, food kiosks, and ATMs will be included in the licence. Some community halls and adjacent open spaces will be licensed through e-auction for five years. These can be used for various purposes, including marriages, socio-cultural functions, educational talks, poetry readings, health-related events, and exhibitions, said officials.

To facilitate ongoing construction projects, the DDA has extended the deadline for completing construction on residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional plots to December 31, 2025.

MCD yet to complete unsafe buildings survey amid concerns

The civic body has already deferred the deadline once

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

LAST WEEK, heavy rain caused a building collapse in North Delhi's Sabzi Mandi area on July 31, claiming one life. The following day, another building collapsed in the same area. The same day, three people were injured in two separate building collapse incidents in the city — one in Defence Colony and two in Shastri Park.

On August 2, the wall of a school collapsed in Daryaganj, damaging several parked vehicles. A two-storey building in Jahangirpuri came down the same day, resulting in the deaths of three people.

More than a month after the onset of the monsoon, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) continues to drag its feet over the survey of the unsafe buildings in the city amid concern over such incidents and criticism over the lack of monsoon preparedness. The civic body has already deferred the deadline once.

The MCD's Building Department is tasked with conducting an annual pre-monsoon survey — the corporation's junior engineers identify buildings in battered condition, and the owners of these buildings are issued notices and instructed to carry out repairs. If the repairs are not completed within a specified timeframe, the MCD has the au-

thority to carry out demolitions.

The survey starts in April every year and is supposed to be completed by June. This year, the initial deadline to release the findings was June 14. The deadline was then shifted to July 15. As of July 4, the civic body had only completed the survey of the South Zone, identifying four dangerous buildings.

On being asked about the progress made on the survey, the civic body on Tuesday said that 67 dangerous buildings have been identified so far and that the survey is going to take some time before it reaches completion. On being asked how many houses have been inspected so far, the officials refused to respond.

FIT CASE FOR RECOMMENDATION TO DISSOLVE MCD, SAYS HIGH COURT

Officers think doing work is crime: HC slams MCD after woman, son drown in open drain

SOHINIGHOSH
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

"SENIOR OFFICERS of the MCD (Municipal Corporation of Delhi) think doing their work is a crime" — this was one of the many sharp remarks that the High Court delivered on Tuesday, days after a woman and her three-year-old son drowned after slipping into an open drain in Delhi's Mayur Vihar as the city received an intense spell of rain. Lambasting the civic body, the High Court stressed that "there is a limit to (the) negligence," as it went on to say — "...it is a fit case for us to recommend the government to dissolve MCD." The court also slammed the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), and the MCD for not taking accountability in the matter as it raised questions over jurisdictional "blackholes".

The bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela, which was hearing a public interest litigation related to the July 31 incident, sought a status report on the



The woman and her three-year-old son drowned in the open drain in East Delhi, on July 31. File

progress of the police investigation as it said that the police should have seized files of MCD and DDA. The court has also called for a status report from MCD and DDA within a week as it slammed the MCD for failing to barricade open drains.

"Two lives were lost to understand the gravity of the situation...every day we are losing lives due to negligence," the Acting Chief Justice underlined.

The court also asked the civic body to immediately conduct a

vigilance inquiry.

Acting Chief Justice Manmohan, addressing MCD Deputy Commissioner Anshul Sirohi, orally remarked, "What is the problem in barricading? You should've done it on your own. There's some limit to negligence. He must go to jail for all these. These drains can't be left unbaricaded."

"Please speak the truth at least in court. If you're cleaning it on a daily weekly or monthly basis how has it reached this stage? If

this is the level of cleaning, it is a sad state of affairs... you need not be in service. This (has not been cleaned) for months, if not years. None of your seniors have the guts to take action against you. The whole city has to suffer because of you..." he said, referring to photos of waste piled around in the area.

The Acting Chief Justice went on to say, "Are these genuine contracts (for repair and cleaning of drains)? This (MCD) has become a cozy club... you go have a cup of tea, and come back... whether we have him or not (in MCD), it can't be worse than this... These people are beyond redemption, they're big bosses... I think it is a fit case for us to recommend the government to dissolve MCD."

Following the court's oral dressing down, the Deputy Commissioner assured the court that they would be barricading the area.

As the DDA informed the court that while the bodies were found in the drain that falls under its jurisdiction, the woman

and the son fell in the drain under the MCD's jurisdiction, Acting Chief Justice Manmohan orally questioned why such jurisdictional "blackholes" are continuing.

The DDA informed the court that it had handed over part of the drain and the road along it to MCD in April 2023. Referring to pictures of the site, the court expressed shock.

"Why can't this place be cleaned up. What have they (the contractor responsible for maintaining the drain) done? It seems it has not been cleaned for a year," ACJ Manmohan orally remarked, questioning the MCD.

"Suppose there is another shower, there will be another incident... these people (DDA and MCD) are fighting among themselves... You have a vigilance department in MCD. Have you asked them to verify the bills (of the contractor)? You are asking us to go to extreme steps... You don't have the courage to take action... no wonder we have dengue, chikungunya..." he said.

The matter is set to be heard next on August 22.

PUBLIC NOTICE

BY SHARDUL AMARCHAND MANGALDAS & CO.
ADVOCATES & SOLICITORS

CAUTION AGAINST FRAUDULENT LETTERS AND EMAILS, INCLUDING LEGAL NOTICES (INCLUDING NOTICES FOR COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT) AND IMPERSONATION OF DR. SHARDUL S. SHROFF, EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN OF THE FIRM

It has come to our notice that certain unknown individuals have created fake email addresses, and are sending legal notices, including copyright infringement notices, to companies from such fake email addresses and are addressing letters using Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co.'s (Firm) name and logo and on behalf of the Firm's Executive Chairman, Dr. Shardul S. Shroff. Some of the notices claim that they are being sent on behalf of "Amarchand & Mangaldas & Suresh A. Shroff & Co. Law Firm", a firm which is no longer in existence. They also contain fake email address, phone numbers etc. of the Firm and Dr. Shardul S. Shroff. The auto signatures in the emails contains a photograph of Dr. Shardul S. Shroff, which is unauthorised.

It appears that the unknown individuals are impersonating the Firm and its Executive Chairman with an intent to defraud the public. Accordingly, please note that emails, letters and notices of such nature are fraudulent, unauthorised and have not been issued by the Firm.

This is to inform the public at large that the Firm has no relation, direct or indirect, with any such unknown persons and neither the Firm nor its Executive Chairman, Dr. Shardul S. Shroff has authorized the sending of such emails and notices to any person. Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co. is taking appropriate legal action in this regard.

We therefore, urge the public at large to exercise vigilance and due diligence before engaging with the senders of such emails and notices, and disclaim all liability for direct or indirect loss, owing to any engagement with such fraudulent persons.

Pallavi S. Shroff and Akshay Chudasama
Managing Partners, Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co.

एनटीपीसी
NTPC Limited
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

CIN: L40101DL1975GOI007966
Regd. Office: NTPC Bhawan, SCOPE Complex, 7 Institutional Area, Lodi Road, New Delhi- 110003. Tel. no.: 011-24360959; Fax: 011-24360241
Email: csntpc@ntpc.co.in; Website: www.ntpc.co.in

NOTICE TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF NTPC LIMITED IN RESPECT OF THE 48TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- Notice is hereby given that the 48th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Members of the Company will be held on **Thursday, 29th August 2024 at 10.30 A.M.** (IST) through Video Conferencing (VC) / Other Audio Visual Means (OAVM), to transact the business as stated in the notice dated 2nd August 2024.
- In line with the applicable circulars issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and Securities and Exchange Board of India, Integrated Annual Report including the Notice of 48th AGM, Standalone and Consolidated Financial Statements, Auditors' Report and Directors' Report for the financial year ended 31st March, 2024 has been sent to the shareholders of the Company through emails at their registered e-mail addresses. Notice of the 48th AGM and Integrated Annual Report are available on the Company's website viz. www.ntpc.co.in and on websites of stock exchanges i.e. www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com. Notice shall also be available on the e-voting website of National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) i.e. <https://www.evoting.nsdl.com/>.
- In compliance with Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, as amended from time to time, and Regulation 44 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015, the Company is pleased to provide remote e-voting facility to its Members enabling them to cast their vote electronically for the resolutions as set in the AGM Notice dated 2nd August 2024 through the e-voting services provided by NSDL.
- The Remote e-voting Period will commence on **Sunday, 25th August, 2024 at 9:00 AM and ends on Wednesday, 28th August, 2024 at 5:00 PM.** The e-voting module shall be disabled by NSDL, for voting thereafter. Once the vote on a resolution is cast by the member, the member shall not be allowed to change it subsequently. The detailed procedure / instruction for joining the meeting, remote e-voting and e-voting during the AGM are contained in the Notice of AGM.
- A person whose name is recorded in the Register of Members or in the Register of Beneficial Owners maintained by the Depositories as on the **cut-off date i.e. Thursday, 22nd August 2024** only shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting / e-voting at the AGM. The voting rights of the shareholders shall be in proportion to the equity shares held by them in the paid-up equity share capital of the Company. Shareholders participating through the VC facility shall be reckoned for the purpose of quorum under Section 103 of the Companies Act, 2013.
- Any person holding shares in physical mode or a person, who acquires shares of the Company and becomes a Shareholder of the Company after the Notice of the AGM is sent and holds shares as on the cut-off date, may obtain the login ID and password by sending a request at evoting@nsdl.com. However, if he / she is already registered with NSDL for remote e-voting, then he / she can use his / her existing User ID and password for casting the vote.
- A member may participate at the AGM through VC/OAVM even after exercising his/her right to vote through remote e-voting but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again. Members may note that the facility of e-voting shall be made available at the AGM.
- The Board of Directors has appointed **Shri Sachin Agarwal, Partner, Agarwal S. & Associates, Company Secretaries**, as the Scrutinizer for conducting the e-voting and remote e-voting process in a fair and transparent manner.
- Members are requested to read the instructions pertaining to remote e-voting as printed in the AGM notice carefully. In case you have any queries, you may refer to the Frequently Asked Questions ("FAQs") for shareholders and e-voting user manual available at the download section of www.evoting.nsdl.com or call on: 022 - 4886 7000 or send a request to Ms. Pallavi Mhatre, Senior Manager at evoting@nsdl.co.in.

For and on behalf
NTPC Limited
Sd/-
(Ritu Arora)
Company Secretary

Place: New Delhi
Date: 06.08.2024

Leading the Power Sector

TATA POWER
The Tata Power Company Limited
Bombay House, 24 Homi Mody Street, Mumbai 400 001
CIN : L28920MH1919PLC000567
Tel: (91 22) 6665 8282 e-mail : tatapower@tatapower.com Website: www.tatapower.com

EXTRACT OF CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2024

| Sr. No. | Particulars | Quarter ended | | | | Year ended | |
|---------|--|---------------|----------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| | | 30-Jun-24 | | 31-Mar-24 | | 30-Jun-23 | 31-Mar-24 |
| | | (Unaudited) | (Refer Note 4) | (Unaudited) | (Audited) | (Unaudited) | (Audited) |
| a. | Total Income from Operations | 17,293.62 | 15,846.58 | 15,213.29 | 61,448.90 | | |
| b. | Profit / (Loss) before Exceptional Items and tax | 1,490.34 | 1,498.35 | 1,240.87 | 5,458.66 | | |
| c. | Profit / (Loss) before Tax | 1,490.34 | 1,537.03 | 1,475.55 | 5,732.02 | | |
| d. | Net Profit / (Loss) for the period / year | 1,188.63 | 1,045.59 | 1,140.97 | 4,280.10 | | |
| e. | Total Comprehensive Income | 1,182.24 | 1,299.82 | 1,112.61 | 4,783.97 | | |
| f. | Paid-up Equity Share Capital (Face Value: ₹ 1/- per share) | 319.56 | 319.56 | 319.56 | 319.56 | | |
| g. | Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) | 32,782.85 | 31,808.70 | 28,545.12 | 31,808.70 | | |
| h. | Securities Premium Account | 3,107.54 | 3,107.54 | 3,107.54 | 3,107.54 | | |
| i. | Net worth | 34,867.48 | 33,728.50 | 30,610.25 | 33,728.50 | | |
| j. | Capital Redemption Reserve | 514.47 | 514.47 | 514.47 | 514.47 | | |
| k. | Debt Redemption Reserve | 363.81 | 363.81 | 443.23 | 363.81 | | |
| l. | Outstanding Debt | 57,206.07 | 54,163.52 | 55,184.02 | 54,163.52 | | |
| m. | Earnings Per Equity Share (of ₹ 1/- each) (₹) (not annualised) | | | | | | |
| (i) | Before Net Movement in Regulatory Deferral Balances | | | | | | |
| | Basic | 3.90 | 2.08 | 3.50 | 11.08 | | |
| | Diluted | 3.89 | 2.08 | 3.50 | 11.08 | | |
| (ii) | After Net Movement in Regulatory Deferral Balances | | | | | | |
| | Basic | 3.04 | 2.79 | 3.04 | 11.56 | | |
| | Diluted | 3.03 | 2.79 | 3.04 | 11.56 | | |
| n. | Debt Equity Ratio (in times) | 1.45 | 1.41 | 1.59 | 1.41 | | |
| o. | Debt Service Coverage Ratio (in times) (not annualised) | 1.29 | 0.77 | 0.96 | 0.85 | | |
| p. | Interest Service Coverage Ratio (in times) | 2.37 | 2.41 | 2.08 | 2.26 | | |
| q. | Current Ratio (in times) | 0.80 | 0.78 | 0.72 | 0.78 | | |
| r. | Long Term Debt to Working Capital (in times) | 707.33 | (50.06) | (15.42) | (50.06) | | |
| s. | Bad Debts to Account Receivable Ratio (%) (not annualised) | 1.57% | 3.58% | 0.78% | 6.63% | | |
| t. | Current Liability Ratio (in times) | 0.40 | 0.41 | 0.49 | 0.49 | | |
| u. | Total Debts to Total Assets (in times) | 0.40 | 0.39 | 0.42 | 0.39 | | |
| v. | Debtors' Turnover Ratio (in number of days) | 70 | 72 | 68 | 68 | | |
| w. | Inventory Turnover Ratio (in number of days) | 63 | 55 | 58 | 59 | | |
| x. | Operating Margin (%) | 14% | 12% | 15% | 13% | | |
| y. | Net Profit Margin (%) including exceptional item | 7% | 6% | 8% | 7% | | |

Notes:
1. The above results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on 6th August, 2024. The Auditor's conclusion on Quarterly Consolidated Financial Results of the Company dated 6th August, 2024 is modified.
2. Standalone Financial information of the Company, pursuant to Regulation 47(1)(b) of SEBI (LODR):

| Sr. No. | Particulars | Quarter ended | | | | Year ended | |
|---------|---|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| | | 30-Jun-24 | | 31-Mar-24 | | 30-Jun-23 | 31-Mar-24 |
| | | (Audited) | (Audited) | (Audited) | (Audited) | (Audited) | (Audited) |
| a. | Total Income from Operations | 5,774.12 | 4,960.57 | 5,192.24 | 20,093.36 | | |
| b. | Profit / (Loss) before Tax | 951.84 | 765.49 | 598.55 | 2,511.10 | | |
| c. | Net Profit / (Loss) for the period / year | 737.04 | 846.11 | 446.41 | 2,229.86 | | |

3. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Consolidated 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 Consolidated and Standalone Financial Results is available on the Stock Exchange websites www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com and on the Company's website www.tatapower.com.
4. The figures of the quarter ended 31st March, 2024 are the balancing figures between audited figures in respect of the full financial year ended 31st March, 2024 and the unaudited year-to-date figures upto 31st December, 2023 which were subjected to limited review.

For and on behalf of the Board
THE TATA POWER COMPANY LIMITED
PRAVEER SINHA
CEO & MANAGING DIRECTOR
DIN 01785164

Date: 6th August, 2024
Place: Mumbai

RITES LIMITED
(A Govt. of India Enterprise) CIN No.: L74899DL1974GOI007227
Shikhar, Plot No.1, Sector-29, Gurgaon - 122001

Requires Individual Consultants-in the following post(s)/discipline through Interviews at RITES Office

| VC No. | Post | Positions | Venue & Date |
|--------------|--|-----------|--|
| YP/02-R/1/24 | Individual Consultant-(SHE Expert) | 04 | RITES Office- Bengaluru & Through video conferencing. Date- 20 th & 21 st of August 2024 |
| YP/06-R/1/24 | Individual Consultant-ICT Engineer -I -Hospital Management System (National) | 01 | RITES Office- Bengaluru, Guwahati, Kolkata, Gurgaon |
| YP/07-R/1/24 | Individual Consultant-Sr. Electrical Engineer International | 01 | Date- 22 nd & 23 rd of August 2024 |

For details regarding how to Apply, Position, remuneration, qualification, age, date & venue, selection process etc., candidates may see the detailed advertisement posted on RITES website www.rites.com under Career Section.

Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation
(A Government of Maharashtra Undertaking)
"Udyog Sarthi", MIDC (HQ), Mahakal Caves Road, Marol Industrial Area, Andheri (East), Mumbai-400093.
Tel: 022-47488312/469914679; Email: admin@midcindia.org

GeM Portal Tender Notice
No./MIDC/GAD/STORE/02/2024-25

GeM Portal Tender is invited from the reputed & experienced Companies /Agencies for supply of General stationery articles. The details of nature of work, Terms & conditions for submission of the tender are available on GeM portal. The blank tender forms are available on GeM portal during the period from Dt.07/08/2024 to Dt.15/08/2024 (upto 13.00 hrs.)

Right to reject any or all the tender without assigning any reason thereof is reserved by competent authority of MIDC.

General Manager (HRD)
Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation

महा मेट्रो
MAHARASHTRA METRO RAIL CORPORATION LTD.
(A Joint venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Maharashtra)
PUNE METRO RAIL PROJECT
Maha Metro, Block No. A3, Food Grain Godown, Near District Court, Next to Kamgar Putala Vasahat, Shivajinagar, Pune 411005
E-mail : tenders.pmrp@mahametro.org
Web : www.punemetrorail.org Tel. : 020-26051074

Tender No. P1PD/32/2024 Date : 07.08.2024

Name of Work : Licensing of Space for Automatic Micro-Retail Vending Kiosks at selected metro stations at Corridor-1 & Corridor-2 of Pune Metro Rail Project for a period of 05 Years on Package Basis.

Interested bidders may visit Pune Metro Rail website www.punemetrorail.org to view this tender notice (NIT) and can download the Tender documents and obtain further details regarding the Tender from e-tender portal of Govt. of Maharashtra <https://mahatenders.gov.in> from **16:00 Hrs. on 08.08.2024 to 16:00 Hrs. of 06.09.2024.**

General Manager (TP & Procurement-PD)
Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation Limited
Pune Metro : City's Transport Solution

HARYANA SEEDS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A STATE GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKING)
BAYS 3-6, SECTOR-2
PANCHKULA U01122HR1974SGC007442

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that following Share Certificates have been reported lost.

| Sr. No. | Name of Share holder | Share certificate No. | No. of Shares | Distinctive No. |
|---------|---|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Sh. Naunihal S/o Sh. Jagjeet Singh, VPO- Sikanderpur, Distt- Sirsa. | 977 | 10 | 211414-211423 |
| | | 1388 | 05 | 215514-215518 |
| | | 1624 | 05 | 218042-218046 |
| | | 1960 | 10 | 221947-221956 |
| 2 | Sh. Suresh Kumar S/o Sh. Ramswaroop, R/o- Sirsa Club Dhani Udham Singh, Distt- Sirsa. | 2486 | 10 | 230114-230123 |
| | | 3660 | 20 | 258829-258848 |
| | | 4438 | 48 | 469802-469849 |
| | | 5417 | 102 | 258093-258194 |

The requests have been received for issuing above Duplicate Share Certificates. The public is hereby warned against purchasing or dealing on anyway with the above Share Certificates. Any person(s) who has any claims in respect of the above said Share Certificates should lodge such claims with the Corporation at its Registered Office at the address given above within 15 days of publication of this notice, after which no claim will be entertained and the Corporation will proceed to issue Duplicate Share Certificates.

After issuance of Duplicate Share Certificates, the original Share Certificates shall stand cancelled and any person dealing with the original Share Certificates shall be doing so at his/her risk as to costs and consequences and the Corporation will not be responsible for it in any way.

-sd-
MANAGING DIRECTOR

NO. 28605/C/HRY

'NOT APPROPRIATE': SPEAKER OM BIRLA REMINDS OPPOSITION OF 'CONSENSUS' TO NOT PROTEST AT HOUSE ENTRANCE

Opp demands rollback of GST on life, health insurance

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

MEMBERS OF INDIA bloc parties staged a protest near the Makar Dwar (main entrance) of Parliament on Tuesday demanding a rollback of 18% GST on life and health insurance premiums.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla called the protest "not appropriate" and reminded the members of the "consensus" reached earlier of not holding any demonstration at the House entrance.

MPs from various parties, including Trinamool Congress, Congress, AAP, Samajwadi Party and NCP (Saradchandra Pawar) among others, participated in the protest on the steps leading to the Makar Dwar. They were carrying placards reading "tax terrorism" and other messages in different regional languages. Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi too joined the protest.

Later, in a post in Hindi on X, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said, "Today on the



Opposition MPs protest at Parliament House on Tuesday. PTI

Parliament premises, INDIA parties demanded immediate removal of 18% GST on life and health insurance premiums as this extortion is a severe blow to our people, especially the middle class." "The middle class is al-

ready struggling under the burden of the Modi government's tax collection policies. India's medical inflation rate is the highest in Asia in 2024 — at 14%. On top of that, this 'Gabbar Singh Tax' on life and health insurance

is inhuman and another condemnable example of the BJP's policy of plundering from 'opportunity in disaster'."

Calling it an "insensitive thinking of the BJP government", Rahul Gandhi said, "The Modi

government collected Rs 24,000 crore from millions of Indians who pay health insurance premiums every year by saving every penny to ensure that they do not have to bow down before anyone in case of a 'health crisis' in life... Looking for a 'tax opportunity' in every disaster is proof of the insensitive thinking of the BJP government. INDIA Alliance opposes this opportunistic thinking."

Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor said the INDIA bloc parties' demand is absolutely justified. "India is already the country whose citizens pay the highest out-of-pocket expenses for health crises in the world. Senior citizens who have taken health insurance are now paying the highest GST rates in the world. How does the government intend to attain the goal of 'insurance for all by 2047', when it is instead ensuring the unaffordability of insurance to most," Tharoor asked on X.

TMC MPs have been raising this issue in Parliament. TMC president and West Bengal Chief

Minister Mamata Banerjee last week had written to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on the matter.

Earlier last week, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari also asked Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to remove GST on life and medical insurance premiums, which currently attract an 18% GST rate.

Reacting to the Opposition's protest on the steps leading to the Makar Dwar, Lok Sabha Speaker said: "After discussions with all parties, a consensus was reached that protests and demonstrations would not be held on any of the Dwaras of the Parliament House. Many members, especially women, had written to me that they were inconvenienced due to blocking of the way. A decision was taken that no protest or demonstration would be held on any 'entrance' of Parliament House. I request all of you to abide by the decisions that have been taken by you... I went there in the morning, this is not appropriate."

IN LOK SABHA

132 PMLA cases against current, ex-politicians in last 6 yrs: Govt

Total 4,467 cases by ED since 2019 as Central Govt widened ambit of law

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6



MoS Home Nityanand Rai. File

UNION MINISTER of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai told Lok Sabha on Tuesday that the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has registered 5,297 cases under Prevention of Money Laundering Act in the last 10 years.

Of the total cases, 4,467 were registered between 2019 and 2024 after the PMLA's ambit was widened by the Centre through amendments. A total of 132 money laundering cases have been registered against sitting and former MPs, MLAs and political leaders in the last six years.

In a written response, Rai said 188 cases were registered under the PMLA in 2019, 708 in 2020, 1,166 in 2021, 1,074 in 2022, 934 in 2023 and 397 cases were registered so far this year. "195 cases were registered in 2014, 148 in 2015, 170 in 2016, 171 in 2017 and 146 cases in 2018," he said.

The PMLA's ambit was widened through amendments in 2009, 2013, 2015 and 2019, giving the ED the teeth it now has. In 2009, criminal conspiracy under Section 120B of the Indian Penal Code was added to the PMLA's schedule among various other offences. This has, over the years, allowed the ED to enter any case where a conspiracy is alleged, even if the principal offence is not part of the PMLA schedule.

In 2009, the ED also got international jurisdiction for tracking laundered money. Following amendments in 2015 and 2018, the ED was allowed to attach properties in India equivalent to properties acquired abroad through laundered money. Through certain "explanations" inserted into the PMLA in 2019,

the government allowed the ED to attach properties earned directly or indirectly through alleged criminal activity that was even "relatable" to a scheduled offence.

Rai said 140 accused persons are currently in jail under PMLA provisions since 2016. On Tuesday, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary shared in the Rajya Sabha figures related to the ED filing enforcement case information reports (ECIRs) against existing and ex-MLAs, MLAs, MLCs and political leaders or anyone affiliated with any political party between January 1, 2019 to July 31 this year. "The ED filed 15 ECIRs or money laundering cases in 2019 followed by 28 in 2020, 26 in 2021, 34 in 2022, 26 in 2023 and three in 2024 (till July 31). A court trial in these cases was completed in a total of three cases — one in 2020 and two in 2023. Only one conviction in these cases was reported to have been made in 2020," he said.

Chaudhary said a total of 7,083 ECIRs have been filed by the agency till July 31. "The rate of conviction obtained under PMLA is around 93%. Assets worth more than Rs 1.39 lakh crore were either seized, frozen or attached under the law. The total value of proceeds seized under PMLA is approximately Rs 3,725.76 crore, frozen under PMLA is approximately Rs 4,651.68 crore and attached under PMLA is approximately Rs 1,31,375 crore," he said.

Budget historic: BJP; for corporates, not the poor, says Opp



BJP's Nishikant Dubey, TMC's Mahua Moitra in LS. ANI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

MEMBERS OF the Opposition parties in the Lok Sabha criticised the Union Budget saying it favours the corporates and ignores the poor, even as the BJP member called it a "historic" Budget aimed at making India a developed country.

Speaking during a discussion on the Finance Bill on Tuesday, Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra said Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has made a "mockery of the people of India" in the Budget by doing absolutely "nothing". "Whatever little changes are there (in the Budget) are regressive and ill thought-out... The people wanted a course correction. What have you done? You have not listened to the mandate... You have kept the same Cabinet, the same Finance Minister who has given the same shoddy Budget... This is a Kursi Bachao Budget," she said.

Speaking about the two types of taxes — direct and indirect — she said: "Direct taxes are known as progressive taxes. Why are they progressive? Income tax, property tax, investment tax on capital gains. These are done in a way that the richer you are, the more tax you pay... Indirect taxes are regressive because everyone pays the same tax... 65 per cent of tax collection comes from indirect taxes, where billionaires pay the same as the poorest labourers and only 35 per cent comes from direct taxes."

She said that the middle class

is contributing 55 per cent of direct income taxes under this government, while the richest corporates contribute only 45 per cent. "Not only are the middle class being taxed, but with this budget, their savings have also been taxed with the removal of indexation and the rise in short-term capital gains," Moitra said.

She also said the reduced budget for agencies such as the CBI and the ED might be due to their overuse for political purposes or outsourcing control to powerful businessmen.

Samajwadi Party MP Neeraj Maurya said the government is not concerned about the condition of farmers. "Farmers stand in the fields until 3 am, but even then their crops are not safe from stray cattle. Our youth are also unhappy because they are not getting jobs," said Maurya.

Congress MP Amar Singh said it appears from the Budget that the government is taxing the poor and sparing the rich as it neither addresses the issue of unemployment nor mentions any step to reduce out-of-pocket expenditure for households.

He said the World Inequality Report has revealed that one per cent of the richest people in India have 40 per cent of the wealth, and accused the government of benefitting the higher income groups. He questioned whether the exemptions given by the government to the corporate have generated any jobs.

Calling the Budget "historic", BJP MP Nishikant Dubey said India is a ray of hope for the world. "We are working towards the goal of a developed India by 2047," he said.



MEET & GREET

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi greeted by visitors at Parliament House on Tuesday. PTI

577 CAPF personnel died of health issues in Maoist-hit areas in 5 years

MAHENDER SINGH
MANRAL
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

UNION MINISTER of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai told the Lok Sabha on Tuesday that 577 personnel of the Central Armed Police Personnel (CAPFs) died due to heart attack and ailments in Naxal-affected areas in the last five years.

Sharing the data, Rai said 297 CRPF personnel, 108 of CISF, 76 of CISF, 74 of ITBP, 22 of SSB have died since 2019. "In CRPF, 45 personnel died in 2019, 63 in 2020, 73 in 2021, 62 in 2022, and 54 in 2023; while in the BSF, 22 died in 2019, 21 in 2020, 22 in 2021, 21 in 2022, and 22 in 2023. From CISF, eight personnel died in 2019, 25 in 2020, 14 in 2021, 15 in 2022 and 14 in 2023," he said.

The CISF personnel deployed in Naxal-affected areas for pro-

viding security cover to important government buildings, including those of public sector undertakings, etc.

Rai further said that eight ITBP personnel died in 2019, 15 in 2020, 17 in 2021, 15 in 2022 and 19 in 2023. From the SSB, one personnel died in 2019, six in 2020, three in 2021, five in 2022 and seven in 2023. "No specific unusual causes of heart attack and illness in naxal-affected areas have been observed," Rai said.

Rai said the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) violence incidents have reduced by 73 per cent since 2010. "The resultant deaths — civilians and security forces — have reduced by 86 per cent from all time high in 2010 to 2023. Till May 30 this year, there has been a sharp reduction of 32 per cent in LWE-perpetrated incidents and 17 per cent in the resultant deaths of civilians and security force person-

nel in comparison to the figures of corresponding period of 2023," he added.

"The geographical spread of LWE violence has also constricted substantially with reduction of LWE-affected districts from 126 across 10 states in 2013 to only 38 districts across nine states in 2024. The number of police stations reporting LWE-related violence has significantly reduced from 465 police stations in 2010 to 171 police stations in 2023. Till June, the LWE violence was reported from 89 police stations," Rai said.

He said Under Special Infrastructure Scheme (SIS), the Centre approved projects worth Rs 991.4 crore have been approved during 2017-21 for upgrading and strengthening of Special Force (state police) [SFs/Special Intelligence Branches (SIBs)] and for construction of 250 Fortified Police Station (FPS) in LWE-affected areas.

Shah takes jibe at TMC: Assume no state will like to follow Bengal model

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

HOME MINISTER Amit Shah on Tuesday took a jibe at the Trinamool Congress-led government in West Bengal, wondering whether any state in the country would like to implement its model in the context of containing Left Wing Extremism (LWE).

During the Question Hour in the Lok Sabha, Trinamool Congress leader Sougata Ray said the West Bengal government had been successful in tackling LWE and asked whether the central government will study the example of West Bengal and apply the same model in other states such as Chhattisgarh.

Elaborating on the West Bengal model, Roy said that the



Union Home Minister Amit Shah

Mamata Banerjee government carried out development works and gave jobs to tribal youths.

Responding, Shah said the Modi government does not have any issues in implementing models of states that have done well, "but I assume that no state will like to implement the West Bengal model."

On another query from Congress MP Pradyut Bordoloi, who asked about the plan of the government to contain the insurgency in Northeast, Shah said violence in the region had declined by more than 60 per cent.

BRIEFLY

Boilers Bill to promote ease of doing business

A BOILERS Bill to replace a century-old law, decriminalise certain offences and promote ease of doing business was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday, the Commerce and Industry Ministry said. It said the Bill will repeal the Boilers Act, 1923 and was approved by the Cabinet on August 2. Specific provisions have been made in the Bill to ensure the safety of persons working inside a boiler, it said adding it also talked about repair of boilers to be undertaken by qualified and competent persons. The Bill meets the current requirements of stakeholders, it said. PTI

Manipur MP seeks security of highways

BJP MP from Manipur Maharaja Sanjaoba Leishemba called on the Centre to maintain security of the national highways in Manipur, which he said were being frequently blocked. Speaking in Rajya Sabha, the MP said the NH-2, which connects Manipur to Nagaland, and NH-37, which connects it to Assam, were the only national highways that connect Manipur to the rest of the country. "These two highways are the lifeline of Manipur, but frequent disturbance, bandhs and blockade etc pose many hardships to the people," he said. ENS

BJP MP raises issue of dog bites in Lok Sabha, seeks committee to review laws

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

A BJP MP on Tuesday flagged the issue of rising cases of dog bites and demanded that a committee be formed to deal with the sensitive issue as children were unable to play freely amid an "environment of terror" due to such incidents.

During Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha, Ghaziabad MP Atul Garg said it had emerged in an answer to a question that 30.5 lakh people had been bitten by dogs in India and 286 people died. "If this figure is correct, then in

Ghaziabad alone, 35,000 people have been bitten by dogs in a year. Small kids are becoming victims of this... Four days ago, a small child of a labourer died a painful death due to rabies," he said.

Garg said that if a pet dog bit someone, a person could be held responsible but no dog lover came forward to save the person being attacked if it was a stray dog. There is an imbalance in the laws between love for animals and human freedom, the MP said.

"...humanity should be given primacy. So a committee should be formed on it," Garg asserted.

Expectation of ₹30-lakh crore investment for country to meet 500 GW renewable energy goal, says Minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

AN INVESTMENT of up to Rs 30 lakh crore is expected to meet the country's target of having 500 GW renewable energy capacity by 2030, Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi said in Rajya Sabha on Tuesday, adding that the country was on course to meet the goal.

Replying to the discussion on the working of the Ministry, Joshi said the government had invested Rs 7 lakh crore in the last 10 years.

"Further, to set up the non-fossil fuel-based capacity of 500 GW, there is an expectation of

Rs 30 lakh crore," he said.

Drawing a comparison, he said the UPA government had allocated Rs 6,091 crore for the Renewable Energy Ministry in its 10-year tenure, while the Budget for the Ministry this year alone was around Rs 21,000 crore.

