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# THE WORLD

## TOP OF THE WORLD



Yahya Sinwar

### GAZASTRIP

Sinwar, Oct 7 plotter, named Hamas chief

Cairo: Hamas named its Gaza leader Yahya Sinwar as successor to former political chief Ismail Haniyeh, who was assassinated in Tehran last week, the group said on Tuesday, in move that reinforces a radical path pursued since the October 7 attack on Israel. "Hamas announces the selection of Commander Yahya Sinwar as the head of the political bureau of the movement, succeeding the martyr Commander Ismail Haniyeh, may Allah have mercy on him," the movement said in a brief statement. Sinwar has been in hiding, defying Israeli attempts to kill him since the start of the war. **REUTERS**

### NEPAL

4 Chinese tourists among 5 dead in crash

Kathmandu: An Air Dynasty helicopter with five people aboard including Pilot Arun Malla crashed at Suryachaur, around 25 km west of Kathmandu, crashed this afternoon. All the five on board — four of them Chinese tourists — besides Pilot Malla have died, Police said. The Ecureuil B3 Single engine helicopter had taken off from Kathmandu at 1.14 local time and crashed within minutes. Airlines sources said the chartered helicopter was ferrying passengers to Syabrubesi near Keurung, a border town with Tibet, and was turned back immediately with some tourists. **ENS**

## SURGE IN VIOLENCE AGAINST MINORITIES, PROTEST TOLL HITS 469

# Bangla forces scramble to restore order, Army says interim govt today

Reshuffle in senior law enforcement jobs, top central bank officials quit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
DHAKA, AUGUST 7

STUDENTS CARRIED out traffic management as volunteers for the second consecutive day on Wednesday in Bangladesh, as a top police official called on every member of the police force to resume their duties gradually and maintain law and order.

Additional Inspector General of Police A K M Shahidur Rahman, who was appointed as the focal person of the Bangladesh Police on Tuesday to handle the current crisis, called on every member of the police force to resume their duties gradually and maintain public safety and law and order.

Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus-led interim government in Bangladesh will take oath on Thursday, Army Chief General Waker-Uz-Zaman said. Media reports also flagged more cases of violence against minorities surfacing through Tuesday.

The authorities reconstituted the top positions of the Rapid Action Battalion and Dhaka Metropolitan Police on Wednesday. The reshuffle comes hours after President Mohammed Shahabuddin appointed Mohammad Yunus as the head of the interim government.

Meanwhile, businesses on Wednesday demanded immediate restoration of law and order to ensure the safety of their production units. They said they opened factories today, particularly the garment units, but many cannot run properly fearing unrest and vandalism, the *Daily Star* reported, citing a press conference by the International Chamber of Commerce, Bangladesh.

Six top officials of Bangladesh Bank including Deputy Governor Kazi Sayedur Rahman resigned as unrest erupted at Bangladesh Bank on Wednesday, the second day after offices reopened, the *Dhaka Tribune* reported.

Bodies of at least 29 supporters of Hasina's Awami League party were recovered across the country through Tuesday, taking the overall death toll to 469 in almost three weeks.



People gather in front of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) headquarters during a rally in Dhaka on Wednesday. AP

## In first address, Khaleda: Love and peace, not revenge will rebuild nation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
DHAKA, AUGUST 7

A DAY after her release from house arrest, Bangladesh's former prime minister and 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.



Former PM Khaleda Zia

In her first public speech since 2018, delivered via video link at the Bangladesh National Party (BNP) rally in Nayapalton, 79-year-old Zia appealed for calm.

She thanked people as they fought and prayed for her to be released from imprisonment, the *Daily Star* newspaper reported.

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."

Zia was sentenced to 17 years in prison for graft in 2018 under the rule of Sheikh Hasina.

## Hasina to stay in Delhi for a little while, says son

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
DHAKA, AUGUST 7

Dhaka: Bangladesh's ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, who fled to India following mass protests against her government, is going to stay in Delhi "for a little while," her son Sajeeb Wazed Joy said on Wednesday.

Hasina, the 76-year-old Awami League leader, landed at an airbase near Delhi on Monday and later shifted to a safe location in Delhi under tight security. She is accompanied by her sister Sheikh Rehana.

In a video interview with German broadcaster Deutsche Welle, Joy was asked about Hasina's reported plans to seek asylum in a third country.

"These are all rumours. She has not made a decision on that yet. She is going to stay in Delhi for a little while. My sister is with her. So she is not alone," Joy said.

Hasina's daughter Saima Wazed is World Health Organisation's Regional Director for the South-East Asia Region, which has its headquarters in New Delhi. **PTI**

## Night before Hasina fall, Army chief decided against firing at protesters

REUTERS  
DHAKA, NEW DELHI, AUGUST 7

THE NIGHT before long-time leader Sheikh Hasina abruptly fled Bangladesh amid deadly protests, her army chief held a meeting with his generals and decided that troops would not open fire on

civilians to enforce a curfew, two serving army officers told Reuters.

Gen Waker-Uz-Zaman then reached out to Hasina's office, conveying to the prime minister that his soldiers would be unable to implement the lockdown she had called for, according to an Indian official briefed on the matter.

Details of the online meeting between military top brass and the message to Hasina that she had lost their backing have not previously been reported. They help to explain how Hasina's 15-year rule, during which she brooked little dissent, came to such a chaotic and sudden end on Monday, when she fled from Bangladesh to India.

## Harris, running mate Walz to campaign in battleground states Michigan, Wisconsin



REUTERS  
AUGUST 7

DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL candidate Kamala Harris will campaign alongside her new running mate, Tim Walz, Wednesday,



Kamala Harris with Tim Walz in Philadelphia on Wednesday

holding events in battleground states Wisconsin and Michigan

that will offer an early test of his Midwestern credentials.

## A WEEK OF RIOTING



Far-right demonstrators in Rotherham earlier this week. Reuters

## Violence up in UK, police say far-right groups target new sites

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
LONDON, AUGUST 7

BRITISH POLICE are gearing up for another night of violence amid concerns that far-right groups plan to target as many as 30 locations around the United Kingdom on Wednesday following a week of rioting and disorder.

Authorities are mobilizing about 6,000 specially trained officers this week to respond to disorder throughout the UK. London's Metropolitan Police Service said it would do "everything in our power" to protect the capital.

"We know about the events planned by hateful and divisive groups across the capital," Deputy Assistant Commissioner Andy Valentine of the Met said. "We will not tolerate this on our streets."

UK cities and towns across have been wracked by violence for the past week as angry mobs egged on by far-right extremists have clashed with police and counterdemonstrators sparked by the spread of misinformation about the identity of the suspect in a stabbing rampage that killed three young girls in Southport. The suspect was falsely identified as an immigrant and a Muslim.

## EXPLAINED First domestic test for Stamer

The surprise surge of riots across UK turn out to be Prime Minister Keir Starmer's first domestic test. Diminished public trust in policing, an overcrowded prison system and courts overwhelmed by their caseloads with serious backlog add to the challenges of the government, which has vowed to deal with the riots with a firm hand.

Rioters spouting anti-immigrant slogans have attacked mosques and hotels housing asylum-seekers, with reports of counterattacks in some communities. Internet chat groups have shared a list of law firms specializing in immigration and advice agencies as possible targets.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer held a second consecutive meeting of the COBRA emergency response committee on Tuesday to coordinate the response. Police have already made more than 400 arrests around the country.

## Ukraine pierces Russia border, Putin calls it a major provocation

REUTERS  
MOSCOW, AUGUST 7

RUSSIA SAID on Wednesday that it was fighting intense battles against Ukrainian forces which had penetrated Russia's Kursk region in one of the largest incursions into Russia since the Ukraine war began in February 2022.

Russia has advanced this year after the failure of Ukraine's 2023 counteroffensive to achieve any major gains, and has taken 420 square kilometres of territory from Ukrainian forces since June 14, Sergei Shoigu, head of Russia's security council, has said.

Ukraine struck back on Tuesday and the battles continued through Tuesday night as Ukrainian forces pushed to the north west of Sudzha, 530 km southwest of Moscow, Russia's defence ministry said.

The defence ministry said that it was continuing to fight Ukrainian units "in the areas of the



A house damaged in Kursk in a Ukrainian strike, Tuesday

Kursk region directly adjacent" to the Ukrainian border. "Air strikes, missile forces, artillery fire and active actions of units covering the State border of the grouping of troops in the Kursk direction prevented the enemy from advancing deep into the territory."

Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday that a Ukrainian incursion into Russia's Kursk region was a major provocation. "The Kyiv regime has launched another major provocation," Putin told members of the Russian government.

## Pak man charged with 'plotting' to kill US leaders

Washington: The Justice Department said on Tuesday that it had charged a Pakistani man who had recently visited Iran with trying to hire a hit man to assassinate political figures in the U.S. Investigators believe that potential targets likely included former President Donald Trump, according to a senior law enforcement official.

The man, Asif Raza Merchant, 46, was arrested in New York on July 12, one day before a 20-year-old man, Matthew Crooks, shot at and slightly wounded Trump during a rally in Pennsylvania, according to a complaint unsealed in federal court in Brooklyn on Tuesday. Officials said they had no evi-

dence indicating the plot was connected to the shooting in Butler. But they said the arrest of Merchant — who had recently spent two weeks in Iran — had disrupted what they characterized as a far-ranging plot that also included seeking to steal computer files from US officials.

U.S. intelligence agencies were tracking a potential Iranian assassination plot against Trump in the weeks before the assassination attempt that prompted the Secret Service to enhance security for the former president before his outdoor campaign rally in Pennsylvania. It is not clear if the scheme made public on Tuesday precipitated those moves. **NYT**

## NAMAL RAJAPAKSA, THE ELDEST SON OF MAHINDA RAJAPAKSA, SEEKS TO CARVE OUT HIS IDENTITY DESPITE BEING BORN INTO A DYNASTY Sri Lanka's youngest presidential runner: A scion with friends from Rahul to Bilawal

ARUN JANARDHANAN  
CHENNAI, AUGUST 7

NAMAL RAJAPAKSA, the eldest son of former Sri Lanka president Mahinda Rajapaksa, has stepped into the political spotlight as the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) candidate for the upcoming presidential elections. The decision, announced late Tuesday, marks a significant moment for the 38-year-old, who has been gradually building his political career over the past decade.

With the island nation still reeling from economic turmoil and political instability, Namal's candidacy brings a mix of hope

and skepticism among the Sri Lankan populace. Some see him as a fresh face, while others remain wary of the Rajapaksa legacy and its ties to past controversies.

The presidential election, set for September 21, will be the first since the uprising in 2022 that ousted Namal's uncle, president Gotabaya Rajapaksa. This election is poised to be a fierce contest, with Namal facing off against incumbent President Ranil Wickremesinghe, Sajith Premadasa of the Samagi Jana Balawegaya, and Anura Kumara Dissanayake, leader of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna.

Namal's journey into politics began with his election to

Parliament in 2010 as a candidate from Hambantota, a district his father represented for 16 years. Despite being born into a political dynasty known for its Sinhala Buddhist views, Namal has sought to carve out his own identity.

In an interview to *The Indian Express* in 2018, Namal spoke about the importance of cultural identity while distancing himself from extremism. "Protecting your own beliefs and culture is not extremism," he said.

As the national organiser of the SLPP, Namal has focused on building his team and extending his influence beyond the Southern strongholds. He has made significant efforts to en-



Namal Rajapaksa with his father Mahinda Rajapaksa in 2020. AP

gage with the Tamil-majority Northern region, a move seen as both strategic and symbolic.

Namal's idea of politics is shaped by his belief in the power of grassroots connections, something that made his father one of the most popular political figures among Sri Lanka's majority Sinhalese Buddhists.

Namal's path is not without challenges. The Rajapaksa are celebrated by many Sri Lankans for ending the civil war, but they are also criticised for their handling of the economy and alleged human rights abuses. Namal himself has faced accusations of nepotism and benefiting from his family's political connections.

Even in April 2024, Mahinda was careful about Namal's elevation as a presidential candidate. Mahinda, cautious but supportive, said his son had time to grow into the role. His youth and relative inexperience are balanced by his deep political lineage and the support of his father's followers.

But his ability to transcend his family's controversial legacy and appeal to a broader electorate remains to be seen. Being part of a dynastic family, Namal has friendships with his counterparts across Asia. Rahul Gandhi, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, and Sajeed Wazed (Sheikh Hasina's son) are all his friends. But among the ordinary

Sri Lankans, Namal's most celebrated friend abroad may be Bollywood star Salman Khan.

Russia as well as West Asia are among the regions that Namal has been focusing on for new friendships, especially because 1.1 million Sri Lankans are in the Middle East.

In the coming weeks, Namal will need to rally his party and connect with a population desperate for change and stability. In his journey from the son of a president to a presidential candidate, whether he can translate that into a successful bid for the highest office will be a closely watched story. **FULL REPORT ON: www.indianexpress.com**

**VINESH PHOGAT DISQUALIFIED OVER WEIGHT HOURS BEFORE HISTORIC FINAL**

# A HUNDRED GRAMS, A BILLION HEARTS

India appeals to CAS, seeks silver medal for Vinesh after PM tells IOA chief PT Usha to take 'appropriate action'

**Blood, sweat and tears: How night was long & desperate**



**MIHIR VASAVDA**  
PARIS, AUGUST 7

IN A heartbreaking twist of fate, wrestler Vinesh Phogat was disqualified from the 50-kg gold medal bout at the Paris Olympics after failing the weigh-in because she was 100 grams overweight.

The Indian contingent later filed an appeal against her disqualification in the Court of Arbitration for Sport, with the demand that Phogat be awarded the silver medal.

Phogat was to face USA's Sarah Hilderbrandt in the final on Wednesday, but will now return empty-handed despite becoming the first Indian woman wrestler to have reached an Olympic final on Tuesday night.

This wasn't how her morning was supposed to pan out.

When she left the Champ-de-Mars Arena after winning her semifinal on Tuesday night, sources said Phogat weighed 52.7 kg. But there was no panic at first, as there had been instances earlier when she had found herself in a similar situation.

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**THE EDITORIAL PAGE**

**BRIGHTER THAN GOLD**

Vinesh Phogat has lost out on the medal. But she remains an inspiration, by not settling for less, getting up after every fall

**PAGE 10**



Vinesh Phogat during her cool-down exercises after the 50-kg category wrestling semifinal in Paris on Tuesday. (Photo: IANS)

**ANTIM FACES DEPORTATION OVER BID TO 'SMUGGLE' SISTER INTO VILLAGE** **PAGE 18**

**An Olympic medal her dream, no one can stop her: Brother**

**HARVINDER PHOGAT**

WE HAVE to stand up again. Till today, Vinesh, and all us, have fought against every situation, and will continue to do so. That's what I told Vinesh on the phone today after she failed the weigh-in. She is not someone who will dwell over the missed Olympic medal. She will be thinking what's next for her now, and how many more trials God will put her through for her to rise again.

For the Phogat family, including my mother Premalata, this day is like the death of a dream. But for Vinesh, it's also like the proverbial phoenix rising from the ashes.

Since the day we lost our father, we have been fighting to survive. It's like God has written "sangharsh karna hi hai (have to struggle)" on our foreheads, and that's what Vinesh has been doing all her life. That was her motto when she first stepped into the *akhada*, and when she set foot on the wrestling mat at

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

**BUSINESS AS USUAL**

By UNNY



**FULL COVERAGE**  
PAGES 8, 14 & 18



## Bangladesh in turmoil, India flies home its non-essential mission staff, their families



Passengers of an Air India flight from Dhaka that landed at the Delhi airport early Wednesday. PTI

**SHUBHAJIT ROY**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 7

WITH THE security situation in Bangladesh deteriorating following the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, India is scaling back its diplomatic presence in the country.

While the Indian High Commission in Dhaka remains functional, non-essential staff and families returned to India Wednesday, sources said.

Besides the High Commission in Dhaka, India has Assistant High Commissions in Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna and Sylhet.

This is the first sign of concern in the Indian government over the poor security situation in Bangladesh.

Law and order has been disrupted across the country and there have been attacks on Awami League leaders, their homes, security personnel and their offices. Statues of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman have been vandalised, and mobs have invaded the Prime Minister's residence and parliament.

Sources said the return of non-essential staff and families from the Indian High Commission in Dhaka was facilitated on a

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## From non-Muslims on state boards to DC as arbiter: Sweeping changes in waqf Bill

**ASAD REHMAN & APURVA VISHWANATH**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 7

FROM GIVING the government a big say in regulating waqf properties, redefining how a property is deemed to be in the possession of waqf to changing the composition of waqf boards in states, the Centre is set to bring in key amendments to overhaul the regulatory framework of Muslim charitable endowments.

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which seeks to amend the Waqf Act, 1995, proposes to allow even a non-Muslim Chief Executive Officer and at least two non-Muslim members to be ap-

**EXPLAINED Why Govt gets a greater say**

EMPOWERING THE Collector as the arbiter, and not the waqf tribunal, gives the government a significant say in regulation of waqf properties — a key amendment to the earlier law.

pointed by the state government to the waqf boards at the state level.

Among the key changes proposed is to bring the District Collector as the arbiter on

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## Sacking staff, denying police approval part of clampdown; L-G says based on evidence

**BASHAARAT MASOOD & DEEPTIMAN TIWARY**  
SRINAGAR, NEW DELHI, AUG 7

FROM A school teacher in south Kashmir's Kulgam who earned accolades from the J&K Lieutenant Governor and was terminated from employment, a Ph.D in international relations whose passport was revoked just when he was to take up an academic job in a foreign university, to a scholar who was offered the position of an Assistant

**TOMORROW**  
Economy, investment: Work in progress

Professor but denied service verification by police — these constitute an aspect of the Union Territory administration's security clampdown that has left many families in the lurch.

In each of these cases, officers in the J&K Police and the administration say there are either FIRs,

or "evidence" that the person "indulged" in protests or stone pelting in the distant past, or just because a relative was a militant decades ago. In fact, official orders have been issued banning even the criticism of the government and its policies or schemes by government employees and "their family members". These hard actions, with a punitive aspect, are also, as NC Vice President Omar Abdullah says, a reason behind the "silence" in the Valley. Over the last three years, the

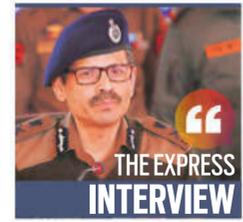
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**5 YEARS SINCE AUG 5**  
AN EXPRESS SERIES PART-4  
**LAW & ORDER**

## 'If keeping a tiny number out can keep population safe, it's our obligation'

**DEEPTIMAN TIWARY**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 7

JAMMU and Kashmir Director General of Police Rashmi Ranjan Swain, who was officially named as the DGP, J&K, Wednesday, has been at the forefront of firefighting in the erstwhile state since 2020 as its intelligence chief. He has been credited with formulating many security approaches



**RASHMI RANJAN SWAIN**  
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE, J&K

## Was poisoned twice by Navalny hit squad: Putin critic freed from Siberia

**SPECIAL TO THE EXPRESS**

**AKANKSHA SAXENA**  
BONN, AUGUST 7

RUSSIA DESERVES to be a "normal, modern" democracy instead of being run by a "corrupt" and "authoritarian KGB-led dictatorship", according to Vladimir Kara-Murza, the prominent Kremlin dissident who was freed from a jail in Siberia as part of his

country's historic prisoner swap with the USA last week.

A Russian-British dual citizen, Kara-Murza said he had been held in a Russian prison for two years, much of it in solitary confinement, after being handed a 25-year jail sentence for treason. And despite the swap deal, he hopes to be back in his home country sooner than many think. "Not only do I feel, not only do I believe, I know that I will be back in Russia," he said during an exclusive interview in Bonn, Germany, where he was flown to after his release. Edited excerpts from the in-

terview conducted on the evening of August 2, the day before he was scheduled to meet his wife and three children for the first time in two years — an occasion he described as "the only thing I can think about now" and his "only plan".

**There were concerns about your health when you were in prison. How bad was it and how much longer could you have lasted?**

Everything is fine — as much as it can be... One of the prison doctors told me that I had about a year or a year-and-a-half, and



Kremlin dissident Vladimir Kara-Murza was freed last week as part of Russia's prisoner swap with the US. File

he said this last year. So, I was actually sort of towards the end of that period. This state was because of the lasting health effects from the two poisonings that were organised by the special FSB (Russian federal security) assassin squad. The same squad that poisoned Alexei Navalny (in the UK), the same squad that poisoned several other Russian opposition figures, poisoned me twice in 2015 and 2017.

...Members of the squad have engaged in surveillance of Boris Nemtsov (another Russian dissident) before his assassination. They've engaged in the poison-

ing of Alexei Navalny. They've engaged in the poisoning of Dmitry Bykov, a prominent literary critic in Russia, and so on and so forth. It's important to remember that the regime of Vladimir Putin is not just an authoritarian regime, it is a regime of murderers.

**How do you really feel now that you know that you have been swapped with the likes of Vadim Krasikov, who is a FSB assassin. Do you have any reservations about the West engaging in Russian hostage diplomacy?**

I know there has been quite a lot of criticism here in Germany over this difficult decision by the (Olaf) Scholz government to agree to this prisoner exchange because, of course, one of the people exchanged from the western side was Vadim Krasikov, although as we were told on the plane, that's not his real name, who by some media accounts is Putin's personal assassin who has been sentenced to life in prison here in Germany for a murder on the streets of Berlin.

But you know what, decisions in a democracy are very

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FROM PAGE ONE

FULL REPORTS ON  
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Blood, sweat and tears: How bight was long & desperate

She didn't sleep the entire night and did everything in her capacity to meet the criteria — from jogging to skipping to cycling to sweating it out in a sauna. When everything else failed — even cutting her hair and trimming her singlet — she was prepared to lose blood to make the weight in the morning.

Such was her "junoon" (passion), a team member said, that when she could not burn any more calories, she and her husband, Somvir, considered drawing out her blood in the hope that it would help her get rid of the few extra grams. "There was a point, after she cut her hair and the singlet, when she got syringes and decided to draw out some blood, thinking it would help in weight reduction," the team member said.

When Phogat reached the weigh-in hall early in the morning, she was 150 grams heavier. With additional last-minute workouts, she cut 50 grams more. By then, however, she had run out of time — and the last 100 grams could not be shed. Sources said the Indian delegation pleaded for some more time to give her a chance to shed the last 100 grams, but to no avail. Those with her during the weigh-in said Phogat

broke down as soon as she got off the scale, realising her fate was sealed — after reaching the Paris Olympics 50-kg final, slaying World Number 1 and odds-on favourite Yui Susaki of Japan en route, she was disqualified.

Not just Phogat, her entire team was teary-eyed. "It was as if it was somebody's funeral," said a team member.

In a statement in Lok Sabha, Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has lodged a strong protest with the United World Wrestling (UWW), the sport's governing body, and PM Narendra Modi has asked IOA chief P T Usha to take "appropriate action" in the matter.

UWW chief Nenad Lalovic said there was no option but to respect the rules.

"I am so sad about what happened to her... Overweight... a very small one. But rules are rules, the weigh-in is public and all the athletes are there, and it is impossible to let someone compete... who does not make the weight," he told reporters.

Explaining why there was an increase in weight although she had met the criteria on Tuesday, Dr Dinshaw Pardiwala, the Chief Medical Officer of the Indian con-

tingent here, said that following her three bouts on Tuesday, Phogat had to be given some water "to avoid dehydration".

"We found that her post-participation weight increased more than normal and the coach initiated the normal process of weight cut that he has always employed with Vinesh," Pardiwala said. "He felt confident it would be achieved."

And thus began the hours-long ordeal.

"After the bout, for around one-and-a-half hours, we spent time with Vinesh doing mat training and practice. Around 11.30 pm, we left her alone with her team, physio, strength and conditioning coach, sparring partners," said Virender Dahiya, the women's team coach.

This was her trusted team that's worked behind the scenes, relentlessly, to get her in shape for the Olympics.

Phogat didn't eat a morsel after her bouts on Tuesday and stopped liquid intake. At first, things seemed to be under control, although her team knew they were in a race against time. Post-midnight in Paris, the frenetic actions to make her sweat began. And she stayed up the entire night. Phogat wore multiple layers

and ran on the treadmill. When that didn't work, she entered a sauna inside the Games Village, hoping the heat would make her sweat. "But there was nothing left in her body," said her team member.

"Over the night, we went ahead with the weight-cut procedure. However, in the morning we found that despite all of our efforts, her weight was 100 grams over her 50 kg category and was hence disqualified," Pardiwala said. "All possible drastic measures, including cutting off her hair, were used. However, she was not below her allowed weight of 50kg," he said.

A few minutes later, Phogat complained of dizziness, and was taken to the Games Village polyclinic. "As a precautionary measure, Vinesh was administered IV fluids following disqualification to prevent dehydration. We are also getting blood tests done at the local hospital to ensure that all is well. All of Vinesh's parameters were normal throughout this process," Pardiwala said.

"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 through exercises and sauna till the morning weigh-in," he explained.

"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," he said. He said that Phogat's nutritionist had calculated this intake to add to about 1.5 kg. "Sometimes, there is also a factor of rebound weight gain following competition," he said.

IOA president PT Usha said "the Wrestling Federation of India has filed an appeal to UWW to reconsider the decision to disqualify Vinesh and IOA is following that up in the strongest possible manner".

Meanwhile, in a post on X, Modi said: "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 your epitome resilience. It has always been your nature to take challenges head on. Come back stronger! We are all rooting for you."

According to competition

rules, Phogat is not eligible even for a silver medal now. The IOC later confirmed that she will be replaced by Yusneily Guzman — the Cuban wrestler she defeated in the semi-final — in the gold-medal bout. Phogat has a better head-to-head record against Hildebrandt, the wrestler she was to meet in the final.

Earlier, Phogat competed in the 53-kg weight category, but that changed after Antim Panghal — who lost in her first round on Wednesday — won a quota place in the category. Phogat had made the weight for Tuesday's bouts, but, as per the rules, wrestlers have to stay within their weight category on both days of the competition.

This isn't the first time that Phogat has found it difficult to make the weight in the 50-kg category. Even on the night before her Olympic qualifiers in April, Phogat — whose normal body weight is 56-57 kg — had struggled to lose the extra kilos. Phogat's coach, Woller Akso, had accompanied her to the sauna and slapped a bunch of dried branches and leaves on her body to generate more heat and make her sweat.

She did it back then. But couldn't on Wednesday.

• An Olympic medal her dream, no one can stop her: Brother

her first Olympics in Rio. From the time she suffered an injury in Rio, to whatever happened at Tokyo, we were looking to rewrite history in Paris.

But look at fate. We have reached the same spot in destiny at the Paris Olympics as when we started our Olympic dream in 2016.

But I think Vinesh would be happy that even without winning an Olympic medal, she has given the girls of our country what they needed the most. The courage to stand up against oppression, against wrongs, against the system. And that's what I think Vinesh has earned from the Paris Olympics. The moral courage to stand up against wrongs, and to give the power to each girl of this country to stand up against wrongs, will be something that she would like to be remembered for — medal or no medal.

Winning an Olympic medal still remains her dream, and nobody can stop her from seeing that dream again. Medal or no medal, nobody can snatch this from Vinesh — that she fought against all odds, including the system, and raised her voice when it mattered, and this will inspire generations to come.

Today's loss is her win too. Players will win Olympic medals for India in the future and there will be celebrations too. But Vinesh will be going from Paris with her head held high, with her name on top of the fight she put up and what she brings for the women of this country. The hope to fight against anything in life, and the wish to return and win the

Olympic gold for India.

Last night, while we were celebrating, Vinesh's only focus was the gold. That was the reason she did not sleep the entire night, as she tried to cut weight. That's something she has done in her wrestling career and we were all confident that she would be able to do it. Not for a single moment did she think she would fail the weigh-in or forfeit with injury. Her target was winning the gold for India and to see the national flag rise in Paris.

I was listening to the Sports Minister's address in Parliament, where he talked about how much money had been spent on athletes. I want to ask one thing. One can spend any amount of money on an athlete, but can they teach an athlete how to fight? That is in-born, part of an athlete's spirit, and nobody else can instil it.

Physically, Vinesh is healing at the clinic in the Olympics Village. Mentally too, she is not someone who will carry this baggage of missing out on the Olympic medal. As a child, she would listen to the song, "Haste haste, kat jaye raste, zindagi yun hi chalti rahe, khushi mile ya gham, badhenge na hum...". Toh yeh aaj ka loss kaise badal dega Vinesh ko (So how can today's loss change Vinesh?).

Wherever life takes us, we have to follow. But we will not go without a fight. We had the Olympic medal in our destiny last night, and today we have none. But nothing can stop Vinesh from starting this dream once again.

—Harvinder Phogat is Vinesh's elder brother. He spoke to Niitin Sharma.

• 'If keeping a tiny number out can keep population safe, it's our obligation'

targeted at reducing militancy in the Valley. With terrorism flaring up in Jammu, he has a new challenge at hand. He spoke to *The Indian Express*:

**What do you attribute the relative calm in Kashmir over the last five years to?**

It's a combination of factors. One of the most important is that there is a latent desire for order, the dividends of a peaceful, orderly social life where you have businesses, schools and colleges running. It is an organic desire. It may not always be articulated by each individual... Anywhere in the world, you would want (the) that surety you would come back safe if you are going out... That's my sense after my interactions with the public.

**What role did the security establishment play in this?**

I have always been an ardent believer that disorderliness is caused by a handful of bullies. The state is mandated to enforce law and order. If the State does not do its job, who will? The approach of the security establishment has been appreciated by large sections of the society because a handful of people want

to disrupt normal life. We have ensured nobody is able to hijack institutions meant for organised way of civil, economic and political life.

We need to have a built-in disincentive for joining terror groups in public interest. Conversely, we need to have built-in incentives for not joining.

**But civilians, especially outsiders and Pandits, continue to be targeted. Why?**

The kinetic ability of militants in Kashmir has been sufficiently degraded. Taking on a hard fight against security forces has become difficult. So, they are going for soft targets. It is with the objective to say that normalcy has not been established.

When there used to be gun-fights, they wanted the media to cover the violence and to highlight the same. The local people were against it. The narrative (around the violence) was close to the objective of the adversary. Their relevance lies in their assertion that they retain the ability to harm. It is to say that you cannot have normalcy without us. It is also influenced through intimidation so that people subjugate themselves out of fear.

**What is your assessment of the rising incidents of terror in Jammu?**

Jammu has always been a theatre. The only difference is Kashmir has been a separatist-linked terror theatre, which is not the case with Jammu. Since the last two and a half years, they have made efforts but not succeeded in recruiting local fighters into the ranks. But they have to sustain it (terrorism). So, they are sending highly trained and well-equipped fighters (from across the border).

That they are sending so many foreign terrorists shows they are not getting local cadre. That they are living in jungles shows that they have no sustenance at the local level. You bring in foreign fighters when you know your actual traction among the local people is weak. Then, we all know there is an economic model across the border (that propels it). A whole range of outfits survive by collecting money from their public to keep doing this. They think that if they can sustain it for a significant period of time, they can kickstart terrorism in Jammu by popping up an ecosystem.

**Why have you had such limited success against a**

**handful of terrorists in the past almost three years?**

In 2023, we killed 22 terrorists (in Jammu). The Valley has flat terrain but Jammu has mountainous forests with lack of connectivity. In Kashmir, we receive the information and surround the terrorists. The surprise is with us. In Jammu, they are on heights. We are going from below up. The visibility and the surprise is with them. They are (living) in the hills, very rarely coming down to interact with the population. They are getting their food at gunpoint. That is the challenge.

