

THE TIMES OF INDIA

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LS passes Finance Bill 2024 after FM Sitharaman relaxes just-introduced new capital gains tax on real estate, allowing taxpayers an option to switch to a new lower tax rate or stay with the old regime that had higher rate with indexation benefit, P 21

Democratic VP candidate Tim Walz has connections to China dating back decades that could help inform a potential Kamala Harris gov't approach to Beijing. However, his stand towards China & his past meeting with the Dalai Lama may open him to criticism from Beijing, P 19

China, Saudi Arabia and the UAE have agreed to roll over cash-strapped Pakistan's \$12bn debt for one year, as International Monetary Fund is likely to approve its \$7bn bailout package later this month

Spinner Dunith Wellalage takes 5-27 as Lanka clinch first ODI series win over India in 27 years with a 110-run thrashing of the tourists in the third match, P 22

EC announces election to 12 RS seats on Sept 3

Election Commission has announced Sept 3 as the date for polls for 12 vacant seats in RS. The last date for filing nomination is Aug 21, & scrutiny of nominations will be held on Aug 22. The last date of withdrawal of candidature for Assam, MP, Maharashtra & Tripura is Aug 26 and for Bihar, Haryana, Rajasthan, Telangana & Odisha is Aug 27. Polling will be held on Sept 3 from 9 am to 4 pm and counting from 5 pm. ANI

Gas leak blaze in Gzb kills infant, injures 5

A six-month-old boy died and five others were seriously injured after a gas leak, possibly fanned by a cooler, sparked a blaze that swept through their one-bedroom house in Hindon Vihar on Wednesday. Police said the fire erupted at 7.30am, when the family was having tea. P7

X: Takedown order against int'l law

Microblogging platform X has told Delhi HC any direction to globally remove posts considered defamatory by a petitioner would be contrary to international law and encroach upon sovereignty. It would mean foreign courts can dictate what Indians can access online. P15

4 tourists, pilot die in Nepal copter crash

Four Chinese tourists and a Nepali pilot were killed on Wednesday when a helicopter crashed in the mountains in the northwest region of Kathmandu. Police said all five persons, including the pilot, were killed in the crash in Nuwakot district. P19

100g Crush A Billion Hopes, Turn Dream Of Gold To Dust

Vinesh Tips Over Weight Limit & Is Disqualified



TIMES AT THE GAMES
ALOK.SINHA @timesofindia.com

Paris: It was a pleasant morning. There was hope in the heart, the coffee smelt good. The daily fight to get ready, catch the metro and reach the competition venue didn't seem that daunting. Something had happened last night that had lifted the spirits.

But it all changed with a simple, yet chilling message: "Vinesh Phogat has been disqualified." It was a bolt from the blue. A sense of disbelief took over. What happened?

She had failed to maintain her weight and was found to be nearly 100 grams overweight.

It was cruel. To put 100g in perspective, that's how much a bar of soap or two eggs weigh. Vinesh had waged epic battles. She led the protest against the federation chief, took him to court for alleged sexual harassment. She slept on the street at Jantar Mantar and faced police's hostility.

She could not train for almost a year, but there was this unfinished business. She returned to the mat. She failed to qualify in the 53kg category, her category, and settled for 50kg. She had to be in Paris.

How did this mishap happen? Vinesh had no trouble at Tuesday morning's weigh-in. Amidst three back-to-back bo-

NIGHTLONG BATTLE TO SHED WEIGHT GOES IN VAIN

TUESDAY
7:30am (Paris time) | In the official 'first weigh-in', Vinesh logs 49.9kg before her first-round bout. During the day, she has a small meal & snacks to sustain through 3 bouts, but her weight rises to 53kg

7:30pm | Vinesh wins the match against Cuban Yusneylis Guzman Lopez to enter the 50kg final, becoming the first Indian female wrestler to reach the stage at Olympics

9:30pm | Support staff finds Vinesh's weight is 52.7kg, 2.7kg above her limit

9:30pm onwards | Panic in Vinesh's camp. Frantic efforts are made to get her weight down to 50kg before the second weigh-in at 7:30am Wednesday

WEDNESDAY
Midnight to 6am | Vinesh endures a sleepless night, completely abstaining from food and water. She's put in a steam and sauna room. Exercises and runs on treadmill wearing a sauna suit. When she can't sweat anymore, her team cuts off her hair

6am | Vinesh needs urgent medical attention with fatigue setting in due to extreme dehydration and possible electrolyte imbalance

7:30am | The official 'second weigh-in' for wrestlers begins at the Games village, conducted by UWW (wrestling's international body) officials

7:45am | Vinesh fails to meet the weight requirement despite



Vinesh after her semifinal match

readings taken multiple times within the weigh-in period. She weighs in at 50.1 kg, above the limit by just 100 grams

8am onwards | Vinesh in hospital. IV fluids administered and she has a small meal. Parameters gradually return to normal

IT'S PART OF THE GAME — Vinesh tells Indian coaches after her disqualification

INDIA LODGES PROTEST
IOA lodges strong protest with world wrestling body (UWW) over the disqualification; PM asks IOA chief P T Usha to take 'appropriate action', posts on X, "Vinesh...Come back stronger! We are all rooting for you"

TODAY'S MEDAL MATCHES
5:30pm (IST): India take on Spain in men's hockey bronze medal match
11:55pm: All eyes on Neeraj Chopra in men's javelin throw final

In Parliament, oppn spars with govt over disqualification

Vinesh's disqualification dominated Parliament on Wednesday with Opposition hinting at conspiracy theories and questioning the govt on why it failed to ensure she did not slip on protocol. Expressing solidarity with Phogat "who went through a lot",

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge and LOP Rahul Gandhi urged IOA to strongly contest her case, even as party MP Randeep Surjewala alleged a conspiracy, saying Vinesh was a "victim" of BJP.

Sports minister Mansukh Mandaviya said in LS that govt

had provided every possible help to the wrestler and gave details of the funds spent on her Olympic campaign. The Opposition walked out, saying why govt was providing details of funds rather than giving reasons for failing to challenge the disqualification. P10

Tuesday evening. Her eyes signalled she had much to say. "Kal baat karongi (Will talk tomorrow)," she said, secure in the fact that she was the first Indian woman wrestler in an Olympics gold medal fight.

But she added, "Weight manage karne hai abhi." She knew she had crossed the li-

mit. They all do. It was going to be a challenge. Sources said she was 2.7kg above limit. She didn't sleep. She jogged, cycled, sat in the sauna, did everything to "manage" her weight. She failed. The world around her had crumbled.

► 'State of shock', P 23

SC expunges HC judge's remarks against apex court

Top 5 SC Judges Let Him Off With A Warning

New Delhi: A Supreme Court bench of top five judges on Wednesday expunged "unnecessary, gratuitous and unwarranted" remarks from Punjab and Haryana HC judge Rajbir Sehrawat's July 17 order that had cast doubts on the SC's majesty and wisdom but, wary of further damage to the institution's image, restrained itself and let off the judge with a caution, reports Dhananjay Mahapatra.

The bench of CJI D Y Chandrachud and Justices Sanjiv Khanna, B R Gavai, Surya Kant and Hrishikesh Roy agreed with AG R Venkataramani and SG Tushar Mehta

► **EDIT: HC judge's remark: Courting Differences, P 20**

IN THE COURTS

► **Acting tough against addl CJM & IO of Guj police for not honouring its order and taking a person in custody despite its order granting him anticipatory bail, SC convicts both for contempt | P 16**

► **SC fixes Aug 28 for final hearing on a batch of petitions seeking review of its 2022 verdict by which all stringent provisions of PMLA were upheld | P 16**

► **A tribunal confirms 5-year extension of ban on SIML. 'It's evident it continues to engage in terror activities' | P 16**

that Justice Sehrawat had damaged the judiciary's image. "Observations (of Sehrawat) of the nature which have proliferated in a video can cause incalculable harm to the sanctity of the judicial process."

► **SC warns HC judge, P 18**

Bill for oversight of Waqf Boards likely in LS today

Ambika Pandit & Dipak Dash | TNN

New Delhi: Amid opposition's demand that it be sent to a joint committee, the govt is set to introduce the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, in Lok Sabha on Thursday that proposes far-reaching changes to restrain the powers of Waqf Boards to declare a property as "Waqf" and introduce a detailed preliminary survey by the district magistrate instead of the survey officer of the board as a pre-requisite for any

such determination.

The bill also seeks to broaden the composition of the Central Waqf Council and state Waqf Boards by providing for representation of Muslim women and non-Muslim members.

Moreover, the bill provides for a full-time chief executive officer of Waqf Boards to be appointed by the state govt and who shall not be below the rank of joint secretary to the state govt and not necessarily a Muslim.

► **Send bill to parl panel, P18**

Coaching centre: Probe finds MCD depts at fault

The magisterial probe conducted in the Old Rajender Nagar incident, which claimed the lives of three UPSC aspirants, has blamed officials of MCD's building and works departments for allowing the running of a library from the basement of the building and for encroachment on stormwater drains, respectively. The DM observed that the department failed to seal the basement in 2023. P5

Court frames charges against sacked RPF cop

A year after a now-dismissed RPF constable allegedly gunned down his senior and three passengers on the Jaipur-Mumbai Superfast Exp, a sessions court on Wednesday framed charges against him for several offences, including murder & promoting enmity on grounds of religion. Accused Chetan Singh pleaded not guilty to the charges, paving the way for the trial to commence. P11

9 murders in 14 months: Serial killer in Bareilly?

Nine women, aged 45-55, were murdered over the past 14 months in a rural patch of Bareilly district. The bodies were found in farms, usually with strangulation marks and clothes dishevelled, and postmortems ruled out sexual assault, report Sandeep Rai and Asif Ansari. Police say they haven't ruled out the possibility of a serial killer, and have released sketches of suspects. P15

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Coaching centre deaths: Probe finds two MCD depts at fault | 5

60
DELHI AQI ON WEDNESDAY (SATISFACTORY CATEGORY)

8-hour shifts, medical tests among steps to check bus accidents | 6



Death Haunts Drains That No Agency Seems To Own

LIFE IN PITS: Stinking Ghazipur A Reminder That You Walk At Your Own Risk



A CITY IN THE DUMPS



Woman and her son who drowned in the open drain recently



“They were walking near the covered portion but Priyanshu fell into a part that didn't have slabs since waterlogging made it impossible to see what was covered and what was not. The mother jumped into the murky water to save her son. When Tanuja's body was recovered, her hand was tightly clutching her dead son

MANU, WHO LIVES IN THE LOCALITY

Priyangi.Agarwal@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: In Ghazipur in east Delhi, between two yellow police barricades hangs a board with a red skull and crossbones with 'Danger' emblazoned on it. It was put up at the spot along the open drain where Tanuja Bisht, 23, and her son, Priyanshu, just three years old, drowned on a rainy July 23. Some metres away, wooden stakes cut off the open drain, leaving local residents wondering why these measures were not taken earlier and the loss of two lives prevented.

The drain in Ghazipur is 1,350 metres long. Of this, around 1,000 metres falls under the jurisdiction of Municipal Corporation of Delhi and the remaining under Delhi Development Authority. On Tuesday, Delhi High Court castigated MCD for the "shocking state of

affairs" that had led to the death of mother and son and asked why the drains weren't barricaded or cleaned. The court remarked that 8-ft-deep drains could not be left unbarred. Tanuja and Priyanshu were returning from the weekly Wednesday market in the rain. Portions of the drain were covered with concrete slabs and at some places there were metal screens placed across the drain. "They were walking near the covered portion but Priyanshu fell into a part that didn't have slabs since waterlogging made it impossible to see what was covered and what was not. The mother jumped into the murky water to save her son," testified Manu, who lives in the locality. "Her aunt also jumped in but was pulled out by locals. When Tanuja's body was recovered, her hand was tightly clutching her dead son."

A devastated Govind Singh Bisht, husband of Tanuja, told TOI, "The metal screen on the uncovered portion of the drain was upright that day. If it had lain across the open drain, my son might not have fallen in. My wife and Priyanshu died due to the negligence of authorities." Bisht, who is in his village in Uttarakhand for the funeral, demanded strong punitive action against those responsible for the deaths. Residents claimed that people falling in the same drain in the past hadn't spurred civic officials to act. Raja Ram, a shop owner near the incident site, claimed, "Two years ago, when I was riding a motorbike, I fell into the same drain. I was lucky to survive with injuries." He added that cattle had also fallen

in this drain. Sridevi, Tanuja's neighbour in Khoda Colony, which falls in Ghaziabad, added, "Since the area is located on the Delhi-Ghaziabad border, there is often a jurisdictional problem." In fact, immediately after the two fell into the drain, locals alleged, police wrangled over the jurisdiction, delaying the rescue. The condition of other drains in the neighbourhood is no better. Pointing to one filled with garbage, Hamiruddin, who lives near Nala Road, said at least one child slips into this drain every month. "Alert residents have been able to save children, but the uncovered drain is a hazard. And don't forget the foul smell emanating from it." Mohammad Aslam claimed they had been demanding that the drain be covered for a long time. Not far away from the accident site, outside the CRPF 31

Moderate rain delights Delhi, more likely over next two days

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Parts of Delhi received light to moderate showers on Wednesday. Cloudy skies and a cool breeze made the outdoors comfortable. Light rain is likely on Thursday and Friday. India Meteorological Department's data shows that SPS Mayur Vihar logged the maximum rainfall at 46.5 mm between 8.30 am and 5.30 pm. Other stations with moderate rainfall included Noida at 30.5 mm, Najafgarh at 26.5 mm, and Lodhi Road at 20.6 mm. Light rainfall was observed in other parts of Delhi-NCR. Safdarjung, the city's base station, recorded 12.6 mm of rainfall.

The rain caused the maximum temperature to dip by 2.8 degrees Celsius on Wednesday compared to the previous day. The maximum temperature was 32.4 degrees Celsius, two degrees below normal. The relative humidity ranged between 76% and 100%. The minimum temperature stood at 26.4 degrees Celsius, one degree below normal. Naresh Kumar, scientist, IMD, said, "The monsoon trough is active and came to its normal position on Wednesday. Besides, a cyclonic circulation lies in lower and middle tropospheric levels. Under the influence of these two weather systems, light to moderate rain was recorded on Wednesday." Kumar added, "The cyclonic circulation is likely to become weak. Hence, light rain is predicted on Thursday and Friday. But the monsoon trough is expected to oscillate, and light to moderate rain is likely from Aug 10 to 12."



DJB boosts output to this year's high of 1,001 MGD

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has increased its water production, reaching its highest output of 1,001 million gallons per day (MGD) on Wednesday. According to the water bulletin issued by DJB, all nine water treatment plants were functioning at or even exceeding their full capacity. The Economic Survey states that the city's overall water requirement is 1,290 MGD, which increases during summer. DJB planned to produce 1,000 MGD of water under its summer action plan but had been unable to do so this year. During the peak of summer this year, there was a major shortage of raw water supply to the city's treatment plants, causing drinking water supply shortage for residents. In May, to combat the severe

heatwave and water scarcity, water minister Atishi ordered a crackdown on water misuse and imposed fines. Police also patrolled the Munak Canal due to alleged instances of water theft. The govt announced a water rationing plan to manage the crisis. Parts of the city where water was supplied twice a day had their supply reduced to once a day, with the saved water being redirected to areas experiencing a severe water crisis. Delhi govt blamed Haryana govt for allegedly reducing the supply from the Hathnikund Barrage upstream of the Yamuna, while the neighboring state accused Delhi govt of poor management. Last month, the supply at two major water treatment plants, Wazirabad and Chandrawal, was reduced due to an increase in ammonia levels beyond 1 ppm, which the treatment plants are not equipped to handle.

Enforce CS proposals on desilting drains: NGT

Priyangi.Agarwal@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the authorities to implement the recommendations made by Delhi chief secretary Naresh Kumar for desilting Barapullah drain and its subsidiaries, including Sunehripul and Kushak drains, which are the lifeline of the drainage system of south Delhi. The chief secretary's report dated Aug 5 highlighted the significant obstruction of water flow caused by the accumulation of waste and the pre-

sentence of concrete structures and pipes in various sections of the drain. It suggested 100% desilting in three months by deploying an adequate number of machines. Kumar recommended conducting a bathymetric survey to evaluate the drain's depth and underwater features, installing surveillance cameras along the drain to prevent the dumping of C&D waste, forming a multi-disciplinary committee for the removal of encroachments, and installing concertina barbed wires along the drain to stop dumping of waste. The report was submitted

to NGT, which heard the matter on Tuesday. It observed that none of the parties had opposed the recommendations, except for the applicant who had submitted that steps be taken to rehabilitate encroachers and fencing be done in such a way that it doesn't become a wall of discarded polythene. "Hence, we direct that all the authorities concerned will implement the recommendations having due regard to the submission of the applicant, as expeditiously as possible," said the bench headed by Justice Prakash Shrivastava. The matter will

be heard next on Aug 13. Barapullah drain, the report stated, faces multiple obstructions, which need to be dealt with in a comprehensive manner to ensure that the flow is not impeded and free-flowing drainage of storm water is achieved, preventing waterlogging. "Illegal dumping of construction and demolition waste in the entire length has emerged as a crucial bottleneck, affecting the sustained maintenance of drains, and there is a need to install surveillance cameras all along the drain to prevent the dumping of C&D waste illegally, for the enable-

ment of the enforcement provisions including penalty imposition," the report stated. "The feeder drains such as Sunehripul drain bringing considerable discharge from NDMC areas get connected to another major feeder drain, Kushak drain, from which point Barapullah drain starts. Both also need consistent attention," it added. Following the principle of 'one drainage, one agency', Sunehripul and Kushak drains may also be handed over to the irrigation and flood control department after the ongoing monsoon, it suggested.

Cycle of life: Pedalling more useful than you think

Anuja.Jaiswal@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: A new study has revealed that people who commute actively, especially by bicycle, have considerably lower risks of adverse health effects, including losing their mental balance. Doctors in the city concur. They say that it is proven that cycling is a vigorous form of aerobic exercise that engages large muscle groups, particularly the legs, more intensively than walking. It strengthens both cardiovascular and muscular functions of the body. Thus, cycling lowers the risk of adverse health effects among cyclists compared with other commuters, including pedestrians. The study, published in *BMJ Public Health*, says in comparison with non-active commuters, cyclists exhibited a 47% decreased risk of all-cause mortality, a 10% lower likelihood of any hospitalisation, a 24% reduced risk of CVD-related hospitalisation and a 30% lower chance of receiving a CVD-related prescription. Further, cyclists had a 24% decreased risk of cancer-related hospitalisation, a 51% lower risk of cancer-related death and a 20% reduced likelihood of receiving a mental health-related prescription.



MOVING TOWARDS HEALTH

exercise, which enhances cardiovascular fitness, improves lung capacity and strengthens muscles more effectively than lower-intensity activities like walking. Moreover, the dynamic nature of cycling, which requires a greater sense of balance, certainly contributes to overall physical well-being. Cycling, as a form of exercise, has been shown to offer numerous health benefits. Dr Mukesh Goel, senior consultant, Cardio Thoracic Surgery, Apollo Hospital, said the heightened caloric expenditure associated with cycling could contribute to improvements in body composition and enhanced insulin sensitivity. The continuous aerobic nature of cycling has the potential to elicit more pronounced enhancements in VO2 max and lactate threshold compared with other forms of exercise. Moreover, engaging in regular cycling sessions can stimulate favourable adaptations within the skeletal muscle, such as increased capillarisation and mitochondrial density. He added that these adaptations could lead to improved muscle function and overall endurance capacity. Additionally, the low-impact, cyclical motion of cycling may result in reduced

levels of inflammatory markers and oxidative stress compared with high-impact activities. This reduction in inflammation and oxidative stress may play a role in the observed decreases in risks associated with cardiovascular disease and certain types of cancer. "To achieve optimal health benefits from cycling, it is generally advised to engage in at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity cycling per week or 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity cycling," said Dr Raj Kumar, senior consultant, internal medicine, Indian Spinal Injuries Centre. However, it is crucial to consider individual patient characteristics like the patient's age, any pre-existing medical conditions and their current level of physical fitness. This study reinforces the notion that promoting active modes of transportation can have far-reaching benefits for public health. "That cyclist and pedestrian commuting is associated with lower risks of being prescribed medication for poor mental health is an important finding." The results highlight the positive impact of physical activity during daily commutes on both physical and mental well-being.

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GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
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NIT NO-DCH/3195 DATED 02.08.2024
Tenders are invited by the Principal of Dr.Ahmed Dental College & Hospital, Kolkata, from reputed Firms for the "Procurement of Textbooks and Backlog Print Journals" vide NIT No. DCH/3195 Dated: 02.08.2024. Details will be available in www.wbtenders.gov.in on 12.08.2024.
ICA-113495(3)/2024

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The Superintendent of Kaliyani Subsidiary Correctional Home, WB for and on behalf of the Government of WB invites e-tender for supply of dietary articles at Kaliyani Subsidiary Correctional Home for the period from 01.10.2024 to 31.03.2025. Tender Inviting Notice No. 04/KNS/CH/24, dated 16.07.2024. Date of documents download starts: 08.08.2024. Last date of submission of tender: 25.08.2024 at 12:00 hrs. Full particulars may be had from the website www.wbtenders.gov.in. The ADG & IG of Correctional Services, West Bengal reserves the rights to cancel any or all the tenders without showing any reason." Sd/- Kaliyani Subsidiary Correctional Home, WB.
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On behalf of the Governor of West Bengal, e-Tender is invited by the Mission Director, National Health Mission, West Bengal, GN-29, 4th Floor, Swasthya Sathi Building, Swasthya Bhawan Premises, Sector-V Salt-Lake, Bidhannagar, Kolkata- 700091 for **OPERATION OF MOBILE MEDICAL UNITS (MMU) IN WEST BENGAL** from resourceful, eligible agency having experience in similar nature of works. Technical & Financial Bid Submission Closing Date: **27.08.2024 Upto 05:00 P.M.** Bid Reference No.: **HFV-27011/68/2024-NHM SEC/2304/2024 Dated:- 05/08/2024.** Interested Bidders may download the tender document and submit their bids online at the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in. The tender document may also be downloaded from the website: www.wbhealth.gov.in ICA-113529(3)/2024

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Notice Inviting E-Tender
Executive Engineer, P.W.Dte., Kolkata North Health Division, online E-Tender are follow/ follows NIT No., ID & Last Dt. **WBPWD/EE-I/KNHD/NIT-27/24-25, 2024 WBPWD 729108.1, 30-08-2024** at 03:00 PM. Detail information will be obtained from the website <http://etender.wb.nic.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.Dte., Kolkata North Health Division. ICA-113581(3)/2024

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e-TENDER NOTICE
The Dy. Commissioner of Police, Siliguri Police Commissionerate, invites e-Tender Reference No: **01/2024-25/SPC Dated 01/08/2024 for Supply of Miscellaneous Items.** Bid Opening Date: **12/08/2024 (14:00 Hrs.)**. Bid closing Date: **03/09/2024 (18:00 Hrs.)**. All documents can be seen/obtained from the websites: <https://wbtenders.gov.in> and office notice board. For any subsequent modification/corrigendum, <https://wbtenders.gov.in> to be followed. Sd/- Deputy Commissioner of Police (H.Q.), Siliguri Police Commissionerate. ICA-113514(4)/2024

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e-TENDER NOTICE
TENDER ID - 2024. PHED. 725905.1 to 12 (12Jm Work)
Electronic Notice Inviting Tender No. **07/WBPHED/EE/BD-I/2024-25.** Last date of Documents download/sell closing date (Online) is on 20.08.2024 upto 11:30 A.M. Date of opening of technical Proposals (Online) on 22.08.2024 at 11:30 A.M. Further details will be available in our website www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Berhampore Division-I, PHE Dte. ICA-113566(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
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NIT No. - HST/AT-101-2024/PDF/2024/313, Dated: 02-08-2024
E-Tender for procurement of Plasma Derived Factor-VIII, for one year from the date of AOC is invited from the Bidders. Interested bidders may visit the website www.wbtenders.gov.in or "www.wbhealth.gov.in" for further details. Bid submission start date (online): 14-08-2024. Bid submission closing date (online): 28-08-2024. Bid opening date (online): 28-08-2024. Sd/- D.D.H.S. (E&S), WB ICA-113499(3)/2024

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P.W.D TENDER NOTICE
Online bids are invited for the work under Tender ID: 2024 WBPWD 729182.1. For details please follow the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- EE, P.W.D, Malda Electrical Division. ICA-113584(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
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NIT No. 06 of 2024-25
Circulated vide Memo No. 1348/PD dt.25.07.2024
On behalf of the Governor of WB, E-Tenders are invited in W.B.F. No. 2911 by the Executive Engineer, Purulia Division, PHE Dte. [2024. PHED. 721459.1 to 62]. Bid proposal submission date is **17.08.2024 upto 6:00 PM.** Other details information/download/upload will be available from the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Purulia Division, PHE Dte. ICA-113579(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
Online Tender for Construction of RO plant room at Dinhatia SDH, vide Tender Ref. No. DHP/W5/CBR/Niet/1/CV/24-2501, respectively in Coochbehar District are hereby invited by the undersigned. For details please visit the website www.wbtenders.gov.in and www.coochbehar.nic.in Only corrigendum will published on website only. Sd/- CMOH, Cooch Behar. ICA-113501(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE
Tender Ref. No. WBPHE/EE/MD/ NIT- 22 of 2024-2025
Vide Nit memo no. 3847/MD, Dt-31/07/2024
Tender ID - 2024. PHED. 724442.1 to 2024. PHED. 724442.15
Last date for submission of Technical and Financial bids (online) is on 20.08.2024 upto 5:00 P.M. Tender invited by the undersigned for different type works of different PWSS under Malda Division, PHE Dte. All details are available in website <http://wbtenders.gov.in> & www.wbphed.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Malda Division, P.H.E. Dte. ICA-113568(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Expression of Interest
EOI - S/RO/HW/57011-102/2924/09 State Health Transport Organisation (SHTO), Health & FW Department, invites expression of interest (EOI) for tender Registration and Empanelment for supply of various automobile spare parts/repairs of Govt. vehicles under SHTO-Kolkata from reputed, bonafide Firms/Agencies/Garage/Service Station/Workshops. Interested vendor(s) may download the prescribed application form from the website www.wbhealth.gov.in or contact the prescribed application form from O/o the Joint Director of Health Services (Transport), West Bengal, State Health Transport Organisation, 1B, D.C. Bose Road, Kolkata-700014. Sd/- Susanta Pal, Joint Director of Health Services, (Transport), West Bengal ICA-113509(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
P.W.D TENDER NOTICE
EE/Bankura Division, Social Sector, P.W.Dte. invites e-tender for the work (i) "Repair and Renovation of Office building including construction of (i) Wash room (ii) Flat top GI Net House (iii) Open threshold floor at RRS, Nuntachai, Bankura." Circulated vide this office memo no-776/147/BNK dt.06.08.2024. Tender ref.No. WBPWDS/EE/BK/NIT-06/24-25 Tender ID: (i) 2024. WBPWD. 728906.1. Bid Submission closing date (online):- 28/08/2024 upto 2.00pm. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT and Tender documents may be downloaded from: <http://www.wbtenders.gov.in> & www.pwd.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Bankura Division, Social Sector, P.W.Dte. ICA-113550(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
P.W.D TENDER NOTICE
EE, Kalimpong Division, P.W.D invites online e-Tender for the work: "Emergency Repair of Potholes in between stretches - (20.00 to 20.30, 21.00 to 21.20, 22.70 to 23.00, 23.80 to 24.40, 25.10 to 25.20, 26.00 to 26.20, 26.90 to 27.10, 27.80 to 28.00) KMP of Upper Rishi Road under Kalimpong Sub-Division - I of Kalimpong Division PWD" Estimated Amount - 9.66,634.00 - NIT No 08 of 2024-25 of EE, Kalimpong Division Tender ID - 2024. WBPWD. 728702.1. Bid submission start date (online): 06.08.2024 from 09:30 A.M. Bid submission closing date (online): 14.08.2024 upto 10:00 A.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT and Tender documents may be downloaded from: <https://wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- EE, P.W.D, Kalimpong Division ICA-113551(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
NIT No. WBPHE/EE/MSD/ NIT-01/2024-2025
e-Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Murshidabad Division, PHE Dte., from reputed, bonafide & financially sound agencies having experience in similar nature of work Sub-Soil investigation, Design, Engineering, Supplying & Construction of Electrical Sub-Station building and Construction of Chlorine room within the WTP site an Electrical substation building near intake of 51 MLD capacity Surface Water Based W/S scheme for area and adjoining moazas and affective sagardighi block under Murshidabad Division, PHE Dte. Last bid proposal submission end date is on 27/07/2024 upto 02:00 P.M. For details, please visit the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Murshidabad Division, P.H. Engineering Dte. ICA-113567(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
NIT No. HST/AT-102-2024/KITS/2024/315, Dated: 06-08-2024
E-TENDER FOR PROCUREMENT OF SOME KITS, CHEMICALS & REAGENTS FOR TWO YEARS FROM THE DATE OF AWARD OF CONTRACT (AOC) AND ITS EXTENSION, IF REQUIRED IS INVITED FROM THE BIDDERS. Interested bidders may visit the website "https://wbtenders.gov.in" or "www.wbhealth.gov.in" for further details. Bid submission start date (online): 28-08-2024. Bid submission closing date (online): 09-09-2024. Bid opening date (online): 09-09-2024. Sd/- D.D.H.S. (E&S), WB ICA-113523(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
P.W.D TENDER NOTICE
Hooghly Zilla R.M.C. invites e-Tender Ref. No. 31/24/HZ/2024/25/11/2023-2024 Date: 07.08.2024. Last date of submission of Bid-27.08.2024 upto 1 P.M. The details of the e-Tenders are available on the website <https://www.wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- Secretary Hooghly Zilla R.M.C

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
The Executive Engineer, North Bengal Construction Division, P.W.D. invites on behalf of the Governor of West Bengal invites e-Tender for Two nos. work, details of which may be had from the office of the undersigned on working days during the office hours or on website: <https://wbtenders.gov.in> at www.pwdwb.in NIT Ref No. WBP/EE/NBCD/NIT/20/2024-2025 NIT ID: 2024 WBPWD 728631.1 Bid submission End Date for the work: 16.08.2024 upto 05:30 PM Eligibility: 1. Bid submission End Date for the work: 16.08.2024 upto 05:30 PM Eligibility: 1. Bonafied Resourceful Contractors. Note - Any subsequent corrigendum if necessary will be published on website only Sd/- A. Roy Executive Engineer (PWD) North Bengal Construction Division Siliguri. ICA-113547(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
e-Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, South 24 Parganas Division, PHE Dte. on behalf of the Governor of West Bengal vide Ref. No. WBPHE/EE/MSD/NIT-15 of 2024-25 and ID: 2024. PHED. 728512.1-23 for O&M of P/M at different PH of different P.M. and in and around Kolkata in different P.M. District under SMD, PHE Dte. Details will be available in the website wbtenders.gov.in in the last date for submission of tender is 31.08.2024 upto 14.00 Hrs. Sd/- Exe. Engineer, SMD, PHE Dte. ICA-113574(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
e-Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Alipore Division, P.H.E. Dte. On behalf of Governor, West Bengal vide Ref. No. WBPHE/EE/NIT-15 of 2024-25 and ID: 2024. PHED. 725911.1 to 25 for the work of construction of boundary wall for different piped water supply schemes of Gosaba block, district South 24 Parganas under Canning Sub-Division of Alipore Division, PHE Dte. Details will be available in the website wbtenders.gov.in in the last date for submission of tender is 02.09.2024 upto 03:00 P.M. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Alipore Division, P.H.E. Dte. ICA-113564(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
[N.I.T. No. 278/CE/IM/WB/STC dated-06.08.2024]
(Abridged e-Tender)
Tender, in prescribed form in two parts viz. Technical & Financial Bids are invited for the works below: 1. Repair/ Reconstruction of Jharkhall Jetty. Tender ID: 2024. WBSTC. 729071.1. To be Published on 08.08.2024 at 09:00 A.M. Details will be available in website www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Chief Engineer (Marine) & OSD (M, Managing Director), For W.B.S.T.C. Ltd. ICA-113526(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
e-Tender is invited by the Superintendent Engineer, South 24 Pgs. W/S Circle, PHE Dte. vide Ref. No. 13/2024-2025/SC/SWC/WBPHE/ND and ID: 2024. PHED. 725801.1 to 6 for 6 Nos. work of Construction of Boundary Wall and other allied works at HW & 2nd Tube-well site of GOBINDAPUR, NALMURI, KASHIADANGA, KHARAMBA, TARDAH KAPASATI & BODRA PWSS within Bhanganri Block of South 24-Parganas District. Details will be available in the website <http://wbtenders.gov.in> in the last date for submission of tender is 09/09/2024 upto 3:00 PM. Sd/- for Superintendent Engineer, South-24 Pgs. W/S Circle, P.H.E. Dte. ICA-113571(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Notice inviting e-tender for selection of agency for the following works on the occasion of Pujia Campagna-2024. *Subject: Designing, Printing, Framing, Mounting and Fixing of flexes on Temporary Eyelet and Framed Banners (with Wodden Frame) in the different Pujia Mandals in and around Kolkata on the occasion of Durga Pujia - 2024 and other works. Tender ID: 2024. WBTD. 728611.1. *Subject: Selection of Agency for Fabrication of the pavilion of West Bengal during different Pujia Mandals in and around Kolkata, from 6th October, 2024 to 12th October 2024 (7 days) on the occasion of Durga Pujia - 2024. Tender ID: 2024. WBTD. 728630.1. *Subject: Designing, Printing, and supply of Eyelet Banners in the different Pujia Mandals on the occasion of Kali Pujia in and around Kolkata & Jagadhatri Pujia at Chandernagore Tender ID: 2024. WBTD. 729243.1. *Subject: Designing, branding and Fabrication of the hospitality Stall of West Bengal in and around Ajuji Road during October, 2024, Tender ID: 2024. WBTD. 729291.1. Last date of submission: 27.08.2024 at 6:00 P.M. N.B.-The details are available in the website www.wbtenders.gov.in and www.wbtourism.gov.in and www.wbtravel.gov.in. Block-A, Kolkata-700001, Sd/- Additional Secretary, Department of Tourism, Govt. of West Bengal. ICA-113524(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
NIT No. WBIV/EE/BID/EOI-06 of 2024-25 from eligible bonafide Contractors having credential of execution of similar work of value 30% (Single Work) within the last five FY. 1) No of works:- 02(Two Nos.) Last date of application: 22.08.2024 upto 17:00 hours. 3) Name of work: Sd/- Superintendent Engineer, PHE Dte. dry brick pitching in Sundarban Embankment. 4) Amount put to tender: Ranging from Rs. 17,47,256.00 to Rs. 20,35,048.00. 5) Source of Fund: SDS. Details may be obtained from the office of the Executive Engineer, Basirhat Irrigation Division, Irrigation & Waterways Directorate, P.O.-Dhalitua, Vija-Basirhat, Dist-North 24 Parganas, Pin - 743412. Tel-2262529 or departmental website www.wbivwd.gov.in (Tender & Notice) & www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Basirhat Irrigation Division. ICA-113502(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
NIT No. 07 of 2024-25 Circulated vide Memo No. 1404/PDdt.05.08.2024
On behalf of the Governor of W.B. E-Tenders are invited in W.B.F. No. 2911 by the Executive Engineer, Purulia Division, PHE Dte. [2024. PHED. 728623.1] Bid proposal submission end date 24.08.2024 upto 6:00 PM. Other details are available in website only. Details of e-NIT & Tender documents may be downloaded from the website www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Purulia Division, PHE Dte. ICA-113576(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
P.W.D TENDER NOTICE
NIT No. - 04,05 & 06 of 2023-24 (1-civil) for SI: 01 of A.E. P.W.D, JAL, SUB-Divn. A.E., P.W.D., Jalpaiguri Sub-Division invites e-tender for the work for the work NIT No. 16 of 2024-25, E.-I, Alipore Division, P.W.D. Name of Work - Providing attendant and routine check up for fire protection system at Multi-storied office building, Shabani Bahadur under Alipore Division, P.W.D during the year 2024-25. (Earnest Money Rs. 20,000/-) Bid Submission end date 28.08.2024 upto 15:00 hrs. Tender ID-2024. WBPWD. 728654.1 Details will be available from the website <http://wbtenders.gov.in> and office notice board of this office on all working days within office hours. Sd/- Executive Engineer-I, Alipore Division, P.W.D. ICA-113549(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Office of the CMOH,DH&FWS, Purba Medinipur
TENDER NOTICE
Tender ID-2024. HFV. 727342.1
NIT Memo No. CMOH/EE/MS/2024-25 Dt-02.08.2024
e-Tenders are invited for supply of "Working Tea, Tiffin & Lunch" by the Government of West Bengal. Tender ID: 2024. PHED. 728356.1. Name of the Work: Repair and Renovation of 2 nos. MO & 2 Units Nurses Quarter at Kultkuri PHC, Sankralik Block, Dist. of Jhargram, RN 23002157, Project ID: HF2425176715000, Estimated Amount - Rs. 15,92,578.00, Earnest Money - Rs. 31,87,200.00. 5. Tender ID - 2024. WBPWD. 728356.3, Name of the Work: Repair and Renovation of 2 nos. MO & 2 Units Nurses Quarter at Kultkuri PHC, Sankralik Block, Dist. of Jhargram, RN 23002157, Project ID: HF2425176715000, Estimated Amount - Rs. 18,89,906.00, Earnest Money - Rs. 37,798.00. 4.T in e n d e r I D - 2024. WBPWD. 728356.2, Name of the Work: Repair and Renovation of 2 nos. MO & 2 Units Nurses Quarter at Kultkuri PHC, Sankralik Block, Dist. of Jhargram, RN 23002157, Project ID: HF2425176715000, Estimated Amount - Rs. 14,90,518.00, Earnest Money - Rs. 29,81,000.00. 5. Tender ID - 2024. WBPWD. 728356.5, Name of the Work: Repair and Renovation of OPD Building of Odolchua PHC at Odolchua within Binpur II Block in the Dist. of Jhargram, RN 23002148, Project ID: HF2425176715000, Estimated Amount - Rs. 15,92,578.00, Earnest Money - Rs. 31,87,200.00. 3. Tender ID - 2024. WBPWD. 728356.3, Name of the Work: Repair and Renovation of 2 nos. MO & 2 Units Nurses Quarter at Kultkuri PHC, Sankralik Block, Dist. of Jhargram, RN 23002157, Project ID: HF2425176715000, Estimated Amount - Rs. 18,89,906.00, Earnest Money - Rs. 37,798.00. 4.T in e n d e r I D - 2024. WBPWD. 728356.2, Name of the Work: Repair and Renovation of 2 nos. MO & 2 Units Nurses Quarter at Kultkuri PHC, Sankralik Block, Dist. of Jhargram, RN 23002157, Project ID: HF2425176715000, Estimated Amount - Rs. 14,90,518.00, Earnest Money - Rs. 29,81,000.00. 5. Tender ID - 2024. WBPWD. 728356.5, Name of the Work: Repair and Renovation of OPD Building of Odolchua PHC at Odolchua within Binpur II Block in the Dist. of Jhargram, RN 23002148, Project ID: HF2425176715000, Estimated Amount - Rs. 15,92,578.00, Earnest Money - Rs. 31,87,200.00. 3. Tender ID - 2024. WBPWD. 728356.3, Name of the Work: Repair and Renovation of 2 nos. MO & 2 Units Nurses Quarter at Kultkuri PHC, Sankralik Block, Dist. of Jhargram, RN 23002157, Project ID: HF2425176715000, Estimated Amount - Rs. 18,89,906.00, Earnest Money - Rs. 37,798.00. 4.T in e n d e r I D - 2024. WBPWD. 728356.2, Name of the Work: Repair and Renovation of 2 nos. MO & 2 Units Nurses Quarter at Kultkuri PHC, Sankralik Block, Dist. of Jhargram, RN 23002157, Project ID: HF2425176715000, Estimated Amount - Rs. 14,90,518.00, Earnest Money - Rs. 29,81,000.00. 5. Tender ID - 2024. WBPWD. 728356.5, Name of the Work: Repair and Renovation of OPD Building of Odolchua PHC at Odolchua within Binpur II Block in the Dist. of Jhargram, RN 23002148, Project ID: HF2425176715000, Estimated Amount - Rs. 15,92,578.00, Earnest Money - Rs. 31,87,200.00. 3. Tender ID - 2024. WBPWD. 728356.3, Name of the Work: Repair and Renovation of 2 nos. MO & 2 Units Nurses Quarter at Kultkuri PHC, Sankralik Block, Dist. of Jhargram, RN 23002157, Project ID: HF2425176715000, Estimated Amount - Rs. 18,89,906.00, Earnest Money - Rs. 37,798.00. 4.T in e n d e r I D - 2024. WBPWD. 728356.2, Name of the Work: Repair and Renovation of 2 nos. MO & 2 Units Nurses Quarter at Kultkuri PHC, Sankralik Block, Dist. of Jhargram, RN 23002157, Project ID: HF2425176715000, Estimated Amount - Rs. 14,90,518.00, Earnest Money - Rs. 29,81,000.00. 5. Tender ID - 2024. WBPWD. 728356.5, Name of the Work: Repair and Renovation of OPD Building of Odolchua PHC at Odolchua within Binpur II Block in the Dist. of Jhargram, RN 23002148, Project ID: HF2425176715000, Estimated Amount - Rs. 15,92,578.00, Earnest Money - Rs. 31,87,200.00. 3. Tender ID - 2024. WBPWD. 728356.3, Name of the Work: Repair and Renovation of 2 nos. MO & 2 Units Nurses Quarter at Kultkuri PHC, Sankralik Block, Dist. of Jhargram, RN 23002157, Project ID: HF2425176715000, Estimated Amount - Rs. 18,89,906.00, Earnest Money - Rs. 37,798.00. 4.T in e n d e r I D - 2024. WBPWD. 728356.2, Name of the Work: Repair and Renovation of 2 nos. MO & 2 Units Nurses Quarter at Kultkuri PHC, Sankralik Block, Dist. of Jhargram, RN 23002157, Project ID: HF2425176715000, Estimated Amount - Rs. 14,90,518.00, Earnest Money - Rs. 29,81,000.00. 5. Tender ID - 2024. WBPWD. 728356.5, Name of the Work: Repair and Renovation of OPD Building of Odolchua PHC at Odolchua within Binpur II Block in the Dist. of Jhargram, RN 23002148, Project ID: HF2425176715000, Estimated Amount - Rs. 15,92,578.00, Earnest Money - Rs. 31,87,200.00. 3. Tender ID - 2024. WBPWD. 728356.3, Name of the Work: Repair and Renovation of 2 nos. MO & 2 Units Nurses Quarter at Kultkuri PHC, Sankralik Block, Dist. of Jhargram, RN 23002157, Project ID: HF2425176715000, Estimated Amount - Rs. 18,89,906.00, Earnest Money - Rs. 37,798.00. 4.T in e n d e r I D - 2024. WBPWD. 728356.2, Name of the Work: Repair and Renovation of 2 nos. MO & 2 Units Nurses Quarter at Kultkuri PHC, Sankralik Block, Dist. of Jhargram, RN 23002157, Project ID: HF2425176715000, Estimated Amount - Rs. 14,90,518.00, Earnest Money - Rs. 29,81,000.00. 5. Tender ID - 2024. WBPWD. 728356.5, Name of the Work: Repair and Renovation of OPD Building of Odolchua PHC at Odolchua within Binpur II Block in the Dist. of Jhargram, RN 23002148, Project ID: HF2425176715000, Estimated Amount - Rs. 15,92,578.00, Earnest Money - Rs. 31,87,200.00. 3. Tender ID - 2024. WBPWD. 728356.3, Name of the Work: Repair and Renovation of 2 nos. MO & 2 Units Nurses Quarter at Kultkuri PHC, Sankralik Block, Dist. of Jhargram, RN 23002157, Project ID: HF2425176715000, Estimated Amount - Rs. 18,89,906.00, Earnest Money - Rs. 37,798.00. 4.T in e n d e r I D - 2024. WBPWD. 728356.2, Name of the Work: Repair and Renovation of 2 nos. MO & 2 Units Nurses Quarter at Kultkuri PHC, Sankralik Block, Dist. of Jhargram, RN 23002157, Project ID: HF2425176715000, Estimated Amount - Rs. 14,90,518.00, Earnest Money - Rs. 29,81,000.00. 5. Tender ID - 2024. WBPWD. 728356.5, Name of the Work: Repair and Renovation of OPD Building of Odolchua PHC at Odolchua within Binpur II Block in the Dist. of Jhargram, RN 23002148, Project ID: HF2425176715000, Estimated Amount - Rs. 15,92,578.00, Earnest Money - Rs. 31,87,200.00. 3. Tender ID - 2024. WBPWD. 728356.3, Name of the Work: Repair and Renovation of 2 nos. MO & 2 Units Nurses Quarter at Kultkuri PHC, Sankralik Block, Dist. of Jhargram, RN 23002157, Project ID: HF2425176715000, Estimated Amount - Rs. 18,89,906.00, Earnest Money - Rs. 37,798.00. 4.T in e n d e r I D - 2024. WBPWD. 728356.2, Name of the Work: Repair and Renovation of 2 nos. MO & 2 Units Nurses Quarter at Kultkuri PHC, Sankralik Block, Dist. of Jhargram, RN 23002157, Project ID: HF2425176715000, Estimated Amount - Rs. 14,90,518.00, Earnest Money - Rs. 29,81,000.00. 5. Tender ID - 2024. WBPWD. 728356.5, Name of the Work: Repair and Renovation of OPD Building of Odolchua PHC at Odolchua within Binpur II Block in the Dist. of Jhargram, RN 23002148, Project ID: HF2425176715000, Estimated Amount - Rs. 15,92,578.00, Earnest Money - Rs. 31,87,200.00. 3. Tender ID - 2024. WBPWD. 728356.3, Name of the Work: Repair and Renovation of 2 nos. MO & 2 Units Nurses Quarter at Kultkuri PHC, Sankralik Block, Dist. of Jhargram, RN 23002157, Project ID: HF2425176715000, Estimated Amount - Rs. 18,89,906.00, Earnest Money - Rs. 37,798.00. 4.T in e n d e r I D - 2024. WBPWD. 728356.2, Name of the Work: Repair and Renovation of 2 nos. MO & 2 Units Nurses Quarter at Kultkuri PHC, Sankralik Block, Dist. of Jhargram, RN 23002157, Project ID: HF2425176715000, Estimated Amount - Rs. 14,90,518.00, Earnest Money - Rs. 29,81,000.00. 5. Tender ID - 2024. WBPWD. 728356.5, Name of the Work: Repair and Renovation of OPD Building of Odolchua PHC at Odolchua within Binpur II Block in the Dist. of Jhargram, RN 23002148, Project ID: HF2425176715000, Estimated Amount - Rs. 15,92,578.00, Earnest Money - Rs. 31,87,200.00. 3. Tender ID - 2024. WBPWD. 728356.3, Name of the Work: Repair and Renovation of 2 nos. MO & 2 Units Nurses Quarter at Kultkuri PHC, Sankralik Block, Dist. of Jhargram, RN 23002157, Project ID: HF2425176715000, Estimated Amount - Rs. 18,89,906.00, Earnest Money - Rs. 37,798.00. 4.T in e n d e r I D - 2024. WBPWD. 728356.2, Name of the Work: Repair and Renovation of 2 nos. MO & 2 Units Nurses Quarter at Kultkuri PHC, Sankralik Block, Dist. of Jhargram, RN 23002157, Project ID: HF2425176715000, Estimated Amount - Rs. 14,90,518.00, Earnest Money - Rs. 29,81,000.00. 5. Tender ID - 2024. WBPWD. 728356.5, Name of the Work: Repair and Renovation of OPD Building of Odolchua PHC at Odolchua within Binpur II Block in the Dist. of Jhargram, RN 23002148, Project ID: HF2425176715000, Estimated Amount - Rs. 15,92,578.00, Earnest Money - Rs. 31,87,200.00. 3. Tender ID - 2024. WBPWD. 728356.3, Name of the Work: Repair and Renovation of 2 nos. MO & 2 Units Nurses Quarter at Kultkuri PHC, Sankralik Block, Dist. of Jhargram, RN 23002157, Project ID: HF2425176715000, Estimated Amount - Rs. 18,89,906.00, Earnest Money - Rs. 37,798.00. 4.T in e n d e r I D - 2024. WBPWD. 728356.2, Name of the Work: Repair and Renovation of 2 nos. MO & 2 Units Nurses Quarter at Kultkuri PHC, Sankralik Block, Dist. of Jhargram, RN 23002157, Project ID: HF2425176715000, Estimated Amount - Rs. 14,90,518.0

Coaching Centre Deaths: Magisterial Probe Finds Two MCD Depts At Fault

Allowed Running Of Library From Basement, Encroachment On Stormwater Drains

Atul Mathur@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The magisterial probe conducted in the Old Rajender Nagar incident, which claimed the lives of three civil services aspirants, has blamed the officials of MCD's building and works departments for allowing the running of a library from the basement of the building and for encroachment on stormwater drains, respectively.