"In line with the Prime Minister's announcement, our Ministry is working towards achieving 500 GW of installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel by 2030... In the last decade from 2014 to 2024, the installed renewable energy capacity has increased 165% from 76.38 GW in 2014 to 203.1 GW as of now," he said.

He said solar energy capacity had increased from 2.82 GW in



Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi speaks in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday. ANI

2014 to 85.47 GW; wind energy capacity increased from 21 GW to 46.55 GW; and the share of

thermal energy sources in the total decreased from 67.69% to 54.46%.



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL

POST BREAK

TALKS ABOUT the BJP replacing its Tamil Nadu unit president K Annamalai has resurfaced. Speculation began soon after the Lok Sabha election results, with a section of Central BJP leaders blaming Annamalai's stance against an alliance with the AIADMK as the reason for the party's failure in winning even a single seat in the state. Now with the former IPS officer all set to join a three-month residential programme in the University of Oxford next month, the rumours are rife again. However, party sources say the BJP has no immediate plans to replace Annamalai and he may continue as the party chief during the fellowship period.

EXPERIENCE MATTERS

TAKING NOTE of the suggestions by Opposition MPs during a discussion on the working of his ministry, Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi said in Rajya Sabha on Tuesday that "they" (Congress) had been in power for 60 years, but were now telling the government what to do. Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar reminded Joshi that "they", the current Opposition, did not have as much experience as him of sitting on "that side". Laughing, Joshi said: "With the blessing of the people and (PM) Modi's leadership, we will be sitting here [treasury benches]."

ONLINE TEST

ON AUGUST 16, the Supreme Court will hold a re-test for Paper 1 of the Advocate-on-Record examination for candidates who opted to take the exam online. For the first time, the SC had given advocates the option of taking the exam online. When technical glitches cropped up during the first paper, the remaining three papers were held offline, with an additional hour to complete it. However, in the re-test, the SC is going back to the online mode. Since the exam consists of lengthy, subjective questions, candidates are apprehensive about the re-test. Clearing the AoR exam gives advocates an exclusive licence to file cases in the SC.

Sufi council supports Modi govt plan to amend the Waqf Act

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

AMID THE ongoing tussle between the government and Opposition over the proposal to amend the Waqf Act, the All India Sufi Sajjadanashin Council (AISSC) on Tuesday said that it supports the government's proposal to amend the Act and that it was long overdue.



Syed Naseeruddin Chishti, chairman of All India Sufi Sajjadanashin Council, in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

Government sources have maintained that a Bill will soon be tabled in Parliament to amend the 1995 law governing Waqf Boards. It has said that the new Bill will "ensure more accountability and transparency in their functioning and mandatory inclusion of women in these bodies".

At a press conference in Delhi on Tuesday, AISSC chairman Syed Naseeruddin Chishty, who is also the successor of the Ajmer Sharif Dargah's Dewan, said that a separate Dargah Board should be introduced under the amendments to the Waqf Act. "In the Waqf Act currently effective, there is no mention of dargahs at all. The Waqf Boards do not recognise the traditions of the dargah as many of our traditions are not there in sharia, so we demand a separate Dargah Board," he said.

Chishty claimed the Waqf Boards work in a "dictatorial manner" in their present form and have no transparency. "We are hopeful that the draft Waqf Amendment Bill will be comprehensive and serve the interests of

all stakeholders. Following a thorough examination of the draft, we intend to submit our recommendations and proposal," he added. Others who were present at the press conference included Abdul Qadhar Qadri, national co-ordinator of the AISSC, Hyderabad; Syed Ali Zaki, Hussaini, Karnataka state president of the AISSC; and Fareed Ahmed Nizami, head of the Nizamuddin Auliya dargah and Delhi president of the AISSC.

The AISSC representatives, including its chairman, met National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval and Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju on Monday and raised their concerns. "We were given assurance by NSA and the Minority Affairs Minister that all the stakeholders will be consulted and the amendments will be in the interest of Muslims," Chishty said. He said Opposition leaders should not politicise the matter.

BANGLADESH CRISIS

Some from India stay back by choice, some due to compulsion

VIDHEESHA KUNTAMALLA, RAVIK BHATTACHARYA, ATRI MITRA & SHAWAN SARKAR
NEW DELHI, KOLKATA, AUG 6

IN THE riot-hit streets of Old Dhaka's Kolta Bazar in Bangladesh, a 24-year-old medical intern from Surat, Gujarat, clutches his ID card like a lifeline. "It's our curfew pass," he explains, as he makes his way to the hospital where he works.

Explaining why he stayed back despite the political turmoil and a potential threat to his well being, the intern at Dhaka National Medical College, who did not wish to be identified, said, "I am of course worried about my safety but I am doing my duty as promised. Serving the people is the need of the hour, which is why I decided to stay on." At the moment, "Indians are mostly safe".

Since the unrest began last month, thousands of Indian students have crossed the borders Bangladesh shares with West Bengal and Meghalaya or boarded flights from Dhaka, booked with the help of their families back

home. In a statement issued on July 21, the Ministry of External Affairs had said that over 4,500 Indian nationals had returned so far from Bangladesh.

But some Indian medical interns chose to stay back — and are among those tending to injuries at the Dhaka National Medical College. Munawar Abbas, a 25-year-old from Kashmir, recalled seeing vandalised police stations and street fights between former ruling party members and locals.

Abbas, who is a medical intern and the admin of the Affiliation of Indian Medical Students in Bangladesh, said: "Although medical colleges across Dhaka have issued orders that they will resume full functioning from August 10, looking at the situation, we advised students (juniors) to assess the stability of the new regime before they decide to come back and continue with their classes."

"No Indians have been attacked, but most students have left. We interns stayed to avoid a setback in our careers. The college has been great, helping others evacuate safely. I'm hopeful things will settle down soon," he said. At Dhanmondi in Dhaka, 25-

year-old Mohammad Farhan, who hails from Madhubani in Bihar and has been a student at Green Life Medical College for the past six years, said the situation is relatively calmer in his area.

"The embassy and our college have issued guidelines to Indian nationals not to get out of their residences and campuses. Although the state announced a curfew, we were given time slots to go out and get supplies from the market."

Suleman Haque Sahil from Patna, who is a student of Dhaka's Green Life Medical College, said: "We, as Indian students, don't have any political view — in favour or against anything happening in Bangladesh at present. The only thing we pray for is a peaceful environment for all of us... we have been living here in absolute harmony with local friends."

Sahil's classmate Rishabh Chatterjee, who is from Kolkata's Park Circus, said: "Bangladesh has always been good to live in... To be honest, when I got admission in the medical college, I was apprehensive but the country has been warm and welcoming." Away from the world of med-

icine, men like Ratikanta Mondol (41), who came to the country from Bengal to make a living, were more concerned for their safety. "We are scared. We want to return home," said Mondol, who hails from Gopnagar village in Singur, and works in Dhaka as an artisan making imitation jewellery. "We are not leaving our rented room. A two-minute walk from here, you can see the mayhem," he said, adding that his neighbours have been a constant support.

A State Bank of India staffer, originally from West Bengal's South 24 Parganas, said those with families are particularly worried and are in touch with the embassy for a way out.

Premnath Baur, a 31-year-old from Howrah who went to Dhaka three months ago, said they are also having to contend with a constant flow of information and misinformation.

"We keep getting news that houses have been ransacked, people killed. We don't know how many days we have to stay here. Our company told us they will provide a vehicle to take us to the border. As soon as they do, we are out of here," he said.



The Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi. Abhinav Saha

Ensure safety of Hindus, VHP urges Centre

New Delhi: The Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) has raised concerns over reported attacks on Hindus and other minorities in Bangladesh during the ongoing unrest in the country. It has asked the government to take possible steps to ensure their safety.

"The uncertainty, anarchy and lawlessness in Bangladesh is a matter of concern for India. It is important we stand by the people of Bangladesh at this moment. Our concern is that in this movement, the commercial establishments, houses and religious sites of minorities including Hindus and Sikhs have been attacked and damaged," VHP President Alok Kumar told the media.

"The ideal situation would be that people's security is ensured in their native places and they do not have to leave their homes. However, if the situation arises, we must give shelter to such people. India has given shelter to so many in the world. I would hope such a situation does not arise," he told The Indian Express.

"The lives, dignity and property of minorities (in Bangladesh) are not safe. I urge the international community to intervene and make efforts to reestablish normalcy in Bangladesh. I urge the Indian government to take every possible step to ensure the safety of Hindus and other minorities in Bangladesh," he added. ENS

With eye on Dhaka, envoys continue work in Delhi

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

THE BANGLADESH High Commission stands out conspicuously among other embassies and high commissions at S Radhakrishnan Marg with barricades blocking access to the main entrance. Inside, there is an unusual calm. Behind the silence there seems to be a sense of disquiet on how events have unfolded over the last two days in Dhaka and what the future holds.

"It is the biggest violence that the country has seen in its 53 years of existence," says one official, who doesn't want to be identified. "It pains to see so much bloodshed and chaos unfolding back home." Although on the face of it, it

looks like business as usual inside the Commission's various offices, with rounds of tea being served and clicking of keyboards going on, the TV sets are on in almost every room and people are glued to Indian news channels — "their constant source of credible information about happenings in Dhaka and how Delhi's taking it".

Many of them are watching EAM S Jaishankar's suo motu statements in both Houses of Parliament on the situation in their country and former PM Sheikh Hasina taking refuge in India and having landed in New Delhi a day earlier. "Can't imagine our (former) PM is here in the same city but we have no way to reach out to her," says a staffer.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

BSF DG reviews Bangladesh border security

Kolkata: Border Security Force (BSF) Director General Daljit Singh Chawdhary on Tuesday reviewed security along the Indo-Bangladesh border in North 24 Parganas district, West Bengal, on the second day of his visit to the state in the wake of a political crisis in the neighbouring nation.

Accompanied by Additional Director General Ravi Gandhi and Inspector General Maninder PS Pawar, Chawdhary assessed the force's tactical and operational readiness at critical locations, it is learnt. He visited the Integrated Check Post (ICP) at Petrapole and the sensitive Ranaghat border outpost. At Petrapole, Chawdhary inspected the passenger and cargo terminals, "gaining firsthand insights on the operational challenges faced by troops".

He was briefed on the battalion's procedures by its commanding officer and the newly constructed ICP building. Later, the DG held a meeting with BSF officers at the Ranaghat border outpost to discuss the prevailing situation in Bangladesh and strategise counter-measures against infiltration and smuggling. Emphasising heightened vigilance, he directed the troops to implement measures to address these challenges.

Chawdhary underscored the importance of maintaining a high level of preparedness amid the situation in Bangladesh. ENS

President in Fiji: 'India to push for climate justice for ocean states'

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

AS A voice of the Global South, India will push the developed countries for climate justice for Fiji and other ocean states, said President Droupadi Murmu during her address to the Fijian parliament on Tuesday.

"As India emerges strongly on the global stage, we stand ready to partner with Fiji, according to your priorities, to build a stronger,

resilient, and more prosperous nation," she said.

During the first ever visit by an Indian head of state to the island nation, President Murmu also held bilateral talks with Fijian President Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere, wherein she was conferred with the highest civilian award of Fiji - Companion of the Order of Fiji.

The two leaders discussed ways to further deepen the India-Fiji relationship, as per a statement from the President's office.

Murmu said that India remains committed to strengthening its relations and development partnership with the Pacific Island Countries (PICs), among which Fiji is an important partner.

"As a powerful voice of the Global South, India will keep pushing the developed countries for both climate finance and climate technology. We will continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with Fiji and other ocean states for climate justice," she said in her address to Parliament.

Kerala CM slams Union minister's landslide remark

Thiruvananthapuram: Hitting out at Union Minister Bhubendra Yadav Tuesday, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said that Yadav has insulted the landslide-affected people in Wayanad by stating that the tragedy was due to "illegal mining, uncontrolled construction and unregulated commercial activities".

Vijayan said: "We are living in a situation that requires deep contemplation and collective effort. It is regrettable that a few of us are exploiting this situation for narrow interests..." ENS

FRESH HEAT ON YOGI ADITYANATH GOVT IN UTTAR PRADESH

Demolition stokes old Gorakhpur rivalry, feeds into Brahmin anger

BHUPENDRA PANDEY
LUCKNOW, AUGUST 6

THE YOGI Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh is staring at one more headache. The demolition of a platform constructed for a statue of don-turned-politician Hari Shankar Tiwari in Gorakhpur has raked up an old feud between Adityanath and the Tiwari family. More worryingly for the BJP, it is threatening to fuel a simmering Brahmin resentment against the Thakurs in the state.

Tiwari's death on May 16 last year was believed to have put to rest the rivalry between the Gorakhnath Mutt headed by Adityanath, a Thakur, and 'Haata', the residence of Tiwari and the

heart of Brahmin politics in eastern UP. The administration's action in demolishing a platform meant for a statue of Tiwari — a seven-time MLA and former minister, and arguably UP's first mafia don — at his native village Tanda has caused a face-off between the two power centres again.

The Samajwadi Party, which sees a chance to woo the Brahmins away from the BJP, has accused the government of doing "caste politics". The party raised the issue in the Assembly, while SP chief Akhilesh Yadav posted on August 1: "BJP's bulldozer would so far target shops or houses. Now it has started rolling over respect of the dead."

Akhilesh, who demanded that the platform be reconstructed,

could not keep his promise to visit Tanda on Tiwari's birth anniversary Monday, when the statue was to be unveiled, but sent senior SP Leader of the Opposition Mata Prasad Pandey instead. Tiwari's sons Bhishm Shankar alias Kushal and Vinay Shankar, both aspiring politicians, were present.

Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya, who has made his rift with Adityanath apparent since the Lok Sabha results, said: "Gorakhpur waale naahen yaar, ye sarkar ka mamlam nahin hai (Let those from Gorakhpur figure this one out, it is not a matter for the government)."

The writ of Tiwari, who rose to fame with student politics in Gorakhpur in the late 70s, at one time ran from Gorakhpur, to Bihar

and up to Nepal. He won his first Assembly election while jailed, from Gorakhpur's Chillupar in 1985, as an Independent, and retained the seat until 2007. In 2007 and 2012, he lost to BSP's Rajesh Tripathi, a Brahmin.

Om Prakash Shukla said: "Tiwari came to be known as the undisputed leader of Brahmins in eastern UP after he won the 1985 Assembly elections."

While the power of the Gorakhnath Mutt is at its peak now with Adityanath as CM, Tiwari too was for a long time at the heart of power, including as Cabinet minister in the BJP governments led by Kalyan Singh, Ram Prakash Gupta and Rajnath

Singh, as well as of the Mayawati-led BSP and Mulayam Singh Yadav-led SP governments between 1997 and 2007.

All reportedly changed after Adityanath took oath as CM on March 19, 2017, for the first time. Just over a month later, on April 23, a large Gorakhpur Police contingent raided the no-go Haata, and arrested six alleged aides of Tiwari under the Arms Act. A diminished Tiwari passed away a month later.

Of his two sons, Kushal and Vinay are a former MP and MLA of the BSP. Kushal, who contested the recent Lok Sabha elections on the SP ticket from Domariyaganj, lost to the BJP's Jagdambika Pal.

Kushal told The Indian Express that the government was wrong in demolishing the platform. "A group of about a dozen pradhans had given an application for the installation of the statue." According to Kushal, the application was forwarded to the District Magistrate (DM). "The DM sent a team to demolish it."

The administration claims it had got complaints that gram panchayat land was being used to raise the statue.

Accusing the SP of doing "electoral politics" and saying there was no place for Brahmins in its politics, BJP spokesperson Rakesh Tripathi said: "Permission for the statue will be given provided it is sought as per due procedure."

Hasina got 45 minutes to quit, leave country: Bangladesh media

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

SHEIKH HASINA was asked to leave within 45 minutes by the top brass of the security establishment and was convinced by son Sajeeb Wazed Joy on telephone to step down from the Prime Minister's post, a Bangladesh media report said on Tuesday.

She had called a meeting of the security top brass on Monday morning as protesters were marching towards Dhaka, demanding her resignation.

According to a report in a leading Bengali daily, Prothom Alo: "At one point Sheikh Hasina said, indicating the IGP, they (the police) are doing well. The IGP then said the situation has reached a point where even the police will no longer be able to hold on to such a stern stance."

Hasina was unwilling to accept the situation. The officials then spoke to Sheikh Rehana, Hasina's younger sister, in a separate room. They asked her to convince Hasina. Rehana then talked

to Hasina, but she was determined to hold on to power. Then, a senior officer called Hasina's son who was abroad. Joy spoke to his mother over the phone. After that Hasina agreed to resign. She wanted to record a speech addressed to the nation, the report said, capturing the last few hours before Hasina fled the country.

"It would take 45 minutes for the demonstrators to reach Ganabhaban from Shahbagh. Taking that into consideration, Sheikh Hasina was not given time to record any speech," it said.

"After that Sheikh Hasina and sister Sheikh Rehana came to the help of the old airport in Tejgaon. Some luggage of theirs was loaded and they then went to Bangabhaban. Sheikh Hasina carried out her resignation formalities there and around 2:30 pm she and her younger sister left by military helicopter for India," it said.

After entering Indian airspace, the helicopter circled for some time and later landed at a BSF heliport in Agartala. She went to Delhi from there and landed at the military airbase in Hindon.

As Bengal BJP stirs talk of CAA, '1 cr refugees', TMC govt appeals for calm

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA & ATRI MITRA
KOLKATA, AUGUST 6

THE RIPPLES of the Bangladesh crisis are spreading to the bordering Indian states, with senior BJP Bengal leader Suvendu Adhikari saying that more than 1 crore Hindus may enter India and that Delhi should be ready to accommodate them under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. One of the first to raise an alarm over this was senior Tripura leader, and BJP ally, Pradyut Kishore Debbarma, who sought an assurance from the Centre that any such influx would be stopped.

While Debbarma later posted that Union Home Minister Amit Shah had assured him that the borders were well-guarded, to prevent any "illegal" movement, Adhikari who flew down to Delhi to meet Shah on Tuesday said Hindus were being mistreated in Bangladesh. Though the CAA is a potent tool for the BJP in Bengal, which has a high number of Bangladeshi Hindu refugees, who entered the country over different waves, it's a touchy topic in the

Northeast whose history is defined by stir against "outsiders".

TMC supremo, CM Mamata Banerjee, who had earlier said that she would welcome people from Bangladesh seeking refuge in the country, is taking a more cautious line after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government. In her first remarks as Bangladesh unravels, Banerjee appealed to all: "If our brothers and sisters are facing trouble, Indian and Bangladeshi governments will look into it."

Adhikari said on Monday that with power moving into "their hands", minorities in Bangladesh were "in a peril" and it was "clear" that Bangladesh's 7% Hindu would leave. "...1 crore refugees will come. We will have to receive them, our Hindu brothers. The government (Centre) has made arrangements under the CAA."

On Tuesday, TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said: "We expect normalcy and peace to prevail in Bangladesh very soon. As it is a foreign policy subject, whatever decision the Indian government will take, we will follow... as Bengal has the longest border with Bangladesh, they should try to take West Bengal in the loop."

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector - 6, Noida - 201301 (U.P.)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.in
जन सूचना
नौएडा क्षेत्र में स्थित फेक्ट्री, कम्पनी, वाणिज्यिक प्रतिष्ठानों, होटलों एवं अन्य संस्थानों आदि से निकलने वाले प्लास्टिक, शीशा, रबड़, गत्ते इत्यादि खराब वस्तुओं को "Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016" के तहत निस्कारण करने के सम्बन्ध में।
पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन, मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार द्वारा दिनका 18.03.2016 को भाग 2 खण्ड-3 उप खण्ड-1 में असाधारण राजपत्र में प्रकाशित अधिसूचना "Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016" में बिंदु संख्या-08 के अनुसार अपशिष्ट जनक (Responsibility of waste generator) का उत्तरदायित्व—
1. अपशिष्ट जनक—
क. समय-समय पर यथा संशोधित दोस अपशिष्ट प्रबंध नियम, 2000 के अनुसार प्लास्टिक अपशिष्ट के जनन को कम करने और स्रोत पर प्लास्टिक अपशिष्ट को पृथक करने के कदम उठाएगा।
ख. प्लास्टिक अपशिष्ट को न बिखरने देगा और स्रोत पर अपशिष्ट का पृथक मंडाण सुनिश्चिम करेगा तथा पृथक अपशिष्ट को शहरी स्थायी निकायों या ग्राम पंचायत या उनके द्वारा नियुक्त एजेंसियों या अपशिष्ट चुनने वालों, रजिस्ट्रीकृत पुनः चक्रणकर्ताओं या अपशिष्ट संग्रहण अभिकरणों को सौंपेगा।
2. प्लास्टिक अपशिष्ट के सभी संस्थागत जनक उनके द्वारा जनित अपशिष्ट का पृथककरण और मंडाण इस अधिनियम या इसके बाद संशोधित अधिनियम के तहत का0आ0 908 (अ) तारीख 25 सितंबर, 2000 द्वारा अधिसूचित म्युनिसिपल दोस अपशिष्ट (प्रबंधन और प्रहस्तन) नियम, 2000 के अनुसार करेंगे और पृथककृत अपशिष्टों को स्वयं के या प्राधिकृत अपशिष्ट अभिकरण के माध्यम से प्राधिकृत अपशिष्ट प्रसंस्करण या व्ययन सुविधा या निक्षेपण केन्द्रों को सौंपेगे।
3. सभी अपशिष्ट जनक ऐसी उपयोजता फीस या प्रमार अदा करेंगे जो अपशिष्ट संग्रहण या उसकी सुविधा के प्रचालन आदि जैसे प्लास्टिक अपशिष्ट प्रबंध के लिए स्थानीय निकायों की उपविधियों में विनिर्दिष्ट हो।
उपरोक्त के अतिरिक्त पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन, मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार द्वारा दिनका 16.02.2022 को जारी सूचना "Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules 2022" के भाग 2 की बिंदु संख्या-10, उत्पादकों, आयातकों और ब्रांड मालिकों की भूमिका (Role of Producers, Importers & Brand-Owners) तथा बिंदु संख्या-11, प्लास्टिक अपशिष्ट प्रसंस्करणकर्ताओं की भूमिका (औद्योगिक कम्पैस्टिक सुविधाओं सहित पुनर्चक्रणकर्ता या अन्य अपशिष्ट प्रसंस्करणकर्ता (Role of Plastic Waste Processors/Recyclers or Other Waste Processors including industrial composting facilities) के अनुसार नौएडा क्षेत्र के अंतर्गत आने वाली समस्त फेक्ट्री, कम्पनी, वाणिज्यिक प्रतिष्ठानों, होटलों एवं अन्य संस्थानों आदि से निकलने वाले प्लास्टिक, शीशा, रबड़ गत्ते इत्यादि खराब वस्तुओं को अपने परिवर्तन में ही अथवा अधिकृत एजेंसी के माध्यम से Recycling पद्धति से निस्कारण कराना सुनिश्चित करेंगे। अन्यथा पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन, मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार द्वारा दिनका 16.02.2022 को जारी सूचना "Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules 2022" के बिंदु संख्या-09 पर्यावरणीय प्रतिकार का अधिरोपण (Imposition of Environmental Compensation) के तहत आर्थिक दण्ड अधिरोपित किया जायेगा।
(एसओ पीओ सिंह)
उप महासंचक/चरि परिओ अमिओ
(जन स्वास्थ्य), नौएडा।
कार्यालय
सैक्टर-94, नौएडा
CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

WESTERN RAILWAY - VADODRA DIVISION ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. DRM-BRC 073 TO 075 OF 2024-25: Sealed Tenders for and on behalf of The President of India are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (WA/C), Western Railway, Pratnagar, Vadodra-390 004 for the following works:

Table with 4 columns: Sr. No., Tender No. & Name of the work, Approximate cost of the work (In Rs.), Bid Security to be deposited (In Rs.).

All Above For Tenders: Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Tender is to be submitted on 23.08.2024 before 15.00 Hrs. and is to be opened on same date at 15.30 Hrs. Website particulars and notice for location where complete details can be seen & Address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased: Website @ www.reps.gov.in

W623/NIT of 2024-25 dated 01.08.2024

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MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD. GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

Regd. Office: Muthoot Centre, TC No 27/3022, Punnen Road, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India - 695001. CIN : U65929KL1997PLC011518, Ph: +91 471 4911400, 2331427

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that Gold ornaments pledged with under mentioned branches of the company for the period upto 30.09.2024 to MSGL, SPL-16, One plus, Guide Prepaid, Super value, ADGL and all other 6 months tenure Gold loans up to 31.12.2023 and MSGB, SME Savarna & EMI due up to 30.06.2024 which were overdue for redemption and which have not been redeemed so far in spite of repeated notices, will be auctioned on 17.08.2024 from 10 am onwards.

BHOPAL DISTRICT - ASHOKA GARDEN: 434300014, 434300015, 434300026, 434300028, 434300031, 434300032, 434300033, 434300034, 434300035, 434300036, 434300037, 434300038, 434300039, 434300040, 434300041, 434300042, 434300043, 434300044, 434300045, 434300046, 434300047, 434300048, 434300049, 434300050, 434300051, 434300052, 434300053, 434300054, 434300055, 434300056, 434300057, 434300058, 434300059, 434300060, 434300061, 434300062, 434300063, 434300064, 434300065, 434300066, 434300067, 434300068, 434300069, 434300070, 434300071, 434300072, 434300073, 434300074, 434300075, 434300076, 434300077, 434300078, 434300079, 434300080, 434300081, 434300082, 434300083, 434300084, 434300085, 434300086, 434300087, 434300088, 434300089, 434300090, 434300091, 434300092, 434300093, 434300094, 434300095, 434300096, 434300097, 434300098, 434300099, 434300100, 434300101, 434300102, 434300103, 434300104, 434300105, 434300106, 434300107, 434300108, 434300109, 434300110, 434300111, 434300112, 434300113, 434300114, 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HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRONICS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED 1st & Ground Floor, I.T. Bhawan, Mohli, Shimla -171 013 Tel. No. 0177-2623259, 2623513, 2626320, 2623513 2623043, FAX: 0177-2626320 Website: www.hpsedc.in, Date: 06-08-2024

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRONICS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED 1st & Ground Floor, I.T. Bhawan, Mohli, Shimla -171 013 Tel. No. 0177-2623259, 2623513, 2626320, 2623513 2623043, FAX: 0177-2626320 Website: www.hpsedc.in, Dated: 06-08-2023

CONTAINER CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD. TENDER NOTICE (E-Tendering Mode Only) Online E-Bids with forward auction are invited For Empty Container Park with Repair facility for ISO Containers at CFS DRT, CONCOR Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra)

भारत सरकार Government of India पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, जयपुर / Integrated Regional Office, Jaipur

(Online Proposal No. FP/RJ/TRANS/23277/2016) विषय :- Diversion of 1.764 ha of forest land for construction of 11 KV transmission line Projects of Rajeev Gandhi Gram Vidyutikaran Yojna (RGVY) in XII plan for between Shiv Shakti Stone Crusher, Jhijharadi to village Bhawan, Tehsil Sojat, District Pali (Raj.).

संर्चना- शासन सचिव, राजस्थान का पत्रांक, 1 (34)/2022 dated 13 / 04 / 2022. महोदय, उपरोक्त विषयक संदर्भित पत्र का आशय ग्रहण करने का कष्ट करे जिसके द्वारा प्रथमतः प्रकरण में वन (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1980 की धारा (2) के अंतर्गत भारत सरकार की स्वीकृति मांगी गयी थी।

प्रकरण के परीक्षणोपरान्त केन्द्र सरकार उपरोक्त विषयकित परियोजना हेतु 1.764 हे. वनभूमि के प्रत्यावर्तन एवं 06 तृतीय के पारतन्वी के सैद्धांतिक स्वीकृति (In-principle/Stage-I approval) निम्नलिखित शर्तों पर प्रदान करती है-

A: Conditions which needs to be complied prior to handing over of forest land by the State Forest Department:

- 1. The cost of compensatory afforestation at the prevailing wage rates as per compensatory afforestation scheme and the cost of survey, demarcation and erection of permanent pillars if required on the CA land shall be deposited in advance with the Forest Department by the project authority. The CA will be maintained for 10 years. The scheme may include appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years.
2. The State Government shall charge the Net Present Value (NPV) for the 1.764 ha forest area to be diverted under this proposal from the User Agency as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 30/10/2002, 01/08/2003, 28/03/2008, 24/04/2008 and 09/05/2008 in IA No. 566 in WP (C) No. 202/1995 and as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry vide letters No. 5-1/1998-FC (P) dated 18/09/2003, as well as letter No. 5. 2/2006-FC dated 03/10/2006 and 5-3/2007-FC dated 05/02/2000 and revision of NPV vide Ministry letter No. 5-3/2011-FC(Vol-I) dated 06.01.2022 in this regard.
3. Additional amount of the NPV of the diverted forest land, if any, becoming due after Finalization of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on receipt of the report from the Expert Committee, shall be charged by the State Government from the User Agency. The User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect.
4. User Agency in consultation with the State Forest Department prepare a detailed scheme for creation and maintenance of plantation of dwarf species (preferably medicinal plants) in right of way under the transmission line for execution of the said scheme before working permission as in case of linear project.
5. The complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by way of proscribed certificate from the concerned District Collector.
6. The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost, as per the direction of concerned Divisional Forest Officer.
7. The KML file of the area to be diverted and the CA areas shall be uploaded on the e-green watch portal with all requisite details, before issuing working permission towards linear projects or submitting compliance report for seeking Final/Stage-II approval, as the case may be.
8. The User Agency shall comply to the condition stipulated in the minutes of meeting of 52nd meeting of National Board of Wildlife held on 10.01.2019.
9. All the funds received from the user agency under the project shall be transferred/deposited to CAMPA fund only through e-portals.

B: Conditions which needs to be strictly complied on field after handing over of forest land to the User Agency by the State Forest Department but the compliance in form of undertaking shall be submitted prior to Final/Stage-II approval:

- 1. Legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged.
2. Forest land will be handed over to the User Agency only after required non-forest land for the project is handed over to the User Agency.
3. Compensatory afforestation shall be taken up by the Forest Department over 3.53 ha de-graded forest land, Village Guda Dhamaawata, Tehsil- Marw Junction, Range Jajwar, District Pali of Rajasthan at the cost of the User Agency. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species shall be planted and mono-culture of any species may be avoided.
4. User agency shall restrict the felling of trees to 06 trees/minimum numbers in the diverted forest land and the trees shall be felled under the strict supervision of the State Forest Department and cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department.
5. The User Agency shall comply with the guidelines for laying transmission lines through forest areas issued by Ministry vide letter no. 7-25/2012-FC dated 05/05/2014 & 19/11/2014.
6. The User Agency shall comply with the guideline for laying transmission lines through forest areas issued by Ministry vide Chapter 10 of FCA, 1980 Handbook 2019.
7. The User Agency shall comply with the Hon'ble NGT order for transmission line dated 07.03.2012.
8. The User Agency at its cost shall provide bird deflectors, which are to be fixed on upper conductor of transmission line at suitable intervals to avoid bird hits.
9. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused.
10. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government.
11. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land.
12. Sufficient firewood, preferably the alternate fuel, shall be provided by the User Agency to the labourer after purchasing the same from the State Forest Department or the Forest Development Corporation or any other legal source of alternate fuel.
13. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work.
14. The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of lease to be granted in favour of the user agency or the project life, whichever is less.
15. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal.
16. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agencies, department, or person without prior approval of Govt. of India.
17. The User Agency shall submit the annual self-compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government and Integrated Regional Office, Jaipur by the end of March every year.
18. The User Agency shall comply with all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.
19. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as per the MoEF&CC Guideline F.No. 11-42/2017-FC dt 29/01/2018.
20. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection, and development of forests & wildlife.
21. The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (https://parivesh.nic.in/).

After receipt of compliance report on fulfillment of all the above conditions from the State Government, proposal will be considered for Final/Stage-II approval under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The User Agency shall take up the work as per the guidelines in force and after ensuring that all necessary clearances for the entire stretch are in place. Working permission, if any issued, shall be intimated to IRO, Jaipur. Transfer of forest land shall not be affected till Final/Stage-II approval is granted by the Central Government in this regard.

Further, it may also be noted that this In-principle / Stage-I approval shall be valid for a period of 5 years from the date of issue of this letter. In the event of non-compliance of the above conditions, this In-principle approval shall be revoked after five (05) years.

जय प्रकाश सिंह (के.टी.डी.) राज्य सचिव, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय

E-Tender Notice The Kerala State Coir Corporation Ltd invites Tenders from Interested parties through e-tender for the Supply, installation and commissioning of machineries for Mattress Finishing unit at Beypore Division of KSSC.

Tender ID: 2024_Coir_684116_1 For More Details@: www.e-tenders.kerala.gov.in

Alappuzha 06/08/2024 Managing Director

WESTERN RAILWAY - VADODARA DIVISION ELECTRICAL WORKS NOTICE INVITING TENDER EL/501/19 (24-25) Date: 02.08.2024 Divisional Railway Manager (Elect), Western Railway, Vadodara Division for and on behalf of the president of India, invites E-Tender on Indian Railways website www.irops.gov.in from experienced and reliable contractors for the following works Tender No : BRC-EL-P 21-2203-24-25 Name of work : Pralapanagar (Workshop): Electrical works in connection with augmentation of workshop Infrastructure in PRN Workshop. Estimated Cost (Rs) : 1,38,01,424.00 EMD (Rs) : 21,90,000.00 Tender fees (Rs) : NIL E-Tender closing date : 29.08.2024 Website particulars : www.irops.gov.in

UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LTD. Executive Engineer Electricity Distribution Division (South) 18 E.C.Road, Dehradun Email : eddsouth.upcl@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE Executive Engineer, EDD(South), Uttarakhand Power Corporation Ltd. Dehradun invites e-tender for following work, as detailed below:-

Table with 8 columns: Sl. No., Name of the work, Tender Specification No., Earnest Money (in Rs.), Cost of tender document including GST (in Rs.), Last Date of Sale of tender document, Last Date of Submission of Tender, Date of opening of Part-I of tender.