**There is criticism that in your efforts to neutralise the "terror ecosystem," innocents are also being targeted in the name of verifications, denial of passports or arbitrary arrests on flimsy charges or even ouster from service under Article 311?**

There are 3.6 lakh regular employees and about 1.25 lakh semi-regular employees. Just over 70 people have been removed from service under national security clause. That's 0.014%. And who are the people being removed? Sons of (United Jihad Council chief) Syed

Salahuddin. The total number of people behind bars in various anti-terror laws is around 1600-1700. In a state which is fighting terrorism for the past three decades with widespread arson, intimidation and rioting that shuts down businesses, schools, colleges and universities and a wide range of public services such as health, electricity, transport, courts for more than half the year under the influence of gun, propaganda, and radical indoctrination, this is a size which should not be surprising. If, by keeping 1700 persons out of circulation, the law enforcement system is keeping the entire population safe, it is not an option but almost an obligation. As regards laying hands on a wrong person I would kneel down on my knees and ask for forgiveness from all families who can say that we have arrested an innocent.

**People have been denied jobs.**

Untrue. In 2023, of 24,347 persons selected for government employment, only 6 were denied security clearance. As regards passport verification, in 2023, of the 1.72 lakh applicants, security clearance of 924 were either not cleared or withheld. One cannot find fault if the State takes steps to quarantine itself from insider

threat after a person is assessed to be vulnerable to duress or inducement of a national security adversary... This is not some subjective exercise. All security clearances are decided through security adjudication proceedings by following SOPs and other best practices followed in some of the most advanced liberal democracies in the world. These are not criminal proceedings. Wherever there is a doubt, the benefit goes to the State. In our security adjudication, we see the recent behaviour of the person and the time elapsed between the incident and the current situation. Everything is put on paper and kept ready for judicial scrutiny.

**You referred to a "politician-terror" nexus which invited sharp reactions from Valley politicians.**

I really did not intend to denote a particular party or person. There needs to be a way that political parties do not come under pressure (of a gun) to take a certain separatist line to mobilise the electorate... There was this candidate of a party who could not come out of her house for polls because there were six attacks on her residence. That Pakistan has made attempts to enter electoral politics in Kashmir is a reality.

• Was poisoned twice: Putin critic

often difficult, easy decisions only come in dictatorships. To me, the biggest difference between a dictatorship and a democracy is that the highest value in a democracy is protection of human life.

Sixteen lives were saved during that (prisoner swap) ceremony in Ankara airport (on August 1)... And I think nothing can be more important in democracy than saving a human life.

**How are you feeling now that you are free?**

The short answer is I'm feeling completely surreal. I feel as if I've been watching a movie these past few days. One week ago, I was sitting in a solitary confinement cell in a prison in Siberia. Two days ago, I was sitting in the infamous KGB prison in Lefortovo in Moscow. And now I'm standing here in Bonn. The only thing I can say is that days like August 1, 2024, are those rare days in history when impossible becomes possible.

that 'let the traitors' select new names and disguise themselves under the witness protection program. Did it sound like a threat, do you worry that you will always be looking over your shoulder?

Well, Mr Medvedev has long become a complete joke, even by the standards of Putin's regime propaganda. But behind the joke, the words are, of course, very serious. And look, there's nothing new in them. We all know the risks. We all know the dangers. My closest friend, Russian opposition leader Boris Nemtsov, was assassinated on Putin's orders in February of 2015. Alexei Navalny was murdered on Putin's orders in February this year. I myself have been poisoned twice, (and) so many other opposition figures and Kremlin critics... And we know that these attacks have happened well beyond Russian territory.

So you know, the word safe is not a word we, as Russian opposition politicians, usually have in our vocabulary. But I believe in what I do. I believe in my country. I care about my country, I love my country, and I think Russia deserves so much better than being run by a corrupt, murderous authoritarian KGB-led dictatorship. I think Russia deserves to be a normal, modern democratic European country.

**You mentioned Navalny. Do you think that perhaps if things had been different, he could have been part of this prison swap?**

I cannot help but think about Alexei Navalny and to think that if these processes had worked a little faster, maybe Alexei could have been here with us. We know that. We know that he isn't.

(Akanksha Saxena is a journalist based in Bonn and reports for Germany's international public broadcaster DW)

• Sacking staff, denying police approval part of clampdown; L-G says based on evidence

J&K administration has dismissed 74 government employees "in the interest of the security of the state" without conducting an inquiry, giving them a chance to explain their position or even informing them why. The government has taken the route of Article 311(2)(C) that empowers it to dismiss a government employee without giving an opportunity to the individual to present a defence.

Of the 74 terminated employees, 67 belong to the Kashmir Valley and seven to Jammu region. Three of them are women — two teachers and a civil servant. The civil servant was married to a former JKLF militant.

When asked about the legality of such orders, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha told *The Indian Express*, "There is not a single case, where there is no FIR, where there is no history or solid evidence... There has been a debate when Article 311 was being drafted in Constitution. Sardar Patel has himself said if there is a threat to the state, and there is irrefutable evidence, there is no need to give an opportunity to the person. He/she should be removed."

Manzoor Ahmad Laway, a government teacher from south

Kashmir's Kulgam district, was one such employee. In May 2021, the L-G was all praise for him for his work as a Covid warrior in 'Awaam ki Awaaz', a radio interaction on the lines of Prime Minister's 'Mann Ki Baat'. Three years later, he was terminated allegedly for "being a threat to the security of the state". The government cited an FIR against him for alleged stone pelting during a protest in 2016 as the reason.

Laway is among the 74 government employees terminated under the Article 311(2)(C) along with a senior Kashmir University professor, a computer scientist, a woman civil servant, principal of a higher secondary school, assistant professors and police personnel.

In many cases, after the services of the employees are terminated, their travel documents are impounded or they are put on the Look Out Circular (LoC) to prevent them from taking up a job outside the country. These employees lose their post-retirement benefits, including gratuity and pension. Asked about this, J&K Director General of Police R R Swain said, "There are 3.6 lakh regular employees and about 1.25 lakh semi-regular employees. Just over 70 people have been removed from

service under national security clause. That's 0.014%. And who are the people being removed? Sons of (United Jihad Council chief) Syed Salahuddin."

The government has also denied police verification to many, which is required before they can take up a job, get government contracts and travel documents, "for past links to militancy or the separatism or of their relatives". While there is no circular or order on this, the administration had revoked 98 passports — of journalists, academics, civil society activists and students — last year under section 10(3)(C) of the Passport Act citing "threat to the security of the state".

L-G Sinha said aggrieved persons can approach the administration. "If anyone feels it, he can represent it and we will evaluate it. We are open. In two cases, I myself ensured verification was given after representations were found to be genuine. But if someone says I will change my behaviour now, but has a dubious past, then how can we give them the service verification," he said.

DGP Swain said over 24,000 people were selected for recruitment and only six persons have been denied placement. "One

cannot find fault if the State takes steps to quarantine itself from insider threat after a person is assessed to be vulnerable to duress or inducement of a national security adversary," he said.

Over the last four years, the J&K Police CID has also put scores of people on a 'Look out circular' barring them to move out of the country — these include journalists, academics, activists and students, most of them studying MBBS in Pakistan.

"I was studying in the second year of MBBS in Pakistan. I came home during vacation. But when I went back, I was stopped at Wagah. I was informed that I can't go back because J-K Police have put me on Look out notice," said a 21-year-old student from north Kashmir, who did not wish to be named. "When I checked around, I found many of my classmates had also been stopped. Sometime later, I got a letter that my passport too has been revoked. We have lost our three precious years. We can't get admission here because all our documents are in our colleges there (Pakistan). Our careers are at stake."

Over the last month or so, police have arrested four lawyers, including two former presidents of

the High Court Bar Association, Mian Abdul Qayoom and Nazir Ahmad Ronga. While Qayoom was arrested in a case related to the murder of lawyer Babar Qadri in 2020, the other three lawyers have been booked under the Public Safety Act (PSA) that allows the government to detain a person without trial for three years.

"The government has dismantled every institution that spoke for the people," said a Srinagar-based lawyer, who works at the High Court. "First, they locked down the press club leaving journalists without a body and then they have stopped lawyers from Bar elections. The government on the other hand has facilitated parallel institutions," he said.

The local media also faces restrictions. "We are government mouthpieces," said the editor of a local daily. "We have been forced into submission. We get directions on what to publish and what not to, even the language that we must use," he said.

Asked about this, L-G Sinha said, "I want to clearly state that I welcome constructive criticism. But we have to keep note of a fine line in Jammu & Kashmir. The country's security should not be put in jeopardy. Those who are

mindful of this red line, they can criticise anything."

The government is also registering more and more cases under the UAPA. With the PSA, which was described as a 'lawless law' by Amnesty International, drawing international attention, police have shifted to the more stringent Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA). While the courts would often quash the PSA, bail under the UAPA is difficult. The police have also started acting against the investigation officers (IOs), where the accused booked under UAPA gets acquitted or bailed out.

In the Valley, the accused have been booked under anti-terror laws for smaller offences like stone pelting, sloganeering or celebrations over Pakistan's win in cricket. Official figures reveal that for the three years from 2020 to 2022, over one-third of the UAPA cases are reported from J&K.

The figures show during this period, one UAPA case was registered per 14,000 people while it is one case per 8,00,000 people in the rest of the country. For a population of less than one percent, 36 per cent of total UAPA cases have been registered in three years, reveals the NCRB data. (WITH PVAIDYANATHAN IYER IN SRINAGAR)

**Former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev remarked**

voluntary basis through a commercial flight. All diplomats remain in the High Commission which continues to be functional, sources said.

All helplines of the Indian High Commission in Dhaka are working, and sources shared the phone numbers: +8801958383679, +8801958383680, +8801937400591.

In Parliament Tuesday, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said it is India's expectation that the host government will provide the required security protection to the Indian missions in Bangladesh.

The Indian government has flagged the issue of safety and security of Indian interests — its diplomatic facilities, personnel and its citizens in Bangladesh and put the onus of keeping them safe on the new establishment in Dhaka.

"We are in close and continuous touch with the Indian community in Bangladesh

• From non-Muslims on state boards to DC as arbiter: Sweeping changes in waqf Bill

whether a property is waqf property or government land.

The Bill states that "any government property identified or declared as waqf property, before or after the commencement of this Act, shall not be deemed to be a waqf property." However, the amendment states that the Collector will make this determination in case of a dispute and not the Waqf Tribunal.

Currently, under the 1995 Act, this decision is made exclusively by the Waqf Tribunal and as per Section 6 of the Act, "the decision of the Tribunal in respect of such matter shall be final."

"In case the Collector determines the property to be a

Government property, he shall make necessary corrections in revenue records and submit a report in this regard to the State Government," says the proposed Bill. Then, a crucial sub-clause adds that "provided that such property shall not be treated as waqf property till the Collector submits his report."

This means that until the government decides the issue, waqf cannot be in control of the disputed land. The proposed Bill, if enacted, will give the Central government the power to "direct the audit of any waqf at any time by an auditor appointed by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India, or by any offi-

cer designated by the Central Government for that purpose".

The amendments also seek to completely remove the concept of "waqf by use" which means that a property can be deemed to be a waqf through use even if the original declaration is suspect.

In Islamic law, the dedication of a property as waqf was done largely orally until documentation became the standard norm. For example, even in the absence of a waqfnama, a masjid can be deemed to be waqf property if it is continuously used as such.

The Bill, by omitting the provisions relating to the "waqf by user," makes a waqf property

suspect in the absence of a valid waqfnama.

Another key change in the Bill is introducing the concept of "adverse possession" with respect to waqfs. Under Section 170, the 1995 Act explicitly barred the Limitation Act from being applicable to waqfs. However, the Bill proposes to remove that exception, allowing the statute of limitations to apply. This would mean that squatters on a waqf property would have the right to seek adverse possession of that land and bars claims by the waqf board after 12 years.

For the establishment and constitution of Central Waqf

Council (which works for advising Central government, state governments and the waqf boards), the proposed Bill intends to give the power to the Centre to include three MPs (two from Lok Sabha and one from Rajya Sabha) without specifying that they have to be Muslim. In the original Act, the three MPs to be included in the Council had to be from the Muslim community.

K Rahman Khan, former Minority Affairs Minister at the Centre under the UPA-II government, said: "All of a sudden, the government has floated this Bill without consultations with the stakeholders, including the Muslim community. This Bill in

through our diplomatic missions. There are an estimated 19,000 Indian nationals there, of which about 9,000 are students. The bulk of the students have already returned to India in the month of July on the advice of the High Commission. In terms of our diplomatic presence, in addition to the High Commission in Dhaka, we have Assistant High Commissions in Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna and Sylhet. It is our expectation that the host government will provide the required security protection for these establishments. We look forward to their normal functioning once the situation stabilises," Jaishankar said.

He had also raised the issue of Hindus in Bangladesh — an important issue for the BJP-led government in Delhi. Acknowledging that there are groups in Bangladesh who are going to take care of the minorities, he said the BSF will "be exceptionally alert in view of this complex situation".



Govt. of Haryana



**Mhara Haryana**

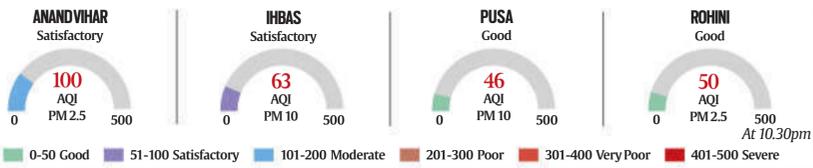
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## 14 DEATHS IN A MONTH AT ASHA KIRAN

# One psychiatrist for 938 inmates, no clinical psychologist: Red flags in report

MALLICA JOSHI & SOHINI GHOSH  
 NEW DELHI, AUGUST 7

ONE PSYCHIATRIST looks after 938 intellectually challenged inmates at the Delhi government's Asha Kiran home, set up exclusively for orphan and destitute patients. There is not a single clinical psychologist even as there are three sanctioned posts. There are 210 children but no paediatrician to look after them. The paediatrician's post is vacant.

The home can house 570 residents but it accommodates 938 inhabitants, including 399 women.

These are a few revelations in the report filed by the Department of Social Welfare before the Delhi High Court on Tuesday. The HC had sought a report from the Delhi government after 14 inhabitants of the shelter died within a month (July).

Here are some of the findings from the report:

Of the 14 people who died in the home in July alone, seven were suffering from loose motions and gastroenteritis, three complained of breathing issues, three were suffering from malnutrition, three from anaemia and one from nutritional deficiency.

The Chief Medical Officer and three Auxiliary Nurses and Midwives (ANMs) could not tell the team how Body Mass Index (BMI) is calculated, the report says.

Eleven doctors, including



Protest against the Asha Kiran deaths, on Wednesday. Praveen Khanna

### SPELT OUT IN NUMBERS

Post	Sanctioned	Present
Specialist*	1	0
GDMO	8	6
Paediatrician	1	0
Psychiatrist	1	1
Physiotherapist	1	0
Clinical psychologist	3	0
Pharmacist	1	1
Dresser	3	0
Special educator	6	0

\*medicine

an internal medicine specialist, eight General Duty Medical Officers (GDMO), a paediatrician and a psychiatrist, are supposed to care for them but the posts of the internal medicine specialist, two GDMOs and paediatrician are lying vacant.

The home is supposed to have three clinical psychologists. It has none. The post of a physiotherapist is also lying vacant.

But the problems don't end here. There is only one cook in the home when there should be three and all five posts for washer men and women are vacant.

The home does not have a single PT (physical education) teacher, special educator, craft instructor or music teacher.

All of these issues have been overlooked despite the Social Welfare Department itself stating that the home provides vocational training, therapeutic

services, art and craft workshops, skill development classes, sports and recreational activities and music and dance programmes.

The report also says that the inmates are given food thrice a day, with the staple menu comprising chapati, rice, seasonal vegetables and dal.

Morning and evening tea is served with either roasted chana or groundnuts (in winter)... It is pertinent to mention that the provision of milk, fruit and eggs is available only for children... and to adults only in case doctors prescribe a special diet. Patients of T.B./Hepatitis are also given a special diet as a routine measure. After the food is prepared, the designated Welfare Officer tastes the food and records quality satisfaction in the register," the report says.

The report claims that the water samples lifted from the home were found fit for consumption.

The report, however, highlights that social stigmas and lack of public awareness sometimes result in persons with disabilities being abandoned.

"Children with intellectual disabilities who have no comorbidities and various behavioural issues require highly personalised care and attention. Medical care is hard to maintain due to co-morbidity and low immunity. (They) are prone to get sick easily and are unable to explain their discomfort. As the persons with intellectual disabilities are unable to communicate their comorbidities, it may cause undue delay in providing required medical treatment," the report says.

The administration of the home, meanwhile, has converted the auditorium into a dormitory as the space is air-conditioned.

The Social Welfare Department officials directed that unused items be stored in rooms to create more open space for residents.

During the visit, the welfare officer was also directed to record whether fruits and vegetables were washed. The report also refers to meetings held in the past years to decongest the home, stating that the department was under "great pressure to decongest Asha Kiran's home".

It emphasises the need to shift some residents to the Asha Jyoti Home located at Nirmal Chhaya Complex, which at present houses foreign women detainees at the Detention Centre of Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) in Hari Nagar and Lampur. The report also refers to the issue being raised with the Home Ministry

The department has also sought permission to move residents to MCD's nursing college and hostel building in Narela as a solution to the crowding issue. Two buildings in Dallupura in East Delhi and Mamurpur in Narela are also in the works.

# 'Problem is human lives don't have a cost...': High Court seeks urgent steps

SOHINI GHOSH  
 NEW DELHI, AUGUST 7

"WE HAVE lost 14 lives in 20 days. The problem is human lives today don't have a cost," the Delhi High Court ruled on Wednesday as it urged authorities to take urgent steps for the recruitment of doctors and decongestion at Asha Kiran Home, a government shelter for the intellectually challenged in Rohini. "Things have to change at the ground level. Status quo can't continue like this," the High Court underlined.

The division bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) that raised alarm over 14 deaths at the shelter in July.

The High Court directed the Social Welfare Department's secretary, Vinod Kamble, to request health and non-health cadre staff for the shelter home immediately, and put up the file before Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar, seeking sanction for the requests necessary to tackle the situation. The HC also implored the department to recruit staffers on a contractual basis if needed.

Addressing Kamble, the Acting Chief Justice orally remarked, "Don't get lost in the procedure, just cut through the mess and recruit the necessary people... put up your requirement (for staffing). I'm sure they'll sanction it. If they don't sanction it we'll sanction it, we'll pass a judicial order. Don't feel helpless, if you feel helpless what will happen to these people?"

"You're a powerful man... Recruit the best. Don't let us down. It's an emergency," he said.

The bench went on to emphasise the need to decongest the shelter homes after the court was informed by Kamble that against a sanctioned strength of 570 residents at Asha Kiran, there are 961 inmates. Of these, 24 have been shifted to other shelter homes following the incident, he said. "Decongestion is a top priority," the High Court said.

For decongesting the Asha Kiran shelter home, the secretary submitted that they have requested the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) to hand over a PHC (primary health-care) complex at Narela. But there has been no response from the MCD so far. According to Kamble, the MCD facility will be able to shelter around 200 residents.

The court told the officer to directly speak to the MCD commissioner for permission to utilise its building which was stated to have a capacity of 200 persons.

"Speak to the commissioner on the mobile phone. This is an emergency. Human lives are precious. Speak to the minister and get it done. You will get the place," the High Court said.

On a query from the HC on the possible reasons for the death of 14 deaths in a span of 20 days, the administrator of the shelter home present in the courtroom said, "(It) can be a coincidence... it can be the aggravated weather also." The weather being a culprit, however, did not cut teeth with the bench.

## BRIEFLY

### Boy slapped in school, suffers eardrum injury

New Delhi: A 12-year-old boy sustained eardrum injury after he was allegedly slapped by a manager in a private school for poor handwriting in a northeast Delhi area, officials said. According to the police, the matter was reported on July 20 after the boy complained of pain in his ear and told his parents that he was allegedly slapped by the school principal's son over poor handwriting.

PTI

### DU extends choice filling for UG courses

New Delhi: The Delhi University has extended the last date for filling the programme preferences and college combination for its 2024-25 undergraduate admissions till Friday, an official statement said. The choice filling phase of the Common Seat Allotment System-UG Phase-II has been extended till 11.59 pm on August 9, it said. The preferences in this phase will determine the allocation and admission of the candidates. It is advised to choose maximum number of preferences in which a candidate is willing to take admission to increase the probability of getting the programme, the statement said.

PTI

## WEEK AFTER MEETING WITH PM

# Duties, performance in focus as Rajnath, Nadda meet BJP MPs

JATIN ANAND  
 NEW DELHI, AUGUST 7

DELHI'S SEVEN BJP Lok Sabha MPs are set to face their first organisational test — ensuring "the best participation possible" in Independence Day-related events over the coming days. After Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the party's top brass has reiterated its emphasis on their performance, according to party insiders.

A delegation of the seven MPs — six of whom are first-timers — called on BJP national president Jagat Prakash Nadda and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday along with Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva and Delhi BJP general secretary (organisation) Pavan Rana.

Both leaders, party insiders said, told the MPs to pull up their socks for back-to-back events in the run-up to August 15 events, in addition to being asked to lead the charge for the Delhi Assembly elections next year — a reiteration of the instructions that are said to have been given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi around

a week ago.

The BJP will organise several events including a pan-Delhi tricolour installation drive, a Tiranga rally, and the observance of Partition Remembrance Day on August 14.

"Nadda ji, whom the MPs had wanted to call on separately, invited them as a joint delegation along with the senior leadership of the Delhi unit; the national BJP president is said to have told the MPs to ensure the best possible electoral performance for the party in the ten Assembly constituencies which fall under their respective Parliamentary segments," a senior BJP leader said.

"In addition to reiterating the PM's directions and reminding the MPs that their performance in office will be crucial when it comes to being fielded next time, Nadda ji and Rajnath ji are said to have issued instructions to ensure the best public participation in the party's programs scheduled in the run-up to Independence Day — especially the citywide tricolour installation drive, 'Har Ghar Tiranga'," another leader, aware of developments related to the meetings, said.



The humidity level was recorded at 100% at 5:30 pm in New Delhi, on Wednesday. Praveen Khanna

# Snarls amid waterlogging as rain hits several parts

ENS & PTI  
 NEW DELHI, AUGUST 7

AS SEVERAL parts of Delhi were lashed by rain on Wednesday, waterlogging and traffic woes surfaced yet again.

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) said it received six complaints of waterlogging from

Seelampur, Nawada, Aya Nagar, Krishna Nagar, Karol Bagh, and Prem Nagar and one complaint of tree-felling.

Meanwhile, the Delhi Traffic Police said that traffic snarls were reported in four areas that were caused by waterlogging — in the carriageway of MB Road, in both carriageways of Anuvrat Marg and Najafgarh Phirni

Road. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Mayur Vihar and Lodhi Road weather stations received the highest rainfall.

The Mayur Vihar weather station recorded 46 mm rainfall between 2.30 pm and 5.30 pm. The three other weather stations of the city — Najafgarh,

Lodhi Road, and Safdarjung, the main weather observatory — recorded 26 mm, 20.4 mm and 12 mm rainfall respectively.

The maximum temperature settled at 32.4 degrees Celsius, nearly two notches below the season's normal, according to the IMD.

The humidity level was recorded at 100% at 5:30 pm.

## INDEPENDENCE DAY

# 'Atishi will hoist flag': Kejriwal under attack as he writes to L-G

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
 NEW DELHI, AUGUST 7

AS JAILED Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal wrote to Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Wednesday, recommending that given his absence, Minister Atishi will hoist the flag on Independence Day, he came under attack from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Congress.

While the BJP criticised the Chief Minister's move, stating that it was against the protocol, the Congress criticised him for staying silent on the Old Rajinder Nagar basement drownings and the demolition of houses in Delhi.

"CM Arvind Kejriwal wrote a letter to L-G VK Saxena from jail regarding flag hoisting in Delhi on August 15 that Atishi will hoist the tricolour in his place," the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) announced.

Responding to the letter, Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva alleged that AAP leaders "were anarchists yesterday and remain anarchists today." Sachdeva said that according

to the national flag protocol, only the Chief Minister is allowed to hoist the flag in the states. He highlighted that from 1991 to 1993 and in 2014, when there was no Chief Minister in Delhi, the L-G had hoisted the flag.

"Perhaps the framers of the Constitution and the national flag protocol never imagined that one day, there would be a stubborn Chief Minister who would not resign even after going to jail... If Arvind Kejriwal wants his Minister Atishi to hoist the flag, then he should trust her and resign, allowing her to take the oath as Chief Minister," he said.

Criticising both the AAP and the BJP, Delhi Congress Chief Devender Yadav said, "Without doing anything to ameliorate the woes of the people, they are now clashing about who would hoist the national flag during Independence Day... Kejriwal maintained silence when innocents died in the capital due to the lapses of the AAP government and the MCD, and the houses of the poor were demolished by the DDA."

## ARTISTS FROM ACROSS COUNTRY PUT IN EFFORTS FOR RECENTLY CONCLUDED WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE MEETING

# Metal peacock to fairytale castle: Artwork fashioned from scrap adorns city

SAMAN HUSAIN  
 NEW DELHI, AUGUST 7

IN 'BHOO DEVI', a tall metallic statue of a woman surrounded by flowers, leaves, spiders, and birds — all made from scrap, 62-year-old contemporary artist Gopal Namjoshi has presented his interpretation of "Mother Nature". The representation of Mother Earth in art is an old concept but I wanted to use a modern technique. The piece shows that the planet is not just for humans but for all creatures, including spiders, birds, and trees," says Namjoshi whose journey as a visual artist began 15 years ago. Placed at Gate 9 of Bharat Mandapam in Delhi, 'Bhoo Devi'

is among the many artworks that were created by artists from various parts of the country as part of a grand welcome for the delegates of the World Heritage Committee Meeting.

India hosted the 46th edition of the meeting for the first time this year between July 21 and July 31 in Delhi.

Namjoshi's tryst with visual art was an accident. "It started when I was helping a mechanic fix my scooter. That sparked my passion for creating engineered art pieces... it has been 15 years since I have been making such pieces, and every scrap dealer in Gurgaon knows me now," he recalls with a smile.

Another artist, 34-year-old Deepika Gautam from Delhi, of-

fers an alternate interpretation of "Mother Nature" — 'Regeneration,' placed at Gate 6 of Bharat Mandapam. Using construction materials, she crafted a sculpture resembling a female figure in a yoga pose. "It represents the idea that nature always finds a way to regenerate despite the environmental impact of urban life. The figure of Mother Earth has a tree growing from its head that serves as a reminder of nature's resilience and a call to action for reforestation," she says.

From a towering metal peacock to a toy castle evoking childhood nostalgia — such waste-to-wonderful art pieces have been placed in several parts of the city, apart from Bharat Mandapam.



Praveen Khanna



While Bhoo Devi (left) has been placed at Bharat Mandapam, other artworks have been placed in other key parts of Delhi.

Sharing details of the effort that went into the making of the art pieces, Namjoshi says, "We started at Lalit Kala Akademi's Garhi studio for a month and worked on these pieces day and night, using scrap materials that we personally collected from Mayapuri in Delhi."

"Sanchi Torana" — one such art piece that has been placed at the Bharat Mandapam Ground is inspired by Buddhist culture and the monuments of South India. Created by Madhukar, a 30-year-old artist from Karnataka, the structure is made entirely of scrap iron and rods welded together to form a giant stupa, integral to Buddhist architecture. "I randomly started my art career. I was always inter-

ested in automobiles and worked in the automobile industry for five years. I eventually got creative with metal. It took me four to five years to learn the art form," Madhukar says.

He visited a junkyard to source material and channeled his inspiration and creativity with discarded automobile parts. Adorned with traditional Chennapatna wooden dolls, which are a testament to the cultural heritage of Karnataka, elephants, and fans that sway with wind movement — it symbolises a traditional Indian welcome.

Capturing the nostalgic charm of childhood, artist Hare Krishna Pal from Tripura created a toy house, resembling a fairytale castle. He has titled his creation —

'Once Upon a Time, the Earth was Green'... Measuring 25 by 10 feet, the creation is placed inside the compound of the Hotel Leela Palace. "The art piece represents childhood games and the chatter of birds, which have become distant memories," Pal says, referring to rapid urbanisation.

With the piece, he is trying to give a message — work towards conservation and prevent further environmental degradation.

At Terminal 3 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport, a kinetic sculpture of a giant peacock will soon be placed to catch people's eye. Created by Niles Palav, an artist from Mumbai, the sculpture features a long neck, elegant crest, and feathers spread out.





# CITES MLC, DIFFERING STANDS OF TOP AAP LEADERS

## Maliwal case chargesheet hints at possibility of larger conspiracy

NIRBHAY THAKUR  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 7

IN THE chargesheet filed against Arvind Kejriwal's aide Bibhav Kumar, the Delhi Police has indicated that there could be a larger conspiracy behind the alleged assault of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal at the Chief Minister's residence. Kumar, who was arrested on May 18 in the case, has been in judicial custody for over two months.

"Investigation has brought out the fact that the accused and the Chief Minister of Delhi were together at the scene of crime i.e., the CM, Delhi residence, immediately after the commission of the crime for a significant period of time and, as such, the contrarian public stands taken by responsible public servants in the following days also needs to be examined in its correct perspective to decipher if there was a larger conspiracy behind the brutal assault on the complainant/victim at the hands of the accused," the chargesheet stated.

The chargesheet also has the MLC (medico legal case) of Maliwal which stated that the injury caused to her was "simple", "non-dangerous", and the age of the wounds are only up to 3 days old.

"At 9.15 Am, on 13.05.24, pa-

### WHAT THE CHARGESHEET SAYS

**Kejriwal, Kumar seen together:** "Investigation has brought out the fact that the accused and the Chief Minister of Delhi were together at the scene of crime i.e., the CM, Delhi residence, immediately after the commission of the crime for a significant period of time..." states the chargesheet

**Cites MLC:** The chargesheet also cited Maliwal's MLC stating that the injury caused to her was "simple", "non-dangerous", and the wounds were only up to 3 days old



Swati Maliwal; (R) Bibhav Kumar

**Differing stands by two top leaders:** The chargesheet mentioned that while a day after the alleged incident, AAP MP Sanjay Singh said Kumar

misbehaved with Maliwal, three days later, minister Atishi dismissed her allegations

**'Selective' footage:** As per the prosecution complaint, "selective footage" from CCTV cameras was leaked to the media regarding the incident

**Auto driver's statement:** The chargesheet also alleged that the auto driver, who Maliwal was with immediately after the incident, told police that she was "crying and calling someone up to tell them that she was beaten up".

tient complains of being slapped multiple times after which she was pushed and her head hit a hard object. She fell on the floor and after that she was hit multiple times by legs over chest, abdomen and pelvis. Patient is complaining of pain over thighs, pelvis, neck stiffness and headache," the chargesheet mentioned, citing the MLC.

The chargesheet mentioned that a day after the alleged incident, on May 14, AAP MP Sanjay Singh had said that Kumar misbehaved with Maliwal and that strict action would be taken against him. However, three days later, another AAP leader, Delhi Minister

Atishi, dismissed the allegations by Maliwal in a press conference. Police also flagged the "complete U-turn" taken by two leaders of the party.

"What transpired in the said 72 hours, leading to a diametrically opposing stance on the incident by senior public servants, and on what facts and in consultation/conspiracy with whom is yet to be established for which specific supplementary investigation is to be carried out," the chargesheet stated.

According to the chargesheet, as per the prosecution complaint, "selective footage" from CCTV cameras was leaked to the media

regarding the incident that took place on May 13. It has been learnt that the chargesheet has also alleged that the auto driver who Maliwal was with immediately after the incident told police that she was "crying and calling someone up to tell them that she was beaten up".

In her complaint, based on which the police registered an FIR against Kumar and arrested him, Maliwal alleged she had been slapped seven times, "kicked on the chest, stomach and pelvis area", and threatened to be killed. Her medical reports stated she suffered bruises on her left thigh, below the eye and right cheek.