The district magistrate (Central), G Sudhakar, has observed in his report that the building department failed to seal the basement of the building in 2023 despite noticing its misuse as a library, while no efforts were made by engineers of the works department to remove encroachment from the drains. It added that the drains had not been desilted for five years.

Delhi revenue minister Atishi had ordered a magisterial report into the death of three civil services aspirants due to the flooding of the library of Rau's IAS Study Circle on June 27. Sources in Delhi govt said the final report was submitted to the minister on Aug 6. TOI has seen the report.

G Sudhakar, in his report, mentioned

that the architect, owners, and the builder of B-11, Bada Bazar Road, Old Rajender Nagar, where the coaching centre was located, showed the official use of the building as "office/business", so that the fire department's no-objection certificate was not required, which is a must if the purpose of the building is "educational" and it is above nine metres in height.

The report added that the completion-cum-occupancy certificate was also issued without the fire safety certificate.

While surveying all such buildings in the city last year following the incident of fire at a coaching centre in Mukherjee Nagar, MCD issued a notice of the "misuse" of property on Aug 4, 2023. "The failure to seal the basement after the issue of misuse notice and not even mentioning the same in the showcase notice and misleading the deputy commissioner of the factual field position of misuse appears to be deliberate misconduct with mala fide intentions on the part of the concerned junior engineers, assistant engineers, and executive engineers of the building department," the report stated.



Precious lives lost to negligence

The DM also indicted the fire department for failing to refer the misuse of the basement as a library to MCD during the inspection by its officials on July 1 this year. "The fire department should not have granted a fire safety certificate dated July 9 concealing the misuse of the basement as a library in violation of the building bylaws provisions of MPD-2021. This is a serious lapse on the part of the fire services inspection team," he observed.

While the responsibility of desilting

the stormwater drains was with the sanitation department of MCD, the DM observed that the assistant commissioner and sanitation supervisor overlooked a May 24 order that mandated monitoring of the desilting drains less than four feet wide & deep and submission of a weekly report to the deputy commissioner concerned. Since the order was made following the meeting of a committee on unauthorised colonies, MCD officials argued that it was not applicable for the plotted colonies.

The DM further mentioned that the absence of a barrier wall was also a reason for the flooding of the basement, an argument also made by the MCD superintendent engineer in his report. He suggested a detailed inquiry by MCD and identification of the officials responsible and stern action against them.

The report added that the owners and management of Rau's IAS Study Circle were also responsible "for the acts of criminal negligence with a dishonest motive of profiteering by indulging in dangerous misuse of the basement without regard to the lives of the students".

Only got inflated library fee & empty assurances: Protesters

Akshat Rajan | TNN

New Delhi: UPSC aspirants have been protesting in Old Rajender Nagar for 10 days since the three deaths in the basement of Rau's IAS Study Circle. Their spirits seemed to be up but they have noticed that action on the ground is next to nothing. The libraries in the building basements were shut after the deaths of the three UPSC aspirants, but this only meant that libraries on upper floors began charging Rs 5,000 a month, up from Rs 2,500.



Fight for justice

At the protest site, barricades put up by police were covered with posters demanding action. The students sometimes perform street plays that highlighted their woes.

When TOI spoke to them on Wednesday, several aspirants mentioned the high library charges which few could afford. Their mains exams are next month, for which they need the libraries.

One of the posters at the site read: "In loving memory

of our brothers and sisters who left us while pursuing their dream." Another poster said the deceased aspirants would never be forgotten.

The protesters were dissatisfied with the civic body's lack of action. The authorities were just doing damage control and not actually solving the problem, one of them said.

Sanskar Jain (24), a member of the delegation that met the lieutenant governor recently, said that they were just being given assurances.

Munna Kumar (27), who

hails from a farming family in Bihar's Nalanda, said: "Our protest was against injustice. But it has come down on us very badly. With the libraries in the basement sealed, the ones on the upper floors have increased their fees which most of us cannot afford."

Pawan Kumar (28), who hails from Patna where his family runs a small shop, said: "We are three roommates and don't have space to study. We study in the library and the inflated fee has affected our preparation."

The protesters also spoke about the high rents in Rajender Nagar. Anil Kumar, a Bihar farmer's son, said rents start at Rs 15,000. Abhishek Singh, a Prayagraj resident whose mother is an Anganwadi worker, accused landlords and brokers of colluding to inflate rents. He said brokers were mandatory for securing accommodation, and landlords arbitrarily increase rents.

The families of two of the deceased aspirants participated in the protest on Tuesday and Wednesday, seeking justice.

CBI takes over investigation, visits Old Rajender Nagar

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has taken over the probe into the tragic deaths of three civil services aspirants following waterlogging in the basement of a coaching institute in Old Rajender Nagar on July 27.

The central agency registered an FIR on Tuesday, assuming control of the probe from Delhi Police in compliance with the high court's directive issued on Aug 2.

After concluding the initial formalities, a special team of CBI investigators visited the scene of crime and interviewed people on Wednesday evening. "Our primary goal was to understand the structure, which was flooded. We will now have an inspection done by civil engineers and forensic experts for further details," said a source. CBI is likely to reconstruct the scene of crime on Thursday.

Sources revealed that CBI's FIR encompasses suspected offences, including culpable homicide not amounting to murder, causing death by negligence, voluntarily inflicting harm, negligent conduct pertaining to building construction or repairs, and common intention.

CBI will also seek documents from Municipal Corporation of Del-

hi (MCD) and question its officials later this week, the source added. On its radar are the two officials against whom MCD has taken disciplinary action.

The court has asked CBI to thoroughly investigate the incident while coming down heavily on Delhi Police for a "shoddy investigation".

On July 27, the three civil services

After concluding the initial formalities, a special team of CBI investigators visited the scene of crime and interviewed people on Wednesday evening

aspirants died in the basement library of Rau's IAS Study Circle after rainwater entered it. Police reports indicate that they were informed about the inundation around 7pm on July 27. A swift search and rescue operation was launched, involving the collaborative efforts of police, Delhi Fire Services and National Disaster Response Force.

The aspirants were identified as Shreya Yadav from Ambedkar Nagar in Uttar Pradesh, Tanya Soni from Telangana and Nevin Delvin from Ernakulam in Kerala.

THE GOLDEN TRUTH
An initiative by THE TIMES OF INDIA

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Court sends notice to CBI in UPSC aspirants' death case

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Wednesday issued a notice to CBI while hearing bail applications of the four co-owners of a coaching centre basement in Old Rajender Nagar where three UPSC aspirants died because of flooding.

The court of principal district and sessions judge cum special judge Anju Bajaj Chandna listed the case for Aug 9. The court said that it would hear the bail plea after the status report was filed.

On Aug 2, Delhi High Court transferred the case to CBI, saying that it was not satisfied with the investigation by police.

"It is not clear as to whether CBI has initiated/completed the process of taking over the investigation or whether it has registered a case with them. Be that as it may, let notice of the present application be issued to the CBI for 09.08.2024," the court said.

The agency filed a case in the matter on Tuesday (Aug 6) against Abhishek Gupta, owner of Rau's IAS Study Circle, under Sections 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), 106 (1) (causing death by negligence), 115 (2) (voluntarily causing hurt), 290 (negligent conduct when constructing, repairing, or pulling down buildings) and 3 (5) (joint

The court of principal district and sessions judge cum special judge Anju Bajaj Chandna listed the case for Aug 9. The court said that it would hear the bail plea after the status report was filed. On Aug 2, Delhi High Court transferred the case to CBI, saying that it was not satisfied with the investigation by police

criminal liability when two or more people act with a common intention to commit a criminal act).

Meanwhile, on Wednesday, a CBI team visited the coaching centre where three students had drowned.

On July 31, a magistrate's court rejected the bail pleas of Manuj Kathuria who had driven past the coaching centre, and basement co-owners — Tejinder Singh, Parvinder Singh, Harvinder Singh, and Sarabjeet Singh. Kathuria was granted bail by a different court on Aug 1.

Earlier, the high court had pulled up the police and MCD over the deaths, saying it was unable to believe and understand how they could not come out of the basement. The court also asked whether the doors were blocked or staircases narrow.

Why city's response to PM-UDAY has remained lukewarm

Vibha.Sharma@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Even four and a half years after the launch of the Prime Minister's Unauthorised Colonies in Delhi Awas Adhikar Yojana (PM-UDAY), there has been no major surge in the number of beneficiaries with the people's response to the scheme remaining lukewarm.

Responding to questions raised by South Delhi MP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri in Parliament, the Union housing and urban affairs minister said on July 25 that of the 1.22,729 applications received under PM-UDAY, only 23,811 were granted ownership rights, the highest being in Najafgarh, Nangloi, Burari and Kakrola.

Given that approximately 30% of Delhi's population resides in 1,737 unauthorised colonies, this number is significantly low, pointed out experts. Residents themselves said there were obstacles that had to be addressed in order to improve the scheme's effectiveness and increase participation.

The scheme was launched in 2019 by Delhi Development Authority to provide property ownership rights to residents of unauthorised colonies or slums. As of March 1 this year, 4.8 people had registered with DDA under the scheme, but not even half of them had submitted applications for ownership rights and only 22,034 individuals were granted conveyance deeds.

Till date, there has been no major change in the situation. When asked about this, Bidhuri said that it was important that the layout plans of the unauthorised colonies were prepared on priority so that the building plans could be quickly approved. "Till such a time, individuals who have been issued ownership rights should be allowed to reconstruct their houses as per the building bylaws. DDA should also hold regular meetings with residents to understand their problems and accelerate response to the scheme," he said.

Sushil Chaddha, a resident of Chandra Vihar, Nilothi, said, "People are still facing hurdles in fulfilling the terms and conditions of the scheme, such as attaching the power of attorney. Difficulties arise when these are old. Also, even after getting ownership rights under the scheme, getting a loan from nationalised banks for reconstruction and getting a building plan approved are challenges. Loans offered by private banks have very high interest."

Chaddha added, "People are also reluctant about incurring extra expenses involved in the process, which is around Rs 60,000 for a 50 sq yard property and Rs 1 lakh for a 100 sq yard one. Moreover, one has to go to Vikas Sadan to pursue the matter. Ideally, the facility should have been started in zonal offices."

Than Singh Yadav of Delhi Dehat Sangh said that getting new electricity and water connections was no longer a simple task. "If two families, say of two brothers, are living in the same house with one entrance in an unauthorised colony, then DJB does not permit two connections. Further, a no-objection certificate from DDA is mandatory before applying for new electricity and water connections, which in itself is a herculean task to get," said Yadav.

DDA officials claimed that they are organising camps in unauthorised colonies regularly to resolve or address the queries of the people. "We are also distributing brochures detailing the procedure and benefits of the scheme. Additional staff, referred to as PMUday-Mitra, have been deployed to promote the scheme and assist residents in unauthorised colonies with their application-related issues. The application form has been simplified and made concise. The online portal has been made bilingual," said an official. Public hearings are also conducted at DDA headquarters and 10 processing centres to provide hand-holding support to the residents in application processing besides regular monitoring, claimed the agency.

Things not good at Asha Kiran, must act with alacrity: HC

Abhinav.Garg@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: "Things are not good at Asha Kiran," Delhi High Court said on Wednesday, as it prioritised recruiting staff, doctors and the infusion of additional funds.

"We have lost 14 lives in 20 days. Human lives today don't have a cost here. Just the other day, we heard the USPC matter where three aspirants lost their lives. Yesterday, we dealt with a case where two people lost their lives in a waterlogged drain. We need to act with alacrity, can't lose someone in the process," the high court told the secretary of the social welfare department after his visit to the Asha Kiran shelter home for the intellectually disabled.

The bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela asked the secretary to display

a sense of urgency when the official said that vacancies of medical and non-medical cadre had to be filled for which certain approvals and clearances were required from the "competent authority", in this case the lieutenant governor.

It further told the secretary to inform the chief secretary that "things are not good" in Asha Kiran and a dedicated official was needed there, instead of it being given as additional charge, as is the case at present.

The secretary, who was earlier directed to visit the shelter home and file a report, said the establishment also needed to be decongested as it housed 961 inmates against a capacity of 570. He said there were 12 vacancies in the medical cadre and positions were vacant in the non-medical cadre as well.

"This is an emergency.



HC asked officials to display a sense of urgency in recruiting staff, docs

Such situations call for extraordinary measures. If in power start feeling helpless, what can be done? Surely when lives have been lost, you can exercise your extraordinary powers in this situation," the bench observed, asking the official to recruit people on a contractual basis and "move the file" before the chief secretary on Wednesday.

The court said the proposal must be placed before the LG for requisite sanction, indicating if the same is not given by the next date of hearing, it will pass a judicial order.

"Decongestion is top priority. Doctors visiting the dormitory and the shortage of staff, medical as well as non-medical, has to be addressed. Recruit the best. Don't let us down. Let it be a limited contract so that you can initiate the process for permanent recruitment. In one year, you can complete the process," the court told the secretary.

Listing the matter for Aug 12, the high court took on record the secretary's undertaking that he will personally monitor the situation and ensure no further lives are lost.

"Since 14 lives have been lost in a short span of 20 days, this court impresses upon the secretary to take urgent and emergent steps to deal with the situation. He said he will seek requisite clearances from the chief secretary and the lieutenant governor during the course of the day," the high court noted in its order.

The secretary also submitted that to address overcrowding, certain proposals are being pursued, such as using nearby MCD buildings and requesting the Foreigners Regional Registration Office to relocate from the premises.

The court told the officer to directly speak to the MCD commissioner for permission to utilise its building which can house 200 people. "Speak to the commissioner on the mobile phone. Human lives are precious. Speak to the minister and get it done. You will get the place," the court said.

Meanwhile, Delhi Jal Board told the court that water in the shelter home was tested for quality and found to be fine. The court was informed that inmates with TB are already residing in a separate building and some other inmates may be shifted to other two shelter homes for the intellectually disabled.

At least 24 inmates moved from shelter home to other facilities

Ridhima.Gupta@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Around 24 inmates have been moved out of the Asha Kiran shelter home and sent to other facilities of the Delhi state social welfare department after a TOI report highlighted the high number of deaths and overcrowding at the facility.

The social welfare department runs three homes for people with mental disabilities. Asha Kiran in Rohini, which provides shelter to both men and women with disabilities; Asha Joyti for women in Hari Nagar; and Asha Deep for men in Narela.

Till Aug 7, around 14 male inmates and 10 female inmates have been moved to Asha Deep and Asha Joyti, respectively. "Further, to decongest Asha Kiran, adult male dormitory number 6 is being made functional and the auditorium is being put to use on a temporary basis," a social welfare department report submitted to Delhi High Court on Wednesday said.

TOI had earlier reported that Asha Kiran, which has a capacity for 500, houses 1,000 inmates. The article also highlighted the staff crunch at the facility.

In the report from the department, it was mentioned that currently at Asha Kiran, among the health cadre, there are 12 posts, includ-

AN OFFICIAL OF ASHA JOYTI

We have written to the department on the need for new staff, including special educators and physical instructors. Currently, the Auxiliary Nurses have to take up these roles while providing basic care to the inmates

ding GDMOs, a paediatrician, and a clinical psychologist, that are vacant. Further, among the cadre, there are around 75 posts, including caregivers, cooks, and special educators, that are also vacant.

Speaking to TOI, the medical team from Asha Kiran said that the 24 inmates have 'mild' intellectual disabilities (those with IQ between 51-71 and are partly educable and trainable).

The medical staff of Asha Kiran told TOI, "As per the procedure, if inmates from Asha Kiran are moved, the first clearance should be taken from the psychiatrist. However, that has not been done. The movement has been done in a hushed manner."

TOI also found out that both

Asha Deep and Asha Joyti were already full. With more inmates moving in, Asha Deep now has a total strength of 141 inmates and Asha Joyti 130. TOI found that currently, Asha Joyti and Asha Deep both have one visiting doctor for three days a week (9 am - 4.30 pm) and have vacancies for occupational therapists and physiotherapists.

The caretakers from both Asha Deep and Asha Joyti, on condition of anonymity, said that despite the increase in inmates, no additional staff has been deployed.

"We have written to the department on the need for new staff, including special educators and physical instructors. Currently, the Auxiliary Nurses (ANMs) have to take up these roles while providing basic care to the inmates. There is an urgent need to strengthen the rehabilitation staff as inmates who are here have intellectual disabilities and need cognitive development. The need is for occupational therapists and physiotherapists," an officer of Asha Joyti said on the condition of anonymity.

AAP govt gave no reply when asked about what additional facilities are being made to accommodate new inmates at Asha Joyti and Asha Deep.

Disability rights activists protest at Jantar Mantar

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Holding placards that read "Every life matters, disabled life matters" and "We need justice," scores of people under the banner of Disability Rights Group (DRG) on Wednesday held a silent protest at Jantar Mantar to mark the deaths of the inmates of Asha Kiran.

They demanded "accountability and reform" following the death of the 14 inmates with intellectual disabilities at govt-run Asha Kiran shelter home, which was reported by TOI.

Meenu, a person with a limb disability who runs a bakery in the city, was at the protest with her husband. Sitting in her wheelchair, she held a placard that read, "Bring a Ray of Hope at Asha Kiran." She said there should be accountability for the deaths.

The disability rights activists demanded that there be a "thorough investigation into the cause of the recent deaths, with accountability (fixed) on those responsible, a comprehensive review and overhaul of the management and facilities, inclusion of DPOs in committees for the welfare of disabled people, and regular audits. More funds should be allocated to create foster homes and drop-in shelter facilities so that people with disabilities can participate in society equally."



'OUR LIVES MATTER'

ensure safe living conditions for persons with disability. A high-powered committee needs to be set up under the direct supervision of the Prime Minister. The deployment of sufficient human and financial resources has to be ensured, with a 5-year mechanism monitoring," said Arman Ali, the convener of Disability Rights Group.

Further, Radhika Alkazi of AAST-HA India, said: "We are standing here today because for over a decade, Asha Kiran has reported numerous cases of deaths, and yet there has been no change." She said: "The facility is overcrowded and with no rehabilitation programmes. It operates like a closed-door institution where nobody comes out. The system must change, and we will not stop until that change happens."

Process To Fill Vacancies In Health Facilities Already Underway: LG

Hits Back At Bharadwaj's Claims, Says Minister Trying To Misdemean People & Judiciary

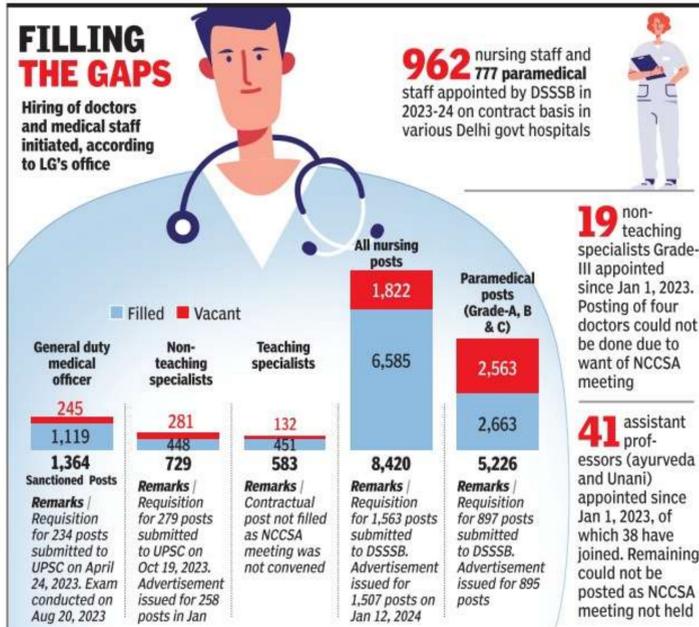
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Lieutenant governor VK Saxena's office on Wednesday accused AAP gov and health minister Saurabh Bharadwaj of "weaving a web of lies" to "misdemean people and the judiciary over various issues."

The statement came days after Bharadwaj claimed that he had written several times to LG in recent months, flagging the scarcity of doctors in state-run health facilities, but no action was taken on his letters.

"This is being done very deliberately and as a pre-meditated exercise to not only mislead the people of Delhi who are suffering due to mal-governance over a decade, but also the judiciary that has started taking suo motu cognisance of issues related to health, sanitation, and education," alleged LG's office, adding that the process for appointment to various posts was already underway.

LG's office said the task of appointment or hiring of doctors was exclusively within the domain of National Capital Civil Services Authority (NCCSA) headed by chief minister Arvind Kejriwal. It accused AAP gov and Bharadwaj of creating a "smokescreen of false alibis" through "pointless" letters and correspondence, saying Bharadwaj wrote to CM Kejriwal on Jan 2, 2024 for the recruitment of doctors and paramedics for one year on a contractual basis.



LG's office said the task of appointment or hiring of doctors was exclusively within the domain of National Capital Civil Services Authority (NCCSA) headed by chief minister Arvind Kejriwal.

"Had the intention been to appoint doctors and other staff on a contract basis or otherwise, Kejriwal would have immediately convened a meeting of NCCSA and done the needful," LG's office said. Kejriwal could have directed the chief secretary, who is

a member of NCCSA, to put up the matter for hiring doctors and medical staff on the agenda. Instead, CM referred Bharadwaj's letter to LG for his "kind intervention", it added.

"This was obviously done to once again play the now familiar game of appointing favoured individuals in an opaque manner; this time with the approval of LG," the office of lieutenant governor alleged.

It further alleged that Kejriwal did not take any decision on the vacancies of doctors in the NCCSA meeting in Feb 2024. LG's office also claimed that the health minister did not raise the matter with CM, who was out of jail on interim bail in May, though the

AAP, however, said that it "respectfully disagrees" with the latest verdict of SC and would explore other legal remedies. It alleged that it was the LG's office that repeatedly "transgressed" all the constitutional boundaries and norms and forced them to take the LG to court over and again. It added that "Delhi gov has consistently received relief from the courts. If we were wrong, why would the courts rule in our favour on the DERC matter or the Delhi mayor's election?" AAP questioned.

It also referred to the SC's May 12, 2023 order and said that the apex court ruled that the LG did not have sweeping executive powers in Delhi and that the Centre must respect Delhi's unique "asymmetric federal model". But just eight days after the SC ruling, they introduced an amendment, leaving no choice but to knock on the court's doors, AAP added.

BJP's Delhi unit slammed AAP, alleging it had developed the habit of questioning anything done by the LG.

LG, AAP trade barbs over SC's aldermen order

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Days after a three-judge bench of Supreme Court ruled that Delhi's lieutenant governor had the power to appoint aldermen to Municipal Corporation of Delhi without the aid and advice of the elected gov, the office of LG VK Saxena on Wednesday said it called for "soul searching and introspection" by city gov and expressed hope that the civic body would expedite the process of formation of the standing committee.

The LG office also said that despite the law and constitutional position being "as clear as it were", Delhi gov decided to get into "pointless litigation" and not only wasted the time of the court and public money but also "deliberately crippled" MCD.

"LG VK Saxena has expressed the hope that with the three-judge bench of Supreme Court having categorically ruled in the matter of appointment of aldermen, MCD will expedi-

The LG office said that Delhi gov decided to get into 'pointless litigation and not only wasted the time of the court and public money but also 'deliberately crippled' MCD. AAP, however, alleged that it was the LG's office that repeatedly 'transgressed' all the constitutional boundaries and norms and forced them to take the LG to court over and again

tiously take steps to put into place statutorily required bodies and processes, hitherto lying pending for the past about 19 months," LG Secretariat said in a statement.

"Public interest is paramount and cannot be sacrificed on the altar of turf battles," it added.

LG Secretariat further alleged that ministers of Delhi gov have also engaged in similar "violations of due processes" by means of "motivated and pointless litigation" in the apex court in various other routine matters. It added that the constant "shadowboxing" by Delhi gov had brought crucial public services to a "grinding halt".

The LG office also said the works pending in the corporation due to the non-formation of the standing committee, the highest decision-making body of MCD, could have been cleared if the statutory committees were put in place well in time after the LG's decision on the appointments in Jan last year. "Similar violation of due processes by means of motivated and pointless litigation in the apex court has also been done by ministers of the current gov in various other routine matters, wherein the position of law has been clear ever since NCTD came into existence in 1993," the statement from the LG's office read.

8-hr shifts, med tests among steps to check bus accidents

Abhinav Rajput
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Delhi gov has identified several factors contributing to bus accidents in the city, including driver fatigue because of multiple shifts and driving under the influence of alcohol.

To address the issues, gov has decided that multiple shifts will not be allowed for drivers and their work would be over after eight hours.

To implement this, an Aadhaar-based duty allocation system for DTC and cluster buses will be introduced. Transport minister Kailash Gahlot said that a unified database of all drivers is being created to prevent them from working double shifts, and each depot will be equipped with biometric face recognition software to monitor drivers. The depot manager will be held accountable if drivers are found doing multiple shifts.

The number of bus accidents by Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) buses has seen a sharp increase in comparison to cluster buses, according

to data by the transport department. DTC buses were involved in 496 accidents in the last five years from 2019 to Dec 4, 2023, while the cluster buses were involved in 207 accidents. However, cluster buses claimed 131 lives, while 125 people died in DTC bus accidents.

Last month, a 45-year-old woman was killed and 23 people were injured when a DTC electric bus collided with a metro pillar in west Delhi's Punjabi Bagh.

Gahlot said in response to recent accidents, DTC has decided to implement a series of precautionary measures, which were finalised and approved during a meeting chaired by Gahlot last month.

Govt plans to conduct periodic training for drivers using simulators. The procurement of two simulators for DTC is in progress.

A common pool of DTC drivers will be created, allowing concessionaires to appoint drivers as needed. This pool will be linked with Aadhaar numbers to monitor driver activity across DTC and Delhi Integrated Multi-Modal Transit System (DIMTS), ensuring that blacklisted drivers are not hired by another department or operator.

To prevent drunk driving, breathalyser tests will be done at each depot before drivers start work.

Regular workshops will be held to sensitise the drivers. Training will be provided at the time of induction and regular refresher courses after that.

Medical check-ups for drivers will be mandatory, following the same criteria as DTC, with check-ups conducted at the time of induction, every five years after the age of 45, and annually after the age of 55.

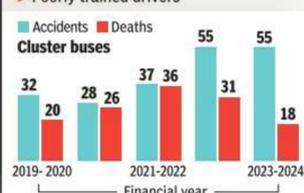
The health department has nominated six hospitals for medical check-ups, and DTC and cluster bus drivers will be referred to these facilities.

Delhi has 7,683 cluster and DTC buses. Of these, DTC operates 4,536 vehicles, including 2,966 CNG buses and 1,570 electric buses. The cluster bus service by DIMTS operates 3,147 buses, which include 2,747 CNG and 400 electric buses.

POOR TRAINING, ENFORCEMENT TO BLAME

Reason for bus accidents

- Fatigue among drivers
- Drunk driving
- Speeding
- Poor road design
- Lack of enforcement of bus lane driving and other rules
- Poorly trained drivers



DU's order on guest faculty appointment leaves teachers irked

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The heads of various colleges and departments of Delhi University can appoint guest faculty members only in case of a leave vacancy, an official order stated on Wednesday. This has attracted the ire of several teachers who have written to the vice-chancellor, Yogesh Singh, demanding immediate withdrawal of the order.

The university, in the official order issued by deputy registrar (colleges), instructed its colleges to make such appointments only if a permanent faculty member is on leave, including maternity leave, child care leave, study leave, sabbatical leave, medical leave or extraordinary leave.

"In so far as appointment of guest faculty in the colleges is concerned, I have been directed to categorically inform that appointment of guest faculties in colleges can only be made against the leave vacancy ie, maternity leave, child care leave, study leave, sabbatical leave, medical leave and extraordinary leave," stated the DU notification issued on Wednesday.

The notification stated that all heads of its colleges should ensure that under no circumstances, appointment of guest faculty members shall be made except against the leave vacancy.

This has stirred discontent among several teachers

TEACHERS' BODY SAYS

Not only teachers will have to teach beyond the direct hours stipulated by the UGC Regulations 2018 but also the number of hours may vary from department to department in a college

of the university. Democratic Teachers' Front has sent a letter to the vice-chancellor and sought immediate withdrawal of the order. The letter signed by three members of the academic council and three members of DUTA Executive alleged that the notification would require teachers to assimilate extra hours due to workload. "Not only teachers will have to teach beyond the direct hours stipulated by the UGC Regulations 2018 but also the number of hours may vary from department to department in a college," the letter read.

The teachers further drew the attention of Singh to the UGC letter dated 28 Jan 2019, which stated that for the universities where the sanctioned posts are not adequate as per the teaching load, the number of guest faculty members to be appointed can be 20% over and above the sanctioned posts.

DU has also informed that the trials for performance-based programmes, such as BA (H) Music, extra-curricular activities, and sports supernumerary quotas are likely to begin on the coming Monday. The allocation of seats for these will commence with the third round of admissions.

The admission branch has scheduled a webinar on Friday to explain the procedure for trials and admissions to ECA and sports supernumerary quotas, Gupta said.

Over 3 lakh students have so far registered for the 71,000 seats of the university that attracts students from all parts of the country.

Skills university cuts fee from ₹50k to ₹35k for 6 UG programmes

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University on Wednesday announced a reduction in the tuition fees from Rs 50,000 to Rs 35,000 for six of its undergraduate programmes.

This comes after the university administration faced intense backlash from student bodies for a sharp increase in fees for most courses at the UGC-recognised university that comes under gov of NCT of Delhi.

The fees for bachelor in banking financial services and insurance, bachelor in computer applications, bachelor in digital marketing and data analytics, bachelor in digital media design, bachelor in optometry, and bachelor in medical laboratory sciences have been reduced.

These changes have been made after the university invited written submissions from protesting students and are based upon the recommendation of the finance committee of the varsity.

"It was also decided by the finance committee to provide a 60% tuition fees waiver to the SC/ST & PWD students," the university announced in a statement.

A senior official of the university said that the students who have already paid higher fees will be refunded the extra amount that has been paid by them.

The university has not announced any reduction in fees for diploma courses yet. Students of the varsity are likely to push for a reduction in the fees of diploma courses too.

Bail to murder accused for lack of proof

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A Delhi court recently granted bail to a murder accused, saying that CCTV footage and the tower position of his call detail record disputed the presence of the accused, Priyanshu Gupta, when the incident took place.

The court of additional sessions judge Jitendra Singh was hearing a case involving the murder of one Vikram in Subhash Place. The court stated that another accused in the matter

was seen hitting the deceased with a sharp-edged object and the present accused, Gupta, reached the spot after the incident had already taken place.

Advocate Lokesh Ahlawat, appearing for the accused, submitted before the court that he was being accused falsely. The counsel stated that the accused was no longer required for further custodial interrogation and no purpose would be served by keeping him behind bars. "Therefore, the bail should be granted to him," the advocate urged.

The accused told the court that at 7.50 pm on June 30, one Ramji Lal, along with his sons, Vikram and Mahesh, other relatives and acquaintances, attacked his father at a shop. The entire incident was captured on the CCTV cameras installed there. The accused informed the court that he was not present at the site of the occurrence or even in its vicinity. The accused had later gone to Subhash Place Police Station where his father and brother were present to report the incident.

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Infant dies after gas leak causes fire at Gzb home Elderly couple dies, son injured in house roof collapse

Akshat.Rajan | TNN

Avishek.Kumar@timesofindia.com

Ghaziabad: A six-month-old boy died and five others were seriously injured after a gas leak, possibly fanned by a cooler, sparked a blaze that swept through their one-bedroom house in Hindon Vihar on Wednesday morning.

Police said the fire erupted around 7.30am, when the family was having tea and preparing to make breakfast.

Pramod, a labourer, and his wife Renu (26) lived in the room with their two sons—Kanha (2) and six-month-old Laddu. Pramod's brother-in-law Ajay Pal (25) arrived in the city a week ago in search of a job. He was staying with them for the time. Pramod's friend Deepak (22), who was employed under him, was visiting their house on Wednesday morning. Sahibabad ACP Rajneesh Upadhyay said cops were alerted

about the blaze around 8.30am.

"Pramod and his family resided in a 10x12 (feet) room on the ground floor of a two-storey building in Neelmani Colony. They had designated a kitchen area on one side, while the remaining space was occupied by a bed and a cot. An air cooler was placed on the window above the kitchen area," the ACP said.

According to preliminary investigation, the ACP said, Renu had served tea to others and went back to the kitchen to make breakfast. "She lit a matchstick when the gas leak triggered the fire. The cooler was operational, causing it to spread," he said.

The ACP added that the "blaze turned into a massive fireball as gas had spread to every inch of the room... and the cloud of gas exploded like a balloon, gutting everything in its path".

(With inputs from Riddhima Gupta in New Delhi)

New Delhi: An elderly couple died and their son sustained injuries after the roof of their house collapsed in Prem Nagar on Wednesday. The deceased have been identified as Sukran (85) and his wife Gayatri (75). Their 40-year-old son, Vinod, was injured in the collapse.

Police received a PCR call around 3am and, upon immediately reaching the spot, found three injured people lying. They were transported to Sanjay Gandhi Hospital, where two of them were pronounced dead on arrival, and Vinod was discharged after treatment.

The police investigation revealed that the roof of the house collapsed suddenly in the night while they were sleeping, and they did not get a chance to escape. Hearing the loud noise, the residents of the

area rushed to the spot, and one of them informed the authorities.

Three fire tenders with 18 firefighters were dispatched to the site of the collapse for the rescue operation. Local residents, along with cops, removed the debris and extricated the injured people, who were then rushed to the hospital.

A fire official said that the search continued till 5 am as they were not aware of how many people were trapped inside the collapsed structure. After the post-mortem, the bodies of the deceased were handed over to their relatives. Police are conducting an investigation to ascertain the exact cause of the collapse. "It was an old house," the official said.

Reacting to the incident, Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor alleged that the incident of the dangerous building



Police investigation revealed that the roof of the house collapsed suddenly at night while its occupants were sleeping, giving them no chance to escape

collapse took place due to the negligence of MCD. "Its negligence resulted in the death of two people. Mayor Shelly Oberoi should tell us how long it will take to complete the survey of dangerous buildings and ensure that genuine action is taken on the ground. The family of the deceased should be compensated," he said.

MCD did not respond to the allegation. The tragic incident occurred just a few days after a two-storey building collapsed in Jahangirpuri, due to which three people died and four were injured. The building was given on rent by the owner and it was converted into a factory by the tenants.

In July, a two-month-old infant perished and five of her family members, including her parents, sustained severe injuries when a roof caved in on them in Kalkaji.

Stalking case: Police write to Instagram

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: As part of its probe into the stalking of a woman by an app-based motorbike cabbie, Delhi Police has written to Instagram seeking details of the accounts used by the accused in harassing the woman. After analysing the internet protocol detail report (IPDR), the cops have confirmed the suspect's last location in Hyderabad and will visit the city in his pursuit.

According to a police source, six Insta accounts, each of them a private account, have so far been discovered under the rider's name. Authorities speculate that he may have erased more accounts while configuring the remaining as private ones. In one, he portrays himself as obstinate yet sincere, expressing a desire for a girl who loves him genuinely. One account has him following a single person.

A police officer said they were awaiting a response from the social media platform. The woman's statement regarding the incident was documented on Aug 2. According to sources, she informed the cops about the prolonged harassment she had endured, telling them that it had reached a point where she had no alternative but to lodge a complaint.

The woman also provided numerous screenshots of messages sent to her by the stalker. "She conveyed to police that over the years,

she had been disregarding him and had even warned him, but he had failed to rectify his behaviour," a source said. Through IPDR analysis, the investigators confirmed the suspect's last known whereabouts to be in Hyderabad. "He has been present in various localities of Hyderabad, as per police observations," the source revealed.

The case registered on Aug 3 says that complainant was in Hyderabad in 2019 and had booked an app-based bike and shared her contact details with the rider, as per standard procedure. However, on the ride's conclusion, the bike cabbie contacted the woman without her consent or permission. Perturbed by this unsolicited communication, the woman reported it to the cab service provider, urging them to block the rider's account and number.

Undeterred by these measures, the rider escalated his behaviour to a more sinister level, engaging in stalking, sending inappropriate and offensive messages, even creating multiple fake social media accounts to stalk the woman. He also managed to obtain personal photographs of the victim, raising concerns about the potential invasion of her privacy and the misuse of these images.

Faced with this unrelenting and persistent harassment, the victim felt compelled to approach the cops and register a complaint.