THE PRE-QUALIFYING REQUIREMENTS ARE AS UNDER:-

- 1- The Bidder must be registered with Electrical Inspector in 'A' class category, for Electrical Works/Supplies, GST, EPI, ESF Department
2- The Bidder must have successfully executed the work with Govt. Department/UPCL
3- Income tax return (latest) of the bidder must be attached
4. An undertaking on Rs 100/- non-judicial stamp paper duly notarized by that the bidder has not been blacklisted/ debarred by any Govt. undertaking/Govt. Departments/SEB's/ Power Sector Utilities in last three years. In case same is found then their tender/order shall be treated as cancelled at any stage and EMD/Performance security shall be forfeited.
5- Bidder must validity of offer for 180 days from the date of opening of tender on 100/-stamp paper along with Rs 1/- revenue stamp (as per sheet enclosed) (hard copy of the same must be submitted).
6- Completion Period: - Completion period shall be as per terms & conditions of LOA/Agreement.
7- Earnest money/All Documents should reach the office of undersigned before 21-08-2024 upto 14:00 Hrs.
8- The part A must be consisted of essential documents, like terms & conditions, Income tax return, Earnest money in the form of FDR/CDR, GST, EPI, ESF registration & last deposit challance, A class Electrical License, experience certificate etc.
9- The bids shall be opened next day in case of holiday on the day of opening of the tender. The undersigned shall have the right to cancel one or all tenders. The other terms & conditions shall be as per boq.
10- The Bidder must have turnover of 300% of the tender value.

The Earnest Money of the tender should be in form of FDR/CDR of any nationalized bank pledged in favor of Executive Engineer Electricity Distribution Division (South) Dehradun, Tenders will be received and opened on the dates as mentioned above. The undersigned reserve the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason there of and no claim on this account shall be acceptable. All other details and terms & conditions are available in tender document.

Executive Engineer EDD (South) Dehradun

SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION. Use LED Bulb to Save Electricity (Toll Free No. 1912) *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)

कार्यालय अधिष्ठाता स्व. श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी स्मृति, शासकीय चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय उत्तर बस्तर कांकेर (छ०ग०) 494334 E-mail Id - gmckanker@gmail.com

क्रमांक/1665/शा.चि.महा./निविदा/2024-25 कांकेर, दिनांक 31/07/2024

// शोध पत्रिका प्रदाय हेतु सक्षिप्त निविदा सूचना //

शिक्षा सत्र 2024-25 अथवा नयी दर लागू होने तक के लिये विभिन्न मदों में प्राप्त राशि / राशि प्राप्ति की प्रत्याशा में शासकीय चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, कांकेर (छ०ग०) में केन्द्रीय ग्रंथालय हेतु शोध पत्रिका क्रय करने प्रतिष्ठित प्रकाशकों, विवरकों तथा फर्मों से खुली निविदा दो लिफाफा पद्धति के आधार पर आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा से संबंधित सक्षिप्त विवरण इस प्रकार है।

संस्था में निविदा जमा करने की :- 20/09/2024 सांय 2.00 बजे तक।

अंतिम तिथि

निविदा खुलने की तिथि :- 20/09/2024 को सांय 4.00 बजे से।

निविदा शुल्क :- 1000/- एक हजार रु. मात्र।

अनरेस्ट मनी :- 1,00,000/- एक लाख रु. मात्र।

नोट:- उक्त निविदा से संबंधित विस्तृत नियमों एवं शर्तों एवं प्रारूपों की जानकारी महाविद्यालय की वेबसाईट www.gmckanker.in से प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।

हस्ता/- अधिष्ठाता

स्व. श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी स्मृति शासकीय चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय उत्तर बस्तर कांकेर छ०ग०

NO -242501621-2 RO DT 05-08-2024

Notice Inviting E-Tender Mukhyamantri Laghu Evam Kutir Udyam Vikas Board (A Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking) 4th Floor, Udyog Bhawan, Ratu Road, Ranchi- 834001 Contact-9262219999, 9102467777, e-mail: contact.cmlaghukutir@gmail.com, website: mmlkubv.jharkhand.gov.in

Ref. No: MMLKUBV/629 Date: 05.08.2024 Mukhyamantri Laghu Evam Kutir Udyam Vikas Board invites E-tenders from reputed Suppliers / Manufacturers / Distributors / Authorized Dealers for Supply, installation and commissioning of Badge and Embroidery Machinery & Equipment for the Basantri Badge & Embroidery cluster at Reshamba, Godda, Jharkhand under the SFURTI scheme of MSME, Government of India.

Table with 2 columns: Scope of Work, Tender Fee, Earnest Money Deposit (EMD), Date of publication of Bid on Website, Bid Document download start date, Bid submission start date, Last date of submission of Technical & Financial Bid, Opening of Technical Bid, PowerPoint presentation (PPT) and Opening of Financial Bid, Name & address of Office inviting tender.

Project details and Eligibility Criteria: Interested bidders are advised to go through E-tender document, list of Machinery & Equipment, eligibility criteria etc. available for download from the following website: mmlkubv.jharkhand.gov.in/jharkhandtenders.gov.in. The tender document may also be collected from the office of the Board during office hours between 11:00hrs to 17:00hrs on any working day (Monday-Friday). Interested bidder shall submit the bid electronically through the website jharkhandtenders.gov.in and other important/relevant documents, bank draft, bank guarantee etc. should be scanned and enclosed with the e-tender as per the guidelines given in the tender document.

Note: This Board reserves the right to cancel or/and postpone the tender or reject any bid without assigning any reason at any point of time.

PR 331947 Mukhyamantri Laghu And Kutir Udyam Vikas Board(24-25)#D Chief Executive Officer

WESTERN RAILWAY-RAJKOT DIVISION Amrit Station Scheme Soft Upgradation/Improvement Tender Notice No. DRM/RJT/E-Tender/2024-2025/13 (EL) Dt. 31.07.2024; Address of the Office: Divisional Railway Manager (Electrical), Western Railway Kothi Compound, Rajkot - 360 001; Web site particulars: www.irops.gov.in (1) Tender No.: DRM/RJT/EL/2024-2025/13; (i) Name of Work: Jamnagar. Soft Upgradation / Improvement Amrit Station Scheme. (ii) Approx. Cost: ₹ 2,81,76,688/- (iii) EMD Cost: ₹ 2,90,900/- (iv) Date & time for on line apply: on 30.08.2024 up to 15:00 hours (v) Project ID: 15.04.53.23.1.00.024

"IMPORTANT"

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

Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre (An Autonomous Body under Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India) Amravati Road, Wadi, Nagpur - 440 023. www.jnarddc.gov.in (07104-220701)

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना/NOTICE INVITING TENDER (निविदा/TENDER (E-GEM BIDS))

Director, JNARDDC, Nagpur, invites online e-gem bids from reputed firms for the following items/services. निदेशक, जेएनआरडीसीडीसी, नागपुर निम्नलिखित वस्तुओं/सेवाओं के लिए प्रतिष्ठित फर्मों से ऑनलाइन ई-जैम बोडियों आमंत्रित करते हैं।

Table with 6 columns: Tender No./E-gem bid, Description of Instruments/ Work, Refundable EMD (₹), Last date of tender submission, Date of tender opening, Date of downloading tender.

The details are available in the tender document which will be available for download from our office website www.jnarddc.gov.in or https://mkp.gem.gov.in or e-mail: purchasejnarddcnagpur@gmail.com

वरिष्ठ प्रशासनिक अधिकारी

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank (भारत सरकार का उपक्रम) (A Govt. of India Undertaking) सिंडिकेट Syndicate

Branch Office:- Karnal ARM Branch (DP- 6290), E-mail: cb6290@canarabank.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Canara Bank will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" in Auction arranged by the service provider M/s e-Procurement Technologies Limited - Auction Tiger, Mr. Praveen Kumar Thevar (97227-78828/92655-62818/92655-62821), E-mail: support@auctiontiger.net and praveen.thevar@auctiontiger.net through the website https://canarabank.auctiontiger.net

LAST DATE OF RECEIPT OF EMD IS 21.08.2024 UPTO 5:00 P.M. DATE OF E-AUCTION IS 23.08.2024 (12:30 PM TO 1:30 P.M) (with unlimited extension of 5 minutes duration each till the conclusion of the sale)

Table with 5 columns: Branch Name/Name & Address of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s), Brief Description of Property/ies, Total Liabilities as on specified Date, Reserve Price (in Rs.), Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (in Rs.), Details of A/c No. IFSC CODE Possession notice SYMBOLIC POSSESSION

OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- A) Auction/bidding shall be only through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website https://canarabank.auctiontiger.net. Bidders are advised to go through the website for detailed terms before taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings.
B) The property can be inspected, with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer, on 17.08.2024.
C) The property is being sold with all the existing and further encumbrances whether known or unknown to the bank. The Authorised officer/Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims/ rights/ dues. The purchaser should conduct due diligence on all aspects related to the property to his satisfaction. The bidder are advised to in their own interest to satisfy themselves with the title and correctness of others details pertaining to the secured assets including the size/area of the immovable secured asset in question and also ascertain any other dues/liabilities/encumbrances from the concerned authorities to their satisfaction before submitting the bid. The purchaser shall not be entitled to make any claim against the Authorised officer/ Secured Creditors in this regard at a later date.
D) In the event of any default in payment of any of the amounts, or if the sale is not completed by reasons of default on the part of the purchaser/ bidder within the aforesaid time limit, the bank shall be entitled to forfeit all monies paid by the purchaser/ bidder till then and put up the secured asset(s) for sale again, in its absolute discretion. Further, all costs, expenses incurred by the bank on account of such resale shall be borne and paid by the defaulting purchaser.
E) The property will be sold for the price which is more than the Reserve Price and the participating bidders may improve their offer further during auction process.
F) The EMD amount of 10% of the Reserve Price is to be deposited by way of Demand Draft in favour of Authorised Officer, Canara Bank, ARM Branch OR shall be deposited through RTGS/NEFT/Fund Transfer to credit of account of Canara Bank, ARM Branch, Karnal A/c No 209272434 IFSC Code: CNRB0006290 on or before 21.08.2024 by 05:00 PM.
G) Intending bidders shall hold a valid digital signature certificate and e-mail address. For details with regard to digital signature please contact the service provider M/s e-Procurement Technologies Limited - Auction Tiger, Mr. Praveen Kumar Thevar (97227-78828/92655-62818/92655-62821), E-mail: support@auctiontiger.net and praveen.thevar@auctiontiger.net through the website https://canarabank.auctiontiger.net
H) After payment of the EMD amount, the intending bidders should submit a copy of the following documents/ details on or before 21.08.2024 by 05:00 PM, to Canara Bank, ARM Branch, Novelty Road, Karnal by hand or by email.
i) Demand Draft/ Pay order towards EMD amount. If paid through RTGS/NEFT, acknowledgement receipt thereof with UTR No.
ii) Photocopies of PAN Card, ID Proof and Address proof. However, successful bidder would have to produce these documents in original to the Bank at the time of making payment of balance amount of 25% of bid amount.
iii) Bidders Name, Contact No, Address, E Mail Id.
iv) Bidder's A/c details for online refund of EMD.
I) The intending bidders should register their names at portal https://canarabank.auctiontiger.net and get their User ID and password free of cost. Prospective bidder may avail online training on E- auction from the service provider M/s e-Procurement Technologies Limited - Auction Tiger, Mr. Praveen Kumar Thevar (97227-78828/92655-62818/92655-62821), E-mail: support@auctiontiger.net and praveen.thevar@auctiontiger.net through the website https://canarabank.auctiontiger.net
J) EMD deposited by the unsuccessful bidder shall be refunded to them. The EMD shall not carry any interest.
K) Auction would commence at Reserve Price, as mentioned above. Bidders shall improve their offers in multiples of Rs. 50,000/- the bidder who submits the highest bid (above the Reserve price) on closure of "Online" auction shall be declared as successful bidder. Sale shall be confirmed in favour of the successful bidder, subject to confirmation of the same by the secured creditor.
L) The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the sale price (inclusive of EMD already paid), immediately on declaring him/her as the successful bidder and the balance within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by the secured creditor. If the successful bidder fails to pay the sale price, the deposit made by him shall be forfeited by the Authorised Officer without any notice and property shall forthwith be put up for sale again.
M) For sale proceeds of Rs. 50.00 Lakhs (Rupees Fifty Lakhs) and above, the successful bidder will have to deduct TDS at the rate 1% on the Sale proceeds and submit the original receipt of TDS certificate to the Bank.
N) All charges for conveyance, stamp duty/ GST/ registration charges etc., as applicable shall be borne by the successful bidder only.
O) Authorised Officer reserves the right to postpone/ cancel or vary the terms and conditions of the e-auction without assigning any reason thereof.
P) In case there are bidders who do not have access to the internet but interested in participating the e-auction, they can approach concerned Circle office or Canara Bank, ARMB, Novelty Road, Karnal branch who, as a facilitating centre, shall make necessary arrangements.
Q) For further details contact Chief Manager, Asset Recovery Management Branch (ARMB), Canara Bank, Ph. No. 0184-4041820, 85728-16290 during office hours on any working day. E-mail id: cb6290@canarabank.com OR Mr. Praveen Kumar Thevar (97227-78828/92655-62818/92655-62821), E-mail: support@auctiontiger.net and praveen.thevar@auctiontiger.net

SPECIAL INSTRUCTION/CAUTION Bidding in the last minutes/seconds should be avoided by the bidders in their own interest. Neither Canara Bank nor the Service Provider will be responsible for any lapses/failure (Internet failure, Power failure, etc.) on the part of the bidder or vendor in such cases. In order to ward off such contingent situation, bidders are requested to make all the necessary arrangements/alternatives such as back-up, power supply and whatever else required so that they are able to circumvent such situation and are able to participate in the auction successfully.

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002 Date :- 06.08.2024 Place :- Karnal Authorised Officer, Canara Bank

12 CLASSIFIEDS & TENDERS

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Mohamadarkan Ilyaskhan Pathan S/O, Ilyaskhan Pathan R/O C-601 Al Buroj Nr Empire Party Plot Makarba Ahmedabad Gujarat-380055 have changed my name to Arkankhan Ilyaskhan Pathan for all purposes.

0040742245-1

I, Maya Raikwar W/o Ramsaroop, R/o House No.27, F.F, Block B-15, Pocket-5, Sector-35, Rohini, Pehlud Pur Bangar, North West Delhi-110042, have changed my name to Maya Devi.

0040742232-2

I, K.M. JINDER, W/O DAVINDER BHATIA, R/O B-38 2ND FLOOR, B BLOCK, PHASE 2 JHILMIL H.O, EAST DELHI, DELHI-110095, have changed my name to HEENA BHATIA for all future purposes

0070916807-1

I, K.Seshan S/o Shri K.Srinivasan,R/O H-34,Second-Floor,South Extension Part-1, Andrewsganj, Defence Colony,South Delhi,Delhi-110049, have changed my name to Kalathur Seshan,for all future purposes.

0040742238-3

I, Jai Kishan Bansal S/O, Sh. Mahi Lal Bansal R/O F-37 Kamla Nagar, Delhi-110007 have changed my name to Jai Krishan Bansal for all purposes.

0040742191-1

I, Gurpreet Singh arora, S/o-Pritham Singh, R/o:House No-57, Second Floor, Model Town North Ex, New Delhi-110009 Have Changed My Name to Gurpreet Singh

0040742233-3

I, Ghazalah Gaudam D/O Shamim Ahmed Khan, R/o RZ 3097, H.No-302, Gali No 34, Tughlakabad Extension, Kalkaji, South Delhi 110019, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Ghazalah Parveen Khan. I have changed only my name not my religion.

0070916841-1

I, EESHA GUPTA w/o RAGHAV MEHROTRA, R/O B-36,First Floor, Sector-71,Noida,U.P.-201307,have changed my Name to EESHA GUPTA MEHROTRA.

0040742223-1

I, Durga Devi, W/O-Late Shri Dev Singh Negi, R/O-H-8,Vijay Vihar,Phase-2, Sector-4, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Durga Negi to Durga Devi.

0040742237-5

I, Dipika W/o Inderjeet Channa R/o-JE-19, Gupta Colony, Khirki Extension, Malviya Nagar, Delhi-110017 have changed my name to Pari Channa

0070916852-1

I, Dilnaz Begam W/o Juned Alam R/o Flat No-D-508, Friends Circle CGHS Ltd., Sector-12, Dwarka, Delhi-110078 have changed my name to DILNAZ BEGUM for all future purposes.

0070916845-1

I, Dezy Rai D/o Manoj Kumar R/o-6634, St.No-5, Dev Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005 have changed my name to Dezy Bansiwali

0070916854-1

I, Damodar Prasad Madhogaria S/o Kishori Lal Madhogaria R/o-29/41, West Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi-110026, have changed my name to Damodar Prasad Madhogaria.

0040742248-1

I, Damodar Prasad S/o Kishori Lal Madhogaria R/o-29/41, West Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi-110026, have changed my name to Damodar Prasad Madhogaria.

0040742248-2

I, ABHINAV KUMAR RAI, S/O VIJAY KUMAR RAI, R/O H NO-1/4435, RAM NAGAR, SHAHDARA, NORTH EAST DELHI, DELHI-110032, have changed my name to ABHINAV RAI for all future purposes.

0070916837-1

I, Arun Verma S/O Vijay Kumar Verma, R/o 141 Old Anarkali Gali No-4, Near Kail Mata Mandir Krishna Nagar East Delhi-110051, I have changed the name of my minor Son Virat Verma aged about 17 Years and He shall hereafter be known as Virat Verma

0070916856-1

I, Ankur S/o Gopal R/o H.No.78,Dani Mohalla, Jona Pur, New Delhi have changed my name to Ankur Ambavta.

0040742184-7

I, Anjali Pasricha D/O Ashok Bajaj W/O Sanjeev Pasricha, R/O House No-24/108, Opposite Government Girls School, West Patel Nagar, Central Delhi, Delhi-110008. Declare that Name of Mine and My Father has been wrongly written as Anjali Bajaj and Ashok Kumar Bajaj in my 10th Class Certificate.

0070916848-1

I, Lopamudra Prusty D/O Lok nath prusty R/O C-119A, Sector 20, Noida 201301 have changed my name to Aditi Prusty.

0050247497-1

I, Mohd Qamruddin Alias Md Qamruddin Alias Md Qamruddin S/O Nasiruddin Noman, R/o D- 13/2 3rd Floor, Okhla Vihar, Jamia Nagar, South Delhi-110025, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Qamruddin Noman.

0070916827-1

I, Anchal Kapoor, W/o Bhupinder Kumar R/o 7, Shiv Kala Mandir Wali Gali, Ram Nagar, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110081, have changed my name from Ritu Malhotra to Anchal Kapoor for all future purposes. Anchal Kapoor and Ritu Malhotra are one and the same person.

0040742203-1

I, Amit Jha S/o Bhader Kant Jha R/o 27028, 27th Floor, Block-D, 14 Avenue Gaur City, Greater Noida West, UP have changed my name to AMIT KUMAR JHA for all purposes.

0070916829-1

I, Ajinder Kaur Arora, W/o-Pritham Singh, R/o:House No-57, First Floor, Model Town North Ex, New Delhi-110009 Have Changed My Name to Ajinder Kaur.

0040742233-2

I, Ayushi Mishra D/O Ranjit Narayan Mishra, R/O 679, Sector-A Pocket B And C, Vasant Kunj, South West Delhi-110070. Declare that Name of My Father has been wrongly written as Ranjit Narayan in my 10th and 12th Class Educational Documents. The actual name of My Father is Ranjit Narayan Mishra, which may be amended accordingly.

0070916844-1

I, Aditya Dev Sharma aged 20 years, S/o Shri Prashant Sharma R/O KET-002, Shipra Srishiti, Indirapuram Distt. Ghaziabad-201014 (U.P), have changed my name from Aditya Dev to Aditya Dev Sharma, for all purpose.

0040742199-1

I, hitherto known as Showan Singh alias Showan Singh Rana S/o Shri Hukum Singh Rana, residing at WB-129-B Gali No. 5-6, Shakarpur, East Delhi-110092, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Showan Singh Rana.

0040742189-1

I, Sheela Kumari, Spouse of Phool Kumar Suhag, resident of House No.78, Type - IV, Sector-12, R K Puram New Delhi 110022 have changed my name from Sheela Kumari to Smt. Sheela Devi as per Affidavit dated 05-08-2024

0040742172-1

I, Raj Kumar R/o 4B, E Block, Roshan Vihar, Najafgarh, New Delhi-110043 have changed my minor daughter's name from Muskaan to Muskaan Devraj.

0040742223-1

I, Megha Kumari Jain D/o Sunil Kumar W/o Gaurav Gupta R/O B-147/A, First Floor, Surya Nagar, I.E. Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201010 have changed my name to Megha Gupta for all purposes.

0040742157-3

I, Jagjeet Kour Bhasin W/o Sh.Narinder Pal Singh R/o H.No.77A, Gali No.16, Indra Park, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059 have changed my name to Jagjeet Kaur for all purposes.

0040742157-4

Vinay Kumar Gour Legal Father of Rudraksh Resident of Delhi Affirm That I Have Changed My Son's name From Rudraksh to Rudraksh Gaur. That both Names Rudraksh and Rudraksh Gaur Pertain to one and same Person and his Dob is 12.08.2006.

0040742238-10

I, Shabana W/o Ravi Kumar Saxena, R/o-3, 1st Floor, Pocket-16, Sector-20, Rohini, Delhi-110086, have changed my name to Shivani Saxena

0040742255-1

I, Sanjeev Saini, S/o Satpal, R/O-R-169, Dharampura Ext, Najafgarh, Delhi-110043, have changed my name to Sanjeev Kumar

0040742255-4

I, SATYANARAYANA, father of, RKP RANGARAO CHOLLANGI, Presently, residing at, H.No.6-35/1, Main-road, Nagula Cheruvu (Village), Kapileswrapuram (Mandal), Dr. BR AMBEDKAR KONASEEMA (District), Andhra Pradesh-533305, have changed my name, from SATYANARAYANA to CHOLLANGI SATYANARAYANA, vide-affidavit, dated-06.08.2024.

0040742226-8

I, Heemala Akhter Legally wedded wife of No-9113397Y, Hav Sartaj Ahmad Wagay, R/O- Ladgo Rambhama, Tehsil-Kulgam, District- Anantnag-192231. In my husband's service records my name and D o B has been wrongly mentioned as Heemala Jn, D o B-05-06-1989 instead of Heemala Akhter, D o B-06-05-1989. It needs correction. Objections be filled to 12 JAKLI.

0020479501-1

I, Surender S/o Hardayal R/o C-1666 Palam vihar Gurgaon Haryana-122017, Have changed my name to Surender Rana for all purposes.

0040742184-4

I, Shilpa Mathakh W/o Amandeep Singh R/o A-462, Resettlement Colony, Khyala, New Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Shilpa Kaur.

0040742182-2

I, VIPIN KUMAR SHARMA S/O-RADHESHYAM SHARMA R-205, Arsh Gen Height -2, Gali No-5, Welcome City, Shahberi, Greater Noida West, Gautam Buddha Nagar Uttar Pradesh -201009 Have Changed My Minor Son Name From APPLE SHARMA TO AKSHIT GAUR For All Purpose.

0050247498-1

I, Nidhi Gupta, W/o Dinesh Porwal R/o RZK-144, Nihal Vihar, Nangloi Jat, New Delhi-110041 have changed my name to Nikhi Porwal

0130044050-1

It is for general information that I, PRINCY JAISWAL, W/O SH. ADITYA KUMAR WALIA, R/O B-21, CHANAKYA PLACE PART-1, PANKHA-ROAD, D.K. MOHAN Garden, Delhi-110059, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as PRINCY WALIA in my minor son namely LAKSHIT WALIA, aged-8-years in his School Record. The actual name of mine is PRINCY JAISWAL, which may be amended accordingly.

0040742238-9

I, Vinod Kumar, S/o Shambhuj Dutt Sharma, R/o H-38, GF, Pocket-13, Sector-20, Rohini, Delhi-110086, have changed my name to Vinod Kumar Sharma

0040742255-2

It is for general information that I, Mohan Lal, S/o-Jivan Das, R/o-6/101, Geeta-Colony, Delhi-110031, declare that name of mine and my wife has been wrongly written as Mohan Lal Lota, Vinita Lota in my minor son Krishna Lota Aged-13Years School Records. The actual name of mine and my wife are Mohan Lal, Vinita respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

0040742226-4

It is for general information that I, LUCKY, D/o Krishn Kumar, R/o-Kansala (49)Rohtak Haryana-124406, declare that name of my father and my mother has been wrongly written as Krishan Kumar and Meenakshi in my 10th-class and 12th-class marksheet cum certificate educational documents. The actual name of my father and my mother are Krishn Kumar and Meenakshi Devi. Which may be amended accordingly.

0040742236-3

I, NEETU RANI W/O BHARAT BHUSHAN R/O WZ-A-26, GALI.NO.-34, NEAR TIRKONA PARK, UTTAM NAGAR, DELHI-110059, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO NEETU GUPTA.

0040742184-8

I, Munfed Khan, S/O Sharip Khan, R/O Malka Ki Dhani Bawla(46)PO Tauru Mewat Nuh Haryana-122105, Have Changed My Name To Munfed Permanently.

0040742238-1

I, Megha W/o Pradeep Kumar R/o, H.No-19 plot no-34 UCO apartment sector-9, Rohini, New Delhi-110085, Have changed my name to Megha Dargan, for all purposes

0040742184-2

I, MUKESH TOHAN, S/O PRITAM CHAND TOHAN, R/o-72, GROUND FLOOR, SHAKTI KHAND-3, INDIRAPURAM GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201014, changed my minor SON'S name ZORAVAR TOHAN to ZORAAVVAR TOHAN.

0040742182-4

I, MOHAMMAD TAYYAB KHAN/MOHD TAYYAB KHAN, S/O-MOHAMMAD QARIB KHAN, R/O-2231, NAYA-MOHALLA, GALI-QASIM JAN, BALLIMARAN, DELHI-110006, have changed my name to MOHAMMAD TAYYAB KHAN, for all future purposes.

0040742184-9

I, MD SAADI ASLAM, S/o-MD ASLAM MAJEED, R/o-387/17, 3rd-Floor, Sahil Apartment, Gali.No.17, Zakir Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025, declare that name of my has been mentioned as ASLAM MOHAMMAD SAADI in my Passport. That MD SAADI ASLAM and ASLAM MOHAMMAD SAADI both name are one and the same person. The actual name of my is MD SAADI ASLAM S/O MD ASLAM MAJEED, which may be amended accordingly.

0040742184-9

I, Swarnika Meher Devaraju, D/o Devaraju Venkata Balakrishna Meher, R/o 144/603, Sekhon Vihar, Near Railway Crossing, Delhi-Cantt. Delhi-110010, declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as D Swarnika Meher and DVBK Meher in my 10th and 12th-class educational document. The actual name of mine and my father is Swarnika Meher Devaraju and Devaraju Venkata Balakrishna Meher, which may be amended accordingly.

0040742226-7

I, Lilawati Devi, W/O Prabhu Shankar Prasad, R/O RZF-762/25A Gali No-4, Raj-Nagar-2, Palam Colony, New Delhi-110077, Have Changed My Name To Leelawati Devi Permanently

0040742226-2

I, Kuldeep Singh Mathakh S/o Ajit Singh R/o J-220/68, Vishnu Garden, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Kuldeep Singh.

0040742182-1

I, Km Aakanksha Saxena, D/O-Vinod Kumar Hajela, R/O-J-603, Galaxy North Avenue-2, Gaur City 2, Greater Noida West, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201318, have changed my name to Aakanksha saxena.

0040742237-2

I, KISHORI GARG S/O BISHAN SAROOP GARG R/O-WZ-1937, First-Floor Rani Bagh Delhi have changed my name to KISHORI LAL

0040742238-7

I, Jyoti Singh, D/o Devender Singh, R/O H.No. 51, Surendera Nagar, Koil, Aligarh, have changed my name to Jyoti Singh Pundhir.

0040742236-1

I, JAGJIT KUMAR CHAWLA, S/O LACHHMAN DASS R/O I-8/22, GROUND FLOOR SEC-16, ROHINI DELHI-110089, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO JAGJEET KUMAR CHAWLA.

0040742157-2

I, Sunita Madhogaria W/o Damodar Prasad Madhogaria R/o-29/41, West Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi-110026, have changed my name to Sunita Devi Madhogaria.

0040742248-4

I, Sunita Devi W/o Damodar Prasad Madhogaria R/o-29/41, West Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi-110026, have changed my name to Sunita Devi Madhogaria.

0040742248-3

I, Sanjeev Kumar S/o Ram Bhajan Sharma R/o F-108, GF, Gali No-4, West Vinod Nagar, Shakarpur, Delhi-110092 have changed my name to SANJEEV SHARMA for all future purposes.

0070916836-1

I, Rajeev S/o Ram Sewak R/o-409, Third Floor, Pocket-3, Paschim Puri Delhi-110063, have changed my name to Rajeev Chauhan.

0040742238-8

I, Rabi Kumar Choudhary S/O Kameshwar Choudhary R/O House No.A-2/350, A-Block, Pratap Vihar, Part-3, Kirari Suleman Nagar, Delhi-110086, confirm that in my Son Namely Satyam School record my name has been wrongly written as Mithilesh Kumar Choudhary instead of Rabi Kumar Choudhary. My correct name is Rabi Kumar Choudhary for all future Purposes.

0070916840-1

I, Pritham Singh Arora, S/o-Sant Singh, R/o:House No-57, First Floor, Model Town North Ex, New Delhi-110009 Have Changed My Name to Pritham Singh.

0040742233-1

I, Panna Lal, S/o Kanhaiya Lal, R/O-13, 3rd-Floor, Pocket-7, Sector-21, Rohini, Delhi-110086, have changed my name to Panna Lal Sahu.

0040742255-5

I, Nirmala, w/o Ramesh Chand Punetha & D/o Krishna Nand Joshi, R/O A-501, Third-Floor Pandav Nagar, Delhi-110008, have changed my name to Nirmala Punetha Permanently

0040742182-11

I, Sudhir Singh S/o Virender R/o VPO-Bhangrola, Gurgaon(Haryana), have changed my name to Sudhir Singh Yadav for All Purposes.

0040742236-3

I, NEETU RANI W/O BHARAT BHUSHAN R/O WZ-A-26, GALI.NO.-34, NEAR TIRKONA PARK, UTTAM NAGAR, DELHI-110059, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO NEETU GUPTA.

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I, Munfed Khan, S/O Sharip Khan, R/O Malka Ki Dhani Bawla(46)PO Tauru Mewat Nuh Haryana-122105, Have Changed My Name To Munfed Permanently.

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I, MOHAMMAD TAYYAB KHAN/MOHD TAYYAB KHAN, S/O-MOHAMMAD QARIB KHAN, R/O-2231, NAYA-MOHALLA, GALI-QASIM JAN, BALLIMARAN, DELHI-110006, have changed my name to MOHAMMAD TAYYAB KHAN, for all future purposes.

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I, MD SAADI ASLAM, S/o-MD ASLAM MAJEED, R/o-387/17, 3rd-Floor, Sahil Apartment, Gali.No.17, Zakir Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025, declare that name of my has been mentioned as ASLAM MOHAMMAD SAADI in my Passport. That MD SAADI ASLAM and ASLAM MOHAMMAD SAADI both name are one and the same person. The actual name of my is MD SAADI ASLAM S/O MD ASLAM MAJEED, which may be amended accordingly.

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I, Swarnika Meher Devaraju, D/o Devaraju Venkata Balakrishna Meher, R/o 144/603, Sekhon Vihar, Near Railway Crossing, Delhi-Cantt. Delhi-110010, declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as D Swarnika Meher and DVBK Meher in my 10th and 12th-class educational document. The actual name of mine and my father is Swarnika Meher Devaraju and Devaraju Venkata Balakrishna Meher, which may be amended accordingly.

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I, Km Aakanksha Saxena, D/O-Vinod Kumar Hajela, R/O-J-603, Galaxy North Avenue-2, Gaur City 2, Greater Noida West, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201318, have changed my name to Aakanksha saxena.

0040742237-2

I, KISHORI GARG S/O BISHAN SAROOP GARG R/O-WZ-1937, First-Floor Rani Bagh Delhi have changed my name to KISHORI LAL

0040742238-7

I, Jyoti Singh, D/o Devender Singh, R/O H.No. 51, Surendera Nagar, Koil, Aligarh, have changed my name to Jyoti Singh Pundhir.

0040742236-1

I, JAGJIT KUMAR CHAWLA, S/O LACHHMAN DASS R/O I-8/22, GROUND FLOOR SEC-16, ROHINI DELHI-110089, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO JAGJEET KUMAR CHAWLA.

0040742157-2

I, Sunita Madhogaria W/o Damodar Prasad Madhogaria R/o-29/41, West Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi-110026, have changed my name to Sunita Devi Madhogaria.