# L-G office-AAP blame game over hiring of doctors

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 7

DELHI HEALTH Minister and L-G office Wednesday blamed each other for non-hiring of doctors and other medical staff in Delhi government hospitals.

The L-G office, in a statement, said the task of hiring doctors and other medical staff is exclusively within the domain of the National Capital Civil Services Authority (NCCSA), of which Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is the chairperson. "He is empowered to convene a meeting and take any such de-



L-G Saxena, AAP's Bharadwaj

cision. Had the intention been to appoint doctors, etc. on contract basis or otherwise, Kejriwal would have immediately convened a meeting of the NCCSA and done the needful," the L-G office said.

The Raj Nivas further said that instead of directing the Chief

Secretary, who is Member Secretary of NCCSA, to put the matter on the agenda, Kejriwal sent the proposal to the L-G. "This was obviously done to play the now familiar game of appointing favoured individuals in an opaque manner, this time with approval of L-G," said the L-G office.

Bharadwaj also sought L-G's direction to the Health Department for hiring the doctors on contractual basis, the statement added.

Responding to the allegations, official sources with the AAP-run Delhi government said the L-G office is "lying" and the High Court

appointed committee, in its recommendations, has constantly pressed upon the issue of filling up vacant positions of doctors, specialists, nurses, pharmacists, OT Technicians etc.

The official said the committee has also noted that the current process of UPSC will take quite a long time to fill these positions. "The committee has, therefore, recommended that these positions should be filled up immediately on contract basis. This is exactly the same recommendation which the Minister of Health and the Chief Minister has been pleading..." said the AAP source.

# Residents of 6th 'unsafe' tower at Chintels asked to evacuate within fortnight

Gurgaon: Over two years after a tower at Chintels Paradiso residential society in Gurgaon's sector 109 collapsed, killing two, residents of its sixth "unsafe" tower have been asked to evacuate in 15 days.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Nishant Kumar Yadav Wednesday issued an order asking residents living in Tower J to vacate their flats immediately, after the IIT Delhi structural audit report declared the tower unsafe in January.

Following the audit report, a committee comprising the ACP (West), District Town Planner (Enforcement), Superintending Engineer (PWD Building and Roads), and the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), also submitted a report dated January 19, stating that the tower is unsafe due to high chloride content and residents should be immediately evacuated. It also cited an incident when the balcony on the fifth floor of Tower J collapsed on January 12, noting the incident concurs with the IIT Delhi report that chloride-induced reinforcement corrosion can accelerate without any warning, leading to a loss in structural capacity.

Based on the report, the DC issued evacuation orders under Section 163 of the BNSS and Section 34 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, to prevent danger to human life, health, and safety.

The order stated that the matter of compensation to residents by the developer, Chintels India Private Limited, is being handled separately by the SIT constituted in this matter.

# Man held for daughter-in-law's murder, police say he called them

AISWARYA RAJ  
GURGAON, AUGUST 7

AT 11.40 am on Tuesday, 59-year-old Devender Mathur dialled the police control room. "I have killed my daughter-in-law," he said. Within minutes, the police arrived at Mathur's three-storey house; he and his son had left the door open and were sitting at the dining table, waiting for them.

Devender, the police said, claimed that he hit his daughter-in-law Amita Devi (24) with a stick and once she fell unconscious, he strangled her to death as his son Mukul, 25, watched. The duo were arrested, the police said. "When we asked why he killed her, the old man (Devender) cast aspersions... Her (Amita Devi's) father claimed that Devender had behaved inappropriately and when she resisted, he killed her," Station House Officer, New Colony Station, Rajesh Bagri said. "Both of them are in remand and we will question them again," he said.

Amita Devi hailed from Gohana in Sonapat. She married Mukul in 2017. The couple has two children - a six-year-old girl and a four-year-old boy. Mukul is afflicted with polio in one of his legs. "He (Mukul) doesn't work," the police officer said. "He is dependent on his father, who had adopted him."

When police found Amita Devi's body on the bed inside the house, she was wearing a peach t-shirt and blue jeans. "Her arms were blue from bruises. The t-shirt had blood stains. A polythene bag covered the face and a grey dupatta was tied around her neck," SHO Bagri said. "She was

# While the accused cast aspersion's on the woman, her father alleged that the father-in-law had made advances towards his daughter

beaten with the stick Devender used when he walked their dog. It was lying on the floor..."

On Wednesday, the lane to their three-storey house in sector 7 was deserted; the Mathur home was locked. Tinted windows and closed curtains kept the house away from the curious eyes of outsiders. The family had rented out the top two floors to two families. They, too, had left after the incident.

"I remember when Amita moved in..." a woman who lives in the neighbourhood said. "She used to greet everyone, go to the temple, and never take her eyes off the children... Her husband was polio-afflicted and her father-in-law had cancer, and she took care of everyone."

The neighbour said that no one knew what was going on inside this house. "She (Amita) never showed any sign of distress. They (the in-laws) can level any allegation but no one is going to believe them. If she was not loyal, why didn't he divorce her or get separated?" she said.

Another neighbour, a lawyer, said that when four police vehicles pulled up here on Tuesday, they were surprised. "Her arms were blue from bruises. The t-shirt had blood stains. A polythene bag covered the face and a grey dupatta was tied around her neck," SHO Bagri said. "She was

no remorse, not an iota of guilt..."

The neighbour said that Amita took her children to a temple nearby in the morning and then sent them off to school at 8 am. "Around 1.20 pm, when they (Amita's children) got down from their van, I took them to my house," he said. "They would have been devastated to see their mother's body... The children were later taken to a relative's place". The neighbour said only a day ago, the family celebrated Mukul's birthday. "It was all normal..." he said.

Amita's father, Shamsher, however, said that there were issues. "It was four years ago," he said. "One day, she had told me that her father-in-law (Devender) touched her inappropriately. She wanted to leave the house. I informed the police and took her back home. After seven months, her in-laws came to our village and apologised in front of a panchayat and she went with them. Recently, she complained again that they were not letting her pursue a BA programme course..." he said.

SHO Bagri also confirmed this. "There was an incident of domestic violence reported by her (Amita's) father," he said.

Shamsher said that Devender himself had called his other daughter and told her that he had killed Amita and asked her to come and take the body. "My daughter called me and told me. He (Devender) had called both my daughters (Amita's sisters). And he (Devender) had called them from Amita's phone," he said. "I asked my daughters to call back and when they did, Mukul picked up and said Amita is dead. Then I received the call from the police."

# New SOP, rates for freehold conversion likely in 4 mths

DAMINI NATH  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 7

AFTER KEEPING conversion of leasehold property in Delhi to freehold stalled for nearly two years, the Union government is working to come up with a new Standard Operating Procedure and revised rates for conversion within four months, The Indian

Express has learnt.

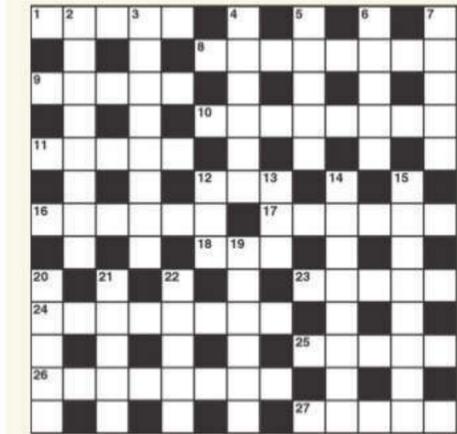
The Land and Development Office (L&DO) of the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has informed the Delhi High Court that the SOP would be prepared within four months, as per the court order on July 19. The L&DO has not issued any no-objection certificates for converting properties leased by it into freehold since December 2022, lead-

ing some applicants to move court.

In one such case, the applicant, the owner of a property in South Patel Nagar, moved the Delhi HC, alleging that despite all the formalities being complete, the L&DO had not approved the conversion. The court ordered the Land and Development Officer to appear before it on July 19. "...Dy. L&DO, who appeared

before the court informed that the petitioners have already completed the necessary formalities and have paid the necessary charges, and no fraud has been detected on the part of the petitioners. However, it was further informed that the property cannot be converted from leasehold to freehold as the SOP is under process since 2022..." the HC ordered.

### CROSSWORD 5437



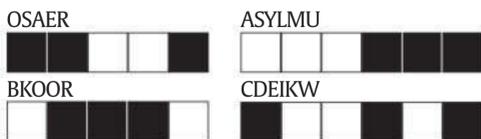
- ACROSS**  
1 An important point that's taken for granted (5)  
8 Be without a servant; result of a blow perhaps (5,3)  
9 A job dealing with traffic (5)  
10 The way the world goes round (8)  
11 Lives wildly producing social problems (5)  
12 It's raining in the West, not South (3)  
16 Go lightly and return it to a new post (6)  
17 Neural disorder is imaginary (6)  
18 Assume it's not quite finished (3)  
23 Vehicles of mine are coming back in fashion (5)  
24 Threatening to readjust my ration (8)  
25 Extreme way to speak (5)  
26 Bill returns to unusually barren capital (8)  
27 Come up with an increase (5)
- DOWN**  
2 So long in France (2,6)  
3 Rise and fall of one of the French recently dead (8)  
4 Oral entreaties find favour (6)  
5 Sharp - even when beheaded (5)  
6 Elgar composition fit for a king (5)  
7 Prompt about going on day shift (5)  
12 United we figure (3)  
13 Turn a nut in the barrel (3)  
14 Comparatively timely help for the player (8)  
15 Justice characteristic of the Scandinavians (8)  
19 A heavenly model (6)  
20 It may put to sea in a blow (5)  
21 Silly Annie is upset (5)  
22 A way always short and direct (5)

Solutions Crossword 5436 Across: 1 Matchmaker, 6 Year, 10 Inter, 11 Plaintiff, 12 Foremost, 13 Evade, 15 Noisome, 17 Cheroot, 19 Actaeon, 21 Matador, 22 Total, 24 Cast Iron, 27 Soap opera, 28 Somme, 29 Even, 30 Brightened Down: 1 Mail, 2 Tatooist, 3 Honda, 4 Approve, 5 Elastic, 7 Erica, 8 Reflectors, 9 Interest, 14 In bad taste, 16 Overlook, 18 Odd-job man, 20 Nuclear, 21 Mustang, 23 Trace, 25 Inset, 26 Bend

### JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

Wherever we are, it is our friends that \_\_\_\_\_ (4,3,5)

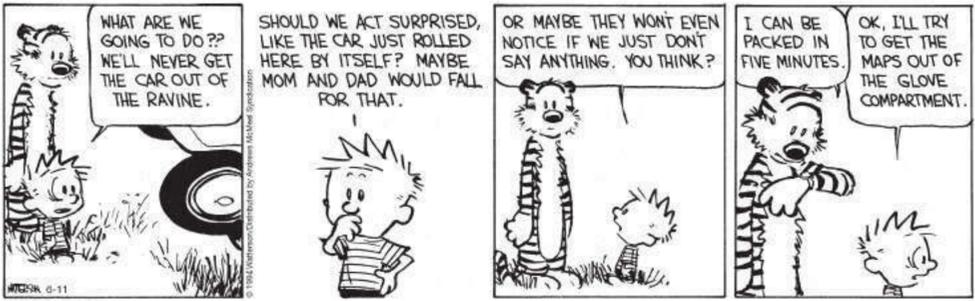


SOLUTION: ABOVE, BROOK, ASYLUM, WICKED  
Answer: Wherever we are, it is our friends that make our world.

### OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



### CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson

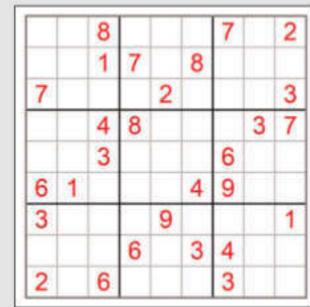


### MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



**Difficulty Level 3s**  
Instructions  
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

**Difficulty Level**  
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



### SOLUTION SUDOKU 5645



## Common manifesto, joint war room; MVA gets ready for Maharashtra Assembly polls

**MANOJCG**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 7:

UPBEAT AFTER the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi's better-than-expected showing in the Lok Sabha polls, the alliance is working to ensure that the alliance comes out with a common manifesto and a campaign strategy, including setting up of a joint war room, for the forthcoming Assembly polls.

The leaderships of Shiv Sena (UBT), NCP Sharad Pawar and the Congress are keen that seat-sharing talks among the three are smooth and local organisational compulsions don't come in the

way of the negotiations. Sena (UBT) believes its chief Uddhav Thackeray is the automatic choice for the Chief Minister's post if MVA is voted to power.

Visiting Delhi for the first time since the Lok Sabha poll verdict, Uddhav met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and is learnt to have discussed modalities for seat sharing and devising a campaign strategy. He is expected to meet Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi Thursday.

Sources in the Sena (UBT) said the party expects to get more seats than the Congress and the NCP

but insisted that there is little chance of hard bargaining, as the "ultimate goal is to defeat the BJP".

Sources said Uddhav has had detailed discussions on seat sharing with Kharge and Rahul — he also had a meeting with Pawar — since he prefers to deal with the central leaderships of the Congress and the NCP. He also dropped hints that he was ready to be projected as the CM face.

"Maharashtra's farmers and youngsters are fed up with the opportunistic BJP-led alliance. The 13 crore people of Maharashtra are looking towards change... If my colleagues feel that I have done excellent work, then ask them

whether they want me as the chief minister. People will decide," Thackeray said after meeting the Congress leadership. "I had not dreamt of being a chief minister... But I am also not the one who runs away from responsibility".

He also met Congress leader Digvijaya Singh, TMC leader Derek O'Brien, AAP leader Sanjay Singh and Samajwadi Party MP Aditya Yadav, among others. Independent MP from Sangli Vishal Patil, who had defeated Sena (UBT) nominee Chandrabhar Patil, also met Thackeray. Vishal, who has aligned with the MVA, quit the Congress after the Sangli seat was given to Shiv Sena-UBT.

## Haryana CM promises LPG at ₹500 ahead of Assembly polls

**Chandigarh:** Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini Wednesday announced that people earning less than Rs 1.8 lakh per annum and registered under the Ujjwala Yojana will now get LPG cylinders at just Rs 500 in the state.

The decision, which comes barely a few months before the state is scheduled to go to polls, is expected to benefit nearly 46 lakh families in Haryana.

As per the guidelines of the Ujjwala Yojana, a beneficiary must be 18 years or above and there should not be any other LPG connection in the same household.

In another announcement, Saini said, "Under the Mukhyamantri Dughd Uphar Yojana, from now, government school students of 14 to 18 years of age will be getting fortified milk for 150 days each year."

"Also, from now on, under the Haryana Matri Shakti Udyam Yojana, an applicant can avail a loan of up to Rs 5 lakh," Saini said, adding, "The women's revolving fund of the self-help groups have been increased from Rs 20,000 to Rs 30,000."

**ZONAL OFFICE, PATNA ZONE**  
1st Floor, Chanakya Place, R-Block, Patna-1  
Tel.: 0612-2506932/9852031391/9431067678  
E-mail: patna.ar@bankofindia.co.in

**PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE**  
Bank of India intends to Auction of following Vehicle whose Manufacturing Company, Model and Year of manufacturing is mentioned below, through Public Auction on "As is where is, as is what is and whatever there is". Applications are invited from interested bidders for auction on **26.08.2024** (Monday) from **11:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.** The reserve price of the vehicle is fixed as below:-

**Sl. No.1, Make: Royal Enfield, Model: 2015, Year of Manufacturing: 2015, Registration No.: BR01CR6067, Reserve Price: ₹30,000/-, EMD Price: ₹3,000/-, Branch: Anisabad, Name of Defaulter: Kamal Kant**

**Sl. No.2, Make: Renault Kwid RXT, Model: 2019, Year of Manufacturing: 2019, Registration No.: BR01PK7996, Reserve Price: ₹59,000/-, EMD Price: ₹5,900/-, Branch: Anisabad, Name of Defaulter: Ashwani Kumar Singh.**

**Sl. No.3, Make: Maruti Dzire, Model: 2019, Year of Manufacturing: 2019, Registration No.: BR01EG5107, Reserve Price: ₹2,76,000/-, EMD Price: ₹27,600/-, Branch: Boring Canal Road, Name of Defaulter: Rajendra Kumar & Reena Kumar.**

**Public auction of above vehicles will be held online on dated 26.08.2024 (Monday) from 11:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on following terms and conditions.**  
**Online Portal:- https://www.ebkray.in**  
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale contact the concerned branch or Bank of India, Zonal Office, 1st Floor, R Block, Patna 800001.  
**Contact: 0612-2506932/9852031391/9431067678**  
**EMD Deposit Last Date: 24.08.2024**  
**Date and time of inspection of seized vehicles:** Any working day from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM (To contact the zonal office, contact the above number)  
**E-auction date: 26.08.2024**  
**Note:** The bank will not be responsible for any error in publication, physical inspection will be valid.  
**Place: Patna** **Authorized Officer**  
**Date: 07.08.2024** **Bank of India**

# EXPRESS Careers

Nashik Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Nashik  
**Late Bindu Ramrao Deshmukh Arts, Commerce & Science Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Nashik Road (0253-2465967)**

**WANTED**  
Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the following post.

Sr.No	Designation	Total Post	Category
1	Principal	01	Open to All

**Condition:**

- Educational Qualifications & other essential requirements, Pay Scale and Service conditions are as prescribed by the UGC, New Delhi. Government of Maharashtra and Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune and L.B.R.D. Arts Commerce and Science Mahila Mahavidyalaya Nashik road, Nashik.
- Associate Professor/Professor with the total experience of 15 years in teaching/ research/ administration in universities, colleges and other institutions of Higher Education.
- candidate should submit their API Score record as per UGC norms.
- This recruitment procedure is subject to decision by Hon. Bombay High Court, Aurangabad Bench on Writ Petition No.12051/2015 and 15737/2019 filed in Aurangabad bench Mumbai High court & supreme court respectively.
- Appointment for the said post will be for tenure of five years from the date of appointment or up to the attainment of the age of superannuation of the candidate, whichever is earlier.
- Those who are already in service should apply through proper channel.
- All attested Xerox Copies of certificates, other relevant documents related to API score should be attached to the application form.
- No TA/DA will be paid.
- Incomplete application will not be entertained.
- Eligible candidates should submit their application form with all the necessary documents within fifteen (15) days from the date of Publication of this advertisement to the following address personally or by registered post.
- Kindly send a demand draft of Rs. 200/- for Candidates who belong to Reserve category & Rs. 400/- for candidates of Open Category alongwith application form in favour of "The Secretary, Nashik Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Nashik." Payable at Nashik.
- Parallel reservation for women and differently disable (divyang) shall be applicable as per norms of Government of Maharashtra. Address -  
**The Secretary, Nashik Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Nashik.**  
c/o. J.S. Rungta Highschool, Ashok Stambh, Gharpure Ghat, Nashik. Pin.422002.  
**SECRETARY**  
Place: Nashik Nashik Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Nashik  
Date 08.08.2024 Website: nspmandal.org

**TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY**  
COIMBATORE - 641 003  
**RATE CONTRACT NOTIFICATION - 2024-25**

On behalf of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, sealed tenders are invited for the supply of Chemicals, Laboratory apparatus, Scientific Equipments, Consumables, Glassware - Fragile and Non-Fragile items etc. for the constituent Colleges, Departments, Research Stations, KVAFSU and other Centres of the University during the financial year 2024-2025. The firms should have three years experience as on 01.01.2024 as "MANUFACTURER" of the said items, they intend to supply and hold a valid "Manufacturer's License" for such of those items which are marketed under their own approved or patented brand names or trademarks. The term "Manufacturer" also includes manufacturers or their sole agents or their dealer whom they authorize to participate in the tender. The Manufacturer should authorize only one dealer/distributor for participating in the tender. The tender documents can be obtained from the office of the Comptroller, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore - 641003 on payment of cost of Rs 1770/- (Rs 1500/- + GST @18%) through a demand draft drawn in favour of the **COMPTROLLER, TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, COIMBATORE** payable at State Bank of India, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Branch, Coimbatore-3, subsequent to the date of publication of this notification. The last date for the issue of tender documents is **29.08.2024** upto **10.00 A.M.** The last date for receipt of filled tenders is upto **05.00 P.M.** on **29.08.2024**.

The tenders will be opened at **10.00 A.M.** on **30.08.2024**. If the tender opening date happens to be a holiday, the tenders will be opened on next working day.  
DPR/2023/TENDER/2024 **COMPTROLLER**

**New Okhla Industrial Development Authority**  
Administrative Building, Sector - 6, Noida - 201301 (U.P.)  
Website : [www.noidaauthorityonline.in](http://www.noidaauthorityonline.in)

**सार्वजनिक सूचना**  
सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि निम्नलिखित भूमि को नौएडा प्राधिकरण द्वारा आपसी समझौते के आधार पर क्रय किया जाना प्रस्तावित है-

क्र. सं.	ग्राम का नाम	खता संख्या	खसरा संख्या	क्षेत्रफल (हे० मे०)	नाम काश्तकार व पता	क्रय करने का उद्देश्य
1	काँडली बाँगर	23	60	0.6176	श्री ए०टी०एस० होम्स प्रा०लि०, पता 711/92, दीपाली नेहरू प्लेस, नई दिल्ली द्वारा अधिकृत हरशास्त्री श्री रमेश मिश्रा पुत्र विद्यानाथ मिश्रा नि० मकान संख्या-364, गली नम्बर-3, इस्माईलपुर, दीपाली एन्क्लेव-2 अमरनगर, फरीदाबाद, हरियाणा-121003.	सेक्टर-152 के अन्तर्गत नौएडा के सुनियोजित विकास हेतु

उपरोक्त भूमि के क्रय किये जाने में यदि किसी जन सभाघण को संबन्धित भूमि के सम्बन्ध में कोई दावा/आपत्ति देनी हो, तो सार्वजनिक प्रकाशन के 15 दिन के अन्दर कार्यालय मूलेख विभागा, नौएडा, मुख्य प्रशासनिक भवन सेक्टर-6, नौएडा, जनपद नौतमबुद्धनगर-201301 में प्रस्तुत कर सकता है।

विशेष कार्याधिकारी (ए०क०) नौएडा।

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(सरकारी सहायता का उपाय) (A Govt. of India Undertaking)

**ZONAL OFFICE :**  
4th Floor, Block-A, Mauryalok Complex, New Dak Bungalow Road, Patna- 800001

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE**  
**APPENDIX-IV A SEE PROVISO TO RULE 8(6) SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**

E-Auction sale notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s), Mortgagor(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised officer of UCO Bank, Secured creditor, Will be sold on "As is where is" "As is what is" and "whatever there is" basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned accounts. The Details of Borrower(s), Mortgagor(s) and Guarantor(s) secured Assets/Dues/Reserve price/E-Auction date & Time and Bid Incremental Amount are mentioned below.

Sl. No	Name of the Borrower/Guarantor Name of the Branch	Demand Notice Date Possession Notice Date Due Amount	Description of the Asset/ Property	Reserve Price		Property Inspection Date & Time	Date & time of E-auction
				EMD Bid Incremental Amount	Reserve Price		
1.	Mrs. Jhuni Devi, W/o Mr. Neeraj Kumar Singh, Add-Ward No-2, Dani Bigha, Po-Aurangabad, Distt- Aurangabad, Pin Code-824101 & Co-borrower-Mr. Neeraj Kumar Singh, S/o Mr. Anand Singh, Add-Ward No-2, Dani Bigha, Po-Aurangabad, Distt- Aurangabad, Pin Code-824101 and the Guarantor Mr. Manoj Kumar Sinha, S/o-Mr. Radharaman Prasad, Add-Ramraj Nagar, Po-Aurangabad, Distt- Aurangabad, Pin Code-824101	30.12.2023 19.03.2024 Rs.19,82,425.15 as on 04.12.2023 along with pending interest expenses thereon (Interest Calculated up to 30.11.2023) along with pending interest expenses thereon.	All that part and parcel of the property consisting in the name of Mrs. Jhuni Devi W/o Mr. Niraj kumar singh Deed No-966, Dated-03/02/2017, Mauza-Jasoia,khata no/survey no-10, Khesra No/Plot No-845, Thana No-264, Area-1.5 Decimal, Ward No-02, Jamabandi No-155, P.s- Auranga bad, Dist-Aurangabad. <b>Bounded by-North-Rasta, South-Sharma jee Plot No-845, East-Kreta, West-Baldeo Singh &amp; Baldeo Singh Kipatni</b>	Rs. 36,70,000/- Rs. 3,67,000/- Rs. 10,000/-	08.08.2024 to 27.08.2024 11:00 A.M to 4:00 P.M	Date- 28.08.2024 12:00 P.M to 4:00 P.M	

For detailed terms and conditions for sale, please refer/visit to the website link. <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/https://ebkray.in> Also, Prospective bidders may contact the Recovery in charge: Mobile No-9795006865, Authorised Officer: Mobile No-9693242537, Branch Head: Mobile No-9308297380

**Place : Patna** **Date : 08.08.2024** **Authorized Officer, UCO Bank, Zonal Office, Patna**

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7th FEBRUARY 2024, BOMBAY

**MPIDC** **MPS&DC**

**NARENDRA MODI**  
PRIME MINISTER

**DR. MOHAN YADAV**  
CHIEF MINISTER, MADHYA PRADESH

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**8TH AUGUST, 2024 - 11:00 AM ONWARDS**  
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**Preamble of 'Invest Madhya Pradesh' Global Investors Summit 2025**

**LIVE STREAMING** **jansamparkMP** **@Cmmadhyapradesh @jansampark.madhyapradesh** **@Cmmadhyapradesh @jansamparkMP** **NATIONAL PARTNER** **Confederation of Indian Industry** **KNOWLEDGE PARTNER** **Deloitte** **EY**

**Government of Madhya Pradesh**

INSUPPORT

Vinesh Phogat's extraordinary feats at the Paris Olympics have thrilled every Indian and done the country proud. While we all share her disappointment at the disqualification, she remains a champion in the hearts of 1.4 billion people. Vinesh embodies the truly indefatigable spirit of Indian women, and her epic fortitude and resilience are already inspiring future world champions from India.

**DROUPADI MURMU,**  
PRESIDENT

We all share her pain and disappointment at the setback she suffered. Her undaunted spirit remains a testament to courage, conviction and perseverance. She will remain a champion in the hearts of people of this country.

**JAGDEEP DHANKHAR,**  
VICE PRESIDENT

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.

**NARENDRA MODI,**  
PRIME MINISTER

Vinesh is not one to give up, we are confident she will come back stronger... You have always made the country proud Vinesh. Even today the whole country stands with you as your strength.

**RAHUL GANDHI,**  
LEADER OF OPPOSITION IN LOK SABHA

# Opp walks out of Lok Sabha after Govt details expenses on Vinesh training

## Walkout by Opp in RS too after Dhankhar denies nod for discussion

**LALMANI VERMA, DEEPTIMAN TIWARY & NIKHIL GHANEKAR**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 7

UNION SPORTS Minister Mansukha Mandaviya, who read out a statement in Lok Sabha Wednesday over wrestler Vinesh Phogat's disqualification from the Olympics, faced protests from the Opposition after he began issuing details of the money government had spent on her training. The Opposition eventually walked out.

Opposition walked out of Rajya Sabha, too, after Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar denied permission for a discussion on this.

Phogat was disqualified because she was 100 g overweight. Mandaviya made the statement after a demand from the Opposition. He began by informing the House that the IOA had lodged a strong protest with United World Wrestling over Vinesh Phogat's disqualification and PM Narendra Modi had



Opposition members raise slogans in support of wrestler Vinesh Phogat at Parliament on Wednesday. PTI

asked IOA chief P T Usha to take "appropriate action".

"As far as the assistance for her preparations is concerned, the Government has provided every possible assistance to Vinesh Phogat as per her requirements. Personal staff who are experts of their respective fields were also appointed for her," he said.

He said Phogat's Hungarian coach Woller Akos and physio Ashwini Patil were accompanying her. He also said financial assistance was provided for additional personal assisting staff, such as sparring partners and strength and conditioning experts.

"For the Paris Olympics cycle,

they were provided financial assistance of a total of ₹70.45 lakh," Mandaviya said, followed by a detailed account of the money spent on her training.

At this, the Opposition protested and the members asked the minister to answer on lapses.

Gaurav Gogoi and Deependar Hooda led the charge from Opposition benches. Gogoi was heard shouting: "You call yourself Vishwaguru but could not help a potential gold medalist. You say you have stopped a war but you could not help your own player."

Gogoi was also heard saying that instead of talking about money spent on athletes, the

### BHUPINDER HOODA, KC TYAGI SEE PLOT

New Delhi: Wrestler Vinesh Phogat's disqualification and the government's response to it invited sharp reactions outside Parliament as well. In Haryana, former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda said, "I have never heard of such a thing happening. The government must investigate this. I believe there is a conspiracy." JD(U) spokesperson KC Tyagi echoed this. "We suspect manipulation as part of a conspiracy. Such things are not new at the Olympics. I am happy the PM has taken up this matter with the Olympic Association," he said. **ENS**

minister should have spoken about the harm done to the athletes because they had been forced to protest. He was referring to the sit-in by Phogat, Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia last year against then WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh for allegedly molesting female wrestlers.

Hooda kept asking the Chair for permission to seek clarification from the minister. When Speaker Om Birla did not allow,

the Opposition walked out.

Opposition members returned to the House later.

Following the walkout, Hooda told *The Indian Express*: "If she has reached the finals, at least she should get the silver medal. Why isn't the government trying... We wanted to hear this (the government will also do this)."

Participating in the debate on the Finance Bill, Congress's Shafi Parambil said, "It was not right on the part of the government to quote the amount spent on her practice... Today our responsibility was to simply show our solidarity with her."

In Rajya Sabha, Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge sought a discussion on the issue of Phogat's disqualification. Chairman Dhankhar denied him permission and asked Kharge to write the issue he sought to discuss on paper and submit to him.

Opposition MPs began sloganeering during the speech of AIADMK's M Thambidurai during a discussion on Appropriation (No 2) Bill 2024 and J&K Appropriation (No 3) Bill, 2024. The sloganeering continued for five minutes after which the Opposition walked out.

Dhankhar said the Opposition's conduct was "indecorous and undignified and challenged the authority of the Chair."

## Declare Wayanad landslides national disaster: Rahul

New Delhi: Urging central government to declare the Wayanad landslides as a national disaster, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi demanded enhanced compensation for the affected people, a comprehensive rehabilitation package for the district and disaster-resistant infrastructure.

Raising the issue during Zero Hour in Lok Sabha, Gandhi called the landslides a "huge tragedy" and shared his experience during his recent visit to the landslide-affected areas with his sister and senior Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. "I saw devastation, pain, and suffering that resulted from this tragedy. Almost 2 km of hill has just collapsed and almost a river of stones, a river of mud has come down," he said. **ENS**

# Mullaperiyar dam issue reopens old wounds between allies: 'Imminent danger to lives'

**LIZ MATHEW**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 7

IT WAS ally versus ally in Lok Sabha Wednesday as the decades-old dispute over Mullaperiyar dam pitted members of Tamil Nadu's DMK against Congress MPs from Kerala. The unusual scenes did not end there: A Union Minister lent his support to the Kerala members.

With the Wayanad tragedy in mind, Congress MPs Hibi Eden, Dean Kuriackose and Benny Behanan had given adjournment motion notices in the House to discuss the over century-old dam — which potentially poses a threat to lakhs living downstream in Kerala but

also provides a lifeline for people in five districts of Tamil Nadu.

On Wednesday morning, before Question Hour, MPs stood to raise the issue, describing the ageing structure as a "water bomb".

Eden said in his notice the need to reconstruct Mullaperiyar dam was not just an engineering challenge but a moral and humanitarian imperative. Kuriackose emphasised on "imminent danger to the lives of people living near it".

But with Speaker Om Birla not allowing them to raise the issue, the MPs rushed to the Well of the House.