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1	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL SIRSA	CONSTRUCTION OF VARIOUS PP STREETS IN NEWLY AUTHORIZED COLONY - (UC-5/7), M.C.SIRSA - 1 WORKS	05.08.2024 20.08.2024	8,73,00,000	https://tenders.hry.nic.in	94667699 yecmc.ansal@gmail.com

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Court upholds 45-day term of Sanjay Singh, 5 others

TIMES NEWS NETWORK
 Ayodhya: The MP-MLA court in Sultanpur has rejected the appeal of six convicts, including AAP MP Sanjay Singh and Samajwadi Party MLA Anoop Sanda, in a 23-year-old case related to a road blockade, and upheld the sentence of 45 days' imprisonment. Special sessions judge (MP/MLA) Ekta Verma issued the order on Tuesday, special public prosecutor Vaibhav Pandey said. Pandey said that on June 19, 2001, a protest was held under the leadership of Sanda against power shortage.

Beaten to death 'for not singing anthem': CBI takes over probe

TIMES NEWS NETWORK
 New Delhi: Following a Delhi High Court order, Central Bureau of Investigation has taken over the probe into the death of Faizan, who was allegedly beaten up and forced to sing the national anthem by some policemen during the 2020 northeast Delhi riots.

According to the court order, on Feb 24, 2020, Faizan had stepped out of his home in northeast Delhi to look for his mother as she had not returned from Karampuri bridge where she was participating in an anti-Citizenship Amendment Act protest along with many other women. On returning home, his mother asked her other son, Nadeem, to call Faizan on his cellphone, but the calls did not connect. However, as the riots had erupted in the locality by then, Faizan's mother and brother did not think it prudent to leave and look for him. It was revealed later that five people, including Faizan, were admitted to GTB Hospital as they had sustained injuries during rioting and stone pelting on 66-Foot Road in northeast Delhi. Faizan was discharged after treatment and taken to Jyoti Nagar police station. Later, on March 27, he died at L.N.J.P. Subsequently, a video surfaced showing Faizan and four others being beaten up "by policemen" who also forced them to sing the national anthem.

NAGAR NIGAM FIROZABAD (NNF) (UTTAR PRADESH, INDIA)

Letter No: 445/NNF/2024-25 Dt. 07-08-2024

Short Term E-Procurement Tender Notice

Chief Engineer, Nagar Nigam Firozabad invites percentage-rate bids on <http://etender.up.nic.in> from eligible bidders for the following package under the CM-GRID Scheme.

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1	Firozabad	FZD/CM G-01	Street Development of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Marg From Rasoolpur Thana to Sadar Junction.	1.2	1908.74	30.95	1939.69	30.00	15	41,300

Timeline for Tender

S.No	Event	Date & Time
1	Availability of tender document on E-Tendering portal of NIC.	10.08.2024, 12:00 Noon
2	Date & Place of Pre-bid meetings	14.08.2024, 03:00 PM Office - Urban Road Infrastructure Development Agency (URIDA), Sector-7, Gomti Nagar Extension, Lucknow-226010
3	Last date and time for submission of bid on E-Tendering Portal	23.08.2024, up to 03:00 PM
4	Opening of tender (Technical bid)	23.08.2024, 04:00 PM

Any Corrigendum/addendum or any other additional information related to the tender will be available in website/E-tendering portal i.e. <http://etender.up.nic.in>

Chief Engineer
Nagar Nigam Firozabad

कार्यालय :- मुख्य अभियन्ता, नगर निगम, सहरानपुर

पत्रांक :- 9/सावि0अनु0/नवि0सहा10/2024-25 दिनांक : 07.8.24

---ई-निविदा सूचना---

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CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

CORRIGENDUM
 No.: PCMM/CLW/HWH/E-Procurement/CORRIGENDUM/24/19, Dated: 03.08.2024. The following Corrigendum of E-Tender/s is for supply of materials for manufacture of Electric Locomotive. The Prospective/likely suppliers are requested to look up the website www.ireps.gov.in for detailed instructions please. These are E-Tenders; only electronic offer bids shall be accepted. **Sl. No. : 1011.** Tender Notice No. : Sl. No. 161 of PCMM / CLW / HWH / E-Procurement/24/32, Dated: 24/05/2024. **Sl. No 2 of P C M M / C L W / H W H / E - Procurement/CORRIGENDUM/24/18, Dated: 26.07.2024. Tender No.: 14242981A. Tender Opening Date:** Tender Opening Date is to be read as "12/08/2024" instead of existing entry. [PR4/564] PCMM/CLW/Howrah Like us on: www.facebook.com/clwrailways

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to all that the original allottee of FLAT NO. 104, TOWER-25, PARAS TIERA, SECTOR 137, NOIDA, U.P. is MR. VISHAL KESAR S/O MR. VISHAL KESAR AND MRS. SAPNA SHARMA W/O MR. VISHAL KESAR R/O H.NO-67, SECTOR-4, NANAK NAGAR, GANDHINAGAR, JAMMU AND KASHMIR-180004 has executed the registered power of attorney in favour of MR. SACHIN KESAR S/O MR. YACHESPATI KESAR R/O S-12, 3RD FLOOR, ELDECO GREEN MEADOWS, GREATER NOIDA, SECTOR PI, KASANA, P.O. KASNA DIST: GBN, UTTAR PRADESH-201310 which registered in the Registrar office of Jammu.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that Plot No. 19, Silver Oaks Avenue, Phase-1, DLF City, Gurgaon, was registered in the name of Mr. Ram Parkash Dool, S/o Sh. Amar Nath Dool, R/o 48 Eimbak Grove, Birmingham 820 1JT, United Kingdom who has expired on 31.10.2020. The following legal heirs have relinquished their rights in the said property:

LEGAL NOTICE

To whom it may concern, and more specifically to Mr. Ajay Tyagi, son of Late Sh. Bhim Singh. Please take notice that I, Geeta Tyagi, wife of Late Sh. Bhim Singh, resident of WZ-75, Village Keshapur, Vikaspuri, New Delhi-110018, hereby issue this public declaration of the termination of my parental rights and responsibilities with respect to Mr. Ajay Tyagi, born on 01.08.1988, effective from the date of this notice. I hereby declare that I have formally disowned my son, Mr. Ajay Tyagi, and have barred him from any claim or access to my movable and immovable assets, which encompass bank accounts, properties, and all other forms of assets under my name. I hereby relinquish all responsibility for, claim, interest, dispute, title, rights in the scheduled property by way of sale, inheritance, possession, succession, mortgage, lien, lease, gift, or otherwise for the same, shall intimate Mr. DLF Ltd. or the undersigned in writing with the supporting documents within twenty one (21) days from the date of this publication, failing which no third party claims, objections, disputes in respect of the said property will be entertained by my client.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE THAT, we are investigating, (i) the right, title and interest of MERITON INFOTECH PRIVATE LIMITED (CIN: U72200MH2005PTC270979), a private company having its registered office at Khatan Bhavan, 198, Janshedi Tata Road, Churhage, Ek Omkar Premises Co-Op Society, G-4, Mumbai, Maharashtra - 400020 ("Company") to leasehold land measuring 20,000 square meters bearing Plot No. G-4, Block-B situated at Sector 62, Noida, District Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh ("Property"), and (ii) shareholding rights of New Vernon Infotech ("NVI") to the extent of 58,01,673 equity shares of INR 10/- each and 4,50,884 compulsorily convertible preference shares (CCPS) of INR 10/- each of the Company, and shareholding rights of New Vernon Private Equity Limited ("NVPEL") to the extent of 1 equity share of INR 10/- of the Company ("Shares").

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SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

Plot No. 19, Silver Oaks Avenue, Phase-1, DLF City, Gurgaon, measuring 420 sq.mts

Save and except the New Okhla Industrial Development Authority

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

Union Bank of India

Stressed Asset Management, Central Office No 230, Vidhan Bhawan Marg, Nariman Point, Mumbai-400 021

Union Bank of India

Centralized Back office, National Processing Center (NPC), Central office-Anex, Mangaldev Temple Road, Pandeshwar, Mangalore-575001.

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For Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas

Ashish Jain Partner
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Will You Arrest CM Again: HC Questions ED

Asks Probe Agency If Its Plea Against Bail Holds Any Merit

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi High Court on Wednesday questioned whether the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) pending plea challenging the trial court's decision to grant bail to chief minister Arvind Kejriwal still held any merit.

The court pointed out that the CM had already been granted interim bail by Supreme Court in the excise policy-linked money laundering case, making it only an academic issue now. "Will you again arrest the CM if your petition is allowed? Answer my question. What will happen if I allow your petition? Will you arrest him again?" Justice Neena Bansal Krishna asked the ED's counsel.

In response, the ED counsel said there was no question about his arrest and that no one had declared his arrest illegal. The judge remarked that the applications filed in the case were so beautifully drafted that she got confused. "Is it for bail, illegal custody, or compensation? I am confused," she said. The matter was adjourned to Sept 5.

On July 12, Supreme Court granted interim bail to Kejriwal in the money laundering case, but the CM remains in jail as he is in judicial custody in the Central Bureau of Investigation's corruption case stemming from the excise policy of 2021-22.

During the hearing on Wednesday, the ED's counsel urged the court to take up the matter on Thursday as the additional solicitor general who had to argue the case was busy in another court. The judge said it was not possible to list the matter for Thursday and remarked that the ED appeared not to be interested in the plea anymore.

The ED counsel clarified that it was the AAP's counsel who sought a date the last time and not the probe agency, and urged the court to give a short date for arguing the matter.

On June 20, Kejriwal was granted bail by a trial court on a personal bond of Rs 1 lakh. The ED moved the high court the next day, contending that the trial court's order was "perverse", "one-sided" and "wrong-sided" and that the findings were based on irrelevant facts.

CM wants Atishi to hoist flag, BJP asks him to resign first

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: AAP on Wednesday claimed that CM Arvind Kejriwal had written to LG VK Saxena, saying that cabinet minister Atishi would hoist the national flag in his place at Delhi gov't Independence Day function.

A Raj Niwas official, however, denied receiving any communication from Kejriwal. "With regards to the claims in various sections regarding the flag hoisting on Aug 15, it is clarified that the LG secretariat is not in receipt of any such communication whatsoever," said a Raj Niwas official.

Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva claimed that as per the national flag protocol, only CM could hoist the tricolour. "If Kejriwal wants his minister Atishi to hoist the flag, he should trust her and resign, allowing her to take the oath as CM," Sachdeva said. If the CM is unable to hoist the flag, the LG will hoist it, he added. "From 1991 to 1993 and in 2014, when there was no CM in Delhi, LG had hoisted the flag," Sachdeva said.

BJP's South Delhi MP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said CM cannot nominate any of his ministers to hoist the flag in his place. "There is no such tradition, rule or example in Delhi. If Atishi wants to hoist the flag, she can hold a programme at her party's office or anywhere else," he said.

Delhi Congress chief Devendra Yadav expressed surprise that Kejriwal was concerned about who should hoist the national flag in his absence. "But he did not show any such concern when people were suffering on account of waterlogging, traffic jams, spike in vector-borne diseases and water shortage," Yadav alleged.

As I-Day draws near, vehicle thefts under cops' lens

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Police commissioner Sanjay Arora instructed officers to carry out verification of "Bangladeshi criminals", besides focusing on vehicle thefts, in the run-up to Independence Day.

During an interstate coordination meeting on Wednesday, the top cop directed the officers to check all workshops engaged in vehicle modifications and ascertain if any vehicle was modified in the past two weeks. Arora also requested them to share the motor vehicle theft database with the neighbouring states.

He emphasised checking couriers in which parcels with 'non-specific addresses' were delivered in the past two months.

Delhi Police is not taking any chances, given the high threat perception around August 15. The Special Cell chief has also met his counterparts in Mumbai for the sharing of intelligence. The officers exchanged intelligence related to terror inputs and anti-terror measures, including border checking and verifications of suspicious elements.

Issues pertaining to the movement of paragliders, drones and other flying objects from open areas were discussed and the emphasis was placed on advance information about the movement of any suspicious elements or vehicles.

"Interstate gangs operating in NCR and incidents related to the supply of illegal firearms and narcotics were also discussed. Traffic restrictions during Independence Day celebrations and measures to prevent unauthorised intrusion at borders have been strategised, and officers of other states were requested to cooperate to ensure the effective implementation of the same," police said.

A senior officer told participants that preventing the smuggling of firearms remained a priority area and the ground-level staff should be well briefed and alerted to cross-check all arms dealers' records to avoid pilferage.

The officer sought a meeting of assistant commissioners of police and station house officers with their counterparts from the neighbouring states to prevent organised crimes, narcotics trafficking, money laundering and cybercrime.

He appreciated the collaborative endeavours extended by the law enforcement agencies of the neighbouring states and hoped for more such gestures.

Court sentences 'child in conflict with law' to life for raping and murdering 5-year-old girl

Vineet Upadhyay
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: In a rare instance, a Delhi court has sentenced a child in conflict with the law (CCL) to life for raping and murdering a five-year-old girl in 2017. The Juvenile Justice Board had said that the boy, then just over 16 years old, should be tried as an adult and referred the case to a POCSO court.

The court of additional sessions judge (POCSO) Amit Sahrawat, in its order of Aug 3, noted that the boy had firstly raped a child and then "mercilessly" killed her by bludgeoning her head with rocks. "The

causation of such heinous offences itself explains the brutality caused by CCL and his criminal psychology which was existing at the time of offence," the judge said.

The court found the boy to have a negative attitude after interacting with him on his personal life and prospects. "He did not have any remorse for his misdeeds. The fact that CCL is still involved in crime and further is not remorseful shows that there is no reformation," the court observed, adding that if set free without undergoing reformation, he would possibly get involved in other crimes and "and this ob-

servaion is fortified by the criminal record of CCL".

The accused has another case registered against him as a major in 2023 for offences under Section 60 (unlawful import, export, transport manufacture, possession, sale, etc) of the UP Excise Act in Basti district of Uttar Pradesh, which remained undisclosed in the current court.

The boy was apprehended for the rape in Feb 2017 and sent into institutional care where he stayed till April 2017. He was released then till the pronouncement of the sentencing. In April this year, the court convicted him for rape and

murder and also under Section 6 of POCSO for aggravated penetrative sexual assault. Additional public prosecutor Vineet Dahiya appeared for the prosecution.

The convict, who is now almost 24 years old, had studied up to Class IV. The court said that he was "not educated enough" and reinstatement in society necessitated education and also employment during his stay in jail for his reformation and rehabilitation.

The court has directed the District Child Protection Unit to assess the youngster's reformation every year and file its follow-up report before the co-

Four-storey govt school bldg to open soon in Seemapuri

New Delhi: Education minister Atishi inspected a four-storey school building in Seemapuri on Wednesday. Govt had earlier claimed that the building was almost ready and was soon going to be opened for the public. Atishi was accompanied by Delhi assembly speaker Ram Niwas Goel during her visit to Vishwamitra Sarvodaya Vidyalaya. "Building such a magnificent school in the densely populated Seemapuri is no less than a miracle. Providing the best education to every child has been the priority of our govt," Atishi claimed.



CM Kejrwal

In response, the ED counsel said there was no question about his arrest and that no one had declared his arrest illegal. The judge remarked that the applications filed in the case were so beautifully drafted that she got confused. "Is it for bail, illegal custody, or compensation? I am confused," she said. The matter was adjourned to Sept 5.

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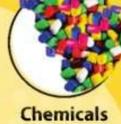
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Ambassador,
Royal Danish Embassy,
Denmark


Dr. Samir V Kamat
Secretary,
DRDO


S. Krishnan
Secretary,
MeitY, Gol


Lt. General M U Nair, AVSM, SM
National Cyber Security
Coordinator, National Security
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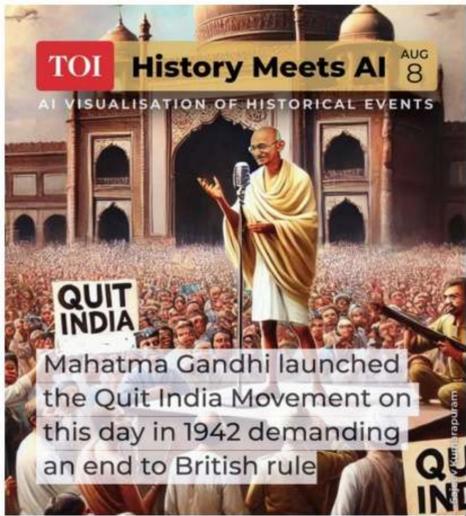
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UNDER FIRE OVER MUDA SCAM, K'TAKA CM SIDDA CALLS FOR BSY'S RETIREMENT OVER POCSO CASE

BENGAL CM MAMATA TO CAMPAIGN FOR MVA IN UPCOMING MAHARASHTRA ELECTIONS



TOI History Meets AI AUG 8
AT VISUALISATION OF HISTORICAL EVENTS

QUIT INDIA

Mahatma Gandhi launched the Quit India Movement on this day in 1942 demanding an end to British rule

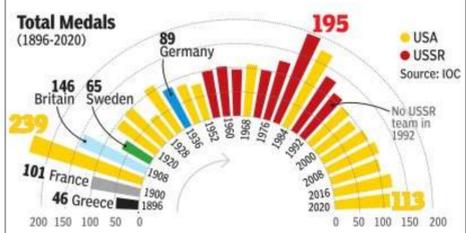
64 yrs on, dead man back home

In an unexpected twist, an 81-year-old man, who travelled to Pithoragarh in search of a job when he was around 17 and was presumed dead by his family, has miraculously returned home after 64 years, reports **Prem Punetha**. Despite various efforts to find Nar Singh in Pithoragarh and other parts of Uttarakhand, his family eventually had to accept the possibility of his demise. A few days ago, they were informed that a man who claimed to be Nar Singh was seen wandering around some 50 km away from his village.

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers **Richa Gandhi**

US Rules Oly Now, But USSR Gave It A Run For Its Money

From the inaugural 1896 Athens Games to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, US has consistently led the medal count, topping the chart for the past 7 editions. Host nations, like Greece in 1896, France in 1900, Great Britain in 1908, Sweden in 1912, and Germany in 1936, used their home advantage to top the medal tally. Until its dissolution in 1992, USSR was in a neck-and-neck fight with US for topping the Olympic table



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SHORT TERM E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

Chief Engineer, Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam invites percentage rate bids on <http://etender.up.nic.in> from eligible bidders for the following packages under the CM-GRID Scheme.

Sl. No.	Nagar Nigam	Package No.	Included Roads	Length of Street (Kms)	Estimated Cost Excluding GST (Rs. Lakh)	Total Estimated Cost of Work (Rs. in Lakh)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs. in Lakh)	Duration of Construction Work (in Months)	Tender Fee Including GST
01	Ghaziabad	GZB/CM-G-01	MOAHANANAGR BUS STAND TO AIRFORCE THROUGH MOHANANAGR CHAURAH	1.72	2051.58	4.60	2056.18	50.00	41300/-
02			SHESHANAG DWAR TO ELEVATED ROAD	0.885	1551.57	2.82	1554.39		
TOTAL					3610.57				

TIMELINE FOR TENDER

Sl. No.	Event	Date & Time
1	Availability of tender documents on E-Tender portal of NIC.	10.08.2024, 12:00 Noon
2	Date & Place of Pre-bid meeting	14.08.2024, 03:00 PM Office: Urban Road Infrastructure Development Agency (URIDA), Sector-7, Gormi Nagar Extension, Lucknow-226010
3	Last date and time for submission of bid on E-Tender Portal	23.08.2024, up to 03:00 PM
4	Opening of tender (technical bid)	23.08.2024, 04:00 PM

Tender Notice/RFP any amendment/addendum or other information in the e-tendering portal <http://etender.up.nic.in>
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NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(TENDER ID - 2024_NCC_260359_1)

Online Tenders through e-procurement system on behalf of Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi are invited up to 27.08.2024 till 12:00 noon under Two-Bid Systems for Refreshment for NCC Cadets.

The details along with applicable terms and conditions have been published on the Government e-procurement website on 05.08.2024 and can be downloaded from <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>.
Bids will be accepted on-line only.

SCHEDULE OF DATES OF E-TENDER

Date of Publishing of Bid	: 05.08.2024 (On or before)
Bid Start Date & Time	: 05.08.2024 (10:00 AM onwards)
Last Date of Physical submission of E.M.D	: 27.08.2024 (Till 11:00 AM)
Last Date of online submission of BID	: 27.08.2024 (Till 12:00 Noon)
Opening of Technical Bid of the tender	: 27.08.2024 (03:00 PM)

Opening of Financial Bid will be decided later on.

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0154/24-25

Phogat's Paris heartache turns Parliament into political dangal

PM Tells Wrestler She's The Pride Of Every Indian, Asks Usha To Explore Ways To Help Phogat Case

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi on Wednesday expressed solidarity with ace wrestler Vinesh Phogat after her heartbreaking disqualification from the Paris Olympics and spoke to Indian Olympic Association president P T Usha to lodge a strong protest with the International Olympic Committee to explore ways if the games administration could still revisit the ruling.

"The PM spoke to Usha and sought first-hand information on the issue and the options India has in the wake of Vinesh's setback. He asked Usha to explore the full range of options to help Vinesh's case," a govt source said.

Consoling Vinesh over her disqualification, Modi said on X, "Vinesh, you are a champion among champions. You are India's pride and an inspiration for each and every Indian. Today's setback hurts. I wish words could express the sense of despair that I am experiencing. At the same time, I know that you epitomise resilience. It has always been your nature to take challenges head on. Come back stronger. We are all rooting for you."

In a statement in Lok Sabha, sports minister Mansukh Mandaviya said the PM had asked Usha, who is in Paris, to take "appropriate action" in the matter. Later, he said the IOA had lodged a strong protest with United World Wrestling after Vinesh was disqualified.

Wishing many laurels in future for Vinesh, President Droupadi Murmu said she "embodied the truly indefatigable spirit of Indian women, and her epic fortitude and resilience were already inspiring future world champions from India".

Vice-President Jagdeep



THE HEAVIEST 100 GRAMS TO BEAR

This misfortune is merely an exception in her trailblazing career, from which I am sure she will bounce back to be the winner she always is. Our best wishes and support are always with her," he said.

Speaking in LS, Mandaviya said the govt had provided all the possible assistance to Vinesh which included personal staff. He said a total financial assistance of Rs 70,45,775 was given for the Paris Olympic cycle. Opposition Congress, Trinamool and Samajwadi Party protested the minister's reply and walked out of the House.

Phogat 'Victim Of BJP', Claims Congress While TMC Alleges 'Conspiracy' Behind Her Ouster

Mohua Chatterjee @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The Parliament session on Wednesday was all about Vinesh Phogat's disqualification at the Olympics. It turned into a political storm in the House, with opposition parties talking about sabotage and questioning officials for their alleged failure to save the wrestler from slipping up on the protocol and challenge her subsequent disqualification.

Both Houses witnessed

in Lok Sabha, yielding to demands for a clarification from govt. He narrated how the Centre had provided every possible help to the wrestler and gave details of the amount of funds that the govt spent on her to be at the Olympics.

Congress members Gaurav Gogoi, Deepender Hooda and Shafi Parambil protested and asked why govt was providing details of funds spent on Vinesh rather than giving reasons for failing to challenge the disqualification.

Parambil said, "I don't think it was right on the part of govt to quote the amount spent on her practice when the whole world was listening. This is not BJP leaders' personal wealth. It's the money of the people." Criticising the mention of the amount spent by govt on Vinesh's training, Congress, SP, TMC, DMK as well as independent member Pappu Yadav, Hanuman Beniwal (RLP) and Chandrashekhar Azad walked out.

In Rajya Sabha, TMC MP Derek O'Brien hinted at a "conspiracy" behind Vinesh's disqualification. Expressing solidarity with Vinesh, "who went through a lot", Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi urged IOA to strongly contest the wrestler's case, even as party MP Randeep Surjewala alleged "conspiracy" behind the disqualification of the wrestler who he said was a victim of BJP.

Rahul said, "It is unfortunate that Vinesh, India's pride, was disqualified on technical grounds. We have full hope that IOA will strongly challenge this decision and provide justice to the daughter of the country."

Surjewala alleged Vinesh was disqualified as part of a conspiracy and the answer to the plot lay in the question — "who could not digest the victory of Vinesh?"

Diplomats stay on in B'desh, families & others sent home

Sachin Parashar @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Amid the continued threat of violence in Bangladesh, India withdrew all non-essential staff and families from the Indian high commission in Dhaka. The high commission remains functional with Indian diplomats and officials going about their business as usual.

Significantly, as reports emerged that the Muhammad Yunus-led interim govt will be sworn in on Thursday, a senior functionary of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), which has had a rocky relationship with India, told TOI the party wants healthy ties with India.

"Our acting chairman (Tarique Rahman) has maintained that a country's people can change its economy, politics and govt but they can never change their neighbours. We want a healthy relationship with India," said A K M Wahiduzzaman, who is information and technology

► Related reports, P 18

affairs secretary with the BNP. The party has been invited by the military to join the interim govt.

Currently in exile in Malaysia, Wahiduzzaman is an aide to London-based Rahman who is BNP leader and Sheikh Hasina's long-time rival Khaleeda Zia's son. The official said BNP workers were working to quell violence in the country, including against minorities. "They are guarding police stations where there's no police and also temples," he said.

Asked about the choice of Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus as the head of the interim govt, Wahiduzzaman said this issue was not really of concern to the BNP as it seeks an early return to democracy. "An unelected govt for too long won't be



A girl lights a candle in Kolkata for peace in Bangladesh

Hasina still stuck in India

With asylum not forthcoming from anywhere, Sheikh Hasina remained at a "safe house" in India. Her continued presence here will likely put India in a bind as the new dispensation in Dhaka is unlikely to approve of it. Hasina's son Sajeeb Wazed was quoted as saying by a German agency Wednesday that she will likely remain in Delhi for now as there is no decision yet on moving to another place. TNN

good for Bangladesh. We want elections to be held in the next 3 to 6 months," he said, as he denied reports that Rahman has returned to Dhaka from London.

Indian officials did not confirm if they have had any contact yet with BNP which has been accused by supporters of Hasina of joining anti-India Jamaat-e-Islami in transforming students protests against Hasina into a movement for regime change.

Govt sources said the return of non-essential staff and families from Indian high commission in Dhaka had taken place on a voluntary basis and through commercial flights. "All diplomats remain there and the high commission is functional," said a source.

8 new cases of Zika in Pune, 6 of them are would-be moms

Pune: Eight new Zika cases were reported in Pune on Wednesday — taking the total number in the district to 81, reports **Steffy Thevar**.

Of the seven patients reported by Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC), six were pregnant women, while one was a 36-year-old man, who was reported to be stable. With this, the number of Zika cases in the city went up to 73. Rural Pune has reported six cases and the Pimpri Chinchwad city limits two.

The anomaly scan of at least five of the six pregnant women who were confirmed Zika positive on Wednesday was reported normal. In rural Pune, a 31-year-old from Purandar tested positive. He had travel history to Hyderabad and reported symptoms like fever and red rashes. His condition was stated to be stable.

4-year-old dies after pet Lab falls on her from 5th floor

Nishkant Kalikar @timesofindia.com

Thane: A four-year-old girl, walking with her mother on a road near her Mumbai building, died after a pet Labrador fell on her from the fifth-floor terrace.

The incident that took place on Tuesday was captured on CCTV of Chirag Mansion on Dargah Road. However, it is still unclear how the dog landed on the road — if it jumped or was thrown, said police. The canine, which suffered a couple of fractures, has been sent to a rescue centre in Karnala.

Though the mother refused to file a complaint and said she did not suspect any foul play in her daughter Sana Khan's death, Mumbai police senior inspector Anil Shinde said they are investigating the matter and will



The incident that took place on Tuesday was captured on CCTV. It is still unclear how the dog landed on the road — if it jumped or was thrown, said police

verify if the dog's owner, who allegedly keeps several canines on the building terrace, had the necessary pet licence from the civic body.

Sana was the only daughter of a caterer who had struggled for eight years to conceive her, said relatives.

Sana's maternal uncle Asif Rangrez said on Tuesday, around 4:30pm, the mother-daughter duo stepped out of Chirag Mansion A-Wing to exchange a packet of diapers at a nearby shop when the dog fell on his niece from the B-Wing terrace, injuring her. Sana was first rushed to a private hos-

pital and later transferred to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Hospital. However, upon arrival, the on-duty doctors performed an ECG and pronounced her dead.

Police arranged for the post-mortem examination at the govt hospital. The girl's final rites were performed on Wednesday.

Rangrez alleged that the dog's owner has taken over the entire terrace and keeps dogs of different breeds, possibly without proper permission. "The incident occurred because of the dog owner's negligence. Police should take action," he alleged.

College bars married girl's entry to 'save its environment'

Almora: A Class XI student was denied nod to attend classes at an inter college in Uttarakhand's Almora after her wedding. The institution said this is against its rules and that "allowing a married woman... would disrupt school's environment". It suggested she continue her education privately, reports **Yogesh Nagarkoti**.

Simran a resident of Niyaz Ganj, had been studying in Anand Singh Government Girls' Inter College since class VIII. Simran (19) wrote to Almora chief education officer Amba Balodi on Aug 6, highlighting "contradiction between govt's 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' scheme and her predicament of being denied education". Balodi told TOI there's no rule barring married women from pursuing education, and said she's been granted provisional nod to attend classes.

Is the old flavour back? Big chunk of IIT-B grads opts for core industrial jobs; tech cos pick up equal number

Hemali Chhappia @timesofindia.com

Mumbai: The old-fashioned is back in vogue. Core engineering careers seem to be in demand at the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay. The Senior Survey 2024, which mapped the time and life of IITians graduating from the Powai campus, found that an equal number are going to core industrial jobs and tech firms.

The next largest cohort will pursue masters, and then some say they will go where life takes them. Consulting and venture capital jobs, finance, and jobs in product management saw smaller numbers. One IITian said, "Now, I am going to a very good institution for a PhD. I liked my professors here, and the research opportunities I had, with the motiva-

tion I received." A total of 291 out of the 2,500 eligible students responded to the survey conducted by the IITB student newspaper, Insight. The questionnaire dwelt on the outgoing batch's academics, career, personal life, and miscellaneous matters. The survey was conducted this year after a gap of three years. Of the 288 students who answered the question on job status, 212 said they had accepted a position; 26 are currently looking for a job. For those who picked a job, interest in the work and work-life balance were crucial determining factors, following which came monetary compensation; it was the top priority for 85 students and a major factor for 114 of them. Place of posting and work culture came next as important con-



Most described the placement season as being 'frustrating', 'mostly stressful', and 'noticed some instances of unfairness or bias'

siderations. Most described the placement season as being "frustrating", "mostly stressful", and "noticed some instances of unfairness or bias". Of those who responded, 35 of them, many with a high CGPA (cumulative grade point

average), did not sit for placements, they said. Just two said they will be self-employed, indicating not many were keen on entrepreneurship. Of those graduating who responded to the question on place of posting after graduation, Mumbai and Bengaluru tied for the highest number. Forty-five of them had no clue where they are headed, and 42 are flying out of India. Gurugram, Hyderabad, Pune, and Delhi are locations others are going to.

Looking back at their time on campus, almost everyone was happy with the new curricula, calling it lighter in terms of required courses. Some said, "it aligned better with industry needs" and "courses like artificial intelligence and data science are required by everyone today." When asked further, most

claimed to have attended all classes, followed by those who said they only came to class if attendance was being recorded. When asked if attending classes was important, a lion's share answered in the positive but added it depended on the professor and the course. Apart from the material provided by faculty, many used online portals for academic purposes; very few picked books from the library.

When one looks at the personal life of students on campus, 174 of them said the academic load prevented them from spending time with friends, 102 said they were busy with extracurricular activities, but 87 were prevented from doing so because of the prohibitive cost of outings and 48 did not mingle to steer clear of drugs and alcohol.

RPF man to be tried for murder for 2023 train shooting

To Also Face Charge Of Promoting Enmity On Grounds Of Religion

Rebecca Samerivel
@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: A year after a now-dismissed Railway Protection Force (RPF) constable allegedly gunned down his senior and three passengers on the Jaipur-Mumbai Superfast Express, a sessions court Wednesday framed charges against him for several offences, including murder and promoting enmity on grounds of religion. The accused, Chetan Singh, pleaded not guilty to the charges, paving the way for the trial to commence. The maximum punishment attracted is death. Charges were also framed under the IPC for intimidation, mischief, and kidnapping with the intention of murder.

Offences under Prevention of Defacement of Property Act, Indian Arms Act, and Indian Railway Board Act were also invoked against Singh. Initially, Singh mistakenly pleaded guilty. However, after his lawyers explained the procedure and counselled him, he changed his plea. Lodged in Akola prison in Maharashtra, Singh was produced before the Dindoshi sessions court for the second time since the matter was committed there. The court granted him permission to meet his wife. The matter was adjourned to Aug 20. The sessions court framed the charges after hearing the arguments on the draft or proposed charges submitted by the prosecution.

GUNNED DOWN 4 ON MUM-JAIPUR EXP

- On July 31 last year, RPF constable Chetan Singh allegedly gunned down his senior, ASI Tikaram Meena, in coach B5 of the express train
- He then allegedly shot a passenger, Kadar Bhanpurwala, in the same coach between Vaitarna and Mira Road
- Singh then went to coach B2, where he allegedly took a passenger, Syed Saifuddin, to the pantry car at gunpoint and shot him
- Singh then allegedly shot Asghar Abbas Shaikh in coach S6 and gave a communally charged speech while standing next to the blood-splattered body



➤ It is understood that Singh had argued with Meena over leave previously as well as on the train

Arguing against the charges, Singh's lawyer submitted that at the time of the incident, he was unwell and needed rest. "Had he been given rest, this incident would not have happened. Since he wasn't well, he didn't know what hap-

pened," the lawyer argued. Referring to Section 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion) of the Indian Penal Code, the lawyer said: "The charge doesn't stand as none of the witnesses, except for a woman, have given a statement that Singh made communal statements." On July 31 last year, Singh allegedly gunned down his senior, assistant sub-inspector Tikaram Meena, in coach B5 of the express train, followed by a passenger, Kadar Bhanpurwala, in the same coach between Vaitarna and Mira Road. He then went to coach B2, where he allegedly took a passenger, Syed Saifuddin, to the pantry car at gunpoint and shot him. Singh then allegedly shot Asghar Abbas Shaikh in coach S6 and gave a communally charged speech while standing next to the blood-splattered body. Last month, on the first anniversary of the incident, the family members of the victims had expressed disappointment over the delay in commencement of the trial. In Dec, observing that he not only killed his senior but also three others from a particular community by making them specific targets and uttered words which clearly showed that he was in a well-settled position and mind to commit the murders, the court had rejected Singh's bail plea. "The case of defence cannot be considered at this stage," the judge had said. Singh's bail plea, submitted by advocates Amit Mishra and Pankaj Ghildiyal, cited mental illness and delusions of the ghostly world. Not denying the murder, the defence submitted that at this stage, one needs to see the circumstances in which he committed the act.

Polls to 12 RS seats on Sept 3, BJP may get 7

Times News Network

New Delhi: Elections to 12 vacant Rajya Sabha seats across nine states will be held on Sept 3. Seven of these 12 seats is expected to go to BJP's kitty, bringing the party's tally in the Upper House to 94. Election Commission on Wednesday announced that the notification for these polls will be issued on August 14 with the last date for filing of poll papers being August 21. Ten of the 12 seats fell vacant as the sitting members, including Union ministers Piyush Goyal, Sarbajit Sonowal and Jyotiraditya Scindia, BJP member Vivek Thakur, RJD member Misa Bharti, and Congress' Deepender Singh Hooda and K C Venugopal were elected to Lok Sabha. The actual strength of the

If BJP wins 7 seats, the support of six nominated MPs and two independents will bring NDA tally to 117 – just two short of majority

Upper House will be 237 after the result of the polls, bringing the majority mark to 119. Since BJP is expected to win 7 seats, the total tally of NDA will become 109. Though the alliance will still be short of the majority mark, the support of six nominated members and two independents will bring its tally to 117 – just two short of the majority. The governing party can, however, easily manage the majority mark with the help of friendly parties such as AIADMK, and possibly Jagan Reddy's YSRCP.




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It is hereby informed that Show Cause Notice (SCN) and Hearing Notice (HN) were issued to the Noticee mentioned in the Table below. The SCN and HN could not be served on the last known addresses available on record. The details of the SCN is provided in the Table below.

S. No.	Name of Noticee	Address of Noticee	Scrp/Case Name	Notice Date & No.
1	Commodity Pandit /Services: Proprietor- Ms. Meenu Sharma (PAN- KXYP9957R)	W/O Mr. Ramesh Chandra Sharma Govind Nagar Near Shiv Mandir, Moradabad Uttar Pradesh-244001	In the matter of unregistered Investme advisor- Commodity Pandit/Services : Prop Meenu .	SCN dated June 11, 2024 (SEBI/NRO/ NRO/NRO/ OW/P/2024/ 19396/1)
2	PC Global Research: Proprietor- Ms. Neha Goel (PAN: AVJPG5829K)	W/O Mr. Rohit Goel E-405, SPS Residency Vaibhav Khand Indrapuran Windsor Street, Market Shipra Sun City, Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh -201014	Sharma & PC Global Research : Prop :Neha Goel	SCN dated June 11, 2024 (SEBI/NRO/ NRO/NRO/ OW/P/2024/ 19399/1)

An opportunity of hearing has been granted to the Noticees on **August 20, 2024 at 11:30 P.M.** at Securities and Exchange Board of India, SEBI Bhavan - II, Plot No. C-7, G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai- 400051

The Noticee is hereby advised to collect the SCN and HN from Securities and Exchange Board of India, Northern Regional Office, 8th Floor, Plate B, Tower 1, NBCC Complex, East Kidwani Nagar, New Delhi-110023. Noticees may also download a copy of the SCN and HN from the official website of SEBI (www.sebi.gov.in) under the head "Unserved Summons/Notices" or obtain a copy of the SCN by sending a request to haria@sebi.gov.in / gyanendran@sebi.gov.in.

If the noticee desires for a hearing through online platform, the same may be informed on the email mentioned above.

In case reply is not received, or the Noticee or the authorised representative fails to appear for hearing, SEBI shall proceed further in the matter on the basis of material available on record.

Date: August 01, 2024
Place: New Delhi

Gyanendra Niraj
Deputy General Manager
Northern Regional Office
CBC 15204/11/0078/2425

KARNATAKA STATE MEDICAL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED
No.1, Dr. Siddaiah Puranik Road, KHB Colony, Magadi Road, Bengaluru - 560079, Phone: +91-80-29619801
Email: md.ksmscl@gmail.com

TENDER NOTIFICATION
Ref: 1. Tender Notification No: KSMSC/DRUGS/TND/KFD/DEPA OIL/22/2024-25 Dated: 06.08.2024

Nationwide Tender is invited through e-Tendering system under KTPP Act 1999 and Rules 2000 for the following tender:
1. TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY OF DEPA OIL UNDER KFD/NFDS PROGRAMME-2024-25 (IND-154).

Details regarding EMD, Terms and Conditions and other information are available in the Tender Document, which can be downloaded from the website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> from 06.08.2024. The eligible tenderers shall submit their e-tenders under e-procurement platform for above mentioned tenders. Further information if any may be obtained from this office.
Sd/- Managing Director,
KSMSC, Bengaluru.

UJVN Ltd.
(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprises)
H.O. "UJJWAL" Maharanji Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone-0135-2763808 Fax 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC028566 Website: www.ujvn.com

RO No. 693 TENDER NOTICE Date: 06.08.2024

Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil), MB-II, Chinyalisaur (Uttarakhand) invites sealed tender from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:
(1) Tender No: 12/EE(Civil)/MB-II/Chinyalisaur/2024-25
(2) Tender No: 13/EE(Civil)/MB-II/Chinyalisaur/2024-25

(1) Name of work:- Miscellaneous civil works at various location of Shaktipuram colony, MB-II project, Chinyalisaur, Uttarakhand.
(2) Name of work:- Restoration of Damage Pulley Foundation at draft tube floor of Dharasu Power House Complex at Dharasu, Uttarakhand.