00407422

BRIEFLY

NEW DELHI

L K Advani admitted to Apollo hospital

New Delhi: Around a month after being discharged, senior BJP leader L K Advani was admitted to Delhi's Apollo hospital again on Tuesday. The 96-year-old is stable and under observation, according to sources. He has been admitted under the care of neurologist Dr Vinit Suri. Days before being admitted to Apollo hospital last month, he was also admitted to AIIMS, Delhi. Advani served as the Deputy Prime Minister from 2002 to 2004 and as the Union Home Minister from 1999 to 2004. In March 2024, he was conferred Bharat Ratna by President Droupadi Murmu at his residence. **ENS**

MAHARASHTRA

Student drowns in dam, kin send notice to state

Pune: The family of an 18-year-old student of Symbiosis in Pune, who drowned in Pavana dam in June, has served a legal notice to the government, seeking justice and fixing of accountability. The notice was served under Section 80 of the Civil Procedure Code on July 23. Advaita Verma, from Delhi, was a second-year student at Symbiosis, Viman Nagar. His uncle Suresh Verma, said, "There were no danger boards or signs barring tourists from entering the dam's water, so blaming the students for going to a popular tourist spot makes absolutely no sense." **ENS**

KARNATAKA

Clubs, bars and hotels to stay open till 1 am

Bengaluru: The Karnataka government has issued an order extending the deadline for hotels, shops and licensed establishments to 1 am. This is likely to generate additional revenue. The order would apply to the establishment under BBMP limits.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Toll 19 as 2 more bodies recovered

Shimla: Two more bodies were recovered Tuesday taking the toll due to flash floods triggered by cloudbursts in three districts of the state last week to 19 even as search and rescue teams intensified efforts to look for 36 people who are still missing. **ENS**

Government spent 14% of funds under Ayushman Bharat on those over 70 years

ANONNA DUTT

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

BENEFICIARIES AGED 70 years and more made up over 12 per cent of all admissions under the government's flagship Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme, with their treatment costs accounting for nearly 14% of the total expenditure till January, according to data presented in Parliament by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The data shows that of the nearly 6.2 crore approved hospital admissions till January 2024, as many as 57.5 lakh were senior citizens aged 70 years and more. The government's expenditure for treatments under the scheme reached a staggering Rs 79,200 crore over the last six years till January 2024, of which Rs 9,878.5 crore was allocated to treat those who are 70 years and over.

TOP 5 STATES, FOR THE ELDERLY

| State | Admissions in 70-plus age group | Proportion of total admissions | Hospitalisation cost in 70-plus age group | Proportion of total cost |
|------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Maharashtra | 2.5 lakh | 20.49% | 844.8 cr | 27.49% |
| Kerala | 10.2 lakh | 18.75% | 1101.1 cr | 19.9% |
| Haryana | 1.9 lakh | 18.13% | 291.9 cr | 19.8% |
| Bihar | 1.3 lakh | 16.6% | 138 cr | 16.8% |
| Himachal Pradesh | 0.38 lakh | 16.4% | 48.6 cr | 16.98% |

The costs and number of admissions frames the challenge for the BJP-led government with one of the party's key poll agenda being an ambitious expansion of Ayushman Bharat to include all individuals over 70, irrespective of their economic status. This move is set to add nearly 4 crore new beneficiaries to the program. At present, only the poor, who figure in the SECC data, are among those with access to the annual Rs 5 lakh coverage under the

scheme. Experts estimate the cost of expanding the coverage to all persons over 70 years would be higher than that for covering the poorest 40 per cent across all age groups. "The cost to the exchequer is likely to increase when older people of means are also covered. First, health-seeking behaviour — accessing hospitals for care — is more in older people who are relatively affluent, meaning the number of people who utilise the policy is likely to

be much higher. Second, the premiums too are likely to be higher for older individuals as they are more likely to need healthcare for chronic conditions and their complications," said Dr Indranil Mukhopadhyay, health economist and professor at the School of Government and Public Policy at O.P.J.S. University.

While the Ayushman Bharat insurance scheme was extended for the ASHA and Anganwadi workers during the government's interim budget in February, no mention of any further expansion was made while the full Budget was presented in July. The allocation for the insurance scheme was also flat; it increased by only Rs 100 crore to Rs 7,300 crore.

With an ageing population with inadequate health coverage, the expansion of the scheme for those over 70 years across all income groups is expected to have a significant impact. India's population over the age of 60

years is estimated to increase from 8.6 per cent in 2011 to 19.5 per cent by 2050, according to the Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI). In terms of absolute numbers it means that the population over the age of 60 years is set to triple from 103 million in 2011 to 319 million in 2050.

Big spenders

The proportion of hospital admissions for older individuals exceeded 10 per cent — their projected share in the country's total population — in several states. Maharashtra led with 20.49 per cent, followed by Kerala (18.75 per cent), Haryana (18.13 per cent), Bihar (16.56 per cent), Himachal Pradesh (16.37 per cent), Uttarakhand (15.23 per cent), Telangana (11.53 per cent), Uttar Pradesh (10.99 per cent), Karnataka (10.92 per cent), Jharkhand (10.35 per cent), and Punjab (10.14 per cent).

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Hijab ban: 3 students move SC against Bombay HC verdict

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

MUMBAI, AUGUST 6

THREE STUDENTS of Acharya and Marathe College in Chembur have approached the Supreme Court challenging the Bombay High Court order that dismissed their plea against the institute's dress code that banned hijabs, among other religious identifiers.

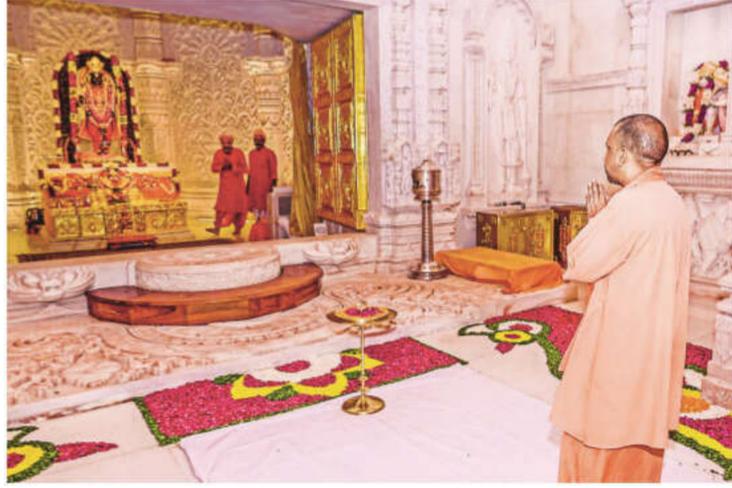
On June 26, a division bench of Justices Atul S Chandurkar and Rajesh S Pati, while rejecting the plea of nine students who had objected to the dress code, had held that the instruction issued by the college "does not suffer from infirmity so as to violate provisions of Article 19(1)(a) (Right to freedom of expression) and Article 25 (freedom of practising religion) of the Constitution". Three of the nine students have challenged the same in the Supreme Court.

"The object behind issuing the same is that the dress of a student should not reveal his/her religion, which is a step towards ensuring

that the students focus on gaining knowledge and education which is in their larger interest," it had added.

The dress code, which was to come into effect in the academic year beginning in June, stipulated that burqas, niqabs, hijabs, or any religious identifiers such as badges, caps, or stoles would not be permitted inside the college. Only full or half shirts and trousers are prescribed for boys, while girls can wear "any Indian/western non-revealing dress" on the college campus.

In a Special Leave Petition (SLP) filed in the SC through advocates Hamza Lakdawala and Abiha Zaidi, three BSc Computer Science students claimed that the high court failed to consider that the college issued the impugned instruction without the authority of law. The students' appeal also stated that the high court took an "incorrect" view that the object behind the impugned instruction is to discourage discrimination on any count.



IN AYODHYA

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya on Tuesday. **PTI**

GREEN CLEARANCE FOR COAL MINING AT JHARSUGUDA IN ODISHA

CBI files case against Hindalco, former Forest Ministry director for corruption

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

EIGHT YEARS after conducting its preliminary inquiry, the CBI has booked the country's leading aluminium producer, Hindalco of the Aditya Birla Group, for alleged corruption in getting environmental clearances for coal mining between

The agency also booked T Chandini, the then director in the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests who was member secretary of the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC), for allegedly violating guidelines to allow Hindalco mining in the Talabira-I mine in Odisha's Jharsuguda, a critically polluted area.

Hindalco and Chandini were booked under Section 120-B (criminal conspiracy) of the IPC and provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

A Hindalco spokesperson, quoted by news agency PTI, said: "This is an old matter pertaining to 2014-15. These mines were de-allocated as part of the government's de-allocation process. This is a matter of public record where more than 100 mines were de-allocated." According to the FIR, the CBI registered the preliminary inquiry on February 8, 2016 after allegations that the Aditya Birla Management Corporation Private Limited (ABMCP) had paid massive bribes between 2011 and 2013 to ministry officials for getting mandatory environmental

clearance to mine coal from Talabira.

The ministry had made it mandatory in 2006 for a company to seek environment clearances "for all new projects, expansion of existing projects and any change in the product mix in an existing manufacturing unit". The projects needing prior environmental clearance were supposed to go through the EAC, the FIR said.

According to the FIR, Hindalco received two environmental clearances — one in 2001 for mining 0.4 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) of coal from Talabira-I, and another in January 2009 for its expansion to 1.5 MTPA. A month after the second clearance, Hindalco applied for a third clearance to double its capacity to 3 MTPA.

SC to hear today pleas seeking review of its 2022 order upholding PMLA provisions

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

A THREE-JUDGE special bench of the Supreme Court will Wednesday hear petitions seeking a review of its July 27, 2022 ruling upholding the constitutional validity of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, as amended from time to time including provisions dealing with the powers of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) regarding arrest, search, attachment and seizure in money laundering offences.

The petitions have been listed before a bench of Justices Surya Kant, C T Ravikumar and Ujjal Bhuyan.

In November 2017, a bench of Justices Rohinton Nariman and Sanjay Kishan Kaul, in Nikesh Tarachand Shah vs Union of India, had declared the "twin test" of bail under PMLA as unconstitutional since it was "manifestly arbitrary".

"We must not forget that Section 45 is a drastic provision which turns on its head the presumption of innocence which is fundamental to a person accused of any offence. Before application of a section which makes drastic inroads into the fundamental right of personal liberty guaranteed by Article 21 of the Constitution of India, we must be doubly sure that such provision furthers a compelling State interest for tackling serious crime. Absent any such compelling State interest, the indiscriminate application of the provisions of Section 45 will certainly violate Article 21 of the Constitution. Provisions akin to Section 45 have only been upheld on the ground that there is a compelling State interest in tackling crimes of an extremely heinous nature," the bench had said. It had said that stringent bail conditions can be imposed in exceptional circumstances such as anti-terrorism laws, but cannot be manifestly arbitrary.

This was, however, overruled

on July 27, 2022, by a three-judge bench, presided by Justice A M Khanwilkar and also comprising Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and C T Ravikumar, in the Vijay Madanlal Choudhary vs Union of India case.

The bench held as valid the twin conditions for bail laid down in Section 45 of the Act. The provision says that when the public prosecutor opposes the bail plea of an accused, the court can grant relief only if it is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the accused is not guilty of such an offence and is not likely to commit any offence if released on bail.

Ruling on a batch of 242 petitions that raised questions on different provisions of the PMLA, including Section 3 which defines what constitutes money laundering, the Justice Khanwilkar-led bench upheld the PMLA law as amended from time to time including provisions dealing with the powers of the ED regarding arrest, search, attachment and seizure in money laundering offences.

The bench underlined that "the principle of innocence of the accused/offender is regarded as a human right" but "that presumption can be interdicted by a law made by the Parliament/Legislature".

It also said an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) cannot be equated with an FIR, that supplying an ECIR in every case to the person concerned is not mandatory and "it is enough if ED, at the time of arrest, discloses the grounds of such arrest".

Taking up a review petition against this in August 2022, another three-judge bench, presided by the then Chief Justice of India N V Ramana, said that "at least two of the issues" raised in the petition requires reconsideration — the finding that the copy of the ECIR need not be given to the accused; two, reversal of the presumption of innocence.

Ayodhya rape case: Girl's family allows abortion; police may go for DNA test

MANISH SAHU

LUCKNOW, AUGUST 6

THE FAMILY of a 12-year-old girl raped allegedly by a local Samajwadi Party (SP) member and his employee in Ayodhya has given consent to terminate her pregnancy. The girl is 12 weeks pregnant and is currently undergoing treatment at a hospital in Lucknow.

Police, meanwhile, are planning to conduct a DNA test "to strengthen the case" against the two arrested accused.

"The girl's family has given consent (to terminate the pregnancy), and now the doctors overseeing her care will decide the next steps for the abortion. She was transferred to a Lucknow hospital on Monday for better treatment. She was accompanied by a team of doctors," said Sanjay Jain, Chief Medical Officer of Ayodhya.

The uncle of the girl said the decision to transfer her to a hospital in Lucknow was taken by the doctors at Ayodhya. "Regarding the decision about the abortion, it was made by her mother and siblings. No other family members were aware of it. Police have been deployed at the house for their security," the uncle said.

Child Welfare Committee (Ayodhya) chairperson Sarvesh Awasthi said that a woman aide has been appointed to take care of the girl. "The support person, appointed under the provisions of the POCSO Act, will stay with and support the girl," said Awasthi, adding that the administration is exploring ways to provide supportive assistance to the 12-year-old and her family through state schemes. The girl lives with her mother and siblings. Her father died a few years ago.

On July 29, a rape case was filed against a bakery owner and Samajwadi Party member Moid Khan, 65, and his 22-year-old employee Raju Khan for allegedly raping the girl and recording the act two months ago.

Forefathers made Wayanad home, now dreams lie buried

SHAJU PHILIP

CHOOALMALA, AUGUST 6

ASHRAF HASN'T known a life beyond the hills of Wayanad. He was four when he first came to Mundakkai village, accompanying his parents who had moved from Nilambur in Malappuram district to work on the tea plantations. Like his parents before him, he found a job on the tea estates when he turned 22. It was in Mundakkai that he married, where he four children grew up, and where he allowed himself to dream of a better life.

"I have always lived in the estate quarters — first with my parents and later, my wife and children. But I always dreamt of owning a piece of land. I recently bought 10 cents, hoping I will some day build my own house," he says.

But the landslide of July 30, which tore through the hills of Wayanad, has washed away his dreams, ravaging Mundakkai and Chooralmala, two of the worst-affected villages. "Now it's all over. The landslide has rendered my



At Chooralmala, one of the villages worst hit by the July 30 landslides. **Shaju Philip**

land useless. That plot will have to be abandoned. Nobody will buy it either," he says.

Metres away from where Ashraf sat at the relief camp that has been set up for the landslide survivors at Meppadi panchayat, sit K Annayyan and his wife Shakunthala. Annayyan says his parents came to Chooralmala from Udipi in Karnataka as plantation workers. "I was born here," says Annayyan, 67. "Chooralmala is the only place I know... I don't remember the

year my parents came to Wayanad." After years of toil on the plantations, Annayyan bought two acres in the coffee plantation. "My house as well as the entire coffee plantation were lost in the landslide. My son and daughter, both engineers, are married off and settled outside Kerala. But this is my home... Where else can I go? How can I depend on my children," he says.

Almost everyone in Mundakkai, Chooralmala and other parts of the landslide-hit

Wayanad hills trace their ancestry to people who came to work from other districts in the state and elsewhere in the South during the colonial period. T

They talk proudly of how their fathers or grandfathers toiled on the land, turning it into tea and coffee plantations. As they stayed in stuffy quarters, they dreamt of a better future for their children. The second and third generation from among these plantation workers went on to own houses and

vehicles and sent their children to schools and colleges in Kerala and outside. Many of them also went abroad to work, especially to the Gulf, and their remittances brought a new affluence to the region.

In the lower belts of the hillocks, they built new homes with car porches and sit-outs. While most of the dilapidated worker quarters and the old-fashioned estate bungalows on the upper areas of the hillocks remained unaffected in the landslide, it's the newer structures, the ones that were built through sheer toil in Chooralmala and nearby areas, that were washed away along with the residents.

As the water receded, it left behind mangled remains of cars, jeeps, two-wheelers and modern house appliances.

Suneesh Madhavan, a resident of Chooralmala whose grandfathers migrated to the village from Karnataka, says, "What will happen to those who are living here? Our school, hospital and other facilities were lost. Will they be rebuilt," he said.

135 return to Jiribam homes from relief camp days after Meitei-Hmar peace talks

SUKRITA BARUAH

GUWAHATI, AUGUST 6

DAYS AFTER Hmar and Meitei groups met for peace talks, 135 people living in a relief camp in Manipur's Jiribam since tensions flared in the district in June returned to their homes with security cover on Monday.

Last week, Hmar and Meitei groups from Jiribam had met in Assam's Cachar as part of a peace initiative, and agreed to work towards normalcy and facilitate the movement of both communities within the district.

As of the beginning of this month, there were a total of 768 Meitei people living in relief camps within Jiribam itself, and over 1,000 Hmar and Kuki people from Jiribam displaced and seeking shelter in the neighbouring Cachar district of Assam.

On Tuesday afternoon, 135 people from the Meitei community, who had been living in a relief

camp at Chingdong Leikai Primary School in Jiribam since June 7, were taken to their homes in Mongbung village, a district official said. The village is located around six kilometres from the town centre.

"At around 3.30 pm, the inmates of the primary school left under the supervision of the District Collector and the Superintendent of Police. They had left their homes after disturbances in their area. Today, they went back with security forces, which include the Assam Rifles, the CRPF and the state police," said the official. The people living in the primary school included 62 children and 46 women. The younger men of the village had continued to remain in the village.

Mongbung is also located near where a CRPF man was killed last month in what the police had called an ambush attack. The incident took place in an area between Sejang Kuki village and Mongbung Meitei village.

'I can't see myself in a position where I have to ask L-G for appointing my peon... I am not going to sit outside and ask him, 'Sir, please sign the file'

National Conference Vice President and former J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah says his party is ready for the UT Assembly elections come September. He speaks to NAVEED IQBAL and P VAIDYANATHAN IYER at his Gupkar Road residence

On the fifth anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370, what are some changes you think are now irreversible?

For a party like mine (National Conference), I don't think we are going to accept that anything is irreversible. Ultimately, these are all laws, they are rules, they are decisions of Parliament. No decision of Parliament is sacrosanct. Tomorrow, you will have a Parliament that can revisit this. And the same is true for judgments of the court.

I mean, if I was to turn around and say that, yes, because you had a five-judge Bench that found in favour of what the government did on August 5, 2019, and this is now a closed issue, I would then have to ask myself why that wasn't the case when previous benches of the Supreme Court found in favour of 370 and said that it wasn't temporary. In fact, it was a permanent provision. So if at that time the BJP didn't accept that this is a done deal... I don't see why it should be for us.

That said, we also know that it's definitely not going to change in the term of this government. So be it. There are other things that changed after August 5, 2019, which, when statehood is restored to J&K, need to be looked at: domicile laws, protection of land, protection of jobs.

But on land and domicile, despite the alarm, not much has changed on the ground.

No, it's a creeping thing.

What's the concern?

Today, as a non-resident I can't just walk into Himachal Pradesh and buy agricultural land. There is nothing that stops me here.

Today, you have a government that is not elected but is selling all our assets. Technical bids have been received and are about to be opened for Centaur Hotel. I mean, with whose involvement? Technical bids have been received for the club in Pahalgam, for the JKTDCC (Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Development Corporation) huts in Pahalgam. You are getting rid of assets without any consideration as to who they are going to. Without any involvement of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

If elections are around the corner... these sorts of things need to be put on hold until an elected government can decide whether it wants to part with these assets or not. And they can do this because our laws are weak. I challenge this government to dare take one asset in Ladakh and auction it to a non-Ladakh... Right from the beginning, they have been careful about protecting this whole idea of Ladakh's status, its identity etc.

Where has the needle moved forward in five years since August 5?

The fact that they have marginalised or shrunk the space for separatist politics is an established fact. When was the last time you heard the Mirwaiz make a political speech? When you can't even post a 'Like' on Facebook... without worrying about the police knocking on your door, that tells you about the circumstances we live in. There is hardly a journalist who hasn't been summoned to some thana or the other.

The separatist space has shrunk. But it hasn't disappeared. It finds new ways to manifest itself. And you need no bigger example than the recent Lok Sabha elections. The North Kashmir result (Independent MLA Engineer Rashid won from Baramulla defeating Omar Abdullah and People's Conference leader Sajad Lone) was clear evidence that you can squeeze from here but it will pop up somewhere else and take a slightly different form. That's the form it took in this case.

Does Engineer Rashid's win put a question mark on the Assembly election? That it may be deferred?

I don't know how the government would justify postponing an election mandated by the Supreme Court. Unless the Home Minister of India is willing to stand up in Parliament and tell the country and the world that, 'Look, we messed up things in J&K so much that we are unable to conduct an Assembly election'... You have only just had a Parliament election. You have told the world how successful it was. In fact, you have gone so far as to package the North Kashmir result as a sort of success of Indian democracy.

So you have that on the one hand, and then what do you do? Go and tell the Supreme Court that well, actually we can't (hold elections). Because then, for people like me, the first question will be, 'Hang on, just because you have had the start of a fairly nasty campaign of attacks in Jammu, you are unable to

No decision of Parliament is sacrosanct. Tomorrow, you will have a Parliament that can revisit this (Art 370). And the same is true for judgments of court... That said, we also know it's definitely not going to change in this government. So be it. There are other things which, when statehood is restored to J&K, need to be looked at.



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

conduct elections? And if that is the case, then what was 370 all about? Because one of the main justifications for August 5, 2019, was that 370 gave cover to separatist and terror organisations, and that terrorism had flourished in Kashmir because of 370.

How do you read the the sharp surge in attacks in Jammu?

My sense is that it's basically carelessness. Pakistan has found the forces at home that back these groups and, as with all other situations where you find a vacuum, you move in to occupy it.

Having been the head of the Unified Command for six years here, I can imagine their entire focus has been on this side of the Pir Panjal. You have been so focused on containing law and order, infiltration, all the rest of it this side, that you forgot that you actually have a theatre on that side as well. There was a reason the J&K Chief Minister would have two security advisors — Corps Commander, Srinagar, and Corps Commander, Nagrota... But clearly, somebody forgot that.

As a result, these people (the militants) found the space to move in, and time to establish themselves.

Home Minister Amit Shah says the Valley security model needs to be replicated in Jammu? What are the challenges unique to Jammu?

The terrain is one part of it. The proximity to the border is another. You can't just suddenly create an anti-terror grid; it takes time for your troops to familiarise themselves with the area. It takes time for you to establish intelligence.

And one of the big problems in J&K today, which is sort of very apparent in Jammu, is that there is almost no connect between the local population and the government. Otherwise, elected representatives and political workers are the first to know what's happening in their area. They are the first people to inform the police that this is what they have heard... Today there is nobody.

So the lack of panchayats, the District Development Councils (DDCs) not being functional, no MLAs... all that comes into play?

It comes into play. What also comes into play is that the parties actually present on the ground have been demoralised. So you are happy to deal with an Altaf (Bukhari, the Apni Party leader), a Sajad (Lone) and others who

have no presence at all. There is not one worthwhile piece of feedback they can give you.

Parties that are cadre-based have people in virtually every village, but today you don't want anything to do with (them). As far as you are concerned, we are part of the problem. Fine. So then when you need something to help you with the solution, we are not available to you.

In an elected government, you would have had MLAs, ministers, people in the area in touch with the local administration. They would have been coming into the DC's office to get their work done, conversations would have happened and you would have known.

How did you first hear about the infiltration in Kargil? It was from people on the ground there who told their elected representatives, who then told the Army.

What do you think of the Jamaat-e-Islami saying it wants to fight elections? Altaf Bukhari seems to be the main negotiator between the government and Jamaat.

Where does Altaf get votes from otherwise? He is looking for some quid pro quo... The Jamaat has quite happily played both sides against the middle, while being very vocal in their commitment to making Jammu and Kashmir a part of Pakistan. Come elections they have also been quite happy to nudge their people to vote in select pockets. And the biggest beneficiary of this, we all know, is the PDP (Peoples Democratic Party).

The areas that are Jamaat-dominated are also areas where the PDP has traditionally drawn its maximum support from. Now, what this means for the PDP in terms of the Jamaat saying we want to contest... is something that remains to be seen. But obviously Altaf is not going to do something for nothing.

So trying to get the ban against the Jamaat lifted is, I guess, Altaf's way of trying to make some inroads into these areas.

Is the Jamaat move, say, an attempt to really undercut the PDP?

That's one way of looking at it. The other way is that it is bragging rights for the government of India. At the end of the day, to get the Jamaat-e-Islami to completely surrender its separatist agenda and contest elections would be one of the most significant political developments of 30-35 years... At the end of the day, we are talking about the Jamaat-e-Islami that was the political face of the Hizbul Mujahideen.

What is your one message to the NC voter in 2024?

Actually, it wouldn't just be to the NC voter, but the voters of Jammu and Kashmir — that don't allow your vote to be fractured. That J&K has suffered on account of fractured mandates and that the parliamentary elections showed that the party with the best chance of performing in the government is the NC... We are still the largest party by a large margin.

What do you make of the recent order transferring more powers to the L-G?

To me, that is the clearest indicator that you are going to have elections. Because otherwise, there was no need for this. Anyway, the LG had all the powers... You're making it known that the concurrent list will be entirely with the LG, the Central list obviously, most of the state list... It is the clearest indicator that you're having elections... as a Union Territory.

If the NC wins, is there a possibility that the new UT Assembly may pass a resolution saying we do not accept the abrogation of Article 370?

I don't see why not.

Even if that means a face-off with the Centre?

It will be the will of the people, a resolution passed by the Assembly. But it will not be the first one. We had the resolution calling for autonomy. So, I mean, it may not change anything on the ground, but the symbolism of it is not something that can be ignored. Which again is probably the reason the BJP is so keen to ensure we don't have the numbers, and that they do.

So, this would be a big election issue?

It would, it would. But then, unlike the Lok Sabha elections which were more about these sort of things, the fact is that bread and butter issues are important to people. And that was obvious during the election campaign. Because while 370, land, jobs, stuff like that resonated, so did electricity, water, jobs. So, a single-point campaign where the NC says vote for us because we are going to pass a resolution against what happened on the 5th of August, 2019, is not going to fly. It will be one part of what we are going to talk about... a large part is going to have to be about economics, jobs and all the rest of it.

Your newspaper did a story yesterday about lithium mines (the exploration of which has failed to take off). That's going to be a big part of what we are going to talk about. We

have very few resources... We will decide what we want to do with them. Why should you decide?

You don't mind being the CM of a UT?

No, I am not contesting. I have made it very clear. I have been the CM of a state, the CM of the (once) most empowered state. I can't see myself in a position where I would have to ask the LG for appointing my peon. It's as simple as that... I am not going to sit outside the waiting room of the LG and ask him, 'Sir, please sign the file'.

But isn't this part of the fight?

I am all for the fight. I also want people to know that this election is not about power for me, it's about respect, about my own self-respect. More importantly, it's about the self-respect of Jammu and Kashmir. And that's what I want to fight for... I am not going to compromise on that.

Now, if there was a way in which I could keep the NC out from the elections and still do this, I would happily do that. But I can't. Keeping the NC out means you are ceding everything to the BJP. So the NC will fight, it will fight with its every resource. We will put our strongest leaders in the field, I will lead the campaign in every constituency. The only thing I will not do is contest myself.

But your CM too, if NC wins, would have to sit in the L-G's lobby.

They (the Centre) promised the Supreme Court that statehood will be restored. We will go back to the Supreme Court and tell them, 'Here is the SG's (Solicitor General's) commitment to you that statehood will be restored. We ask you to call the Government of India and please tell them'.

Unlike Delhi and Puducherry, we have the Home Minister and Prime Minister's commitment that statehood will be restored... The appropriate time was now. If not now, then immediately after the Assembly elections.

Who is the face of your party going into the Assembly elections?

We have it all worked out.

In what way have you changed in the five years since the abrogation of Article 370?

I don't know... Obviously, we are all five years older. That brings its own little bit of wisdom and experience. I was always very dismissive of this mindset that age equates wisdom... Particularly when I was in (Atal Bihari

Vajpayee sahib's government, all of 29 (years of age). But over time I have realised that you cannot replace the experience that age brings. And these five years have been particularly rough, in the way in which this government has treated us, treated J&K. The stuff done to us by governments that lead this country, which my party sacrificed so many lives for... So, if you ask me how I have changed, I am a lot more bitter, a lot more cynical. I truly am... Yes, I don't fly off the handle quite as quickly as I used to. I am more measured in my responses... for better or for worse.

You realise it's a very long haul?

Absolutely. And we make no secret of that. The biggest mistake I could make is to tell people that vote for us, and that the moment you do, we are going to reverse everything. That would be an outright lie... So people need to know. And I keep pointing out to them that look, what was done to us on the 5th of August, 2019, was done to us by a party (BJP) that in 1984 was reduced to two seats in the Lok Sabha. At that point, you couldn't have imagined they would reach a point to be able to do this to J&K. But they played the long game. Why should we expect overnight gratification? ... We must play the long game to reach a point where we can reverse what was done to us. And restore what was promised to us when Jammu and Kashmir became a part of the Union of India.

What about the fact that post-Article 370 abrogation, there are fewer shutdowns, schools have had full academic years, more tourists are coming... That is an irreversible force too?

Things are calmer, there is no denying that. The sporadic protests that you saw earlier, you don't see now. And why is that? Is it just the fear? I mean there is very little else to justify it. And I also believe that when it does happen, it's not as intense as it used to be. But it also goes largely unreported. Now you had a massive protest on the highway the other day in Patan. Pick up any local newspaper... nothing.

A heavy-handed response to law and order did not require 5th August, 2019. Any sort of Governor's rule or an elected government if it chose to be heavy-handed could have done this... So those who say that this is the result of 5th August are lying to people. It's simply the result of the government choosing to use its muscle... You could just as easily have done all this earlier if you had chosen to.

After August 5 and we heard this on the street too, that there was a disenchantment with the old guard, that the state was being run by a few families like yours.

None of this (the election result) was about that. If I had fought from Srinagar, I would have won hands down.

Why didn't you?

Well, initially I toyed with the idea of North because it seemed like a good fight. But then my colleagues suggested that Central Kashmir would be the right place to fight from as I have traditionally fought from there. Then the question became, who do we field from the North? So we spoke to Aga Ruhullah, who at that point had publicly said that he wouldn't be fighting elections... He went back to the people in the North and had a fairly extensive consultation and said yes he could contest. Unfortunately, in the meantime, some of my colleagues got cold feet about the prospect of Aga fighting from the North for various reasons.

Having now got Aga ready to fight... if I didn't field him, it would have been a problem. The obvious choice became Srinagar. There was a bit of pushback from the party, but I overrode that. That only left Baramulla for me. When my decision was sort of announced, Engineer Rashid was nowhere.

And I mean, this is not something I have shared, but the fact is that after my name was announced, Engineer Rashid's brother got in touch with me and said we want to help you. Should we publicly announce our support? I said no, he is in jail and the forces I'm fighting against are the ones who have put him there. I can't guarantee that his condition in jail won't get worse if he announces support for me... I am leaving it to you to do what you think would be best for him.

What do the June 4 Lok Sabha results mean in J&K?

Not much in Srinagar (but) I think it has had an effect in Jammu. I mean, the invincibility of the BJP is not something that is being talked about now.



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

A WIDENING WAR

In the Middle East, current round of bloodletting without pause is exposing the frailties of every player

THE BACK TO back assassinations of three top leaders of Iran's proxy forces in the Middle East — two of Hamas and one of Hezbollah — are pushing the Middle East into a wider war. As Tehran promises to retaliate against Israel, the US is moving additional military forces into the region. Oil prices are beginning to rise amid expectations of an imminent military conflict. More than nine months after a Hamas terror attack on Israel, and Tel Aviv's continuing campaign of retribution that has killed thousands in Gaza, there is no sign of a pause, let alone an end to the current round of blood-letting in the Middle East. Iran-backed rebels have reportedly attacked a US base in Iraq and American forces are bracing for more such attacks. What stands out for observers of the volatile region is the lack of any major political outcomes from renewed conflict.

The history of warfare tells us that large-scale violence produces systemic changes and rearranges equations within a society and among states. But the latest round of war has not produced any structural changes in the Middle East. Israel's campaign to eliminate Hamas in Gaza has been violent; its assassinations in hostile countries have been spectacular. But few in Israel, let alone in the world, are suggesting that Tel Aviv is anywhere near achieving its political objectives. Israel is paying a high domestic price for the hostilities. Nearly 60 per cent of families in Israel have a member serving in the war. This social burden of massive war mobilisation in a small country is compounded by the fact that nearly one out of five families in the country has had to relocate amid the threats to its borders. The war and the leadership of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have deeply divided society. The US has squandered much political reputation in spending unprecedented military and diplomatic capital in protecting Israel. But Washington has little leverage in persuading Netanyahu to accept a ceasefire, let alone a peace settlement.

The same is true for Iran. On the face of it, Iran's success in putting Israel, once seen as invincible, on the defensive, has been impressive. Its successful nurturing of Hamas, Hezbollah and Houthis to pursue a relentless war against Israel is likely to go down as one of the notable possibilities of hybrid warfare. Yet Iran's war has also exposed Tehran's profound domestic vulnerabilities. That Iran could not protect the leader of Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, who was visiting as a state guest, points to the deep Israeli penetration of Iranian security structures. Iran's regional bravado stands in contrast to the crisis of credibility at home amidst continuing anti-regime protests on issues ranging from economic problems to women's rights. For all of Iran's anti-Zionist posturing and calls for Islamic solidarity, few Arab regimes view it in a positive light. Some Arabs see Iranian proxies — Hamas, Hezbollah, Houthis — as a bigger existential threat than Israel. Clausewitz said war is an extension of politics. But in the Middle East, the billowing violence has severed all connection, if it had any, to political objectives and policy aims.

BULLIED IN PARIS

Targeting of Imane Khelif, Lin Yu-ting in Olympics 2024 shows sports is still a long way from equality, on field and off it

THE 2024 PORTRAYAL guideline of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has a section on the treatment of sportspeople who do not conform to stereotypes: "Women, like men, are not a homogenous group, nor are they solely defined by their gender identity... Balanced portrayal practices should ensure that the diversity within and among different groups are both considered and reflected... Every person, irrespective of their gender identity or sex variations, has the right to practise sport without discrimination and in a way that respects their health, safety and dignity." Yet, on all these counts, Algerian boxer Imane Khelif as well as Taiwan's Lin Yu-ting have repeatedly been let down at the Paris Olympics — from opponents refusing the basic courtesy of a post-match handshake to celebrities, ranging from former US President Donald Trump to writer J K Rowling to entrepreneur Elon Musk, dismissing their victories. The reason: Khelif had failed to pass the gender tests conducted by the now-derecognised International Boxing Association last year, details of which have not been made public, and because neither conforms to the traditional imagination of a female athlete.