Seeing the Kerala MPs raising the issue, Tamil Nadu MPs, too, rushed to the Well. And as both sets of MPs were drowning each

other out, Union Minister Suresh Gopi stood up from the Treasury Benches. Gopi later told *The Indian Express* he stood in "the support of people of Kerala" as the dam "puts the lives of people in danger". Senior DMK MPs M Kanimozhi, T R Baalu, A Raja and Dayanidhi Maran were not present in the House at this time.

The Mullaperiyar dam is situated on the Periyar river in Kerala but its ownership and operation rights belong to TN. Kerala maintains that the 130-year-old dam is unsafe but TN opposes its demand to build a new one.

Construction of a new dam would also give rise to a demand for a new water-sharing treaty; at present, only Tamil Nadu has rights over the dam water.

In his notice, Eden said: "The Mullaperiyar Dam, a century-old structure, poses an imminent threat that we can no longer afford to ignore. The need to reconstruct the Mullaperiyar dam is not just an engineering challenge but a moral and humanitarian imperative. The reconstruction of the Mullaperiyar dam is not just a regional issue; it is a national priority."

Outside the House, Idukki MP Kuriackose said the dam is a danger to people. "If something unfortunate happens, the lives of people in five districts will be at risk. We want the government's intervention in getting National Dam Safety Authority functioning full-fledged," he said.

# Preamble removed from NCERT textbooks, says Cong; Nadda, Pradhan reject charge

**DIVYA A**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 7

THE OPPOSITION and Treasury benches entered into a war of words Wednesday after Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge raised the issue of "dropping of Preamble to the Constitution from certain NCERT textbooks", a charge rejected by Leader of the House JP Nadda.

During Zero Hour, Kharge said this was an "attempt to impose communal ideology on the country" as the Preamble — the soul and foundation of the Constitution — used to be published in NCERT school textbooks. Kharge's charge pertains to new Class 3 and Class 6 textbooks released by NCERT based on the

new national curriculum framework for school education. Earlier, old textbooks for Class 6 for Hindi, English and social sciences had the Preamble in the beginning, which the new books don't. However, the Preamble is there in science textbooks, while others have either the Fundamental Duties and Fundamental Rights and even the national anthem in the beginning.

"Political democracy cannot last unless there lies at the base of it social democracy. What does social democracy mean? It means a way of life which recognizes liberty, equality and fraternity as the principles of life," he said, quoting from a debate in November 1948 in the Constituent Assembly.

"RSS and BJP are trying to im-

pose their communal ideology on people by tampering with the curriculum. And the step taken by NCERT is not right," he said, triggering protests from the Treasury benches.

Kharge demanded that the government give a clarification on the issue, present facts before the House and withdraw the move to drop Preamble from textbooks.

"Undoubtedly, all of us are committed to the Constitution and any perception to the contrary will hurt all of us," Rajya Sabha Chairperson Jagdeep Dhankhar said.

Union Health Minister Nadda said that even though he has not seen the NCERT textbook but can state with authority that there is no question of any needling of the Constitution. "Word by

word, letter by letter, this government under the dynamic leadership of (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi is committed (to the Constitution)," he said.

Launching a counter attack on the Congress, he said that in fact the Congress had imposed the Emergency and dismissed over 90 elected governments in states in violation of the Constitution.

Later in the House, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan dismissed Kharge's charge and said the Preamble is "very well there in NCERT textbooks of Class VI." "In the new textbooks, besides the Preamble to the Constitution, the fundamental duties, fundamental rights, national anthem and core values of the Constitution have also been included," he said.

# Govt dragging feet on Cooperation Ministry discussion, says Opp

**LIZ MATHEW**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 7

AFTER HAVING failed to persuade the government to pick Union Home Ministry among ministries whose functioning would be discussed in Rajya Sabha, the Opposition has accused it of stalling discussion on Ministry of Cooperation, which was offered as a substitute.

Both the ministries are headed by Amit Shah.

The DMK's Tiruchi N Siva, who was scheduled to initiate the debate on the Cooperation Ministry in RS, told *The Indian Express* it was the government that had offered to hold a discussion on it "as they had rejected our demand for a debate on the Ministry of Home". "The debate (on the Cooperation Ministry) was listed for Tuesday. The



Opp says govt had refused to discuss Home Ministry, headed by Amit Shah

Chairman's (Jagdeep Dhankhar's) office was also ready for the discussion. But they (the government) deliberately dragged the discussion on the New and Renewable Energy Ministry for eight hours. The House could have slotted time for it today (Wednesday), but did not."

Opposition leaders said this confirms their belief the government is trying to insulate key

ministries from gruelling debates in Parliament.

"First we wanted to discuss the ministries of Home, Defence etc, but we were given the Ministry of Cooperation... Now even the Ministry of Cooperation has been taken off. Why can't the government discuss this?" TMC MP Sagarika Ghose said.

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said the government was equally reluctant when it came to sensitive ministries in the Lower House too. "They seem completely unwilling to discuss any issue they are uncomfortable with. There are a whole range of issues in relation to Home — J&K, the application of UAPA, functioning of Governors, misuse of investigating agencies," Tharoor said, adding that in the absence of a discussion in Parliament, there was public "venting".

Giving the example of the

Ladakh situation, he said: "We have been asking for a discussion on China border since the incident in Galwan Valley. But the government says it is sensitive."

Senior Congress MP Kodikunil Suresh said: "In the Lok Sabha, we had demanded discussions on Home, External Affairs, Defence and Education Ministries, but they agreed only on Education."

After the Budget presentation, while the Lok Sabha discusses demands for grants for selected ministries, the Rajya Sabha holds discussion on the working of some of them.

The final word on the ministries selected for debate lies with the government. The Opposition places their demand before the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) of the House concerned, which decides the agenda then for that House, including the ministries to be discussed.



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in LS, Wednesday. PTI

# LS PASSES FINANCE BILL BY VOICE VOTE FM lists tax relief for middle class; it is tax trap Bill: Opp

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 7

AMID OPPOSITION allegations that the Government had given the short shrift to the middle class and was taxing it heavily, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Wednesday said in the Lok Sabha that a number of tax relief measures had been taken for the middle class. She also denied charges that the corporates were being taxed less than earlier.

"Several members have spoken about the tax burden on middle class. In 2023, the slabs for personal income tax were significantly liberalised. All taxpayers had reduced liability of ₹37,500. We have again revised slabs in new regime. Standard deduction for salaried employees has also been increased from ₹50,000 to ₹75,000. Deduction on family pension for pensioners is proposed to be enhanced from ₹15,000 to ₹30,000. Deduction on employer's contribution in case of public and private sector banks has been raised from 10% to 14%," Sitharaman said in reply to the debate on Finance Bill, which was passed by voice vote.

"The narrative that corporate taxes are lower than personal income taxes is not based on facts. Corporate is a legal entity. The dividend income is also part of the corporate profits. This was earlier taxed at a lesser rate in the hands of the company. In 2020, we started taxing it in the hands of the shareholders at the applicable rate. This effectively means that richer shareholders will pay tax on dividends at 39%," she said.

Sitharaman said that through the Vivid se Vishwas scheme pending litigations have been sorted out. "Data shows the beneficiaries are MSMEs, individuals and small companies. Small, old and petty, unverified tax demands of 90 lakh taxpayers have been totally removed from the records. This is also a relief to the middle class segment," she said.

With Opposition parties using her colleague and Union Minister Nitin Gadkari's demand for reduction in GST on health insurance premium to attack the government, she said Parliament was not the forum to decide the GST rates and it has to go to a council.

Opposition MPs walked out from Lok Sabha after an amendment moved by RSP member N K Premachandran, seeking withdrawal of 18% GST on medical and life insurance premiums, was not taken up.

SAD MP Harsimrat Badal said, "If you earn money you pay tax, if you spend money you pay tax, if you save or invest money you pay tax, if you pay tax then also you have to pay tax in the form of cess... It should be called tax trap bill." Vishal Prakashbapu Patil, an Independent MP from Sangli, said: "We used to hear Robinhood stories during childhood but here a reverse Robinhood is going on."

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 7

THE OPPOSITION Wednesday attacked the government on issues of unemployment, taxation on insurance products and demanded full restoration of indexation benefits on investments during a discussion on the Appropriation Bill and the Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation Bill, 2024.

The discussion began with Congress MP Digvijaya Singh urging the government to impose a "2% wealth tax on 300 wealthiest people". "Our priority should be to reduce the disparity between the rich and the poor, but if we look at the priorities of the government, we cannot see this. Rahul Gandhi was right when said it is a 'suit-boot ki sarkar'," he said.

TMC MP Derek O'Brien stressed on the demand to roll back 18% GST on health insurance and life insurance. "This

was a provision brought in 2017. All parties are together on this, to take away this GST on insurance," he said.

Bhubaneswar Kalita of BJP said that the government was focussing on development, that there was stability in the economy and upliftment of the poor.

"Today we are proud India has developed infrastructure in remote areas. When we lost the war with China in 1962, we did not have proper border roads and means to go into the snowy regions. Today we are proud that in spite of snow we have built tunnels so that our borders can be secure. The government has built border roads in entire borders and there is hardly any place without border roads," he said.

John Brittas of CPI (Marxist) also attacked the government over price rise and said that the purchasing power of people had declined continuously and cited the example of the rising prices of a plate of 'vegetable thali'.

# Opp raises lack of jobs, inflation, urges govt to bring in 2% wealth tax

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willing for it, the Opposition leaders agreed to the suggestion to discuss the Ministry of Cooperation. "As most of the Opposition parties wanted to take up issues like the misuse of Central investigative agencies and the role and actions of Governors, we gave two representations for the Home Ministry to be discussed in the House. When the government refused, the leaders agreed to have a discussion on the Ministry of Cooperation. It is a ministry held by the Home Minister as well, and he would have had to reply to the debate," said an Opposition leader.

In this session, LS has discussed demands for grants for Ministries of Education, Health and Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying. The RS has taken up debates on Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, and New and Renewable Energy Ministries.

# 9 GOVT & POLITICS



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## REPORT CARD

ACCUSING THE government of weaponising Enforcement Directorate and Income Tax Department against the Opposition, Congress MP Digvijaya Singh, during a debate in Rajya Sabha on Wednesday, asked Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman whether the said agencies report to the Finance ministry or the Home ministry. Intervening in a lighter vein, Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar said former chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes (referring to Rajya Sabha Secretary General P C Mody), however, reports to him. To this, Singh said that he (Mody) is reporting 'correctly'.

## FIXING THE LEAK

AFTER A leak in the roof of the new Parliament building on July 31, agencies responsible for the maintenance of the complex are busy finding a permanent fix to the problem. A senior functionary of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is learnt to have gone up to the roof to assess the issue first-hand. The Central Public Works Department is learnt to be looking at weather-proofing the glass dome of the lobby that developed a leak. The CPWD had blamed the high temperatures, coupled with the intense rainfall, for the sealant coming off.

## RIGHT TO CULTURE

CITING THE case of Indian baby Ariha Shah, who is in foster care in Germany for more than two years, Congress MP Shaktisinh Gohil on Wednesday cited the United Nations Convention on a 'child's right to her own culture'. He said the child comes from a family with strictly vegetarian food habits while in foster care, she would have been offered non-vegetarian food. He urged the Government to take up the matter with German authorities and restore the child's right to culture.

# Conviction in only 40 of 5,000 cases, focus on quality evidence: SC to ED

Apex court adjourns hearing of 2022 PMLA verdict review to August 28

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 7

REFERRING TO data presented in Parliament on conviction rate in PMLA cases, the Supreme Court Wednesday asked the ED to focus "on the quality of prosecution and quality of evidence".

"...after the amendment, 5,000 odd cases have been registered and conviction has been obtained only in 40 cases," Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, who was part of a three-judge bench, said referring to figures presented by the Home Ministry in the Lok Sabha earlier this week.

The bench presided by Justice Surya Kant and also comprising Justice Dipankar Datta was hearing a plea by ED challenging the bail plea of Sunil Kumar Agrawal, a businessman arrested in a case of coal transportation in Chhattisgarh. The bench, meanwhile, confirmed its May 17 order granting the accused interim bail.

Justice Kant stressed the need for scientific investigation and not merely oral evidence to improve the conviction rate. "Why you really need to (focus) on the quality of prosecution and quality of evidence is because in all the cases

where you are satisfied that there is some prima facie case, you need to establish the cases in court... In this very case, you are merely harping upon some statements given by the persons... this type of oral evidence. Tomorrow, God knows if that person will stand by it or not... when he enters the witness box, whether he will be able to face cross-examination or not..."

Meanwhile, the SC deferred hearing on petitions seeking a review of its July 27, 2022 ruling upholding the constitutional validity of the PMLA as amended from time to time, including provisions dealing with the powers of the ED regarding arrest, search, attachment and seizure in money laundering offences.

A three-judge bench of Justices Surya Kant, C.J. Ravikumar and Ujjal Bhuyan adjourned the matter till August 28 after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta conveyed to the bench that it was "listed suddenly" Tuesday evening and "we need to go through it".

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

# 'Crises like Dhaka concern Parliament... in 10 yrs, no foreign policy discussion'

AFTER SHEIKH Hasina resigned as Bangladesh PM and fled to India, the neighbouring country has plunged into political instability. Congress MP MANISH TEWARI Tuesday called for a discussion in Parliament on the crisis. In an interview with MANOJ CG, Tewari speaks about the unrest, India's role in preventing political instability in the sub-continent and how the government has responded so far. Excerpts:

You gave a notice seeking a discussion in the Lok Sabha on the emerging situation in Bangladesh. Why?

There has been no discussion on critical matters concerning India's foreign and strategic policy in Parliament going back almost a decade. There has been a border standoff with China for the last 54-odd months... since April 2020. But Parliament has not discussed the situation with regard to China even once in either House. There has been instability in India's neighbourhood... in Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Maldives, the growing grip of the Pakistani 'deep state', the (Inter-Services Intelligence)-military combine, the recent and repeated terror attacks in Jammu, and now Bangladesh has gone up in smoke.

If India is the net security provider in South Asia, these various iterations of insecurity or



Manish Tewari in Lok Sabha on Wednesday. ANI



political instability across the region, going back to the Nepalese blockade of 2015, should concern Parliament as it represents the sovereign will of the people of India.

The government held an all-party meeting and briefed Opposition leaders on the developments in Bangladesh.

There has been a tradition and convention in Parliament going back to its inception in

information in Parliament?

Obviously, the statement perhaps reflects the government's best understanding of the situation or what they wanted to share with Parliament given it is an evolving situation. Maybe that is all they really know at this point in time, for events in Bangladesh suddenly went into an ultra-fast forward mode that led to Sheikh Hasina's rather hasty departure from Dhaka.

In your view, what should New Delhi be doing now? And how do you see government's handling of this crisis in a country that is India's closest ally in the region?

This government had articulated a neighbourhood-first policy and the difficulty is none of India's neighbours have an India-first policy and so there is an inherent contradiction between the approach that we believe that we should have towards our neighbours and the approach that our neighbours seem to have towards us. As India is the most influential player in South Asia... therefore its entire neighbourhood strategy requires a very informed and intense discussion in both Houses of Parliament so that it can be clinically evaluated and the required course corrections put in place.

FULL INTERVIEW ON  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

Over 500 people try to cross into India, BSF sends them back

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA  
KOLKATA, AUGUST 7

IN A first incident of infiltration attempt after the unrest in Bangladesh, about 500 people tried to enter India through Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal. The attempt was thwarted by the Border Security Force (BSF).

According to sources, people from Bangladesh came in three phases near Jhaportolla border outpost in South Berubari Gram Panchayat in Jalpaiguri district on Wednesday. "Over 300 men gathered on the Bangladesh side in the morning. Later, 120 men tried to enter India. In the evening, a group of 40 men tried to enter. All of them tried to cross the zero line when BSF stopped them. Officers of Bangladesh Border Guards were called and the men were told to return. By evening, all the men returned," said a BSF officer requesting anonymity.

WITH ENS, NEW DELHI

# Bangladesh can happen here, says Khurshid; BJP calls him anarchist

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 7

FORMER UNION minister and Congress leader Salman Khurshid's remark that a "Bangladesh-type situation could happen in India" has triggered a row, with the BJP Wednesday terming it as "anarchist" while accusing the Congress of "trying to destabilise the country".

"Facing losses three times in a row, the Congress wants to push the country into a state of anarchy... They can do anything to take the country back in time... Such statements by Congress leaders show the mentality of the party and its leaders... I want to ask the Congress if they agree with Khurshid's statement," BJP MP Anurag Thakur said.

At a book launch Tuesday, Khurshid had said: "Everything may look normal in Kashmir. Everything may look normal here (in Delhi, after the poll results)... The fact remains that under the surface, there is something,



Congress leader Salman Khurshid

What's happening in Bangladesh can happen here... The spread of our country prevents things from blowing up in the manner in which they have blown up in Bangladesh."

Other BJP leaders too slammed the Congress and Khurshid. While BJP MP Rajiv Pratap Rudy said the remarks amount to "a kind of sedition", Sambit Patra called them "a warning given on the behalf of the Congress". "Other Congress leaders were present at the event, in a way supporting what he said. Even Rahul Gandhi used to say there would be riots in the country and the Prime Minister would be attacked. Why was he saying this? Does he want the same thing (like Bangladesh) in India? The Congress's conspiracy has been

exposed," Patra said.

Asked about Khurshid's remarks, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said: "You'll have to ask him exactly what he meant... The larger message that the Bangladesh experience has given is the importance of democracy, of free and fair elections, transparency, engaging people in the system, making sure all institutions of democracy function fairly. When that happens, there will be much less cause for this kind of thing to occur."

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray also spoke about the developments in Bangladesh, saying that they showed that the people are supreme. "No politician should test their patience. If you do, then what a people's court can do was seen in Bangladesh. People's court is supreme. The people's court has given a ruling in Bangladesh," he said.

He also took a dig at PM Modi, saying that if he could "stop the war in Ukraine", he should ensure peace in Bangladesh and "save the Hindus there".

# Ex-IISc head Padmanabhan, Chandrayaan-3 team among first Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar awardees

ANJALI MARAR  
BENGALURU, AUGUST 7

FORMER DIRECTOR of Indian Institute of Science G Padmanabhan, the team behind Chandrayaan-3, and Annapurni Subramaniam, director of Bengaluru-based Indian Institute of Astrophysics, along with 30 others, have been selected for the inaugural Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP), the new set of national science awards that were finalised last year.

The RVP comprises four awards — Vigyan Ratna for lifetime achievement, Vigyan Shri for scientists of all ages, Vigyan Yuva for scientists under 45 years and



Padmanabhan, 86, is a celebrated biochemist. File

Vigyan Team for collaborative research work. These new sets of awards were instituted last year after disbanding all existing science awards, including the coveted Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar

Prize. Vigyan Yuva is a replacement for Bhatnagar Prize, which too used to be given to outstanding scientists below 45 years.

Padmanabhan (86), a celebrated biochemist known for his work on the malaria parasite, has been named a Vigyan Ratna, which recognises the lifetime achievement of the scientist. A towering figure in Indian science, he has been honoured with the Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan.

The Chandrayaan-3 team, which landed India's first spacecraft on the Moon last year, has got the Vigyan Team award.

The scientists chosen for the Vigyan Yuva Puraskar include Vivek Polshettiwar of Tata Institute of Fundamental

Research, Mumbai, a chemist who works on carbon capture technologies; Urbasi Sinha of Raman Research Institute, Bengaluru, a leading expert in quantum research; and Roxy Mathew Koll of Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology in Pune, a climate scientist.

Annapurni Subramaniam is among the 13 scientists selected for the Vigyan Shri award. Her main research relates to the formation and evolution of stars clusters and galaxies. Others chosen for Vigyan Shri include biologist Jayant Bhalchandra Udgaonkar, a former director of IISER Pune, and particle physicist Naba Kumar Mondal from Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics in Kolkata.

# Neighbourhood on fire, threat to Sanatan Dharma: Yogi



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath with Nitya Gopal Das, the head of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, in Ayodhya on Wednesday. Express

MAULSHREE SETH  
LUCKNOW, AUGUST 7

REFERRING TO the turmoil in Bangladesh and the "targeting" of Hindus there in the wake of ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's exit, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Wednesday stressed on the need to learn from the mistakes of history and unite against the "impending crisis threatening Sanatan Dharma".

"Aaj Bharat ke tamam padosi jal rahe hain. Mandir tore ja rahe hain. Chun chun ke Hinduon ko nishana banaya ja raha hai (Today, India's neighbouring countries are burning. Temples are being demolished. Hindus are being selectively targeted," Adityanath said, adding, "Still, we are not trying to find out the historical facts as to why such an unfortunate situation has arisen."

The CM was speaking at the inauguration of a statue of Paramhans Ramchandra Das in Ayodhya, who had played a significant role in the Ramjanmabhoomi movement.

Maintaining that the unity pledge taken by the seers paved the way for the construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, Adityanath said this is not the "final destination" but a "milestone". The continuity of this campaign should be maintained to secure the Sanatan Dharma, he said.

He warned that if a society does not learn lessons from the mistakes of history, its bright future also gets eclipsed. "Sanatan Dharma par aane wale sankat ke liye phir se ek jut ke karya karme ki larne ki awashyakta hai (The need

is to get united to work and fight for the impending crises facing Sanatan Dharma)," he said.

Calling for a campaign for the cause of the Sanatan Dharma, Adityanath said, "Jatiwad se mukht, chhua chhut se mukht, ek aise samaj ki sthapna karna hai jiske liye Prabhu Shri Ram ne apna pura jeevan samarpan kiya tha. (We have to build a society, which is free from casteism, untouchability — a society for which Lord Ram dedicated his entire life)."

He said efforts have been made by the government to ensure that Ayodhya gets its identity back, which has enhanced, he added, the "glory" of its seers and people.

Adityanath said that the people of Ayodhya are given respect everywhere they go, adding that "one has to preserve this respect, and secure it". He said with the efforts being made by the "double engine" governments of UP and the Centre, the people of Ayodhya would be able to retain this respect for a long time.

Significantly, Ayodhya would soon witness another round of political battle with the Milkipur Assembly seat in the district up for a bypoll in the coming days.

Adityanath, who has been camping in Ayodhya for two days, held meetings with the local BJP leaders and party functionaries, including public representatives, asking them to expose the "false publicity campaign" of the Opposition.

In the recent Lok Sabha elections, BJP candidate Lallu Singh was trounced by the Samajwadi Party's Awadhesh Prasad in the Ayodhya (Faizabad) seat by over 54,000 votes.

# Amit Singh Negi appointed additional secretary in PMO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 7

SENIOR IAS officer Amit Singh Negi has been appointed additional secretary in the PMO as part of a major top-level reshuffle effected by the Centre.

A 1999-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Uttarakhand cadre, Negi is currently joint secretary in the Department of Expenditure under the Union Ministry of Finance. He has been appointed as additional secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), according to an order issued by the personnel ministry.

Samir Ashwin Vakil, a 1998-

batch Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax) officer, has been appointed director in the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) under the Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs for a tenure of five years, it said. Maneesh Garg, Sanjay Kumar and Ajeet Kumar have been appointed deputy election commissioners in the Election Commission of India.

Manisha Saxena, the director general (tourism) under the Union Ministry of Tourism, will now be additional secretary in the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT), the order said.

Mugdha Sinha, joint secretary in the culture ministry, will take over from Saxena as director general (tourism).

# Cong's LoP post delicately poised, BJP holds edge in Sept 3 bypolls to 12 RS seats

VARINDER BHATIA & LALMANI VERMA  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 7

THE ELECTION Commission Wednesday declared September 3 as the date for by-elections to 12 Rajya Sabha seats, including 10 that fell vacant after the MPs were elected to Lok Sabha.

Of these 12 seats, across nine states, seven were held by the BJP, two by the Congress, and one each by the RJD, Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) and Biju Janata Dal (BJD). The Congress and RJD are key constituents of the INDIA bloc, while the BJD is no longer a BJP-friendly

party. While the BJP is expected to romp home in seven states, a contest is expected in Maharashtra's two seats and Haryana's one.

The 12 seats include one from Telangana that fell vacant when former BRS MP K Keshava Rao resigned on July 5, and another from Odisha that fell vacant when BJD MP Mamata Mohanta resigned on July 31 and joined the BJP. The remaining seats fell vacant when the MPs won the Lok Sabha polls.

Besides Telangana and Odisha, the bypolls will be held for two seats each in Assam, Bihar and Maharashtra, and one each in Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tripura. These in-

clude the seats vacated by Sarbananda Sonowal in Assam, Deepender Singh Hooda in Haryana, K C Venugopal in Rajasthan, and Union ministers Jyotiraditya Scindia and Piyush Goyal in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, respectively.

The BJP is the largest party in the Rajya Sabha with 90 MPs, followed by the Congress at 26. A party needs at least 25 members to hold the Leader of Opposition (LoP) post, currently held by Congress's Mallikarjun Kharge.

With its Rajya Sabha MPs Venugopal and Hooda vacating their seats after winning their Lok Sabha contests, the Congress has



A party needs at least 25 members to hold the LoP post. PTI

just enough numbers to hold onto the LoP post. While the Haryana seat will be closely contested, the Congress is set to lose Venugopal's seat in Rajasthan, where the BJP

has a majority in the Assembly.

The states where BJP candidates are expected to win easily include Assam (2 seats), and Tripura, Madhya Pradesh,

Rajasthan and Odisha (1 seat each), the BJP and RJD are likely to easily win one seat each, given the numbers of the NDA and INDIA coalitions in the state Assembly. In Telangana, the Congress is expected to win its sole seat following its victory in the 2023 Assembly polls.

The BJP is likely to face a stiff challenge for the vacant seats in Maharashtra and Haryana.

The current strength of the 90-member Haryana Assembly is 87. While the BJP has 41 members, the Congress has 29. The Dushyant Chautala-led JJP, with which the BJP cut ties just ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, has 10

MLAs, while there are five Independent legislators and one MLA each from the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) and the Haryana Lokhit Party (HLP). The Independent MLA from Badshahpur, Rakesh Daultabad, died in May. Another Independent, Ranjit Singh, had resigned to join the BJP and contest Lok Sabha polls on its ticket from Hisar, where he lost. With the support of Independent MLA Nayan Pal Rawat and an HLP MLA Gopal Kanda, the BJP's strength comes to 43 in the Haryana Assembly.

The remaining 44 MLAs appear to be in the Opposition camp, at least on paper, which include

29 of the Congress and 10 of the JJP. Out of the remaining four Independents, three MLAs have announced support to the Congress. Another Independent MLA has neither supported the BJP nor the Congress. INLD's Abhay Chautala has also not announced his support to any party so far.

In Maharashtra too, the contest is going to be tough for the BJP as both its NDA allies — the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and the Ajit Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party — have struck discordant notes for not getting Cabinet berths in the NDA government at the Centre. FULL REPORT ON  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)



**WORDLY WISE**  
GOLD MEDALS AREN'T REALLY MADE OF GOLD. THEY'RE MADE OF SWEAT, DETERMINATION, AND A HARD-TO-FIND ALLOY CALLED GUTS. — DAN GABLE

## The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

# Her mighty heart

Vinesh Phogat has an arc, will deal with this shock. Rest of us have lessons to learn from a dream cut short



SANDEEP DWIVEDI

## BRIGHTER THAN GOLD

Vinesh Phogat has lost out on the medal. But she remains an inspiration, by not settling for less, getting up after every fall

HERE COULD BE a Sisyphian parallel to the Vinesh Phogat story. A day after she beat the seemingly invincible Yui Susaki in the 50kg freestyle wrestling category and reached the Olympics final, her disqualification for having gained marginally over the permissible weight ahead of the finals — as per rule, wrestlers have to stay within their weight category on both days of the competition — seems to be the story of a tragic figure felled by fates bigger than her. But tragedy has never been Phogat's genre. Over and over again, through a rollercoaster of a career, Phogat has been persistent in her refusal to be typecast as a tragic figure. Not for her the quiet resignation of Sisyphus, but the courage of the Herculean. And so, as the Indian Olympic Association appeals against the disqualification, amid the heartbreak there burns a steady belief in Phogat's resilience and her resurrection.

At 29, though, in what is all but certain to be her last Olympics, the death of a dream rankles. Phogat's familiarity with heartbreak runs deep. At the 2016 Rio Olympics, her medal dream crashlanded after a debilitating knee injury on the mat. Tokyo 2021 dealt her a shock exit and a bewilderment made worse by the relentless accusations by the very authorities meant to nurture athletes like her. In their eyes, she was a "khota sikka", an under-performer. Only, they had misjudged. Headstrong, outspoken, the one thing that Phogat has steadfastly refused to be is a quitter, on the mat or off it. She has fought against injuries and obstacles, depression and self-doubt, but most of all, against an unresponsive system invisibilising its women and their calls for justice. A year before the Olympics, when her international colleagues were preparing for Paris, Phogat, Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia were out on the streets of the Capital, waging a lonely protest against Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, then head of Wrestling Federation of India, amid allegations of prolonged sexual harassment of women wrestlers. The image of Vinesh and Sangeeta Phogat, decorated athletes, pinned to the ground by the police before being detained, is one that is unlikely to ebb soon from public memory. The fights her opponents get into are on the mat, governed by a strict set of rules, some of which have now stripped Phogat of a medal. In taking on Singh, an influential member of the BJP, Phogat had launched herself into a street fight with no rules, one that was already skewed against her.

For all the slogans of "nari shakti" and women-led development, India still remains a country that largely expects its women to be "good" in a patriarchal sense of the term — docile, unquestioning and subservient — content to be beneficiaries than equals. It is women such as Phogat who show the possibilities of not settling for less, of holding on when everyone else has given up, getting up after every fall, no matter how hard or how bruising it is. A medal might have eluded Phogat at the Olympics, but in her courage and her grit, Vinesh Phogat is a champion for all seasons, burnished brighter than gold.

SHE TOOK DOWN someone who had never been defeated. She reached a peak no wrestler had climbed. And just when it seemed she was staring at a sliver of gold at the end of a dark tunnel, she was felled by a rule that had never been this cruel to any Olympian. This was the first Vinesh Phogat didn't deserve.

What was to be the most inspiring moment for Indian sports — a woman repeatedly undermined by the system becoming the country's first female gold medal winner — turned out to be a day of mourning. Sports picked the most inopportune time to showcase its flip side to the world. At an event where athletes were climbing podiums every hour, experiencing indescribable joy, there was a gloomy corner in Paris where a 29-year-old was dealing with a gut-wrenching disqualification.

Phogat had the will and the heart to take on the five-time BJP MP and Indian wrestling supremo Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh and compel the court to hear charges of sexual harassment against him. On the mat, she had the resolve to stun the so-far-unbeatable Japanese wrestler Yui Susaki.

It would be tempting to burn the rule book, tell the officials to have a heart, question the fairness of the world or moan at the cruelty of fate. But that ship has sailed, it wouldn't help. Outrage, at best, can be cathartic. The fact is the 50kg Olympic podium wouldn't have Phogat. The reason: She weighed more than others. By how much? Walk to your dining table, lift the salt-sprinkler, to get an idea. Take a pinch from it and gulp down a glass of water to push the lump down your throat.

In days to come, the world will move on. We might get busy celebrating a javelin medal or hockey's sparkling consistency. Phogat, too, is sure to get sympathy. She will be called for felicitation functions and may even get cash awards. She would be made to feel like a winner. But there are lessons to learn from Paris, a few for the athletes, many for the high and mighty. First, about Phogat. If there is anyone in

Indian sports equipped to deal with this shock, it has to be her. When she was nine, her father was shot dead by someone who is said at her village to be a mentally disturbed relative just outside the front door of their home. That day, Phogat would later say, her mother, a young widow, lost the right to smile. But she did raise a gutsy daughter who wouldn't get intimidated by anything.