1. Estimated Cost: Rs.9,96,572.00(excluding GST)
2. Estimated Cost: Rs. 8,27,010.00 (excluding GST)

Date of availability of bid document on website 06.08.2024 from 5:00PM
Last date for submission of tender 29.08.2024 upto 11:00AM
For fuller & further detail, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be download from the Nigam's website "www.ujvn.com"
Executive Engineer (Civil), MB-II, Chinyalisaur
"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD.
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Enterprise)
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (OPERATION & MAINTENANCE), GARHWAL ZONE, 26-CIVIL LINES, ROORKEE

E-TENDER NOTICE

Power Transmission Corporation of Uttarakhand Ltd. Invites the following e-tenders
1. Providing, fixing and installation of electric fencing at 132KV Substation Padarth against e-tender specification No. **CE/GZR-05/2024-25**. Last date of submission online/offline of e-tender is 06.09.2024 upto 15:00 hrs which shall be opened on 07.09.2024 at 15:00 hrs.
2. Work of CC & Graveling in 33KV Switchyard at 132KV Substation Laksar against e-tender specification No. **CE/GZR-06/2024-25**. Last date of submission online/offline of e-tender is 06.09.2024 upto 15:00 hrs which shall be opened on 07.09.2024 at 16:00 hrs. Details of e-tender can be obtained from e-tender website www.uktenders.gov.in and information of e-tender can be seen from PTCLU website www.ptclu.org. For any assistance on e-tendering, please contact on Mb. No. +91-8898990000.
CHIEF ENGINEER (O&M)
No.1263/CE(O&M)/GZR/AdvT. Dated: 06/08/2024
"SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF NATION"

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Tender Notice No: AGC-ELG-T-13-2024-25 Date: 02.08.2024

TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (General) N.C. Railway, Agra on behalf of President of India invites "Open Tender" through on line only (E-Tendering) for the following works.
Tender No.: AGC-ELG-T-13-2024-25

Name of work with its location & Completion Period: Electrification work in connection with Provision of track depot with all infrastructure facilities in place of existing depot due to redevelopment of Agra cantt.
Completion period: 08 months
Approx. Cost of the work: Rs. 1134416.40

For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.reps.gov.in. Tenders can only be submitted through web portal www.reps.gov.in upto 15:00 hrs on 30.08.2024. 1391/24 (ADM)
North central railways @ www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @ CPRONCR

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

The following e-Tenders can be accessed under the link www.reps.gov.in Offers for such e-Tender can be submitted only electronically by accessing the link www.reps.gov.in → login → E-Tender

Stores/Supply: Vendors may also contact the following officials to obtain clarification regarding particular tender or IREPS related information if any, Dy.CMM /HQ/CLW/Chittaranjan, 0341-2525594 or SMM/CON/HQ, 0341-2535631. Office Address: Office of the PCMM /CLW/Chittaranjan. [A] No. COS/CRJ/PUB/E-Tender/19/0162 Date: 01/08/2024. Sl. No.; Tender No.; Brief Description of Item; Quantity; Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees); Tender Closing Date & Time (IST) are as follows: [1]; 70245006; (i) Brake System Items (01 Set Consist of 04 items as in Annexure- E) as per Specification No. CLW/MS/10/031 ALT.10. [Warranty Period: 72 Months after the date of delivery]. (ii) Brake System Items (Consist of 10 items as in Annexure- F) as per Specification No. CLW/MS/10/031 ALT.10. [Warranty Period: 72 Months after the date of delivery]. (iii) Brake System Items (Consist of 03 items as in Annexure- G) as per Specification No. CLW/MS/10/031 ALT.10. [Warranty Period: 72 Months after the date of delivery]. (iv) Dummy Coupling (Consist of 02 items as in Annexure- H) as per Specification No. CLW/MS/10/031 ALT.10. [Warranty Period: 72 Months after the date of delivery]. (v) Brake System Items (Consist of 02 items as in Annexure- I) as per Specification No. CLW/MS/10/031 ALT.10. [Warranty Period: 72 Months after the date of delivery]. (vi) 44.00 Set, (ii) 33.00 Set, (iii) 22.00 Set, (iv) 11.00 Set, (v) 5.00 Set; #314840.00; 22/08/2024 at 11:00 AM. [1]; 75243837; (i) Set of Stainless Steel Hardware Items for WAG-9HC as per CLW's Specn. No. CLW/MS/3/040 Alt.-15. [As per set details attached] [Warranty Period: 72 Months after the date of delivery]. (ii) Sm. Steel Hardware items for ELAAU/DKAE as per Specn. CLW/MS/3/040 Alt.-15. [As per set details attached] [Warranty Period: 72 Months after the date of delivery]. (iii) 867.00 Set, (ii) 200.00 Set; #664720.00; 27/08/2024 at 11:00 AM. [3]; 75243842; Driver's Seat And Pedestal Assembly For WAG9HC Loco To CLW's Specn. No. CLW/MS/3/021 ALT.-9 and DRG. No. 1209-08.131-010 ALT.-7 [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]; 2848.00 Numbers; #1876250.00; 28/08/2024 at 11:00 AM. [8] No. COS/CRJ/PUB/E-Tender/19/0162 Date: 03/08/2024. Sl. No.; Tender No.; Brief Description of Item; Quantity; Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees); Tender Closing Date & Time (IST) are as follows: [1]; 70245006; (i) Brake System Items (01 Set Consist of 04 items as in Annexure- E) as per Spec No. CLW/MS/3/154 Alt.-2. Category No. R/9/0087. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]; 85.00 Set; #189640.00; 26/08/2024 at 11:00 AM. [2]; 75243861; (i) Nylon Nut Hex For WAG-9 HC Locos As Per CLW's Specn. No. CLW/MS/3/090 ALT.-8. [As per set details attached] [Warranty Period: 72 Months after the date of delivery]. (2) Nylon Nut Hex for ELAAU/DKAE (consisting of 03 items) 1) Nylon Nuts Hex. M16 x 2 P = 06 Nos(2) Nylon Nuts Hex. M16 x 4 P = 08 Nos. 3) Nylon Nuts Hex. M27 x 3 P = 16 Nos as per specn. CLW/MS/3/090 Alt. 8 [Warranty Period: 72 Months after the date of delivery]; (i) 893.00 Set, (ii) 70.00 Set; #57170.00; 30/08/2024 at 11:00 AM. [3]; 75243862; CLIPS FOR WAG-9HC (one set consist of five items as per set details attached) [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]; 825.00 Set; #0.00; 03/09/2024 at 11:00 AM. [1]; 75243863; PCMM/CLW/Chittaranjan. L1 like us on: www.facebook.com/clwrailways

Public Works Department
Sector-19, North Block, Naya Raipur (C.G.)

E-Procurement Tender Notice
E-mail: tenders-pwd.cg@gov.in
NIT No.066/TC/EinC/PWD/2024-25 Dated:-31.07.2024

The Engineer-in-Chief, Public Works Department on behalf of Governor of Chhattisgarh invites percentage rate bids on electronic tendering system under RCLPE RRP-III in the district of Kanker, Narayanpur & Bijapur for construction of 06 Bridges with estimated cost amounting Rs 1818.20 Lacs including their maintenance for five years from the contractors registered with unified registration system (e-registration) in Chhattisgarh. Non registered bidders may submit bid; however the successful bidder must get registered in appropriate class under "Unified Registration System (e-Registration) of Chhattisgarh before signing the agreement.

The bid document shall be available to bidders online free of cost and should be submitted online e-procurement system of government of Chhattisgarh in <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>. Bids form will be available on the website from 02.08.2024 and may be submitted up to 17:00 Hrs. on 13.08.2024.

For participating in bidding process, bidders are required to register in the above web-site with nominal fee of Rs 500/- to be paid online to service provider. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from authorized certifying authorities.

The bidders are required to submit (a) original bid security in approved form and (b) original affidavit duly verified and notarized as per clause 4.4 (a) (ii) and 4.4 (b) (c) to Chief Engineer, Tender Cell, First Floor, NirmanBhawan, PWD, North Block, Sector-19, Naya Raipur Atal Nagar (C.G.) 492-002 as per provisions of bid document through Speed/Registered post, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.

Detailed schedule of important dates may be seen on notice board of offices and also available on website of Public Works Department <http://pwd.cg.nic.in>

Sd/-
Chief Engineer
(Central Tender Cell)
Office of Engineer-in-Chief
P.W.D. Naya Raipur Atal Nagar (C.G.)
G-242501650/8

पर्यटन निदेशालय, उ०प्र०
सी-13, विपिन खण्ड, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ

-: सूचना -:
मुख्यमंत्री टूरिज्म फेलोशिप कार्यक्रम

पर्यटन विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश में मुख्यमंत्री टूरिज्म फेलोशिप कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत 25 शोधार्थियों के चयन हेतु अम्बथियों से ऑनलाइन आवेदन पत्र आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं। मुख्यमंत्री फेलोशिप कार्यक्रम का मुख्य उद्देश्य प्रदेश के शोधार्थियों को पर्यटन विभाग, उ०प्र० द्वारा कार्यान्वित योजनाओं के पर्यवेक्षण, अनुश्रवण, परिचर्यतिकी से जुड़े स्थलों के संवाणीय विकास, केन्द्र / राज्य सरकार द्वारा कार्यान्वित योजनाओं के समर्थन हेतु मूल्यांकन, संरचना, मेले, महोत्सवों की रूप-रेखा तैयार करना, पर्यटन क्षेत्र के अन्तर्गत राजस्व वृद्धि एवं भविष्य की आवश्यकताओं के अनुरूप पर्यटन क्षेत्र के अन्तर्गत योजनाओं की संरचना के कार्यों में पूर्ण सहभागिता का अवसर प्रदान करना है।

अम्बथियों द्वारा पात्रता, अनिवार्य अर्हता, अधिमानी अर्हता तथा अन्य विवरण को पर्यटन विभाग की वेबसाइट <https://uptourism.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है। अम्बथियों द्वारा आवेदन पर्यटन विभाग की वेबसाइट पर ऑनलाइन किया जायेगा। आवेदन ऑनलाइन करने की अन्तिम तिथि दिनांक 31/08/2024 है।

पर्यटन विभाग, उ०प्र०।

कार्यालय उप महाप्रबन्धक (तकनीकी)
उ०क०उ०वि०वो० दे०
हेदरान्द
Email - dgmdun@gmail.com
(0135-2521244)
पिन कोड: 226002

निविदा सूचना
निम्न कार्यों हेतु दि. 28.08.2024 को उ०क०उ०वि०वो० में पंजीकृत टेन्डरों से अपरान्त 3.00 बजे अनौपचारिकी कार्यालय में निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं, जो इसी दिन अपरान्त 3.30 बजे खोली जायेगी। 1. चक्रता मण्डी के क्षेत्रान्तर्गत पिछले चक्रता ग्राम पंचायत खर्क के जाखणी खेड़ा में सीसीसी मार्ग का निर्माण कार्य। जंवि-01 धरोहर धराराई रु० 15000.00, निविदा मूल्य 1000.00 + GST, समयावधि 6 माह, पंजीकरण श्रेणी 'द'। 2. उ० मण्डी स्मल, गोवागिपुर (लक्ष्मर) श्रेणी ग्राम बड़ेकी-खर्क मार्ग पर डबल ट्रैक सुधार पुलिया का निर्माण कार्य। धरोहर धराराई रु० 6500.00, निविदा मूल्य 500.00 + GST, समयावधि 6 माह, पंजीकरण श्रेणी 'द'। 3. चक्रता मण्डी के श्रेणी ग्राम सैंज तराण में PMGSY रोड से कलसिंह राणा के बाग तक सीसीसी मार्ग का निर्माण कार्य। धरोहर धराराई रु० 20000.00, निविदा मूल्य 1000.00 + GST, समयावधि 6 माह, पंजीकरण श्रेणी 'द'। 4. चक्रता के क्षेत्रान्तर्गत पिछले चक्रता ग्राम पंचायत खर्क के विवरण में होख/टैक का निर्माण कार्य। जंवि-01 धरोहर धराराई रु० 20000.00, निविदा मूल्य 1000.00 + GST, समयावधि 6 माह, पंजीकरण श्रेणी 'द'। 5. जन्पद पीठी के विकास खर्क खिर्कू में ग्राम सड़क मार्ग से गोंव, सड़क का निर्माण कार्य। जंवि-01 धरोहर धराराई रु० 14000.00, निविदा मूल्य 1000.00 + GST, समयावधि 6 माह, पंजीकरण श्रेणी 'द'। 6. जन्पद उलतकशी के पिछले नौगाँव में ग्राम पंचायत काण्डा में जन्पद लाल के चारत के पास लाले खड्ड पर आरसीसीसी पुलिया का निर्माण कार्य। जंवि-01 धरोहर धराराई रु० 18500.00, निविदा मूल्य 1000.00 + GST, समयावधि 6 माह, पंजीकरण श्रेणी 'द'। 7. चक्रता मण्डी के श्रेणी ग्राम खर्क कालसी के ग्राम पंचायत सैंज के ग्राम सैंस में रमवीर सिंह शरण सिंह के मकान से खा छानी तक सीसीसी मार्ग का निर्माण कार्य। धरोहर धराराई रु० 20000.00, निविदा मूल्य 1000.00 + GST, समयावधि 6 माह, पंजीकरण श्रेणी 'द'। नूटे - 1. धरोहर धराराई (FDR/NSC) निविदा क्रम करते समय प्राप्ति पत्र के साथ संलग्न करना अनिवार्य होगा जो कि उ०महाप्रबन्धक (तकनीकी), राज्य कृषि विधान बोर्ड, देहरादून के नाम भेजकर रहेगा। 2. निविदा दि. 27.08.2024 को सांय 5.00 बजे तक विधान बोर्ड के पंजीकृत टेन्डरों को ही श्रेणीवार विवरण की जायेगी। 3. निविदा संबंधी विवरण एवं अन्य सूचनायें कार्यालय में किसी भी कार्य दिवस में प्रातः 10.00 बजे से सांय 5.00 बजे तक देखी जा सकती हैं।

उपमहाप्रबन्धक (तकनीकी)

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Chamarajpet Division, BBMP Anganwadi Centre,
2nd Main, T.R. Mill Road, Bengaluru - 560018.

No: EE/CMP/TEND/E-PROC/05/2024-25 Date: 05-08-2024

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal Only)

The Government of Karnataka, vide G.O. No. UDD/297/MNY/2022(E), Bengaluru, Dated: 08-06-2022 has accorded in Principle approval and sanctioned budget for taking up of the works listed below.
Executive Engineer, Chamarajpet Division, BBMP, Bengaluru, invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in KPWD / BBMP registration in KPWD / CPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the works as detailed below. (Standard Tender Document - KW-4)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Comprehensive Development of Roads, Drains, Culverts, Footpaths and Other Works at Chamarajpet Division Jurisdiction. (3 Works) - Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 1000.00, EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 10.00 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh Online plus remaining balance BG / FDR)

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> from 07-08-2024. 2) Pre Bid Meeting will be held on 19-08-2024 at 11.00 Hours in the Office of the Chief Engineer (West), Bhashyam Park, Sheshadripuram, Bengaluru. 3) Tenders must be Submitted online through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal on or before 16.00 Hours on 26-08-2024. 4) Technical Bids will be Opened on the Website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> at the Office of the Executive Engineer, Chamarajpet Division on 28-08-2024 at 11.30 Hours. Further details can be had from the above office.
Sd/- Executive Engineer
Chamarajpet Division, BBMP.

DIRECTORATE OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION & INDUSTRIAL TRAINING, PUNJAB.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified for the Kashmiri Migrants and Kashmiri Pandit/Kashmiri Hindu Families (Non-Migrants) living in Kashmir valley, that the Department of Technical Education & Industrial Training, Government of Punjab after considering the guidelines issued by All India Council for Technical Education and Ministry of Human Resources Development has reserved one seat in each Engineering/ MBA/MCA/Hotel Management & Catering Technology in Thapar Institute of Engineering & Technology, Patiala, Punjab University, Engineering Colleges and Polytechnic Colleges of the State for admission of wards of Kashmiri Migrants and Kashmiri Pandit/Kashmiri Hindu Families (Non-Migrants) living in Kashmir valley for the academic session 2024-25. The counselling of the candidates shall be held on 27.08.2024 at 11:00 A.M. in the committee room of Directorate of Technical Education & Industrial Training, Punjab, Plot No. 1, Sector 36-A, Chandigarh. The last date of submission of complete application is 20.08.2024 upto 5.00 P.M. at Directorate of Technical Education & Industrial Training, Room No. 208, Plot No. 1, Sector 36-A, Chandigarh. The other details about courses and guidelines for admission and prescribed performance are available on the Directorate's website www.dte.punjab.gov.in

Amrit Talwar, IAS
Director, Technical Education & Industrial Training, Punjab, Chd.
DPR/Ph. : 26/12/1019/2023/36431

POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD.
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Enterprise)
Office of Chief Engineer, (O&M), Kumaon Zone, 220 KV S/S Campus, Kamalaganja, Haldwani-261319
Corporate ID U40101UR2004SGC028675 Mob. No. 7988179717

E-Tender Notice

Power Transmission Corporation of Uttarakhand Limited invites E-Tender of following work and the last date of submission of e-bid (Online/Offline) is 24.08.2024 upto 17:00 Hrs.

- Supply and erection of new 33KV Circuit Breaker (VCB) at 132KV S/S, Almora, 132KV S/S, Rankhet and 132KV S/S, Pithoragarh under O&M Division, PTCLU, Almora against E-Tender Specification No. CE(O&M)/PTCLU/HLD/11/2024-25, TENDER ID (2024_PTC21_74347_1).
- Supply and replacement of 145KV CVTs at 132KV S/S, Almora, 132KV S/S, Rankhet and 132KV S/S, Pithoragarh under O&M Division, PTCLU, Almora against E-Tender Specification No. CE(O&M)/PTCLU/HLD/12/2024-25, TENDER ID (2024_PTC21_74348_1).
- Assistance in carrying out miscellaneous routine works for annual preventive maintenance of various substations under 220KV O&M Division, PTCLU, Haldwani against E-Tender Specification No. CE(O&M)/PTCLU/HLD/13/2024-25, TENDER ID (2024_PTC21_74349_1).
- Assistance in carrying out miscellaneous routine works for annual preventive maintenance of various transmission lines under 220KV O&M Division, PTCLU, Haldwani against E-Tender Specification No. CE(O&M)/PTCLU/HLD/14/2024-25, TENDER ID (2024_PTC21_74350_1).
- Lightning protection works including supply and erection of surge arrestors along with surge counters and other related miscellaneous works at 220KV S/S, Haldwani under 220KV O&M Division, PTCLU, Haldwani against E-Tender Specification No. CE(O&M)/PTCLU/HLD/15/2024-25, TENDER ID (2024_PTC21_74352_1).
- Procurement of current transformers of various ratings for maintenance of 132KV S/S, Kathgodam under 220KV O&M Division, PTCLU, Haldwani against E-Tender Specification CE(O&M)/PTCLU/HLD/16/2024-25, TENDER ID (2024_PTC21_74353_1).
- Replacement of old and damaged unarmored control cables in 220KV and 132KV switchyards at 220KV S/S, Haldwani under 220KV O&M Division, PTCLU, Haldwani against E-Tender Specification No. CE(O&M)/PTCLU/HLD/17/2024-25, TENDER ID (2024_PTC21_74354_1).
- Dehydration, installation, testing and commissioning of old and used GEC MVA 132/05 MVA, 132/3KV single phase transformer at 132KV S/S, Bhowali under 220KV O&M Division, PTCLU, Haldwani against E-Tender Specification No. CE(O&M)/PTCLU/HLD/18/2024-25, TENDER ID (2024_PTC21_74355_1).

For more details please visit E-Tender Website www.uktenders.gov.in and E-Tender information is available at PTCL Website www.ptclu.org For any assistance on E-Tendering, please contact +91-8898990000

Chief Engineer (O&M)
Kumaon Zone
LETTER No. 1726/CE(O&M)/PTCLU/HLD/E-Tender (Kumaon Zone)
DATE: 06.08.2024 "Save Electricity in the Interest of Nation" PTCLU, Haldwani

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
CORPORATION LIMITED
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

No. A1P1C(C1) Date: 06.08.2024

NOTIFICATION - VERIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS -reg

Ref: [1] Recruitment Notification No. A1P1C(C1)/HK dtd: 03.08.2017. [2] Recruitment Notification No. A1P1C(C1)/NHH dtd: 03.08.2017.

KPCL in its web notification dated 03.08.2017 had invited applications online for the recruitment of AE, JE, Chemist and Chemical Supervisor Posts. The written test was conducted through KEA on 18.02.2024. Now, based on the written test scores, the lists of candidates (1:3 ratio) who are required to attend the document verification have been published on KPCL Website.

For more details please visit KPCL website: <https://kpcl.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/- Director [HR]

नगर निगम ग्रेंटर जयपुर

क्रमांक :- जसज/2024-25/83 दिनांक: 06.08.2024

निविदा सूचना सं. - 05/2024-25

केन्द्र एवं राज्य सरकार के सभी विभागों में पंजीकृत "AA" "A" श्रेणी के टेन्डरों एवं नगर निगम जयपुर के उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत निविदादाताओं से बिड अर्बिड अर्बिड (मालवीय नगर जोन) से सम्बन्धित विकास कार्यों की निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। कार्यों की अनुमानित लागत, टेन्डर बेंचे जाने तथा प्राप्त करने की तारीख, टेन्डर शर्तों आदि सम्पूर्ण विवरण निविदा सूचना संख्या-05/2024-25 दिनांक 06.08.2024 से नगर निगम, जयपुर की वेबसाइट www.jaypurmc.org पर राज्यस्थान सरकार के पोर्टल <http://spppraj.nic.in> से उपलब्ध की जा सकती है। स्टेट पब्लिक प्रोबोरिमेंट पोर्टल का Unique Bid Number (UBN) JMC2425WS060425 है।

अतिशायी अभियंता
(मालवीय नगर जोन)
नगर निगम ग्रेंटर जयपुर

राज्य संवाद/सी/24/3451

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tendering Notice No. CEN00AGC1424

Deputy Chief Engineer (Construction), North Central Railway, Agra Cantt for and on behalf of the President of India invites in Two packet (E-R) open tender on prescribed forms on line (E-Tendering). Tender offer can be submitted online upto 15:00 hours of 30.08.2024, on website <http://reps.gov.in>. The details of the tenders are as under:-

Tender No.	Approx Cost	Earnest Money in Rs.
E-Tender Notice No. CEN00AGC1424	Rs. 57.79 Crore (App.)	30,39,900.00/-

Description of work: P. Way Track linking, transportation of P. way material, supply & stacking of ballast, leading out of ballast. At welding and other ancillary works between Papera station - Bandikui station in connection with doubling of AF-BKI section (KM 72.00 to KM 148.40).

Completion period: 08 Months including harvest & monsoon period.
Date of opening: 30.08.2024, Validity : 90 days. Note : For complete details and submission of tender please see Indian Railway's website <http://www.reps.gov.in>

1399/24 (D)
North central railways @ www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @ CPRONCR

NAGPUR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
Transport Department

TENDER NOTICE

Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC), Invites Bids for Procurement, Operation and Maintenance of 250 Nos. Standard (12 meter) AC fully Built Pure Electric Buses along with Supply, Installation and Commissioning of fast Charging Infrastructure on wet leased Basis for Nagpur Urban Region. Availability of Bid Documents: From 06/08/2024 To 20/09/2024 up to 4.30 pm. on www.mahatenders.gov.in. RFP Document fees: Rs. 17,700/- (Including GST) and EMD Rs. 2,18,50,000/- (Paid online / in Form of BG), Pre-Bid meeting on 20/08/2024. Written queries to be submitted on or before 19/08/2024 till 5.30 pm. on email id nmctransport01@gmail.com. Bid Submission date: 20/09/2024 up to 4:30 pm. Technical Bid Opening date: 23/09/2024 at 11:00 am. The NMC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the bids without assigning any reason there of in the interest of the Nagpur Municipal Corporation.

Transport Manager
Transport Department
NMC, Nagpur
AdvT No : 260/PR,
Dt : 06/08/2024

SAMAGRA SHIKSHANA-KARNATAKA
Office of the State Project Director,
New Public Offices Annexe Building,
Nrupathunga Road, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560001.

No.SSK/G.K/NEP-Cell/2024-25 Date: 06.08.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through kpp portal Only)

Re-Tender regarding manufacturing and supply of Solid TLMs to Government Schools in Karnataka.

With reference to the above subject eligible organizations in the field of manufacturing and supplying of Solid Teaching Learning Material for classes 1 to 5 may apply through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal-Website: <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> Last date for receipt of tender is 20.08.2024, IST 5.30 PM.

Sd/-
State Project Director
Samagra Shikshana-Karnataka
DIPR/CP/JA/1338/2024-25

DELHI POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT,
(GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI)
5TH FLOOR, ISBT BUILDING, KASHMERE GATE, DELHI-06
visit us at : <http://dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in>

DELHI POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT,
(GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI)
5TH FLOOR, ISBT BUILDING, KASHMERE GATE, DELHI-06
visit us at : <http://dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in>

TENDER NOTICE

Delhi Pollution Control Committee invites open e-tendering for Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Online Monitoring Station (OLMS) 32 nos. with 5 Years of Operation and Maintenance. Details of the instrument required specifications, Eligibility and Pre-Qualifications to bid and instructions are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in> and DPCC website <http://dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in>.

Member Secretary
Delhi Pollution Control Committee

Information Kerala Mission
(Local Self Government, Government of Kerala)
Public Office PO, Trivandrum-695 033

Empanelment of IT Service Partner (ITSP) -Application inviting for Empanelment of Companies for Partnering with IKM in Developing the K-SMART Application.

Information Kerala Mission invites interest from reputed organizations for Empanelment of Companies for Partnering with IKM in Developing the K-SMART Application. Details are available in IKM's website (www.ikm.gov.in). Last date of submission of response to is 30.08.2024, 5pm. Phone No: 0471-273100, 935677746, 8129783800.
RO No. DJ476/2024&PRD

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate identity Number : U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website : www.pspcl.in Mobile No. 96461-55525

E-Tender Enq. No. 7591/P-3/EMP-12761 Dated 06.08.24

Dy. Chief Engineer/Headquarter (Procurement Cell-3) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2024_POWER_125048_1 for Procurement of MSRL tank for Storage of HCL acid in DM Plant Stage-II at GGSSTP, Rupnagar. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 07.08.2024/01.00 PM onwards.

Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
RTP-81/24, DPR/Ph. 76155/12/324/02/3/36472

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate identity Number : U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website : www.pspcl.in Mobile No. 96461-22067

Short Term E-Tender Enq. No. 7586/P-1/EMP-12751 Dated 05.08.24

Dy. Chief Engineer/Headquarter (Procurement Cell-1) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2024_POWER_125048_1 for Procurement of Special purpose Welding Electrodes for the year 2024-25. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 06.08.24/02.00 PM onwards.

Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
RTP-80/24, DPR/Ph. 76155/12/324/02/3/36455

Office of the Superintending Engineer, Construction Circle, Uttarakhand Pejal Nigam, Haldwani, Distt-Nainital
(E-mail: [sepeyal_ntl@yahoo.co.in</](mailto:sepeyal_ntl@yahoo.co.in)

Padmanabhan to receive first Vigyan Ratna award

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Celebrated bio-chemist Govindarajan Padmanabhan was selected for the first 'Vigyan Ratna' award, the top-most science award in the country, while IISc's Chandrayaan-3 team was selected for the first 'Vigyan Team' award with the govt on Wednesday announcing 33 names for the 'Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar' 2024 under four categories.

Padma Bhushan awardee Padmanabhan is an honorary professor at IISc, Bengaluru.

The list of 33 awardees include 18 'Vigyan Yuva: Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar' award for young scientists and 13 'Vigyan Shri' awards. The awards will be presented by President Droupadi Murmu in Rashtrapati Bhavan on National Space Day August 23.

'Vigyan Ratna' will be awarded to recognise lifetime achievements and contributions in a given field of science and technology, whereas 'Vigyan Shri' will be given to recognise distinguished contributions. 'Vigyan Yuva' award is meant to recognise and encourage young scientists while 'Vigyan Team' award will be given to a team

RASHTRIYA VIGYAN PURASKAR - 2024

Vigyan Ratna | Govindarajan Padmanabhan (Biological Sciences)

Vigyan Shri
Anandharamkrishnan C (Agricultural Science), Avesh Kumar Tyagi (Atomic Energy), Umesh Varshney (Biological Sciences), Jayant Bhalchandra Udgaonkar (Biological, Sciences), Syed Wajih Ahmad Naqvi (Earth Science), Bhim Singh (Engineering Sciences), Adimurthi Adi (Mathematics and Computer Science), Rahul Mukherjee (Mathematics and Computer Science), Sanjay Behari (Medicine), Lakshmanan Muthusamy (Physics), Naba Kumar Mondal (Physics), Annapurni Subramanian (Space Science and Technology), Rohit Srivastava (Technology and Innovation)

Vigyan Yuva | Krishna Murthy S L (Agricultural Science), Swarup Kumar Parida (Agricultural Science), Radhakrishnan Mahalakshmi (Biological Sciences), Aravind Penmatsa (Biological Sciences), Vivek Polshettiwar (Chemistry), Vishal Rai (Chemistry), Roxy Mathew Koll (Earth Science), Abhilash (Engineering Sciences), Radha Krishna Ganti (Engineering Sciences), Purabi Saikia (Environmental Science), Bappi Paul (Environmental Science), Mahesh Ramesh Kakde (Mathematics and Computer Science), Jitendra Kumar Sahu (Medicine), Pragna Dhruv Yadav (Medicine), Urbasi Sinha (Physics), Digendranath Swain (Space Science and Technology), Prashant Kumar (Space Science and Technology), Prabhu Rajagopal (Technology and Innovation)

Vigyan Team | IISc team Chandrayaan 3 (Space Science and Technology)

comprising three or more scientists who have made an exceptional contribution. The govt had instituted 'Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar' in Jan by rationalising all science awards in the coun-

try on the lines of Padma awards where the awardees will be given a medallion and 'sanad' (citation). Unlike earlier science awards, Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar will not have a cash component.



3 decades on, Andhra removes 2-child norm for civic body polls

Srikanth.Aluri@timesofindia.com

Vijayawada: Amidst concerns about declining population in the state, Andhra Pradesh govt Wednesday decided to do away with the two-child norm for candidates contesting local and civic body elections.

The state cabinet approved a resolution to make necessary amendments to AP Municipal Corporations Act, 1994, and Panchayat Raj Act, 1994, which together barred people with more than two children from contesting elections to local and civic bodies. The move, govt feels, will help in better demographic management of the declining Telugu population.

This comes at a time when the delimitation freeze is likely to end in 2026. There is growing fear in southern states like Andhra, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Telangana that they will be penalised for successfully controlling their population, compared to other regions. Delimitation may lead to fewer Lok Sabha seats in these states. States which have strictly implemented a two-child policy are also complaining about lesser share in central funds, as devolution is often based on population.

HC overturns 2 DMK mantris' acquittal in DA cases

Sureshkumar.K@timesofindia.com

Chennai: Madras high court Wednesday set aside acquittal of DMK ministers KKSSR Ramachandran and Thangam Thennarasu in separate corruption and disproportionate assets cases, and asked a Virudhunagar special court to frame charges against them.

Ordering restoration of the cases, Justice N Anand Venkatesh directed revenue minister Ramachandran and finance minister Thennarasu

to appear before trial court on Sept 9 and Sept 11, to execute bonds for their appearance, as and when summoned.

Allowing two suo motu revision petitions against the discharge and acquittal of the ministers after DMK took office, the judge said the closure report filed by Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-corruption shall be treated as a supplementary report. Prima facie materials are available to frame charges, HC noted.

"To the best of the court's knowledge, the modus op-

erandi to detonate criminal prosecutions against politicians misusing power of probe under CrPC is homegrown in Tamil Nadu and doesn't find a parallel anywhere in India. This court must, therefore, deal with the situation with an iron hand, lest this becomes an inspiration for nefarious acts in other states, who are facing criminal prosecutions," Justice Venkatesh noted.

HC observed the special court has committed a manifest error by exceeding its jurisdiction and discharging

the accused by relying upon tested materials gathered by the subsequent IO in the "final closure report" and treating them as genuine, he said. The judgments are a model of how a judgment should not be written, HC said. "...One of the most striking aspects in both cases is the meticulous manner in which DVAC officials colluded with each other to ensure that criminal trials against two sitting ministers are indecently buried within the precincts of the special court," the judge said.



Regd. Office: 3rd Floor, Maker Chambers IV, 222, Nariman Point, Mumbai 400 021
Phone: +91-22-3555 5000 • Fax: +91-22-2204 2268 • E-mail: investor.relations@ril.com
CIN: L17110MH1973PLC019786

NOTICE FOR THE ATTENTION OF MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY FORTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (POST-IPO) AND INFORMATION ON E-VOTING

Notice calling the Forty-seventh Annual General Meeting (Post-IPO) ("AGM") of the Company, scheduled to be held in compliance with applicable circulars issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and the Securities and Exchange Board of India, through Video Conferencing ("VC") / Other Audio Visual Means ("OAVM") on **Thursday, August 29, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. IST**, and the standalone and consolidated audited financial statement for the financial year 2023-24, along with Board's Report, Auditors' Report and other documents required to be attached thereto, have been sent on **August 7, 2024**, electronically, to the members of the Company. The Notice of AGM and the aforesaid documents are available on the Company's website at www.ril.com and on the website of the Stock Exchanges, i.e., BSE Limited ("BSE") and National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE") at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com, respectively, and on the website of Company's Registrar and Transfer Agent, KFin Technologies Limited ("KFinTech"), at <https://evoting.kfintech.com>.

The documents referred to in the Notice of the AGM are available electronically for inspection by the members from the date of circulation of the Notice of the AGM. Members seeking to inspect such documents can send an e-mail to rilagm@ril.com mentioning his / her / its folio number / DP ID and Client ID.

Remote e-voting and e-voting during AGM:

The Company is providing to its members, facility to exercise their right to vote on resolutions proposed to be passed at AGM by electronic means ("e-voting"). Members may cast their votes remotely on the dates mentioned herein below ("remote e-voting"). The Company has engaged the services of KFinTech as the agency to provide e-voting facility.

Information and instructions comprising manner of voting, including voting remotely by members holding shares in dematerialised mode, physical mode and for members who have not registered their email address has been provided in the Notice of the AGM. The manner in which (a) persons who become members of the Company after despatch of the Notice of the AGM and holding shares as on the Cut-off Date (mentioned herein); (b) members who have forgotten the User ID and Password, can obtain / generate the User ID and Password, has also been provided in the Notice of the AGM.

The remote e-voting facility will be available during the following voting period:
Commencement of remote e-voting: **1:00 p.m. IST on Saturday, August 24, 2024**
End of remote e-voting: **5:00 p.m. IST on Wednesday, August 28, 2024**

The remote e-voting will not be allowed beyond the aforesaid date and time and the remote e-voting module shall be forthwith disabled by KFinTech upon expiry of the aforesaid period.

Members attending the AGM who have not cast vote(s) by remote e-voting will be able to vote electronically ("Insta Poll") at the AGM.

Only a person, whose name is recorded as on the Cut-off Date, i.e., Thursday, August 22, 2024, in the Register of members / Register of beneficial owners maintained by the Depositories, shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting or voting through Insta Poll.

Manner of registering / updating e-mail address:

- Members holding shares in physical mode, who have not registered / updated their e-mail address with the Company, are requested to register / update their e-mail address by submitting Form ISR-1 (available on the website of the Company at www.ril.com) duly filled and signed along with requisite supporting documents to KFinTech at Unit: Reliance Industries Limited, Selenium Tower B, Plot 31 & 32, Gachibowli, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Hyderabad 500 032.
- Members holding shares in dematerialised mode, who have not registered / updated their e-mail address with their Depository Participant(s), are requested to register / update their e-mail address with the Depository Participant(s) where they maintain their demat accounts.

In case of any query pertaining to e-voting, members may refer to the "Help" and "FAQs" sections / E-voting user manual available through a dropdown menu in the "Downloads" section of KFinTech's website for e-voting: <https://evoting.kfintech.com>.

Members are requested to note the following contact details for addressing queries / grievances relating to e-voting, if any:

Shri V. Balakrishnan, Vice President
KFin Technologies Limited
Unit: Reliance Industries Limited
Selenium Tower B, Plot 31 & 32, Gachibowli, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Hyderabad 500 032
E-mail: evoting.ril@kfintech.com
Toll-free No. 1800 309 4001 (from 9:00 a.m. (IST) to 6:00 p.m. (IST) on all working days)

Joining the AGM through VC / OAVM:

Members will be able to attend the AGM through VC / OAVM, through JioMeet, at <https://jiomeet.jio.com/rilagm>. The information about login credentials to be used and the steps to be followed for attending the AGM are explained in Note no. 9 of the Notice of AGM. Members who have cast their vote(s) by remote e-voting may also attend the AGM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote(s) again at the AGM.

By order of the Board of Directors
Sd/-
Savitri Parekh
Company Secretary and
Compliance Officer

Place: Mumbai
Dated: August 8, 2024

www.ril.com

Govt: Kavach on Del-Mum, Del-Howrah lines by Mar '25

New Delhi: After the Kanchanpura tragedy, railways will come out with a unified subordinate rules in the next 10 days that will specify speed and precautions that loco pilots need to take when there is signal failure in automatic signalling sections to avoid misinterpretation by drivers.

The national transporter will prioritise Kavach deployment on such sections (5,000 km) and will also roll out installing of the automatic train protection (ATP) system in 10,000 locos and 9,000 km track from Oct.

Railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said tenders for these works will be out in the next three months. The section on which Kavach will be deployed include Mumbai-Chen-

nai and Chennai-Kolkata rail corridors. Vaishnaw said Kavach system will be fully deployed on Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Howrah stretch by March 2025. He added that railways can deploy 4,000 km of the protection system annually.

"With this we will have Kavach installed in half of the locos or train engines," he said. Officials added that all new trains will come pre-installed with Kavach 4.0. The system prevents trains from exceeding safe speeds or 'Passing Signals At Danger' and automatically controls train's speed and can apply brakes to prevent accidents, if the pilot fails to do so.

Currently, 1,465 route kilometres of railway network have the Kavach system. **TNN**



PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that, under the instructions of our client, we are investigating the rights, title, entitlement and interest, including but not limited to any development rights, FAR, FSI, entitlements, etc. of Badi Logistics Private Limited, a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013 and having its registered office at 609A, 6th Floor, Block E, International Trade Tower, New Delhi, South Delhi, Delhi, India - 110019 ("Land Owner"), over the land measuring 189 Kanal 07 Marla i.e. approximately 23.66875 (twenty three point six six eight seven five) acres comprised under Rectangle no. 58, Killa nos. 2/2/1/1 (1-0), 9/3 (3-8), 12/1 (3-8), 11/1 (6-7); Rectangle no. 59, Killa nos. 14/2/1 (2-19), 14/2/2 (3-19), 15/1 (6-14), 15/2 (0-8), 25 (8-0), 16/1 (0-9), 16/2 (7-11), 17/1 (4-0), 17/2 (4-0), 23 (8-0), 24/1 (6-16), 24/2 (1-4); Rectangle no. 79, Killa nos. 3 (8-0), 8 (8-0), 9 (7-2), 12 (8-0), 13/1/1 (2-3), 28 (0-18), 4 (8-0), 5 (8-0), 6 (8-0), 7 (8-0), 13/2 (1-16), 14 (8-0), 15 (8-0), 17/1 (6-0), 17/1 (6-0); Rectangle no. 80, Killa nos. 10 (7-8), 11 (7-8); Rectangle no. 58, Killa nos. 11/2 (1-5), 20 (7-12), 21/1 (0-13), 21/2 (6-19); (collectively "Land"), Village Jahangirpur, Tehsil Badi and District Jhajjar, Haryana.

Any person(s) or entity(s) including but not limited to any bank or financial institution having or claiming or asserting to have any rights, title, interest, demand, estate in respect of the Land or to any part thereof including but not limited to any tenancy rights, leasehold rights, development rights, FAR, FSI, entitlements, etc. of any nature whatsoever and, or any claim, by way of, under or in the nature of any sale, exchange, assignment, charge, gift, license, lease, tenancy, inheritance, lien, mortgage, hypothecation, encumbrance, pending litigation, possession, contract agreement, development rights, partnership, family arrangement, settlement, partition, decree or order of any court of law, acquisition by government or any entity, prohibition or any other impediment with respect to the Land, or any part thereof and, or having any objection(s) of any manner whatsoever, are hereby required to give notice in writing to the undersigned of any such claim, accompanied with all necessary and supporting documents and other proofs within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication hereof, failing which it will be presumed that no party or person has any right, title, interest, entitlement, claim, share, demand in the Land of any nature whatsoever, and the Land Owner is vested with absolute, clear and marketable title and interest in the Land, and the claim or objection, if any, has been knowingly waived and thereafter no claims or objections of any sort from any person will be entertained and taken into consideration, and shall not be binding on our client.

Advocates Hardeep Sachdeva, Abhishek Awasthi and Nupur Singh
AZB & Partners
A-8, Sector-4, Noida-201301
Emails: hardeep.sachdeva@azbpartners.com
abhishek.awasthi@azbpartners.com
nupur.singh@azbpartners.com

Dated: 08 August 2024

WORLD LEADERS FORUM

VISA presents

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

WORLD LEADERS FORUM

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Cong to push for removal of 50% reservation cap, seek quotas in big projects outsourced by govt

Subodh.Ghildiyal@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: With the quota space shrinking at a rapid rate, Congress is set to ratchet up pressure for removal of 50% ceiling on reservation and push for quotas in the big projects outsourced by govt. The decision came as the party decided to hold consultations within and outside on the sub-categorisation of Scheduled Castes to finalise its stance in the wake of the recent Supreme Court judgement.

A brainstorming by the Congress brass, led by Mallikarjun Kharge, with key leaders, decided to hold extensive dialogue with the party's state units, chief ministers, INDIA bloc allies and civil society members for feedback on the sensitive issue.

Sources said the meeting elicited individual views of participants. Many of them criticised the judgment's extension of "creamy layer"

concept to SCs and STs. Meanwhile, in Lok Sabha, DMK's A Raja slammed "creamy layer" for SCs/STs and urged govt to introduce safeguards to protect the rights of the two communities in the light of the court judgement.

The participants discussed the pros and cons of sub-classification while also quoting the views of BSP's Mayawati and BJP ally LJP's Chirag Paswan — both have opposed it.

The meeting included Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, KC Venugopal, Abhishek Singhvi, Vivek Tankha, Charanjit Channi, Kumari Selja, PL Punia, Mukul Wasnik, Randeep Surjewala, Udit Raj, Rajesh Lillothia, Nasir Hussain and Jairam Ramesh.

While the Congress, like other parties, is treading with caution on sub-categorisation, party insiders felt there was need to up the pressure on other fronts where the longstanding reservation pie is shrinking. Udit Raj



Olympic medalist Manu Bhaker with Sonia Gandhi in Delhi on Wednesday

said the party will renew its demand that the 50% bar on total SC/ST/OBC reservation be relaxed through a constitutional amendment. Also, the

Congress will ask govt to fill "backlog vacancies" and institute quotas in outsourced projects — the logic being that outsourcing of govt work is leading to erosion of reservation available in govt appointments. There is also likely to be increased rhetoric against privatisation of PSUs.

Meanwhile, civil society groups will hold a nationwide bandh against sub-categorisation on Aug 21, and will see the involvement of some Congress leaders too.

Many feel that sub-categorisation also concerns tribals, besides Dalits, and discussions will have to include the ST representatives. The Congress meeting did not have any ST member. The issue is of special concern to election-bound Maharashtra and Jharkhand because of their large SC/ST population, while Haryana has the highest dalit population in the country after Punjab.

Guj ATS busts drugs units, arrests four

The Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) raided a flat in Maharashtra's Bhiwandi Tuesday and busted a mephedrone manufacturing unit, seizing 793.23kg liquid MD worth around Rs 800 crore and arresting two men. A joint team of ATS and SOG also busted a tramadol making ring in Bharuch, confiscating 1,410 litres of liquid tramadol — worth over Rs 31 crore, and arrested two men. TNN

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EMPLOYMENT NOTICE
Applications are invited from suitable candidates for the post of TGT SST, TGT MATH, PRT, Special Educator and Office Superintendent on contractual basis for academic session 2024-25. Interested candidates may submit resume on or before 30 August 2024 on email ID afpsanchwati@gmail.com. For more details, please visit school website www.afpsanchwati.com.

Youth Cong worker held for TN BSP chief's murder

Police Wednesday arrested TN Youth Congress office-bearer N Aswathaman in connection with the murder of BSP state chief K Armstrong, reports A Selvaraj. Aswathaman is the son of Nagendran, convicted for the 1997 murder of history-sheeter Stanley Shanmugam. Police said Aswathaman wanted to kill Armstrong for slapping a case on him and standing in the way of his plans to contest lawyers' association election in Chennai lower courts. They also suspect his father may have plotted the murder to settle a personal score.