This disregard of the distinction between biological sex and gender identity is of a piece with the disinformation and ignorance that shroud conversations around women's sports in general. Since 1936, when the first gender test was conducted at the Olympics, the criteria for classification and rule-setting have been as much about culture, race and prejudice as they have been about science. The current controversy, for instance, stems from a section of people, including feminists such as Rowling, arguing that such a distinction negates the battle for the recognition of women's rights, insisting on a binary rather than a spectrum to fix identities. For athletes such as Khelif, a biological woman with XY chromosome and high testosterone, or Indian athlete Dutee Chand whose hyperandrogenism led to a long battle to clear her name or the demonisation of multiple Asian Games and Commonwealth Games medal winner Pinki Pramanik in 2012 for being of intersex variation, this means a protracted battle for dignity, acceptance and, recognition both on the sporting field and off it.

In any sporting arena, even in ones as vaunted as the Olympics where the focus is on participation and solidarity, victory remains a key arbiter of merit. At the same time, an excessive focus on matters of chromosomes and gender identity cannot — and must not — reduce performances and participants to uninformed conjectures and casual bullying. As Khelif has appealed, "It can kill people's thoughts, spirit and mind". That goes against every notion of fair play and sporting spirit.

IN ANOTHER WORLD

With plans to preserve life on the moon or Mars, science may be catching up with science fiction

IN THE FOUNDATION series by Isaac Asimov, a dying empire is consumed by its own greed, apathy and is on the inexorable march towards entropy and death. Scientist Hari Seldon, though, sees the end coming and hedges against it by establishing a colony to preserve human knowledge at the far end of the galaxy. In essence, he hedges against the apocalypse, extinction and, most of all, the venality built into "advanced" human society. The books are both a fantasy and a warning: The latter because Asimov, with the power of prophecy only great writers can wield, knew of the dangers facing humanity and that in life, unlike in fiction and religion, there are no do-overs. Scientists today, it appears, want to play Hari Seldon in real life.

Prominent researchers and academics have proposed creating a "lunar biorepository" — a Noah's Ark, if you will — on the moon with tissue and DNA samples of endangered species, to act as a back-up in case of extinction due to climate change, war, nuclear disaster or just human hubris. Given how many doomsdays threaten the earth, humans should indeed be part of this ark. Earth's satellite, especially at its poles, is cold enough to ensure that the backup hard drive to reboot life is kept in a stable stasis. But that may be missing a point.

A rebirth from tissue samples on the moon, or plans to terra-form Mars for billionaires may make it seem like science has finally caught up with science fiction. But what is unsaid is that, in most cases, it is not the billionaires or the mandarins who fund projects that perish — it is animals, and people without a voice. While science will constantly push the world into places it hasn't gone before, looking for a backup must not become a way of staving off the recognition that for the vast majority, there's no place but Earth. Asimov would certainly want that moral principle to be the foundation for science, rather than his Foundation.

A fighting chance

Bangladesh is unique in degree to which students retain the aura of legitimacy in challenging authoritarianism



PRATAP BHANU MEHTA

THE MOMENTOUS ENDING of Sheikh Hasina's rule is both an opportunity and a risk. In order to understand it, we need to place Bangladesh's experience in the broader context of democratic institutionalisation. But for India it is vital to not view Bangladesh within the frame of our own narcissism. This revolution belongs to the people of Bangladesh, and it is a moment in their often fraught quest to make their own destiny on their own terms.

India has vital interests in Bangladesh. Bangladesh should not become a staging ground for anti-India groups operating in the North-east. Any violence against Hindus in Bangladesh, even if it is an aberration, will have a profound impact on domestic politics in India, which in turn will affect Bangladesh politics. So far, the army and the student movement in Bangladesh are giving every positive indication of not letting this happen.

But our degree of narcissism has blindsided us. At the governmental level, it led us to ignore a central fact of modern politics. Authoritarian repression can work only up to a point; dissent, like water, will find its outlet eventually. So, we sided with Sheikh Hasina well beyond what legitimate concerns warranted, and risked becoming a partisan actor in Bangladesh politics, not just on the side of one party but of authoritarianism. At the level of civil society and the media, we have refused to acknowledge the complexities of Bangladesh as a society.

The Indian right wing's construction of this event as simply a foreign conspiracy of sorts or simply in an Islamist frame, is the surest way of alienating the Bangladeshi people. It is a way of calling them dupes, with no agency of their own, roughly the same way in which the Right thinks of domestic dissent in India. It is the same mistake that Hasina made by calling her own students *razakars*.

Bangladesh politics has been marked by two difficult tensions. To simplify, its creation as an independent nation did not fully resolve the question of its identity as a religious or a secular nation with a dominant language. Successive rulers, notably Ziaur Rahman, attacked the integrity of a possible secular future by incorporating a more Islamic hue into the constitution and giving

more space to Islamist groups to the point that they are a significant feature of Bangladesh politics.

Sheikh Hasina also accommodated them in part in response to mass mobilisations against atheist bloggers. But ironically, she also used the religious pretext to legitimise various laws clamping down on freedom of expression which could be turned as easily against her secular opponents. So Islamism will remain a strain in Bangladesh politics.

But the construction, in India, that only a pro-India authoritarianism can keep Islamism at bay has got things backwards. In part, Islamism thrives either because it has the patronage of autocrats who use it, or because the secular opposition has been so suppressed that religious mobilisations are the only available expression of discontent. It will likely be the case that as democratic spaces open up, Islamist groups will become more visible for a while. But as with all modernising societies, we have to look at the long game.

There is no guarantee of anything in a democracy, but Bangladesh has some chance, albeit with some conflict, of making it. The character of its civil society is different from Pakistan. Even in Pakistan, religious parties don't do well in electoral politics. Their power is often sustained by the fact that, apart from state patronage, they are, in so many areas, substitutes for the state. Bangladesh has a robustly institutionalised secular civil society organisation, one that has been central to its developmental story. Bangladesh can think of itself as a possible zone of freedom, for a religious benchmarking of national identity will once again take it down the cycle of conflict and repression.

The second tension is the institutionalisation of the party system. The first order of business for an interim government will be to ensure free and fair elections, one in which all parties participate. A boycott by the Awami League, or lower turnouts will once again condemn the party system to slide from democratic upsurge to centralised authoritarianism. The problem has not just been that in Bangladesh winning parties have enjoyed monopoly of power, often targeting opponents, making the commitment to free elections fraught. It has also been

that each of the parties, as we saw recently with Awami League, itself becomes a small cabal, controlled by an opaque inner circle, increasingly unresponsive.

Perhaps with the shadow of Sheikh Hasina and possibly even Khaleda Zia fading, a genuine party system might emerge. But creating a party system more attuned to rotating and sharing power, and more committed to a core set of institutional values, will be crucial. Otherwise, the current tendencies — social movement upsurge, followed by brief democracy, then consolidation of an autocratic party affiliated state — will continue.

It is for this reason that student movements have been so powerful in Bangladesh. They were at the forefront of the language movement in 1952 as well as the independence movement in 1971. Bangladesh is also unique in the degree to which students retain the aura of democratic legitimacy in constantly challenging authoritarianism. In a system that by turn becomes authoritarian, students are the ones who unsettle established claims to authority. The image of the student Abu Sayed standing with open arms and within seconds being shot revealed the character of the Bangladeshi state in this moment like no other image.

India had student movements during the Emergency. There were regional student movements, like in Assam. The last big student-led movement was the agitation for Telangana, but that did not turn violent because the state was responsive. Again, there is no guarantee. But the fact that Bangladesh is a student-led movement holds out the possibility of hope — a sign of a society contentiously trying to carve out its own future.

The recent experience of how popular uprisings turn out across the world is not always encouraging. Apart from other things, Bangladesh will face economic headwinds. But no power, especially India, should short circuit the complex process of modernisation Bangladesh is going through for its own gains. And if Bangladesh can internalise the message of its students — that religious nationalism is the surest road to authoritarianism — the region will have a fighting chance.

The writer is contributing editor, The Indian Express

READING THE RIOTS

In UK, tackling far-right rhetoric represents an early test for the new government



RISHABH BHANDARI

BRITAIN IS IN the throes of a tragedy that has segued into wider questions about perceived far-right-led violence, the role of social media and deeper anxieties about immigration. The murder of three girls and injury to 10 others during a dance class in Southport just over a week ago has left a community and a country in mourning. That grief was compounded by events that have taken place since. As rumours about the attacker cascaded online, hundreds of far-right zealots set upon the quiet coastal town, hurling bricks at the local mosque, setting vehicles on fire and assaulting the police. The ensuing violence has raised the first real test for Keir Starmer's government. The Prime Minister needs to reassure the public with decisive action while also acknowledging that deeper issues will be assessed.

The rioting across several towns has painted a picture of havoc. In Sunderland, a citizens advice office was burnt down. In Rotherham and Hull, hotels housing asylum seekers were attacked. A library was razed in Liverpool. In Hartlepool and elsewhere, mosques were attacked. Dozens of officers have been injured and, according to the National Police Chief's Council, more than 370 people have been arrested. The violence continued over the weekend with rioters chanting vitriolic slogans, abusing Muslims and the police and demanding a return to a mythical insularity. The scenes seemed far removed

from notions of British fair-play and tolerance.

That said, the best of Britain was also on display with grief-stricken residents being vocal that the mischief-makers did not speak for them. The image of resolute Southport residents helping to recast the wall outside the mosque the day after the damage was inflicted comes to mind. Those residents embodied the true qualities of Britishness: Tolerance, empathy and decency.

What might be the root cause of the violence then? Put simply, the riots seem to be the effect of a combination of anti-immigrant far-right views mixed with falsehoods about a traumatic news event, amplified by thugs. They represent the most serious civic disorder in the UK since the riots of summer 2011. As was the case then, the police, judiciary and ministers need to ensure those responsible face the full force of the law.

There are several broad aspects to consider too. First, the way that far-right elements have grown their support base online warrants attention. A false claim that the Southport perpetrator was an asylum seeker on a security watchlist was shared by Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, former English Defence League leader who uses the name Tommy Robinson, and also by Andrew Tate, the misogynist influencer. The speed with which this fake news was amplified needs deeper analysis.

Second, politicians on the right who pre-

fer suggestive rhetoric to thoughtful restraint can also inflame tension. In this vein, Nigel Farage, the new MP for Clacton and leader of Reform UK, may have been irresponsible when he posted a video about Southport asking "whether the truth is being withheld from us". Words matter greatly when lives and livelihoods could be at stake.

Further, it is also clear that anxiety over immigration needs to be tackled through an open and a grown-up dialogue by mainstream parties. It should not be left to fringe elements. In policy terms, having shelved the Tories' Rwanda deportation scheme, Starmer and Yvette Cooper, the home secretary, need to come up with credible plans to deter people smugglers and "take back control". In doing so, they will need to be honest about the merits of legal migration, given an ageing population, while also balancing social cohesion and infrastructure pressures.

This has been a difficult week for the UK. The truth is the vast majority of Britons stand for tolerance and compassion. But the riots also reveal that the far-right's influence has gained traction and is no longer a passive bystander in British politics. Tackling their inflammatory rhetoric and acting decisively to reassure the public represent the first key challenge for the Labour government.

The writer is a London-based lawyer and political commentator

AUGUST 7, 1984, FORTY YEARS AGO

SRI LANKA CLASHES

DEFENCE MINISTRY SOURCES reported the deaths of an undisclosed number of Tamil separatists and at least four policemen in two incidents in northern Sri Lanka. Two police officers and at least 20 Tamil guerrillas were killed at Oddusuddan when some 60 armed separatists stormed a police station and security forces launched a counter-attack. The guerrillas raided the station's armoury.

OPPOSITION WALKOUT

THE ENTIRE OPPOSITION walked out of Lok Sabha twice to protest against the introduc-

tion of two bills, the National Security Bill, 1984, and the Terrorist Affected Areas (special courts) Bill, 1984, which seek to replace the Ordinances previously proclaimed by the government. Claiming that the two pieces of legislation were "draconian laws", an opposition spokesman said they doubted the government's intentions in introducing such bills.

PM-AKALI TALKS

PRIME MINISTER INDIRA Gandhi said the offer of referring the demands of the Akalis to tribunals was still open except for those related to other states. Mrs Gandhi said the resumption of talks with the Akalis depended

on "their mood". She said the government had offered to set up a tribunal to decide on the Akali claims but "they insisted that we accept the Anandpur Sahib resolution."

MADRAS AIRPORT BLAST

THE GOVERNMENT EVADED answering questions on the "negligence" of officials in relation to the explosion at Madras airport that killed 29 persons and injured 38. Minister of State for Tourism and Civil Aviation Khursheed Alam Khan said that though the explosion occurred at 10:50 pm, senior officials knew of the anonymous call at 9:50 which had warned that two suitcases contained explosives.



The Rawalpindi factor

India has had a relatively easier time dealing with Pakistan since August 5, 2019. But Delhi should not assume that it can ignore Pak army



HAS THE CONSTITUTIONAL change in Kashmir, made five years ago, rendered the issue irrelevant to the engagement between India and Pakistan? The answer must be both “yes” and “no”. By ending the ambiguity in J&K’s relationship with India, Delhi has buried the idea that its internal status is open-ended and negotiable. India’s growing partnerships with the West have helped blunt efforts by Pakistan and China to internationalise the Kashmir question. That does not mean the issue disappears from the template of the conflict with Pakistan. Note, for example, the surge in cross-border terrorism in Jammu, starting from the day when Narendra Modi was sworn in for a third consecutive term as Prime Minister of India.

Delhi is surely aware of the difference between legal formalism on Kashmir and the reality of Pakistan’s continuing capacity to meddle there. To be sure, the parliamentary elections have shown significant political gains for Delhi in Kashmir. But they also have shown the persistence of separatist sentiments. There is little room for complacency in Delhi.

While the domestic tasks in Kashmir remain significant, Delhi can take credit for significantly reducing the global salience of the Kashmir question. Since Delhi decided to take the issue to the United Nations in 1948, the international dimension has hung heavy over India’s Kashmir policy. The 1972 bilateral agreement between India and Pakistan at Shimla, following the secession of Bangladesh, did not eliminate the third-party role in the issue. The Pakistan Army which had disowned the Simla agreement signed by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Indira Gandhi seized the opportunity in the Kashmir turbulence of the late 1980s and renewed the effort to internationalise the question.

The global environment after the Cold War in favour of human rights and the political devaluation of state sovereignty gave Pakistan a powerful dual strategy — support the insurgency in Kashmir and demand global intervention to pressure India into a favourable settlement. The frequent military crises triggered by cross-border terrorism raised international alarm about their escalation to the nuclear level (Delhi and Rawalpindi were now armed with atomic weapons). That, in turn, fused the Kashmir question with the new global focus on the dangers of nuclear proliferation. In the international narrative of the 1990s, Kashmir became the world’s “most dangerous nuclear flashpoint”. Fending off these multiple pressures — cross-border terrorism, unrest in Kashmir, the international focus on rolling back India’s nuclear weapons — was an all-consuming challenge for Delhi at a weaker moment in its political evolution. Pursuing economic reforms while putting out multiple fires was not easy for the unstable coalition governments of the 1990s.

India had overcome many of these difficulties thanks to steady economic growth and an improved relationship with the US in the 2000s. The George W Bush administration put an end to Washington’s Kashmir activism and found a way to resolve the nuclear dispute with India. But the problem of dealing with Pakistan’s cross-border terrorism and its capacity to create political trouble in Kashmir remained. Delhi put the Kashmir question back on the bilateral agenda with Pakistan in the 1990s. A serious effort was made by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and General Pervez Musharraf to find a solution during 2004-07. After the ouster of Musharraf from power in 2008, his successor General Ashfaq Kayani disowned the agreed framework and resumed cross-border terrorism.

The NDA government came to power with a clear objective to renegotiate the terms of engagement with Pakistan on Kashmir. This involved an effort to enhance military deterrence against cross-border terrorism, end the engagement with militant groups in Kashmir, and insistence that talks and terror can’t go together. Changing the constitutional status quo in Kashmir in August 2019 was a capstone of this strategy. But it quickly ran into a challenge from an outraged Pakistan that turned to China to put the Kashmir question on the UNSC agenda. Delhi, however, blocked the move with the help of Washington and Paris. Support from the UAE and Saudi Arabia also helped prevent Pakistan from making it a diplomatic position from which it has been hard to wriggle out.

India’s new partnerships in the West and the Islamic world, then, helped neutralise long-standing bases of international support for Pakistan and its anti-India causes. Facilitating this process, indeed, is the steady



C R Sasikumar

evolution of the economic balance of power in favour of India, whose GDP today is nearly 10 times larger than that of Pakistan.

Pakistan’s deepening international political divisions have reinforced its economic weakness making Rawalpindi’s challenge to Delhi less salient than before. By refusing to engage India until Delhi reversed its constitutional changes vis a vis Kashmir, Islamabad has locked itself in a diplomatic position from which it has been hard to wriggle out.

Although India has had a relatively easier time dealing with Pakistan since August 5, 2019, Delhi should not assume that it can simply ignore Rawalpindi or that the Kashmir question is no longer relevant. The Pakistan army may be down, but it is certainly not out. Renewed political trouble in Kashmir will inevitably draw international attention. Accelerating the effort at internal reconciliation in Kashmir, countering the renewed cross-border terrorism, and connecting with diverse elements of the Pakistan polity should be at the top of India’s national security priorities.

The writer is visiting professor at the Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore and contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express

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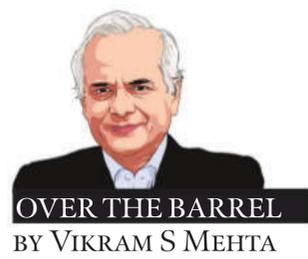
WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“In Sheikh Hasina’s fall lie lessons for all developing states, particularly those in South Asia, which share many sociopolitical traits with Bangladesh. Political repression, mixed with economic frailty, is a recipe for public unrest.”

— DAWN, PAKISTAN

Realpolitik can be green

Challenge for our leaders is to find a balance between sustainability and demands of national security and economic growth



REFLECTING ON INDIA’S green energy transition, three thoughts come to the fore. One, it is not a uniform national transition. There are several, varying state-led transitions. Two, there is tension between the drivers of this transition and our trade policy. Three, there is an imbalance between the realpolitik of governance and the ethical imperative of sustainable development. What should be the actions that flow from these thoughts is beyond the scope of this article.

The green energy transition is predominantly about green electrification. The pace, scope and size of the shift from fossil fuels to a clean, non-carbon energy system depend on the electrification of transport, industry, buildings and residential areas. As such, given that electricity generation, transmission and distribution is a Concurrent Subject, the design and effectiveness of the green energy transition is the joint responsibility of the Centre and states.

The Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has made impressive progress. There is a roadmap for meeting 50 per cent of India’s energy requirements from renewables by 2030. The objective is to create 500 GW of RE installed capacity by that year, and the MNRE is committed to bid out 50 GW of solar generation capacity every year. They exceeded this target by almost 25 per cent in 2023. More significant, perhaps, is that the silos that segregate the functioning of different government ministries have been perforated. MNRE and the Ministry of Power, along with the regulatory agencies under the latter’s umbrella (Central Electricity Authority (CEA); Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC); Central Transmission Utility (CTU); and Power System Operation Corporation Ltd (POSOCO)) are working in harmony.

More, of course, needs to be done. Transmission connectivity is inadequate. Scale-up requires grid-scale energy storage, and even as costs and technology move in the right direction, this remains a long-haul problem. Green finance is limited and of too short a duration. There is no dearth of interested investors in RE. There is, however, a dearth of “patient” green capital. The majority of the current investors are looking for a profitable exit within 6-7 years, whereas what is required is a 25-year time horizon.

On balance though, the central government deserves credit for going beyond atmospherics and for spelling out the specifics of the milestones to be crossed and how.

A less clear picture emerges when the energy transition is seen through the lens of state governments. Some states like Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Odisha, and Delhi have moved further and faster because of a combination of a conducive policy environment, demographics, and OEMs. Others, like Haryana, have comparably supportive policies, but progress has slowed because of their failure to put in place the machinery for implementation. And then there are states like Rajasthan, which are financially stretched and have struggled to

provide the incentives to propel the shift away from fossil fuels.

The fact is there is no uniformity in the pattern of the clean energy transition across the states. They are proceeding at varying speeds. Eventually though, given that this transition does not respect political and institutional boundaries, all entities — central government, state governments, public sector companies, private sector generators, and consumers — should align. This will, however, require major structural and institutional redesign.

Trade policy must subserve national interest. That is beyond debate. But what is not, is the weightage to be given to contributory facets of national interest. In the context of the energy transition, this surfaces a policy dilemma — one best exemplified by the outsized presence of China in the clean energy market.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) reported that in 2023, China accounted for 63 per cent of the incremental global addition in renewables (298 GW of the 473 GW added); that it has an abundance of components of the solar/wind value chain from polysilica, wafers, cells, and modules; and that it can produce world-class quality solar panels, wind turbines, and batteries at the cheapest price. Bloomberg has, for instance, reported that Chinese solar panels are 85 per cent cheaper than US panels and 55 per cent cheaper than those made in Southeast Asia.

The fact is, were Indian manufacturers allowed unconstrained access to cheap Chinese products, the competitiveness gap between clean energy and incumbent fossil fuels would narrow even further, and that would accelerate the transition. But this, of course, a geopolitically unrealistic proposition. India cannot expose itself to the vulnerability of over-dependence on China. There would be national security implications.

A similar dilemma, although less obvious and not between the binary of sustainability and security but between sustainability and growth, may arise when contemplating the response to the carbon taxes that the US, EU, and UK propose to impose on the carbon embedded in imports into their country/region.

The challenge for our leaders is to find a balance between the compulsions of sustainability and the demands of national security and economic growth. It is to bring trade and climate policies into sync.

The world faces an ethical conundrum. Global warming is a fact. Every day we are reminded of this reality. Last month, I wrote about the forest fires in Uttarakhand. A few days back, we read about the disruption to air traffic because temperatures in Leh, the 11,000-foot high capital of Ladakh, had exceeded 36°C. Today, as I write, the country is reeling from the tragedy of the Wayanad landslides caused, *inter alia*, by heavy rains. The human and economic costs of climate change are palpable. And yet, the governance structures for dealing with this crisis are stuck in the mire of rigid, beggar-thy-neighbour, self-serving nationalisms.

Henry Kissinger once wrote, “National interests are seldom reconcilable in win-win outcomes.” True, if every problem is seen through the Westphalian lens of sovereign nation-states. But that should not be the lens through which to look at global warming. It should be one that sets the dynamics of narrow realpolitik within the broader frame of humanity, ethics, and cooperative governance.

The writer is chairman and distinguished fellow, CSEP

Illogic of the binary

In sports, it does injustice to players such as Imane Khelif



IN 1985, A Spanish athlete, Maria Jose Martinez-Patino, travelled to Kobe, Japan, to compete in the World University Games. She had forgotten to carry her “certificate of femininity”, secured in 1983 at the World Track and Field Championships in Helsinki. There, her cheek swab test returned an unclear result, marking the beginning of a trauma that continued for nearly three years.

Martinez-Patino was eventually diagnosed with androgen insensitivity. Chromosomally, she was XY, recognised as the male identity, and not XX, recognised as the female identity.

In 1968, the Olympics had introduced compulsory chromosome testing of all female athletes with the Barr Body test, a cheek swab. Sport has a long and disturbing history of sex testing beginning with what are known as the nude parades — being made to walk naked before a panel of doctors. But only women are subjected to sex testing in sport because the anxiety is that men will sneak into women’s competitions to bag medals easily. The opposite anxiety does not hold because women are seen as far less strong than men. The weaker sex.

Over time, the nude parades were replaced with more sophisticated tests, one of them being chromosome testing which continued until 1999. It was under this regime of compulsory chromosome testing that Martinez-Patino learnt that she had androgen insensitivity. It took her until 1988 to prove conclusively that she was not a cheat, that she had gained nothing from her genetic condition to give her an edge in competitive sport.

If anything, it was the test that failed Martinez-Patino, plunging her into trauma, and putting an abrupt stop to her competitive career.

Yet, this regime of compulsory sex testing (by chromosome) continued. In 1996, however, the chromosome test changed to a more sophisticated one called the Sex Determining Region Y chromosome test or SRY. The science of sex testing is continually getting more sophisticated. In 1999, however, the era of compulsory sex testing was put to an end.

What is curious, though, is that in 2014 when the Indian government went to the Court of Arbitration in Sport in Lausanne to defend the sprinter Dutee Chand who was disqualified on account of naturally high testosterone levels, Martinez-Patino was part of the panel who argued against Chand. By 2014, the debate about sex in sport was being phrased largely in terms of hormone levels, in this case testosterone. Male athletes have no ceiling on testosterone, women do. World Athletics’s definition of hyperandrogenism is that it is a condition where a female athlete tests in excess of 10 nanomoles of testosterone per litre of blood.

How did an athlete traumatised by the binary insistence of sex-testing turn up to argue for the other side? Are naturally high testosterone levels (as against unnaturally high by dope) different from a genetic anomaly like androgen insensitivity? Is one cheating while another an accident of nature?

The answer is, no. Neither is cheating. Neither is unfair. What is unfair is the insistence on binary and precise identification of

two sexes, the assertion there are only male and female sexual identities and they occupy two precise locations rather than a spectrum of biological possibilities of anatomy, chromosomes and hormones (to name only the most prominent markers of biological sex).

The scientific evidence indicates that there are as many as 58 variations between male and female identities, the Madurai bench of the Madras High Court has written in an April 2019 judgment (*Arunkumar vs The Inspector General of Registration*). The United Nations has noted that 1.7 per cent babies may be born intersex. Nearly two out of 100. The *Arunkumar Sreeja* judgment suggests that a large number of infants may be subjected to sex-correction surgeries shortly after birth.

Chand would go on to win her case, on the grounds that the scientific evidence available in 2014 did not indicate that higher levels of testosterone in women accounted for a 10-12 per cent increase in speed over women athletes in sprinting, which is the level at which male athletes perform. In other words, the testosterone ranges identified for female and male athletes are not as clean as a binary division indicates.

What does this mean? That we may be biased towards reading the science of sex in a binary fashion. That we may be forcing the evidence into two categories. The science is not flawed. But our reading is.

This insistence is understandable when we consider how long and hard women have struggled to be able to compete in sport. The first edition of the modern Olympics in

Athens in 1896 did not permit women to compete. Now, sport is played on the basis of two categories, male and female. There is no other category.

But what about transpersons? The Olympics now permits transitioning athletes to compete, without completing sex reassignment surgery unlike before the 2021 Tokyo Olympics, but in most events, the international federations concerned follow the rule that male to female transitioning sports persons must have begun hormone suppression therapy before the age of 12. The IOC follows the criteria laid down by the international federation governing each sport. The distinction between being male and female is still strictly policed. Imane Khelif is not a transwoman, social media posts saying this are incorrect, she was born a woman and remains one.

This logic of two may explain why sex testing fails to interpret reasonably common anomalies in statistical terms, and does injustice to a significant number of women athletes. That may also be why some are so quick to panic at the sight of a Khelif who does not conform to the figure of a feminine type. And that may also perhaps explain why an athlete traumatised by the binary regime of sex testing like Martinez-Patino turns up to argue on the other side when the debate has changed in language.

Chattopadhyay is the author of *The Day I Became a Runner: A Women’s History of India Through the Lens of Sport*. She works at Cept University, Ahmedabad

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WAIT AND WATCH

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Exit Hasina’ (IE, August 6). The unprecedented turmoil in Bangladesh indicates public wrath that has been brewing for some time. It is further compounded by allegations of coercion and media suppression. The gunning down of over 300 protesters in indiscriminate firing by the security forces last month showed that the Awami League-led government had turned a blind eye to the concerns about quotas for government jobs. The volatile situation in a neighbouring country should be a cause for concern for New Delhi. As of now, it should be a wait and watch policy for India.

SS Paul, Nadia

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Exit Hasina’ (IE, August 6). The turmoil in Bangladesh will affect New Delhi-Dhaka ties, raising strategic and security questions for the region. Former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s 15-year-long rule saw major reforms that put the country on the path from the Least-Developed Country to a develop-

ing nation. But Hasina failed in handling domestic politics with no space left for the Opposition, and her government’s critics. Free speech was suppressed, creating a political vacuum that attracted street protests. Also, the recent economic woes caused by Covid and the Ukraine war, created a serious living-cost and job crisis, leading to the anti-quota protests.

Sanjay Chopra, Mohali

FOR THE MIDDLE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘The way of the market’ (IE, August 6). The Sensex dropping by 2.74 per cent highlights deeper issues impacting middle-class investors, particularly given the budgetary context. The current budget by Finance Minister Sitharaman has proposed to increase taxes on both LTCG and STCG, diminishing returns for middle-class investors engaging in both day-trading or investing long-term. The current policies discourage the middle-class from approaching the stock market. Course correction on this front is necessary.

Swarnava Mitra, Kolkata

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: gsmolar@mahaurja.com | Tel. No.: 020-35000450

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PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON (SEE SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.) Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person(s) Azad Singh S/O Dalip Singh R/o Gaon Thana Kalan, PS: Kharkhoda, Distt. Sonapat, Haryana has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Case FIR No./CC No. 192/16 U/S 279/429 IPC, PS North Rohini, Distt. Rohini, Delhi and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person(s) Azad Singh can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person(s) Azad Singh has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person(s) Azad Singh of Case FIR No./CC No. 192/16 U/S 279/429 IPC, PS North Rohini, Distt. Rohini, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before dated 08.10.2024 at 10:00 AM.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON (See Section 82 Cr. P.C.) Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused (1) Ranbir Singh S/O Late sh. Hosiyaar Singh R/o Flat No.1 Government Girls senior secondary School, Prasad Nagar Karol Bagh, Delhi (2) Ms. Meena Malhotra W/o Prasad Malhotra R/O H.No.10921 manak pura near sidhipur chowki, Karol Bagh Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in FIR No. 930/2024 U/S 420/468/471/120B IPC, PS Keshav Puram, Delhi and it has been returned to warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused person's (1) Ranbir Singh (2) Ms. Meena Malhotra cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused (1) Ranbir Singh (2) Ms. Meena Malhotra, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that (1) Ranbir Singh (2) Ms. Meena Malhotra in FIR No. 930/2024 U/S 420/468/471/120B IPC, PS Keshav Puram, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 29.10.2024.

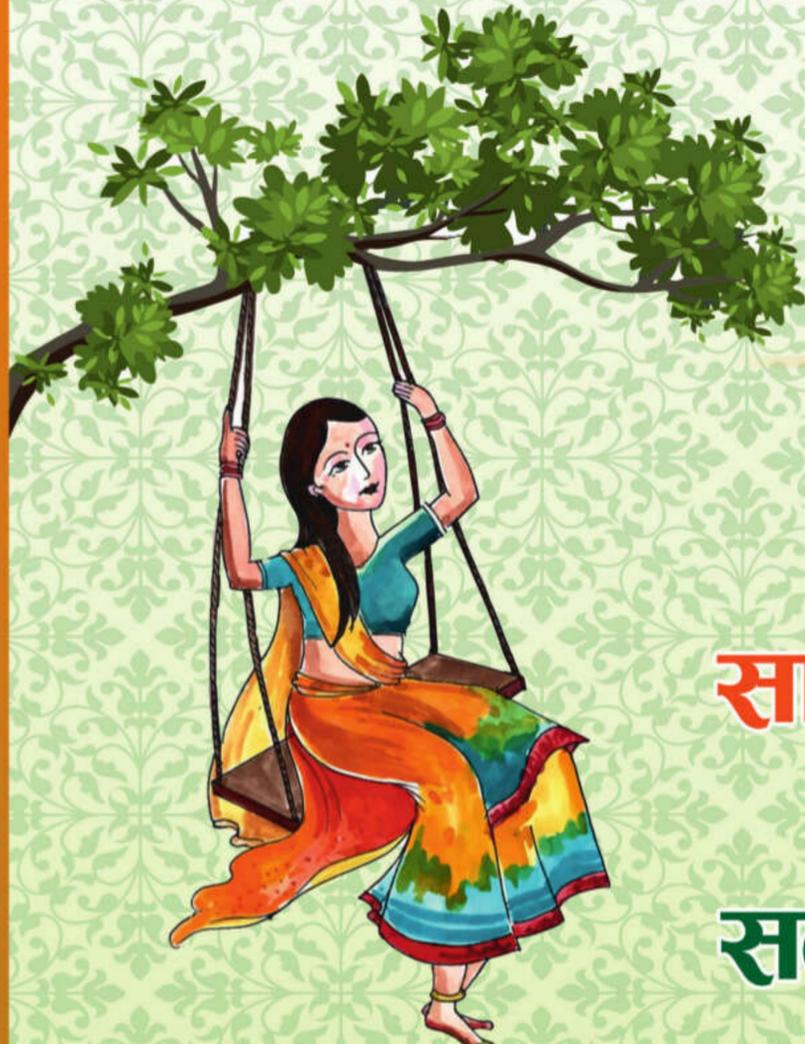


हरियाणा सरकार



“हमें अपनी समृद्ध और विविध संस्कृति पर गर्व है। भारत की गौरवशाली विरासत को पुनर्जीवित करने और उसका सम्मान करने की दिशा में कई प्रयास किए गए हैं, जिससे हमारे युवाओं और हमारी संस्कृति के बीच का रिश्ता और गहरा हुआ है।”

- नरेन्द्र मोदी



सावन की बयार, खुशियों की फुहार सबको बधाई, आया तीज का त्योहार

म्हारा हरियाणा
नॉन-स्टॉप हरियाणा

तीज उत्सव

के शुभ अवसर पर देशवासियों को
हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं



राज्य स्तरीय समारोह

7 अगस्त, 2024 | प्रातः 10:00 बजे | नई अनाज मंडी, रोहतक रोड, जींद

मुख्य अतिथि

श्री नायब सिंह मैनी

मुख्यमंत्री, हरियाणा

अध्यक्षता

श्री महिपाल ढांडा

राज्यमंत्री विकास एवं
पंचायत (स्व. प्र.), हरियाणा



कार्यक्रम से जुड़ने के लिए क्यू आर कोड स्कैन करें

22 THE WORLD

'UKRAINE ATTACK ON SOUTHERN BORDER' RUSSIA MOVES RESERVES TO BORDER

Russia accused Ukraine on Tuesday of mounting an attack on its southern border and said it had moved in reserves to help repel hundreds of fighters backed by tanks. Hours after a Russian regional governor said the attackers had been pushed back, the defence ministry issued a statement saying that fighting was still going on.