Growing up, her cousins, living at a stone's throw from her home in Balali in Haryana, were the more famous Phogats. They were the wrestling royalty, they had a movie made on them. As a junior, she was, at best, the fourth Phogat. But a fearless girl with big dreams wasn't born to be a side story. The Vinesh story is more layered as her hurdles were far higher than those of her sisters. *Dangal 2*, if it's ever made, will not be a Greek tragedy, it will be a feel-good story. It's unlikely to have a podium finish at the end but then Phogat, after Paris, is perched higher than what an Olympic medal would lift you to.

Phogat has in her what most Indian sportspersons lack. She has the courage and conviction to take on the system and not care about consequences. Even in the company of taller, bigger male wrestlers, Vinesh would stand out because of the fire in her eyes. In those high-pressure Jantar Mantar street-fighting days, she was the one with the strongest spine and resolve. There were times when others would talk about finding a middle-path but Phogat's anger would prove to be a deal-breaker.

Those covering her Olympic march at the Paris wrestling halls talk about the same rage when she took on the best in the world. After winning a bout, she wouldn't wait for applause or appreciation. With blazing red eyes, breathing heavily, she would walk inside the tunnel.

The wrestler from Haryana had systematically channelled her anger. Her opponents didn't know what hit them. Susaki had never lost, but against Phogat she did. Maybe, it's because the Japanese legend had never been up against an opponent who had the angst

and anger of Phogat. There was no one who wanted this medal so desperately. In one of her many defiant interviews, during her fight against Singh, she had said: "I will look him (Singh) in the eye and medal *leke aongi main, tu dekh* (I will bring a medal, you see)." The medal might have been missed but a very important point has been made.

By reaching the gold-medal round, Phogat has shown how little the government and sports officials know about the nation's sporting icons. When she had raised the importance of women's safety at sporting arenas, she was dismissed as a seasonal slogan-raiser trying to blackmail the federation into agreeing to her demands. They weren't even moved by the graphic details of sexual abuse in the police complaint filed by the country's elite wrestlers. She was labelled a "has-been", dismissed as "khota sikka". They would plant stories against her: "She didn't want to attend the trial, she is scared of young wrestlers", "This is politically motivated" — they would tell their media friends. How wrong they were about the only woman in the world to beat the great Susaki.

Phogat's dream run, until it took the nightmarish turn, had cast the focus on those who were silent when the wrestlers needed them most. There have been memes, a sad anticipation of what they will say now. Tragically, there are totally unsubstantiated whispers about the possibility of a conspiracy by an insider. It's an unhealthy Us vs Them atmosphere where a win is seen as a vindication and not a collective celebration of a sporting ecosystem. This is not ideal for a nation with dreams of hosting the Olympics and climbing high in the medals tally.

Phogat was able to take her personal rage to the mat and succeed as a wrestler, now she faces a tougher task. She would need to get over her Olympic hurt and move on. She might have been denied the silver but she will always be remembered as the one who was neither intimidated by Singh, nor ruffled by Susaki.

sandeep.dwivedi@expressindia.com

## A WELCOME EASING

Taxpayers can now avail indexation benefit on sale of property. Review of IT Act must address areas of disputes

IN THE UNION Budget 2024-25, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a review of the Income Tax Act, 1961. The rationale for this exercise was straightforward — to make the Act simpler to "read and understand", thus helping bring down tax disputes and consequent litigation. The budget took a step in this direction by proposing simplification of provisions for reassessment and capital gains taxation, among others. There was a need to reexamine the capital gains tax framework considering the differences in both the tax rates as well as the holding periods for determination of long-term gains across asset classes such as equities, debt, real estate etc. The budget had proposed levying a tax of 12.5 per cent on long-term capital gains on all financial and non-financial assets. However, it also proposed to eliminate the benefit of indexation that was available to investors for property, gold and unlisted assets for the purpose of estimating long-term capital gains. While this was done to "ease computation of capital gains for the taxpayer and the tax administration", the proposal was met with widespread criticism. After first defending the proposal on grounds that the lower tax rate of 12.5 per cent, from 20 per cent, compensates for the removal of the indexation benefit, the government has now changed tack, heeding the concerns of taxpayers.

Taxpayers now have the option to pay long-term capital gains tax of 20 per cent with indexation benefits on the sale of a property that has been acquired before July 23, 2024. Indexation refers to the adjustment of the purchase price of an asset based on the rate of inflation over the period that it has been held by the investor. With this option now available, all purchases before the date of the budget presentation have been grandfathered. Investors, though, can also choose the option proposed in the budget of paying a lower tax rate of 12.5 per cent, but, without availing the indexation benefit. This framework now provides investors the option of being able to select the tax structure which leads to a lower tax liability for them.

Over the years, the government has taken steps to ease the burden on ordinary taxpayers. For instance, in order to reduce tax uncertainty and disputes, the recent budget has said that an assessment can only be reopened beyond three years if the "escaped income" is Rs 50 lakh or more. But, more needs to be done. The review of the IT Act, which is to be completed in six months, should examine the contentious sections and aim to address the areas of disputes.



M R SHAMSHAD

## POLICING PIETY

Proposed amendment to Waqf Act circumscribes charity, hinders autonomy

THE CONCEPT OF Waqf emanates from Islamic religious beliefs. It is not a religious obligation, but a form of religious charity. While creating a Waqf, a believer dedicates his self-acquired or inherited movable or immovable property in the name of God and states that the benefits from such properties are to be used for objectives in consonance with the Islamic understanding of charity. Other religions have similar provisions, with endowments and charitable trusts, and properties dedicated to deities. Like with Waqfs, the nature of these dedications is also permanent.

B K Mukherjee, the fourth Chief Justice of India, said that such charitable institutions (Waqf included) are essential to human existence and not exclusive to any community or set of people. He said that "so long as feelings of piety and benevolence have an abiding place in the human heart, they must find expression in religious and charitable gifts, and 'law', which is a means to serve social ends, has got to provide for their regulation and control, in order that the object of the donor might be achieved. This is how religious and charitable trusts came into existence in almost all systems of civilised law."

The statute for Waqf has a long history, which culminated in the Waqf Act of 1995 with a substantive amendment in 2013. The central government has now proposed a substantive amendment in the existing statutory regulation. From a reading of the

draft Waqf (Amendment) Bill, it would appear that the government has forgotten that Waqf properties are the private and self-acquired properties of the followers of Islam, except those which non-Muslims may have donated. They are not public properties, nor have they been acquired using public funds. In this background, the government must realise that its control over administration, management and further creation of new Waqfs has to be minimal.

The proposed amendments seek to facilitate interference from "government organisations" in Waqf properties. This is not just an egregious violation of the rights of Muslim citizens but also of Article 26 of the Constitution, which protects the properties of religious denominations from take over. Making the district collector the arbiter of whether a property is Waqf property or government land is a move to exclude Muslims from the management of Waqf properties at a time when even the private properties of Muslims are frequently threatened by bulldozers under the orders of the same collector. Even the requirement of a Muslim CEO in the Waqf Boards has been done away with.

The government proposes to create several impediments to the creation of Waqfs. It has empowered itself and every single body extending up to the local panchayat to interfere in the existing Waqf properties. It has also proposed to do away with the concept of

"waqf by user", which is the most common practice around the world. We have already seen innumerable Muslim graveyards and dedicated properties being taken over by the local residents because they were not used for waqf purposes for some time.

The amendments reflect the presumption that government land has been taken over by the Waqf Board. As mentioned earlier, the Collector makes the final decision in this regard and then directs the revenue authorities to give effect to his/her decision in the revenue record. By introducing the concept of adverse possession for Waqf properties, many could become victims to the Collector's notes on a file.

This encroachment of rights by the government is clearly against the guarantees under Articles 25 and 26 of the Constitution of India. In the past, different governments have encroached on the rights under Article 30, in the name of better administration and challenges to them have largely been unsuccessful. By bringing religion-centric legislation, governments have made Muslims of this country vulnerable to police excesses. The proposed amendment will only add to their vulnerability, especially with regard to the properties they dedicate for religious and charitable purposes.

The writer is advocate, Supreme Court of India

## AN HOUR TO DO NOTHING

As the Moon drifts away from the Earth, there might be an extra hour in the day. Don't lose it to productivity

HERE IS A lament among the chronically busy, a cliché really, that "there aren't enough hours in the day". As it turns out, the 24-hour limit isn't going to be around forever. A study conducted by scientists at the University of Wisconsin-Madison has found that as the Moon drifts away from the Earth, slowly but surely, it will impact the latter's rotation. In effect, millions of years from now, there will be a 25-hour day. As with most things, those caught up in the grind miss the forest for the trees.

An extra hour a day is, if anything, a temporal tonic that most people deserve — in fact, need. In an era where plutocrats and tech bros speak casually of 70-hour work weeks, when is the worker — whether his collar is blue or white — meant to just be? Even with the more usual eight-hour day, it's not as though there is a neat division between work and non-work. It's not just the emails and calls from the overbearing manager. There are children to be taken care of, relationships to be worked on, parents who may need looking after. And as everyone who runs a house knows, there is nary a Sunday when some crucial appliance doesn't break down and requires either repair or servicing. An extra hour, then, may well be swallowed up. But it need not be.

Long ago, Virginia Woolf wrote, "A woman must have money and a room of her own if she is to write fiction." Perhaps it's time to add that a woman — and even some men — need an hour to themselves to just be (the pressure to write has its own demons). Of course, the day doesn't need an extra hour for that. Just a more flexible cult of productivity.



## AUGUST 8, 1984, FORTY YEARS AGO

### P T USHA'S DREAM RUN

P T USHA CREATED history for India at the Coliseum Stadium when she became the first Indian woman to qualify for the 400-metres hurdles final of the 23rd Olympics in Los Angeles. She clocked her career best time of 55.54 secs to win the second semi-final heat. This provided some instant healing touch as only 30 minutes before that, India had been knocked out of the hockey event.

### INDO-PAK TALKS

THE INDO-PAKISTAN DIALOGUE, which was suddenly put off till after September is unlikely

to be resumed soon. Neither Islamabad nor New Delhi is making any diplomatic move to reschedule the foreign secretaries' talks on India's Treaty of Friendship, Peace and Co-operation and Pakistan's draft of a Non-Aggression Pact in the near future. The two governments are not going to sit together and talk peace till the Indian elections are over.

### TAMILS IN JAFFNA

ALMOST THE ENTIRE one-million Tamil population of Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna peninsula remained indoors as the government ordered a major security crackdown to deal with "increased terrorist activity". A massive com-

bined army and navy operation against suspected Tamil militants in northern Sri Lanka continued centring on Jaffna. At least 22 Tamil separatist suspects were killed, 11 wounded and more than 300 people arrested.

### POSTING BULLETS

ABOUT 200 BULLETS of .22 calibre were recovered by ballistic experts from an unclaimed parcel kept in the Madras General Post Office. According to the police, the packet, which did not have either the name of the sender or receiver, was found in one of the nearby post-boxes. The postal authorities sent it to the unclaimed parcel section.

# 11 THE IDEAS PAGE

## Lesson from Wayanad

It is high time we begin to take stringent actions to protect nature and empower institutions of decentralised democracy to turn the tide



MADHAV GADGIL

ON JULY 30, the serene hills of Meppadi in Kerala's Wayanad district were violently transformed by a series of catastrophic landslides. In a matter of moments, entire villages — Mundakkai, Chooralmala, Attamala, and Noolpuzha — were buried under massive debris. The toll is staggering: Over 300 lives have been lost, and countless more remain missing. Rescuers faced blocked roads, unstable ground, and threats from the fragile terrain.

This is a tragedy that exposes the terrible chasm in Indian society between the haves and the have-nots. Mundakkai is just three kilometres away from Puthumala, the scene of a very similar disaster in 2019. I could personally visit and inspect what had been happening on that occasion. After driving for over an hour in heavy rain, we started climbing the hills of Wayanad on a winding road. The steep slopes were dotted with tall buildings, and land that had been levelled for tea plantations. Throughout, the roads were covered with mud from the landslides from the road cuts. The river of mud from the landslide had wound its way down a gorge for a kilometre and a half, with several shorter mud tributaries augmenting it along the way. Several feet of mud had completely buried the 55 houses of the tea-estate labourers located at the bottom of the gorge, a site utterly unsuitable for human habitation. This river of mud had left no trace of the eucalyptus plantations in its ruthless march, but one tree stood proud and erect on its route: It was *Ficus beddomei*, characteristic of the original vegetation. This clearly brought out the fact that the replacement of the original natural tree cover by exotics like eucalyptus had contributed to this disaster.

The story of tea planters and the labourers forced to live in the gorges tells us much about the history of forest and land management in India when the British tightened their grip. They had the challenge of managing, or rather, draining the country that was described as an ocean of trees in early British travelogues. A major question confronting the foresters was the extent to which village communities should continue to manage forests, and how much should be taken over as state property. Many British officials favoured a key role for local communities. Shifting cultivation was a major bone of contention. At that time, it was widely prevalent. People cultivated millets for two or three years after clearing much of the tree growth while leaving economically important trees intact and burning the brushwood. They then moved to another patch, leaving the land fallow for 15 to 20 years, allowing the tree cover to grow back. The British tea- and coffee-estate owners opposed the continuation of shifting cultivation because unless it was forcibly stopped, they would never get any labour for their estates. These estate owners wanted labour that would be made to work pretty much like slaves; after all, their kin in North America were prospering by exploiting huge armies of Black slaves on cotton plantations. Overall, the economic interests of the British lay in rendering people resourceless, and dedicating forest tracts to tea and coffee plantations owned by their compatriots and growing timber for their military and



CR Sasikumar

construction needs.

The Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) took on board this historical background and painted a realistic picture of what was happening in India. The theme of our report was that any nation, including India, may be viewed as harbouring four capital stocks, namely, natural (water, vegetation, biodiversity, agricultural, animal husbandry, fish production), social (cooperative behaviour, sense of security), human (education, health, employability) and man-made capital. India is exclusively focused on building up highly subsidised man-made capital at serious costs to natural, human and social capitals, worsening economic, social, educational and health disparities and thereby depressing overall social welfare as well as the ability of our industrial enterprises to compete internationally. This is leading to increasing frequency and intensity of human interventions such as mines and quarries, roads, and buildings on hill slopes everywhere, including in ecologically highly sensitive regions.

The only way to bring these unfortunate trends under check would be to follow the WGEEP's carefully drafted guidelines for regulation as well as the promotion of developmental activities graded with respect to

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zones with three different levels of ecological sensitivity — high, moderate and low. The WGEEP guidelines are not presented as final, rigid prescriptions but are meant to initiate a bottom-up process of democratic decision-making, beginning with the gram sabhas and mohalla sabhas.

Governments set the WGEEP's proposals aside since they have no interest in protecting nature and empowering people. This 13-year delay in acting on the WGEEP's suggestions is impacting the region more and more adversely, resulting in an increasing frequency of floods and landslides. A careful study of landslides at all scales in the Maharashtra Western Ghats has shown that their frequency has gone up 100-fold between 2011 and 2020 along with increasing levels of human interventions. It is high time we begin to take stringent actions to protect nature and empower institutions of decentralised democracy to turn the tide. Kerala is the country's most literate state and has a notable tradition of empowering people that led to the People's Planning Campaign of 1995-96. It is high time that we revive the spirit of the WGEEP.

The writer is an ecologist and chairman of the Western Ghats Ecology Experts Panel

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"As we enter a new era, we must do so with optimism but also caution... To truly honour the sacrifices of our fallen heroes, we must strive to build a future where democratic and egalitarian values triumph over narrow political interests. The time to rebuild our nation is now."  
— THE DAILY STAR, BANGLADESH

## A crime against women

Labelling of women with mental-health issues as witches in large parts of the country points to failures of society, abdications of law



BIBEK DEBROY

I ASKED A young man if he had heard of witches. Thanks to Harry Potter, he had. There were the Salem witch trials in 1692 and 1693 and witches routinely feature in films and fiction. There are the good and wicked witches of *Wizard of Oz* and we read about witches on broomsticks and their covens. Our films and fiction often feature *daains*. I asked our young man if he had heard of Birubala Rabha. (She died in 2024 and was conferred a Padma Shri in 2021. She spent all her life fighting against witch-hunting.) He hadn't. That's understandable. Indian society has many slices.

In July 2021, the UN Human Rights Council adopted a resolution on the elimination of harmful practices related to accusations of witchcraft and ritual attacks (HPAWR). Through the UN, we have data on documented HPAWR (between 2009 and 2019) in 60 countries. Understandably, many cases go unreported and undocumented. Nevertheless, the total figure is 20,000. We might think this is an African problem. As the UN compilation shows, that perception isn't true. The intensity might be higher in Africa. But HPAWR exists in the USA and Europe, and even in India. Since 1953, NCRB (National Crime Records Bureau) has been a standard source of data on crime in India. That has a category on "motives for murder" and mentions witchcraft. In 2022, there were 85 such murders, concentrated in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Odisha. In addition, there are instances from Assam, Bihar and Telangana. The numbers may have declined a bit. But we are still at about 100 a year and these are just murders with witchcraft as a motive.

The word "witch" is gender-neutral, etymologically, although there is a popular perception that the male of the species is wizard (*wicca*), while the female is a witch. Ipsita Roy Chakraverti is a familiar name in some Kolkata circles. She declared herself a good witch (she is also an author). In principle, witchcraft can be benevolent. But in perception and practice, it is dubbed malevolent. The roots are old. However, that dubbing as malevolent is used for crimes against women, not always leading to murder. As a less diabolical motive, there is a lack of education and ignorance, with mental health patients dubbed as witches, especially when there is disease in the neighbourhood. As a more diabolical motive, there are widowed and single women, with their property being a target. (There are also examples of childless women and young and educated women who become a threat to vested local interests.)

Do you remember the film *Kala Sach*, based on a true story? What do we do

about witch-hunting practices? Depend on the spread of education and awareness? Depend on NGOs and panchayats? Jharkhand has "Project Garima", to restore the dignity of women branded as witches. Assam has "Project Prahari", a community-policing initiative. Should a country aspiring to be a developed country do more, or should one hope that the problem will simply wither away with time?

One can invoke parts of the Constitution, IPC (Indian Penal Code) and Protection of Human Rights legislation. But some states have specific legislation — Prevention of Witch (Daain) Practices Act (1993) in Bihar; Prevention of Witch (Daain) Practices Act (2001) in Jharkhand; Tonahi Pratadna Nivaran Act (2005) in Chhattisgarh; Prevention of Witch Hunting Act (2013) in Odisha; Prevention and Eradication of Human Sacrifice and other Inhuman, Evil and Aghori Practices and Black Magic Act (2013) in Maharashtra; Prevention and Eradication of Inhuman Evil Practices and Black Magic Act (2017) in Karnataka; Prevention of Witch Hunting Act (2015) in Rajasthan; and Witch Hunting (Prohibition, Prevention and Protection) Act (2015) in Assam. Notice the vintage of legislation. These are all relatively recent, reflecting the belief that a modern country should have specific legislation to address the issue (There is no Union legislation, though a private bill was introduced in 2016). There are the usual problems with criminal laws — low rates of prosecution, low rates of conviction when prosecuted, hardly punitive penalties (Jharkhand is an instance of the last point on low penalties).

Perhaps more importantly, the intent of the legislation is not always clear. Take Odisha's law for example. It penalises witch-hunting, but penalises the practice of witchcraft too. Assam and Rajasthan also punish alleged witches. Rajasthan also penalises communities/groups. Maharashtra's focus is on practice of black magic. A column is not the place to compare and contrast the state-specific laws, except to point out that they are often like holdalls, with everything dumped in. As a start, should one carefully distinguish practice of witchcraft from witch-hunting? And certainly as a start, NCRB reporting should be refined, with a separate category for both crimes, not simply murders with witchcraft as a motive? Should IPC (and now its replacement) have specific sections on both crimes? More generally, legislation doesn't work if it gets stuck in lack of police reform and tardiness of the criminal justice system. Our young man, with dreams of a developed India and hailing from metro India, may not be aware of a problem that has plagued parts of Indian rural society for ages.

However, it isn't quite a matter of pride that in the UN documentation, India should alone figure in the South Asian list, along with Nepal. And, to repeat a point made earlier, this is incomplete compilation and reporting. The numbers are probably higher.

The writer is chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the PM. Views are personal

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### NERVES OF STEEL

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Triumph of street fighter' (IE, August 7). Vinesh Phogat has shown the world what courage and resilience look like. Human beings are quick to buckle in the face of inconveniences and hurdles. Phogat, who was dragged through the streets of the capital city of the world's largest democracy while peacefully protesting for a cause, stands apart. Her eyes were filled with tears then, and they are filled with tears now. Today, despite the disqualification post facto, she stands as the first to have defeated the undefeated Susaki. Vinesh Phogat stands as a living example of grit and perseverance. With nerves of steel, she created ripples in and out of the ring. No victory or loss can compare.

Ramanpreet, via email

### TREAT THE HATE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Reading the riots' (IE, August 7). The wave of far-right violence in the UK is a disturbing pointer to the persistent undercurrents of xenophobia and misinformation in their society. The stabbing of three girls has been exploited by far-right agitators to fuel hatred and incite chaos. The far-right's hostility towards immigrants is not merely a reaction to isolated events but a symptom of broader social and political failures. Misguided beliefs about immigration and cultural integration have been stoked by those looking to gain from such rhetoric. PM Keir Starmer's condemnation is a necessary first step, but more must be done.

Khokan Das, Kolkata

### ONLY AFTER POWER

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'A widening war' (IE, August 7). The recent killings represent a victory for Israel's embattled Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, whose popularity is at an all-time low. At a time when talks to end the war were reportedly progressing, the killing of Ismail Haniyeh will make it harder to keep that dialogue alive. Meanwhile, Iran cannot afford to sit quietly after its sovereignty has been violated. Other nations wading into the conflict is unlikely, despite all their bravado. Netanyahu has ensured the conflict gets prolonged just so he can retain his position for longer.

SS Paul, Nadia

### THE WAITING GAME

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'A fighting chance' (IE, August 7). Although the ouster of Sheikh Hasina is a setback for India with the fear of Islamist groups calling the shots subverting New Delhi's interests, the best way forward is to play the waiting game. India would do well to avoid any prejudiced view against the current or future dispensation in Bangladesh. India has to be watchful of the turmoil next door and, at the same time, send signals that it is ready to do business with whosoever takes over the reins of the government.

Vijai Pant, Hempur

Pathak writes on culture and education



IN GOOD FAITH BY AVIJIT PATHAK

## Generation of broken dreams

Coaching centre tragedy must make us question the values we are teaching children

FINALLY, THE SUPREME Court had to intervene and remind us that coaching centres in India are becoming like "death chambers". This is not surprising. If you keep your eyes open, you can see the way the coaching industry has been allowed to colonise the domain of education, cripple the imagination of young students and their parents, and make them pathetically dependent on almost every rite of passage: From standardised tests like NEET/JEE/NET/CUET to UPSC civil services exams. Moreover, the neurotic rat race for select careers and job opportunities, and the mythologies of "success" these coaching centres sell through the brand value of their "star" strategists, or well-packaged "success manuals" accelerate the growth of this lucrative business.

However, it is impossible not to notice the inevitable consequences of this pathology — the tales of broken dreams, the innumerable narratives of "failure" amid a handful of much-advertised "success stories". Indeed, as our youngsters are compelled to run after some sort of mythical success, they find themselves mentally exhausted and aesthetically/spiritually impoverished. And this societal neurosis manifests itself in the growing suicide rate and/or psychic depression among young students.

The real question is: How can we save our young students from these "death chambers"? It is an exceedingly difficult task because over the years we have created a generation that confuses education with what the coaching centres popularise — learning the war strategy for "cracking" the MCQ-centric standardised tests. What matters, as this generation and their ambitious/anxiety-ridden parents think, is the "technique" of instant "success" rather than the joy of learning and understanding the world through the creative interplay of brain and heart, science and poetry, theory and practice, or technology and philosophy. Yet, these difficulties notwithstanding, some of us who still believe in the efficacy of libertarian education must come forward, raise our voices, and initiate a movement for saving education from the coaching industry, or these "death chambers". In this context, let me suggest three steps we need to take urgently.

First, let us assert the forgotten truth: The real goal of education is not to prepare our children for tests and exams; instead, the purpose of education is to prepare our children for life or to equip them with the kind of sensitivity and intelligence they need to prioritise love over hatred, peace over war, or for that matter, cooperation over hyper-com-

petitiveness. A world tormented by xenophobic nationalism, climate emergencies and market fundamentalism needs the healing touch of libertarian education.

Sadly, the prevalent practice of instrumental education, and the resultant quantification of "merit", "intelligence" and "success" through the never-ending and hugely problematic standardised tests are causing acute aggression and psychic nervousness among the youth. As coaching centres further strengthen this destructive urge, it is high time we began to converse with the likes of Rabindranath Tagore and Jiddu Krishnamurti, or Paulo Freire and bell hooks, and initiate a movement for saving education from this demonic industry and associated social Darwinism.

Second, it is important to urge students and parents to sharpen their critical thinking, expand their mental/political horizons, and raise their voices against the organised assault on meaningful and life-affirming education. Why is it that our government schools and public universities have been systematically destroyed? And why is it that even the children of primary schools have to be sent to tutorial homes and coaching centres to learn elementary mathematics and English grammar? Or, for that matter, why

is it that our university graduates need coaching centres for sharpening their knowledge of general studies, or, for that matter, history and sociology for civil services exams?

Possibly, this sort of pathetic dependence on coaching centres indicates the fall of schools and universities as sites of rigorous learning or creative and critical thinking. It is, therefore, important to initiate a movement for generating an awareness of this onslaught on education. We must pressurise the state to take public education seriously. Third, we ought to restore the deeper meaning of studentship. A student is not an "exam warrior". A student is not a resource to be shaped and modulated for the neoliberal techno-economic empire; nor is she/he a commodity with a price tag. Instead, let some of us acquire the courage to say that the meaning of being a student is to be a life-long wanderer or a seeker. Studentship is about learning and unlearning; it is about asking critical questions, and striving for a new world filled with love and compassion.

Are we ready for this movement to save education from the gigantic growth of "death chambers"?

BRIEFLY

**UTTARAKHAND**  
Copter services to Kedarnath temple resumes

*Dehradun:* Helicopter services to Kedarnath temple, which was halted on July 31 after landslides due to torrential rain, resumed on Wednesday. Pushkar Singh Dhami, Uttarakhand Chief Minister, has announced that pilgrims will get a 25 per cent discount — which will be covered by the state government — on fare. It came after Dhami on Tuesday reviewed relief and rescue operations, and reconstruction efforts in Rudrapur district, after an aerial survey of the affected areas. **ENS**

**GOA**  
Ayurveda is part of our culture, says Governor

*Panaji:* Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant inaugurated the installation work of Acharya Charaka and Sage Sushruta statues on the Raj Bhavan campus on Wednesday. Presiding over the event, Governor P S Sreedharan Pillai said: "Ayurveda is part of our culture. This project will ensure that our legacy is preserved, while the world remembers Sushruta and Charaka." Pillai praised both Charaka and Sushruta for their contribution to Ayurveda. **ENS**

**HARYANA**  
Dera dispute: Govt suspends Internet in Sirsa

*Chandigarh:* The Haryana government on Wednesday suspended Internet in Sirsa district until Thursday midnight, citing "possible breach of peace" over the succession dispute at Dera Jajmalwali after the demise of the sect chief, Bahadur Chand Vakil. After his death on August 1 after prolonged illness, two factions led by Virender Singh and Gurpreet Singh have been in a tussle for control of the Dera, with its followers in Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. **ENS**

**MAHARASHTRA**  
Institute for minorities soon, says cabinet

*Mumbai:* The Maharashtra cabinet on Wednesday cleared the proposal to establish a Minority Research and Training Institute (MRTI) to tackle the state's backwardness of minority communities and ensure their comprehensive development. The MRTI will be on the lines of TARTI for tribals, BARTI for Scheduled Castes, Sarathi for Marathas, Mahajyoti for OBCs and Amrut for the General category. The proposal was under consideration for months and gained momentum after the joining of the NCP led by deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar in the state government. **ENS**

STATE'S 4TH SHELTER FOR BIG CATS WILL BE 3RD LARGEST IN COUNTRY

# Chhattisgarh to get new tiger reserve amid dwindling big cat population

JAYPRAKASH S NAIDU  
RAIPUR, AUGUST 7

WITH ITS tiger population plunging in recent years, Chhattisgarh on Wednesday cleared a long-pending proposal to notify a new tiger reserve — the third largest in the country. The Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve, which integrates an existing national park with a wildlife sanctuary, is Chhattisgarh's fourth reserve for the big cats. It spans 2,829.387 square kilometres across four northern districts of the state.

The decision comes after the Chhattisgarh High Court, while hearing a PIL on July 15, granted four weeks to the state govern-

ment to clear its stand on declaring that area a tiger reserve.

Chhattisgarh's tiger population fell from 46 in 2014 to 17 in 2022, according to a National Tiger Conservation Authority report released in July 2023.

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change had flagged this decline in a 2023 statement: "Some states, including Mizoram, Nagaland, Jharkhand, Goa, Chhattisgarh and Arunachal Pradesh have reported disquieting trends with small tiger populations."

On Wednesday, the state cabinet merged the regions of the Guru Ghasidas National Park and the Tamor Pingla Sanctuary, located in the districts of Koriya,

The reserve spans 2,829.387 sq km across four northern districts of the state

Balrampur, Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur, and Surajpur to create the new reserve.

"The formation of this tiger reserve will foster ecotourism in the state and create employment opportunities for villagers residing in the core and buffer zones, as guides, tourist vehicle operators, and resort managers. Additionally, the National Project Tiger Authority will provide an extra budget for the reserve's operations, which

will facilitate new livelihood development projects in the surrounding villages," said a government statement.

The state also authorised its Department of Forest and Climate Change to proceed with the formalities regarding its establishment of the reserve.

In 2019, wildlife activist Ajay Dubey had filed the PIL in the high court flagging the fall in the population of the big cats in the state. The PIL alleged inaction by the government in notifying and constituting the reserve since 2012 despite approval from the National Tiger Conservation Authority as well as the Union Environment Ministry.

On Wednesday, Dubey told *The Indian Express*: "I welcome

this decision. It will strengthen wildlife conservation in Chhattisgarh, especially tiger protection."

A government official, requesting anonymity, said: "Guru Ghasidas National Park was made a tiger reserve in 2021, but it could not be notified due to opposition. Due to many mines in this area, the notification to declare the National Park as a tiger reserve was stuck during the previous government."

Andhra Pradesh's Nagarjunasagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve is the country's largest tiger reserve, covering 3,296.31 sq km. Manas Tiger Reserve in Assam is the second largest with an area of 2,837.1 sq km. Both have 58 tigers.

# SC expunges HC judge's remarks: Expect greater caution in future

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 7

A FIVE-JUDGE Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court on Wednesday expunged the observations of the single judge and stayed the order of Justice Rajbir Sehrawat of Punjab and Haryana High Court, saying, "compliance with orders passed by the apex court is not a matter of choice, but a matter of bounden constitutional obligation."

"We are of the view that the observations made in the order... were totally unnecessary for the ultimate order which was passed. Gratuitous observations in regard to previous orders passed by the Supreme Court... are absolutely unwarranted," said the bench presided by CJI D Y Chandrachud.

On Tuesday, the bench, also comprising Justices Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai, Surya Kant, and Hrishikesh Roy, had taken suo motu cognisance of the matter, which concerns comments by Justice Sehrawat on July 17 regarding the top court's stay order on May 3, 2024.

Expunging the observations, the Supreme Court said: "We expect greater caution to be exercised in the future while dealing with orders of the Supreme Court and for that matter the orders passed by the division bench of the High Court."

"Judicial discipline in the context of the hierarchical nature of the judicial system is intended to preserve the dignity of all institutions whether at the district, HC or at the level of the Supreme Court," it said.