CSIR-HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT GROUP
CSIR COMPLEX, LIBRARY AVENUE, PUSA, NEW DELHI-110012
ADVERTISEMENT FOR ENGAGEMENT OF CONSULTANTS
It is proposed to engage eligible retired employees of CSIR/Central Autonomous Bodies/Central Government/PSUs as Consultants in CSIR - Human Resource Development Group (HRDG). 2 consultants at the level of retired Section Officer or equivalent (Pay Level 8 of pay matrix) and 5 consultants at the level of retired Assistant Section Officer or equivalent (Pay Level 7 of pay matrix) are proposed to be engaged. All eligible retired employees may attend the Walk-in-interview, along with their applications (in the prescribed format) and copies of necessary documents, being held at 10 AM on 14-08-2024 in the Conference Room of CSIR-HRDG. No TA/DA is payable for attending the walk-in-interview. For detailed advertisement, please visit www.csirhrdg.res.in. CBC 36202/11/0003/2425

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NOTE
• Allotment of Seats are on the basis of First Come & First Serve.
• Last date for Admission : 28.08.2024
• Last date to Apply : 22.08.2024
• Date of written examination at RSAC-UP : 27.08.2024
CONTACT HEAD, SCHOOL OF GEOINFORMATICS DIVISION, RSAC-UP, LUCKNOW
Mob : 8765977668, Email: rsacuprsgs@gmail.com & shuklasudhakar@gmail.com
For details please visit website rsac.up.gov.in or Fill the Google Form: <https://forms.gle/BGfjP7bxz3Fq2x9>

Thin & Fair? Brides-to-be Say It's Time To Not Care

Yashaswini.Sri@timesofindia.com

Fair. Beautiful. Thin. These attributes once part of matrimonial ads are making way for the new beauty gauge—confidence, intelligence, emotional maturity and a touch of 'chocolate/caramel skin'—as society is fully primed to shift from long-held, long-unquestioned societal norms. Boxed in by narrow beauty standards perpetuated by matrimonial advertisements with trite descriptors, young women and brides-to-be are coming under unrealistic expectations and pressure. Now, the kids on the marriage block are embracing their authentic selves. Brides-to-be are among the worse impacted by societal pressure to meet beauty standards, often feeling the need to conform to certain ideals just to find a suitable partner. However, a new generation is pushing back against these narrow definitions of beauty.

Jenny John, 24, shared her journey of self-acceptance with TOI. Once told her 'dark' skin would make marriage prospects tough, Jenny now celebrates her "chocolate/caramel skin"

as an asset. "I feel it's my strength, my beauty. I don't wonder or fear anyone about getting married. I know there will be people who will love me for who and what I am intrinsically," she said.

Bride-to-be Meghna K expressed similar sentiments. After years of feeling pressured to conform to societal beauty standards, she's now embracing her brown skin and curvy body.

"Growing up, I felt I had to fit certain descriptions to be considered worthy. But now, I realise how limiting and harmful these ideas are. I've decided to reject outdated norms and embrace my true self," she said.

It's not just young adults and brides-to-be. Teenagers have also felt the pressure of this matrimonial culture. "For years, I felt pressured to be fair and slim because that's what I saw in matrimonial ads," said Reshma Shirin, a 19-year-old student.

"It took me years to take pictures without filters that whitewash us. Society wants us to be whitewashed; when we try, they call us fake. It's all about the right people who make you feel loved for being yourself. No filters. No whitewashing."

Just pure love from people who appreciate your beauty, both inside and outside," she added.

Matchmakers across Bengaluru have noticed this shift in attitudes. Meenaka Kumar, a seasoned matchmaker, observed that men are no longer solely focused on physical appearances, and women are crafting more honest, empowered profiles. "People are looking for traits like smart, financially independent, and politically aware partners," Kumar noted, indicating a broader change in marriage priorities. Poonima Bhasker, a relationship adviser, echoed these observations. She highlighted that women are making smarter choices and valuing their confidence, intelligence, and emotional maturity over traditional beauty standards.

Beauty brand Dove, in partnership with TOI, is trying to turn traditional matrimonial promoting outdated beauty standards into empowering "motherhoods" that inspire society to see brides beyond stereotypes. (*motherhoods.com site, enabled with AI, is also assisting women to express themselves better*)



9 women killed in fields in 14 mths, Bareilly cops hunt for 3 suspects

Sandeep Rai & Asif Ansari | TNN

Meerut/Bareilly: In a rural patch of Bareilly district, a shadow of fear looms large as nine women have been found murdered over the past 14 months in chillingly identical manner. Spanning a 25km radius and encompassing villages under two police stations, these gruesome discoveries have revealed a disturbing but distinct pattern. The victims, all aged between 45 and 55, were found strangled in fields around noon, with their clothes dishevelled but no signs of sexual assault.

Uttar Pradesh DGP Prashant Kumar told TOI on Wednesday, "Our teams have been investigating this case for six months and have

Cops have not ruled out the possibility of a serial killer due to the nearly identical modus operandi behind the murders

not ruled out the possibility of a serial killer due to the nearly identical modus operandi behind the murders. Based on some leads, we have now released sketches of three suspects."

The nightmare began in June last year when the first body was found, and the latest victim was a 45-year-old woman in the Shahi Sheeshgarh area on July 3. By November, the body count had escalated to eight, causing

panic among residents. Three men were arrested but the murders continued.

The killings took a hiatus of seven months, only to resume with the latest murder on July 3. Bareilly SSP Anurag Arya said, "The pattern is clear — strangulation around noon, bodies dumped in farms, and post-mortem ruling out sexual assault. Our investigations, including electronic surveillance, have hit a dead end." Officials are now scrutinising details of prisoners recently bailed or released.

Sharif Khan, Dharampura gram pradhan, said, "Despite constant vigilance, the killer remains at large. We have advised our women to move around in groups."

Seeking removal of posts globally hurts int'l law, X tells HC

New Delhi: Microblogging platform X has told the Delhi high court that any direction to remove posts globally would be contrary to international law and amount to encroaching on the sovereignty of other nations.

Responding to a contempt application moved by journalist Rajat Sharma, X said the argument that an Indian court can decide what information people outside the country can access would mean that foreign courts could dictate what Indian citizens can or cannot access on the Internet, based on their laws.

The affidavit added that X respects India's right to enforce its laws within its jurisdiction. TNN

F. No. P.15025/60/2021-FR
Government of India
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Department of Health & Family Welfare
(Food Regulation Section)
Re-advertisement for filling up the post of Chairperson in Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
In continuation of advertisement NO. CBC 17102/11/0021/2324 published in employment news dated 8.07.2023, the Government of India, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) invites applications for the post of Chairperson in FSSAI, New Delhi. FSSAI is an autonomous body under the MoHFW. The closing date of receipt of application will be 31.08.2024. The applications already received against the advertisement No. CBC 17102/11/0021/2324 dated 8.07.2023 will be considered for the post. The proforma for sending the application and other details can be downloaded from www.mohfw.gov.in or dopt.gov.in or fssai.gov.in.
CBC 17102/11/0008/2425
(G A Raghuvanshi)
Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

Institute for Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine (iBRIC-inStem)
(An AI under the Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council,
Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India)
GKVK Post, Bellary Road, Bangalore - 560 065.
Ph:080-61948217 (www.instem.res.in)
Advertisement No. inStem/01/2024
Online Applications are invited from suitable candidates at the Institute for Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine (iBRIC-inStem) on Direct Recruitment failing which by Deputation/Absorption basis for the following Scientific cadre position with all admissible allowances as applicable to Central Autonomous Institute's employees posted at Bangalore.

Sl.	Post Code	Name of the Post	Level in Pay Matrix (as per 7 th CPC)	Category	No. of vacancy
1	01/24	Reader/Assistant Professor/Assistant Investigator (Scientist-E)	PL-13	OBC(NCL)	01(One)
2	02/24	Fellow-E/ Scientist-D	PL-12	OBC(NCL)	01(One)
3	03/24			Unreserved	01(One)
Total					03 (Three)

Please visit <https://www.instem.res.in/facultypositions/> for complete advertisement, method of applying, other terms and any subsequent revisions/corrigendum. Last date for receipt of online application is 27.08.2024
CBC 36304/11/0001/2425 Director, iBRIC-inStem

NAGAR NIGAM, VARANASI
(UTTAR PRADESH, INDIA)
Nit No: RE-01/CE/2024-25 Dt. 07-08-2024
Short Term E-Procurement Re-Tender Notice
Chief Engineer, Nagar Nigam Varanasi invites percentage rate bids on <http://etender.up.nic.in> from eligible bidders for the following packages under the CM-GRID Scheme.

Sl. No.	Nagar Nigam	Package No.	Included Roads	Length of Road (Km)	Estimated Cost Excluding GST (Rs. Lakh)		Total Estimated Cost of Work (Rs. in Lakh)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs. in Lakh)	Duration of Construction work (in Month)	Tender Fee including GST
					Construction Cost	Maintenance Cost for 5 Years				
1	VARANASI	VNN/CMG-01/Retender	R1-Tilak Ji Mutri to Bharat Sevashram. R2-Sigra Thana to Ghanti Mill. R3-Sigra Chauraha to Aurangabad. R4-Trauma Centre to Ravidas Gate. R5-Sundarpur Mukhya marg to Cheriyan Hostel. R6-Golghar Chauraha to Orderly Bazar.	3.21	3859.60	48.90	3908.05	50.00	15.00	41300/-

Timeline for Tender

Sl.No.	Event	Date & Time
1	Availability of tender document on E-Tender portal of NIC.	10.08.2024, 12:00 Noon
2	Date & Place of Pre-bid meeting	14.08.2024, 03:00 PM Office :- Urban Road Infrastructure Development Agency (URIDA), Sector-7, Gomti Nagar Extension, Lucknow-226010
3	Last date and time for submission of bid on E-Tender Portal	23.08.2024, up to 03:00 PM
4	Opening of tender (technical bid)	23.08.2024, 04:00 PM

Any Corrigendum/addendum or any other additional information related to the tender will be available on e-tender portal i.e. <http://etender.up.nic.in>
Chief Engineer
Nagar Nigam Varanasi

NAGAR NIGAM SHAHJAHANPUR
(UTTAR PRADESH, INDIA)
Letter No: 442/PRO/नि/01/2024 Dt: 07/08/2024
Short Term E-Procurement Tender Notice
Chief Engineer, Nagar Nigam Shahjahanpur invites percentage rate bids on <http://etender.up.nic.in> from eligible bidders for the following packages under the CM-GRID Scheme.

Sl. No.	Nagar Nigam	Package No.	Include of Roads	Length of Road (km)	Estimated Cost Excluding GST (Rs. in Lakh)		Total Estimated Cost of work (Rs. in Lakh)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs. in Lakh)	Duration of Construction work in (Month)	Tender fee including GST
					Construction cost	Maintenance cost for 5 Years				
01	Shahjahanpur	SPN/CMG-01	From Ahmed Ullah Shah Park junction to Libas tailors junction on Tel tanki Road	0.40	490.72	6.30	497.02	9.80	15	41300.00

Timeline for Tender

Sl.No.	Event	Date & Time
1	Availability of Tender document on E-Tender portal of NIC.	10.08.2024, 12:00 Noon
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Any Corrigendum/addendum or any other additional information related to the tender will be available on e-tender portal. i.e. portal <http://etender.up.nic.in>.
Chief Engineer
Nagar Nigam Shahjahanpur.

कार्यालय: सेंटर फॉर गुड गवर्नेंस,
डॉ. आर.एम.टोलिया, उत्तराखण्ड प्रशासन अकादमी, नैनीताल।
संख्या: 28182/XV11-26(2019-20) दिनांक 07 अगस्त 2024
विज्ञापित
सेंटर फॉर गुड गवर्नेंस में निलान अस्थायी 01 पद संकाय सदस्य, ई-गवर्नेंस प्रकोष्ठ हेतु दिनांक 22 अगस्त 2024, (गुरुवार) तक आवेदन आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। संबंधित विज्ञापित अकादमी को वेबसाइट www.uoa.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।
सचिव

Government of Maharashtra
The World Bank Funded
Hon. Balasaheb Thackeray Agribusiness & Rural Transformation (SMART) Project
MSFC Building, 270, Bhamburda, Senapati Bapat Road, Pune 411016
Telephone: 91-20-25656577 website www.smart-mh.org
Request for Proposal (RFP)
Tender Ref No: SMART/PCMU/EXTERNAL/CS/83/2024-25
Selection of Chartered Accountancy firm for External Audit of SMART Project
The SMART Project invites proposals from the eligible Chartered Accountancy firm for External Audit of SMART project. The RFP document is available on <https://mahtenders.gov.in> and on the project website www.smart-mh.org. Interested CA firms need to submit their "Proposal" through online at <https://mahtenders.gov.in> latest by 25/08/2024 up to 3.00 PM.
Dr. Hemant Vasekar I.A.S
Project Director
DGIPR 2024-25/1676

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA
World Trade Centre, 6th Floor, Tower-F, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi
Vacancy Circular No. 1-03/2024-A&P
Sub: Filling up of the post of Advisor in TRAI (HQ), New Delhi on deputation on foreign service terms - Reg.
Telecom Regulatory Authority of India proposes to fill up the following post at its Headquarter in New Delhi on deputation on foreign service terms: -

Name of post	Pay Band & Grade Pay
Advisor	Pay Level-14 (Rs.144200-218200) in the Pay Matrix as per 7th CPC. [Pre-revised PB-4, Rs.37400-67000+GP Rs. 10000]

2. The last date to submit online application is **upto 9th September, 2024.**
3. Further details and application form can be obtained from the TRAI website www.traigov.in.
CBC 06202/12/0021/2425

JAMMU AND KASHMIR POLICE
DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS JAMMU
0191-2561578 (O), 0191-254780 (F),
email - sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in
LOOK OUT NOTICE
SDPO City South, Jammu vide communication No. 15785-87/SDCS dated 01.08.2024 intimated that one un-known male person, shifted to GMCH Jammu for treatment, where after examining doctors on duty declared him as brought dead, as the death of the deceased occurred in mysterious circumstances. To ascertain the actual cause of death inquest proceedings U/S 194 BNSS was initiated at PP Belicharana vide DDR No. 08 dated 30.07.2024 and dead body of deceased was shifted to mortuary room of GMCH, Jammu for identification.
As such, for the identification of an identified male dead body below description roll is required to be published on daily newspapers for identification / Public in general, having any clue related to the unidentified dead body, kindly communicate the same on the below mentioned contact/Telephone numbers.
Description Roll :-
Age : 25/30 years (Approx.)
Height : 5'7"
Colour : Whittish
Face : Oval
Contacts/Telephone Numbers :-
1. DPO, Jammu : 0191-2547807, 0191-2561578
2. SSP Jammu Mail I.D : sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in
3. PCR Jammu : 0191-2542000
4. SP City South : 0191-2430002
5. SDPO City South : 0191-2433778
6. Landline of P/S Satwari : 01912-2430364
For Sr. Superintendent of Police, Jammu
DIP No:DIPIJ-3874/24/06/08/2024

Why temp jobs are here to stay

As Firms Adopt A Project-Based Approach And Traditional Job Security Gets Reimagined, Experts Say The Temporary Workforce In India Could Double To 10 Million By 2030

Rituparna Chakraborty

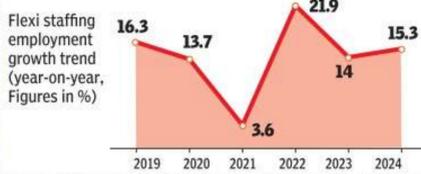
The Indian job market is at an inflection point. While the traditional full-time model persists, a silent revolution is brewing — the rise of temporary work. Let's delve into the data-driven future of temporary staffing in India, exploring its potential impact on job structures, skill sets, and the overall employment landscape.

Growing Tide Of Temp Jobs

Studies by the World Employment Confederation and International Labour Organisation (ILO) paint a clear picture: temporary work is on the rise globally, India is no exception. Reports from TeamLease, a leading staffing firm, indicate a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of

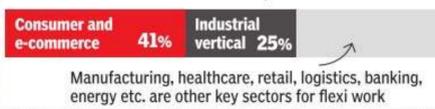


More and more takers for flexi roles...



As FMCG, e-commerce drive demand

These 2 sectors attract 66% of all temp workers



And avg pay goes higher than minimum wages

Flexi/contract staffing industry creates formal jobs that pay ₹22,000 on average, more than the average minimum wage — about ₹18,000 — in most states

With a fifth of workers landing permanent jobs

19% of contract/flexi staff is absorbed into permanent employment within 1 year

And women having a sizeable presence in temp workforce

25% of the staffing workforce comprises women and their numbers are increasing at over 1% YOY

Source: Indian Staffing Federation

is driven by factors like globalisation, technological advancements, and the need for agility. This presents a unique opportunity for skilled professionals. Temporary work can offer:

- **Project-based challenges:** Escape the monotony of a routine job and tackle exciting new projects.
- **Upskilling opportunities:** Exposure to new technologies and industry trends, enhancing professional development.
- **Flexibility:** Manage work-life balance with greater control over schedules.

The Blurring Lines Of Tenure

While reports by ILO acknowledge the rise of temporary work, they also caution against job insecurity. But the reality is that traditional job security — with defined career paths and long tenures — is becoming less prevalent and, as a matter of fact, it impedes the ability to maximise dignified earnings in the dynamic world we live in today. Companies are increasingly adopting a project-based approach, requiring a more adaptable workforce. This doesn't negate the need for job

Gig Work: A Growing Appetite

The rise of the gig economy, fuelled by digital platforms, further underscores the growing acceptance of temporary work arrangements. Organisations are showing a greater appetite for gig workers, particularly for tasks like marketing, content creation, and data analysis. This trend is expected to surge — a Nasscom-Aon report predicts a 78% increase in India's gig workforce by 2025 to reach an estimated 25 million gig workers. This translates into a significant portion of the workforce embracing the flexibility and project-based nature of gig work.

While income variability exists, a report by Aspire Circle (a leading gig work platform) indicates an average income of Rs 25,000 per month for skilled gig workers in India. The figure can vary depending on the specific skill, experience level, and platform used. However, it highlights the potential for gig work to provide a competitive income stream for skilled individuals.

Investing In Skills Is Key

To truly harness the potential of temporary work, a focus on skill development is paramount. Reports by TeamLease emphasise the need for investments in creating industry-

specific skill sets across all levels. Apprenticeship programmes, as championed by the government, can act as a vital gateway to employment, equipping individuals with the necessary skills to thrive in the temporary job market.



Is India's unemployment problem at its worst ever? Or is there no problem at all? Scan the QR code to know the facts

Embracing The Future

The future of work in India extends beyond just temporary jobs. It's a paradigm shift towards a more agile and adaptable workforce. McKinsey's remote work study reveals that a significant portion of tasks can be done remotely, potentially impacting talent pools for temporary roles. The World Economic Forum's "Reskilling Revolution" emphasises the need to equip workers with in-demand skills like complex problem-solving and creativity. Similarly, reports by PwC and EY highlight the rising demand for specialised skills in temporary positions.

Preparing For Transience

This dynamic landscape de-

mands a multi-pronged approach. We need robust investments in skill development programmes tailored to the evolving needs of the temporary job market. Apprenticeship initiatives and industry-specific skilling efforts must be prioritised. Additionally, social security measures need to be adopted to provide a safety net for temporary workers.

By embracing this future of work, India can unlock a wave of opportunity. It's time to move beyond traditional models and empower a skilled, adaptable workforce ready to thrive in the transient job market. Let's equip India for the future, today. As Milton Friedman, the Nobel laureate economist, aptly stated, "The key is to be skilled and adaptable. The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." By prioritising skilling and embracing adaptability, India can ensure its workforce is not just prepared for the transient future, but actively shaping it.

The writer is co-founder, TeamLease, an independent board director

Guj judge, IO draw SC ire, held in contempt

Took Person Into Custody Even After SC Granted Bail

AmitAnand.Choudhary @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Acting tough against an additional chief judicial magistrate and investigating officer of Gujarat Police for not honouring its order and taking a person in custody despite its order granting him anticipatory bail, Supreme Court Wednesday convicted both for contempt of court and directed them to personally appear before it for deciding punishment.

A bench of Justices B R Gavai and Sandeep Mehta refused to accept their defence that they did not intend to violate the order, that it was done due to a misunderstanding of the order, and because of a prevalent practice in Gujarat permitting custody even after bail is granted. SC patiently heard the duo but came to the conclusion that the action of the investigating officer seeking custody of the accused, and of the judicial magistrate granting custody, are clearly in the teeth of its order and held them guilty of contempt of court.

SC fixes PMLA order-review pleas for Aug 28

Supreme Court on Wednesday fixed Aug 28 for final hearing on a batch of petitions seeking review of its 2022 verdict by which all the stringent provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) were upheld and declared valid.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant, C T Ravikumar and Ujjal Bhuyan asked parties to prepare common compilations of pleadings and be ready to argue the case on Aug 28.

The petitioners are seeking re-examination of order of the apex court which had on July 27, 2022 upheld the stringent regime prescribed for money laundering offences and vast powers enjoyed by Enforcement Directorate, giving the agency the go-ahead to arrest people and conduct search and seizure even when no complaint has been filed, making statements made before the agency admissible in court while, also, putting the burden on the accused to prove his innocence.

Interestingly, within a month of the order, SC decided to re-examine the verdict and issued notice to Centre in Aug 2022. **TNN**

Though SC had earlier issued notice to the brass of Surat Police, including the commissioner along with the judicial magistrate and additional chief secretary of Gujarat's home department for contempt, it convicted only the investigating officer who filed an application seeking custody and the magistrate who allowed the plea, and let off the rest saying they were not involved. "The portrayal made by the investigating officer in the remand application to claim the accused-petitioner was not cooperating in the investigation was totally cooked up and a clear attempt to draw wool over the court's eyes... We are, therefore, inclined to hold that there was not even a shred of bona fide in the actions of the investi-

gating officer while seeking police custody remand of the accused on the purported ground of non-cooperation in investigation," the bench said.

Slamming the ACJM, SC said a magistrate must not allow a plea of police without application of mind. "The courts are not expected to act as messengers of investigating agencies and remand applications should not be allowed in a routine manner."

SC, during the hearing, had said it was high time the people holding posts learn a lesson and had made it clear that they would be sent behind bars if needed. In this case, a Surat-based businessman was taken into custody despite the protection granted by the apex court on Dec 8 and was tortured by police.

Envoy's record conflicting, 8 of 35 Somali pirates adults

Rebecca.Samervel @timesofindia.com

Mumbai: While determining the age of eight of the 35 alleged Somali pirates who claimed to be minors, the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) was informed by the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Somalia that following internal inquiries, it was determined that conflicting records were supplied by a diplomat without its knowledge or consent. The pirates had hijacked Bulgarian merchant vessel MV Ruen last Dec and demanded a \$60 million ransom to release 17 crew members and the vessel.

The JJB was also apprised that the issue was reported to Somalia's ministry of foreign affairs, which subsequently decided to recall the diplomat who has since departed from India. The JJB had been informed about the conflicting reports after summons were served to the embassy for providing contact numbers of the parents of the accused.

On Monday after the JJB's report concluded the eight were adults, the group was produced before the sessions court and remanded to judicial custody till Aug 13. The JJB relied on an ossification test which showed they are all between the ages of 19 and 21. The birth certificates were found to be unreliable and not trustworthy.

Special public prosecutor Ranjit Sangle submitted a copy of the JJB's order dated Aug 5. He said the accused produced fabricated documents. "The enquiry of the JJB has established that the plea taken was based on procured documents and that they are unreliable. Medical examination and ossification test results are considered to be conclusive. Now, all these eight accused will be tried as adults, along with the other 27 pirates," he said.

'New schoolbooks have Preamble': Govt trashes Cong charge

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: In Rajya Sabha Wednesday, Congress raised concerns about the removal of the Preamble from certain NCERT textbooks, alleging an attempt to impose a communal ideology on the national Union minister J P Nadda refuted the claim, asserting govt's commitment to safeguarding the Constitution.

In response to a separate question by Congress on the Right to Education (RTE), Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan appealed to state govts to implement the provision mandating 25% of seats for children from economically weaker sections in private unaided schools. He said states like Punjab, Kerala, Telangana and Bengal have not implemented this provision. He emphasised that education is a concurrent subject and central and state govts should strive to provide school education up to class XII for all.

Leader of opposition Mallikarjun Kharge emphasised the importance of educating citizens, especially younger generations, about the foundational principles and values of Indian democracy and



Union minister Nadda said he had not reviewed NCERT books or the changes personally, but he could confidently affirm there was no intention to undermine the Constitution

the Constitution, as well as sacrifices made by freedom fighters. "RSS and BJP are trying to impose their communal ideology on people by tampering with curriculum. And the step taken by NCERT is not right," he said.

Leader of the House Nadda stated that while he had not personally reviewed the NCERT textbooks or the changes, he could confidently affirm there was no intention to undermine the Constitution. Following Zero Hour, Pradhan informed the House, "In the new textbooks of class VI, there is preamble. There is also fundamental duties, fundamental rights and national anthem."

India exported 2.6L tonne onions in Apr-July

New Delhi: India exported 2.6 lakh tonne of onions till July of this fiscal year, govt said Wednesday. "Govt has lifted the onion prohibition from May 4 and allowed the export with minimum export price of \$550 per tonne and export duty of 40%."

"Till July 31, a total quantity of 2.6 lakh tonne of onion had been exported in current financial year 2024-25," minister of state for food and consumer affairs B L Verma said in a written reply in Lok Sabha. India had exported 16 lakh tonne of onions in the last fiscal. Further, he said govt had procured 4.6 lakh tonne, majority from Maharashtra, through NCCF and NAFED for the price stabilisation buffer.

"In comparison with last year (2023), the price realisation by onion farmers in current year has been much higher. The average monthly mandi modal prices of onion in Maharashtra between April and July 2024 were in the range of Rs 1,230 to Rs 2,578 per quintal as against Rs 693 to Rs 1,205 per quintal for corresponding period last year (2023)," Verma said. The average procurement price of onion for the buffer in current year was Rs 2,833 per quintal, which is 64% higher than the procurement price of the Rs 1,724 per quintal last year. **PTI**

SIMI's UAPA ban upheld, tribunal cites ties to IS

Bharti.Jain@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The tribunal established by Centre to review the ninth extension of the ban on Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act has upheld the ban. The decision was based on evidence from the Phulwarisharif PFI case, which involved a conspiracy to disrupt PM Narendra Modi's visit to Patna in July 2022, as well as other IS-inspired terror plots under probe by NIA and state police forces.

The tribunal's order, put out in a gazette notification on Tuesday, stated that based on evidence and material given to it, "it is evident SIMI continues to engage in unlawful and terrorist activities despite being banned".

It added: "The organisation is expanding its ranks by indoctrinating young boys and operating through front organisations. SIMI maintains connections with various terrorist groups such as al-Qaida, Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, IS and Indian Mujahideen. It continues to receive both domestic and international funding, which supports its activities in India... it is clear that several accused persons, who have committed various offences across different ju-



SIMI maintains ties to al-Qaida, LeT, JeM, IS & Indian Mujahideen, the tribunal said

risdictions, have been identified as members or activists of SIMI. By conspiring together, they committed numerous offences aligned with SIMI's ideologies and propaganda".

The tribunal observed that the evidence in cases involving ex-SIMI cadres — now either affiliated with PFI, also banned under UAPA, or found to be carrying out IS propaganda and plotting/executing attacks to further the global terror outfit's ideology favouring Islamic rule — "effectively establishes the fact that despite previous bans, SIMI is still active through its members and activists." One of the key testimonies relied upon by the tribunal is that of NIA officer Vipin Kumar, who had deposed that the key accused in the Phulwarisharif PFI case were connected with SIMI members and using their help for terrorist acts.

CAD-782

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1 Name of work	Purchase of seeds for Rabi 2024-25
2 No. of work	01 no.
3 Availability of Bid Document in Portal	15.00 hours on dt. 09.08.2024 to 17.00 hours on dt. 29.08.2024
4 Last date of receipt of tender in portal	17.00 hours on dt. 29.08.2024
5 Date and time of opening of Bid	10.30 hours on dt. 30.08.2024

The detailed descriptions of crops, varieties, quantity, parameters, terms and conditions and other details of tender specified in the tender schedule would be made available in the e-Tender Portal <https://tenders.odisha.gov.in>. Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation can also be seen in the said website. OSSC Ltd reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

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विद्युत कार्य प्रमंडल सं-0-1
भवन निर्माण विभाग, पटना
अति अल्पकालीन कोटेशन आमंत्रण सूचना सं-09 वर्ष 2024-25
स्वतंत्रता दिवस 2024 के शुभ अवसर हेतु

15 अगस्त, 2024 स्वतंत्रता दिवस के अवसर पर इस प्रमंडल के कार्य क्षेत्र के अर्न्तगत विहार भवन एवं विहार निवास, नई दिल्ली में पूर्व की भांति अस्थायी प्रकाश व्यवस्था एवं विद्युत सजावट का के लिए दर उद्धरण कोटेशन अधोस्तक्षरणी द्वारा दिनांक-14.08.2024 को अपराह्न 12:00 बजे तक आमंत्रित किया जाता है। सभी प्राप्त कोटेशन दर उद्धरण उसी तिथि को अपराह्न 12:30 बजे कोटेशनदाताओं या उनके द्वारा प्राधिकृत प्रतिनिधियों के समक्ष खोली जायेगी।

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कार्य की विवरणी निम्नलिखित है:-

1	Emergent temporary lighting arrangement on the occasion of Independence Day 15 Aug 2024 at Bihar Niwas & Bihar Bhawan at New Delhi from dated 14.08.2024 to 15.08.2024 (total 2 Days)
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Registration Process will commence from 12-08-2024 for Online counseling & admission on all state quota seats in Government/autonomous/Private Medical & Dental Colleges including NRI Seats on the basis on NEET U.G. 2024 result and under Madhya Pradesh Chikitsa Shiksha Pravesh Niyam 2018 & Amendments issued from time to time. Registration and Counselling process shall be conducted on designated portal <https://dme.mponline.gov.in>

Detailed time schedule for the counselling shall be published on Directorate of Medical Education website www.medicaleducation.mp.gov.in and also on designated portal <https://dme.mponline.gov.in> No separate advertisement regarding counselling will be advertised.

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SC warns HC judge but refrains from issuing him notice

Continued from P 1

The bench agreed with AG and SG that Justice Sehrawat had damaged the judiciary's image. However, the judges refrained from issuing notice to him after mulling the option. "Doing so would place the judge in a situation of being subject to judicial adjudication or inquiry by SC, which we are inclined to desist from doing at this stage. We hope and trust needful circumspection will be observed in future," the bench said while ordering that the HC judge's remarks be expunged. Justice Sehrawat, who was appointed as a judge of Punjab and Haryana HC on July 10, 2017, is scheduled to retire on Oct 30.

SC heard the matter after a division bench of HC stayed Justice Sehrawat's remarks.

In SC, Venkataramani said the judge had brought down the image of the institution. Mehta said in the era of live streaming of court proceedings, watched by millions, remarks of a constitutional court judge were "scandalous and shocking to say the least" even as it "undermined the majesty and dignity of courts".

The bench said, "Though there is merit in the submis-

sion of AG and SG, we are inclined to exercise a degree of restraint in taking further course of action. The court has been apprised of the fact that a division bench of HC headed by the chief justice has already stayed the July 17 order. Notwithstanding the aforesaid exercise by HC, we are of the view that in a situation where the authority of Supreme Court is undermined by gratuitous observations made by a single judge of HC, it is a plain constitutional function of this court to set right any attempts to dislocate the sanctity of judicial hierarchy and maintenance of judicial discipline."

"We are of the view that the observations of Justice Sehrawat in his July 17 order were totally unnecessary. Gratuitous observations about the SC order in that case were absolutely unwarranted. Compliance with the orders passed by SC is not a matter of choice, but a bounden constitutional obligation bearing in mind the structure of Indian legal system and authority of SC, which heads judicial adjudication in the country. Parties may be aggrieved by an order, but judges never are by the orders of appellate or higher courts," the bench said.

Awami League netas, Hindu families go into hiding as attacks continue

Some Others Thank Muslims For Offering Protection

Priyanka Dasgupta
@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: "Undisclosed location" is supposedly the safest address in Bangladesh for members and supporters of ex-PM Sheikh Hasina's Awami League amid a fast and furious backlash that has since also enveloped minorities.

Calls and texts to Awami League functionaries in hiding are invariably being responded to with a message that they are "alive, safe and tense" within the country, albeit without revealing their current location.

"Every night, we hear about Hindus, Awami League supporters and artists being targeted. We couldn't have imagined a day would come when we would have to flee our homes and not be able to reveal where we are staying," said a person in hiding.

Several Awami League members and supporters whom TOI texted replied with a "namaste" emoji. Some phones were switched off, while others checked their messages after several hours and didn't reply. A few requested that this reporter delete their responses over WhatsApp.

A usually outspoken Bangladeshi Hindu sent a one-line message, "In a safe location, but hearing a lot of news from friends."

Arif Prodipto Ali, a Chhatra League member from Rangpur, went into hiding after narrowly escaping an attack in Alamnagar. "It is a very difficult situation here. Many of our leaders have either been killed or abducted. I somehow managed to escape.



Military personnel keep vigil as BNP members head for a rally outside the party's headquarters in Dhaka on Wednesday

Indian med students in dilemma over return

Around 300-500 Indian medical students in Bangladesh's Dhaka are in a dilemma whether to flee or stay back and cater to the wounded at the hospitals. "The college authorities have shut the gates and we are safe inside. The sounds of gunshots used to pierce the air, creating a sense of immediate danger and fear even in our rooms. The gunfire was often followed by the distant noise of sirens and the cries of people caught in the chaos," said Promit Saha, an Indian internist at a doctor at Pioneer Dental College and Hospital, Dhaka. The disruptions affected the students' daily activities and their academic schedules. "There has been shortage of food, water, electricity and gas supply," said Saha, who has decided to stay back in Bangladesh for now.

Meanwhile, ministry of external affairs sources said around 7,500-8,000 students have been brought back from Bangladesh. "If any student wants to come back, s/he just needs to be in touch with the Indian high commission in Bangladesh," a source said. **TNN**

My home was attacked and vandalised. Goons have taken over. Arson and killing have become the norm. Police are nowhere to be seen," he said. Chhatra League is the student wing of Hasina's party. Dhaka-based filmmaker Shankha Dasgupta, among the few to have stayed put in the face of threats, thanked his Muslim friends for doing everything to protect him and his family.

"Many of my other friends are in hiding. In some areas, minorities are being attacked by radicals, while in other areas Muslim friends and neighbours are protecting them," he told TOI.

"Temples are being destroyed, too. Those that have escaped vandalism and arson so far are being guarded by Muslims in those neighbour-

hoods. The situation is deeply unsettling. Some Hindu families I know were attacked and their houses set ablaze."

The army chief's announcement that an interim gov't led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus would be sworn in Thursday may have calmed things down a bit, but fear continues to hound minorities at the receiving end of the backlash since Hasina resigned as PM Monday and took flight.

Dasgupta said it was the administration's responsibility to make people feel safe after all that has happened over the past few days. "This country belongs to everyone. It is the duty of law enforcement agencies to take down those breaking laws. As a country, we have to raise our voice against this."

Singer Rahul Ananda backed protest but his house too torched

Priyanka Dasgupta
& Dwaipayan Ghosh | TNN

Kolkata: Renowned Bangladeshi folk singer Rahul Ananda's 140-year-old rented home in Dhaka's Dhanmondi 32 was targeted Monday by a mob of armed men, which broke down the main gate, ransacked and looted the house, and set it on fire, destroying more than 3,000 handcrafted musical instruments. The attack prompted the singer (48) and his family to go into hiding.

The single-storey, colonial-style house where the frontman of the popular folk band "Joler Gaan" lived with his wife and son for over a decade was one of the stops on French President Emmanuel Macron's Bangladesh itinerary during his visit to Dhaka in Sept 2023.

The Daily Star quoted one of the band's founding members Saiful Islam Jarnal, who described how the mob took whatever they could find — furniture, mirrors, and other valuables — before torching the house along with Ananda's collection of musical instruments.

Videos and pictures of the attack have circulated online, eliciting widespread condemnation and regret over the destruction.

Bangladeshi, many of whom participated in the protests that led to the ousting of PM Sheikh Hasina, denounced Wednesday the act of vandalism, stressing that such mindless destruction tarnishes the country's image.

"I am ashamed. This was not what our students laid

their lives for: The Bangladesh I know is very different from what I have been witnessing the past 72 hours. Tolerance is the key here. The students have already appealed for peace," Dhaka University professor Rafikul Hassan said.

Last Saturday, musicians in Bangladesh held a congregation at Dhanmondi to show solidarity with protesting students. "Rahul-da and several other musicians arrived after 3pm and assembled at Rabintra Sarobar... It's difficult to say if the attack on the house was targeted, but it is evident people disrespectful of art and culture were active. As part of the movement, I denounce this plun-

ALL UNDER ATTACK

dering and bloodshed. This portrays an exceedingly negative image of our nation, and we do not desire that," said music researcher and cultural activist Gowtam K Shubho, administrator of Shonar Bangla Circus.

Actor Azmeri Haque Badhon criticised the groups disrupting the secular fabric of the nation. "This is an exceedingly abhorrent crime. I am convinced that some agenda-driven individuals are trying to solely perpetuate the conflict," he said.

Dhaka-based writer Jobaed Ahsan expressed hope for a changed situation with the formation of an interim gov't. "This kind of reaction is inevitable in any transition, especially when the public has faced such oppression for 15 years. Some miscreants will take advantage," he said.

BSF fires warning shots as hundreds try to cross border

Rohit Khanna, Dwaipayan Ghosh & Pinak Priya Bhattacharya | TNN

Petrapole/Kolkata/Jalpaiguri: BSF personnel were forced to fire warning shots and form a human barrier at an unfenced section of the border Wednesday as hundreds of Bangladeshis, mostly politicians and workers of ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League party, attempted to enter Bengal, fearing for their safety amid targeted violence in their nation.

BSF was strained to contain the influx and ensure security along the India-Bangladesh border. The situation escalated on Tuesday night when former Awami League MP Kamarul Arefin, his wife, and two daughters attempted to enter India without valid visas at Petrapole-Benapole border crossings. BSF stopped and sent them back to Bangladesh, where they were detained by BGB. The family had appealed for entry, fearing for their lives.

On Wednesday, BGB stopped two more Awami League politicians at Darshana border checkpoint.

BSF DIG (North Bengal Frontier) Amit Kumar Tyagi said more than 200 villagers — mostly Awami League members and Hindus — from Thakurgaon district in the neighbouring country gathered at Kishanganj-North Dinajpur border, prompting a round of blank firing to con-



BSF inspects a truck carrying supplies to Bangladesh at the border in Fulbari on the outskirts of Siliguri on Wednesday

trol the crowd. "The villagers are still there, between 200m and 500m from the international border," Tyagi said. Senior BSF officers are coordinating with BGB units to manage the situation.

Around 600 Bangladeshis are refusing to leave the no man's land near Jalpaiguri in northern Bengal, demanding entry into India despite calls from Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) to return. BSF personnel formed a human shield to block entry through the unfenced border.

Similar standoffs occurred in nearby areas, with residents from six villages seeking refuge. "We have stopped them at zero point. We are taking all local help to control the situation," a senior BSF officer said.

Indians returning from

Bangladesh described scenes of violence and arson. Beauty Das from Thakurnagar recounted her harrowing experience in Narail, where she saw attempts to destroy a temple and attacks on neighbours.

"We could not sleep for the next two nights and stayed huddled in a room switching off lights. Today, I gathered courage and wrapped a dupatta over my face, hid my passport inside the bag, and managed to reach the Benapole border," she said.

Saraswati Mandal from Bongaon, who visited her daughter in Jessore, cursed her fate for witnessing targeted violence against Awami League workers and Hindus. "They looted their homes and set houses on fire," she said after crossing the Petrapole border.

21 Hindus flee Pakistan, enter India through Attari border

Yudhvir Rana | TNN

Attari: Two extended Pakistani Hindu families entered India through the Attari border near Amritsar on Wednesday with all their belongings and travelled onward to Jodhpur and settle there, coinciding with the flight of minorities from Bangladesh in the face of a backlash accompanying the fall of the gov't there.

A Jodhpur resident identifying himself as Ashok received 16 Pakistani Hindu relatives of his wife and five members of another family from Rahim Yar Khan in Pakistan's Punjab province to escort them to Rajasthan. He said his brother-in-law Darshan and father-in-law Biry Ram had decided not to return, but didn't specify the reason. Some in the group said more Hindu families might arrive from Pakistan soon. A hired bus took the two families to Jodhpur.

Sources at the Attari border checkpoint said some people in the group spoke of their apprehensions about possible attacks on Hindus in Pakistan during immigration formalities. They suggested that the violence in Bangladesh hastened their decision to leave Pakistan for good, the sources said.

"The two families applied for tourist visas. The plan changed after what happened in Bangladesh. They hastily packed their belongings to relocate to India," an official said.

3 jailbreaks close to border in 3 days put BSF & cops on alert

Rohit Khanna
@timesofindia.com

Petrapole: Three jailbreaks in three days not far from the Indian border and zero policing on the streets of Bangladesh have put Indian security agencies on alert in Bengal for possible infiltration bids.

While Border Security Force (BSF) is holding village coordination meetings along the border to sensitise villagers on suspicious movements, Bengal police have instructed village-level border vigilante groups to watch out for outsiders who might try to sneak in.

On Tuesday, more than 200 inmates escaped from Kashimpur Central Jail in Gazipur near Dhaka. The central prison, sources said, housed several Jamaat-e-Islami members who were arrested over the past few years. On Wednesday, nearly 30 inmates escaped from a prison in Kushtia after attacking the guards. On Monday evening, the day Sheikh Hasina fled the country, almost 500 prisoners escaped from Sherpur District Jail.

Alarmed over the developments, BSF personnel held back-to-back village coordination meetings at Mamabaghina and Sutiya areas of North 24 Parganas on Wednesday. Company commanders of the 68th and 107th battalions explained

to the residents what to expect and how to report any suspicious activity in the border areas. "Apart from guarding the border, we are raising awareness among the villagers about the current situation in Bangladesh," BSF spokesperson AK Arya said.

Anarul Tapadar, member of Bagda gram panchayat said, "Many locals have land parcels along the zero point areas where they engage in agricultural activities. Bangladeshis nationals, too, have their land near these areas and the BSF is apprehensive about this. At Naoda village, farmers have been asked to conduct agricultural activities between 6 am and 9 am. BSF has said this will continue till the situation stabilises in Bangladesh."

Unsure of their return, B'deshis going back with big med stocks

Kolkata: Unsure of when they will be able to revisit India, several Bangladeshi patients returning to their homeland are carrying back medical supplies that will last them between four months to a year, report Dwaipayan Ghosh, Sukhomoy Sen. Zakir Ahmed, who suffers from a kidney ailment, had come to Kolkata for treatment. Before boarding a Dhaka bus, Zakir's brother braved the rain and went out to get a year's supply of medicine. "I don't know when I'll be able to come back. I'm taking as much as I can," he said.

KH Haider, a businessman suffering from a pulmonary disease, said, "I told my doctor that I might be unable to make another trip in the next two to three months. I am unsure how long the issues around getting a visa will remain. He wrote medicines for four months. Luckily, I got the entire supply."