DHAKA CALM AFTER A DAY OF UNREST AND NIGHT OF TENSION FOLLOWING HASINA OUSTER

Bangla toll 440, Army patrols streets

Mob damages Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre in Dhaka; schools reopen after a long period of closure due to protests

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DHAKA, AUGUST 6

THE DEATH toll in the anti-government protests in Bangladesh climbed to 440 on Tuesday, with 100 more deaths reported after Sheikh Hasina fled the country, according to local media, even as efforts were on by the Army to bring the situation under control in the violence-hit nation.

Despite the high death toll, there were signs of a return to normalcy on Tuesday, with police and army patrolling the streets, BDNews24.com news portal said and added that schools were reopened after a long period of closure due to protests against Hasina over a controversial job quota system.

The situation in Dhaka was largely calm on Tuesday after a day of unrest and a night of tension. Buses and other public transport were on the streets and traders were opening shops. Government vehicles were heading to offices. Many battery-run rickshaws plied on the roads.

Bengali language daily Prothom Alo reported that at least 109 people were killed in clashes in different parts of the country, including Dhaka, during the anti-discrimination student movement on Monday.

The newspaper earlier reported the death of 98 people till 12 pm on Sunday. Another 16 deaths were reported in the night. The total death toll stood at 114 on Sunday.

"With this, the total death toll stood at 440 in 21 days from July 16 to yesterday," the paper said.

The clashes between protesters demanding Hasina's resignation in different parts of Bangladesh erupted on Sunday days after more than 200 people were killed in violent clashes between police and protesters in July.

The Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported that at least 18 people were killed in Savar and Dhamrai areas, on the outskirts of the capital, after clashes broke out between police and miscreants on Monday. Ten people were killed in the capital's Uttara on Monday after individuals in civilian clothes reportedly opened fire on protesters. Six people were killed in Habiganj, eight in Jessore, three in Khulna, three in Barisal, 11 in Lakshimpur, six in Kushtia,



People at the entrance of the Parliament building a day after the resignation of Sheikh Hasina, in Dhaka, Tuesday. Reuters

three in Satkhira and six in Sreepur of Gazipur.

At least 24 people were burnt alive in a hotel owned by a leader of Awami League in western Jashor district on Monday night, sources said.

A number of Hindu temples, households and businesses were vandalised, women assaulted and at least two Hindu leaders affiliated with the Awami League party killed in violence, community leaders claimed on Tuesday. The districts where religious minorities and their households or businesses were attacked are north-eastern Panchagarh, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Bogura and Sirajganj; northern Sherpur and Kishoreganj; western Jashore, Magura and Narail, south-western Khulna, Patuakhali and Satkhira; central Narsingdi, Mymensingh and Tangail; north-western Lakkhipur, Feni and Chattogram, and north-eastern Habiganj.

The Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre located in Dhaka's Dhanmondi area was also damaged by the unruly mob.

Deposed foreign minister held at airport as several leaders flee

ANISUR RAHMAN
DHAKA, AUGUST 6

BANGLADESH FORMER foreign minister Hassan Mahmud and ex-state minister Zunaid Ahmed Palak were detained on Tuesday at the Dhaka airport while attempting to flee the country, a day after prime minister Sheikh fled the country.

Mahmud went to Dhaka's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to "catch a flight en route to Delhi", an Airport Aviation Security (AVSEC) official was quoted as saying by the Dhaka Tribune newspaper. He was detained at the airport.

His detention came hours after former state minister for post, telecommunication and ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak was barred from leaving the country by airport authorities. Palak was detained at the airport.

Awami League general secretary and road transport and bridges minister Obaidul Quader left the country on Sunday night.

Ex-law minister Anisul Huq left the country ahead of Hasina's resignation, his personal aide said.



Army clears an entrance of Ganabhaban, the Bangladeshi prime minister's residence, in Dhaka on Tuesday. Reuters

The deposed premier's private industry and investment adviser and lawmaker Salman F Rahman also fled the country on Sunday night. Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor and Hasina's nephew Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh left Dhaka on a Biman flight on Saturday morning with aviation sources saying he boarded a Singapore-bound aircraft. Former education minister Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury and local government, rural development and cooperatives minister

Md Tazul Islam left the country through the airport.

Former finance minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali and sports minister Nazmul Hassan Papon also left the country, sources said. Besides, former MP of Munshiganj-3 Mrinal Kanti Das and supreme court judge Md Badruzzaman also left the country. Several leaders of Awami League's student front 'Chhatra League', including its president and general secretary, also left the country on Monday. PTI

'No return to Fascist rule': Meet student leader who led protests



Nahid Islam (centre)

RUMA PAUL
& KRISHNA N DAS
DHAKA, AUGUST 6

NAHID ISLAM is a soft-spoken sociology student who spearheaded the protest that ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Islam, 26, was the coordinator of a student movement against quotas in government jobs that morphed into an anti-Hasina campaign. He rose to national fame in mid-July after police detained him and some other Dhaka University students as the protests turned deadly.

Islam, who speaks unemotionally but firmly in public, has said the students would not accept any government led or supported by the army and has proposed that Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus be the chief adviser. "Any government other than the one we recommended would not be accepted," he said in a Facebook post on Tuesday. On Monday, flanked by other student leaders, the bearded and stocky Islam told reporters: "We won't betray the blood shed by the martyrs for our cause. We will create a new democratic Bangladesh through our promise of security of life, social justice and a new political landscape."

He vowed to ensure the country never returns to "Fascist rule" and asked fellow students to protect its Hindu minority and their places of worship. Islam, who was born in Dhaka in 1998, is married and has a younger brother. His father is a teacher and his mother a homemaker. "He has incredible stamina and always said the country needed to change," Nakib Islam, a geography student, said. "He was picked up by the police, tortured until he was unconscious, and then dumped on the road. Despite all this, he continues to fight." REUTERS



Police at the impact site of a projectile after Hezbollah launched drones, in Nahariya, Israel, Tuesday. Reuters

Hezbollah drones, Israel warjets keep Lebanon on edge

REUTERS
BEIRUT, WEST BANK, AUGUST 6

THE LEADER of Hezbollah on Tuesday pledged a "strong and effective" response to the killing of its military commander by Israel last week and said it would act either alone or with its regional allies.

Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said Hezbollah would wait for the right moment to respond but did not hint on its form or timing. All international attempts at persuading Hezbollah not to retaliate were futile, he said.

"Whatever the consequences, the resistance will not let these Israeli attacks pass by," he said in a televised address to mark one week since the assassination of Hezbollah military commander Fuad Shukur in Beirut. Members and supporters of Hezbollah gathered to watch the speech in a southern suburb of Beirut. Just before his speech began, Israeli warplanes swooped low over the Lebanese capital, setting off a series of sonic booms that rattled windows across the city and sent people ducking for cover.

Hezbollah earlier on Tuesday said it launched a swarm of attack drones at two military sites near Akre in northern Israel and attacked an Israeli military vehicle in another location. Israeli medical officials said seven people were evacuated to hospital,

EXPLAINED Fears of wider war rising

FEARS ARE rising that the Middle East could be tipped into full-blown war following vows by Hezbollah to avenge Hezbollah commander Fuad Shukur's killing, and by Iran to respond to the assassination in Tehran last week of the head of Palestinian militant group Hamas.

to the south of the coastal city of Nahariya, one in critical condition.

Israeli forces kill at least 12 in West Bank

Israeli forces backed by drone strikes killed at least 12 people in the occupied West Bank, medics said on Tuesday, after raids around two flashpoint cities in the north led to gun battles with Palestinian militants. The Israeli military said it conducted two separate air strikes in Jenin, hitting armed militant cells, but gave no details.

Meanwhile, at least five US personnel were injured in an attack against a military base in Iraq on Monday, US officials told Reuters. Two Katyusha rockets were fired at Al Asad airbase in western Iraq.

Her nomination now official, Harris picks Walz as running mate

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, AUGUST 6

DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL candidate Kamala Harris selected Minnesota Governor Tim Walz to be her running mate on Tuesday, choosing a progressive policy champion and a plain speaker from America's heartland to help win over rural, white voters.

Harris announced the selection in a text message to supporters. Walz, a 60-year-old US Army National Guard veteran and former teacher, was elected to a Republican-leaning district in the US House of Representatives in 2006 and served 12 years before being elected governor of Minnesota in 2018. As governor, Walz has pushed a progressive agenda that includes free school meals, goals for tackling climate change, tax cuts for the middle class and expanded paid leave for Minnesota workers.

Walz has long advocated for women's reproductive rights.

Harris, the daughter of immigrants from Jamaica and India, is adding a popular Midwestern



Minnesota Governor Tim Walz. NYT

politician whose home state votes reliably for Democrats in presidential elections but is close to Wisconsin and Michigan, two crucial battlegrounds. Such states are seen as critical in deciding the Nov. 5 election, and Walz is widely seen as skilled at connecting with white, rural voters who in recent years have voted broadly for Republican Donald Trump.

Harris' nomination became official on Monday night after she received 99 per cent of the votes at the conclusion of the roll call vote after a five-day round of online balloting by Democratic National Convention delegates.

Venezuela orders probe against Opp leaders amid protest crackdown

REUTERS
CARACAS, AUGUST 6

VENEZUELA IS launching a criminal probe against the opposition leaders contesting last month's election for inciting police and military officials to break the law, the country's top prosecutor said, as security forces targeted people they say committed violent crimes during election protests.

The announcement by attorney general Tarek Saab followed a letter posted on social network X by opposition candidate Edmundo Gonzalez and leader Maria Corina Machado calling for security forces to "stand by the people" and respect the results of the election they say they won.

President Nicolas Maduro's assertion that he won a third term in the July 28 vote has triggered angry protests from Venezuelans across the country over the last week, demanding that Maduro step down and a Gonzalez win be honoured. Venezuelan security forces have begun targeting alleged perpetrators of violent crimes during the protests, in an operation that advocacy groups say has left protesters fearful. Three advocacy groups said security forces are working intensely to capture protesters, including minors, who they said are not being provided with lawyers and who have in some cases been charged with terrorism.

Pak bars independent lawmakers from joining parties

SAJJAD HUSSAIN
ISLAMABAD, AUGUST 6

PAKISTAN'S NATIONAL Assembly on Tuesday passed a bill seeking to bar independent lawmakers from joining a party after a stipulated period, with the jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party voicing a strong protest against it.

The Election Act Amendment Bill 2024 was moved by ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) members Bilal Kayani and Zeb Jafar and passed by the National Assembly with a majority vote despite protest by opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

The amendment changed

Sections 66 and 104 of the Elections Act 2017, restricting independent candidates from joining political parties after a constitutionally and legally defined period.

It states that parties failing to submit a list of reserved seats within the specified period will not be eligible for those seats.

It further stipulates that candidates who do not submit an affidavit of party affiliation to the returning officer will be considered independent, and their declaration of party affiliation after elections will not be recognised.

When the bill was taken up for voting, the opposition members stood on their seats and started protesting and sloganeering. They came in front of the



Supporters of Imran Khan take part in a rally to mark the first anniversary of his arrest, demanding his release, in Swabi district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. AP

and prisons stand ready and you will face the consequences of your appalling acts," Justice Secretary Shabana Mahmood said.

The justice department, which is due to release some prisoners early as it battles a jail overcrowding crisis, said nearly 600 prison places had been secured to accommodate those engaged in violence. About 400 people have been arrested so far.

The unrest has prompted India, Australia, Nigeria and other countries to warn their citizens to stay vigilant.

Saminata Bangura, a 52-year-old support worker in a care home in Liverpool, northern England,



Owner of Sham Supermarket outside his shop which was vandalised, in Belfast, northern Ireland, Tuesday. AP

she said she had felt so welcome in Britain after she moved from Sierra Leone. But she was now scared and largely staying at home. "I'm so scared, even when I'm walking now, because everywhere, we're scared, especially, we Blacks," she said, describing how a library was vandalised near where she lives.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer has vowed a reckoning to those who have engaged in rioting, hurling bricks at the police and counter protesters, and looting shops and burning cars. Police on Tuesday charged a 28-year-old man with stirring up racial hatred over Facebook posts linked to the

disorder. A 14-year-old pleaded guilty to violent disorder.

On Monday night trouble flared in Plymouth, southern England, and again in Belfast in Northern Ireland, where hundreds of rioters threw petrol bombs and heavy masonry at officers and set a police Land Rover on fire. Messages online say immigration centres and law firms aiding migrants would be targeted on Wednesday, prompting anti-fascist groups to say they will counter any demonstration.

Police have blamed online disinformation, amplified by high-profile figures, for driving the violence.

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|------------|---------------|
| | | | |
| GOLD | USD RATE | OIL | SILVER |
| ₹71,700 | ₹83.92 | \$74.97 | ₹86,000 |

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) per barrel as of August 5

SENSEX: 78,593.07 ▼ 166.33 (0.21%) NIFTY: 23,992.55 ▼ 63.05 (0.26%) NIKKEI: 34,675.46 ▲ 3,217.04 HANG SENG: 16,647.34 ▼ 51.02 FTSE: 7,984.12 ▼ 24.11 DAX: 17,319.79 ▼ 19.21

International market data till 1900 IST

BANGLADESH'S \$45-BILLION CLOTHING INDUSTRY FACING TEMPORARY SHUTDOWN

Apparel exporters see global orders partly shifting to India amid crisis in Bangladesh

RAVI DUTTA MISHRA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

GLOBAL TEXTILE orders could partly shift to India as the political turmoil in Bangladesh has brought economic activity in that country's key sectors such as the garment industry to a standstill, Indian garment and apparel exporters said Tuesday. Given Bangladesh's prominent position in the global clothing industry, the Indian apparel industry might have to step in, at least temporarily, to fill the gap for global buyers.

This comes after the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), fearing vandalism, reportedly asked all factory owners to keep their units shut until further notice. Violence in Bangladesh has reportedly left at least 300 dead amid countrywide curfews and curbs on mobile internet.

"India has no intention or inclination to exploit this unfortunate situation in our friendly neighbouring country. The Indian garment industry is making serious efforts to grow RMG (ready-made garment) exports on its own, based on its merit. However, it is quite likely



Ready-made garments represent over 85% of Bangladesh's merchandise exports and more than 70% of overall exports. File

that in the short-term garment orders may shift to India and the Indian apparel industry may be asked to fill the gap caused by this severe disruption," said Mithileshwar Thakur, Secretary General of the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPIC).

Ready-made garments represent more than 85 per cent of Bangladesh's merchandise exports and over 70 per cent of its total exports. The expectations of a shift in orders to India comes as Dhaka has a bigger share in global trade of clothing at 7.9 per cent compared to New Delhi's 3.2 per cent, according to the World Trade Statistical Review 2023.

Bangladesh's \$45-billion clothing industry that employs over four million workers was already affected due to the weakening electricity generation infrastructure that was hit by higher input costs following the start of the Russia-Ukraine war and adverse weather events, as per S&P Global.

A senior executive with a listed textile company said that Indian industry might not be able to fulfil orders that might shift from Bangladesh as the supply chain is already stressed to fulfil domestic orders.

"If this situation keeps Bangladesh occupied for more than 6 months then there could

be a lot of shifts to India. But Vietnam may benefit from this more than Indian garment manufacturers since the supply chain is already stressed to fulfil domestic orders. Workforce and production capacity isn't elastic that can be increased overnight.

Moreover, Ahmedabad textile processing industry which manufactures huge fabric quantities is already shut due to pollution checks," said the executive, who did not wish to be identified.

The Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) said that several major global brands that rely on Bangladesh for their sourcing needs will also be affected by these disruptions and that brands with significant portions of their supply chain rooted in Bangladesh may experience delays and a decrease in the availability of their products.

"This, in turn, could lead to a ripple effect across the global retail market, affecting inventory levels and sales," CITI said.

"The ongoing scenario in Bangladesh poses significant concerns for the Indian textile and apparel sector, particularly for companies operating factories in Bangladesh and exporting products from those units.

Any supply disruption in Bangladesh will have immediate impacts on the supply chain, potentially affecting production schedules and delivery timelines," CITI said.

S&P Global Ratings in its ratings report on July 30 had said that Bangladesh's economic growth continues to moderate following two years of fast expansion in 2021 and 2022. As high inflation, rising domestic interest rates, limited access to foreign exchange, and policies aimed at compressing imports continue to bite, domestic demand will likely remain modest in comparison to the long-term trend, the report said.

"Modest per capita income, which we estimate at about \$2,600 in the fiscal year ended June 2024, remains one of Bangladesh's main rating constraints. But the country's strong underlying growth helps to mitigate this weakness. We calculate its 10-year weighted-average real per capita GDP growth rate at about 5.4 per cent. This is much stronger than the average for sovereigns at a similar level of income. We expect this long-term performance to remain largely intact, despite current policy headwinds," the report said.

Why an Indian start-up lobby has filed an antitrust complaint against Google

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

AN INDIAN start-up lobby group has filed a complaint with the Competition Commission of India (CCI) against Google's alleged anti-competitive practices in the online advertising market – marking the tense relationship and increasing tussle between the country's new age firms and tech giants.

The Alliance of Digital India Foundation (ADIF), in a statement, said that Google's dominance over major online platforms and its reliance on advertising for the majority of its revenue hinders competition and negatively impacts Indian businesses.

The development comes as India is currently discussing an exhaustive digital competition law, which could see increased preemptive compliance on part of large tech companies. It also comes amid increasing antitrust scrutiny into Google by the CCI, after having fined it in 2022 for "abusing its market dominant position" in multiple categories related to the Android mobile device ecosystem in the country.

What is the ADIF's antitrust challenge against Google?

"ADIF contends that Google's control over major online platforms, coupled with the fact that it derives 97 per cent of its revenue from advertising, has led to practices that stifle competition and adversely affect Indian businesses," the organisation statement said.

Calling Google's ad ranking system a "black-box," ADIF said, "Google's practices regarding trademark usage in keyword bidding create an artificial in-



File

flation of advertisement prices. Google allows competitors to bid on trademarked keywords, leading to a bidding war that ultimately benefits Google at the expense of advertisers and trademark owners".

The organisation has accused Google of self-preferencing its own services over other similar offerings, which restricts market access for competitors and negatively impacts start-ups that rely on these services.

"ADIF is particularly concerned over Google's Privacy Sandbox initiative, which aims to remove third-party cookies from websites accessed via the Google Chrome browser. This move could significantly hamper non-Google Demand Side Platforms' ability to serve advertisers effectively," it said.

What is India's draft digital competition law?

Taking a leaf out of the European regulatory handbook, India has proposed a new digital competition law that could stop tech giants like Google, Facebook, and Amazon from self-preferencing their own services, or using data gathered from one company to benefit another group company.

The draft law, called the Digital Competition Bill, 2024, also has provisions to set presumptive norms to curb anti-competitive practices before they actually take place, and promises to impose heavy penalties – which could amount to billions of dollars – for violations. If this were to go in force, it could require big tech companies to make fundamental changes to their various platforms.

Understanding the role that data collected by one company of a major technology group can play in benefiting other group companies, the Bill proposes to designate associate digital enterprises (ADEs).

If an entity of a group is determined to be an associate entity, they would have the same obligations as SDEs depending on the level of their involvement with the core digital service offered by the main company.

Illustratively, if one were to look at Google Search and how it steers direction data to Google Maps, the latter can theoretically be deemed an ADE. Same would apply to YouTube too, depending on the level of data sharing that happens between the core Google Search and how that plays out in the recommendations that YouTube makes to users.

BRIEFLY

Amazon India head Manish Tiwary resigns

New Delhi: Amazon India head and country manager Manish Tiwary has resigned, the e-commerce giant said on Tuesday. Tiwary will continue with Amazon until October to help ensure a smooth transition. The company further said that Amit Agarwal, senior vice president India and Emerging Markets, will remain closely involved with the Amazon.in team. PTI

Rupee recovers from all-time low level

New Delhi: The rupee recovered from its all-time low level and settled for the day 17 paise higher at 83.92 against the US dollar on Tuesday, on suspected intervention by the Reserve Bank. Forex traders said mixed to weak global equities on rising concerns over recession fears in the US and the geopolitical tensions in the Middle East dented investor sentiments. On Tuesday, stock markets surrendered early gains and settled lower in volatile trade with Sensex losing 166 points and Nifty ending below the 24,000 level. PTI

'ELI scheme to be implemented in mission-mode'

New Delhi: The Union Minister of Labour & Employment and Youth Affairs & Sports Mansukh Mandaviya has directed expeditious implementation of the Employment-Linked Incentive (ELI) scheme announced in Union Budget 2024-25 in a mission mode. This was stated by Mandaviya while reviewing the ELI Scheme and its implementation plan. ENS

Tata Power to acquire 40% stake in KHPL

New Delhi: Tata Power has announced plans to acquire a 40 per cent stake in Khorlochhu Hydro Power Limited (KHPL) for Rs 830 crore to set up a 600 MW hydro project in Bhutan. Tata Power said it has finalised an agreement with Druk Green Power Company to develop the hydro project at an estimated cost of Rs 6,900 crore. PTI

'Veg thali prices rise by 11% in July'

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, AUGUST 6

THE COST of representative home-cooked vegetarian and non-vegetarian thalis increased by 11 per cent and 6 per cent, respectively, on a month-on-month basis in July 2024, Crisil MI&A Research said.

Crisil said 7 per cent out of the 11 per cent rise in the cost of the veg thali can be attributed to only tomato prices, which have zoomed 55 per cent on-month from Rs 42 per kg in June to Rs 66 per kg in July. This was mainly due to high temperatures impacting the summer crop in key states of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Additionally, scattered rainfall in May in Karnataka escalated whitefly infestations, thereby impacting the crop output.

The price of veg thali plate rose to Rs 32.6 in July from 29.4 in June and that of non-veg thali plate to Rs 61.4 from Rs 58.

Prices of onion and potato rose 20 per cent and 16 per cent



File

month-on-month, respectively, further contributing to the higher cost of the veg thali, Crisil said. While lower rabi production impacted onion prices, late blight infestation in Punjab, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh affected the potato output, it said.

However, the cost of the non-veg thali rose at a slower pace compared with the veg thali since the price of broiler, comprising more than 50 per cent of the total, is estimated to have remained stable.

On a year-on-year, however, the cost of a representative home-

cooked veg thali declined 4 per cent in July, while that of the non-veg thali decreased 9 per cent. The cost of a veg thali declined due to a 40 per cent drop in tomato prices on the high base of the previous fiscal. Prices had touched Rs 110 per kg in July 2023, affected by flash floods that hit supply from northern states while pest infestation impacted the output from Karnataka, Crisil said.

"A 65 per cent and 55 per cent year-on-year increase in the prices of onion and potato arrested a further decline in the thali's cost amid lower arrivals. For the non-veg

thali, the cost decrease was due to an estimated 11 per cent year-on-year decline in broiler prices on the high base of fiscal 2024," the Crisil study said.

The average cost of preparing a thali at home is calculated based on input prices prevailing in north, south, east and west India. Monthly change reflects the impact on the common man's expenditure. The data also reveals the ingredients (cereals, pulses, broilers, vegetables, spices, edible oil, cooking gas) driving changes in the cost of a thali, according to the rating agency.

Aveg thali comprises roti, vegetables (onion, tomato, and potato), rice, dal, curd, and salad. For non-veg thali, the constituents remain the same but for dal, which is replaced by chicken.

India's retail inflation rate, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), was 5.08 per cent in June 2024, down from 4.75 per cent in May 2024. The RBI's monetary Policy Committee (MPC) retained the Repo rate at 6.50 per cent in the June monetary policy.

Govt nod to Setty as SBI Chairman

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, AUGUST 6

THE APPOINTMENTS Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) on Tuesday approved the proposal to appoint Challa Sreenivasulu Setty as the Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI), India's largest lender.

Setty's appointment, which will be for a period of three years, will be effective on or after August 28, 2024, according to the ACC. Setty, currently a Managing Director (MD), oversees international banking, global markets, and technology at the bank. He was appointed as MD in 2020.



Challa Sreenivasulu Setty. File

The ACC also approved the appointment of Rana Ashutosh Kumar Singh as an MD of SBI.

On June 29, the Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB), the body responsible for

selecting the Chairman and MDs of public sector banks and insurance companies, recommended Setty as the next SBI Chairman.

SBI's current Chairman, Dinesh Kumar Khara, is retiring on August 28, when he turns 63. He was granted an extension in October 2023. Khara was appointed Chairman of SBI on October 7, 2020.

Three MDs of SBI—CS Setty, Ashwini Kumar Tewari, and Vinay M Tonse—appeared for the Chairman's interview on June 29. Alok Kumar Choudhary, the senior-most MD of SBI, retired on June 30. Unlike other PSU banks, the SBI Chairman is selected from among its MDs.

Musk's X accuses advertisers of illegal boycott in new lawsuit

REUTERS
BENGALURU, AUGUST 6

ELON MUSK's social media platform X on Tuesday sued a global advertising alliance and several major companies, including Mars and CVS Health, accusing them of unlawfully conspiring to boycott the site and causing it to lose revenue.

X filed the lawsuit in federal court in Texas against the World Federation of Advertisers, Unilever and Danish renewable energy company Orsted, in addition to Mars and CVS Health.

The lawsuit said advertisers, acting through a World Federation of Advertisers initia-



tive called Global Alliance for Responsible Media, collectively withheld "billions of dollars in advertising revenue" from X, previously known as Twitter.

It said they acted against their own economic self interests in a conspiracy against the platform that violated US antitrust law.

The World Advertising Federation, Unilever, Mars, CVS Health and Orsted did not imme-

diately respond to requests for comment.

In a statement on Tuesday about the lawsuit, X's chief executive Linda Yaccarino said "people are hurt when the marketplace of ideas is constricted. No small group of people should monopolise what gets monetised."

Ad revenue at X slumped for months after Musk bought the company in 2022. Brands had been wary of rapid changes initiated under Musk's ownership.

The advertising group launched the responsible media initiative in 2019 to "help the industry address the challenge of illegal or harmful content on digital media platforms and its monetisation via advertising."

'CCI seeks Apple's reply on App Store probe report'

New Delhi: Fair trade watchdog CCI has sought a reply from Apple on the investigation report which has found that the technology major allegedly violated competition norms with respect to its App Store, according to sources.

The sources said the supplementary investigation report by the regulator's Director General (DG) has concluded that Apple allegedly abused its market dominance in the relevant market, violating various provisions of Section 4 of the competition law.

In December 2021, Competition Commission of India (CCI) ordered a detailed probe against Apple after prima facie finding that the company abused its market dominance. PTI

'PAID \$26.3 BN IN 2021 TO MAINTAIN SEARCH ENGINE DOMINANCE'

Google has an illegal monopoly on search, rules US judge

Ruling paves the way for a trial to determine potential fixes, possibly including a breakup of Google parent Alphabet

across the political spectrum.

"The court reaches the following conclusion: Google is a monopolist, and it has acted as one to maintain its monopoly," US District Judge Amit Mehta, Washington, D.C., wrote.

Google controls about 90 per cent of the online search market and 95 per cent on smartphones.

The "remedy" phase could be lengthy, followed by potential appeals to the US Court of Appeals, District of Columbia

Circuit and the US Supreme Court. The legal wrangling could play out into next year, or even 2026. Shares of Alphabet fell 4.5 per cent on Monday amid a broad decline in tech shares as the wider stock market cratered on recession fears. Google advertising was 77 per cent of Alphabet's total sales in 2023. Alphabet said it plans to appeal Mehta's ruling.

"This decision recognises that Google offers the best search engine, but concludes that we shouldn't be allowed to make it easily available," Google said in a statement.

US Attorney General Merrick Garland called the ruling "a historic win for the American people," adding that "no company - no matter how large or influential - is above the law."

Mangalore SEZ Limited
Mangalore Special Economic Zone, Sy.No. 168-3A, Plot No. U1 Administrative Building, Baipe Village, Mangaluru - 574 142 Dakshina Kannada, Karnataka

Extension of Tender Dates

The last date for issue of blank e-tender documents and deadline for submission of bids are extended as follows:

| Name of Work | Last date for issue of blank e-tender document | | Deadline for submission of bids | |
|---|--|------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | Original | Revised | Original | Revised |
| Operation & Maintenance of Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP), Marine Outfall Pipeline System and Internal Sewerage Pump-house of MSEZ for a period of 1 year-Contract Package No: MSEZL/O&M/CETP/MO/2024 | 06.08.2024 | 20.08.2024 | 15:00 hrs on 08.08.2024 | 15:00 hrs on 21.08.2024 |

Please refer website www.tenderwizard.com/MSEZ and www.mangaloresez.com for further details.

Sd/- Chief Executive Officer
Mangalore SEZ Ltd, Mangaluru

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED

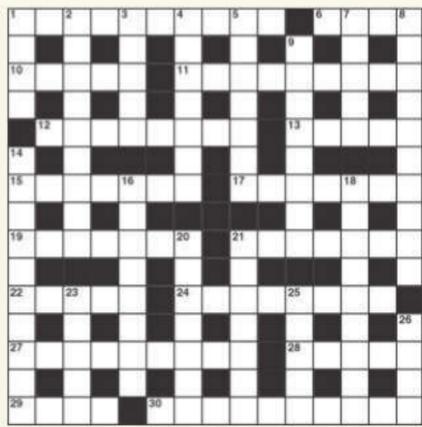
NOTICE INVITING e-Bids
SE(PROC-I)/NIB- 01/2024-25/BN-9015002401/9015002402/9015002403/9015002405

Online e-bids are invited from interested bidders for Hardware fittings and accessories of 220kV & 132kV Transmission lines (BN-9015002401, UBN-VPN2425GLRC01037), G55 Earth Wire (BN-9015002402, UBN-VPN2425GLRC01038), Safety shoes (BN-9015002403, UBN-VPN2425GLRC01039) and 11kV 70 KN & 120 KN Disc Insulators (Ball & Socket Type)/ Porcelain Longrod Insulators (BN-9015002405, UBN-VPN2425GLRC01040). The detailed NIB and Bid document (specification are available for viewing/downloading on the website <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in>. Details of NIB are available on website energy.rajasthan.gov.in and rrvpn.rajasthan.gov.in

Any extension in bid submission/opening date (if any) will be floated/uploaded on <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in> & energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rrvpn only.

Raj Samwad/C/24/3377 RRVPN/FR-6287/2024 Superintending Engineer (Proc-I)

CROSSWORD 5436



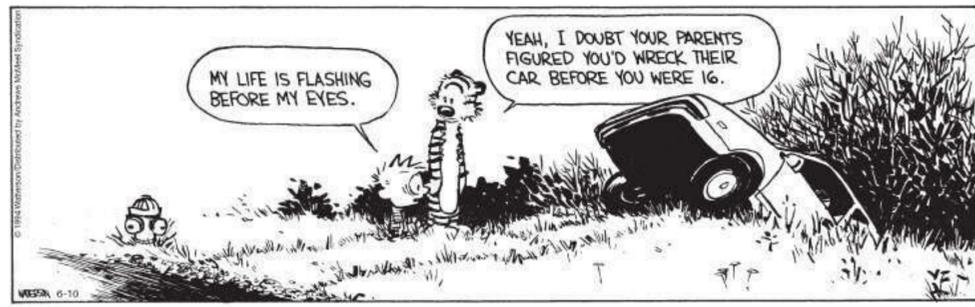
- ACROSS**
- 1 Union negotiator (10)
 - 6 Right? Yes, first time (4)
 - 10 Nitre perhaps put into the ground (5)
 - 11 Simple enough disagreement but goes to court (9)
 - 12 Leading doctor is lost among the trees (8)
 - 13 Girl's come round about the notice, miss (5)
 - 15 Moonsie redeployed in offensive (7)
 - 17 It's smoked by the great man in bed (7)
 - 19 Act One is rewritten with a mythical voyeur (7)
 - 21 Ring fighter (7)
 - 22 The whole lot at variance (5)
 - 24 Car is not damaged, being strong (4,4)
 - 27 Propose a broadcast with a serial (4,5)
 - 28 Some thousand held captive in battle (5)
 - 29 Still not quite happening (4)
 - 30 Looked happier when the light improved? (10)
- DOWN**
- 1 Post of bodyguard (4)
 - 2 He will leave a lasting impression upon one (9)
 - 3 By the sound of it, gather a crowd (5)
 - 4 Give the OK to a piano on test (7)
 - 5 Sort of band from Castile (7)
 - 7 Boy gets a girl (5)
 - 8 Thinks about alternative kinds of telescopes (10)
 - 9 Profit made by moneylending concern (8)
 - 14 If your words are this you won't want to eat them (2,3,5)
 - 16 Forget how to take charge (8)
 - 18 Even work might not suit this handyman (3-3,3)
 - 20 An explosive type of reaction (7)
 - 21 Man with guts will be needed to ride it (7)
 - 23 A sign he has dropped out of the race (5)
 - 25 It's put in during games of tennis (5)
 - 26 Note purpose of knot (4)

Solutions Crossword 5436 Across: 1 Capital, 5 Roads, 8 Mainsheet, 9 Sue, 10 Cafe, 12 Farnished, 14 Nieces, 15 Heater, 17 Subjects, 18 Aces, 21 Era, 22 Enclosure, 24 Goddy, 25 Shrinks Down: 1 Cornic, 2 Psi, 3 Test, 4 Leeway, 5 Retailer, 6 Aesthetic, 7 Spender, 11 Freeboard, 13 Cemetery, 14 Nest egg, 16 Sticks, 19 Steps, 20 Boar, 23 Um

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

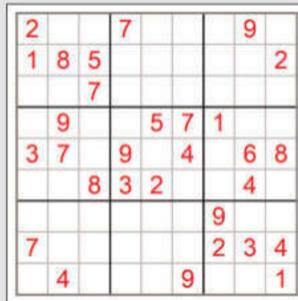
INSEE **DEEWDD**

ESVEI **EEERPW**

SOLUTION: SEINE, SIEVE, WEDDED, WEEPER

Difficulty Level 2s

INSTRUCTIONS
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.



Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5644



SALUTE THE SOLDIER

CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE Jharkhand 7 August 2008



On August 7, 2008, CRPF troops from the 26th Battalion launched an operation against Maoists in the Giridih district forest. Responding to a CPI (Maoist) bandh call, Constable Bijender Singh detected suspicious movement at the Laxman Timda bridge and challenged the Maoists. The extremists responded with indiscriminate gunfire, and the troops retaliated by splitting into three groups to encircle them. During the intense firefight, the Maoists escalated their attack with grenades to facilitate their escape. Shaheed Constable Ram Singh Dhama and Shaheed Constable Bijender Singh, who led the troops, suffered fatal injuries. Shaheed Constable Bijender Singh attained martyrdom on the same day, while Shaheed Constable Ram Singh Dhama succumbed to his injuries on August 8. Their sacrifice will always be remembered by the nation.

Manipur 7 August 2008



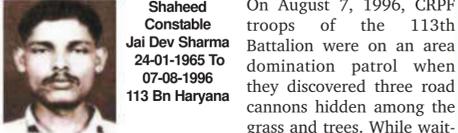
On August 7, 2008, CRPF troops from the 109th Battalion were deployed for a road-opening patrol on NH-53, PS-Saparmaina, Dist. Senapati. As they established pickets, the insurgents in ambush opened indiscriminate fire and threw bombs at one of the positions. The troops quickly retaliated and counter-attacked, driving the insurgents away. During the counter-attack, Shaheed Constable T. Muthu Ramalingam and Shaheed Constable Manjunath B. sustained fatal injuries while advancing towards the insurgents. They later succumbed to their injuries and attained martyrdom. Their bravery under heavy fire will always be remembered by the CRPF.

Chhattisgarh 7 August 2012



On August 7, 2012, 204 CoBRA Battalion troops were deployed for a road-opening patrol in Basaguda, Dist. Bijapur, to facilitate troop movement. As they approached Basaguda, Maoists ambushed them with heavy fire and IED blasts. One vehicle was severely damaged, injuring its occupants. Despite this, the troops pressed on and counter-attacked, forcing the Maoists to retreat. Shaheed Constable Mukul Chandra Barman and Shaheed Ct/Dvr Krishan Pal Singh, who suffered severe injuries in the encounter, later succumbed to their wounds and attained martyrdom.

TRIPURA 7 August 1996



On August 7, 1996, CRPF troops of the 113th Battalion were on an area domination patrol when they discovered three road cannons hidden among the grass and trees. While waiting for the bomb disposal squad, one of the cannons exploded, causing Constable Jai Dev Sharma to fall from the edge of a hill into a deep valley. He was evacuated to Rural Hospital Teliamura but was declared dead. He martyred in the line of duty while serving the nation.

SURAT MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
Light & Energy Efficiency Cell
Online Tender Notice No.
ACE (Ele/Mech)/Light & EEC/03/2024-2025

Bid(s) are invited for the following work through online process on <https://smctender.nprocure.com> from manufacturer of Wind Turbine Generators/ experienced contractors: -

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Name of Department | Light and Energy Efficiency Cell |
| 2 Nos. of Work(s) | One |
| 3 Date of downloading start from | 06.08.2024 |
| 4 Last date of online submission | 20.08.2024 |
| 5 Last date of hard copy submission | 29.08.2024 |

The detailed notice will be made available on website www.suratmunicipal.gov.in.

Sd/-
Additional City Engineer (Ele./Mech.),
Surat Municipal Corporation
Date: 05/08/2024

Western Railway - Ratlam Division
COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT E-AUCTION

E-Auction for the contract of Leasing of SLR compartment at Various Trains of Ratlam Division has been invited. The Catalogue has already been published on IREPS website. The details are furnished as under.
Catalogue No.: lease-RTM-24-14, **Type of agreement:** Leasing of SLR compartment, **Lot No.:** 22984-SLR-R1-INDB-KOTA-22-1, 19320-SLR-F1-INDB-VRL-24-1, 19320-SLR-R1-INDB-VRL-24-1, 19333-SLR-F1-INDB-BKN-24-1, 19343-SLR-F1-INDB-BDKD-22-1, 19343-SLR-F2-INDB-BDKD-22-1, 19343-SLR-R1-INDB-BDKD-22-1, 12923-SLR-F1-DADN-NGP-22-1, 12923-SLR-R1-DADN-NGP-22-1, 20916-SLR-R1-INDB-LPI-22-1, 11125-SLR-F1-RTM-GWL-23-1, 11125-SLR-R1-RTM-GWL-23-1, **Contract Period:** 02 years, E-Auction for all Lots will start at 10:00 hours on dt. **22.08.2024.** Initial cooling off period is 30 minutes. Successive Lot Closing Interval is 10 minutes. Lot wise closing time can be viewed in E-Auction module of IREPS.

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager
Western Railway, Ratlam
ADM/4/1169

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया
Bank of India

ZONAL OFFICE, GAYA ZONE
Rajalaxmi Complex, Near A.P. Colony,
Gaya-823001. Tel-0631-2220143 / 0312220336 / 0312220248. Email-zo.gaya@bankofindia.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the BANK OF INDIA under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules, 2002 issued a demand notice as detailed in the table hereunder written calling upon the below mentioned borrowers to repay the amount shown in the respective notices mentioned calling their names in the table within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice The borrowers/guarantors mentioned below having failed to repay the amount shown in the respective notices issued u/s 13(2) within the stipulated time, notice is hereby given to the aforementioned borrowers/guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property/ies (Secured Assets) described in the table given below in exercise of powers conferred on me under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules on the date(s) mentioned against the respective property.

The aforesaid borrowers/guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies mentioned in the table hereunder written and any dealings with the said property/ies will be subject to the charge of the BANK OF INDIA for the amount shown in the respective column of the table and interest thereon.

| Name of Borrower /Guarantor | i) Branch ii) Date & Amount as per Notice U/s 13 (2) | Description of the Immovable Property | Date of Possession of Assets |
|--|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| Borrower : Mr. Om Prakash and Guarantors: Mrs. Gaytri Devi and Mr. Prakash Keshari | i) Bhabhua ii) 25.04.2024 Rs.1864682.19 + interest (in words Rupees Eighteen Lakhs Sixty Four Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Two and Paise Nineteen plus interest) | All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Flat No./Plot No. In Survey No. /City or Town Survey No. 490 /Khasara no.3087 Within the registration Sub-district Bhabhua and District Bhabhua, Ward no 5 (old) and 2 (new), Area 2/Decimal Sale Deed-10258 Dated 19-11-1997. Bounded: North- Rasta 4 Feet & Plot No-3087, South- Siwana Rampur 3' wide Rasta, East- Rest Plot No-3087 Diwaker Mishra & others, West- Rest Plot No-3087, Nij Manmohir | 01.08.2024 (Symbolic Possession) |

Date: 01.08.2024
Place: Bhabhua

Authorized Officer
Bank of India

CONVERSION OF CAMPING COACHES FOR 23 COACHES

Tender No.: M-249-RSP-2023-24-DRG-08. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works:
Name of work: Conversion of Camping Coaches for 23 Coaches at C&W Workshop, N.F. Railway, New Bongaigaon. **Advertised Value:** ₹5,54,86,359.65; **Earnest money:** ₹4,27,400.00. E-tenders will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 22-08-2024. The complete information with the tender documents of above e-tender will be available in www.ireps.gov.in

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WESTERN RAILWAY - VADODARA DIVISION
GATI SHAKTI DEPARTMENT
e-TENDER NOTICE NO.
CPM-GSENGG-BRC-06-24-25

Sealed Tenders for and on behalf of the President of India are invited by Chief Project Manager (Gati Shakti), Western Railway, Pratapnagar, Vadodara-390 004 for the following works. i) E-Tender No. CPM-GS-ENGG-BRC-06-2024-2025 ii) Name of Work: Vadodara Division: Construction of bridges, retaining wall, formation work and other misc. civil works in connection with multi tracking between chhayapuri-Bajwa. iii) **Approximate Cost of work:** ₹ 12,85,55,990.85/- (Rupees Twelve Corer Eighty Five Lakhs, Fifty Five Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety and Eighty Five Paise Only) iv) **Earnest Money to be deposit:** ₹ 7,92,800/- (Rupees Seven Lakhs, Ninety Two Thousand, Eight Hundred Only) v) **Availability of online Tender for bidding:** From 15.08.2024 at 11:00 Hrs. to 29.08.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. **Opening of Technical Bid Date and time:** 29.08.2024 at 15:30 Hrs. vi) Regarding detailed notice containing cost of tender document (non refundable), EMD, eligibility criteria, Similar Nature of work, detailed tender conditions, please visit www.ireps.gov.in Manual offers will not be considered. 147

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Haryana Statehood Movement (1947-1966): An Alternative Perspective on the Formation of a State
by
Shri Arjun Singh Kadian
Junior Fellow, PMML
Thursday, 8 August 2024 at 3:00pm
Venue:
Seminar Room Prime Ministers Museum and Library Teen Murti House, New Delhi

All are Welcome.
Those wishing to have their names added to the email list may please email us at: ccs2nmm@gmail.com

CBC-09142/12/0016/2425

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM

| SRL No. | NAME OF DEPARTMENT | OLD REFERENCE/ NIT NO. | NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM | WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT | NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL |
|---------|--|-----------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT HARYANA BODAL PALWAL | TENDER NO 2024/JRY/391680_1 | EXTEND THE E-TENDER CLOSING DATE 21.08.2024 SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF ALUMINATE THERMAL NET FOR DIFFERENT PROTECTED STRUCTURE ONVPH INL WALKING TUNNEL AT BIDC, HODAL FOR THE YEAR 2024-25 | http://www.haryana.gov.in | 9354801351 bidbodala@gmail.com |

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaprocmnt.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in NO. 28612/ERY

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

| SRL No. | NAME OF BOARD/CORP/ AUTH | NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER | OPENING DATE / CLOSING DATE (TIME) | AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX) IN RUPEES | WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP/AUTH | NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL |
|---------|----------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | GURUGRAM TECHNOLOGY PARK LIMITED | HIRING SERVICE PROVIDER FOR CLEANLINESS, SANITARY SERVICES FOR OTPE OFFICE BUILDING AND BUILDING C-1 PREMISES. | 05.08.2024 12.08.2024 | 620000- | Gta.cityofgta.com | 8820910868 GTPL34@GMAIL.COM |

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaprocmnt.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in NO. 28612/ERY

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, सं०-०२, गढ़वा

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना दिनांक-06.08.2024
ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या-RDD/SD/GARHWA/07/2024-25

| क्र० सं० | कार्य का नाम | प्रशासनिक स्वी० की राशि | अग्रघन की राशि | परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य | कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि | लम्बाई (मी० में) |
|----------|---|-------------------------|----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | गढ़वा जिला के गढ़वा सदर प्रखण्ड अंतर्गत पंचायत-मन्धेया में अनजान शहीद के पास दानो नदी (झण्डू) पर उच्च स्तरीय पुल निर्माण। | 5,90,90,600.00 | 11,82,000.00 | 10000.00 | 24 माह | 152.16 |

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि - 08.08.2024
3. ई-निविदा प्राप्त की तिथि एवं समय दिनांक-08.08.2024 से दिनांक-17.08.2024 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक
4. ई-निविदा खोलने का स्थान - कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, सं०-०२, गढ़वा।
5. ई-निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय-20.08.2024 अपराह्न 2:00 बजे
6. ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता - कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, सं०-०२, गढ़वा।
7. ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० -8002373581 (संबंधित कार्यपालक अभियंता का दूरभाष नम्बर)
8. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है तदनुसार अग्रघन की राशि देय होगी।
9. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि केवल **Online Mode** द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
10. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि का ई-मुद्रातन जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रघन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।
विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाइट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यपालक की सूचना पत्र पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल सं०-०२, गढ़वा
PR 332003 Rural Development(24-25)#D

Bill seeks to expand NDMA role, fails to strengthen its status

AMITABH SINHA
 NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

LAST WEEK, the government introduced a Bill in Parliament seeking to amend the Disaster Management Act, 2005. It proposes to make important changes in the Act, aimed mainly at improving the operational efficiencies in responding to a natural disaster.

The Bill seeks to significantly expand the role and responsibilities of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), especially in guiding state governments and organs of the Centre in dealing with disasters.

However, it misses the opportunity to upgrade and strengthen the institutional status of NDMA. This would have empowered the body to coordinate better with state agencies, and provided it with more financial and human resources.

Significance of the DM Act

The DM Act was enacted in the aftermath of the devastating 2004 tsunami — the idea for such legislation was in the works at least

since the 1998 Odisha super cyclone.

The Act led to the creation of the NDMA, SDMA at the state level, a National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), and a National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) — an institute meant for disaster-related research, training, awareness, and capacity building. The Act was followed by a National Disaster Management Policy in 2009 and a National Disaster Management Plan in 2016.

This institutional framework has served India well in dealing with natural disasters. Over the years, it has saved thousands of lives, and provided relief, rescue and rehabilitation services. Growing incidents of natural disasters, exacerbated by climate change, have made agencies such as NDMA more important than ever, requiring the assignment of greater responsibilities and resources.

The proposed amendments

The amendment Bill acknowledges this fact and proposes to make a few important changes to make the Act more effective.

URBAN DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES: The institutional structure

for disaster management extends to the district level, and district disaster management authorities are already functional. However, the Bill recognises the special requirements of large metropolitan cities that often comprise multiple districts. In such cities — all state capitals and cities with a municipal corporation — would now also have an Urban Disaster Management Authority, headed by the municipal commissioner. This can help in having a unified and coordinated approach towards city-level disasters such as urban flooding.

SDRF: Although most states have raised their disaster relief forces on the lines of NDRF over the years, an SDRF is not mandated in the 2005 Act. The size and capacity of the SDRFs in the states vary significantly. The Bill proposes to make it mandatory for every state to raise and maintain an SDRF.

NATIONAL CRISIS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: NCMC, headed by the Cabinet Secretary, is already functional for handling all kinds of national emergencies, including disasters. The Bill gives legal status to the NCMC,

making it the nodal body to deal with disasters with "serious or national ramifications".

ENHANCED ROLE OF NDMA: The role and responsibilities of the NDMA are proposed to be significantly expanded. It has been asked to periodically take stock of the entire range of disaster risks to the country, including risks from emerging disasters.

DISASTER DATABASES: The NDMA is also being asked to create and maintain a national disaster database with information on the assessment of the disaster, fund allocation, expenditure, and preparedness and mitigation plans. The SDMA will also need to create state-level disaster databases.

COMPENSATIONS: The Bill proposes that the NDMA should recommend guidelines for minimum standards of relief to be provided to people affected by disasters. This includes a recommendation on compensation amounts in case of loss of lives, damage to homes and property, and loss of livelihoods.

MAN-MADE DISASTERS: The Bill seeks

to include an important clarification about the definition of disasters. The original Act defined disasters as any "catastrophe, mishap, calamity or grave occurrence in any area, arising from natural or man made causes...". The Bill says the phrase "man-made causes" does not include any law-and-order-related situation. Loss of lives, suffering, or property damage in a riot, for example, would not invoke provisions of this law.

ABSENCE OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON: The NDMA is headed by the Prime Minister as chairperson. A vice-chairperson, in the rank of a Cabinet Minister, is supposed to be responsible for day-to-day functioning. The post of vice-chairperson, however, has been vacant for about a decade. The amendment Bill legitimises this position by allowing for the day-to-day functioning to be carried out by any Member designated by the chairperson or the vice-chairperson.

Unaddressed issues in Bill

Considering its growing role and importance, it has been argued that NDMA be given more powers and elevated to the sta-

tus of a government department, if not a full-fledged ministry in itself. The NDMA now remains active throughout the year, and has to regularly coordinate with state governments and their agencies. Currently, this is done through the Home Ministry, which is the nodal ministry for the NDMA.

Without a vice-chairperson, the NDMA has been deprived of not just leadership but also the political heft necessary to deal with states and other central government agencies.

The NDMA does not have any administrative financial powers. Routing every small decision through the Home Ministry is an inefficient and time-consuming process. The body is also severely short-staffed at the top, with just three members functioning. It used to once have six to seven members, each in charge of a specific type of disaster.

The amendment Bill ignores these deficiencies for the time being. Some of the other provisions are also likely to face opposition, particularly the ones that deal with changes at the state level.

EXPLAINED POLICY

EXPLAINED ECONOMICS

THIS WORD MEANS

YEN CARRY TRADE

Investors borrow in low-interest currencies like the yen and use the cash to invest in high-interest assets

UDIT MISRA
 NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

ON MONDAY, major global stock markets experienced sharp declines. The reasons for jittery investor sentiment ranged from the US economy facing increasing odds of a recession to geopolitical tensions in West Asia. There was also a new global trigger: the unwinding of the yen carry trade.



Monitors display the Japanese yen exchange rate against the US dollar in Tokyo on Monday. *Kyodo via Reuters*

What is the yen carry trade?

Global investors always look for opportunities to make money. One way to do this is to borrow money in a country with low interest rates and invest that money (after converting the currency) in a country with much higher interest rates. This is called carry trade.

Such opportunities can exist because central banks of different countries try to set interest rates based on their specific economic conditions. So, the Bank of Japan kept interest rates at 0% between 2011 and 2016, and even below zero (-0.10%) since 2016 to stimulate economic activity.

But such a "cheap money" monetary policy has global ramifications, especially since Japan is the third-largest economy and its currency is trusted. Investors are incentivised to borrow cheaply in yen and invest in other countries (such as Brazil, India and the US) to earn better returns. Such carry trades are called yen carry trades.

The Bank of Japan kept interest rates low for long — even when central banks elsewhere rapidly raised interest rates in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine war — and incentivised billions of dollars of yen carry trades. These borrowings fuelled investments in several countries.

So, what changed?

Between mid-March and July-end this year, the Bank of Japan raised interest rates by 35 basis points, so the interest rate now is 0.25% instead of -0.1%. On the face of it,

and especially as Indian lending rates are upwards of 6.5%, this may not look like a massive increase but in Japan's context, it was nothing short of a monetary earthquake. It is expected that the central bank may raise interest rates further.

This sharp reversal — a 25 basis point increase announced on July 31st — led to the "unwinding" of the yen carry trade. In other words, it led to investors who had borrowed in yen and invested, say in the Indian rupee, selling their assets in international markets.

But why did investors sell?

Higher interest rates in Japan led to the yen gaining strength against the dollar and most other emerging economy currencies. Over the past week, the yen's exchange rate — how many dollars or rupees one gets for a yen — strengthened against currencies like the dollar, rupee, peso etc. Assets held in these currencies were worth relatively less if converted back into yen.

Not to mention the higher opportunity cost of yen carry trade because investing in yen now pays higher returns. This narrowing of returns (or yields) differential, and the likelihood of a further move in this direction, triggered the slide and led to investors selling off those assets bought using cheap yen.

GEORGE MATHEW
 MUMBAI, AUGUST 6

INSURANCE COMPANIES have jacked up premiums on health and life insurance policies this year which, together with the 18% Goods and Services Tax (GST), has made insurance less affordable for many sections of the country's population.

Opposition leaders including Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi protested at Parliament's Makar Dwar on Tuesday, demanding the withdrawal of GST on life insurance and health insurance premiums. Trinamool Congress MP Derek O'Brien had raised the issue in Rajya Sabha on Monday, and his party chief Mamata Banerjee had threatened to "hit the streets" last week to protest against the "anti-people" tax.

Earlier on July 28, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari wrote to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, saying GST on life and medical insurance premiums amounted to taxing the "uncertainties of life". The tax was also "restricting the growth of the industry", Gadkari said.

What is the GST on health and life insurance premiums?

GST replaced all indirect taxes like service tax and cess from July 1, 2017. Currently, GST on health and life insurance policies is fixed at 18%.

Since GST encapsulates service tax, which applies to the insurance industry, its introduction has resulted in an increase in premium amounts. Prior to GST, life insurance premiums were subject to 15% service taxes, comprising Basic Service Tax, Swachh Bharat cess, and Krishi Kalyan cess. The increase from 15% to 18% impacted the end consumer — that is, policyholders — by raising their premium amounts.

This, along with the runaway cost of treatment — medical inflation was estimated to be 14% towards the end of last year — has made buying medical insurance difficult for many people. Ditto is the case with term insurance policies.

The government acknowledged in Parliament on Monday that representations had been received asking for an exemption or reduction in the rate of GST on life and health insurance.

What is the rational justification for



Rahul Gandhi and Sharad Pawar with other opposition MPs demand removal of 18% GST on health/medical insurance outside Parliament on Tuesday. *PTI*

GST: HEALTH INSURANCE

| Years | Insurance premium | Reinsurance premium |
|---------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 2021-22 | 5,354.28 | 825.95 |
| 2022-23 | 7,638.33 | 963.28 |
| 2023-24 | 8,262.94 | 1,484.36 |

(In Rupees Crore), Source: Lok Sabha Questions, August 5, 2024

imposing the tax?

GST rates and exemptions on all services, including GST on health insurance premium, are prescribed on the recommendations of the GST Council, which is a constitutional body comprising the Union Finance Minister and ministers nominated by governments of states/Union Territories, the Centre told Lok Sabha on Monday.

GST is applicable to all insurance policies since insurance is a service, and policyholders pay tax on their insurance premium. It's a revenue earning segment for the government, which fetched Rs 21,256 crore in GST during the last three financial years, and another Rs 3,274 crore from the reissuance of health policies.

Insurance policies allow certain deductions while computing income tax. The most popu-

lar tax-saving deductions, particularly on life insurance premiums, are Sections 80C and 80D of the Income Tax Act, 1961. Under Section 80C, a customer can avail deductions of up to Rs 1.5 lakh on the overall insurance premium, including the GST applicable on them. If customers opt for a medical rider with their life insurance policies, Section 80D provides for additional deductions on the premium.

Sceptics doubt whether reducing GST, should the government agree to do it, will help policyholders. "It remains to be seen whether insurers will pass on the benefit to customers," said an observer of the insurance sector.

Insurance companies say the rise in retail inflation has added to their overall costs. Medical inflation is much higher than retail inflation (5.08% in June this year), they point out.

And what is the argument for withdrawing the GST on the premium?

The main issue is the large increases in premium on health insurance policies this year — a leading public sector insurer has hiked the premium by 50%.

While health insurance is very significant for the benefit of the people, "sadly, the renewal rate of policies is alarmingly declining due to frequent premium hikes and medical inflation", the Confederation of General Insurance Agents' Associations of India, an umbrella body of non-life insurance agents, has said.

The confederation has pointed out that the GST on insurance in India is the highest in the world — and that the situation needs to be addressed in order to attain insurance regulator IRDAI's goal of "Insurance for All by 2047", which was endorsed by the Standing Committee on Finance in its 66th report submitted to Parliament in February 2024.

This report had recommended rationalisation of the GST rate on insurance products, especially health and term insurance. The high rate of GST results in a high premium burden, which acts as a deterrent to getting insurance policies, it had said.

"The Committee, with a view to make insurance more affordable, recommend that GST rates applicable to health insurance products, particularly retail policies for senior citizens and microinsurance policies (up to limits prescribed under PMJAY, presently Rs 5 lakh), and term policies may be reduced," the report said.

The CEO of a private sector insurer said: "In markets like Singapore and Hong Kong, there is no GST or VAT on insurance. It is a difficult product to sell. People don't want to buy insurance. On that also, whatever insurance they take, you (the government) put an 18% tax... Ideally, you should reduce it..."

How big are the markets for life and health insurance in the country?

The general insurance industry collected Rs 1,09,000 crore premium under the health portfolio in fiscal 2023-24.

Life insurance companies mobilised Rs 3,77,960 crore premium from customers in FY2024, with LIC alone accounting for Rs 2,22,522 crore.

Just five states — Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Delhi — contributed about 64% of the total health insurance premium in 2022-23; all other states together contributed the remaining 36%.

According to a Swiss Re Sigma report, insurance penetration in India's life insurance sector reduced from 3.2% in 2021-22 to 3% in 2022-23, and remained stagnant at 1% in the non-life insurance sector. As such, India's overall insurance penetration reduced to 4% in 2022-23 from 4.2% in 2021-22.

"The common man eagerly awaits measures to make life and health insurance more affordable, aligning with the ambitious goal of Insurance for All by 2047," Deepanker Mahajan, co-founder and CEO of insurance broker CoverYou, said.

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In water-starved Punjab, plans for a new irrigation canal raise several concerns

KANCHAN VASDEV
 CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 6

ALMOST SEVEN decades after the construction of the Bhakra Main Line (BML), Sirhind Feeder, and the Bist Doab canals in the mid-1950s, Punjab wants to spend Rs 2,300 crore on a new irrigation channel, running roughly 150 km in a north-south direction in the state's south-western corner.

The Punjab government faces a serious funds crunch, and some experts have raised questions over the technical viability of the proposed project. What is this canal that Punjab wants to build, and why?

Proposed Malwa canal

The proposed 149.53-km canal is named after Malwa, the biggest and politically most important of the three geographical and cultural regions of Punjab, which sprawls across the entire southern part of

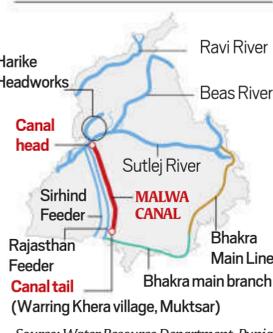
the state. The proposed 50-foot wide and 12-foot deep canal will originate at the Harike Headworks on the Sutlej river in Ferozepur district, and will carry 2,000 cusecs of water. (A cusec is flow equivalent to 1 cubic foot per second.)

The proposed canal, which will tail off at Warring Khara village in Muktsar district close to the border with Haryana, will flow parallel to the Sirhind Feeder and Rajasthan Feeder canals, to the latter's east. The canal, which is expected to take five years to build, is projected to irrigate 2 lakh acres of land in seven districts.

Need for a new canal

The Malwa canal proposes to provide additional water to the left side of the Rajasthan Feeder canal, which the Sirhind Feeder cannot supply effectively, especially during the kharif paddy sowing season, when the demand is high. (The Rajasthan Feeder carries waters of the Ravi and Beas exclusively for Rajasthan.)

PROPOSED MALWA CANAL



Source: Water Resource Department, Punjab

Since the 51-km Ferozepur Feeder, which takes off from the Harike Headworks, struggles to cater to the entire state, supply to the 136-km Sirhind Feeder, which begins

from the Ferozepur Feeder, is impacted. The situation becomes so severe that Punjab has to run its canals by rotation.

More than 300 lift pumps operate on the Sirhind Feeder between Faridkot and Muktsar, irrigating the area on the left bank of the Rajasthan Feeder. This area was originally irrigated by the Abohar Branch Upper and Bathinda Branch of the Sirhind canal system, fed from the Ropar Headworks. Farmers in Abohar and Fazilka have often asked for canal water, complaining that the groundwater in the area is polluted.

Who gains from canal

"More water will be available for the Abohar area from the Sirhind Feeder, and Muktsar, Gidderbaha, Bathinda, and Zira will get their rightful share of water. It will serve the entire Malwa area," Water Resources Minister Chetan Singh Jouramajra has said.

According to Water Resources Department officials, Punjab gets only 68% of its allowance from the Bhakra dam, while

Rajasthan gets about 125% and Haryana 110-115%. "This new canal will help in removing this anomaly and creating a balance," an official said.

In Ferozepur, Faridkot, and Muktsar districts, 28, 10, and 24 villages respectively on the left side of the Rajasthan Feeder canal are projected to benefit. Around 190 villages will receive water continuously, and rotation of canals will no longer be needed in the entire Ferozepur Feeder area, officials said.

Challenges before govt

Funds for the Rs-2,300 crore project is the primary hurdle before the state already reeling under a debt burden of Rs 3.5 lakh crore. Given the hostility between the BJP-led central government and the AAP government in Punjab, the Centre is not expected to be helpful. The state is looking at securing funding from the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

The regular process of carrying out a so-

cio-economic survey to figure out the need for land acquisition, and to assess the extent of human displacement and rehabilitation and compensation, will have to be gone through. Environmental clearance, permission to fell trees, and clearance from the Central Water Commission will be needed. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) is in the process of being submitted, a government official said.

A retired chief engineer of irrigation in Punjab who did not want to be identified said that the canal project had been considered when Parkash Singh Badal was Chief Minister. "We opined that such a project would be technically unviable as the levels of the canal and the working head at Harike would not match. Lifts were installed to raise water from the Sirhind canal, and we would need lifts again," the retired official said.

In any case, the official said, there wasn't enough water to begin with. "If we had the water, why would we need to run the existing canals by rotation?" he asked.

FIRST INDIAN WOMAN WRESTLER TO REACH OLYMPIC FINAL

Triumph of street-fighter

Vinesh Phogat goes from being the face of the protests of women grapplers in New Delhi to making history in Paris

SHASHANK NAIR
AUGUST 6

ALL OF just 29, there are few things that Vinesh Phogat has not experienced in the last two years of her life.

But even by her standards of having to deal with the extraordinary, she finds herself in a land of, frankly, overwhelming firsts. India's greatest woman wrestler will be in the Paris Olympics 50 kg women's freestyle gold medal match — a privilege earned in her third-ever Olympics.

She defeated the consensus 50 kg GOAT Yui Susaki first, then took down European champion Oksana Livach and finally stuffed Cuban grappler Yusneylis Guzman in the semi-final for a Paris Olympics performance worthy of its medal.

She was not the favourite, nor was she a bronze hopeful before the draw, but she will leave Paris with a medal that few have deserved as much as her.

The achievement must be put into context considering the whirlwind of last year. Phogat was the face of Indian sports big 'Me Too' movement where she and other wrestlers protested at Jantar Mantar against then BJP MP and WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

On Tuesday, she was a street-fighter on the mat too.

She has been on a dream run in Paris with her elite defence, the heart of the operations.

And how it came clutch for her on Tuesday against Cuban veteran Yusneylis Guzman — herself a two-Olympic veteran and a multiple Pan American Games medalist to boot. Barring Ukraine's Oksana Livach, no wrestler has landed a takedown on the Indian, and even she had to wait until the dying moments of her match to earn a frenetic one.

Every time a knee dropped and an arm reached out, three women asked a question to Phogat's defence on Tuesday, and each was met with a resounding wall. Guzman persisted the most.

Her first attempt, she actually managed to grab onto Phogat's thigh. But the Indian first transferred her weight onto Guzman's back and then just circled out of danger, while sprawling.

It was that easy. She came back again, this time not even getting close as Phogat once again sprawled and stuffed the attempt.

Her defence can handle a single-minded lunge to the leg. Guzman was offering no speed, nor was she forcing the Indian wrestler to think hard and multitask. It's a crucial facet to beating Phogat's defence and that level of wrestling just never materialised as the Cuban takedown crisis continued.

Soon Phogat pocketed a passivity point and would lead the bout as the first series came to a close.

Two minutes into the second round and the Indian went for a takedown of her own. It was a thing of beauty — one where she was controlling Guzman's head and violently pushed it down.

The Cuban instinctively tried to get back to her feet from her knees and that instant, Phogat lunged for Guzman's right foot and turned her over.

Guzman just couldn't keep Phogat off her back, who wanted the takedown and wouldn't take no for an answer.

Once those two points were on the board, Phogat turned her over once and added two more to make the score 5-0. Despite multiple knee injuries, Phogat's game has continued its growth. It came in clutch when the Cuban desperately looked for hope and didn't get her prayer answered.

Phogat faces a familiar foe in Sarah Hildebrandt on Wednesday in the gold medal match. History is calling, and it seems Phogat is all ears.



Vinesh Phogat defeated four-time world champion and Tokyo gold medallist Yui Susaki in the first round on Tuesday. Reuters

TALE OF A DEFENSIVE COUP

How Vinesh bested Susaki: Octopus defence, an elusive knee, cerebral chaos & resilience

SHIVANI NAIK
AUGUST 6

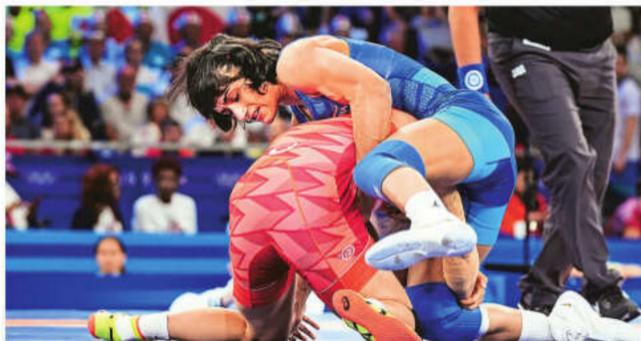
THE SNAP of the right knee that Vinesh Phogat had naively left unguarded against Sun Yunan and how she collapsed in a teary heap, had sent a wave of winning through the Rio de Janeiro wrestling venue of 2016 Olympics as it showed up on the big screen. The Chinese had attacked Vinesh's defenceless flanking limb cunningly, bent and mangled it, and left it flailing and limp. An ambulance was wheeled in right up to the side door, and Vinesh's Olympic dream at the height of her prowess, left the hall, trailing the siren of the hospital van.

Phogat would never make that rookie error in defense ever again. Against Yui Susaki, who had not lost in 95 international matches, Vinesh pulled off nearly five and a half minutes of the most compact leg defence, that set up her eventual progress.

It took Susaki a while to comprehend just how resolutely Vinesh was intending to defend. But even when she went for a single leg attack around the 3:10 mark, Vinesh ensured her feet remained elusive and out of bounds for the Japanese ace, known for not conceding a single point in Tokyo.