The bench said they were "constrained to take suo motu notice of the contents of the order... in view of the fact that such observations tend to bring the entire judicial machinery into disrepute. This affects not

The Punjab & Haryana HC Judge had made the observations on July 17 over an order passed by the top court on May 3

only the dignity of this court, but the HCs as well."

It noted that the HC division bench, presided by the Chief Justice, had taken suo motu notice of the observations made by the single judge and stayed the operation of the order and added, "notwithstanding the exercise which has been carried out bonafide by the bench presided over by the CJI... we are of the view that in a situation where the authority of this court is sought to be undermined by gratuitous observations made by a single judge of the HC, it is the plain constitutional function of this court to set right any attempt to dislocate the sanctity of judicial hierarchy in the maintenance of judicial discipline".

The SC refrained from issuing notice to the judge, saying that "doing so, however, places the judge in a situation of being subject to judicial adjudication or enquiry by this court, which we are inclined to desist from doing at this stage".

Solicitor General Tushar Menta informed the court there was also a video clip of some other proceedings before the judge circulating wherein Justice Sehrawat is seen passing certain remarks on SC and HC orders.

"In an age, where there is widespread reporting of every proceeding which takes place in the court, particularly in the context of live streaming... it is all the more necessary that judges exercise due restraint and responsibility in the observations which are made in court in the course of proceeding," it said.

# 12 students of private Gujarat varsity expelled from hostel over ragging

RITU SHARMA  
AHMEDABAD, AUGUST 7

TWELVE STUDENTS of Karnavati University, a private university located at Uvards in Gandhinagar city, were expelled from their hostel on Wednesday for allegedly ragging around 10 junior residents of the hostel.

The incident took place around 1 am on Tuesday at Geeta Residency, a private hostel facility of the university. According to a student who was ragged, around 10 first-year students from engineering, BBA and other programmes were physically and mentally harassed by 12 second and third-year students. "We were sleeping when senior students woke us up and asked to gather at one place. We were then asked to remove our clothes and perform inappropriate activities

in front of everyone. We were not only physically violated but also mentally harassed," one of the victims told *The Indian Express*.

Among the 12 seniors, while eight are from Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Bihar, the rest are from Gujarat. The junior students are from Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, as well as Bhuj and Amreli in Gujarat. When contacted, D G Chaudhary, the owner and manager of Geeta Residency, said: "We have taken it in writing from the senior students that they have ragged their juniors at the hostel. We have informed their parents that their wards have been expelled from the hostel..."

However, Ritesh Hada, president of Karnavati University, said the decision to expel the students from the hostel was taken by the hostel management.

No FIR has been registered in the case yet, said police.



# PRESIDENT IN NEW ZEALAND

President Droupadi Murmu arrives in Auckland on Wednesday. She is set to meet Governor-General Dame Cindy Kiro, Prime Minister Christopher Luxon and other senior ministers. This is the first presidential visit to New Zealand in eight years. PTI

Defend Manipur, take action against divisive forces: Cong MP to Govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 7

THE GOVERNMENT of India has "historical, political, moral and legal" responsibility for defending Manipur and it must take stern action against communal and divisive forces that have created havoc in the state, Congress MP from Inner Manipur Angomcha Bimol Akojiam said in Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

During Zero Hour, Akojiam said that divisive elements as well as "foreign elements" and "illegal immigrants" were disturbing peace within the state. "A peace effort has been made and there was an agreement achieved by two communities in the district of Jiribam on August 1, mediated by the security forces. But unfortunately, it is subverted by communal, divisive and sectarian forces."

Akojiam said there is a need to take steps to delineate citizens from non-citizens. "I appeal to this House and the Indian government to make sure that Article 19 works in Manipur and people can move freely on the highways and territories within..." he said.

# Utter disdain: J&K HC pulls up officials over non-compliance

ARUN SHARMA  
JAMMU, AUGUST 7

SLAMMING THE Union Territory administration's "could not care less" attitude when it comes to compliance of its orders, the J&K HC has warned that it would have to resort to "firm measures" to ensure conformity.

In its order on Monday, a Division Bench of Justices Atul Sreedharan and Javed Iqbal Wani ordered Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Principal Secretary Finance Santosh D Vaidya, Secretary General Administration Department Sanjeev Verma and the Secretary PWD (Roads and Bridges) Bhupinder Kumar to be present at the court hearing on Thursday. This came after two of the four civil servants skipped court appearance in a contempt petition, angering the bench.

"If any of them doesn't comply with the direction for personal appearance on 08/08/2024, this court shall resort to coercive measures to secure their presence," it said.

The remarks came while the Bench was hearing a contempt petition for non-compliance of its

August 2023 order. In that order, the court had directed authorities to grant higher pay scales to chief engineers and other higher-ranking engineers as soon as possible.

While the secretaries for finance and PWD attended that hearing, the other two bureaucrats did not — secretary GAD was stated to be on leave, and Advocate General DC Raina told the court that the chief secretary was delayed due to connectivity problems but would join soon.

A few minutes into the hearing, however, Law Secretary Achal Sethi appeared through a video link and informed the court that the chief secretary was attending a meeting and was therefore indisposed.

This incensed the Bench. "As of now, this court is unable to ascertain as to who is lying — whether it is the person who informed the Ld Advocate General that the chief secretary is keen to join the proceedings and shall do so in a few minutes, or whether it was the Law Secretary who was instructed to state incorrectly on behalf of the Chief Secretary. Both these versions are starkly disparate," it observed.

Matters took a turn for the

worse when their legal representatives told the court that the state had filed a Special Leave Petition (SLP) in the SC this June against the HC's August order. When asked why it took 10 months to file it, the Principal Secretary Finance said it was approved only this February. When probed further, the official said he would ascertain the delay's cause.

The Bench, however, looked up the SLP on the SC website and found the court registry had flagged seven defects in the petition that had yet to be remedied. "...from the manner the UT Government has conducted itself, it is clear there is absolute lack of sincerity of purpose on its part to comply with order passed by this court," it said.

The justice system in UT has been reduced "to a cruel joke," it said. "This reflects a shocking scenario where the Executive is ignoring the orders passed by this court with utter disdain, cocky that this court shall take no measures imperilling their liberty for their disobedience," it observed.

To restore "a semblance of sanity", the court will not hesitate to take "precipitate measures", it said.

Man kills sister over 'interfaith relationship', held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MEERUT, AUGUST 7

A 16-YEAR-OLD girl was strangled in public allegedly by her brother, who was opposed to her relationship with a man from another community, in Meerut on Wednesday, police said.

The police arrested the 20-year-old accused. The girl had allegedly eloped with the man twice in the past, police said citing her family members. "We traced them and brought them back. She was handed over to her family while the man was also let off as her family members refused to register a complaint," said Kamlesh Bahadur, Superintendent of Police (Meerut rural).

On Wednesday, she was planning to elope again with him. Her brother got to know and he tried to reason with her. She insisted that she would marry the man, the police said. She ran out of the house but her brother chased her and allegedly beat her up the road.

He later strangled her, police said. The man with whom she eloped earlier was also arrested, police said.

# Man sent to custody after bail, SC holds judge, cop guilty of contempt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
SURAT, AUGUST 7

ACCUSING A Gujarat judge of "bias" and acting in a "high-handed manner" while granting police the custody of a Surat-based builder, the Supreme Court on Wednesday held Sixth Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate (ACJM) Deepa S Thaker and suspended inspector R Y Raval of Vesu police station guilty of its contempt for sending the builder for custodial interrogation in a case disregarding the fact that he was granted pre-arrest bail by the top court.

The bench of Justice BR Gavai and Justice Sandeep Mehta, which had granted anticipatory bail to the builder, Tushar Shah, in a cheating case, observed that the police sought his custody "in sheer defiance" and was tanta-

mount to "contempt". Shah was arrested by the Vesu police in a ₹1.65-crore cheating case even after he had secured anticipatory bail in the case from the Supreme Court on December 8, 2023.

As per case details, when Shah went to Vesu police station with the SC's anticipatory bail order on December 11, 2023, he was arrested and released on a bail bond of ₹25,000 the same day. He was then asked to appear before the police on December 12 to record his statement.

On December 12, when Shah arrived at the police station, he was arrested again in the cheating case and produced before the ACJM the next day. The court sent him to four days of police custody in connection to the cheating case lodged on July 27, 2023. During his remand period, he was allegedly tortured by the

police personnel. Shah was then sent to Surat Central Jail, from where he was released on bail after a few days. Following this, he moved a contempt petition before the SC on January 7.

The SC said in its order that in the remand application, investigating officer Raval's portrayal of Shah not cooperating in the probe was "cooked up" and an attempt to "draw wool over the court's eyes".

Maintaining that Raval had only investigated the matter for a few hours on December 12, 2023, and immediately sought police custody from the ACJM, the SC said the application seeking Shah's custody "does not indicate that he had not cooperated in the investigation". The SC said "there was not even a shred of bonafide in the actions" of the IO while seeking custody of the accused on the ground of non-cooperation.

# Wounds point to torture of 3 men killed in Assam Police custody, families tell court citing autopsy

Assam Police claims men are Hmar militants, killed in crossfire; families allege fake encounter

SUKRITA BARUAH  
GUWAHATI, AUGUST 7

POINTING TO the post-mortem reports of three men — who were branded militants and killed while in Assam police custody last month — their families have told the Gauhati High Court that they were tortured before being shot dead.

The men — Joshua from Senvon village in Manipur's Pherzawl district, and Lallungawi Hmar and Lalbikung Hmar, both residents of K Bethel village in Assam's Cachar district — were killed on July 17. The police had claimed the three were Hmar militants whom they had apprehended the previous day. Police claimed they took the men on a

"special operation" against other militants on July 17, during which the three died in the crossfire. Their families had approached the court, alleging that the men were killed in a fake encounter.

Appearing for the petitioners on Wednesday, senior advocate Colin Gonsalves said they were satisfied with the post-mortem report and that they would no longer seek a second autopsy, as had been demanded by the families earlier. However, presenting the counter to the state's affidavit, he raised several questions on the nature of injuries.

The post-mortem reports, which *The Indian Express* has seen, mention multiple bruises apart from bullet injuries on the bodies of all three men. In the case of Lallungawi Hmar, the report

mentions a wound mark on the chest area, a wound mark in the left leg, a bruise mark in his private parts, and that "bruise (sic) can be found in many parts of the body".

In the case of Joshua, the report mentions a bruise mark on the chest, a wound mark "near left bum region", and "wounds in many parts of the body". In the case of Lalbikung Hmar, the report mentions a bruise-like mark on the right cheek, another in the left waist area, a cut mark "in right side of (the) bum area" and that "bruise and wound marks can be seen in many parts".

In the final opinion of the doctor, it states that Lallungawi had 11 injuries caused by bullets but one caused by blunt force before his death. In Joshua's case, the opinion states that 16 injuries

were caused by bullets and six were caused by blunt force impact before his death. In Lalbikung Hmar's case, there were 23 bullet injuries and six blunt force ones, the opinion states. Gonsalves pointed to these findings to allege that the men had been "tortured before they were killed".

"Most importantly, see the findings on the private parts of all these deceased persons. The private parts are bruised, wound marks can be seen. If this is an encounter, you're dead with clean bullet entry and exit wounds. Here there is a question of having bruise marks on private parts, indicating torture," said Gonsalves.

He also sought attention to the descriptions of the bullet injuries on all three deceased as having

"blackened, abraded and inverted margins", which he alleged is a sign of being shot at a close-range.

While the petitioners sought a case to be registered and investigated by a DGP or senior police officer from outside Assam, and an interim compensation of Rs 20 lakh for each of the families, the Advocate General for the state of Assam sought time to file a detailed affidavit to respond to the allegations. The court directed that the affidavit be filed one day before the next hearing on September 10.

The court also issued detailed instructions to enable the families of the three men to take their bodies from the morgue — where they have been lying for more than three weeks — and conduct their final rites.

<b>GOLD</b>	<b>USD RATE</b>	<b>OIL</b>	<b>SILVER</b>
₹71,350	₹83.96	\$75.31	₹82,200

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) per barrel as of August 6

International market data till 1900 IST

**HOME MINISTRY HAS SENSITISED DEPARTMENTS REGARDING USE OF PORTAL: OFFICIAL**

# 'Portal to ease entry of technicians from China has started functioning'

**RAVIDUTTA MISHRA**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 7

A PORTAL to facilitate the approval of short-term business visas for Chinese technicians, essential for operationalising production units and boosting output in sectors under the government's flagship Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, has begun functioning, a senior government official said on Wednesday.

The Indian Express in June had reported that the domestic industry flagged concerns over delays in fulfilling export orders due to the hold-up in granting visas to Chinese technicians. Several companies had been importing machinery from China but faced production delays due to visa delays that primarily began after the Galwan clash in 2020.

"The portal started only last week. It is intended to streamline the process by which business visas will be granted to Chinese technicians in the PLI sector. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has held interactions with different departments to sensitise and train them on how the portal will

**HOLD-UP IN GRANTING VISAS TO TECHNICIANS**

**SEVERAL COMPANIES** had been importing machinery from China but faced production delays due to visa delays that began in 2020

**INDUSTRY SOURCES** say Chinese technicians are sought after by Indian manufacturers as they are more affordable from other Western or even Southeast Asian countries

be used," the official said. The industry relies on Chinese professionals due to its heavy dependence on China for crucial parts in most electrical and electronic segments. Official data shows that out of nearly \$100 billion worth of imports from China, nearly 60 per cent comprised engineering and electronic items, which are also key to fulfilling India's export orders.

Industry sources said that several manufacturers are often forced to move manufacturing to alternative locations where there

**EXPLAINED**

**E** Chinese parts dominate electronics

INDIA RELIES on Chinese professionals due to heavy dependence on China for crucial parts in most electrical and electronic segments. Official data shows that nearly 60 per cent of imports comprised engineering and electronic items, which are key to fulfilling India's export orders.

under the government route. According to official figures, India approved only a quarter of the total 435 foreign direct investment applications from China up to June last year since the modification in Press Note 3 was introduced in April 2020. However, China contributes only a fraction of the total FDI equity inflows into the country. China stands at the 20th position with only a 0.43 per cent share or \$2.45 billion in total FDI equity inflow reported in India from April 2000 to December 2021, as per the

are no such restrictions. They added that Chinese technicians are sought after by Indian manufacturers as they are more affordable than technicians from other Western or even Southeast Asian countries. The border standoff after the Galwan clash in 2020 led to several government measures aimed at limiting Chinese influence on the Indian economy. The government also amended the FDI policy under Press Note 3 (PN3), bringing investments from land-bordering countries

**COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTRY**

The Economic Survey last month advocated attracting investments from Chinese companies to boost exports. The Survey suggested this change in stance as countries such as Mexico, Vietnam, Taiwan, and Korea are benefiting from the China-plus-one phenomenon pursued by Western firms, with a simultaneous rise in investment from China.

"To boost Indian manufacturing and integrate India into the global supply chain, it is inevitable that India connects itself to China's supply chain. Whether we do so by relying solely on imports or partially through Chinese investments is a choice that India has to make," the Survey stated.

India faces two choices to benefit from the China-plus-one strategy: it can integrate into China's supply chain or promote foreign direct investment (FDI) from China. Among these choices, focusing on FDI from China seems more promising for boosting India's exports to the US, similar to how East Asian economies did in the past, the Survey emphasised.

# Heavy buying by DIIs offsets surge in FPI outflows over past 3 days

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU**  
MUMBAI, AUGUST 7

DOMESTIC INSTITUTIONAL investors (DIIs) were big buyers in the last three days when the markets faced volatile movements amid capital outflows by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs). DIIs, led by mutual funds and insurance companies, pumped Rs 16,313 crore into the markets in the last three days with Rs 9,155 crore coming on Monday when the market crashed by 2.5 per cent.

However, FPIs pulled out Rs 16,918 crore (\$2 billion) in the last three days amid concern over a slowdown in the US economy, Japanese market crash and Middle East tension.

Mutual funds which are sitting on a cash pile are major investors in the market. Net inflows into equity mutual fund schemes grew by 17 per cent month-on-month to an all-time high of Rs 40,608.19 crore in June, from Rs 34,697 crore in May. This money is finding its way into the stock markets, analysts said.

On the other hand, life insurance companies mobilised Rs 89,726 crore premium from customers in the first three months of FY25 with Life Insurance Corporation alone accounting for Rs 57,440 crore. "DIIs have become a major counterbalancing force against FPIs in the market. Whenever FPIs pull out money, DIIs come forward to buy shares," said an analyst.



File

On Wednesday, when the Sensex rose by 1.11 per cent, or 875 points, to 79,468.01 and the NSE Nifty index shot up by 1.27 per cent to 24,297.50, FPIs withdrew Rs 3,314 crore from the market while DIIs invested Rs 3,801 crore.

According to Dhiraj Relli, MD & CEO at HDFC Securities, though India is relatively insulated from the world, it could still get impacted if the global risk appetite is negatively impacted affecting the FPI flows and India's exports could get hurt. The outcome of the US presidential elections (Nov 2024) and India state elections (Oct 2024) are some other triggers to watch out for, he said.

"Global sentiments need to stabilise for Nifty to start recovering. All cyclical and even IT stocks came under selling pressure on fears of global slowdown. Traders can start bottom fishing for small upsides (with stop losses in place) while investors may wait for some stability," he said. Risk averse investors may look to take profits

**BRIEFLY**

**Provisions of TDS/TCS relaxed**

New Delhi: The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has relaxed provisions for TDS/TCS in case of death of deductee if PAN and Aadhaar were not linked by the deadline of May 31, 2024. **ENS**

**Multi-state cos need to register as ISD with GST**

New Delhi: Companies having presence in multiple states and distributing common input tax credit with branch offices will have to register as Input Service Distributor (ISD) with GST authorities by April 1, 2025. **PTI**

**Tata launches Curvv EV at ₹17.49 lakh**

New Delhi: Tata Motors launched its maiden mid-sized electric SUV, Curvv, at a starting price of Rs 17.49-lakh. **PTI**

**Sebi issues ₹25-cr notice to Karyv Stock Broking**

New Delhi: Sebi has sent a notice to Karyv Stock Broking Ltd 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. **PTI**

**INDIA DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE EVOLVING SITUATION IN BANGLADESH: GOYAL**

# 'Slow pace a worry, BIMSTEC members need to find new pathways for FTA'

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

EXPRESSING CONCERN over the slow pace of talks for a trade agreement with the seven member countries of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) bloc, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday said that there is a need to re-evaluate the approach to boost trade within the region.

Speaking at the CII's BIMSTEC Business Summit 2024, Goyal said that India is deeply concerned about the evolving situation in Bangladesh. "We wish the people of Bangladesh well and convey our best wishes for a smooth transition," he said. Representatives from Bangladesh did not attend the summit amid violent protests in the country.

The BIMSTEC bloc includes seven countries: Bangladesh,



Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal. **File**

Bhutan, Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and Thailand. The bloc has been negotiating a proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) since 2004, with 22 rounds of talks held so far including the last round that was held in 2018.

"I would like to raise a few fundamental issues about where we stand and what the possibilities are of making this FTA a reality... it could be the trade practices or current trade relationships that are

preventing this FTA from taking place," the minister said.

"Six years have passed, and no further negotiations have been held. I think the business community of the countries and the governments will have to work together to find new pathways, new ways of engaging, and alternative solutions that are more practical to build up the momentum towards an FTA," he said.

He said that India considers the members of the bloc a "priority, as our first port of call, as we do hope that our friendly countries trust and look up to India as a friend and a trusted neighbour. He noted that 22 rounds of talks have been held for the agreement, raising the question of whether "we need to pause and re-evaluate the direction we are taking."

He also asked the business leaders of the seven countries to consider whether they need this agreement. The minister further suggested that member nations

consider trade in local currencies to balance out trade imbalances.

"I would urge business leaders to give honest feedback on what you feel about the potential BIMSTEC FTA. Do you see merit in it? Do you see value in it?" he said.

Feedback from the business community would help political leaders make a decision on this.

"Maybe, we can begin with a PTA (preferential trade agreement) if not a full-blown FTA... But let's examine the realistic possibility and move forward on a fast-track basis," he said. India's total trade with BIMSTEC countries amounted to \$44.32 billion in 2023-24. Thailand was India's largest trading partner within the bloc, with exports worth \$5.04 billion and imports at \$9.91 billion, resulting in a trade gap of \$4.87 billion. Bangladesh followed, with exports of \$11.06 billion and imports of \$1.84 billion, creating a trade balance of \$9.22 billion in India's favour.

# India needs to undertake factor market reforms of land, labour, capital: Panagariya

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 7

INDIA NEEDS to open up the economy further even while negotiating free trade agreements (FTAs) to accelerate the growth, 16th Finance Commission Chairman Arvind Panagariya said on Wednesday. Panagariya is known for his nearly unqualified allegiance to free trade, and constant fight against protectionism. He has

been pitching for liberalised world trade, though it seems the multilateral route for this is closed, and even mature economies would routinely resort to protectionism.

"India needs to undertake factor market reforms of land, labour and capital to accelerate the economic growth," he said at an interactive session on on 'India @ 100: Envisioning Tomorrow's Economic Powerhouse' at Ficci. In the Budget for 2024-25,



Arvind Panagariya, Chairman, 16th Finance Commission. **File**

the Centre has announced incentives for state to initiate land-related reforms and actions in rural and urban areas, covering land administration, planning and management, and urban planning, usage and building bylaws.

These will be incentivised for completion within the next three years through appropriate fiscal support. **FE**

# Reliance is ready for next level of growth: Ambani

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU**  
MUMBAI, AUGUST 7

INDIA'S MOST valuable company Reliance Industries (RIL) is ready to chart the "next level of growth" after consolidating its balance sheet following a period marked by high capital expenditure, RIL chairman and managing director Mukesh Ambani said in a statement to shareholders in the company's annual report for 2023-24 (FY24).

"Reliance has consolidated its balance sheet after the previous round of capex and is ready for the next level of growth. Our constant endeavor to find solutions for India and Indians has helped us spot multiple growth opportunities that have expanded our business portfolio," Ambani said. The refining-to-telecom conglomerate is moving from being predominantly fossil fuel-focussed to diversifying into areas like clean energy, telecom, retail, and media. Ambani presented an optimistic outlook to investors, saying that RIL has enhanced investor wealth and shareholders' faith in the company will spur it to "continually grow and create value". "The global economic scenario



RIL Chairman & Managing Director Mukesh Ambani. **File**

prudent business and financial management strategies which help us maximise cash profits," Ambani said.

Along with RIL's own growth, Ambani also underscored India's growing significance in the global economic landscape, which he said "has increased manifold over the past-decade and it is shining as a beacon of stability and prosperity." The RIL chairman said that the global optimism on the Indian economic and business outlook helped domestic equity indices to soar to record high levels, adding that in February this year, RIL became the first Indian company to cross the Rs 20-lakh crore threshold in market capitalisation.

# 'Mines Min working on rolling out Critical Mineral Mission this yr'

New Delhi: The mines ministry is working on rolling out the Critical Mineral Mission this year, Mines Secretary V L Kantha Rao said on Wednesday.

Union Budget 2024-25 has proposed launching Critical Mineral Mission for domestic production, recycling of critical minerals, and overseas acquisition of critical mineral assets. Its mandate will include technology development, skilled workforce, extended producer responsibility framework, and a suitable financing mechanism.

"It was announced that the government will set up Critical Mineral Mission for focused activities relating to critical minerals whether it is exploration, mining, research and development, foreign acquisition or any financial support or recycling. "All these aspects would be covered in this Critical Mineral Mission and Ministry of Mines is working on this announcement and we will look forward to the mission being approved at the government level and the mission being rolled out this year," Rao said at the felicitation ceremony of five-star rated mines. **PTI**

**GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HANDLOOMS**

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

E-Tenders with two cover system are invited from the eligible bidders for the Purchase of Polyester Texturised Yarn for Distribution of Sarees and Dhoties Scheme, Pongal 2025.

Sl. No.	Variety of yarn	Required Quantity (in MT)	Required Earnest Money Deposit in (Rs.)	Date and time of availability of Bid Document in the web portal	Last date and time for receipt of online submission of filled Bid Documents	Date and time of online opening of Bids	Supply Period
1.	130/72 D Dyed Polyester Coltock Yarn	4306.00		08.08.2024 to 23.08.2024 upto 1.30 p.m.	23.08.2024 upto 2.00 p.m.	23.08.2024 at 3.00 p.m.	60 days
2.	80/34 D Dyed PTY	2960.00	10,00,000/-			Will be intimated later	60 days
3.	80/34 D Grey PTY	2291.00					60 days
4.	155/34 D 250 TPM Dyed PTY	358.00					60 days

Eligibility of the Tenderer and other conditions are stipulated in the Bid Document.

- Complete E-Tender Documents can be viewed and downloaded at free of cost from Government tender website <https://intenders.gov.in>
- The Bidders have to participate online bidding only with Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class III.

Contact : Joint Director (Uniforms)  
Telephone : 044-25358715  
E-mail : [tenderwing2023@gmail.com](mailto:tenderwing2023@gmail.com)

Joint Director (Uniforms) / Tender Inviting Authority

DIPR/2847/Tender/2024

**BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE**  
Office of the Executive Engineer,  
Yelahanka Division, Bengaluru-560064  
No.: BBMP/EE/YNK.D/E-PMT/05/2024-25 Date: 07.08.2024

**INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)**  
(Two Cover System) (Short Term - Tender Notification)  
(Through Karnataka Procurement Public Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Yelahanka Division invites tenders from eligible tenderers for the construction of works detailed in the table below. (As per standard tender document KW-04)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Providing drinking water facilities to 110 villages areas in Kempegowda Ward No. 01. Est. Cost in Lakhs: 100.00. EMD in Lakhs: 2.00
2	Providing drinking water facilities to 110 villages areas in Attur Ward No. 03. Est. Cost in Lakhs: 100.00. EMD in Lakhs: 2.00

**Calendar of Events:** (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka. (2) Date of pre bid meeting at the office of the Executive Engineer (Yelahanka Division) on 12.08.2024 at 4:00 p.m. (3) Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement Portal on or before 4:00 p.m. on 19.08.2024 and the opening of tenders will be as per the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal guidelines. (4) Date of opening of Technical bids on 20.08.2024 after 4:00 p.m. Further details may be obtained from the above office, during office hours or website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/-, Executive Engineer, Yelahanka Division, BBMP

**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

**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](http://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 [nmctransport01@gmail.com](mailto: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.

Advt No : 260/PR,  
Dt : 06/08/2024

Transport Manager  
NMC, Nagpur



@ieExplained

#ExpressExplained

If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to [explained@indianexpress.com](mailto:explained@indianexpress.com)

## EXPLAINED SCIENCE

## EXPLAINED SPORT

## PYROCUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: WHEN WILDFIRES SPIT STORMS, LIGHTNING

ALIND CHAUHAN  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 7

THE WILDFIRES currently raging in the United States and Canada are so intense that they have created 'pyrocumulonimbus' clouds, which have the potential to spit out thunder and spark more fires.

The development of these clouds has become more frequent in recent years. Before 2023, 102 pyrocumulonimbus were recorded globally in a single year on average — 50 of them were seen in Canada, according to a report published in the journal *Nature*. However, during last year's extreme wildfire season, 140 pyrocumulonimbus clouds were recorded in Canada alone, the report said.

## How are these clouds formed?

Not every wildfire leads to the creation of pyrocumulonimbus clouds. They occur only when there is an extremely hot wildfire — volcanic eruptions can also lead to the formation of pyrocumulonimbus clouds. For instance, these clouds were formed during the Australian bushfires of 2019-2020 when temperatures crossed 800 degrees Celsius.

The intense heat from the fire warms the surrounding air which moves upward into the atmosphere. As this hot and very buoyant air — carrying water vapour, smoke, and ash — rises, it expands and cools down. Once it is cool enough, water vapour condenses on ash, forming a grey or brown cloud. At this stage, the cloud is known as a pyrocumulonimbus cloud, also known as 'fire cloud'. But if there is

sufficient water vapour available and the upward movement of hot air intensifies, pyrocumulonimbus clouds can evolve into a pyrocumulonimbus cloud. These clouds can reach heights of 50,000 feet and generate their own systems of thunderstorms.

Although pyrocumulonimbus clouds can produce lightning, they do not generate much rain. As a result, they can spark new wildfires many kilometres away from the main blaze. These clouds can also trigger strong winds that can make the spread of the wildfire faster and unpredictable.

## Why are pyrocumulonimbus cloud events occurring more often?

The exact reason remains unclear as unlike in the case of other extreme weather events, the study of these clouds is relatively new. However, scientists believe that climate change could have a role to play in the increase of their frequency.

Studies have shown that with temperatures soaring across the world, wildfires are becoming more common and intense. This could be spiking the occurrence of pyrocumulonimbus clouds.

"In a general sense, if you have more fires you'll have more pyroCbs (pyrocumulonimbus) because there are more opportunities to have them sink up, but it depends on atmospheric conditions, too... An intense wildfire definitely increases the odds," David Peterson, a meteorologist at the US Naval Research Laboratory in California, told *The New York Times*.

## THIS WORD MEANS

## BAILEY BRIDGE

190-foot structure built by the Army to move vehicles and machinery in landslide-ravaged Wayanad

THE INDIAN Army's Madras Engineer Group last week assembled a Bailey bridge at Chooralmala to reach Mundakkai village, one of the sites worst hit by the landslides in Wayanad.

The 190-foot bridge has since been crucial in facilitating the movement of men, heavy machinery and ambulances. It can carry weights up to 24 tonnes, and will remain in use until a permanent bridge is built.

A Bailey bridge is a type of modular bridge whose parts are pre-built, so they can be put together quickly as needed. An English civil engineer named Donald Coleman Bailey is credited with inventing it during World War II.

A US Army Engineer School manual says that Bailey gave his first sketch of a bridge that could be moved, rebuilt, or replaced in hours, even under enemy fire, to the British War Office in 1941. "It was used widely and well by Allied armies in Italy and northwest Europe, 1943-45," the manual says.

The British Field Marshal Lord Bernard Law Montgomery said: "Without the Bailey bridge, we should

not have won the war. It was the best thing in that line we ever had."

The pre-fabricated parts in a Bailey bridge include light steel panels linked through pins, which are big, screw-like objects. These help establish the guardrails of the bridge. Through the guardrails on either side, workers place beams to form the deck or path of the bridge. All beams were constructed such that they would lock in on the guardrails to ensure stability.

After that, the bridge can be extended, and the lightness of the parts allows it to be mobile. No heavy installation equipment is needed. In disaster relief situations, this is ideal because parts can be transported in small trucks — something also of use during wartime.

A Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) publication says, "The Indian armed forces, and particularly the Indian Army carried on the British legacy and thus inherited a large inventory of the Bailey bridge." Such bridges were used in the 1971 war with Pakistan, and in disaster relief situations such as in Uttarakhand after the flash floods of 2021.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

## Why Vinesh failed weigh-in

Vinesh Phogat became the first Indian woman to qualify to a wrestling final in the Olympics on Tuesday. In Wednesday's weigh-in, she came a few grams overweight, and was disqualified from the competition



Vinesh after winning her match against Japan's Yui Susaki on Tuesday. Reuters

SHASHANK NAIR  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 7

WRESTLER VINESH PHOGAT was disqualified from the Paris Olympics after the official weigh-in on Wednesday morning, ahead of her scheduled gold medal bout in the evening. She will return from Paris without a medal.

While she had cleared the weigh-in on Tuesday, Vinesh was found to be "a few grams over 50 kg" in Wednesday morning's weigh-in. *The Indian Express* first reported that she was learnt to be 2 kilos overweight on Tuesday night — weight that she tried her best to cut overnight but could not.