BJP slams Khurshid's reported remark, says it exposes Cong intent to create anarchy

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: BJP on Wednesday launched a fierce attack on Congress over former Union minister Salman Khurshid's reported remark about the possibility of India facing a situation similar to one unfolding in Bangladesh.

Former Union minister Anurag Thakur said the Congress netas' remark had laid bare Congress's wish and intent to create anarchy. "Their actions and words inside Parliament and outside it have exposed their frustration over the third consecutive defeat. They are hell bent upon creating unrest and push the country into anarchy," Thakur said.

At a book release function on Tuesday evening, Khurshid was quoted as saying



BNP supporters holding photos of former President Ziaur Rahman and ex-PM Khaleda Zia march through streets of Dhaka on Wednesday

that though "everything may look normal on the surface, what is happening in Bangladesh could happen in India."

"Congress has been repeatedly trying to create a crisis in the country, sometimes before the elections and sometimes post-elections. They are frustrated and will do anything to push the country, a bright global spot, backwards due to political vendetta. The statement is

an invitation to anarchy and shows the anti-democratic outlook of the party which talks about the Constitution," Thakur told reporters.

His colleagues, Rajiv Pratap Rudy and Sambit Patra also joined in the attack.

The sharp response coincides with growing apprehension in gov't and BJP quarters over what they call a plot to organise disruptions by engi-

neering protests. Home minister Amit Shah had late last month cautioned BJP MPs against plots to organise protests by farmers and others.

Patra said Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, who was present at the book launch event along with Khurshid, kept mum about his colleague's objectionable statement. "This is a serious issue. When we are witnessing such a situation in neighbouring countries, the main opposition party Congress wants the same situation in India," he told reporters outside Parliament. He also referred to Rahul Gandhi's "objectionable" remarks during his visits abroad.

Rudy dubbed Khurshid's comments as "anarchist". "He is a member of CWC, this is an anarchist statement, I think it is a kind of sedition. It's unfortunate Congress is resorting to such anarchist statements to hide its failure."

Oppn wants bill to be sent to parl panel, Muslim bodies threaten to launch stir

Continued from P1

The most critical of the proposed amendments relates to the repeal of Section 40 of the existing law that empowers Waqf Boards to decide if a property is a Waqf asset, change in the composition of Waqf tribunals and allowing for appeals in high courts against their decisions within 90 days. Accordingly, the provision in the current Act which says "decision of the tribunal in respect of such matter shall be final" will be dropped. Introduced in 2013 under the Congress-led UPA gov't, this provision has been a bone of contention.

To address a long-pending demand, the bill also provides for establishment of separate Board of Auqaf for Bohras and Agakhanis; besides providing representation of Shias, Bohras, Agakhanis and backward Muslims in Waqf Boards. Issuance of a 'waqf deed' and certification will be mandatory for new properties under assessment. The move comes amid strong opposition by the All India Muslim Personal Law Board which has threatened

to launch a mass movement, and organisations like Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind.

At the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee, opposition parties demanded that the legislation be sent to a parliamentary committee.

Sources said parliamentary affairs minister Kiren Rijju, also the minister of minority affairs, said the gov't would take a decision on Thursday. Interestingly, with the department-related standing committees not in place yet, the bill may be forwarded to a special committee in case gov't accepts the opposition's demand.

The bill proposes renaming the Waqf Act, 1995, as the Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development Act, 1995, and calls to clearly define 'waqif' "as any person practising Islam for at least five years and having ownership of such property".

The bill, while introducing the district magistrate in a pivotal role, proposes to make her the arbiter of whether a property is waqf or gov't land, a role vested in the tribunal under the old law.

Bid to introduce transparency, accountability in waqf boards

Ambika Pandit & Mohammed Wajihuddin | TNN

The gov't is set to introduce a bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1995, to check the unbridled powers, enhanced further by a 2013 amendment, of Waqf Boards in what has been termed an attempt to introduce transparency and accountability in the regulation and monitoring of over 8.7 lakh properties under control of state boards across the country and weed out corruption. TOI explains what comprises Waqf and what is ailing management of assets under the boards.

What is Waqf and what does it comprise in terms of assets?

Waqf refers to properties dedicated exclusively for religious or charitable purposes under Islamic law. Once designated as waqf, ownership is transferred from the person making the waqf (waqif) to Allah, making it irrevocable. These properties are managed by a mutawalli, appointed by waqif or a competent authority. Waqf boards control 8.7 lakh properties spanning 9.4 lakh acres across India, with estimated value of Rs 1.2 lakh crore. There are 32 waqf boards, including two Shia waqf boards (in Uttar Pradesh & Bihar).

What are the challenges posed by the irrevocability of waqf?

Once a property is declared waqf, it remains so forever. This irrevocability has led to various disputes and claims, some of which, like the claim on two islands in Bet Dwarka, have perplexed courts. Examples of some other disputes include the Bengaluru Eidgah ground, claimed as waqf property from the 1850s, and the Surat Municipal Corporation building, claimed due to its historical use as a 'sarai' during Haj in the Mughal era. Kolkata's Tollygunge Club and Royal Calcutta Golf Club are on waqf land, so is ITC Windsor Hotel in Bengaluru. Encroachment on waqf properties is also a challenge.

How did waqf and its law evolve?

The concept of waqf in India dates back to Delhi Sultanate, with early examples including Sultan Muizuddin Sam Ghaor's (Muhammad Ghori) dedication of villages to Jama Masjid of Multan. Mussalman Waqf Act, 1923, marked the first attempt to regulate it. In independent India, the Waqf Act was first passed by Parliament in 1954. It was replaced by a new Waqf Act in

1995 which gave more power to waqf boards. The accretion of power has been accompanied by increase in number of complaints of encroachment and illegal lease and sale of waqf properties. In 2013, the Act was amended and the changes, many argue, conferred unlimited powers on waqf boards to claim properties in the name of Muslim charity. The amendments made sale of waqf properties impossible. Neither the mutawalli (custodian) nor the waqf board has rights to sell a waqf property.

How are the sweeping powers sought to be curbed under the bill?

Section 40 of the Waqf Act, 1995, gives waqf boards the power to decide if a property is waqf property. There are complaints this power has been misused by vested interests for property grab with the help of the corrupt waqf bureaucracy. There have also been allegations of misuse of powers given to boards regarding appointment of mutawallis and cases challenging appointment of managers. The bill proposes to repeal the controversial section altogether and vest powers in the collector. Interestingly, even countries that follow

Muslim law do not have a waqf body with such powers.

How has the definition of waqf changed from 1923 to 2013?

The main change in definition was made in 2013, when the expression 'permanent dedication by a person professing Islam' was replaced by 'permanent dedication by any person'. After this amendment, it is believed waqf has opened the floodgates for dedication of property to waqf boards by any person.

How cases and complaints have piled up

Disputes have mounted over the years, and the waqf bureaucracy has been criticised for inefficiency, leading to issues like encroachment, mismanagement, ownership disputes, and delays in registration and surveys. There are 40,951 cases pending in tribunals which are part of the waqf system. The problem is compounded by the absence of judicial oversight on decisions of tribunals which exclusively comprise members of waqf bureaucracy. The law has been under growing public scrutiny after 2013, with complaints coming from Muslim intellectuals, women and different sects such as Bohras, and OBC Muslims.

Flaws in the appeal process are also a big concern. For instance, an appeal against a board decision lies with the tribunal but the latter has no timeline for disposal of cases. The tribunal's decision is final and there is no provision for appeal except under writ jurisdiction in high courts. Moreover, some states don't have tribunals, making the waqf bureaucracy the ultimate arbiter.

In states with a single waqf board, the need is felt to have representation from minority sects among Muslims, like Bohras and Shias, as well as OBC Muslims, the Pasmantas. Misuse of 'Waqf-al-Aulad' provision to deny inheritance rights to women and orphans in certain cases is another concern sought to be addressed by the bill.

What did Sachar Committee and other panels say on the waqf system?

Sachar Committee's 2006 report recommended need for regulation, efficient management of records, inclusion of non-Muslim technical expertise in waqf management and bringing waqf under the scheme of financial audit, among other things. Similarly, the joint parliamentary committee's report on waqf presented to Rajya Sabha in

March 2008 recommended revamping the composition of waqf boards, proposing appointment of a senior officer as CEO for state waqf boards, stringent action for unauthorised alienation of waqf properties, stringent punishment to mutawallis for corruption, creating scope for intervention by HC in some cases, computerisation of waqf boards and adequate representation to the Shia community in the Central Waqf Council.

What's the broader idea behind the amendments?

The idea, gov't says, is to modernise management of waqf properties, protect women's rights, ensure fair representation in Central Waqf Council and waqf boards, reduce litigation, have effective coordination with revenue dept and also provide judicial oversight on tribunal decisions.

What's the Muslim Personal Law Board saying?

The All India Muslim Personal Law Board has called the bill an interference with personal laws, and threatened to start a mass movement. But the All India Sufi Sajjada-nashin Council, the apex body representing Sufi shrines, has welcomed gov't's proposal alleging waqf boards work in a "dictatorial" manner.



CALLED A 'FAKE LATINA' FOR NOT SPEAKING SPANISH, JENNA ORTEGA FEELS THE 'SHAME' OF NOT BEING A 'GOOD ENOUGH' REPRESENTATIVE

KIT HARRINGTON WON'T BE WATCHING 'HOUSE OF THE DRAGON' EVER: 'IT'S LIKE...DO YOU WANT TO GO TO SCHOOL REUNION THAT'S NOT YOUR YEAR?'



Buoyed by Zia's release, BNP rallies for polls in 3 months

Hasina's Partymen Face Wrath: 20 Awami Members Found Dead

Dhaka: The main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party, buoyed by its chief Khaleda Zia's release from house arrest on Tuesday, drew hundreds of people to a rally in Dhaka and demanded elections within three months. "National elections should be held soon and power should be handed over to a govt elected by the people at the earliest," said her son Tarique Rahman, addressing the crowd via video from London, where he has been living in exile since 2008. Rahman faces several criminal cases and was convicted of graft and a grenade attack, charges dismissed by him.

Zia's freedom is largely symbolic as the ailing leader has been staying outside the prison under an executive order of the former govt but was not allowed to travel abroad.

Zia, who governed the country from 2001 to 2006, was convicted on corruption charges in 2018 and sentenced to 17 years in prison. Her party said the charges were politically motivated to keep her away from politics. The rivalry between Sheikh Hasina and Zia has defined politics in Bangladesh for decades.

Cops strike, chaos amid calm

On Wednesday, the streets of Dhaka, the capital, were calm two days after violence gripped the country amid Hasina's sudden departure. The students were seen cleaning streets and managing traffic in parts of Dhaka as police including traffic police disappeared amid violent attacks on police stations in Dhaka and elsewhere in the country. The looting of the firearms was also reported in local media. Reports of robberies in parts of Dhaka came in the absence of police. The Bangladesh Police Association went on strike after police stations and security officials were attacked across the country



People gather in front of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party HQ in Dhaka

Monday. The association said "many" officers had been killed but gave no number.

Hasina sister's home looted

Many of the homes of the ministers and MPs for the ruling party were looted, torched or vandalised. People were seen on social media taking valuables from the home of Hasina's younger sister in Dhaka's

Gulshan area. Four separate neighbours told AP that the looting took place at her home. Elsewhere in Dhaka, charred bodies were recovered from a museum, which was used by Hasina's father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman before he was assassinated along with most of his family in 1975.

Awami League office set afire

Local media also reported that many of the dead in two days of violence since her resignation included her party officials, mostly outside Dhaka. Bodies of at least 20 members of Awami League were recovered across the country through Tuesday, Dhaka Tribune reported. The overall death toll has now reached 469 in almost three weeks since the protest first started over govt job quota. In Dhaka, parts of the central office of the Awami League in the Gulistan area were repeatedly set on fire, even as hundreds of people looted furniture, tiles, rods, and other items from the burning building. The office was first set on fire shortly after Hasina's resignation.

Garment factories reopen

Garment factories, forecast to account for 90% of the country's exports, reopened hoping to swiftly resume full operations after production was disrupted by the violent protests. Most schools and university campuses in Dhaka and other cities reopened after having been shut for weeks. AGENCIES

Yunus acquitted in labour case

AKM Moinuddin

Dhaka: An appellate tribunal in Dhaka set aside Wednesday a six-month jail sentence handed to Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus on Jan 1 this year for a labour law violation, coinciding with the announcement that he would be sworn in Thursday as the head of Bangladesh's interim govt.

MA Awal, chairperson (in charge) of the tribunal, delivered the verdict. "Prof Muhammad Yunus and three of his colleagues have been acquitted of the charges," AFP quoted lawyer Khaja Tanvir Ahmed as saying. Dhaka's labour court-3 had also sentenced Grameen Telecom directors Ashraf Hassan, M Shahjahan and Nurjahan Begum. Yunus and his colleagues were also fined Tk 30,000 each, in default of which they were required to spend 25 more days in prison.

Chattogram, Yunus was a student at Dhaka University and received a Fulbright scholarship to study economics at Vanderbilt University. He got a PhD in 1969, and the following year became an assistant professor. Returning to Bangladesh, he headed economics department at Chittagong University.

'Not revenge' but 'love and peace' to rebuild B'desh: Released ex-PM

Released ex-PM



Zia addressed the rally via video link

Dhaka: A day after her release from house arrest, Bangladesh's former PM and Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chairperson Khaleda Zia on Wednesday thanked the people of the country for their "struggle to make possible the impossible" and said it is not "anger" or "revenge" but "love and peace" which will rebuild the nation.

In her first public speech since 2018, delivered via video link at the BNP rally in Nayapalton, Zia, 79, appealed for calm. "I have been released now. I want to thank the brave people who were in a do-or-die struggle to make possible the impossible. This victory brings us a new possibility to come back from the debris of plunder, corruption and ill-politics. We need to reform this country as a prosperous one."

Urging all to strengthen the hands of the youths, the former premier said, "Youths are our future. We need to build a democratic Bangladesh to fulfil their dream, and for which they shed their blood...No destruction, no anger and no revenge, we need love and peace to rebuild our country." PTI

Democracy not possible without Awami League, says Hasina's son

AKM Moinuddin

Dhaka: Ousted PM Sheikh Hasina's son Sajeeb Wazed Joy asserted Wednesday that democracy and elections in Bangladesh are impossible without the participation of Awami League, the country's largest and oldest party. In a video message, he addressed the current govt: "We also want a democratic, orderly and safe country. For that, we are ready to discuss with everyone, only if they eliminate militancy and violence. Sheikh Hasina is not dead. We didn't go anywhere. Democracy and elections are not possible without the Awami League in Bangladesh." His message came amid violence and political unrest in Bangladesh.

"If a new democratic Bangladesh is to be built, it is not possible without Awami League. It is the biggest party. It will not go anywhere. It is not possible to end Awami League," he said, emphasising that the current situation demanded involvement of Hasina's family, despite earlier declarations that they would not return to politics. He urged party functionaries to stand firm. "Stand up with courage. We are here. Bangabandhu's family did not go anywhere. We are with you. We are ready to do whatever is necessary..."

Democrats pitch Harris-Walz team as 'ticket of joy' for US

Hope It Will Open Doors For Kamala To White Votes, Blue Wall States

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: He taught in China, knows Mandarin, and is "therefore cozy with China". He was arrested for drunk driving. He quit the National Guard just before deployment in Iraq. He was governor of Minnesota during the Minneapolis riots. He's an uber-liberal west coast wannabe. MAGA Republicans are bombarding Kamala Harris' vice-presidential pick Tim Walz with political dirt within hours of him coming into the national limelight even as the new Democratic ticket is surging ahead in polls, the new energy and momentum evident at a raucous rally in Philadelphia, often referred to as the City of Brotherly Love.

Indeed, brotherly love was what was on display on Tuesday as Democrats quickly closed ranks, with Pennsylvania governor Josh Shapiro, who lost the intra-party race to be Harris' running mate, joining the event to endorse the Harris-Walz ticket even as Americans began scouring for information about a man who one survey showed 71% of respondents had never heard of.

What they are discovering is a high-relatable everyone's uncle whose folksy style and openhearted mannerism reportedly charmed Harris so much that she is risking losing Pennsylvania by picking him over Shapiro. Among the more endearing disclosures he reportedly made to Harris when he was being vetted: He had never used a teleprompter before.

Their pairing is now being presented to voters as a "ticket of joy", in contrast to the dark and dystopian view of America that Donald Trump is projecting if he loses. "Thank you...for



NAMASTE WALZ: 'Thank you...for bringing back the joy,' Tim Walz told Democratic prez nominee Kamala Harris in the opening moments of his address at a raucous rally in Philadelphia, after essaying a brief namaste

bringing back the joy," Walz told Harris in the opening moments of his address, after essaying a brief namaste.

What Walz brings to the table, according to Democratic strategists, is a broader appeal to white rural and suburban voters who remain leery of the first woman of colour nominated for the White House race by a major party. Party panjandrums are hoping that even if he swings 1 or 2% of white voters in the so-called Blue Wall states that are won or lost narrowly, including neighbouring Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania, it will pave way for Harris to reach the 270 electoral votes needed to win the prez race.

Whether that will work in practice is yet to be tested since traditionally, outside of the optics, the vice-presidential choice is inconsequential in drawing votes, something Republican candidate Donald Trump also stated last week in reference to his own running mate. Trump supporters meanwhile are already sowing fears about Walz's liberal policies, including generating memes ridiculing him as "Tampon Tim" because his administration provides free menstrual products to students in Minnesota public schools. But Walz is unapologetic about his policies that includes codifying abortion rights and free school meals for children. Questioned about this in one interview, Walz joked about himself, "What a monster! Kids are eating and having full bellies so they can go learn, and women are making their own healthcare decisions!"

Every bit of Walz mid-western charm was evident at the boisterous rally where he was introduced to a partisan crowd whose own governor was disdained, but which still enjoyed the Minnesotan's verbal salvos, including a risqué shot at his rival JD Vance, also from heartland America, asking him to "get off the couch and show up" to debate him. The salty aside was a reference to the liberal candor online about Vance fornicating with a sofa, one of several such lurid memes and themes both sides are generating in an election campaign that is increasingly going below the belt.

Walz's long history with China in focus

Democratic vice-prez nominee Tim Walz has connections to China dating back decades that could help inform a potential Kamala Harris govt's approach to Beijing, but may also spook trouble.

The little-known Minnesota governor taught English in China's southern Guangdong province in 1989 and 1990, making him the first person on a prez ticket to have that kind of experience living in the country since George H. W. Bush, who served as US ambassador in Beijing in the 1970s. Walz has often spoken affectionately about China's people. "If they had the proper leadership, there are

no limits on what they could accomplish," he told a newspaper after returning from China in 1990. "They are such kind, generous, capable people." Walz got married on the fifth anniversary of the deadly 1989 Tiananmen Square military crackdown, with his wife telling a local newspaper "he wanted to have a date he'll always remember."

With Walz appearing prominently on the national political scene for the first time on Tuesday, many on social media began poring over a long record of comments on China, some of them decades old. "I don't fall into the category that China necessarily needs to be an adversarial relationship," Walz said in a video interview posted in 2016. His positions appear largely in sync with the Biden administration, which aims to compete with Beijing in military and economic spheres, and cooperate where possible on climate or narcotics trafficking.

Walz's stance toward China — and his past meeting with the Dalai Lama — may open him to criticism from Beijing. But a Chinese official said Walz is unlikely to impact US policy as Americans are unified in their headline views on China. In Beijing's view, every candidate believes untrue and harmful things about China. BLOOMBERG

Yunus is set to be 32nd Nobel laureate to be a head of state

Continued from P1

The decision to have an interim govt headed by Yunus was sealed at a meeting Wednesday in Bangabhaban, the official residence and workplace of the president, with the chiefs of the three forces, two Dhaka University teachers and coordinators of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement in attendance. Prez Mohammed Sahabuddin immediately agreed to the student representatives' proposal to request Yunus to shepherd Bangladesh out of the crisis, officials said.

Yunus, who is set to become the 32nd Nobel laureate to be a head of state, remains a longtime critic of ex-PM Sheikh Hasina, who resigned on Aug 5 in the face of a mass anti-reservation uprising and fled to India. Her govt had Bangladesh's central bank remove him as MD of Grameen Bank in 2011. This Jan, Yunus was sentenced to six months in jail for violation of labour laws. In June, he and 13 others were indicted by a court in another case involving embezzlement of \$2 million from the workers' welfare fund of a telecom firm he founded.

NOBEL PEACE WINNERS WHO WENT ON TO BECOME HEADS OF GOVT OR STATE

Prize won in ■ Became HoG/HoS in

 Lech Walesa Poland 1983 1990	 Aung San Suu Kyi Myanmar 1991 2016	 Nelson Mandela South Africa 1993 1994
 Shimon Peres Israel 1994 1995	 Jose Ramos Horta East Timor 1996 2006	 Muhammad Yunus Bangladesh 2006 2024

Note: Muhammad Yunus is the only one on this list who was not a political leader/activist when he won the award

Yunus had established Grameen Bank in 1983, fired by the belief that credit was a fundamental human right. His objective was to help poor people escape poverty by providing loans on terms suitable to them and teaching sound financial principles so they could help themselves. From Yunus's personal loan of small amounts of money to destitute basket-weavers in Bangladesh of the mid-70s, Grameen Bank became the model for a worldwide movement towards eradicating poverty through microlending. Organisations like Grameen Bank now operate in over 100 nations worldwide. Born in

New police chief vows probe into protest deaths, offers apology

AKM Moinuddin & Agencies

Dhaka: Bangladesh's newly appointed police chief on Wednesday offered an apology for the conduct of officers during deadly protests and vowed a "fair and impartial" probe into the killings of students, common people and the police. "In the current protests... our previous responsible officials were not able to fulfil their duties as per the expectations of the countrymen," Inspector General of Police Md. Mainul Islam said.

"Some unprofessional officers did not follow the accepted principles of applying force and violated human rights. It is because of them that this ongoing violence and casualties have



Students and members of Ansar were seen on streets managing the traffic in Dhaka and other parts of the country till the time of filing this report at 1pm Wednesday amid absence of regular traffic police

occurred. I, as the chief of police, apologise on behalf of Bangladesh Police for that," said the new IGP. Asked if

they will be punished, he said, "Action will be taken as per police regulations."

More than 400 people were killed during weeks of clashes between protesters and security forces. Among 44 dead bodies brought to Dhaka Medical College Hospital on Monday, many of them were young men and almost all had bullet wounds.

Since Sheikh Hasina fled, police reported mobs launching revenge attacks on her allies, as well as on police stations and officers. Police unions have gone on strike in the wake of violence against them. "Many police officials have been injured, killed, and tortured because of some overly ambitious officials," the IGP said, adding that he had asked police units to end their strike

and return to duty on Thursday.

Mainul Islam replaces Habibur Rahman in a reshuffle that comes hours after Prez Mohammed Shahabuddin appointed Muhammad Yunus as the head of an interim govt. According to a notification issued by Bangladesh's ministry of home affairs, the police and the elite force Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) have undergone major leadership change in a bid to bring back discipline and maintain social order.

Additional IGP AKM Shahidur Rahman has been made director general of RAB, which has been accused of torture and disappearances in the past. RAB DG Md Harun-Or-Rashid has been relieved and attached to the police as additional IGP.

Iran asks airlines to avoid its airspace due to military drill: Report

Iran has advised civilian airlines around the world to avoid flying through Iranian airspace, the Egyptian state-affiliated Al Qahera News TV quoted an Egyptian official source as saying Wednesday. Iranian air space is to be avoided due to military drills, the source added. Egypt's civil aviation ministry confirmed that it has sent a notice to all Egyptian airlines to avoid flying over Iranian airspace on Aug 7 from 11.30 to 14.30 (local time) and from 4.30 to 7.30 on Aug 8 Tehran time due to military exercises, it said. REUTERS

British police prepare for more unrest amid fears that anti-immigration groups have a list of targets

London: British police prepared Wednesday for another night of violence amid concerns that anti-immigration groups planned to target dozens of locations throughout the country following a week of rioting and disorder fuelled by misinformation over a stabbing attack against young girls.

Police anticipated more than 100 events, Britain's Press Association reported, citing a law enforcement source. Internet chat groups

shared a list of agencies and law firms specialising in immigration as possible targets. The head of London's Metropolitan Police Service said officers were focused on protecting immigration lawyers and services.

In addition to thousands of officers already deployed, about 1,300 specialist forces were on standby in case of serious trouble in London.

"We'll protect those people," Commissioner Mark

Rowley said. "It is completely unacceptable, regardless of your political views, to intimidate any sector of lawful activity, and we will not let the immigration asylum system be intimidated."

Cities and towns have been wracked by riots and looting for the past week as angry mobs, encouraged by far-right extremists, clashed with police and counter-demonstrators. The disturbances began after misinformation spread about the stabbing rampage that killed three girls in the seaside community of Southport, with social media users falsely identifying the suspect as an immigrant and a Muslim.

Man charged in US is a Karachi banker with families in Iran and Pakistan

Omer Farooq Khan | TNN

Islamabad: Pakistan announced on Wednesday that it was in contact with American authorities and awaiting further details about the alleged involvement of a Pakistani national in a foiled assassination plot targeting ex-prez Donald Trump.

"Before giving our formal reaction, we also need to be sure of the antecedents of the individual in question," Pakistan's foreign office said. The US reported that Asif Raza Merchant, 46, a Pakistani man, has been charged in connection with a plot to assassinate a US politician or govt officials. A criminal complaint revealed that Merchant, a resident of Karachi, allegedly has ties with Tehran. He told investigators he has a wife and children in Iran and a separate family in Pakistan.

Local reports suggest Merchant worked as a branch manager in a Karachi bank in 2010. His responsibilities included managing an asset and liability portfolio of over Rs 1,850 million, encompassing clients from various sectors including petrol, textiles, leather, paper products, chemicals, and pharmaceuticals, as well as various retail, commercial, and corporate clients. Merchant's resume detailed his roles in marketing new clients, reviewing and monitoring branch financials, and preparing interim and annual reviews.

A complaint against Merchant claimed he sought to recruit people in the US to carry out the plot in retaliation for the killing of Iran's Revolutionary Guards top commander Qassem Suleimani in 2020 during Trump's presidency.

DAILY PLANET



POPE INTERRUPTED: Pope Francis meets a group of Mexican faithfuls wearing traditional costumes during his general audience at the Vatican on Wednesday. Two activists from animal rights group PETA interrupted the event, shouting and holding up 'bullfighting is a sin' banners. They were quickly escorted out of the venue

BTS' Suga loses his driving licence for drunk scooter ride

K-pop star Suga, a member of the boy band BTS, apologised Wednesday after police in Seoul fined him and revoked his licence for drunk driving while on an e-scooter. Suga had ridden the scooter for about 500m before he tripped when parking on Tuesday night. Suga failed a breathalyser test conducted by nearby police and was fined and his scooter licence taken away. "I apologise to everyone who has been hurt by my careless and wrong behavior," said Suga, whose birth name is Min Yoon-gi. The 31-year-old has been engaged in social service work in order to meet his military duty commitment.



Aus man steals kids-fave 'Bluey' coins worth \$400k
An Australian man has been arrested for the alleged theft of more than \$393,000 worth of commemorative coins linked to the popular children's TV show "Bluey", police said Wednesday. He is accused of stealing 63,000 unreleased, limited-edition coins from a secure warehouse in Sydney in June. The Australian animated show is widely loved, by adults too, and is the 14th highest-rated show of all time. The coins, produced by the Australian mint, are legal tender. Police say they are selling online for 10 times their face value.



AROUND THE WORLD
There are 12 times more trees on Earth than stars in the Milky Way! Scientists estimate there are between 200 - 400 billion stars in our galaxy while there are an estimated 1 trillion trees on Earth. The Times of India is the world's largest-selling English daily



A thought for today

In the age of live-streaming, it's necessary judges show greater restraint in proceedings...observations made can cause palpable harm to the judicial process

SUPREME COURT

Courting Differences

SC dealt with HC judge's remarks against it. But the real issue is courts must put justice over remit

That an SC bench had a special sitting to take to task a judge of Punjab & Haryana high court over comments the HC judge made about the top court, is a complex and troubling situation, with important lessons. It's not simply a matter of an HC judge's criticism of SC, which the top court dealt with yesterday, calling Justice Rajbir Sehrawat's remarks "unnecessary and unwarranted", and expunging them. SC made it abundantly clear that parties may be aggrieved by an order, but "a judge can never be aggrieved by a higher appellate forum."

The matter | It's necessary we understand what triggered Justice Sehrawat's outburst. SC stayed a contempt-of-court order on which Justice Sehrawat, in-charge of roster of contempt proceedings, was initiating action against Haryana govt for non-compliance of an earlier HC order. The appeal in SC was *only* against the contempt order, not the original order. Upshot: a stay on contempt risks being interpreted as a stay on non-compliance. Justice Sehrawat said SC hadn't considered "consequences" of staying the HC's contempt order. That such stays had implications on the ground. For instance, it was argued that a stay by SC on HC's contempt orders had been interpreted as "de facto" stay on the order itself in a case pertaining to pay grades of judicial officers, which is still hanging fire.

The worry | The judiciary is best placed to carry out its own damage control measures. Justice Sehrawat's outburst was uncalled for. The roster to hear contempt matters was transferred from him. Yesterday, a bench of HC Chief Justice Sheel Nagu and Justice Anil Kshetarpal stayed Justice Sehrawat's contempt order itself until the next hearing, "to prevent any further damage to the reputation and majesty of the rule of law". But that is not the point.

The lesson | Reputation is built on trust, integrity and smooth functioning. It's clear the judiciary's federal structure is feeling a certain strain. There've been far too many occasions where high courts and trial courts have bristled at SC's initiatives to improve judiciary functioning, seeing these instead as SC "overreach". What all this says is that judges need to always put the goal of delivering justice fairly and efficiently above disputes on remits. Judiciary across levels should pay heed to what SC said yesterday, that "courts are not supreme but the Constitution is."

Avijit.Ghosh@timesofindia.com



All of us have seen photos of that day, the day when Vinesh Phogat and fellow wrestlers, including Rio bronze medalist Sakshi Malik, tried to march towards Parliament last summer. They were protesting against a subtle collusion and inaction by authorities on sexual harassment allegations against then WFI boss Brij Bhushan Singh. But their efforts to demonstrate were cut short by a determined police.

In the pics, we see Phogat in every shade of defiance. In one photo, she is climbing over a barricade. In another, she is at the centre of a tug of war between cops and fellow protesters. But a third frame is the most poignant. Phogat is on the ground with another woman wrestler, desperately clutching a tricolour, with the police trying to drag them away.

On Wednesday, over a year later, another Phogat photo was splashed in newspapers across the country. It was clicked moments after she had overcome Japan's seemingly unbeatable Yui Susaki, who had won the Tokyo 2020 gold without giving away a single point. In the pic, Phogat is lying on the mat, her arms and legs shaped in the pose of a human X, her hair creating a dark halo.

But it's the face that best demands a closer scrutiny. It's a face where a cyclone of emotions seems to have converged. And it isn't easy decoding them. Is it a face of unbearable happiness where tears seek to compensate for the inadequacy of words? Or, is it indicative of an enormous relief in winning a battle that few thought she could win? Or, is it an expression of a more complex cocktail, encapsulating everything endured on and off the mat over the past 18 months?

In Paris during the bouts, Phogat seemed to be in a zone of her own. The TV commentator had described Susaki as "a force of nature". Phogat tamed her, defending every move her rival made like her life depended on it. And yet the

SHE'S STILL GOLD

Vinesh Phogat's disqualification feels like a Shakespearean tragedy. Its cause must be investigated and made public. But her dangal in different arenas remains as inspiring as ever

Haryana wrestler trailed till the dying seconds, before her attacking manoeuvre fetched her the points she needed. The commentator described the outcome as "the biggest shock of all shocks in all wrestling".

How does a face register every emotion that arises inside in a situation like this? Maybe Malik, Phogat's comrade in the anti-sexual-harassment struggle, could have explained it best. She had pulled off a similar Olympic-sized miracle eight years ago. Trailing all along in the bronze medal face-off in Rio 2016, she had scored a stunning last-gasp win in the dying seconds, to become the first Indian woman wrestler to claim an Olympic medal. Ironically, it was in Rio where Phogat, bedevilled by a torn knee ligament, was stretched off in pain and tears after a quarterfinal loss.

Isn't it a shame that fighters like Phogat and Malik were pushed into a situation where they thought of flinging away their career medals into the Ganga in disgust? Much like boxer Muhammad Ali had done with his Olympic medal in the Ohio river, after encountering racism at a restaurant in US.

Phogat's next two encounters against challengers from Ukraine and Cuba underlined how she was really a woman on a mission. Both were gutsy and gritty; only Phogat was

the new invincible. On Tuesday night, a gold not only looked within her reach, but seemed a distinct possibility. If that had happened, she would have been the first Indian wrestler, man or woman, to ensure the national anthem was played in an Olympics. Considering the dramatic arch of her journey, what

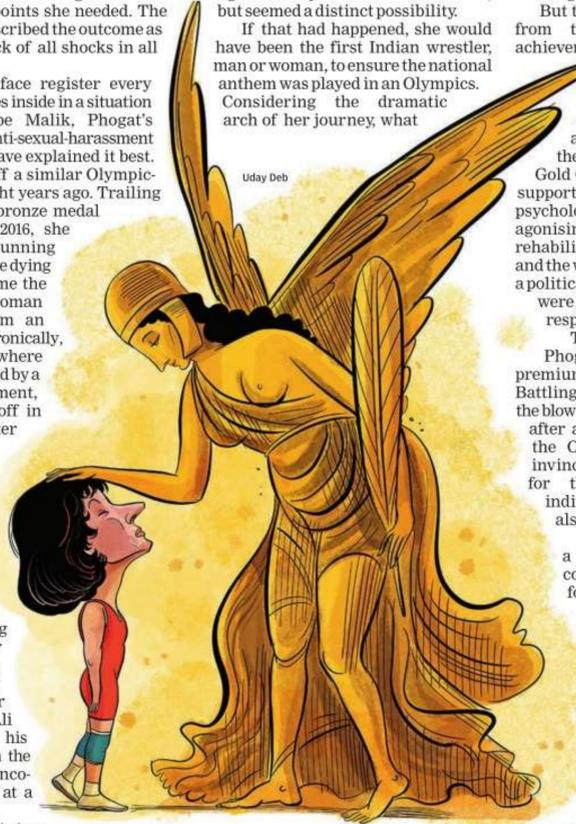
real-life. What caused the slip-up must be investigated and made public.

But that doesn't take anything away from the immensity of Phogat's achievement. Consider that after spending weeks in a tent in Jantar Mantar, after a soul-crushing bout with the authorities, she underwent another surgery to reconstruct the knee ligament last Aug. Olympic Gold Quest, a not-for-profit company, supported her all the way. The psychological ordeal would have been as agonising as the physical pain of rehabilitation that followed. The rebel and the warrior was also seen by some as a political proxy, when wrestlers like her were just fighting for their right to be respected.

To that extent, the story of Vinesh Phogat, who belongs to a family of premium wrestlers, is beyond medals. Battling physical injuries, overcoming the blows of officialdom, regaining fitness after a major surgery, qualifying for the Olympics and overcoming the invincible, she's inspiring not only for those who seek to attain individual excellence in sports, but also for those fighting for a cause.

Her ongoing struggle is actually a *dangal* against inappropriate conduct in the workplace, a plea for safety, especially of young girls whose protests aren't acted upon. A true tribute to her lies in ensuring a better environment for all future wrestlers. And that requires more effort and intent than posting cheery messages on social media.

Phogat turns 30 later this month. One hopes that this is not the concluding passage of her glittering career. For she has the gift of creating fire from the ashes. After the disqualification, she may not win a medal in Paris, but it doesn't change the fact that Vinesh Phogat is gold.



Uday Deb



Can Bangladesh's Banker To The Poor Save Its Democracy?

Yunus as head of interim govt will be working on an agenda set by other forces. Legitimacy of his administration will depend on how quickly he restores order and holds free and fair elections

Shikha Mukerjee



The test of the interim govt headed by Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus appointed by President Mohammed Shahabuddin in consultation with Bangladesh's defence bosses and the Anti-Discrimination Students Movement, will be to restore normalcy, end the targeted killings of Awami League leaders and activists and whoever else is on the list of disapproved persons. Yunus may possess the courage, conviction and ambition too. But the question is does he possess the power to take on the political and fundamentalist forces that ran amok this Monday and Tuesday?

There are three impediments that Yunus has to know how to navigate. First, the cabal of political forces that seems to have taken over after Hasina's ouster. Second, the army, which first consulted with Jamaat-e-Islami and BNP before it sat down to negotiate with student leaders mediated by the president. Third, ensuring that elections that must follow after parliament was dissolved are free, fair and credible.

Will Yunus be his own man?

Yunus has agreed to work on a slate that is half full, since decisions have been taken and he has been co-opted to handle and implement a roadmap that has obviously been drawn up by others. What comes next is a matter of speculation. The bit that is absolutely certain is the army and the two political parties it consulted immediately after Hasina fled, will be

the final decision-makers. Yunus's decision to step in as head of an interim govt is intriguing. In 2007, when the army asked him to take over as chief adviser in a controversial caretaker govt period, he had declined. Given the manner of his appointment, the Yunus govt is not entirely a civilian administration. The change of heart in 2024 does come after years of friction and even a prison sentence with Hasina once calling him a "blood sucker". It does suggest that Yunus is no longer squeamish about throwing in his lot with an assortment of anti-Hasina forces.

Who are Bangladesh's new power brokers?

Hasina may have sworn never to return but that does not mean Awami is finished. The targeted violence and horrific killings within hours of the army takeover point to settling of political scores.

For starters, the various student and youth-led organisations that participated in the upsurge were not in control of the violence that engulfed Bangladesh following Hasina's exit. Contrary to expectations, her departure will not be the second liberation

of Bangladesh. The celebrating young people and even older demonstrators who hit the streets after July and joined the long march to Dhaka on Aug 5, are beginning to discover that the liberation they thought they had achieved is not restoration of democracy.

Hasina's resignation and expulsion ended the tenure of her autocratic govt. But it did not liberate the country nor did it restore democracy and the enjoyment of freedom, justice and human rights. The announcement by army chief Waker-uz-Zaman that an interim govt would be formed and the "crisis" would end overnight, may have been designed to reassure people anxious about the volatile demonstrators who had swamped the streets of Dhaka and out in the districts. But it was vacuous.

The crisis is far from over. By getting the president to front the meeting with the students in order to satisfy their primary demand that they won't

accept any army-supported or army-led govt, the leaders of the movement, including the visible and vocal Nahid Islam, have been coaxed into sponsoring the Yunus-led interim regime, which incidentally coincided with their original choice.

The students' movement served as a veil for Hasina's political opponents to seize the moment and convert it into the so-called second liberation struggle. The protests, violence including state violence, arson, killings, served to bring about a regime change without an election; a forced ouster rather than a democratic transition.

What are the lessons for India?

Yunus knows how imperative it is to get order back, regardless of how new the regime may be, without the army patrolling the streets. The uprising was also when civilian authority died and a different set of rules took over. Does he have the authority to write the new rules and bring back a semblance of civilian order?

In the age of social media and viral videos, the temptation to mimic what others do is overpowering. Not only does India need to watch out for what happens within Bangladesh and figure out its impact on domestic security and politics, it needs to grasp that economic problems, the despair that follows from unsatisfactory untenured jobs, unemployment and, above all, a trust deficit in the leadership are dangerous. Thwarted aspirations can snowball rapidly into a confrontation that can precipitate a crisis.

The writer is a senior journalist

Job Half Done

Indexation benefit for house sale should have been retained even for transactions post-budget

The govt's move to introduce a grandfathering clause for the contentious budget proposal that removed indexation benefits for real estate transactions will be welcomed by homeowners and investors alike. Post-budget, calculation of long-term capital gains (LTCG) tax on unlisted assets like property would have entailed a higher tax outgo for a large section of real estate sales, notwithstanding the reduction in tax rate from earlier 20% to 12.5%. With sellers now having the option to choose between old and new regimes for transactions done before July 23, finance ministry has heeded criticism that any such retrospective tax was bound to evoke.

Really a special category | The reasoning behind the change in capital tax regime was sound at a general level. Having a uniform LTCG rate will no doubt make the tax structure simpler and create a level-playing field across asset classes.

However, an exception is warranted for assets like land and buildings. For many Indian families, buying or selling property can be a life-changing decision. As compared to the markets, real estate assets also offer more 'assured' return on investment. Even at the sectoral level,

removal of indexation benefit was expected to hit secondary sales market and dampen investment in real estate. Investor-driven markets like Delhi-NCR and Mumbai were likely to take a big hit.

Bring back old regime | But govt hasn't gone far enough, as the new tax regime stays for prospective transactions. In an era when inflation is almost a constant, investing in real estate assets for long-term would thus be less attractive than before. Redirecting investment from short-term to long-term was one of the primary objectives of the capital gains regime being reworked in the budget. By not reintroducing indexation benefits, govt might be upending that goal.



GenZ, chill!

GenABC is Brat too

Bachi Karkaria



We are a community all our own. The golden-olies of our complex. We live up to its name. We get ready companionship from the Dostis we forge here. At our communal celebrations, we become Flamingos; dancing queen-mothers in rani pink, we rock to retro tunes undeterred by retro knees. So what if the 'sway' is due to hips more stiff than silken?

We aren't only showstoppers at festive events in 'amphitheatre' or 'banquet hall'. Grey brigade meets up every ordinary evening too. Like parrots on our palm fronds, *mahila mandal* sits lined up on garden parapet, umbrella-ed by benign champa. Four metres away, 3-year-olds negotiate with baby steps the seesaws and swings of socialised living.

There's an 'old boys club' too. They walk in twos and threes around the half-kilometre circuit before settling down to conversation. It's usually a stocks exchange, and shared aches and pains.

Growing old together has ups and downs. Still-sprightly peers elicit envious admiration; sympathy rises as our hearts sink to watch the southward spiral from slower gait to shuffle to wheelchair. Walking partner is increasingly hired attendant. Yet, defying even strokes, they soldier on, losing mobility but not spirit.

Then, someone loses life itself - and one man's death diminishes us all.

Like last week. Mr Gandhi, spry and ever-smiling till a few evenings earlier, suddenly ended up in ICU. Sensing the worst, his brave wife chose to bring him home. The professor-couple had a fulfilled life with daughter, twin-granddaughters and a banquet-room-sized *biradari* as borne out by his 90th party in June. So, if he had to go, better cradled in loving arms than in tangle of tubes which prolongs life but ends all human-ness.

Mr Gandhi's slight frame has left a big hole in the evening podium, and deeper inside me. Not a week passed when he didn't double-ring my doorbell bearing big-hearted Rumabens's *muthiya, thepla, kadhi, dai-dhokli...* 'Sambhaljo, garam chhey,' he'd say before departing with a cheery 'Have a nice day' - whatever the time.