The 4-time World champion in 50 kg, a mythical icon back in Japan, in fact got deceived by having not conceded any point, and was completely lulled by the 2 passivity points Vinesh cleverly gifted, before her last 10 second takedown, nudged Susaki out of gold medal contention.

The plan drawn out by Vinesh and Waller Akos was brilliant in its simplicity. But it needed



Against Yui Susaki (L), who had not lost in 95 international matches, Vinesh pulled off nearly five and a half minutes of the most compact leg defence. PTI

the Japanese, known for her speedy rampaging, to be kept at bay, before the counterstrike was unfurled. It was a defensive dazzler, Maldini's backline and Popovic's Spurs would have been proud of.

Vinesh knew any ground-grappling would go against her. She needed to stay on her feet. Deny Susaki reach, and distance, and a bunch of points that come from engaging actively.

"Ladki ne kamaalka game khelaa. Naa point lena hai, naa point dena hai. Yeh plan tha. Mazaa aagaya," explained wrestling coach and commentator Kripa Bishnoi. (Woman played a wondrous tactic, neither taking nor giving any point. Fun came.)

The two passivity points were 'gifts',

Bishnoi says, and it would've dawned on Susaki — a technical superiority win hoarder rather belatedly, that she hadn't earned any technical points for a full 5 minutes. It was bound to draw out a mistake in the end.

Susaki made one run for a single leg attack, post the halfway mark, and that's where Vinesh's power-defence came to the fore. The only significant daav, Bishnoi laughs, had been indicating a 'galat-fehmi' (deceptive lulling). But when Susaki went for Vinesh's leg, from an arm's length distance that Vinesh zealously guarded, the Japanese would lose attacking shape and her attack crumbled.

It was because of what Vinesh had been chipping away at from the start. The Indian's

grips on the arm and shoulder are known to be chokeholds with finger pressure. "People think defense is just footwork or holds. This is wrestling. The best pehelwaans exert pressure from head to toe, like an octopus. It's a multi-pronged defense. Vinesh applied excellent upper body pressure and kept rotating the Japanese, so her power moves would constantly lose direction," Bishnoi explained.

The most obvious element of the defense was maintaining a steady distance, and causing a muscle extension so Susaki's holds never grasped. "Vinesh kept applying pressure on her shoulders, and forced her hips and neck to be bent. Usko zhukaa diya," he said. Made her bow. Bishnoi added that Vinesh's defensive pressure was also heaped during what were inopportune 'breathing positions' for the Japanese, a wrestling trick that needs years of observing. Forcing Susaki to fight very close to the mat, on an exceedingly low stance, meant Vinesh used the upward force of the mat on Susaki's body while lumping pressure on her by looming over the top, to crush her balance and compelling her to attack from low centre of gravity. "It's top defence, when you imbalance the opponent by piling the force on them, pushing them down. Kamar tooti toh samzho, wrestler khatam, (when the waist breaks, understand the wrestler is finished)" he explained.

The points Vinesh eventually scored came from a standard push & pull, and a gentle nudge in the raid zone. Susaki kept angling for a hold, Vinesh guarded her knee, and finally completed a takedown from a ground position. "Atpataa movement tha," he ended. That's Hindi for cerebral chaos, with the clock ticking down.

MEDAL TALLY

| Pos. | Country | G | S | B | Total |
|------|-----------|----|----|----|-------|
| 1. | China | 22 | 19 | 14 | 55 |
| 2. | USA | 21 | 30 | 28 | 79 |
| 3. | Australia | 14 | 12 | 8 | 34 |
| 4. | France | 13 | 16 | 19 | 48 |
| 5. | GBritain | 12 | 13 | 18 | 43 |
| 60. | India | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 |

*At midnight

STORY OF MEDALS

'GOAT in the boat' wins again

New Zealand's five-time Olympic champion Lisa Carrington got a winning start but Denmark's world champions Emma Jorgensen and Frederikke Matthiesen were knocked out as canoe sprint events got under way at Vaires-sur-Marne Nautical Stadium on Tuesday. Known back home as "the GOAT in the boat", Carrington first led her four-woman crew to victory in the 500-metre kayak heat before winning the kayak double heat a couple of hours later. But Danish pair Jorgensen and Matthiesen missed automatic qualification for the semis by coming third in their heat. REUTERS

BASKETBALL

Jokic leads Serbia to semifinals

Nikola Jokic proved again why he is a three-time NBA most valuable player, leading Serbia to a nail-biting 95-90 overtime win over Australia on Tuesday and into the final four of the Paris Olympics basketball tournament. It was an uphill victory from the start for Serbia, who dug themselves out of a 24-point first half hole to reach the brink of a regulation victory only to watch Patty Mill hit a desperation fade away jumper with 1.4 seconds to play to force the extra session. REUTERS

DIVING

Quan wins gold in 10m platform

China's Quan Hongchan won the women's 10-metre platform event on Tuesday, bagging the country's fifth diving gold medal at the Paris Olympics. Quan retained her Tokyo title on 425.60 points from teammate Chen Yuxi who again won silver. North Korea's Kim Mi Rae took the bronze. Quan and Chen, who won the synchronised 10m platform event last week, were clear favourites to reach the individual final having dominated the preliminary and semi-final rounds. REUTERS

MARATHON SWIMMING

Session cancelled over water quality

The marathon swimming familiarisation session scheduled for Tuesday in the river Seine has been cancelled because of water pollution concerns, the international federation said. "After the daily situation meeting this morning between Ville de Paris, Paris 2024 and World Aquatics, it has been decided that the familiarisation session to take place today, 6 August 2024, is cancelled," World Aquatics said in a statement. While the E. Coli bacteria levels were within the acceptable threshold, the levels of another bacteria, Enterococci, were not. REUTERS

HOCKEY HEARTBREAK

Gallant India fall short of final in scintillating match against Germany



EXPRESS AT OLYMPICS

MIHIR VASAVDA
PARIS, AUGUST 6

BEFORE THEY gave themselves a chance to etch their names in the annals of Indian hockey, they played as if playing an ode to the legends of yore.

This one will hurt. Not so much because India lost, but for the kind of hockey they played — scintillating at times, dazzling always, but peppered with costly mistakes — the Harmanpreet Singh-led side would feel they deserved more. Alas, it wasn't to be. And the 44-year wait to reach the final of the Olympic Games was extended by four more. India lost 3-2 to Germany in a thrilling semi-final of the Paris Olympics, despite taking an

early lead.

India, however, will have another shot at the podium and at least match the Tokyo bronze medal when they face Spain in the playoff match on Thursday.

For the core of the team that ensured India's return to the podium for the first time since 1980 — there are 11 of them in Paris — and hoped to take another giant stride in the team's evolution, it was a case of falling agonisingly short yet again. This is an anti-climatic end to India's surging fortunes, which they hoped would lead them to their first Olympic final since 1980. India had to work extra hard, run more and strategically use the players given they had one player less in the playing squad, 15, than Germany. The suspended Amit Rohidas was missed at both ends, with his first rushing in penalty corner defence and as a back-up drag-flicker for Harmanpreet.

In a way, they 'out-Germanied' Germany — the world champions are one of the few teams with the discipline and doggedness to overcome such odds, as they have done many times in the past.



Germany scored a 54th-minute winner to beat India in the semis. Reuters

And this was a German team that had been on a roll. Coming into Tuesday's game,

they had scored 19 goals at an average of a little more than 3 per game; a majority of them coming from open play.

Even in defeat, India were sparkling to watch when in full flow. Hardik Singh drew intricate patterns on the field, using his supple wrists to hypnotise the German defence and make them dance to his tunes. This one time, early in the first quarter, he showed the defender one way, went the other and found a foot inside the 'D'. Seconds later, he dribbled past three defenders to draw another penalty corner. Both times, he punched the air as if celebrating a goal. The tiny Vivek Sagar Prasad, too, joined the party. A 5'2" Indian was boxed into a corner by two six-foot-plus German defenders, who did everything in their capacity to intimidate him.

Far from fearing them, Vivek skillfully nutmegged Niklas Wellen, and changed the direction of the attack to the right flank, where there were plenty of unmarked Indian bodies. He casually looked back at Wellen, and smirked. That one image neatly summed up India's dominance in the first quarter.

Stellar display

They were rewarded with a goal, with Harmanpreet Singh — who else — giving India the lead by scoring his eighth goal of the Games to become the top scorer.

This was Fulton's India showing another version of themselves. After being ultra-defensive against Britain, they went full-throttle from the first pass. The strategy rattled Germany, who held an emergency mid-quarter team huddle on the top of their 'D'. India set such high standards in the opening exchanges that it was always going to be tough to sustain that level, especially against a German side that thrives on making comebacks.

En route to becoming world champions last year, the Germans came back from early deficits three times in the knockout stages — against England in the quarterfinals, Australia in the semis and Belgium in the final.

They clawed their way back into the match once again by keeping possession, making India move from one side of the pitch to another, and exploiting their weaknesses on the pitch. The Germans drew two mistakes from

defender Jarmanpreet Singh — finding his foot to win penalty corners and a penalty stroke — which allowed them to overturn the first-quarter deficit into a half-time lead, with Gonzalo Peillat and Christopher Ruhr scoring to make it 2-1. India levelled through an unlikely penalty corner variation. Harmanpreet played it wide towards the right of the German goalkeeper, where an unmarked Sukhjeet Singh reacted in time to deflect it into the net. Germany didn't see the variation coming, they charged their rushers to block the India captain from unleashing one of his feared flicks. Harmanpreet celebrated by pointing a finger to his head.

But in the key moment, late in the fourth quarter, that's what India did not use. A slight lapse in concentration allowed Germany to sneak into the Indian 'D' from the right flank through the baseline and a cross played in front of goal was deflected in by Marco Miltkau in the 54th minute. When the final hooter sounded, Indian players exited the field with their shoulders dropped and a feeling of resignation. When they reflect, they'll realise that they were gallant even in defeat.



Sharath Kamal plays against China's Fan Zhendong during a men's team round of 16 match. PTI

China beat India 0-3 in Sharath's swansong

ANIL DIAS
AUGUST 6

THE INDIAN men's team campaign in table tennis at the Olympics ended before it could take off with a 0-3 loss to defending champions China on Tuesday. The scoreline may seem like it was a total annihilation by the 4-time team Olympic champions, but India didn't go down without a fight.

What a dream swansong it would've been for the poster boy of Indian table tennis, Achantu Sharath Kamal! The 43-year-old, playing in his fifth and final Olympics, was up against recently-crowned Olympic singles champion Fan Zhendong in the second match of the tie. India had lost the opening doubles rubber in straight games — Surat duo Harmeet Desai and Manav Thakkar were no match for Wang Chuqin and the great Ma Long — and it was the perfect stage for Sharath to show his class, to show that there was a reason his international career has spanned more than two decades. And he didn't disappoint.

He used everything in his rich and vast table tennis repertoire to put Fan under the pump. Being significantly taller, he was able to match the Chinese's forehand attack with his thunderous backhand. There were down-the-line backhand taps that were winners and when the opportunity arose, he went for his thunderous forehand topspin across the table. Such was his confidence. It was this confidence that allowed him to

stun Fan to win the first game 11-9.

Confidence comes from preparation and Sharath had done everything he could to train for these games. India confirmed their Olympic spot after the ITTF World Team Championships back in February, and Sharath told *The Indian Express* last month that he had planned out the five months in the lead-up to the Olympics meticulously.

"Firstly, I had to lose weight. I had to get in shape. This was going to be the biggest test of my career and India's best chance as it was the first time we have qualified as a team. I've always said we're stronger as a team so I'm looking forward to it," Sharath had said.

Stellar effort

His work rate did show. To match someone who's among the very best in the world wasn't going to be easy, but Sharath was up to the task. Unfortunately for him, so was Fan.

One of the great aspects about Sharath is that he never gives up. Not even when he was 4-9 down in the second game. Three straight points to 7-9 and China were sweating. They knew Sharath was on song, and decided to break his momentum by taking a timeout. Fan came back to wrap up the game with ease, and from then on, one knew that the Chinese had elevated his game. Sharath had forced him to. With 10-time national champion Sharath, who first played in the Olympics at Athens 2004, losing his match 3-1, one felt it was curtains for India. Up next was Manav Thakkar against Chuqin.

The World No.1 had been beaten in the men's singles and Thakkar would've felt that he had an outside chance. And in the first game itself, he showed that he's capable. Down 3-8, he took 4 straight points to take it to 7-8 which forced Chuqin to take a timeout. After the break, Manav made it 9-9 but Chuqin managed to eke out the game.

Manav tried variations in the second game and attacked Chuqin's backhand which proved successful on occasions but the difference in level was quite evident.

SANDIPG
AUGUST 6

AT THE top of his run-up, waiting for take-off, Armand Duplantis inhaled a burst of breath, blew out the air, ran his hands over a malleable stick that weighs five pounds, and stared into the beatific Parisian skies. Nearly 15 seconds later, he blended into the sky so much so that he could see the stars closer than any human without space jackets and parachutes could, and sniff the heavens closer than any of his race could. Duplantis soared an unearthly, gravity-repelling 6.25 metres, a height equivalent to leaping over a giraffe, the tallest animal in the world, with a metre to spare.

It was the ninth time he had rewritten the world record. But the most startling feature of the moment was how ridiculously simple a manoeuvre he made it look, without a violent eruption of energy, without a wicked stretching of his sinews, without even breaking into a storm of sweat. Just like that, as though he were plucking a fruit from his back garden, as though it were merely an instinct. Perhaps it really is, a memory his muscle had ingrained since he was three, the first time he tried pole-vaulting, under the shocked gaze of his father Greg, an elite pole vaulter in the 1990s, and mother Helena, a heptathlete.

The 24-year-old Swede, though, was oversimplifying the most complex synthesis of human movements in athletics, a burning obsession of biomechanics scientists. He reels down the runway like a sprinter, straight-backed and still-headed, his shock of blonde hair bouncing and flapping in the wind of energy he generates, and completes 20 strides in a fraction over 10 seconds. He has an immediate advantage of speed over his rivals—it's not a surprise that he set a school record in Louisiana when he ran the 100m in 10.57s. "He's just so fast down the runway. He's faster than all of us by quite a bit. Speed equals height in pole vault," KCl Lightfoot, one of his American competitors, would enviously observe about his toughest adversary. Duplantis has long-jumped 7.15m at school, and could have set records had he tried his luck on the gymnastics floor or the high jump pit too.

Smooth operator

Then comes the subtle art of transferring his weight onto the vault. He uses a slightly heavier pole that generates more recoil force, and grips the pole much higher than the average vaulter to get more leverage, a technique made famous by the godfather of pole vault, Sergei Bubka.

The Swede holds the pole on a vertical plane with soft hands, letting the force of gravity pull it down, in his run-up. He then raises his arms to slide (rather than plant) the pole tip in the metal vault box, bends it to the limits, before it begins to wince in pain.

When he is almost under the bar, he flips his body backwards, upside down for maximising the recoil effect, clinging like a sloth on the branch of a tree, lets the grip off the pole, setting off vigorous vibrations of the fibreglass staff, catapults his body skywards and curls it over the bar. If one pauses the footage at the exact moment when he crossed 6.25m, when he is suspended weightlessly in the air like a spaceship, one would notice the enormous space between his body and the bar, which is the scale of his athleticism, the all-encompassing mastery of his art.

A whistle escapes his lips as he plunges to the mat, the landing as smooth as the take-off, before, certain of the record he has set, rips off his shirt like a goalscorer in a big game would. At that moment, he could have reproduced the immortal lines of Bubka: "I want to be an artist of the pole vault. I want to create something new and unusual, I want to break barriers. I pole-vault from the bottom of the heart." Like Bubka, Duplantis has redesigned the complex sport into a melody, into a dance form. He jumps from the bottom of the heart too.

In a league of his own

He has already created something new, broken several barriers to the extent that he himself is his biggest barrier, toughest competitor and hardest challenger. Fathom this: nine of the top 10 jumps in history are in his name, the sequence breaker being Renaud



Sweden's Mondo Duplantis soars over 6.25 metres to set a new world record. Reuters

Lavillenie, now part of his coaching staff. The first time he broke the world record was in February 2020, he would shatter that eight times in the next four years, that is at least twice a year. He owns one third of the jumps — 61 out of 189 — over six metres ever. Eight of them have arrived this year alone. He became only the second pole-vaulter to defend his Olympic gold, a feat that eluded even Bubka, besides defending world outdoor and indoor titles.

Such superiority is rare in any sport — Usain Bolt in his pomp, Bubka last century, or Rafael Nadal at Roland Garros. Duplantis — monikered Mondo which means "world" in Italian, given by an Italian family friend — himself is at a loss to explain his superiority, monopoly rather: "What can I say? I just broke a world record at the Olympics, the biggest possible stage for a pole vaulter. [My] biggest dream since I was a kid was to break the world record at the Olympics, and I've been able to do that in front of the most ridiculous crowd I've ever competed in front of."

To think that he is just 24, yet to hit his peak years, and has many vaults left in the tank, baffles the mind about the summits he could still conquer, about the ceiling of human ambition and athleticism he could set. Each time he breaks a record, he becomes richer by \$100,000, but that's just the garnishing to the extraordinary stretching of human limits by a near-supernatural force, who leaves the stage not only with a fresh record but a feeling that the best is yet to be.

The biggest dream since I was a kid was to break the world record at the Olympics, and I've been able to do that in front of the most ridiculous crowd I've ever competed in front of."

MONDO DUPLANTIS

POLE VAULT STAR

Swifter, HIGHER, stronger

Sweden's Mondo Duplantis breaks his own world record with 6.25 metres after retaining gold with a 6.00m leap

WORLD RECORDS IN THE SIX-METRE ERA:



SERGEI BUBKA (USSR/UKRAINE)

- 6.00M: JUL 13, 1985 AT PARIS
- 6.01M: JUL 8, 1986 AT MOSCOW
- 6.03M: JUN 23, 1987 AT PRAGUE
- 6.05M: JUN 9, 1988 AT BRATISLAVA
- 6.06M: JUL 10, 1988 AT NICE
- 6.07M: MAY 6, 1991 AT SHIZUOKA
- 6.08M: JUN 9, 1988 AT MOSCOW
- 6.09M: JUL 8, 1991 AT FORMIA
- 6.10M: AUG 5, 1991 AT MALMO
- 6.11M: JUN 13, 1992 AT DIJON
- 6.12M: AUG 30, 1992 AT PADOVA
- 6.13M: SEP 19, 1992 AT TOKYO
- 6.14M: JUL 31, 1994 AT SESTRIERES



ARMAND DUPLANTIS (SWEDEN)

- 6.17M: FEB 8, 2020 AT TORUN
- 6.18M: FEB 15, 2020 AT GLASGOW
- 6.19M: MAR 7, 2022 AT BELGRADE
- 6.20M: MAR 20, 2022 AT BELGRADE
- 6.21M: JUL 24, 2022 AT EUGENE
- 6.22M: FEB 25, 2023 AT CLERMONT
- 6.23M: SEP 17, 2023 AT EUGENE
- 6.24M: APR 20, 2024 AT XIAMEN
- 6.25M: AUG 5, 2024 AT PARIS

RENAUD LAVILLENIE (FRA)

- 6.16M: FEB 15, 2014 AT DONETSK

"You know when Mondo is competing, you are always on world record watch. He breaks world records when he wants. He has broken world records at World Championships and European Championships but this is the Olympics. He loves the big moments."

MICHAEL JOHNSON

"You can see that they are a band of brothers, they are all willing him on. They were chanting 'Mondo! Mondo!' because they just know this is the best they have ever seen."

DENISE LEWIS
ON RIVALRY CHEERING MONDO

Record-breaker thrives on the energy of the crowd

VINAYAKK MOHANARANGAN
PARIS, AUGUST 6

THE MEN'S pole vault final at any top competition these days is actually two different events. One, the actual final to decide the top three. That usually ends around the 6.00m mark. Then the Armand 'Mondo' Duplantis final begins. A competition unto itself. A one-man show. It is not uncommon even during regular season meets when Mondo is the last man competing, given how long pole vault events can go on for. But this was the Olympic final in front of 80,000 people. And so after the medals had been decided (for the record, 6.00m was enough for Mondo to win gold), the fans had only one thing to focus on. The one record that wasn't in Mondo's name was the Olympic record, before he pushed the bar to 6.10m and cleared it casually.

"But then the crowd egged him on to not stop because we wanted to see the world record, that's what we were waiting for," said Navin Madhavan, who was watching at the venue. "There was utter madness and celebration when we heard it was going to happen. After a couple of failed attempts (almost to show us he is human), the suspense was pretty high as the crowd and his fellow competitors played cheerleaders with the synchronised clap routine. We collectively held our breath. He cleared it and the roar that

was let out was deafening. We immediately knew this was a moment we will recount forever as 'I was there'."

Vipul Yadav too was there. "The noise when he went for his second attempt was probably the loudest chorus of claps you will hear. And then... the roof came off when he cleared it. The French cheer a hero like crazy and they couldn't have found a better one to cheer for. Even a while after the final was over, 90 percent of the stadium stayed back to cheer for him as he took a lap of honour," he said.

Mondo thrived on this energy. "The crowd was going crazy. It was so loud in there, it sounded like an American football game. I have a little bit of experience of being in a 100,000-capacity stadium, but I was never the centre of attention. I was just trying to channel the energy everybody was giving me, and they were giving me a lot of it. It worked out," he said later.

At a primal level, one watches sport because there needs to be a winner and there has to be a contest. If sport is predictable, it ceases to be enjoyable. Apart from the obvious appreciation of his skill, the biggest credit to Mondo is how he has made the mundane magnificent. Because there is really no doubt "if" Mondo will win. There is no unpredictability involved here. There ain't any suspense. And yet... he makes one tune in. He makes thousands of fans in the stands dance to his tunes. He gets them to clap to his rhythms.

WHAT TO WATCH

INDIA VIEWFINDER: ANTIM PANGHAL'S 53KG CAMPAIGN BEGINS

ATHLETICS
MEN'S 3000M STEEPLECHASE, WOMEN'S 100M HURDLES: 11 AM ONWARDS

AVINASH SABLE, JYOTHI YARRAJI AND MORE
Avinash Sable reached his first Olympic final with a solid run, but will have to be at his absolute best to be in the mix.

WRESTLING
WOMEN'S FREESTYLE 50KG: 2.30 PM ONWARDS

VINESH PHOGAT
After a sensational start to her campaign with a win over Yui Susaki, Vinesh Phogat entered the gold medal match on Wednesday. After the heartbreaks of Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020, a massive day for the Indian star.

WEIGHTLIFTING
WOMEN'S 49KG: 11 PM
MIRABAI CHANU

It's been a tough few years for Mirabai since her famous silver in Tokyo. But if she is close to her full fitness, the Indian star could still put herself in contention for a podium.

TABLE TENNIS
WOMEN'S TEAM QF: 1.30 PM
MANIKA BATRA, ARCHANA KAMATH, SREEJA AKULA

After an impressive 3-2 win against Romania, Manika Batra and Co take on the 5th seeds from Germany with a spot in the semifinal on the line. An unprecedented women's team medal could be in the making for India here.

GOLF
WOMEN'S INDIVIDUAL ROUND 1: 12.30 PM
ADITI ASHOK, DIKSHA DAGAR

She captured the imagination of an entire country last time around in Tokyo, coming close to an unlikely medal. Can Aditi Ashok go one better in Paris?

WRESTLING
WOMEN'S FREESTYLE 53KG: 2.30 PM
ANTIM PANGHAL

Another one of India's wrestling medal hopefuls enters the fray as Antim gets her campaign underway with a bout against Turkey's Yetgil Zeynep. Fitness permitting, she's expected to go far.



ANTIM PANGHAL

WOMEN'S FREESTYLE 53 KG

WORLD VIEWFINDER: MOON LOOKS TO TAKE POLE VAULT WIN

ATHLETICS
WOMEN'S POLE VAULT
KATIE MOON

The USA's Katie Moon and Australia's Nina Kennedy renew a pole vault rivalry at the Paris Olympics. Throwing a spanner could be Switzerland's Angelica Moser.

ATHLETICS
MEN'S DISCUS THROW
MYKOLOS ALEKNA

Lithuania has thrown its hat in the ring for the men's discus throw when Mykolas Alekna threw a season-best and personal best throw of 74.35. By the looks of it, the strongman seems to be the favourite for the gold medal at the Paris Olympics.

HOCKEY
WOMEN'S HOCKEY: 10:30 PM
BELGIUM VS CHINA

Belgium will be do well to be wary of the Chinese in the semi-finals of the Women's hockey event. The Chinese took down the Australia women's team in one of the programme's upsets.

ATHLETICS
MEN'S 400M FINAL
QUINCY HALL: 12:50 AM (AUG 8)

USA's Quincy Hall may be the favourite for the 400m crown but he faces stiff competition from Matthew Hudson-Smith from Great Britain. USA's Michael Norman too is in the running for the gold medal on Wednesday at the Paris Olympics.

Also keep track of: ATHLETICS: Marathon Race Walk Relay Mixed (Medal event): 11.00 am, Women's 100m Hurdles Round 1 (Jyothi Yarraji): 1.45 pm.

USADA accused of 'hypocritical double standards' by CHINADA

REUTERS
AUGUST 6

CHINA'S ANTI-DOPING agency (CHINADA) accused its American counterpart on Tuesday of 'hypocritical double standards' in response to the positive tests of Chinese athletes and U.S. sprinter Erriyon Knighton.

Travis Tygart, head of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), has been outspoken about the case of 23 Chinese swimmers who tested positive before the 2021 Tokyo Olympics but were allowed to compete.

The swimmers escaped punishment after an investigation by Chinese authorities ruled the adverse analytical findings were the result of unwitting food contamination.

World silver medalist Knighton tested for the banned substance trenbolone this year but was not suspended for the Paris Games after an arbitrator found the result was likely caused by contaminated meat.

"USADA has shown a typical double standard by trying its best to clear American athletes on one hand, but on the other hand accusing CHINADA and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) of 'covering up the truth'," CHINADA said in a statement on its website.

The U.S. has turned a blind eye to its long history of doping problems, but is obsessed with 'cross-border jurisdiction' and asserting sanctions against other countries."

-CHINADA STATEMENT

It said many suspicions about Knighton's case remained unresolved, pointing out also that three American athletes had escaped sanctions in recent years by claiming food contamination.

CHINADA said the Knighton case showed USADA's rhetoric about fairness and clean sport runs counter to its actual practices.

"The U.S. has turned a blind eye to its long history of doping problems, but is obsessed with 'cross-border jurisdiction' and asserting sanctions against other countries," it added.

"It seems that the accusation and attack on China and other countries is its tactic to deflect attention from the serious flaws in its own anti-doping work. This is sheer political manipulation and hypocritical double standards."

Big statement before big day

Defending champion looked in top form during qualifying, but there are a whole host of contenders likely to give him a tough time

NIHAL KOSHIE
AUGUST 6

LIKE IT usually is the case at major competitions, Neeraj Chopra needed just one throw to qualify for the men's javelin final at the Paris Olympics. An effort of 89.34 metres was a great way to kick off proceedings for the defending champion. To put the distance in context, his gold-medal winning throw in the final of the Tokyo Olympics, when he made history for India in track and field, was 87.58 metres.

Of greater significance is that 89.34m is Neeraj's best throw in over two years, second only to his personal best of 89.94m in Stockholm in June 2022.

Neeraj has not only laid down the marker for the rest of the field for Thursday's final but also allayed fears that he may struggle to find peak form after an adductor niggle forced him to take a precautionary break.

His celebration, both hands raised in the air and a subdued scream, was understandable as qualifying is just the first step in his quest for a second consecutive gold. In the final, he will meet a mix of familiar foes, rising stars and former world champions with a point to prove.

Neeraj had the longest throw in qualifying, yet there is enough evidence that the final will be of the highest quality. The Indian is a favourite but threats, more than one and some unexpected, have emerged.

The story of the day was of Julius Yego. The last time the Kenyan threw farther than he did during the qualifying round was five years ago. But at 35, he will be in the mix in the final. He was one of the eight athletes to go past the automatic Qualifying Standard of 84 metres.

Like Neeraj, Yego needed just one throw to book a berth in the final. Grenada's Anderson Peters, battered in a brawl on a boat two years ago, hit his stride with 88.63 metres, his best attempt in two years. Peters, a former two-time world champion, is capable of a big throw any time during the six rounds



Neeraj Chopra gives a thumbs up after topping the Qualifying Rounds with a throw of 89.34 metres at the Stade de France. PTI

in the final.

Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem underwent a knee surgery in March but that didn't seem to hold him back. Nadeem's 86.59m signalled a return to form. He has shared podium space with Neeraj before and is a dark horse for a medal.

The plucky and consistent Czech Jakub Vadlejch, the ever-improving talented German Julian Webber, Brazilian Mauricio Luiz da Silva who set the best mark for his continent, and Finn Toni Keranen whose stock is on the rise, the challengers are many.

"The final will be a cracker, the Tokyo final mark has already been bettered during qualification. We were a little relaxed today. The

pressure will be more in the final," Neeraj told broadcasters Jio Cinema. "Being the defending champion is motivation and I need to be prepared."

High-quality field

Talking to reporters in the mixed zone, Neeraj didn't pick one but a bunch of throwers who can give him a run for his money. "All those who have automatically qualified are all in good form and ready," he said.

The true mark of a great champion is the ability to rise to the occasion and perform in a big final. Neeraj has proved time and again that he can be banked upon to finish on the podium whenever he steps up on the runway,

be it the Olympic Games, World Championships, Asian Games or the Diamond League Final.

In a big final, holding one's nerve when stakes are high is key, something Chopra has mastered. From setting the tone with a big throw in the early rounds to making a comeback late in a competition (think Hangzhou Asian Games), Chopra has produced his best under intense pressure.

Talking about his first and only throw in the qualification round, Neeraj said, "This was a good start for me and now I will focus on preparing in the best possible way for the final." He said he was focused on technique during warm-up throws but aimed to wrap up

qualification with just one. It went according to plan.

The confidence from the qualification round, Neeraj said, would come handy in the final. "Asli cheez abhi baki hai. (The real competition is yet to come)."

Water-cooler discussions have already begun and social media is buzzing about Neeraj crossing the 90-metre mark in the final.

Chopra has been pestered with questions on when he would join the elite club of throwers and he himself has spoken about ambition of being a 90m-thrower. 90 metres or not in the final, the good news is that Olympic Champion Neeraj Chopra is throwing like an Olympic Champion.

NUMBER PLATE

87.58

Distance Neeraj Chopra threw at the Tokyo Olympics to become the first Indian to win gold in track & field at the Olympics.

India need to shed intent-driven game, embrace moderate approach

VENKATA KRISHNAB
AUGUST 6

A TIE AND a loss in the ODI leg of the series in Sri Lanka, India find themselves looking in the mirror. They have learnt a few hard lessons, a crack has been exposed, the incompetence of batsmen against spinners on low, spinning tracks. If they nurture any ambition to level the series on Wednesday, they need to find quick solutions, even revert to the pre-

World Cup approach, old-fashioned and boring, that they struggled to abandon in the first place.

The conditions at the Premadasa will likely remain the same. The only question is whether it would be slower than the previous outing on Sunday. On these conditions, despite getting a head-start in their chase on successive nights, India crumbled in the middle overs. Hence, it's not a bad idea to keep off the intent-driven game that made them an enterprising side in the World Cup, and embrace a more circumspect approach.

Even over here, captain Rohit Sharma has followed the same pattern, showing the aggressive intent straightaway. A 47-ball 58 and 44-ball 64 from Rohit has allowed India to breeze at seven-plus runs per over in the first powerplay. Thereafter, despite needing only 4.25 runs per over, the middle-order has faltered and were unable to get the better of Lankan spinners.

However in these conditions, Sri Lanka - who have not even qualified for next year's Champions Trophy - have outsmarted India. In both these matches, India's spinners have been as economical, if not better, as their Lankan counterparts. But where Sri Lanka have done better is how they have gone after the Indian quicks in the last 10 overs, even spinners to an extent. The 65 and 79 runs that they accumulated in the last powerplay had been the big difference.

Hence, going back to the method they had abandoned a year back won't be bad idea. In these conditions, having a settled batsman who can accumulate runs without taking risks has been hard to find for India. With Lankan spinners asserting their domination, India haven't been able to show the intent at all times, making them tentative and prone to mistakes. The middle-order has looked so rusty that after Rohit's tally of 122 runs, the next best by their No 3, 4, 5 and 6 is Virat Kohli's 38.



Virat Kohli during a practice session on the eve of the third ODI. PTI

India have even reshuffled their batting-order to keep the left-right combination going in the middle-overs, but it hasn't always worked, chiefly due to Sri Lanka's spin depth.

Given his form, Rohit abandoning the aggressive approach and returning to the old formula, just temporarily, won't be a bad fit. If India do succeed in playing their Champions Trophy matches away from Pakistan, they would mostly encounter similar conditions in the UAE or Sri Lanka.

Gaping crack

But whatever it is, India's problems against spinners in slow conditions continue to be a problem. India's all-rounder Washington Sundar blamed it on the tough conditions. "We're quality players of spin. We've always played on these kinds of pitches, even at home, even in Test matches. In domestic cricket we play a lot of games on such wickets. A lot of our players have done really well, especially in the

middle order, especially batting against spin," Washington said.

But in both these matches, every single Indian batsman has paid the price for indecisiveness and have been guilty of playing the wrong lines. India have even reshuffled their batting-order to keep the left-right combination going in the middle-overs, but it hasn't always worked, chiefly due to Sri Lanka's spin depth. Washington said the batsmen have to find their own way. "It's just a matter of finding a way in their individual way and trying to get the job done. Everyone knows it's a challenging wicket. The Indian team has always been one where everyone puts their hands up, especially when the challenge arises," he said.

Their game-plan against spinners would be head coach Gautam Gambhir's primary concerns. A prolific player of spin bowling in his days, he must have observed that India's batsmen seldom use the depth of the crease or their feet. Instead, they have stood rooted to the crease, giving them negligible survival chances when the ball turns and keeps low. On Wednesday, India will get a chance to level the series. It didn't even look like a possibility before the ODI series began. But the funny game has shown them the mirror.

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