## What is a weight cut? Why do wrestlers need to cut weight?

Combat sports — wrestling, boxing, judo, mixed martial arts (MMA), etc. — are organised according to weight classes. Since athletes of similar weight (and thus, size) are likely to have similar physical attributes, weight classes are meant to ensure a relatively level playing field, where larger and bulkier athletes do not end up competing with smaller ones.

However, it is common for bigger athletes to cut weight — drastically lose a set number of kilos — before a competition. This, they believe, can provide a competitive edge by not only allowing them to participate in a lower weight class than that of their "natural weight", but to also quickly regain the lost weight and effectively fighting heavier than their weight during the weigh-in.

## What is a weigh-in? When do wrestlers weigh in?

Athletes have to make their stipulated weight during the weigh-in, which takes place before their competition. Different sports and competitions have slightly different rules with regard to weigh-ins.

According to the United World Wrestling's (UWW) Olympics weigh-in rules, wrestlers are weighed, in their singlet, on the morning of their competition. Since Olympic wrestling takes place over two days (round of 16 to the semis on Day 1, repechage and the final on Day 2), the weigh-in takes place on both days. On Day 1, wrestlers have a 30-minute window to get themselves weighed. On Day 2, they have only a 15-minute window.

## Danger of weight cuts, why an MMA promotion 'banned' them

DRASTIC WEIGHT cuts are not only difficult, they can also damage an athlete's physical and mental well-being, in the short and long run.

In 2018, UFC fighter Uriah Hall suffered mini-seizure and a minor heart attack while cutting weight. A year prior, UFC champion Khabib Nurmagomedov had been hospitalised due to medical complications suffered during a weight cut. In 2015, Chinese mixed martial artist Yang Jian Bing, who competed in the ONE Championship, died due to dehydration while cutting weight.

This is why competitions and federations have tried to dissuade athletes from drastic weight loss. In 2017, the UWW made Olympic

wrestling a two-day competition (from a one-day competition previously), with weigh-ins on both days, to ensure athletes do not cut unhealthy amounts of weight which they cannot maintain.

Following Yang's death, ONE Championship instituted a weight cutting 'ban'. Its strategy includes multiple weigh-ins, over a week, in the lead-up to a fight, and urine tests to check for the level of dehydration. Notably, the MMA promotion allows athletes some flexibility for being overweight but not for being dehydrated. A fight can take place as long as the athlete weighs at most 5% more than their opponent.

ARJUN SENGUPTA &amp; SHASHANK NAIR

## Why did Vinesh not make the weigh-in on Day 2, despite doing so on Day 1?

According to the UWW, "If an athlete does not attend or fails the weigh-in (the 1st or the 2nd weigh-in), he will be eliminated from the competition and ranked last, without rank". This means that athletes have to make the weight on both days.

This is especially tricky as wrestlers relying on extreme weight-cutting measures before a competition also gain weight quickly after their weigh-in. In Vinesh's case, she was able to cut weight prior to the Day 1 weigh-in. But over the course of the day, she gained the last couple of kilos she had lost.

After Day 1's competition, she worked hard to cut this weight once again. But failed to do so in time for the weigh-in on Day 2.

## How do wrestlers cut weight?

Most wrestlers rely on extreme weight-cutting measures in the days and weeks leading up to a competition. This involves skipping carbohydrates, not drinking water, and intense exercise.

Last-minute weight cuts primarily in-

volve losing excess fluids accumulated in the body — this is the "easiest" weight to shed. Athletes use saunas and wear heavy clothing to lose excess fluids through sweating.

Doctor Dinshaw Pardiwala, the Chief Medical Officer of the Indian Olympic contingent, said that "drastic measures" were taken to bring Vinesh's weight down to 50 kg in time for Wednesday's weigh-in. Apart from rigorous exercise and time in the sauna, this included cutting her hair and shortening her singlet. Throughout Day 1, however, she was given a regular intake of food and water to ensure she had the energy required to compete in three high-intensity bouts.

"The nutritionist's calculation is athlete-specific. Vinesh usually takes 1.5 kilos throughout the day, which gives her enough energy for her bouts," Dr Pardiwala said. "Vinesh had three bouts, and to prevent dehydration, some amount of water had to be given," he said.

## Why has Vinesh always struggled to cut weight for the 50 kg class?

Vinesh's usual body weight is around 55-56 kg, which she had to cut to 50 kg for the

competition. Cutting to and maintaining this significantly lower body weight is tough as there is simply not enough fat and fluids for the body to cut. Moreover, cutting water weight through sweating has proven to be extremely challenging for the Indian wrestler.

Notably, Vinesh only recently switched from the 53 kg to the 50 kg class at the Olympic trials at the National Institute of Sports, Patiala. The reason for this switch had more to do with politics surrounding Indian wrestling than sporting merit.

Vinesh had been unable to compete in the 2023 World Championships due to a long-term knee injury. In her absence, wrestler Antim Panghal won the bronze medal and earned India a quota for the 53 kg event at the Paris Olympics.

The ad-hoc committee which was running Indian wrestling at the time, amidst the wrestlers' protests against former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief and strongman Brijbhushan Sharan Singh, said that Antim would have to compete against the winner of the 53 kg Olympic trials to secure her berth at the mega event. But this promise was not set in stone.

When Vinesh returned from her injury for the Olympic trials, she wanted to compete in the 53 kilo class but was not given clarity about whether the promised bout against Antim would take place at all. With WFI once again assuming control of Indian wrestling, this time under a close aide of Brij Bhushan, Vinesh decided to compete in the 50 kg trial instead. She won the 50 kg trial and qualified for the Olympics. Antim went through in the 53 kg category without competing in a trial.

## What did the UWW say about Vinesh's disqualification?

UWW president Nenad Lalovic was asked about why as little as 100 grams extra weight disqualified Vinesh from the gold medal bout. He said that it was not this 100 grams that was the problem, but the weight that had already been cut.

"We want athletes to compete at their natural weight. This is when they give their best performance," Lalovic said. "The problem is (wrestlers) already lose 5 kg to have a tolerance of 1 kg. A wrestler sometimes loses 50% of their natural weight and that's definitely not okay."

## What went wrong for Hasina, what her fall means for Bangladesh

## EXPERT EXPLAINS

SANJIB BARUAH

AN INTERIM government headed by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus and facilitated by the Bangladesh Army will take charge in Dhaka on Thursday evening. Sheikh Hasina is in India after fleeing Bangladesh on Monday.

## Was Hasina's fall unexpected, or was the writing on the wall from the time the protests began?

Public demonstrations and protests are not unusual in Bangladesh. A few weeks ago no one would have predicted that the students' movement against quotas in government jobs would lead to the end of the road for the longest-serving prime minister.

In the 2-3 days before her resignation, however, it was becoming clear that the

protests had spiralled into something more serious. The deaths of, and injuries to a large number of protesters transformed the situation. On August 3, the student leaders announced that Hasina's resignation was now their single-point demand. The protesters — students as well as people from other walks of life who had joined them — held the prime minister directly responsible for the violence unleashed against them by police and Awami League supporters.

## What role did Hasina's response to the protests play in her eventual ouster?

Hasina's response showed she was out of touch with ordinary people, and with the political sensibilities of the younger generation of Bangladeshis. The anti-quota protests spotlighted the enormous economic disaffection among the educated youth.

Perhaps the most egregious example of her insensitivity was her criticism of the protests on July 14. "If the grandchildren of freedom fighters do not receive [quota] benefits," she asked, "who would get it? The grandchildren of *Razakars*?"

The term refers to the much-hated col-

laborators with the Pakistani army during the Liberation War of 1971. Students reacted to Hasina's derisive reference to them as *Razakars* in an unexpected and bold manner, with many appropriating the term in social media and during protests. This, commentator Samata Biswas pointed out, "enabled young people to overcome what they considered to be the restrictive legacy of the liberation war", and to claim that they were engaged in a second war of liberation.

## What are the concerns that the interim government must address urgently?

The power vacuum must be filled urgently. Since the fall of the Hasina government, attacks on police stations have made policemen fearful of carrying out routine policing. This is understandable given the history of politicising the police, and being used to suppress the opposition in the name of upholding law and order. There have been reports of violence against minorities and of attacks on the homes and properties of Awami League politicians.

But it is encouraging that the country has been able to move fast on forming an

interim government. The name of microfinance pioneer Muhammad Yunus as head of the interim government was evidently proposed by the student protesters. Establishing public trust, restoring law and order, and guaranteeing the safety of all Bangladeshis must be the top priorities for the interim government.

## Could the Islamists return to power?

The political landscape of Bangladesh is considerably more complex than the binary of secularists and Islamists. It is too early to say how the politics of the country will unfold in the future. But right now, one can say that neither the student protesters nor the initial moves to forming the interim government point towards the return of Islamists to power.

## Could Hasina and the Awami League make a comeback?

Going by what Hasina's son Sajeeb Wazed Joy has told the BBC, there will be no political comeback for Hasina — because of her age and apparently because she is "so disappointed that after all her hard work, for a minority to rise up against her".

However, the Awami League, the party that played the leading role in the country's struggle for independence, is likely to remain an important player. To be sure, since the party has been discredited in the eyes of many citizens, it will have to overcome some serious challenges in the immediate future. But given its broad support base, in the long run it will be difficult for Bangladesh to develop an inclusive polity without representation from the traditional constituencies of the Awami League.

## What does this 'victory' mean for the average protester in Bangladesh?

That protests by mostly young demonstrators overthrew a 76-year-old political veteran who went from being a democracy icon to an increasingly authoritarian leader in recent years, must be heralded as a remarkable political achievement.

Prior to this, the Supreme Court of Bangladesh had scaled back the quotas, which was the main grievance of the student protesters.

Army Chief General Waker-Uz-Zaman has said that "each death will be investi-

gated, and justice will be ensured". This won't be easy, but it is a promising start.

That the students' proposal to make Muhammad Yunus the head of the interim government was accepted was another victory.

## What do the developments in Bangladesh mean for India?

For the past 15 years, India had put most of its eggs in the Awami League basket. While the relationship between the two countries improved significantly, there is a widespread perception in Bangladesh that it brought more benefits to India than to Bangladesh.

India's foreign policy establishment will need to navigate the fluid new political environment in Bangladesh. There is no reason to fear that there will be dramatic shifts in Dhaka's foreign policy that would go against Indian interests. But India will have to make a concerted effort to improve the perception gap of the relationship being one-sided.

Sanjib Baruah is the Andy Matsui Distinguished Professor of the Humanities at the Asian University for Women in Chattogram, Bangladesh

**विशेष शाखा पुलिस मुख्यालय मध्य प्रदेश भोपाल**

क्रमांक: विशा.स्टोर/2024-25( 299) दिनांक: 06/08/2024

निविदा सूचना का शृद्धिपत्र  
(Corrigendum)

विशेष शाखा पुलिस मुख्यालय को निविदा सूचना क्रमांक SB/Store/2024-25(207), Bhopal, Dated 19.06.2024 द्वारा Monocular & Other 3 Items के क्रय हेतु ई-निविदा सूचना जारी की गई है। उपरोक्त आमंत्रित निविदा के माध्यम से क्रय किये जाने वाले उपकरणों में से उपकरण Long Range UAV के समय-सारणी में "अंशिक संशोधन" के संबंध में "शुद्धि पत्र" (Corrigendum) जारी किया गया है जो Website <https://mptenders.gov.in/niegep/app> पर तथा विभाग की वेबसाइट [www.mppolice.gov.in](http://www.mppolice.gov.in) पर उपलब्ध है।

हस्ता-  
उप पुलिस महानिरीक्षक  
गुप्तवर्त, म.प्र. भोपाल  
दूरभाष क्रं 0755-2443654  
Email: sec25-sh@mppolice.gov.in

G-146660/24

**Govt. of Bihar**

**Bihar State Mining Corporation Ltd.**  
(Government of Bihar Undertaking)

Room No.164, Vikas Bhawan (New Secretariat), Bailey Road, Patna - 800015  
CIN:-U10300BR2017SGC035811  
Email:bih.minescorp@gmail.com Website: www.bsmcl.in

विज्ञापन सं०:- 04 प्रेस-विज्ञापित

बिहार स्टेट माइनिंग कॉर्पोरेशन लि०, पटना के अन्तर्गत निम्न पदों पर सविदा के आधार पर पदाधिकारियों के नियोजन हेतु वाक इन इन्टरव्यू का आमंत्रण।

क्र० सं०	पद का नाम	पदों की संख्या	मान्यद प्रसिमाह	उम्र सीमा	धारित योग्यता
1	महाप्रबंधक	1 (UR)	(प्राप्त अंतिम वेतन + म.भत्ता) - (पेंशन + म.भत्ता)	63 वर्ष	सामान्य प्रशासन विभाग, बिहार, पटना का संकल्प सं०-10000, दिनांक-10.07.2015 के प्रावधानों के अलावा के राज्य/केन्द्र सरकार के कार्यालय से सेवानिवृत्त हुए इच्छुक पदाधिकारियों से विहित प्रपत्र में सविदा के आधार पर नियोजन हेतु वाक इन इन्टरव्यू को आमंत्रित किया जाता है। राज्य/केन्द्र सरकार को सेवा से सेवानिवृत्त हुए पदाधिकारी जो अपर समाहर्ता के पद से अनुरूप हो।
2	कम्पनी सचिव	1 (UR)	70,000/- (Fixed)	40 वर्ष	आवेदक किसी भी विषय में स्नातक एवं भारत के कम्पनी अधिनियम के संस्थान की वेद सदस्यता होनी चाहिए और सरकारी क्षेत्र/निगम/पीएलसी/एनएलसी में 3 वर्ष का अनुभव होना चाहिए।
3	माइनिंग इंजीनियर	1 (UR)	50,000/- (Fixed)	40 वर्ष	किसी भी मान्यता प्राप्त विश्वविद्यालय से माइनिंग इंजीनियरिंग बी.ई. /बी.टेक डिग्री के साथ सरकार में ऑपन कास्ट खादानों, अन्वेषण और शोथन में 03 वर्षों का अनुभव।
4	प्रकल्प (आई टीई)	1 (UR)	1,00,000/- (Fixed)	40 वर्ष	किसी भी मान्यता प्राप्त विश्वविद्यालय से बी.ई. /बी.टेक डिग्री /MCA। सरकारी क्षेत्र/निगम/पीएलसी/एनएलसी में कार्य करने एवं System Analyst / Aggregator के रूप में कार्य किये हो उच्च प्रशिक्षता दी जायेगी।

विस्तृत जानकारी [state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar) पर भी देखी जा सकती है।

PR-05628 ( Mines ) 2024-25

महाप्रबंधक,  
बिहार स्टेट माइनिंग कॉर्पोरेशन लि०,

**Form-19**  
**DECLARATION BY APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT / COLLECTOR [UNDER SUB-SECTION (1) OF SECTION 19 OF THE ACT] GOVERNMENT OF UTTAR PRADESH IRRIGATION AND WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, UTTAR PRADESH NOTIFICATION NO..... DATE.....**

**NOTIFICATION**

Whereas preliminary notification no.....dated.....was issued under sub section (1) of the right to Fair compensation and transparency in Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, in respect of 1.4242 hectares of land in Villages Ratanpur Kalan, Lalwara, Jatpura, Pargana Kunderki Tehsil Bilari District Moradabad is required public purpose, namely, project MADHYA GANGA CANAL PHASE 2nd through IRRIGATION AND WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, UTTAR PRADESH THROUGH EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MADHYA GANGA CANAL CONSTRUCTION DIVISION - 5, BIJNOR (name of requiring body) and lastly published on dated.....The Deputy Collector / Assistant.....was appointed as Administrator for the purpose of rehabilitation of the project affected families.

After considering the report of the collector submitted in pursuance to provision under sub section (2) of the section 15 of the Act, the governor is published to declare under section 19(1) of the Act that he is satisfied that the area of the land mentioned in the given schedule "A" in need for public purpose and the land to the extent of 1.4242 hectares in VillagesRatanpur Kalan, Lalwara, Jatpura, Pargana Kunderki Tehsil Bilari District Moradabad, as given in schedule "B" has been identified as the rehabilitation and resettlement area for the purpose of rehabilitation and resettlement of the displaced families.

The Governor is further pleased under sub - section (2) of section 19 of the Act, to direct the Collector of Moradabad to publish a summary of the Rehabilitation and Resettlement scheme with publication of the declaration to this effect. The summary of the Rehabilitation and Resettlement is attached herewith.

**SCHEDULE-A**  
(LAND UNDER PROPOSED ACQUISITION)

DISTRICT	TEHSIL	PARGANA	VILLAGE	PLOT NO.	AREA (IN HECT.)
MORADABAD	BILARI	KUNDERKI	RATANPUR KALAN	5	0.1624
				1265ख	0.1624
				1316	0.0560
				1242	0.0700
				1317	0.2088
TOTAL				0.5610	
MORADABAD	BILARI	KUNDERKI	LALWARA	230	0.1016
				236	0.1232
				323	0.1432
				104	0.0616
				165	0.3248
TOTAL				0.7544	
MORADABAD	BILARI	KUNDERKI	JATPURA	261	0.0208
				258	0.0880
				TOTAL	0.1088
GRAND TOTAL				1.4242	

**SCHEDULE-B**  
(LAND IDENTIFIED AS SETTLEMENT AREA FOR DISPLACED FAMILIES)

DISTRICT	TEHSIL	PARGANA	VILLAGE	PLOT NO.	AREA EARMARKED FOR REHABILITATION (IN HECT.)
1	2	3	4	5	6

-----NO. OF DISPLACED FAMILIES IS "ZERO"-----

NOTE: A plan of land may be inspected in the Office of the Collector MORADABAD for the purpose of acquisition.

By Order,  
(.....)  
secretary/Authorised Officer

UPID-218119 Date 06/08/2024  
[www.upidadv.gov.in](http://www.upidadv.gov.in)

**Notice Inviting Offer**

**Sale of MTO from Talipaka Refinery, Rajahmundry Asset, Andhra Pradesh**

ONGC Ltd. invites offers from interested buyers for purchase of MTO from Talipaka Refinery, Rajahmundry Asset, Andhra Pradesh for 1600 KL/ month for a period of 2 years.

For more information, interested parties are requested to download Tender Document from:  
<https://eps.buyjunction.in/gasbidding>

Contact: [ongcvpbidding@buyjunction.in](mailto:ongcvpbidding@buyjunction.in)  
e-Bidding Partner - auction services ltd.

**Western Railway - Ratlam Division**

**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
No.: EL/TRD/58/2024-25/06  
Date : 06.08.2024

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, Traction Distribution, Western Railway, Ratlam for and on behalf of President of Union of India invites e-tenders to the following work:  
**Tender No. : EL/TRD/58/2024-25/06, Name of the work : TRD work in connection with Direct Reception/ Placement and Dispatch/Removal Facility at MKC station by Shifting of Points, Estimated Cost of work : ₹ 45,50,883.00/- Earnest Money Deposit/ Bid Security : ₹ 91,000.00/- Completion period : 03 Months, Cost of Tender Document : Nil, Closing date and time : 30.08.2024 at 15.00 hrs, Validity of offer : 60 days from the date of opening, Website details : [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in), Notice board location : In front of the office of Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (Traction Distribution), Western Railway, Ratlam-457001**

ADME/1/173 Sr. DEE (TRD) Ratlam  
सर्व साक्ष्य करे [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)

**झारखण्ड शिक्षा परियोजना परिषद्**  
जे.एस.सी.ए. स्टेडियम रोड, सेक्टर-3, धुर्वा, राँची - 834004  
दूरभाष - 0651-2444501, 2444502, फैक्स - 2444506 ई-मेल: [jepcranchi1@gmail.com](mailto:jepcranchi1@gmail.com)

पत्रांक : QU/40/49/2024/2907 इच्छा की अभिव्यक्ति दिनांक : 07/08/2024

झारखण्ड शैक्षणिक अनुसंधान एवं प्रशिक्षण परिषद्, राँची के द्वारा समय-समय पर पाठ्य-पुस्तक एवं अन्य सहायक पठन सामग्रियों को विकसित किया जाता है। इन सामग्रियों के मुद्रण हेतु इनके डिजाइन, टंकण, ले-आउट तथा पुष् रिडिंग इत्यादि की आवश्यकता है। उपरोक्त कार्य हेतु इच्छुक एजेंसी/ फर्म अपना न्यूनतम दर सील बन्ध लिफाफे में झारखण्ड शिक्षा परियोजना परिषद्, जे.एस.सी.ए. स्टेडियम रोड, सेक्टर-3, धुर्वा, राँची-834004 को हाथों-हाथ अथवा निबंधित डाक/ कोरियर से दिनांक 21 अगस्त, 2024 तक जमा कर सकते हैं। विलम्ब से प्राप्त होने वाले प्रस्ताव अथवा डाक/ कोरियर के कार्यालय में नियत तिथि में प्राप्त नहीं होने की स्थिति में प्रस्ताव पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। प्राप्त प्रस्ताव की समीक्षा तथा प्राप्त दर इत्यादि के मूल्यांकन हेतु समिति गठित की जायेगी तथा समिति का निर्णय मान्य होगा। सेवा प्राप्त करने से संबंधित मुख्य बिन्दु निम्नवत है -

- अंतिम रूप से चयनित एजेंसी/ फर्म को न्यूनतम चार अनुभवी मानवबल की सेवा प्रदान करनी होगी।
- उपरोक्त चार अनुभवी मानवबल में दो का अनुभव ले-आउट एवं डिजाइन में, एक का अनुभव हिन्दी/अंग्रेजी टंकण में तथा एक का अनुभव पुष् रिडिंग में होना अनिवार्य होगा।
- उपरोक्त चार अनुभवी मानवबल में से किसी एक को फोटोग्राफी का भी अनुभव होना चाहिए।
- सभी के लिये बैठने की आवश्यक व्यवस्था यथा कम्प्यूटर इत्यादि की व्यवस्था जे.सी.ई.आर.टी., रातू, राँची में की जायेगी तथा अनिवार्य रूप से इसी स्थल से कार्य सुनिश्चित किये जायेंगे।
- अंतिम रूप से चयनित एजेंसी/ फर्म के द्वारा मानवबल के साथ-साथ आवश्यक software उपलब्ध कराया जायेगा।
- सभी कार्य यथा- डिजाइन, टंकण, ले-आउट तथा पुष् रिडिंग इत्यादि (Print ready version) के लिये प्रति पृष्ठ अधिकतम रू 20/- का भुगतान संबंधित एजेंसी को जे.सी.ई.आर.टी. द्वारा किया जायेगा।
- सभी कार्य नियत समय सीमा के अन्दर करना अनिवार्य होगा।
- प्रारंभ में सेवा अधिकतम 06 माह के लिये प्राप्त की जायेगी तथा समीक्षापरतं इसे विस्तारित किया जा सकेगा।

(आदित्य रंजन)  
राज्य परियोजना निदेशक

PR 332147 Jharkhand Education Project Council(24-25).D

**Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.**  
(Agovt. of Jharkhand Undertaking)  
Khanij Nigam Bhawan, Doranda, Ranchi - 834002, CIN- U14290JH2002SGC012170  
E-mail- [contact@jsmc.in](mailto:contact@jsmc.in) Phone No. 0651-2491841/2491842  
Website: [www.jsmc.in](http://www.jsmc.in), Fax No. - 0651/2491916

**Very Short Notice Inviting Tender RFP No.: 02 /2024-25**

Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as "JSMDC") is a state-owned agency which is engaged in the development of mineral resources including scientific exploration, commercial exploitation and viable trading of minerals to facilitate the development of mineral-based industries.

Tenders are invited for "Engagement of Mine Planning agency to prepare a review of Mine Plan and PMCP (Progressive Mine Closure Plan) for Jyoti Pahari Kyanite Mines of JSMDC" in the Village: Jyoti Pahari, P.O. & P.S. - Baharagora Dist. - East Singhbhum of Jharkhand.

The detailed tender document can be viewed and/or downloaded from the JSMDC Website (<https://www.jsmc.in/web/Tenders.php>) from 16.08.2024 onwards. Corrigendum if any shall only be published on this website henceforth and all interested participants are requested to monitor this website closely. For participating in the tender process for Engagement of the Mine Planning agency to prepare a review of the Mine Plan and PMCP (Progressive Mine Closure Plan) for Jyoti Pahari Kyanite Mines of JSMDC, the terms and conditions, timelines, etc. as provided in this RFP and the terms and conditions as provided in the website shall be applicable.

The interested applicants can participate in the Tender Process only after payment of a non-refundable Tender document fee of INR Twelve thousand only (INR 12,000 Inclusive GST). The last date for submission of the tender is 16.08.2024 by 13:00 hours and the submitted technical bid will be opened on 16.08.2024 at 16:00 hours.

Any further communications, corrigendum, addendum, etc. shall only be available on the above website. The Nodal Officer for the Tender Process shall be:  
Project Officer (HQ)  
Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.  
Khanij Nigam Bhawan, Doranda, Ranchi - 834002, Jharkhand, India  
JSMDC reserves the right to (i) reject any or all applications without assigning any reason whatsoever; (ii) reschedule the application date(s) due to any unforeseen circumstances at any stage of the Tender Process; (iii) cancel the Tender Process, without assigning any reason for the same.

Sd/-  
PR 332117 Jharkhand State Mineral Dev Co Ltd(24-25).D  
Project Officer (HQ)

**varthana** Registered Office at : No. 5 BC-110, Varasiddhi, 3rd Floor, Outer Ring Road, Service Road, 3rd Block, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore-560043. Website [www.varthana.com](http://www.varthana.com), Email: [care@varthana.com](mailto:care@varthana.com), Phone : 080-68455777, Branch Office : 1162 & 1163, Tower B-1, 11th Floor, Spaze I Tech Park, Sector 49, Sohna Road, Gurugram 122018.

**DEMAND NOTICE**

Notice under Section 13(2) & (3) of The Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002.

We hereby serve upon you this notice, the contents whereof you may kindly note: That you the Borrower along with Co-applicants/Mortgagors have approached and requested for grant of the credit facility from M/s Varthana Finance Private Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as "Company") (Formerly known as Thirumeni Finance Private Limited). This Demand Notice issued on 24.07.2024 the contents of which are being published herewith as per Sec.13(2) of the Act R/W Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, by way of alternative service upon the Borrower/ Co-Applicants/Mortgagor No. 3, 4, 5 and 6 for service of notice, since notices could not be served on the given addresses. At your request and instance, we granted you the following credit facilities (hereinafter collectively referred to as "credit facility"). The details are mentioned below.

Loan Account No: S24GUR027028. Sanctioned loan amount: Rs.35,18,875/- Total Liability as on 24-07-2024 Rs.37,86,986/- (With Contractual Rate Of Interest), Name & Address of Borrower, Co-Applicants & Mortgagors : 1. M/s. Tabssum SR SEC. School, Represented by its Authorised Signatory, Village Noorpur, Tehsil Tauru, Dist. Nuh, Haryana - 122105. 2. M/s. Aayan Education Development Society, Represented by its Authorised Signatory, Village Noorpur, Tehsil Tauru, Dist. Nuh, Haryana - 122105. 3. Mr. Majid, S/o. Jan Mohd, Noorpur, 97, Mewat Dist, Haryana - 122105. 4. Mrs. Taseema H, W/o. Muslim, Silkho 59, Mewat Dist, Haryana - 122105. 5. Mrs. Jamila S, W/o. Idrish, Rupraka 246, Palwal Dist, Haryana - 121103. 6. Mr. Mursaleem M, S/o. Saleem, Silkho, Tauru, Mewat, Haryana - 122105.

That you availed of the above mentioned credit facilities from time to time and utilized the amount and further, while availing the financial assistance you have given an undertaking for repayment of the said financial assistance in terms of the said agreement(s)/document(s). You have also created a mortgage by way of Deposit of Title Deeds/Registered Mortgages creating security interest in favor of the Company which is more fully described in below Schedule.

That you continued to enjoy the above credit facility, however, you became irregular and failed to maintain the financial discipline, despite our repeated request and reminders from the officers of the Company you have failed and neglected to repay the said dues/outstanding liabilities. The operation of and conduct of the above said credit facility has become irregular and the debt has been classified as Non-Performing assets (NPA) in accordance with directives/guidelines relating to asset classifications issued by the Reserve Bank of India consequent to the default committed by you in repayment of principal debt and interest thereon accordingly Loan Account has been classified as Non-Performing Asset on 10-07-2024 and hereby recall the said loan / credit facility and call upon you to pay the entire outstanding balance together with interest and all sums payable by you under the said Agreement.

On account of defaults committed by you, you are jointly & severally liable to pay to us the total outstanding dues of Rs.37,86,986/- as on 24-07-2024 with agreed contractual rate of interest, until the date of payment, together with incidental expenses, cost and other charges, thereon. Under the circumstances, we hereby call upon you to repay the above said entire dues of Rs.37,86,986/- (Rupees Thirty Seven Lakh Eighty Six Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Six Only) as on 24-07-2024 together with future interest from 25-07-2024 at contractual rate plus legal costs/charges thereon within 60 (Sixty) days from the date of this notice. If you fail to repay to the Company the aforesaid sum with further interest and incidental expenses, cost as stated above in terms of this notice U/Sec. 13(2) of the Act, the Company will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 and under other applicable provisions of the said Act.

You are also put on notice that in terms of Sub-section (13) of Section 13 you shall not transfer by sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed below without obtaining written consent of the Company.

This notice is without prejudice to the Company's right to initiate such other actions or legal proceedings, as it deems necessary under any other applicable provisions of Law to recover its legitimate dues.

If you have any representations to be made in response to this, please mark the same to the Authorized Officer, M/s Varthana Finance Pvt Ltd., Varasiddhi, 5BC-110, 3rd Floor, Service Road, 3rd Block, HRBR Layout, Bangalore- 560043.

Description of the Immovable Property (Secured Asset) : All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Khatwa / Khata No. 51/57 & 34/35, Kharsa No. 25(0-7), 26(0-6), 27(0-6), 42(0-4), 66(0-2), 67(0-5), 68(0-1), 69(0-2), 70(0-2), 71(0-1), 72(0-1), 73(0-3), 80(0-2), 81(0-1), 82(0-1), 197(0-4), 198(0-2), 199(0-3), 200(0-10), 201(0-1), 202(0-4), 203(0-2), 204(0-2), 205(0-2), 206(0-1), 207(0-2), 208(0-11), 209(0-5), 212(0-6), 212(0-3), 213(0-4), 214(0-10), 215(0-4), 216(0-4), 217(0-5), 218(0-2), 219(0-2), 220(0-4), 221(0-19), 222(0-1), 227(0-1), 227(0-2), 228(0-16), 229(0-2), 230(0-2), 231(0-11), 232(0-5), 233(0-6), 34(0-4), 235(0-18), 236(0-3), 237(0-1), 238(0-4), 240(0-4), 241(0-3), 242(0-3), 243(0-7), 244(0-3), 245(0-5), 259(0-2), 260(0-2), 261(0-4), 262(0-3), 263(0-1), 264(0-17), 265, Total Kila 64, Total Area 14, Bigha-6, Biswa Ka 1 (1/4 Part Area 1.98 Biswa and Kheval Area No. 34/35 Kharsa No. 265 Area 1/18 Part of 14 Biswa Area 0.77 Biswa Total Total Area 2.75 Biswa, Situated at Village Noorpur Tehsil Tawadu District Mewat, and bounded as follows: North by: Other Property, South by: Road 22 ft. wide, East by: Agriculture Land, West by: Property of Mustafa.