Now it's a departure with no-return ticket. Dosti's platform filled with *dosts* bidding goodbye.

Alec Smart said: "Let's never again say 'landslide victory'."

Calvin & Hobbes



Sacredspace

The wise man beholds all beings in the Self and the Self in all beings; for that reason, he does not hate anyone. To the seer, all things have verily become the Self; what delusion, what sorrow, can there be for him who beholds that oneness?

Isha Upanishad

Why Boundaries Are Essential For True Freedom

Neil Vimalakumar

The striving for personal space and freedom is a mark of a progressive society. Ironically, though, freedom thrives only within boundaries. An autonomous culture might get chaotic with a lack of protocols to distinguish what is legitimate and what is not. For example, the Olympic Games can become a mockery and dangerous without rules and regulations. Imagine how all the potential of fun and enjoyment could be extinguished without meaningful descriptions of dos and don'ts.

Nobel Laureate Rabinranath Tagore brings home this point: "I have a violin string on my table. It is free to move in any direction it wishes. If I twist one end, it responds, it is free. But it is not free to sing. So, I take it and fix it into my violin. I bind it, and when it is bound, it

is free to sing for the first time." The nature of freedom is that it needs the confines to work best.

However, it is fascinating to note how well one might use 'freedom' to justify lawless actions. Albert Camus's 'judge-penitent' presents the story of a judge who provides legal support to condemned criminals. He used considerable skill and expertise within the constraints of law to set murderers free. His motivation was also to rationalise his less-than-moral acts. Earlier in life, while walking across a bridge over the river Seine, he sensed that a woman behind him was about to take her life.

The protagonist continued walking as though nothing had happened, even

though he heard someone jump into the river. He responded with a numbness to that reality. He carefully avoided reading the newspaper the next few days, lest there be a report of this death, which might lead him to a sense of guilt. In the story, though, there is a 'conscience-keeper', laughter that bothers him, and his act of cowardice and selfishness is called out. The judge-penitent is now on a mission to help fellow guilty people justify the cry of guilt and silence the laughter.

Interestingly, we sometimes seek freedom, not to do the right thing, but to do what our basal instincts drive us to. We seek freedom to be a law unto ourselves, autonomous and then challenge the consequences that might follow. But then, clashes emerge among all entities in the group about who is right

and who is not. This existential conundrum raises the question - should the minority voices be given more importance, or is it the majority that wins? Should the intelligentsia in society be given the lead in this moral decision-making, or should the common people decide? Is it the traditional or the woke? However, that debate cannot be settled as every camp fights for its moral views.

This shows a lacuna in human experience that we could never logically arrive at a position of moral imperiousness - simply because we are all finite humans with a limited vantage point. This moral puzzle then pushes us to look for the transcendent, outside of human experience, to point us to a Moral Law that applies universally. In other words, the natural law signals a supernatural reference point.

The writer works with Life Focus Society



THE SPEAKING TREE

Sebi issues ₹25cr notice to Karvy Broking, CMD

New Delhi: Sebi on Wednesday sent a notice to Karvy Stock Broking and its CMD C Parthasarathy asking them to pay around Rs 25 crore within 15 days in a case pertaining to misappropriation of clients' funds by misusing the power of attorney. The notice came after they failed to pay the fine imposed on them by Sebi. Sebi in April 2023 barred KSB and Parthasarathy from the market for 7 years and fined Rs 21 crore for misappropriating clients' funds. AGENCIES



RIL's green giga factories start in a yr

Reliance Industries plans to roll out its factories making renewables equipment over the next year, marking a milestone for the conglomerate that's been pivoting away from its fossil fuel roots. Mukesh Ambani had first spoken of Reliance's foray into green energy in 2021. BLOOMBERG

ITC to premiumise biscuit & cake biz

Kolkata: ITC is planning to premiumise its biscuit and cake business. With a new category of egg & milk biscuits, the FMCG major is aiming to expand its consumer base in east and south India where around 95% of consumers are non-vegetarians. TNN

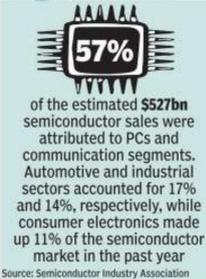
SoftBank sees \$544mn loss on Paytm exit

Mumbai: SoftBank's Vision Fund 1 has recorded a gross loss of \$544 million on its \$1.6-billion investment in Paytm, the Japanese tech investment giant said on Wednesday. SoftBank, which held about 18% stake in Paytm at the time of its IPO, has exited the company. TNN

LIC launches new term insurance plans

Mumbai: LIC has introduced two new term insurance plans targeted towards young buyers and borrowers. The plans include 'Yuva Term' and 'Yuva Credit Life' and Digi Term and Digi Credit Life. They offer lower premium rates for women. TNN

figure it out



Govt amends Budget proposal on realty capital gains formula

Taxpayers Can Now Opt For Indexation Regime Or New One

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: FM Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday moved amendments to the Finance Bill to ease the impact of the Budget proposal on long-term capital gains tax for real estate, giving an option to taxpayers to choose between the new and old tax regimes and pay taxes wherever it is lower and asserted that gov't has taken a number of measures to moderate the tax burden on the middle class.

Gov't had decided to relax the proposal on long-term capital gains tax for real estate by providing individuals and HUFs (Hindu undivided families) the option to pay tax along with indexation benefit at 20%, or at 12.5% without indexation, depending on whether it was lower.

The move to ease the proposal came against the backdrop of unease among the middle class and the real estate sector that they would be disadvantaged under the new regime, which does away with the indexation benefit, meant

LS OKAYS FIN BILL WITH 45 CHANGES

What FM Nirmala Sitharaman Said

...amendment... stipulates that in the case of transfer of long term capital asset, being land or building... the taxpayer can compute his taxes under the new scheme which is 12.5% without indexation and the old scheme - 20% with indexation and pay such tax which is the lower of the two

We have moved away from the days of tax terrorism
Till July 31 (2024-25 AY), nearly 5.2 crore taxpayers accounting for 72.8% of the total have moved to the new tax regime, highlights success of the system
First-time filers were 58.6 lakh in 2024-25, indicates widening of tax base
Increase in exemption limit on long-term capital gains in listed equities and bonds to ₹1.25 lakh from ₹1 lakh to benefit middle class



to adjust for inflation, while lowering the tax rate from 20% to 12.5% as part of a policy tweak to ensure that all asset classes face the same levy instead of multiple rates.

"Now, the current amendment we are bringing is for land and building assets acquired by individuals and HUF before July 23, 2024. It stipulates that in the case of transfer of long term capital asset, being land or building or both by

an individual or HUF which is acquired before July 23rd, 2024 the taxpayer can compute his taxes under the new scheme which is 12.5% without indexation and the old scheme - 20% with indexation and pay such tax which is the lower of the two," she said.

"Not only are we coming up with an option, we are also saying calculate under both and tell us whichever is the lower, pay tax on that. We have

given an option," the FM said, while replying to the debate on the Finance Bill. The Bill was later approved by the Lok Sabha with 45 amendments by voice vote as a section of the opposition members walked out of the house.

The FM detailed a string of measures that have been undertaken by gov't for the welfare of the middle class, highlighting the previous revision of personal income tax slabs in 2023. She said that the slabs were "significantly liberalised," resulting in all taxpayers enjoying a reduced tax liability of Rs 37,500.

She said the vision of PM Narendra Modi has been to establish a simple, efficient and fair, technology-driven taxation regime in this country. "So, simplification and ease of compliance for the taxpayer has been the primary objective...in the last 10 years," she said. "This year also, our approach has been that we bring in greater simplification of tax laws and procedures, and that we enable growth and employment in this country," she said.

FM: States get nearly 75% of health, life insurance GST

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Hitting out at the Opposition over the demand for doing away with GST on health and life insurance, FM Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said around three quarters of the revenue collected goes to the states and those who are protesting should take up the matter with their state finance ministers.

"I want to raise two important points—tax has been there on medical insurance even before the introduction of GST. There was already a pre-GST tax on medical insurance, before GST was introduced. This is not a new issue, it was already there in all the states. Those protesting here... did they discuss regarding the removal of this tax in their states?" Sitharaman said in the Lok Sabha in what was gov't's first response on the issue after the

Tax has been there on medical insurance even before introduction of GST. There was already a pre-GST tax on medical insurance, before GST was introduced. This is not a new issue, it was already there in all the states
Nirmala Sitharaman | FINANCE MINISTER

recent demands to do away with the levy on the two products. The minister said that states have two-thirds representation in GST Council with Centre having one-third say.

She pointed out that 73-74% of GST on life and medical insurance collected last year, and adding up to Rs 12,264 crore, went to states.

The 18% GST includes 9% that is collected by the Centre and an equal amount goes to the states. In addition, of the 9% central GST, 41% is transferred to

the states in line with the Finance Commission's devolution formula. Before GST was implemented in July 2017, gov't used to levy 15% service tax and the GST Council, which comprises states and union FM, fixed the rate at 18%.

Gov't and the finance ministry in particular is of the view that rates and policies related to GST are a shared responsibility of the Centre and the states as the all-powerful GST Council is the deciding authority. The Opposition-ruled states have, however, sought to put the blame on the Centre for any policy decision or rates that do not suit them, officials said.

Interestingly, the demand for doing away with GST on health and life insurance came from transport minister Nitin Gadkari, who took up the cudgels on behalf of LIC's employee union from Nagpur.

Incentives for hybrids 'regressive': Tata Motors

Pankaj Doval@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Taking on Maruti Suzuki and Toyota, which have been campaigning for incentives for hybrids, Tata Motors has said any such benefits will be "regressive and waste of gov't money" and will "slow down the pace of EV adoption" in the country, while making the vehicles globally uncompetitive.

"You can't confuse the country. From a tech perspective, incentivising hybrids is a regression for the country and makes us globally uncompetitive... Do you want the country to go slow on zero emissions tech? Is that the direction you want to set?" Shai-



LAUNCHES CURVV EV AT ₹17.5L

lesh Chandra, Tata Motors MD for passenger cars and EVs, told TOI when asked about demands being made by companies, such as Maruti, Toyota and Honda, for incentives on hybrids.

Tata on Wednesday drove in Curvv EV with an entry price of Rs 17.5 lakh (ex-showroom). It will launch petrol and diesel versions of the vehicle soon. Chandra said electric cars are a must for companies to adhere to CAFE norms.

"To meet net zero emissions target for every company and the country, you have to have a razor sharp focus—which is a movement towards EVs," he said, terming hybrid "as a technology that only makes internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles achieve better fuel efficiency, but not zero emissions."

The gov't has given a subsidised 5% GST rate for electric cars, while fixing over 44% GST for petrol, diesel, hybrids and other larger cars.

Adani Ent plans to raise \$1bn from share sale

Issues Clarification To Exchanges Over Adani's Retirement Timeframe, Succession Road Map

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Adani Enterprises, the flagship of the Adani Group, plans to launch a \$1-billion share sale by mid-Sept, Reuters reported.

The offering of existing shares will mark Adani Enterprises' return to the capital market after it withdrew a \$2.5-billion follow-on offering in Feb last year after US short seller Hindenburg Research accused the conglomerate of improper use of offshore tax destinations and stock price manipulation. The group had denied the allegations.

Separately, Adani Enterprises said its chairman Gautam Adani hasn't specified when he will step down from his current role nor when he will hand over control of the group to the next generation.

Adani Enterprises issued the statement after Bloomberg reported that Gautam (62) plans to step down from the chairman's position at the age of 70, transferring control of his empire to his sons and nephews by early 2030s. "Further, (Gautam) has been misquoted about heirs and equal beneficial interest in the family trust. He had, however, mentioned the involvement of his two sons and two nephews in various businesses of the group," the statement said

A week ago, group company Adani Green Solutions had raised \$1 billion through the qualified institutional placement (QIP) route. Adani Enterprises too plans to raise \$1 billion through the QIP route. It has been working with domestic and international banks on the same. The share sale will help Adani Enterprises

Aug or early Sept. Right now \$1 billion is being worked upon, though the bankers have approval for a higher fund raise," said the Reuters report, quoting sources. Adani Enterprises has hired ICICI Securities, SBI Capital Markets and Jefferies for the fund-raise programme. The company last week told analysts that it plans

Gautam Adani shared his thoughts on succession planning to ensure business sustainability. He said that succession is not just one event, but a journey, and that it must be organic, gradual and systematic. Adani did not specify any date or point in time...
—Exchange filing by Adani Enterprises in response to a Bloomberg report



ses broaden its non-promoter shareholder base.

In May, the board of Adani Enterprises had approved a proposal to raise Rs 16,600 crore through the QIP route. QIP is a less regulated route than a FPO to raise money from such institutions as banks and funds. Through the QIP, promoters will see their stake diluted in the post-equity capital of Adani Enterprises. Promoters own about 75% in the flagship company of the conglomerate.

"The bankers to the deal have been briefed by Adani officials and are targeting to launch the share sale by late

to do a QIP to fund its green hydrogen initiatives. "We are looking to fast-track our green hydrogen. So, we are looking to have the QIP done at the earliest," said the company's deputy CFO Saurabh Shah.

"Adani Enterprises wants to attract certain US investors that are focused on infrastructure but have never looked at India," Reuters said.

Adani Energy Solutions QIP last week got bids from utility-focused US investors, sovereign wealth funds from the UAE and Qatar, and Indian mutual funds. The issue received bids for six times as many shares as were on offer.

Bangladesh turmoil hits India Inc's mfg, sourcing

Some Cos Shut Ops, Sales To Be Hurt Too

Asmita Dey@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: The political crisis in Bangladesh, which has taken a violent turn throwing normal life out of gear, has impacted Indian companies operating in the country. FMCG company Marico's manufacturing operations in Bangladesh remain shut even as it claimed that a large majority of its retail sales force and distributors have now resumed operations. Marico which gets 44% of its international business and about 12% of its consolidated revenues from the country runs three factories in Bangladesh's Gazipur and Chattogram regions.

"The operating conditions in the market are gradually improving, however we remain watchful of the evolving situation...we expect our manufacturing operations to resume soon while we continue to maintain an adequate assurance of supply of our products to meet market demand in the interim," Marico said in a stock exchange filing on Wednesday, adding that the medium term prospects of its business in Bangladesh remains intact. The company sells a range of products including shampoos, edible oil, baby care and skin

care products in the market. VIP Industries, which sources soft luggage, backpacks and duffel bags from Bangladesh, said that if situation in the country continues to remain tense and the political crisis has negative ra-

to Kolkata on Aug 4. Of the company's revenues, 20-25% are dependent on sourcing from Bangladesh.

Fevicol maker Pidilite Industries said that it is actively assessing the potential impact of the crisis on its busi-

FROM FMCG TO LUGGAGE COS

Marico Mfg ops shut. Bangladesh accounts for 44% of Marico's int'l biz & 12% of consolidated revenue	VIP Industries 20-25% of revenues are dependent on sourcing from Bangladesh. Will rethink sourcing based on how situation pans out
Pidilite Has mfg facility and sells locally in the country too	Dabur Low exposure relative to peers though it has a mfg plant and sells products in the country
Asian Paints, Jubilant Foodworks are some other Indian cos that have exposure to Bangladesh	Among global cos, Unilever Bangladesh has temporarily shut ops

mifications for India in the long-term, it will devise a new sourcing strategy, possibly moving it to India that accounts for 70% of the company's total sourcing. "With the demand for soft luggage coming down, we have already been scaling down our operations in Bangladesh," MD Neetu Kashirama told TOI. VIP Industries said all its seven plants in the country's Mongla region are currently working; it, however, moved its 20 Indian staff

ness operations in Bangladesh. MD Bharat Puri said that the company is hopeful of a swift resolution to the current situation. It has manufacturing facilities in a few international locations including Bangladesh and also sells locally in the country. Dabur said that it is closely monitoring the developments in the country. Analysts expect sales of companies operating in the country to remain under pressure until the crisis is resolved.

Apparel export boost for India Trucks stranded across border

Supriya Roy & Veena Mani | TNN

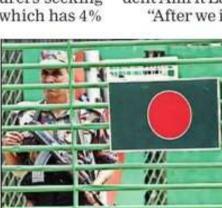
Nandini Sengupta@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: The turmoil in Bangladesh is expected to divert some global clothing orders to India, positioning the country as a preferred manufacturing alternative amid supply chain disruption caused by the political crisis.

"India may become a more attractive destination for apparel manufacturers seeking to diversify their risks. India, which has 4% market share in the global textile sector, has the potential to capture an additional 2% of the market share in the global apparel industry," said J Suresh of BCG.

Indian textile entrepreneurs also anticipate increased demand for apparel exports soon. Prabhu Dhamodharan, convener of the Indian Textile Federation in Coimbatore, told TOI that international buyers might divert 10-15% of orders to other destinations as a short-term strategy. However, for long-term growth in the Indian apparel sector, a focus on the China-plus-one strategy is necessary. Bangladesh and Vietnam are gaining market share in garment exports due to attractive labour costs and large-scale manufacturing.

Chennai: The escalating unrest in Bangladesh has hit India's trucking industry with an estimated 1,300 trucks stranded at the Benapole border. The All India Motor Transport Congress (AIMTC) has already written to the government to facilitate the return of these vehicles and their crew, said AIMTC president Amrit Lal Madan.



"After we intimated the government, with GoI intervention, the trucks have started coming back to India," he said. "There will be an impact on the transportation business on account of the developments in Bangladesh," he added. There's a reason why the Bangladesh unrest is making India's transportation sector jittery—it is a huge market for Indian goods. "Thanks to the favourable duty structure, daily around 1,000 trucks used to go to Bangladesh which has now stopped entirely," said Ramesh Aggarwal of the All India Transporters Welfare Association. India ships everything from auto and auto parts, earth moving big machines, engineering goods, pharma to fruits & vegetables. In comparison, Nepal has high import duties and only 100-150 trucks ply between the two countries, he said.

Gen Z effect: Cos gamify employee rewards

Veena.Mani@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: India Inc is reassessing its approach to employee rewards and recognition as Gen Z enters the workforce. Companies are shifting from the conventional practice of presenting certificates to employees to digital rewards, such as badges, notes, and points, to provide instant gratification.

Epsilon India has introduced a 'passport' called 'Citizen of Youiverse' to cater to the younger generation's desire for fun and social media engagement. The company's HR head Sonali De Sarker said, "People, especially the younger lot, like to post everything on Insta-

CERTIFICATES ARE PASSÉ

Epsilon India has introduced a 'passport', which will get stamped every time an employee takes part in an office gathering, to cater to the younger generation's desire for social media engagement
Roche Information Solutions has an internal marketplace called Applause where points can be redeemed to buy headphones or tickets

Merck India, Thyrye Digital, and Allstate India have implemented leaderboards that allow colleagues to congratulate or thank each other, irrespective of seniority
Thyrye Digital president & CEO Balasubramanian Sanakaranarayanan said, "Youngsters are particular about having a social quotient and emotional quotient. Such boards help in achieving this."
Merck India offers awards in three categories: annual appreciation week, panel-based awards, and spot awards. Allstate India credits each employee with 100 points per month, which can be given to colleagues and redeemed in the firm's internal marketplace.



gram. The 'passport' will get stamped every time an employee takes part in any office gathering or event."
Roche Information Solutions India MD Raja Jamal-

madaka said, "We have an internal marketplace called Applause. Points can be redeemed to buy anything. It could be a pair of headphones or tickets."

INDIA TO GO ALL OUT FOR BRONZE

Sreejesh Hopes Team Will Give Him Fitting Farewell Against Spain

Biju.BabuCyriac
@timesofindia.com

Paris: It was a case of so-close-yet-so-far for the Indian team on Tuesday. The 2-3 loss to Germany in the hockey semifinal was painful for the team, but there's no time to brood over it. There's still a medal at stake — India can repeat their Tokyo 2020 bronze — and standing in their way are Spain. While a medal will be a consolation for the team still hurting from the semis loss, it will also be a fitting farewell for goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, who will be playing his last international match on Thursday.

The team will be strengthened by the return of key defender Amit Rohidas, who had to sit out the last-four match after picking up a red card in the quarterfinal against Great Britain. Rohidas' absence was strongly felt in their game against Germany and his return will help India defend penalty corners better.

On Tuesday, the Indian forward-line missed a few easy opportunities at crucial junctures

and that's another area they need to do better if they are to ensure a bronze. There's no way Lalit Kumar Upadhyay or Abhishek can let go of the chances that they did against the Germans.

Team India had a total of 17 shots on goal from which they managed to score just two. Germany, on the other hand, had a better conversion ratio, with three goals from 13 shots. Skipper Harmanpreet Singh also needs to find ways to make more out of the penalty corners as he scored just one from 10 attempts on Tuesday. His efforts are sometimes becoming a little too predictable and well-organized defences are finding ways to negate his

Team India,
achhe se sona!
Good sleep can
lead to 60% better
performance.

Sleepwell

threat from PCs to a degree.

"The Indian team is really good and they troubled the Germans throughout. The only difference between the two teams is that we grabbed most of our chances whereas the Indian players didn't," a German hockey expert told TOI after the semifinal.

Sreejesh, who was devastated after the loss and was on the verge of breaking down in his penultimate international outing. But he defended the team and said: "Harmanpreet is a world-class drag flicker but then some days are like that. I don't think we were nervous. We fought like champions. They had some luck but we did wonderfully and fought back," the veteran said.

Sreejesh feels the team should get over the loss and concentrate on the job at hand. "We shouldn't worry about what happened today. Against Spain, it's a medal match. We all get a last opportunity to win a medal for our country," he said. "We are a tough team to beat and we will bounce back... But then Spain is not an easy team and the way they played in the quarterfinals (when they shocked Belgium) showed that. So we can't relax. It's going to be my last match, so I hope they will do it for me," Sreejesh said.



SEEKING THE BRONZE: The match against Spain will be PR Sreejesh's last international game

Antim's Oly dream dashed in no time

Alok.Sinha@timesofindia.com

Paris: The Vinesh Phogat storm was still raging when Antim Panghal came to the Champs de Mars wrestling arena here on Wednesday afternoon. She is very young, will be 20 on August 31, but already a big name in her weight category, the 53kg, which was once owned by Vinesh in India.



Antim had qualified for Paris by winning the bronze medal at the World championship last year. Before that she had two world junior medals in her bag. Her Paris qualification had forced Vinesh to go for 50kg trials and qualify for the Olympics.

She started as a 10-year-old, backed by her parents and elder sister Sarita. Her rise was well planned by the family, which stayed by her side all the time. She was groomed to become a champion.

Technically sound, Antim, seeded four at the Games here, was seen as a serious medal prospect back home.

Here, she was completely dominated and destroyed by her Turkish rival Zeynep Yetgil, a two-time European Championships bronze winner. It was all over in a few seconds, 90 to be precise.

Antim began cautiously even as Yetgil went into the attack. The unseeded Turkish grappler executed a takedown for two points and then flipped Antim again to go 4-0 up in the opening minute. Yetgil then scored six points in the next few seconds to wrap up the bout 10-0 on technical superiority.

It looked like a fight between a pro and an amateur: Antim never got into the fight. It's possible that the events at the Games Village in the morning had unsettled her. The Indian delegation was in a shock after Vinesh's disqualification. It had surely affected Antim.

She broke down after being hopelessly outclassed. A few minutes later, she was still crying, weeping bitterly as she hurried out of the mixed zone to the comfort of the waiting team bus. It was a brutal ending for Antim, a disappointing outcome on a dark day for Indian wrestling here.

Not an open and shut case for Neeraj

Paris: His monster throw of 89.34m in the qualification round made quite a statement but a tough challenge awaits defending champion Neeraj Chopra as he seeks another piece of history in the Olympics men's javelin throw final round here on Thursday.

Just what he did in the Tokyo Olympics three years ago, Chopra needed just a few seconds to top the qualification round with his opening throw but the similarity ends there.

This time, the quality of the field is better than that of Tokyo with nine throwers crossing the automatic final round qualification mark of 84m in Paris as against six in Tokyo. Out of the nine, five made it to the final round with their first throws and thus will have a lot in their tanks for the medal round.

Neeraj knows it too well, having been in the circuit for more than eight years. "In the final, everyone has a different mindset and different situation. It will be a good competition. Whoever qualifies automatically is the best in preparation," Neeraj said on Tuesday.

He was in a hurry to go back to the Games Village and take rest to prepare to give his best for the final round on Thursday. Neeraj will have a



NEERAJ CHOPRA

JAVELIN FINAL

chance to become only the fifth man in Olympic javelin throw history to defend the title.

Eric Lemming (Sweden; 1908 and 1912), Jonni Myyry (Finland; 1920 and 1924), Jan Zelezny (Czech Republic; 1992, 1996 and 2000) and Andreas Thorkildsen (Norway; 2004 and 2008) are the only ones to have defended the men's javelin gold medals in the Olympics.

If he wins gold, and for that matter a medal, he will become the most decorated Indian in Olympics in individual sport. Shuttler PV Sindhu (one silver, one bronze), wrestler Sushil Kumar (one silver, one bronze) and shooter Manu Bhaker (two bronze) have won two Olympic medals each post-Independence.

The tremendous effort, which was the second best of his career, also set aside con-

cerns surrounding Neeraj's fitness after he revealed that he had been battling an adductor niggle in the build-up to the Games. His personal best continues to be 89.94m achieved back in 2022.

His 89.34m throw may also raise hopes of millions of Indian fans to see Neeraj cross the elusive 90m mark on Thursday. His effort was also the second-best qualifying throw at an Olympics after the 89.39m registered by the legendary Jan Zelezny at 2000 Sydney Games.

But there were some ominous signs coming out from the qualification round which Neeraj will have to be wary of. The peaking of two-time world champion Anderson Peters (personal best 93.07m) of Grenada and Arshad Nadeem of Pakistan may indicate that the final round could be quite a contest. **PTI**

GRAND HOMECOMING

Tarun Rawat



Shooter Manu Bhaker with coach Jaspal Rana being welcomed at the airport after their arrival in New Delhi. Bhaker won two Olympic bronze medals in the Olympics

Fighting Mirabai misses out on medal

Alok.Sinha@timesofindia.com

Paris: South Paris Arena is spread across 35 hectares. It is a hub of convention centres, a part of the Paris Expo. Found myself inside Hall 6 after a frantic walk through a sea of bodies. This looked like the busiest venue at the Paris Games.

Saikhom Mirabai Chanu had just walked on the stage during the introduction to loud applause; she was No. 10 on the competition list in a field of 12. But that number did not matter. The Indian lifter who won a silver at Tokyo Games was in medal contention. She always is. Sadly, she finished fourth, just 1kg behind her Thai rival who took bronze.

In the snatch, which has pulled her down sometimes, becoming the difference between gold and silver, Mirabai finally ended the jinx of 85kg. She lifted 85kg in her first try. She looked comfortable. But she missed when the bar was raised to 88kg on her second try.

ANTIM'S SISTER HELD BY POLICE, WRESTLER'S ACCRED REVOKED

Sabi.Hussain
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Another fresh controversy struck Indian wrestling on Wednesday evening in Paris when Antim Panghal's sister Nisha — who also acts as her strength and conditioning coach — was caught by security officials for falsely using the former's Games accreditation card to enter the athletes' village. The officials handed Nisha over to the Paris police which briefly detained her and took her to the police station situated inside the village. She was later let off with a warning upon intervention by the Indian Olympic Association's (IOA) officials.

Later, the Games organisers cancelled Antim's accreditation and told her to leave the village immediately. IOA instructed Antim to leave Paris along with Nisha and her entourage of personal support staff — coach Bhagat Singh, sparring partner Vikas and physio.

She returned determined. On her third try, she snatched the barbell well, sat on her haunches for a while and got up for a 'good lift'. Who knows, if she had managed 88kg in the second, she could have gone for 89 or 90kg.

Mirabai finished third in snatch. Tied with her was Thailand's Surochana Khambao. They were behind Valentin Cambel of Romania (93) and Hou Zhihui of China who lifted 93kg. The gap with the leader was 5kg. The real battle had begun. The fight for the medals was between these four ladies.

Clean and jerk is where Mirabai shows her true mettle. Her first try began at 111kg. Before that Cambel started with 106kg and went for 110kg on her second try. Zhou and Surachana also cleared 110kg.

Mirabai then came in, touched the barbell and her forehead in a personal prayer, then went for it. She missed it. But she returned and cleared it on her second try. She had a total of 199kg. A medal was looking likely. She



NOT GOOD ENOUGH: Mirabai Chanu acknowledges the crowd after a lift

missed 114kg on her third try and waited for Zhou who was tied with her with two tries to go. Zhou and Mirabai were tied at 199kg after her second try. She lifted 117kg on her third try to win the gold with 206kg. Cambel was second and the Thai girl won bronze, a kg ahead of Mirabai.

Jyothi, Annu Rani disappoint

Biju.BabuCyriac
@timesofindia.com

Paris: The women's 100m hurdles saw national record holder Jyothi Yarraji finish seventh in Heat 4 clocking 13.16 seconds in the Olympics at the Stade de France here. A repeat of her season's best time of 12.78 would have won her the third place and a berth in the semifinals. "It's a poor time by Jyothi on the fast Mondo track at the Stade de France," a noted coach told TOI. Olympic record holder Jasmine Camacho-Quinn (12.42s) of Puerto Rico and world record holder Tobi Amusan of Nigeria (12.49) were on top after the preliminary round.

The top 3 in each of the five heats and the next three fastest advanced to the semifinals. All the other others, except those who did not start, did not finish and disqualified, will move to the repechage round. Jyothi will have a shot at the semifinal if she finishes top two in her race.

Annu Rani came up with a disappointing show in women's javelin throw after Neeraj Chopra's fine show on Monday. The Indian was never in the hunt for a place in the final after she opened with an effort of 55.81m. She then dipped to



STILL NOT OVER: Jyothi Yarraji will get a chance in the repechage on Thursday

53.22 and improved slightly to 53.55 as she finished second last in Group A and overall 29th out of 32 competitors.

In men's high jump, national champion Sarvesh Anil Kusare, competing alongside Olympic champion Gianmarco Tamberi of Italy, managed a best height of only 2.15 to finish 25th. With no one clearing the stiff qualification mark of 2.29m, the last of the qualifying height came at 2.24m. Joint Olympic champion Mutaz Essa Barshim of Qatar led the finalists with a leap of 2.27m.

The Indian team comprising Priyanka Goswami and Suraj Panwar didn't finish

the race in the marathon race walk mixed relay, a new event on the athletics programme. Panwar, who began the race, was pulled up for incorrect technique — bent knee and loss of contact — in the first leg. Then Priyanka also got warned for loss of contact in the second leg. Panwar came up with an error-free performance in the third leg before Priyanka was pulled up twice in the fourth and last leg and India ended with a 'did not finish' mark.

India's best placing was 16th in the first leg before dropping down to 21st and 24th in the second and third.

Chitravel, Abdulla crash out

In the men's triple jump, Praveen Chitravel and Abdullah Abubaker crashed out in the preliminary round. Abdulla, with an SB of 17m, had a best of 16.49m that put him in the 21st spot. Chitravel, with an SB of 17.12m, managed a best of only 16.25m to finish 27th in the field of 32.

Portugal's Pedro Pichardo topped the two groups with a leap of 17.44m. Italy's Andy Diaz Hernandez bagged the 12th spot in the final with a best of 16.79m edging France's Jean-Marc Pontvianne on count back.

She just could not play her game, did not look in her element."

—Virender Dahiya
WOMEN'S NATIONAL WRESTLING COACH ON ANTIM'S FIRST ROUND

KEEP SHINING, TEAM INDIA.



MEDALS TALLY

P	TEAM	G	S	B	Total
1	USA	24	32	32	88
2	CHN	23	22	16	61
3	AUS	17	12	10	39
4	FRA	13	16	19	48
5	GBR	12	16	19	47
6	KOR	11	8	7	26
7	JPN	11	6	12	29
8	ITA	9	10	8	27
9	NED	9	5	6	20
10	GER	8	5	4	17
64	IND	0	0	3	3

Updated till 11 pm

INDIANS IN ACTION TODAY

ATHLETICS: Women's 100m hurdles repechage; Jyothi Yarraji (2:05pm); Men's javelin throw final: Neeraj Chopra (11:55pm)

GOLF: Women's Rd 2: Aditi Ashok, Diksha Dagar (12:30pm)

HOCKEY: Men's bronze medal match: India vs Spain (5:30pm)

WRESTLING: Men's freestyle 57kg Rd 16: Aman Sehrawat vs Vladimir Egorov (Mkd), (3pm), (If qualifies) Qfs: 4:20pm onwards; Semis: 9:45pm onwards; Women's Freestyle 57kg Rd 16: Anshu Malik vs Helen Maroulis (USA) (3pm), (If qualifies) Qfs: 4:20pm onwards; Semis: 10:25pm onwards

#RuknaNahiHai



GALLERY

Jannat banned for 5 yrs over match-fixing

Islamabad: Afghanistan's Ihsanullah Jannat has been banned from all forms of cricket for five years for match-fixing, the Afghanistan Cricket Board said on Wednesday. The ACB said that batter Jannat breached ICC's anti-corruption code during the Kabul Premier League this year.

Di Maria extends Benfica deal through 2025: Veteran Argentina winger Angel Di Maria has decided against a return to his homeland and extended his deal with Portuguese club Benfica. AGENCIES

Spinners thrive as Lanka win ODI series

Colombo: A clueless Indian batting unit was strangled by crafty Sri Lankan spinners, led by five-wicket man Dumith Wellalage, as Rohit Sharma's men crashed to an embarrassing 110-run defeat in the third and final ODI here on Wednesday.

Sri Lanka won the three-match series 2-0 after the first match ended in a tie, and this is the Islanders' first bilateral ODI series victory over India since 1997.

Chasing a competitive 249 on a sharp turner at Premadasa, India were bowled out for a woeful 138 in 26.1 overs, and the new head coach Gautam Gambhir will have a few hard points to ponder early into his stint.

The left-arm spinner Wellalage, who hurt India with the bat till now, chose to bruise the visitors by ball taking five for 27 after opener Avishka Fernando made a well-paced 96 to carry Lanka to 248/7. However, India had a rather good beginning, despite the early departure of Shubman Gill, to their chase, courtesy Rohit Sharma's breakneck 35 off 20



Dumith Wellalage celebrates after dismissing Rohit Sharma on Wednesday

balls that included an 18-run over off Maheesh Theekshana.

The runs cascaded through a sequence of 6, 4, 4, 4 in the fourth over of the innings. But sweep, one of the favoured shots of Rohit, brought the downfall of the Indian skipper. His attempt to play it off Wellalage ended in the hands of Kusal Mendis behind the stumps.

Once Rohit walked back, the rest of the Indian batters submerged into a whirlpool of confusion.

Virat Kohli (20) played for turn when there was none and was adjudged leg before to Wellalage.

Rishabh Pant, who was playing his first ODI after his comeback from that horrific car crash, trotted down the track and was beaten in the air by Theekshana to eventually get stumped by Kusal.

Riyun Parag, who made his ODI debut while coming in place of Arshdeep Singh, offered no shot to a straight one from leg-spinner Jeffrey Vandersay to get bowled.

In between, Shreyas Iyer also fell leg before to Wellalage, taking the total number of lbw and clean bowled dismissals in this Indian innings to seven, and no other crumb of statistics will offer a clearer picture of the muddled Indian minds than that. **PTI**

Shreyas is youngest British GM

Naomi Canton

London: A 15-year-old Indian-origin chess player has become the youngest ever British grandmaster.

Bengaluru-born Shreyas Royal, who lives in Woolwich, achieved the title at the British Chess Championship in Hull on Sunday, breaking David Howell's record of becoming one at 16 in 2007. He beat Howell and British Tamil prodigy Bodhana Sivanandan at the championship and drew with chess legend Michael Adams, top GM Luke McShane and Gwyn Jones, who won the event. This made Royal England's 41st grandmaster.

He achieved his first GM norm in the Open Bavarian Championship in Germany in 2022. In 2023, he scored his second norm in the London



Shreyas Royal

Chess Classic and in July he surpassed the required 2500 rating mark.

It took five near misses before he got his final GM norm in Hull.

"It is quite a unique club. There are more billionaires in the world than grandmasters," he told TOI. "It is quite a rare feat to become a British grandmaster as we don't have such a great chess culture. We are still far away from the superpowers in chess like India, Russia, America and China."

Although he has not played in India yet, he has played against Indian grandmaster D Gukesh and drew against him.

His father, Jitendra Singh, an IT programme manager, who hails from Delhi, moved to

the UK on an ICT (intra-company transfer) visa with TCS (Tata Consultancy Services) when Royal was three.

In 2018, his five-year visa was about to expire and his salary did not meet the threshold to extend it. He raised his concerns with the English Chess Federation and the then home secretary Sajid Javid intervened and allowed the family to stay, putting Singh on a Tier 2 general visa. The family have since obtained British citizenship. The home secretary said at the time: "The UK is a country that fosters world class talent and Shreyas is one of the most gifted chess players in his generation."

Royal started playing chess aged five. His ambition now is to increase his Elo ratings and become world champion.



COMPLETELY GUTTED. SOMETIMES YOU DON'T NEED A GOLD MEDAL TO BE A TRUE CHAMPION TO PEOPLE."

ABHINAV BINDRA
OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALLIST SHOOTER

'VINESH WAS IN A STATE OF SHOCK'

Wrestler Left Dehydrated, Inconsolable After Failing To Meet Weight Mark Despite Every Attempt To Stay Within Stipulated 50kg; Taken To Hospital For Tests

TIMES AT THE GAMES
ALOK.SINHA
@timesofindia.com

Paris: Vinesh Phogat gave her best to make the 50kg freestyle wrestling final on Tuesday night. But even after that heroic show, she knew she had to manage her weight — she was about 2.7 kg above the mark. She did her best through the night, but fell short by 100g on Wednesday morning when it came to the weigh-in.

This was a horrible way to be denied what was hers. She had earned it. She was to meet USA's Sarah Hildebrandt in the final, a wrestler against whom she had a better head-to-head record. Instead the final spot went to Cuban Yusneylis Guzman Lopez, who was beaten by Vinesh.

"It is with regret that the Indian contingent shares news of the disqualification of Vinesh Phogat from the women's wrestling 50kg class.

Despite the best efforts by the team through the night, she weighed in a few grams over 50kg this morning. No further comments will be made by the contingent at this time. The Indian team requests you respect Vinesh's privacy. It would like to focus on the competitions on hand," the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) said.

India's chef de mission, Gagan Narang, and CMO of the contingent, Dr Dinshaw Pardiwala, had pleaded with the wrestling officials to give Vinesh 10-15 minutes more to shed weight. It

fell on deaf ears. Rules are rules. Vinesh was taken to the polyclinic at the Games Village after the weigh-in. She was inconsolable and dehydrated. "Her blood pressure was 101/67. She was stabilised at the clinic and sent to the Bichat-Claude Bernard Hospital's emergency room," said a source. "She was in a state of shock. She was taken to referral hospital for tests. Dr Pardiwala and his team, and her physiotherapist are all with her. She was administered an IV drip to get her energy back."

She also had some fruits and a bit of food, trying to recuperate. Given her state of mind, sports psychologist Divya Jain was also by her side.

Vinesh had entered the 50kg final after winning three bouts on Tuesday, the first one against defending champion Yui Susaku of Japan. That done, she had no trouble in her second round and the third. Wednesday was meant for gold. The stage was set. It collapsed. Vinesh's mind took her to the final post. Her body betrayed her. Vinesh took part in the 48kg category at the Rio Olympics. She got injured in the second round and was stretchered out. She lost in the first round in Tokyo. In her third Olympics, she dominated in her weight category.

The weigh-in happens on the morning of qualification rounds at 7.30 am. It is done again at the same time on the morning of the medal rounds. It is unprecedented for a wrestler at this stage to fail in maintaining the weight on the second morning.

Why did it happen? Is it more

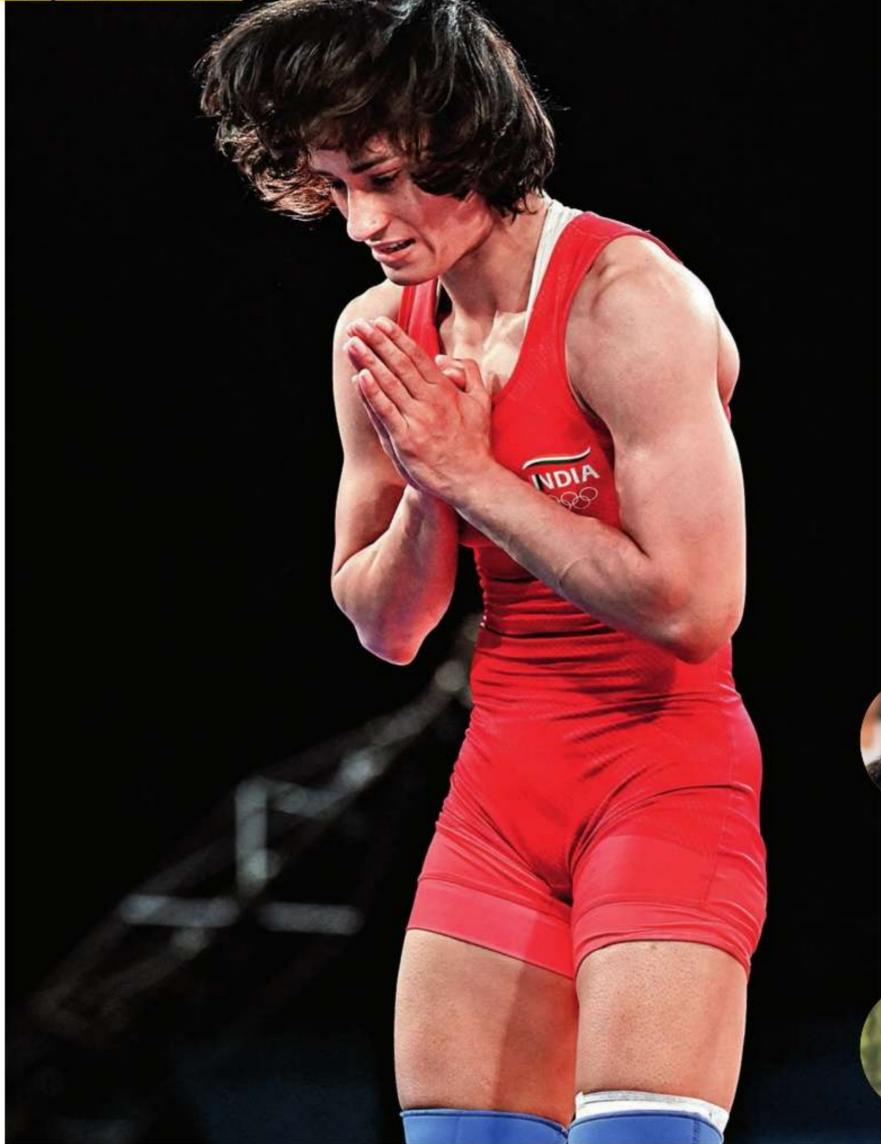
difficult for women to maintain weight? "It is. It can be dangerous for women. It is very tough due to hormonal issues," said the Greece team's coach.

Nigerian coach Purity Akhu was more unforgiving. "If you can maintain your weight on the first day, you can do it on the second day too. You will do everything in the night to ensure that the process is right. The coach and nutritionist should ensure it. I have seen nothing like this at the Olympics," he said.

Mia Ramos Aquino, the coach from Guam, put it in perspective. "If you move up a weight category, it is not difficult. But if you go down, it can be tough. Your natural body weight goes up over a period. It is more difficult for women due to hormonal issues, they could be menstruating." So, should there be some leeway for women at the weigh-in? Maybe, some extra time? "Yes, there can be some form of allowance. It could be extra time. It could be extra grams."

"I really felt for Vinesh. There must be so much pressure on her when she was winning last night. She must have been worried about the weight. I just hope this experience does not break her. I hope she does not find herself all alone. What happened was unfortunate, but it does not make her any less than a medallist. She fought like a champion," she said.

Yes, she did, and made us proud. The burden of 100g will weigh very heavy on our minds for years. Someone needs to take care of Vinesh's mind now.



'EXTREMELY UNFORTUNATE'
REACTIONS Poured IN FOLLOWING THE SHOCK NEWS OF VINESH PHOGAT BEING DISQUALIFIED...

"I have nothing to say. The entire country has expected gold. Rules are there but if a wrestler is 50-100 grams overweight, they are usually allowed to play. I will ask the people of the country not to despair. One day she will bring a medal for sure. I'll prepare her for the next Olympics."

—Mahavir Singh Phogat, VINESH'S UNCLE AND MENTOR

"100gm, you've got to be kidding me. We athletes can shed five to six kg overnight. It is difficult no doubt but we know how to control our hunger, thirst, and exert to the extreme. And when I say sabotage I mean people who are not happy to see India rise as a sporting nation. This girl has been through so much, your heart breaks for her."

—Vijender Singh | FORMER BOXER

"Dear Vinesh, you will always be a champion in our eyes. I was deeply hoping you could win the gold. The little time I spent with you, I watched a woman with a superhuman fight to get better. It was inspiring. I am here for you always, sending all the universe's positivity your way."

—PV Sindhu | BADMINTON STAR

"It is very unfortunate because Vinesh was so close to getting a gold medal. We were hopeful that she would return to India with a gold medal. The last few months were difficult for her and going through all of this and still not being able to play the finals is extremely unfortunate. For me, she is a winner. It is disheartening that only because of 100 grams an athlete is not allowed to participate."

—Harbhajan Singh, FORMER INDIAN CRICKETER

"The IOA has registered a strong protest with the IOC. IOA president PT Usha is in Paris. PM Modi spoke to her and asked her to take requisite action in the matter. The government provided every facility to her including personal staff."

—Mansukh Mandaviya | MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

"Vinesh, you are a gold medalist of courage and morality. You have fought with great courage. Yesterday, when the officials weighed you, your weight was absolutely perfect. No one wants to believe what happened this morning. 100 grams. I can't believe that this has happened to you. The whole country is unable to hold back its tears."

—Bajrang Punia | WRESTLER

Cutting hair, shortening singlet didn't help: CMO Pardiwala

Alok.Sinha@timesofindia.com

Paris: The news of Vinesh Phogat's disqualification spread like wildfire on Wednesday. Frantic calls were made to anyone and everyone who was willing to take the call inside the Games Village. Amidst the disappointment, there was the desperation to get information — on how the wrestler was doing, why she had failed to maintain the weight. Conspiracy writers were having a field day. After a lot of speculation, Dr Dinshaw Pardiwala, the Indian team delegation's chief medical officer (CMO) and Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president PT Usha finally released a video to explain the situation.

"Wrestlers usually participate in a weight category less than their natural weight. It gives them an advantage since they are fighting with less stronger opponents. The process of weight cut involves a calculated restriction of food and water along with sweating from exercises and sauna till the morning weigh-in.

"This weight cut causes weakness and energy depletion, which is counter-productive to participation, and hence, for energy restoration, limited water and high energy foods are given after weigh-in. Vinesh's nutritionist had calculated this to be 1.5 kg. Sometimes, there is also a rebound weight gain following competition," Dr Pardiwala said.

"Vinesh had three bouts (on Tuesday), and hence, small amounts of water had to be given to prevent dehydration.



Vinesh Phogat meets IOA president PT Usha at the Games Village polyclinic in Paris

Her post-participation weight was found to be increased. The coach initiated the normal process of weight cut that he has always employed with Vinesh and felt confident that it would be achieved. However, Vinesh was found to be 100g over her 50kg weight category, and hence, she was disqualified. All possible drastic measures, including cutting off her hair and shortening of singlet, were used."

Obviously, there was some miscalculation. It was not managed well. Dr Pardiwala did not talk about that but revealed that they were taking all measures to ensure that Vinesh was physically and mentally in a good space. As a precautionary measure, Vinesh was administered IV fluids following disqualification to prevent dehydration.

"We are also getting blood tests performed at the local hos-

"I am shocked and disappointed at the disqualification of Vinesh. I met Vinesh at the Olympic Village polyclinic a short while ago and assured her of complete support of the IOA, govt of India and the whole country. We are providing Vinesh all medical and emotional support."

"The Wrestling Federation of India has filed an appeal to UWW (world wrestling body) to reconsider the decision to disqualify Vinesh and IOA is following that up in the strongest possible manner."

"I am aware of the relentless efforts made by Vinesh, the medical team led by Dr Dinshaw Pardiwala, and the chef-de-mission Gagan Narang through the night to ensure that she could meet the competition requirements. The IOA is taking every step to ensure that the morale of the contingent remains high. We are sure all Indians will stand with Vinesh and the entire Indian contingent."

—PT Usha | IOA PRESIDENT

pital to ensure that all is well. All of Vinesh's parameters were normal throughout this process, and she feels perfectly well. Vinesh just interacted with the IOA president and mentioned that though she is physically and medically perfectly normal, she is disappointed with her disqualification."

TOI EXPLAINER: WHY VINESH COULDN'T FIGHT FOR MEDAL

Sabi.Hussain@timesofindia.com

What happened at the weigh-in?

Vinesh failed the weigh-in for her 50kg final bout on Wednesday morning. She was about 100gms over the permissible limit of 50kg at 8 am. After her semifinal on Tuesday night, Vinesh's weight was 52.7kg. She made it to 50.1kg in the morning but couldn't cut the last 100gms, leading to her disqualification. Article 11, Chapter 3 of the United World Wrestling's (UWW) Competition Procedure says: "If an athlete does not attend or fails the weigh-in, he/she will be eliminated from the competition and ranked last."

What are the weigh-in rules for wrestling?

Weigh-ins for each weight class take place in the morning of the competition round. The wrestling competitions for any particular weight category are contested over a two-day period. Any wrestler making the finals or the repechage round will have to give weight on both days. During the weigh-in, the wrestler has to match the required weight of his/her division wearing just the singlets.

Are rules different in UWW events?

Yes. The United World Wrestling (UWW), the sport's global governing body, brought in changes to its competition rules in late 2017 which

were later introduced at the World Championships in 2018. It included shifting to a two-day format from single day events and introducing the concept of weigh-ins on both days. At the Olympics, the 2016 Rio Games was the last time the old rules were followed. The rule tweak also called for a 2kg weight allowance in each category. However, the 2kg weight allowance is only allowed in UWW-sanctioned World Championships, World Cups and other international events hosted by the global body. In Olympics, no such allowance is permitted.

If 50kg is not Vinesh's original category, why was she competing in it?

Vinesh had previously competed in the women's 53kg category but switched to 50kg after Antim Panghal earned an Olympic quota place in the 53kg class with a bronze medal at the World Championships in Belgrade last year. Vinesh didn't compete at the Belgrade Worlds as she was protesting against former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. During the selection trials held in Delhi for the Asian Olympics qualifiers in Bishkek, Vinesh won in the 50kg category and secured her Paris quota. Later, the WFI announced there would be no selection trials for all six Olympic quota-winning wrestlers and all of them would represent the country

in Paris. The decision meant that Vinesh would compete in 50kg only. If trials had happened, she would have had the chance to challenge Antim for a spot in the 53kg division.

Why wasn't Vinesh awarded the silver if she won her bouts fair and square?

According to UWW's competition rules, if a wrestler fails the weigh-in before his/her scheduled bout either on the first or second day, he/she is immediately disqualified and given the last spot. It meant Vinesh wasn't eligible for any medal despite reaching the final. She would have won silver if she had lost the final or even withdrawn due to injury or illness.

What happens to Vinesh's medal?

Cuban wrestler Yusneylis Lopez, who lost to Vinesh in the semifinals, will play the gold medal match against USA's Sarah Ann Hildebrandt. Japanese wrestler Yui Susaki will play for bronze against Oksana Livach of Ukraine.

Is the support staff to blame?

According to sources, her team of support staff put in their best efforts through the night to cut her weight. It included jogging, running, sitting in the sauna, wearing thick warm jacket for excessive sweating and maintaining water level to avoid excessive retention. Dr Dinshaw Pardiwala, the CMO of the Indian contingent, confirmed that drastic measures were taken, including chopping off Vinesh's hair.

Weight and watch: An athlete's challenges in managing the self

TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL

SANDEEP ADHWARYU

TIMES AT THE GAMES

SIDDHARTH.SAXENA
@timesofindia.com



Paris: "Abhi nahin, sir, please jaane do. Abhi mujhe weight manage karna hain. I will speak tomorrow." A hopeful, happy-sounding Vinesh Phogat was bounding off after reaching the final of the women's 50kg freestyle on Tuesday here in Paris, before she was found just about 100g over in the morning weigh-in for the final.

Even in the euphoria of victory, the 29-year-old wrestler was clearly more concerned about maintaining her weight ahead of the morning's final weigh-in. Later, as dusk was gathering over the Champs de Mars arena, Vinesh was seen skipping near the athletes' area. In a full 45-minute session, she did some running and stretching, all wearing layers of clothing to help the excessive sweating continue. Then, as she

cooled down, she spent nearly quarter of an hour with herself, sometimes looking ahead — the Eiffel in the distance — or with her head buried in her hands. It was a reflective period for the wrestler, but it was clear more pressing things were on her mind.

Despite all the conspiracy theories swirling over Vinesh's unfortunate exit hours before what was a historic final, the struggle to manage weight in competition is a real challenge for wrestlers, boxers and weightlifters, sometimes more than the draw itself.

At the 1984 LA Olympics, India's lifter Kamalakanta Santra was found to be two kg over at the 60kg weigh-in. If memory serves one right, Santra essentially sought to beef himself up by eating. His coach later said that in his zeal, Santra had overeaten.

Cutting weight is a standard practice that all wrestlers carry out, since they usually go into the tournament at least three kg above if not more, but there also comes a time when the body simply refuses to give in. That

is what perhaps also may have happened with Vinesh on the final morning. On whether Vinesh needed to eat to replenish her depleted resources can be gauged by her empty reserves in the second period of her quarter-final bout when Ukraine's Oksana Livach came strongly at her and the Indian had nothing physical to hold her off with. She resorted instead on experience and guile — and a breather via a challenge — to win.

Often, it is those in the lower weight categories who face the bigger problems, further complicated in case of women for whom shedding weight is physiologically not as easy as in men. There is a natural tendency to gain weight and it is higher in the lower categories than in the higher ones. "In weight categories that are crucial, we monitor the weight loss at sleep time and in the morning, and discover that in the lower weights, there is often a weight loss of 300 to 500g compared to nearly 800g in the higher categories," explained Mohit Dhariwal, SAI-appointed boxing team

nutritionist during the pre-Games training at Saarbrücken, Germany. "Weights in the lower categories are the toughest to shed."

He pointed to the case of boxer Nikhat Zareen, who despite being disciplined with dietary requirements, faces great difficulties in managing weight. Indeed, there were whispers of Nikhat's struggles in Saarbrücken against weight. When asked how much she was over, the boxer often missing from the campus cafeteria since she was placed on a leaner diet, replied, "Three kgs."

In Paris too, Nikhat faced a similar weight management situation in leading up to both her bouts — against German Maxi Kloetzer and later, China's Wu Yu. The 50kg boxer told TOI how she had been subsisting solely on water for the past two days. Her throat parched, Nikhat said that the water-only diet had led to sleepless nights before the bouts.

Asked what she would eat after her win over Kloetzer, Nikhat said: "Maybe some little protein, but not

much, I have to manage weight."

Both Vinesh and Nikhat have had to relinquish their favoured weight classes to adjust to lower ones due to either the entry of a superior rival (Antim Panghal, 53 kg) or the official re-jigging of the weight categories. Nikhat had to leave her 54 kg and go down to 50. These adjustments come with a host of problems.

Any boxer or wrestler often weighs at least a couple of kgs if not more than their weight category, making it tortuous to shed weight at such alarming rates and in such short span of time. Vinesh, at 29, has a natural weight easily above 55 kg, plus a possibility of hormonal and retention issues coming into play. Particular care is taken in the replenishment and recovery.

A visit to the National Institute of Sports, Patiala ahead of the Olympics revealed carefully drawn up charts for nutrition plastered on the boxing hall walls, giving us an idea of how much rigour goes into an athlete's weight management.

'I ALMOST QUIT'

Running track in college, there were many times where I thought I would quit. When I went pro, growing pains of joining a professional training group are real, there are a lot of egos, I didn't think that I was going to be cut out for it."

—Gabby Thomas



3 It's only the third time the US have won two medals in 200 metres, after the 1984 Los Angeles Games and London 2012. Thomas' compatriot Brittany Brown (L) clinched a bronze in Paris

GIFT OF GABBY

Harvard graduate sprints to 200m success; 100m champ Alfred wins silver

Saint-Denis: Before Gabby Thomas set foot on the Stade de France's purple track, surrounded by 80,000 or so screaming spectators, her coach gave her some last-minute advice.

"The only thing I needed to do was get the lead. Get the lead and then finish strong," Thomas said, recounting Tonja Buford-Bailey's counsel. "And I did that."

She sure did. Following precisely that easier-said-than-done plan, Thomas, a 27-year-old Harvard grad, sped to the victory in the women's 200 metres at the 2024 Olympics on Tuesday night, finishing in 21.83 seconds to add a gold to the bronze she took home in the event from Tokyo three years ago. "I don't think," Thomas said, "it could have gone any better."

She burst into the lead for good at the curve and was never challenged down the stretch, finishing well clear of 100m champion Julien Alfred of St. Lucia, who was 0.25 seconds off the pace in 22.08.

After Thomas crossed the line, she shouted and placed both of her hands on her head, looking every bit like someone enjoying what she called "the happiest moment of my life."

"I couldn't tell you where my competitors were in that race, because I blacked out," Thomas said. That's one explanation. Another would be that there was no one really all that near her.

Brittany Brown of the U.S. got the bronze in 22.20, 0.02 seconds in front of Dina Asher-Smith of Britain, who was another hundredth of a second ahead of teammate Daryll Neita. "I'm happy. There's nothing I can complain about," Alfred said. "I just know I went out there and gave my best."

Thomas' triumph followed Noah Lyles' success in the men's 100 on Sunday night by a far slimmer margin: five thousandths of a second. "It really was so inspiring, hearing Noah go after what he wanted and take it," Thomas said. "I knew that if I were in any position in this race, I could still go after it and take it if I had to."

Ask a teammate what about Thomas is most impressive, and "poise" is a word that comes up. "She's very much an empowerment woman. She carries a lot of power," said McKenzie Long, a 24-year-old who finished seventh Tuesday. "She reminds me of me — but an older version."

The Harvard graduate made the decision to set up a six-year schedule, with the long-term aim being this cool evening in the City of Light. Thomas didn't want the Paris Games to be her first Olympics, so she did what it took to get herself to Tokyo three years ago. That happened — and her takeaways from that trip to Japan were third place in the 200, a silver medal in the 4x100 relay, plus, maybe most valuable of all, the experience. "I feel like I've worked very hard, and everything has been a part of the plan," Thomas explained. AP

Studious Thomas

She's an Ivy League genius as well as an Olympic gold medalist...

Studied neurobiology and epidemiology: Thomas, 27, studied neurobiology and global health at Harvard, and then, she moved to Austin to attend the University of Texas for her masters in public health and epidemiology.

Master's thesis on racial disparities in sleep health: She spent the last three years getting a degree in epidemiology. She wrote her master's thesis on the racial disparities in sleep health and how it contributes to further health challenges.

Works at a health clinic: She works at a local health clinic, where she spends up to 10 hours a week, overseeing a team of volunteers managing the health of about 70 patients suffering from hypertension.

26 Thirteen Harvard students and alumni are representing the US at the Paris Olympics. They were joined by at least 11 athletes from Harvard who represent other nations at the Games, and two who are set to compete for Team USA in the Paralympics, for a total of 26.

STRUGGLED WITH IMPOSTER SYNDROME

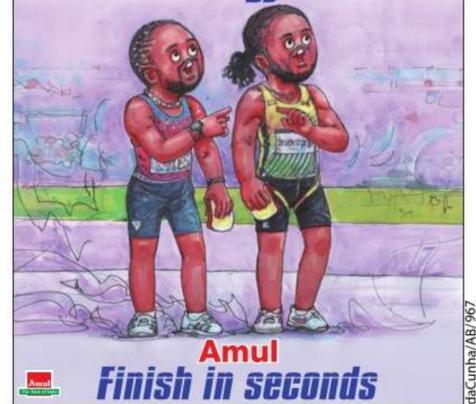
"I haven't always been a star. And every time I enter a new space, I'm challenging myself and putting myself in a space that I'm not comfortable with. When I told people, 'I'm training for the Olympics', I felt like an imposter. I was in a room with the best students literally in the world. So, of course, I felt like I didn't belong there too." —Thomas

BY THE BOOK

Apart from Thomas, there are many who have impressive degrees

American gymnast Stephen Nedorosic got his electrical engineering degree from Penn State
British sprinter Dina Asher-Smith earned her history degree from King's College, London. Her dissertation was on the history of jazz
Burkinabe jumper Hugues Fabrice Zango earned his master's in engineering and electric systems and a doctorate in electrical engineering from Artois Univ.

Noah ka Bhaagya chamka!



Amul
Finish in seconds

Jamaica have had more injuries than medals!

Saint-Denis: The midpoint of the Olympic track meet used to be time for Jamaican sprint stars — Usain Bolt, Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce and all the rest — to catch their breath, then start gearing up for more. This year in Paris, there hasn't been much to celebrate.

After Tuesday, which marked the halfway point of the action at the Stade de France, Kishane Thompson's silver in the 100 meters was the only medal the Jamaican team had won on the track. And in a twist hardly anyone on the island could have ever imagined, Jamaica actually had more medals from field events (three) than from sprinting. "I know the world is used to Jamaica winning, and Jamaica always celebrating," said Asafa Powell, the Jamaican legend who held or shared the 100m world record for nearly three years before Bolt broke it. "But believe me, it's going to happen again."

For the women's programme, the problem has simply been getting a contender to

11 From 1980 Moscow to 2020 Tokyo - 11 Olympics - Jamaica had won a medal in women's 200m before missing out on this Games.

O The team that won 15 of the 24 Oly medals in the women's 100 and 200 between 2008 and 2021 will go home with none. It will mark the first time since 1976 the country hasn't won a women's medal in either of those events.

the starting line. Elaine Thompson-Herah, Shericka Jackson and Fraser-Pryce, all in their 30s, all pulled out of their Olympic sprints with injuries. They made up the entire 100m podium in Tokyo in 2021.

Now, track fans await the lineup for Thursday's 4x100 relays. Will the world see Tia Clayton, 19, who finished seventh in the 100 final; Shashalee Forbes, 28, who finished sixth in the 100 semifinal; and Niesha Burgher, 21, who came in fifth in the 200m semifinal? AP

Hockeyroo arrested over suspected cocaine purchase

Paris: French police have arrested Australian Olympic field hockey player Tom Craig on suspicion of buying cocaine from a drug dealer in central Paris, police and prosecutors said Wednesday. Midfielder Craig, 28, last played for Australia on Sunday in his team's quarterfinal defeat to the Netherlands at the Paris Olympics.

A police source said he was arrested Wednesday around 00:30 am (22:30 GMT) after "a cocaine transaction" near an apartment building.

He was in possession of around one gram of cocaine when he was apprehended and was still in police custody early Wednesday, said the source, asking not to be named.

The seller, 17, was also arrested. Given the large amount of drugs found on the seller, the investigation has been handed to the French police's anti-narcotics brigade, prosecutors said.

Marta-less Brazil shock World Cup champions Spain

Paris: Brazil reached the Olympic women's football final as they claimed a stunning 4-2 win over world champions Spain in Marseille on Tuesday and will face the United States for the gold medal.

Playing their sixth Olympic semi, Brazil capitalised on a number of Spanish defensive mistakes to reach Saturday's final at Parc des Princes where they will seek a maiden title against four-time champions U.S.

Brazil prevailed despite being without captain and all-time leading goalscorer Marta, who received a two-match ban after a red card in a 2-0 loss to Spain in their final group stage game.

They went ahead six minutes in after an attempted clearance by Spain keeper Cata Coll deflected off captain Irene Paredes into her own net. The South Americans doubled their

lead thanks to a Gabi Portillo effort following a superb pass from Yasmim in the final seconds of the first half. Captain Adriana made it 3-0 with a close-range header after a fast counter attack in the 72nd minute before an own goal from Duda Sampaio reduced the deficit five minutes from time.

Brazil substitute Kerolin stole possession and found the net to seal the rout early in stoppage time before Spain's Salma Paralluelo grabbed a consolation in the final minutes.

"We went in with a plan and trusted (coach) Arthur completely," Kerolin told Globo after Brazil reached their first Olympic final in 16 years. "I can only congratulate the girls, who went in with great determination. It was a very emotional war. We gave everything." Spain will play for the bronze medal against Germany. AFP



KHELIF ADVANCES TO GOLD-MEDAL BOUT AMID GENDER CONTROVERSY

Paris: Boxer Imane Khelif of Algeria advanced to the gold-medal bout in the women's welterweight division at the Paris Olympics on Tuesday night, moving one win away from what she calls the best response to the worldwide scrutiny she has faced over misconceptions about her gender.

With one more victory, Khelif would win Algeria's second boxing gold medal and their



first in women's boxing. Khelif defeated Janjaem Suwannapheng of Thailand 5:0 in the semifinals at Roland Garros, where the crowd roared for her. Khelif will compete against Yang Liu of China.

Harrington retires after second gold Ireland's Kellie Harrington retained her title, before leading her fans in a wild celebration. The 34-year-old Dubliner won gold at 60kg in Tokyo three years ago and defeated China's Yang Wenlu to make it two golds in a row. "The next chapter is going to be for me and Mandy (wife) now," she said. AFP

ISRAELI ATHLETES RECEIVE THREATS

Paris: Israel's Olympic team said some athletes have received threats as they compete in Paris amid larger tensions over Palestinian deaths during the war in Gaza and the threat of a wider regional conflict in the Middle East. Tom Reuveni, a 24-year-old Israeli athlete who won a gold in wind-surfing over the weekend, was among those who received threats.

Tom Cruise touted for 'dystopian' Olympics closing ceremony With Tom Cruise widely predicted to engage in a death-defying stunt on the roof of the Stade de France, Sunday's closing ceremony promises to be a memorable one. Artistic director Thomas Jolly revealed it will combine "wonder" with "dystopia".

Boll exits Games, but wins respect in Olympic farewell

Germany's Timo Boll played his last match in international competition in the same manner that has won him respect in his 30-year table tennis career: calm, composed and fighting. The four-time Olympic medalist joked that he was glad it was Swede friend Anton Kallberg who brought down the curtain on his international career.

Wrestler Lopez puts Phelps & Co in shade with fifth successive gold

Paris: Cuban wrestler Mijain Lopez made Olympic history on Tuesday when he became the first athlete to win five consecutive individual golds in the same event, bettering the records of Games icons such as Carl Lewis and Michael Phelps.

Lopez, who turns 42 in two weeks' time, defeated fellow Cuban Yasmani Acosta, representing Chile, in the final of the 130kg Greco-Roman event. With his victory, Lopez broke a tie for four successive individual Olympic golds he shared with Carl Lewis (athletics/long jump), Michael Phelps (swimming/200m medley), Katie Ledecky (swimming/200m freestyle), Al Oerter (athletics/discus), Paul Elvstrom (sailing) and Kaori Icho

(wrestling). "To achieve all of these results, one has to love their sport, love their job, and demonstrate to the world that with so little you can achieve great things," he added.

A legend of wrestling, Lopez had retired after the 2021 Tokyo Games. Despite a three-year absence - and having suffered four herniated discs - Lopez stunned world champion Amin Mirzazadeh of Iran in the quarterfinals in Paris. Victory in the final was bittersweet as it came against close friend Acosta. Acosta, 36, recently switched allegiance to Chile as federation rules allow just one wrestler per nation to enter each category at the Olympics. AFP

Wrestler Lopez puts Phelps & Co in shade with fifth successive gold

22/1 In six Olympic appearances, Lopez now has 22 victories against just one defeat which came in the quarter-finals of the 2004 Athens Games.

When asked to describe each success: "Beijing - youth; London - transcendence, Rio - effort; Tokyo - sacrifice; Paris - joy."



PERFECT TIMING: Cole Hocker stole the 1500m show with an Olympic record. Jacob Ingebrigtsen (R) finished 4th

That king Cole! Hocker upends Ingebrigtsen-Kerr 1500m script

Saint-Denis: The race was billed as a bar brawl between the two baddest 1,500m runners in the world.

Nobody figured the little-known American guy would sneak up on both of them, steal the show and take the Olympic gold medal with him.

Cole Hocker threw a jolt into track Tuesday night, first catching up to - then slipping his way past - fierce rivals Jakob Ingebrigtsen and Josh Kerr to pull the upset of the Games with an unexpected victory in a much-hyped showdown that wasn't supposed to involve him.

Hocker bettered his personal best by nearly 3 seconds to win in an Olympic-record 3 minutes, 27.65 seconds. "If you've been following my season, you knew I was capable of it," Hocker said.

Taking advantage of a blistering early pace set by Ingebrigtsen, the 23-year-old prod-

uct of University of Oregon pulled from fifth, to third, then finally to first, over the final 300m to pass the gassed-out favorites.

This was supposed to be all about a chance for the defending Olympic champion (Ingebrigtsen) and the reigning world champion (Kerr) to finally settle a feud that's been brewing for over a year: Kerr said the race would be "one of the most vicious and hardest 1,500s the sport's seen in a very long time."

Instead, the guy taking home the \$50,000 winner's check was an up-and-comer who was listed as much as a 30-1 long shot. Kerr finished second by .14 seconds. Another American, Yared Nuguse, was third, and Ingebrigtsen faded to fourth. "It was a deafening hearing that in a

stadium before," Hocker said of the 80,000 screaming fans in the Stade de France. "I kind of lost feeling in my body and it didn't feel like the Olympics anymore until it did."

Hocker, who recorded his previous personal best of 3:30.59 at Olympic trials this summer, is only the second U.S. man to win the metric mile at the Olympics over the last 112 years. Matt Centrowitz took gold in 2016. While all eyes were on Ingebrigtsen and Kerr, Hocker slid by.

Tactical error

"Of course, it's a tactical error that I'm not able to reduce my pace the first 800," Ingebrigtsen said. "Well, I guess he (Kerr) did show up after all. Cole Hocker, (bronze medalist) Yared Nuguse and Josh Kerr outsmarted me." AP



GREEK TENTOGLU RETAINS LONG JUMP TITLE TO EMULATE CARL LEWIS

Miltiadis Tentoglou flexed his biceps, stared at the Greek flag over his shoulders and draped up into the clear night sky above the packed Stade de France. It was a moment to savour: Tentoglou became only the second man after Carl Lewis to win two consecutive Olympic long jump titles. "It's a great achievement," said Tentoglou, who also

claimed the world title last year. "Not bad." Tentoglou's second jump of 8.48 meters (27 feet, 10 inches) won it. Tentoglou, who is called "Miltos," comes from a parkour background and still likes to practice the urban sport.

(FOR 2032), WE WILL SEE. AND ALSO (FOR 2028), WE WILL SEE BECAUSE YOU NEVER KNOW. BUT I WILL TRY."

THE TIMES

INCLUSIVE OF DELHI TIMES (CIRCULATED ONLY IN DELHI NCR) |



ANTICIPATING MORE VIOLENCE BY ANTI-IMMIGRATION GROUPS, UK GOVT DEPLOYS THOUSANDS OF OFFICERS AND KEEPS 1,300 SPECIALIST FORCES ON STANDBY 19

Interim govt takes over today, Yunus calls for end to violence

Council Of 15 To Take Oath, Says Army Chief
AKM Moynuddin

Dhaka: Bangladesh, lurching through chaos, confusion and violence for three days, will get an interim govt Thursday with Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus at the helm, marking a homecoming for the self-exiled 84-year-old former "banker to the poor" after years of battling corruption and other cases slapped by the erstwhile Sheikh Hasina administration. Army chief Gen Waker-Uz-Zaman held a presser to



Thousands turned up for a rally of main oppn Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) in Dhaka Wednesday. The party called for polls in 3 months. In her first public speech since 2018, delivered via video link, **BNP chief Khaleda Zia urged the youth, 'no destruction, no anger and no revenge, we need love and peace to rebuild our country' | P 19**

Yunus sees 'many opportunities to heal rifts' with India

Though some countries, such as India, backed ousted PM Sheikh Hasina and earned the enmity of the Bangladeshi people as a result, there will be many opportunities to heal these kinds of rifts and resume bilateral alliances and close friendships soon, said Muhammad Yunus in an article in *The Economist* Tuesday. Yunus, who described Hasina's ouster as the "second liberation" of Bangladesh, also called for reviving Saarc, which has been blocked by India over Pakistan's support to cross-border terror. **TNN**

▶ EDIT PAGE: Can banker to poor save democracy?

announce a possible 8pm swearing-in, hours after Yunus's scheduled 2.10pm (Dhaka time) arrival by an Emirates flight from Paris via Dubai. On Wednesday, a Bangladesh court overturned Yunus's conviction in a case relating to labour law violations. Yunus was out on bail after being handed a 6-month jail sentence in January.

▶ Diplomats stay on, families sent home, P 10

▶ 'Democracy not possible without Awami League', P 19

▶ B'desh turmoil hits India Inc's mfg, sourcing, P 21

"Let us ensure that we make the best use of this new victory. Let us not lose this victory because of any mistake of ours," Yunus said in an appeal to the people of Bangladesh before heading to Paris's Charles de Gaulle airport. "This is a beautiful country, with lots of exciting possibilities. We must protect and make it a wonderful

country for us and for our future generations." The banker-economist, who won the peace Nobel in 2006 for pioneering micro-credit in his native country through Grameen Bank, said he was "looking forward to going back home, see what's happening, and how we can organise ourselves to get out of the trouble we are in".

▶ 32nd Nobel laureate, P 19

HC: Things are not good at Asha Kiran

Things are not good at Asha Kiran," the Delhi high court said Wednesday, as it prioritised recruiting staff, doctors, and the infusion of additional funds, reports **Abhinav Garg**.

"We have lost 14 lives in 20 days. Human lives today don't have a cost here," HC told the secretary, social welfare department, after his visit to the Asha Kiran shelter

▶ At least 14 inmates have been moved out, P 5

home for the intellectually disabled. As the secretary pointed out vacancies and congestion, the bench sought extraordinary measures, saying, "If people in power start feeling helpless, what can be done?" **P 5**

Bibhav, CM were together after Maliwal 'assaulted', says police chargesheet

Vineet Upadhyay
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: In the chargesheet filed against chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's aide, Bibhav Kumar, Delhi Police has said that the CM and Bibhav were "together" for "a significant period of time" immediately after Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal was "assaulted" by Kumar at the CM's official residence on May 13.

It adds that there could be a "larger conspiracy" behind the incident which is being probed. In this context, it has pointed out that Aam Aadmi Party functionaries Atishi and Sanjay Singh had changed their statements on the is-

HC to ED: Will you arrest CM again?

Delhi HC questioned whether ED's pending plea challenging the trial court's decision to grant bail to CM Kejriwal still held any merit, as he had already been granted interim bail by SC. "Will you again arrest CM if your plea is allowed?" it asked. **P 9**

sue. A day after the "assault", Singh condemned Kumar's actions. However, three days later, Atishi dismissed Maliwal's allegations at a press conference.

▶ Conspiracy angle, P 4

Juvenile gets life for rape-murder of minor in 2017

In a rare instance, a Delhi court has sentenced a child in conflict with the law (CCL) to life for raping and "mercilessly" murdering a five-year-old girl by bludgeoning her head with rocks in 2017, reports **Vineet Upadhyay**. The Juvenile Justice Board had said that the boy, then just over 16 years old, should be tried as an adult and referred the case to a Pocco court.

The court found him to have a negative attitude after interacting with him on his personal life and prospects, and said that he "did not have any remorse for his misdeeds". If set free without undergoing reformation, the court added, he would possibly get involved in other crimes. **P 9**

City couple die in house roof collapse

An elderly couple, aged 85 and 75, died and their 40-year-old son was injured after the roof of their house collapsed in Kirari, Prem Nagar, on Wednesday. All three were sleeping and did not get a chance to escape. An officer said it was an "old house" but police are conducting an investigation to ascertain the exact cause of the collapse. **P 7**

Many IIT-B grads go for industrial jobs

IIT-Bombay grads are opting equally for core industrial jobs and tech firms, finds Senior Survey 2024 by the student newspaper. The next largest cohort will pursue masters; consulting & venture capital jobs, finance, and jobs in product management saw smaller numbers. **P 10**

12-yr-old detained for madrasa murder

A 12-year-old was detained Tuesday for allegedly stabbing to death his 11-year-old classmate in the hostel of a madrasa in UP's Balrampur. The murder took place on Aug 1, but the boy was taken into custody Aug 6 after the weapon was seized from his room. **TNN**

4-yr-old dies after pet Lab falls on her

A four-year-old girl walking with her mother on a road near her building in Mumbra, Thane, died after a pet Labrador fell on her from the fifth-floor terrace. The canine survived with fractures. Police said it was not clear whether the dog jumped or was thrown off. **P 10**



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Will 'equivalence' change counting of class 12 marks?

A Recent Report By NCERT's Parakh Panel Could Lead To CUET, NEET Becoming History And Also Smoothen The Switch From One Board To Another For Students

Hemali Chhappia
@timesofindia.com

National Assessment Centre-Parakh (Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development), an independent body of NCERT, recently submitted an "equivalence" report to the education ministry. This report, which goes into the diversity of the various Indian boards, will act as a "starting point to facilitate the creation of an initial set of draft standards for equivalence".

What Is 'Equivalence'?
"Equivalence is not uniformity," clarified Indrani Bhaduri, CEO and head of Parakh. "The genesis of this first-of-a-kind study was to understand where boards are and what standards are to be attained in terms of administration, curricula, infrastructure, inclusiveness, and assessment."

An important recommendation of the report concerns assessment. It says that a student's performance in classes 9, 10, and 11 will be added to the final score for class 12. The class 12 result will thus be cumulative with 15% weight for the class 9 score, 20% for class 10, 25% for class 11, and 40% for class 12.

Why Does India Have So Many School Boards?

Several state boards are older than national boards — ICSE, CBSE, NIOS. Many state boards, like Uttar Pradesh's, were established long before India's independence in 1947. State boards design their own curricula, train their own teachers, and set their own assessment patterns and rules.

Why Did Parakh Look At The Various Boards?

"We all know there is huge variability between the various boards. Parents take their



WHAT PARAKH LOOKED AT

Close to 18,000 question papers were analysed. This included class 10 and 12 of 27 boards, 6 boards each of secondary and higher secondary, and 13 open boards. There were also 7 boards each of Sanskrit along with madrasa boards and 3 technical and vocational boards. The 'equivalence' report sets standards for the boards across five categories — administration, curriculum, assessment, inclusiveness, and infrastructure. Officials said the idea behind pursuing equivalence is not to establish "uniformity" across boards but to ensure that "every learner who enrolls under any board should get certain standardised, benchmarked facilities for performance". It also aims at "easy mobility between boards".

competencies while still maintaining the integrity of the assessment."

What Are The Other Pointers?

The report said that assessments should be in terms of credits in each grade. Students can earn credits for each subject and also for pursuing online courses and activities that are part of the holistic progress card. This progress card should include the student's self-evaluation on aspects like 'time management' and 'plans after school' along with the teacher's assessment of the student in group project work and peer feedback. The report recognises the importance of state boards and covers where they stand and how they can journey towards excellence.

children out of state boards and shift them to CBSE. Why is this happening?" asked Bhaduri. The Parakh panel noticed that there is a great deal of variation when a child switches boards.

TOI Explains

"If the boards are similar and comparable, that would make mobility easy. Also, if our boards are comparable, then why have CUET or NEET? Can we do away with these exams? That is the next question after we achieve some standardisation. Making the boards more relevant and making their results matter was also something that the Parakh team had in mind while drawing up its recommendations," she said.

Are Our Boards Really Very Different From One Another?

"Variation across boards as regards content and assessment was apparent. But as for lower- and higher-order thinking skills, the largest

Did The Study Look At Issue Of Inflation Of Final Scores?

The study shows that certain boards have a large proportion of short questions. The study said most boards "emphasised" short and very short items in their paper. "A disproportionate ratio of multiple choice, very short, short, and long questions were observed in many boards." In the case of class 12 exams, too, the report says: "To increase the percentage of easy items while promoting holistic education, boards should provide opportunities for learners to learn higher-order skills and provide workshops and training to teachers to construct test items that are intended to be solved easily by learners who have learned the

IS TRIPURA REALLY THE TOUGHEST STATE BOARD?

"That is a completely wrong inference drawn by several media outlets. It was just cited as an example in one assessment parameter. In fact, we tried to not mention any boards as we did not want conversation around the fact that one board is easy, another tough," said Indrani Bhaduri, the CEO and head of Parakh.

Paddle Sweep: How Chinese rule the world of table tennis

Shankar Raghuraman & Avijit Ghosh | TNN

Few countries have lorded over a sport as China in table tennis. Every time, since the sport was introduced in the Olympics in 1988, China has swept the men's and the women's team titles. They've won 64 of the 124 medals awarded in TT since 1988 (including the nine awarded in Paris so far). More impressively, they have won 35 of the 40 golds, roughly 88%.

But China's presence in global table tennis goes way beyond its physical boundaries. And one is not talking about countries like Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, Singapore and others which have Chinese ancestry.

Trawling the list of paddlers on the International Olympic Committee (IOC) website, one comes across at least 16 such players representing countries ranging from the USA to Chile, from Germany to Fiji in the Olympics 2024. Besides, several other paddlers in Paris are of mixed ancestry — either of the parents is Chinese. There is another lot whose identities could not be verified, but who most likely have a Chinese link.

Most of these players migrated to either Western European countries such as Spain, Portugal, France, and Monaco or to prosperous first-world nations such as the USA, Canada or Australia with little pedigree in ping pong. Women vastly outnumber men in this category.

Zhengzhou-born Yuan Jia Nan, 39, is one such paddler representing France. She was introduced to the sport by her mother.

"At age 18, I made the decision of going to Europe. My father was not for it but my mother encouraged me to make the move. A player that my mother used to train was playing in Hennebont, France. It was she who found me a team in France, Saint-Berthevin Saint-Loup. I was welcomed by the club's president and his family as their own daughter," she told France 3 YouTube channel in 2018. Yuan, who lives in Cholet, a commune in western France, got French citizenship in 2011 and began representing France in 2018. She also

CHEQUERED CHINESE

Players of Chinese origin representing other countries in Paris

Men | Dang Qiu (Germany), Eugene Wang (Canada), Wang Yang (Slovakia)

Women | Ni Xia Lian (Luxembourg), Shao Jieni (Portugal), Rachel Sung (USA), Amy Wang (USA), Xiao Maria (Spain), Yang Xiaoxin (Monaco), Yu Fu (Portugal), Yuan Jia Nan (France), Zheng Zhiying (Chile), Zhang Lily (USA), Zhang Mo (Canada), Shan Xiaona and Wan Yuan (Germany)



WHY CHINESE DOMINATE TT

Table tennis is associated with national identity and pride in China. After speaking with paddlers who have played there, Alvaro Munno of Argentina wrote a long article for racketinsight.com detailing what makes China such a towering force. Munno attributes their success to a ruthlessly efficient system, super infrastructure, hardworking coaches, including ex-champions, tactical mastery and hard training. An estimated 300 million play the sport, of them 10 million competitively. "It is reported that there is 1 table for every 7 people," he writes.

participated in the Tokyo 2020.

Shan Xiaona, 41, was born in Liaoning, a coastal province in north-east

China. She migrated to Germany and became part of the women's team that claimed silver in the 2016 Rio Olympics. Also from Liaoning, Shao Jieni followed a similar trajectory. She became a Portuguese citizen in 2015 and represented her new country in the Rio Olympics. She is doing so again.

The Chinese presence across the globe is an ongoing story. In London Olympics 2012, the Chinese were draped in the colours of 23 different countries.

The life histories of these paddlers in Paris reveal interesting patterns.

Some have not only represented China in the past but also won medals for their parent country.

Shanghai-born Ni Xia Lian won the team and mixed doubles gold for China at the 1983 World TT Championships. Now 61, she is representing Luxembourg.

Second-generation Chinese, who were born and bred in Europe, are also part of the assemblage. Dang Qiu's parents left China in the 1990s. He was born in Germany's Nurtigen town and is currently ranked a respectable world no 11. Qiu spearheaded Germany to a silver medal in World team championship in 2022.

The presence of Chinese-origin paddlers also extends to players from Chinese Taipei. For instance, Rachel Sung was born in the USA and represents the country but her parents are from Chinese Taipei.

Some players shuffled from one country to another before settling down. Yang Xiaoxin was born in China and moved to France when 17 years of age.

Now 36, the table tennis player is representing Monaco. Yu Fu, 45, was also born in China. He moved to Spain in 1998 before shifting base to Portugal in 2001. Xiao Maria was born in Spain to Chinese parents who were professional TT players. The 30-year-old representing Spain has also turned out for Portugal in the past.

There are some of mixed ancestry such as teenager Anna Hursley, who turned out for Great Britain and was defeated by Manika Batra in Paris. Her mother is Chinese and to play table tennis full-time the Welsh paddler moved to Tianjin in northern China in 2019.

DID YOU KNOW?

Chinese leader Mao Zedong not only loved the game but also promoted it, on and off the table. Exchange of table tennis players between the US and China became a turning point in improving the relations between the two countries with contrasting ideologies. The exchange became known as "ping pong diplomacy".

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