Date: 08-08-2024, Place : Gurugram. Authorised Officer, Varthana Finance Private Limited

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**

**E-TENDERING TENDER NOTICE**

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (Traction Distribution) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work:  
**E-Tender No. : JHS-TD-TENDER-2024-01R1**  
**Description of work:** Augmentation of Contact wire in DUA-JLN (DN M/L) and DWA-LAR (UP M/L) section of VGLJ-BINA section of Jhansi division (Phase-I)

**Approx Cost (Rs.): 5279454.50 | Earnest Money/Bid Security (Rs.): 105600.00**

**Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter :** 09 Months

**Date of closing Tender :** 26.08.2024, 15:00 pm, Tender on line can be submitted up to 15:00 hrs on 26.08.2024. For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) 1383/24(ADM)

North central railways [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in) @northcentralrailway @CPRONCR

**HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH, BILASPUR**

**Tender Notice**

No. 12379/2024 Bilaspur, dated 03/08/2024

The High Court of Chhattisgarh Bilaspur invites bids (Technical and Financial) from eligible bidders for the Supply, Testing, Installation and Maintenance of following articles in the High Court of Chhattisgarh, Bilaspur :-

**a) 06 nos. of Heavy Duty Photocopy Machines.**

Interested Parties may view and download the detailed Tender (terms and conditions and Technical Specification) of articles on the website viz. <https://highcourt.cg.gov.in>

I) Documents Download start Date - 12.08.2024  
II) Last Date of Submission - 31.08.2024 (till 04:30 PM)

Physical documents

Sd/-  
Balram Prasad Verma  
Registrar General  
High Court of Chhattisgarh,  
Bilaspur (C.G.)

242501643

**SALUTE THE SOLDIER**

**CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE Nagaland**  
11 July 1964  
**Shaheed Constable Dev Narayan Singh**  
10-06-1939 To 08-08-1964, 7 Bn

Shaheed Constable Dev Narayan Singh was posted with the 7th Battalion of CRPF in Nagaland to combat underground hostiles. On 11 July 1964, during an ambush by the ultras, he and his few low troops bravely fought despite being heavily outnumbered. Six men were martyred that day, and Shaheed Ct Dev Narayan Singh succumbed to his injuries on 8 August, attaining martyrdom.

**CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE Jharkhand**  
7 August 2008

On 7 August 2008, CRPF troops from the 26th Battalion launched an operation against Maoists in the Girdih district forest. Responding to a CPI (Maoist) bandh call, Constable Bijender Singh detected suspicious movement at the Laxman Timda bridge and challenged the Maoists. The extremists opened fire, prompting the troops to split into three groups to encircle them. During the intense firefight, the Maoists escalated their attack with grenades to facilitate their escape. Shaheed Constable Ram Singh Dhami and Shaheed Constable Bijender Singh, who led the troops, suffered fatal injuries. Shaheed Constable Bijender Singh attained martyrdom on the same day while Shaheed Constable Ram Singh Dhami succumbed to his injuries on 8 August. Their sacrifice will always be remembered by the nation.

**CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE PUNJAB**  
8 August 1991

Shaheed Constable Ram Singh Dhami 01-03-1965 To 08-08-2008 26 Bn

Shaheed Naik M. K. Attar 01-12-1951 To 08-08-1991 75 Bn

Shaheed Lance Naik Megh Raj 14-12-1961 To 08-08-1991 75 Bn

Shaheed C/Dvr Praveen Bhai 17-05-1995 To 08-08-1991 75 Bn

**CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE Assam**  
8 August 1998

Shaheed Constable Arjun Lal Meena 30-10-1969 To 08-08-1998 4 Bn

Shaheed Naik Gurdeep Singh 18-06-1937 To 08-08-1964 6 Bn

Shaheed Constable Halku Ram 17-05-1970 To 08-08-1991 75 Bn

The 75th Battalion of CRPF, deployed in Taran Taran, Punjab, launched numerous anti-terrorist operations. On 8 August 1991, around 0030 hours, two jeeps from E/75 were patrolling near Mata Ganga College on Jandiala Road. The first jeep encountered a narrow, bumpy section due to construction and its personnel dismounted to guide the vehicle through. Assuming the path to be safe, the second jeep followed but triggered an anti-tank pressure mine laid by terrorists. The blast resulted in the martyrdom of six brave troopers.

**CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE Assam**  
8 August 1998

Shaheed Constable Arjun Lal Meena 30-10-1969 To 08-08-1998 4 Bn

The 4th Battalion of CRPF was deployed in the North Cachar hills of Assam during peak insurgent activities, conducting daily patrols in disturbed areas. On 8 August 1998, a patrol near Railway Station Mainong saw a motorcyclist speeding towards the station. Shaheed Constable Arjun Lal Meena signaled the motorcyclist to stop, which he did initially. However, as Shaheed Ct. Arjun Lal Meena approached, the motorcyclist opened fire, and insurgents hidden nearby also began shooting, inflicting severe injuries on him. Despite the controlled retaliatory fire from the troops to avoid civilian casualties, the insurgents escaped. Shaheed Ct. Arjun Lal Meena succumbed to his injuries, martyring in the service of the nation.

**CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
8 August 1964

Shaheed Naik Gurdeep Singh 18-06-1937 To 08-08-1964 6 Bn

Shaheed Nk Gurdeep Singh was serving with the 6th Battalion of CRPF in Jammu and Kashmir, tasked with maintaining law and order. On 8 August 1964, while deployed with fellow troops, he confronted a violent crowd. In the process of containing the violence, he sacrificed his life in the line of duty.

**CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE PUNJAB**  
8 August 1992

Shaheed Naik Maheshwar Singh 04-01-1948 To 08-08-1992 75 Bn

The 75th Battalion of CRPF was deployed in Punjab for anti-terrorist operations. On 8 August 1992, troops of the 75th Battalion raided the house of Balwant Singh in Jagraon. Terrorists inside opened fire, injuring a civil police constable. Nk Maheshwar Singh and his team retaliated with heavy fire. In response, the terrorists threw a grenade and attempted to escape under the cover of smoke. Nk Maheshwar Singh spotted them and engaged, sustaining injuries but killing one terrorist on the spot. He was evacuated to a civil hospital but succumbed to his injuries. For his bravery and sacrifice, Nk Maheshwar Singh was posthumously awarded the Police Medal for Gallantry.

**CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE MANIPUR**  
8 August 1969

Shaheed Shri Ram Singh Balot, Dy SR 8 Bn

On 8 August 1969, around 1800 hours, Shri Ram Singh Balot, Dy SP was speaking with an official in Mao Bazar, Manipur, when he was shot in the back at point-blank range by a hostile. Despite his grievous injury, Shri Ram Singh Balot turned and grappled with his assailant until the said official sought help from the nearest post. Shaheed Shri Ram Singh Balot, Dy SP was posthumously awarded the President's Police and Fire Services Medal for Gallantry for his extraordinary courage and supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.

**INDO-TIBETAN BORDER POLICE (ITBP) Constable**  
Devendra Singh

ITBP salutes its braveheart Constable Devendra Singh of 16th Battalion, who laid down his life in the line of duty on this day in Leh in 2019.

Resident of : Village.- Sarouth, PO.- Mai, Distt.- Hathras, State- Uttar Pradesh.

**ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL, SHANKAR VIHAR (NEAR MAHIPALPUR) DELHI CANTT-10**  
TELE NO - 011- 26153558/9

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)**

EOI is solicited from the leading vendors for supply of classroom furniture. Details for the above and EOI form are available at school counter against DD/POS machine/UPI of Rs 1000/- . Forms duly filled be submitted by 28 Aug 2024.

Chairman

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**Notice For E-Auction**

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/FS, Delhi Division, Northern Railway, in terms of Railway Board letter no. 2022/TC(FM)/10/04 dated 13.06.2022, invites bids through e-Auction module ([www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)) for the contract of 04 Parcel Scanner Machines (02 machines at each prescribed location as per the site map) at Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station (NZM) for a period of 5 (five) years as per detail and schedule given below:-

S.No.	Date & time of e-Auction	Assets to be auctioned
1.	16.08.2024 at 11:00 am	04 Parcel Scanner Machines (02 machines at each prescribed location as per the site map) at Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station (NZM).

Note: For this contract, these 04 parcel scanning machines will be used for scanning of outward parcels (leased and Railway booked parcels), loaded at platform only.

**Important notes:**

- For more information, requirement and various aspects regarding these e-Auctions, interested bidders are advised to visit [https://www.ireps.gov.in/html/helpdesk/learning\\_centre.html](https://www.ireps.gov.in/html/helpdesk/learning_centre.html). (E-Auction/leasing section).
- Earnest Money Deposit (EMD):** 5% of the total contractual bid value to be deposited online during the auction. EMD of the successful bidder will be retained as Security Deposit. 3. Railway Administration reserves the full and absolute rights to short terminate these contracts at any point of time and/or for taking any decision regarding the discontinuation/continuation of these contracts with modified/additional terms and conditions depending upon the situations. 2445/2024

**Serving Customers With A Smile**

# 16 CLASSIFIEDS & TENDERS

## Classifieds

### PERSONAL

**I, KAMAL KHANNA S/O LATE KISHAN CHAND KHANNA R/O AE-95, SHALIMAR BAGH, DELHI-88 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM KAMAL KISHOR KHANNA TO KAMAL KAANNA FOR ALL PURPOSES.** 0070917064-1

**I, Imtiaj Ali S/o Inam Ali R/o 11/2, Hauz Rani, Malviya Nagar, Delhi-110017 have changed my name to Imtiaj Ali** 0070917039-1

**I, Gunjan w/o Sanjeet Mandal, R/o TC-7/8, S/F, Frontside Half Portion, New Moti Nagar, New Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Gunja Kumari.** 0040742387-2

**I, GEETANJALI SETHI W/O PULKIT SETHI D/O SANDEEP NARULA R/O A-3/149-150, 3RD FLOOR, SECTOR-11, ROHINI, NEW DELHI-110085 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO FROM GEETANJALI NARULA TO GEETANJALI SETHI FOR ALL PURPOSES.** 0070917055-1

**I, Fatima Mohammed D/o Mohammed Adhaar No.571737180529 R/O H.No 18-11-80/55/2, Salala, Barkas, Bangladuga, Hyderabad-500005, Telangana, have changed my name to Fatima D/o Mohammed for all purposes.** 0040742469-1

**I, Atul Kumar Bhardwaj S/o R.P. Bhardwaj R/o Achal Tal, Dist.-Aligarh have changed my name to Atul Bhardwaj for all future purposes** 0070917046-1

**I, Arun Kumar S/o Surender pal R/o B-325, Sec-1, Avantika Rohini, Delhi-110085, confirm that in my 10th class educational documents my father name has been wrongly written as Surender Kumar instead of Surender Pal. Correct name of my Father is Surender Pal for all future Purposes.** 0070917049-1

**I, Ajay Kumar Jaiswal S/o Shri Kailash Prasad Jaiswal R/O Flat No.-205, Ft. Plot No.-97, Gyan Khand-1, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad-201014, Uttar Pradesh, have changed my name from Ajay Kumar to Ajay Kumar Jaiswal for all future purposes.** 0040742388-1

**I, NO.3191170M RANK EX HAV VIRENDER KUMAR S/O JAGDISH R/O H.NO.16,PP-2230, NEAR RAIL FACTORY, GOPAL NAGAR EXTN. NAJAFGARH, DELHI-43 HAVE CHANGED MY MINOR SON'S NAME FROM VAIBHAV TO VAIBHAV CHHILLAR VIDE AFFIDAVIT DATE 7.8.2024 BEFORE DELHI** 0070917032-1

**I, Hitherto known as Hema Kumari d/o Ram Nath Bhatgat & w/o Kumar Suraj, R/o Plot No.57, Gali No.3, Bajaj Enclave, Kakrola, PO:NSIT, Dwarka, New Delhi-110078, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as HEMA DEVI.** 0040742443-1

**I, Rupinder Kumar Sharma S/o-Siyaram Sharma R/O Q-344, Sector-21, Jalvayu Vihar, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, UP-201301 have changed my name to Rupinder Kumar for all purposes** 0040742426-1

**I, Roopak Sharma S/o B K Sharma R/O 734 Shrota Kothi Subzi Mandi Clock Tower Delhi 110007 have changed my name to Roopak Sharma S/o Bal Krishan Sharma.** 0040742479-1

**I, Raju Kumar S/o Phool Pathak R/o Gali No.3, Chhalera, Sector-44, Noida, U.P.-201301, have changed my name Raju Pathak from Raju Kumar for all future purposes** 0040742378-1

**I, Omwati D/o Mansukh Ram R/O WZ 250 Basai Darapur, New Delhi 110015, have changed my name to Uma Gaur.** 0040742380-1

**I, HAR GOVIND, HAR GOVIND BAIKWA S/O MANGAL RAM R/O D-110, SECTOR-61, NOIDA, G.B.NAGAR U.P.-201301 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME HAR GOVIND, HAR GOVIND BAIKWA TO HAR GOVIND MURADAY FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES** 0070917043-1

**I, Gurpreet Singh S/O, Harbhajan Singh Kohli R/O 6/10, Geeta Colony, Gandhi Nagar S.o, East Delhi, Delhi- 110031 have changed my name to Gurpreet Singh Kohli.** 0040742457-1

**I, Ashar S/o Asif Siddiqui R/o H No-F-49, Gali No-2, Chand Bagh, Karawal Nagar, Delhi-110094, have change my name to Ashar Siddiqui for all future purposes.** 0040742384-1

**I, Amit S/o Rajinder Parkash Bindish R/o B1 Royal court, CGHS opp. Medanta Hospital sector-39, Gurgaon-122001 have changed my name to Amit Gupta** 0070917030-1

**It is for general information that I, Anuj Kumar Karnani, S/o-Bansi Lal Karnani, R/O-F-22/8, URF, Krishna-Nagar Delhi-110051, declare that name of mine and my wife has been wrongly written as Anuj Karnani and Garima in my minor son Tajes Karnani Aged-12Years School-Record.The actual name of mine and my wife are Anuj Kumar Karnani and Gareema Devi respectively, which may be amended accordingly.** 0040742474-7

**I, hitherto known as ADITYA BAHAL ALIAS ADITYA J BAHAL, S/O JOY BAHAL, R/O-S-28, GREATER KAILASH PART-2, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110048, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ADITYA J BAHAL.** 0040742473-4

**I, Yashashvi Gandass S/o Rajesh Kumar R/o H.No.97, Basai Road, Sector -10, Gurgaon (Haryana), have changed my name to Yashasvi Gandass.** 0040742482-7

**I, YOGINDER SINGH, S/O HARI SINGH, R/O D-5 FF, UPPAL SOUTHEM, SECTOR-49, SOHNA ROAD-GURGRAM, HARYANA-122018, changed my Minor-Daughter name from KASHVEE to KASHVEE SINGH.** 0040742446-3

**I, Vipin S/o Kamal Singh R/o B258, B-Block Azadpur, Lal Bagh North West Delhi-110033 have changed my name to Vipin Singh** 0040742473-7

**I, Vinod Khanna S/O.Ganesh Dass R/O B-52, F/F, Hari Nagar, New Delhi-110064, have changed my name to Vinod Kumar for all Purposes.** 0040742446-5

**I, Vanshika, D/o Manish Sharma R/o-299/6 West Kanti Nagar, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Vanshika Sharma for all purposes.** 0040742474-5

**I, Sweta Kumari, D/o Shirpatti Tiwari, H.No-12 Gali.No.20, Block-E Shettlia Colony Gurgaon (Haryana)-122001, have changed my name to Sweta Kumari Tiwari.** 0040742480-5

**I, Sushila Devi, D/O Ram Kumar, R/O B-173 Amrapali Leisure-Valley Sec Techzone-4 Greater Noida Uttar Pradesh-201306, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO Sushila, Permanently.** 0040742482-5

**I, Sultana Bano W/o Mohd. Arif Address-T.A.- 301-B/5, Gali.No.5 Tughlakabad extension, New Delhi-110019, changed my name to Saniya Sultana.** 0040742385-2

**I, Sudhir Arora, S/o Late Shri Chaman Lal Arora, R/O A-53B, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi-110017, inform that Sudhir Kumar Arora and Sudhir Arora are the names of one and the same person.** 0040742462-1

**I, Sonu S/o Late R.C. Sharma R/O-1279, First-Floor, Near Neeki Ram Park, Rani Bagh, Delhi-110034, changed my name to RAHUL SHARMA.** 0040742473-6

**I, SANJAY KUMAR, S/O SUNDER LAL MITTAL, H.N-375/3, ANAJ MANDI MAHENDERGARH HARYANANA-123023, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SANJAY MITTAL** 0040742474-1

**I, Renu Minocha W/o Girish Kumar Minocha R/O BE-150, Street-No.5, Hari-Nagar, New Delhi-110064, have changed my name to Renu Manocha.** 0040742487-6

**I, Rameshwari W/o Hari Shankar R/O F-204, F-Block, Mangol Puri, North-West Delhi, Delhi-110083, have changed my name to Ramvati.** 0040742487-4

**I, RAJEEV KUMAR GUPTA/RAJIV GUPTA S/O RAMESHWAR DAYAL GUPTA, R/O, LU-11, VISHAKHA ENCLAVE, PITAMPURA DELHI-110034, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAJIV KUMAR GUPTA** 0040742446-1

**I, PURUSTAM KUMAR S/O Baj Singh R/o Vill & Post Ghunna, Saharanpur (UP), have changed my name to PURSHOTTAM KUMAR.** 0040742482-8

**I, Neelam Rani W/o Davis Deepak Lyal R/O-A-275, MIG-Flat, Ground-Floor, Brij-Vihar, Ghaziabad, U.P.-2010110, have changed my name to Neelam Davis Lyal.** 0040742487-3

**I, NIHARIKA, D/O YOGINDER, R/O D-5, FF UPPAL SOUTHEM SECTOR-49, SOHNA ROAD GURGRAM, HARYANA-122018, have changed my name to NIHARIKA SINGH** 0040742446-4

**I, Mohit S/o Shyam Lal R/O-796/28, Gali No.-13, Jyoti Park., Gurgaon-122001 (Haryana), have changed my name to Mohit Rajput.** 0040742482-4

**I, Mohd. Baha Uddin, S/o Late, Mohd Amirul Hassan, R/O-House No.M-14/A, Third Floor, Abul Fazal Enclave Part-1, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025, have changed my name from Mohd Baha Uddin to Mohd. Bahauddin, for all future purposes.** 0040742473-5

**I, Mohd azheruddin, S/O Mohd Khalid, R/O, D-152, Gali.No.20, old mustafabad North East Delhi-110094, have changed my name to Azaharuddin, for all purposes** 0040742474-4

**I, Mohd Hasin Ansari, S/O-Mohd Hafiz, H.No.1631, Gali.No.15, Rajeev Gandhi-Nagar New Mustafabad, Delhi-110094, have changed my name to Mohd Haseen, for all purposes.** 0040742474-3

**I, MOHD MUTAWASSIM KHAN, S/O-HANIF KHAN, R/O-N-46, Second Floor, Back-Side Block-N, AbulFazal Enclave-1, Jamia-Nagar Okhla South Delhi Delhi-110025, changed my name MOHAMMAD MUTAWASSIM KHAN.** 0040742389-1

**I, Sanjeet Zone S/o Naresh Mandal, R/O TC-7/8, S/F, Frontside Half Portion, New Moti Nagar, New Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Sanjeet Mandal.** 0040742387-1

**I, Mamta Mishra W/o Mahesh K Tiwari R/o 16/2nd Floor, Savitri Nagar, Delhi-110017 have changed my name to Mamta Tiwari.** 0070917041-1

**I, MOHD IBRAHIM KHAN, S/O-MOHAMMAD MUTAWASSIM KHAN, R/O-N-46, Second Floor, Back-Side Block-N, AbulFazal Enclave-1, Jamia-Nagar Okhla, South Delhi, Delhi-110025, changed my name MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM KHAN.** 0040742473-1

**I, MOHAN PRIYA BABA RAJ, W/O K RAMESH R/O, QTR.No.R-3, TYPE-4, PS VASANT VIHAR, SOUTH DELHI-110057, have changed my name to B MOHAN PRIYA, for all future purposes.** 0040742446-10

**I, Tania Monga W/o Harpreet Singh Bindra, R/O-4-B/9 Tilak-Nagar, Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Tanya Bindra, Permanently.** 0040742409-1

**I, MOHAMMAD SUHAIL, S/O-SAGHEER AHMAD, R/O-EROS SAMPOORAM, SECOND FLOOR, Y-5/202, PLOT.No-GH-01, SECTOR-2, GREATER-NOIDA, SURAJPUR, GAUTAMBUHD NAGAR, U.P-201306, changed my minor son's name ADI to MD ADI S.R.** 0040742487-2

**I, MERAZUDDIN, S/O HIDAYAT ULLAH, R/O 970 BAZAR MATIA MAHAL JAMA MASJID DELHI-6, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MERAJUDDIN.** 0040742480-2

**I, MANOJ JAIN, S/O NARESH CHAND JAIN R/O. Flat.No.1501, Tower-12, Max City, Ramprastha Greens, Vaishali, Ghaziabad (UP)-201010, have changed my name to MANOJ KUMAR JAIN.** 0040742482-9

**I, Rishi S/o Rajender R/O Near High School, VPO. -Jharsa, Gurgaon (Haryana), have changed my name to Rishi Kumar.** 0040742480-7

**I, Lakshmi Kant Shukla, S/o Pradduman Shukla, R/O-House.No.1314, Laxman-Vihar Phase-1, Near-Bal Bharti Public-School, Sector-3A, Gurugram (HR).122001, have changed my name to Lakshmi Kant Shukla.** 0040742480-6

**I, Joginder Dhingra, S/O-Tehei Dass Dhingra, R/O-PVT-201, Plot No.58/1, Block-D, Deepvihar, Pansali, Delhi-110042, have changed my name to Joginder Pal Dhingra** 0040742480-4

**I, JATINDER CHOUDHURY, S/O LATE SH. KARTAR CHOUDHURY, R/O-1689, NEAR CHAUPAL, KOTLA-MUBARAKPUR, LODHI ROAD, NEW-DELHI-110003, have changed the name of my minor son YUG ALIAS YUG BAISLA aged-13 years and he shall hereafter be known as YUG BAISLA.** 0040742473-3

**I, HAZRA BEGUM W/O-SALAUDDIN HASHMI R/O-C-138, GALI.No.10, NEAR CHOTI MASJID, MEER VIHAR, MADANPUR DABAS, DELHI-110081, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO HAZARA HASHMI.** 0040742487-7

**I, HARISH CHANDER, S/O RAM SARUP R/O B/8/23, SOUTH PATEL NAGAR DELHI 110008, have changed my name to HARISH GANDHI.** 0040742446-2

**I, Girish Kumar, S/o Sukh Dayal Menocha R/O BE-150, Street-No.5, Hari-Nagar, New Delhi-110064, have changed my name to Girish Kumar Manocha.** 0040742487-5

**I, Fauzia Kausar/Fauzia Kauser, W/o Sarfraz Ahmed, R/o C-134, Street.No.9, Village Wazirabad, Delhi-110084, have changed my name to Fauzia Sarfraz.** 0040742482-1

**I, Chandra Parkash Uniyal, S/o Chaniya Lal Uniyal, R/O-139, 3rd Floor, Pocket-5, Sector-22, Rohini, Delhi-110086, have changed my name to Chandra Prakash Uniyal** 0040742480-3

**I, BACHHAN SINGH S/O-KARTAR SINGH, R/O-GURUDWARA, PUSHPANJALI ENCLAVE, PITAMPURA, DELHI-110034, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO BACHAN SINGH** 0040742474-2

**I, Annie Thomas, D/O-Colonel. Kochappan Thomas (Retd), R/O D4, 4045, Vasant Kunj, New-Delhi, have changed my father's name to Kochappan Thomas, for all future purposes.** 0040742482-2

**I, Anil Sethi, S/o Raj Kumar, R/O-H.No.553, First Floor Sector-9A, Gurgaon-122001 (Haryana), have changed my name to Anil Kumar.** 0040742480-8

**I, Anil Kumar Saini S/o Sulttan Singh Saini R/O-Village Binola post-Bhorakalan Tehsil-Manesar District- Gurugram-122413 (Haryana), have changed my name to ANIL SAINI.** 0040742482-6

**I, Akram Mohammad S/o Amir Ahmed R/O-C-44, Gali No.3, Kanti Nagar Extn. Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Mohd. Akram, for all purposes.** 0040742474-6

**I, ATAMJEET SINGH S/O BALBIR SINGH LAMBA R/O BE-85, SHALIMAR BAGH DELHI-110088, have change my name to ATAMJEET SINGH LAMBA** 0040742487-11

**I, SEEMA DAVI / SEEMA POONIA W/O DEVENDRA SINGH R/O H.No.151 SUBHASH KHAND GIRI NAGAR KALKAJI DELHI 110019, CHANGE MY NAME TO SEEMA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.** 0040742389-1

**I, Sanjeet Zone S/o Naresh Mandal, R/O TC-7/8, S/F, Frontside Half Portion, New Moti Nagar, New Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Sanjeet Mandal.** 0040742387-1

**I, Mamta Mishra W/o Mahesh K Tiwari R/o 16/2nd Floor, Savitri Nagar, Delhi-110017 have changed my name to Mamta Tiwari.** 0070917041-1

**I, ARATI A NAIR, Spouse of, KESAVAN NAIR HARISANKAR, resident of, A-102, Sangli apartment, Copprnicus-marg, New Delhi-110001, have changed my name, from ARATI A NAIR to ARATI SANKAR, vide-affidavit dated-07.08.2024, before (name-&-place of court)** 0040742461-1

**I, Rajender Singh S/o Ram Kala R/O 77/3 Ambedkar Vihar Sector-37 Noida GBN-201303 have lost share Certificate Folio no-1005556 no of Share 550 certification no-5124,904451 and Distinctive no-2953501-4000 and 5830103441-3490 FINDER CONTACT above.** 0040742395-1

**I, Neelam Parasher D/o B D Kocchar & W/o late Vijay Parasher R/O Flat No.90 Jai Apartments, plot no. 102, I.P.Extension, Delhi-110092 have lost/misplaced share certificate of above Flat. Follower contact Sunil Kocchar Mobile 9873760911** 0040742463-1

**I, Mahinder Kumar Jain original allottee of Flat No.212 St.Insurance Employees C.G.H.S.Ltd., Plot.No.14 Sector-7, Dwarka New Delhi-110075, have lost my Original Share-Certificate issued by the Society in respect of Flat. If any one found it, please contact me at the above address.** 0040742473-9

**I, YATENDRA TOMAR S/O YOGENDRA SINGH TOMAR R/O B-401 TF-1, NEW PANCHWATI COLONY, GHAZIABAD, UP-201001 HAVE CHANGED MY MINOR DAUGHTER'S NAME FROM DIVYANKA TO KASHVI TOMAR FOR ALL PURPOSES.** 0070917006-1

**I, Teeka Ram Notiwali, S/O Purnanand Nautiyal, R/O 16th Avenue, Tower-E, Flat-14033, Gaur City-2, Sector-16C, Greater Noida West, UP-201318 have changed my name to Teeka Ram Nautiyal.** 0070917058-1

**I, Sunita Notiwali, W/O Tikaram Nautiyal, R/O 16th Avenue, Tower-E, Flat-14033, Gaur City-2, Sector-16C, Greater Noida West, UP-201318 have changed my name to Sunita Nautiyal** 0070917061-1

**I, Ravindra Notiwali, S/O Tikaram Nautiyal, R/O 16th Avenue, Tower-E, Flat-14033, Gaur City-2, Sector-16C, Greater Noida West, UP-201318 have changed my name to Ravindra Nautiyal** 0070917067-1

**I, Ramjan S/o Mohd. Najeeb R/o B-1/245, New Ashok Nagar, Delhi-96 have changed my minor daughter's name from Shabana to Shabana Bano for all future purposes.** 0040742424-1

**I, Rajni Kant Mishra R/O 9/78, Palm Olympia Sec-16C, G.Noida have changed my Son name from Aarany Mishra to Aaranya Mishra.** 0070917044-1

**I, PULKIT SETHI S/O SHYAM KUMAR SETHI R/O A-3/149-150, 3RD FLOOR, SECTOR-11, ROHINI, NEW DELHI-110085 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PULKIT SETHI FOR ALL PURPOSES.** 0070917053-1

**I, Manoj Dongre S/o Ramesh Dongre, R/O-Site.No-7, Plot.No-8 First-Floor, Rajender Nagar, Delhi-110060, have changed my name to Manoj Ramesh Dongre, Permanently.** 0040742406-1

**I, MANJULA W/O NO.3191170M RANK EX HAV VIRENDER KUMAR R/O H.NO.16, PP-2230, NEAR RAIL FACTORY, GOPAL NAGAR EXTN. NAJAFGARH, DELHI-43 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MANJULA VIDE AFFIDAVIT DATE 7.8.2024 BEFORE DELHI. MY ACTUAL DOB IS 10.12.1985** 0070917033-1

**I, KIRAN W/O-MANISH BHATIA, H.NO-231, BLOCK-3, FIRST-FLOOR, SUBHASH NAGAR, DELHI-110027, have changed my name to KIRAN BHATIA, for all future purpose.** 0040742385-1

**I, Vinod Gulati R/O 1206, Dr. Mukerjee Nagar, Delhi-110009 have changed my name to Vinod Kumar Gulati for all purposes** 0070917040-1

**I, Vinod Gulati R/O 1206, Dr. Mukerjee Nagar, Delhi-110009 have changed my name to Vinod Kumar Gulati for all purposes** 0070917040-1

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**I, Vinod Gulati R/O 1206, Dr. Mukerjee Nagar, Delhi-110009 have changed my name to Vinod Kumar Gulati for all purposes** 0070917040-1

**I Sumit R/O 96, Friends Colony, Bahadurgarh Haryana 124507 have lost my MBA degree certificate issued by University of Petroleum & Energy Studies in year 2011** 0040742461-1

**I, Rajender Singh S/o Ram Kala R/O 77/3 Ambedkar Vihar Sector-37 Noida GBN-201303 have lost share Certificate Folio no-1005556 no of Share 550 certification no-5124,904451 and Distinctive no-2953501-4000 and 5830103441-3490 FINDER CONTACT above.** 0040742395-1

**I, Neelam Parasher D/o B D Kocchar & W/o late Vijay Parasher R/O Flat No.90 Jai Apartments, plot no. 102, I.P.Extension, Delhi-110092 have lost/misplaced share certificate of above Flat. Follower contact Sunil Kocchar Mobile 9873760911** 0040742463-1

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**I, YATENDRA TOMAR S/O YOGENDRA SINGH TOMAR R/O B-401 TF-1, NEW PANCHWATI COLONY, GHAZIABAD, UP-201001 HAVE CHANGED MY MINOR DAUGHTER'S NAME FROM DIVYANKA TO KASHVI TOMAR FOR ALL PURPOSES.** 0070917006-1

**I, Teeka Ram Notiwali, S/O Purnanand Nautiyal, R/O 16th Avenue, Tower-E, Flat-14033, Gaur City-2, Sector-16C, Greater Noida West, UP-201318 have changed my name to Teeka Ram Nautiyal.** 0070917058-1

**I, Sunita Notiwali, W/O Tikaram Nautiyal, R/O 16th Avenue, Tower-E, Flat-14033, Gaur City-2, Sector-16C, Greater Noida West, UP-201318 have changed my name to Sunita Nautiyal** 0070917061-1

**I, Ravindra Notiwali, S/O Tikaram Nautiyal, R/O 16th Avenue, Tower-E, Flat-14033, Gaur City-2, Sector-16C, Greater Noida West, UP-201318 have changed my name to Ravindra Nautiyal** 0070917067-1

**I, Ramjan S/o Mohd. Najeeb R/o B-1/245, New Ashok Nagar, Delhi-96 have changed my minor daughter's name from Shabana to Shabana Bano for all future purposes.** 0040742424-1

**I, Rajni Kant Mishra R/O 9/78, Palm Olympia Sec-16C, G.Noida have changed my Son name from Aarany Mishra to Aaranya Mishra.** 0070917044-1

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No.: SE/PH/MPM/51-52/2024-25
Jala Jeevan Mission-Malappuram District -Karulai, Amarambalam, Moothadam, Chokkad, Peruvallur pps - construction of GLSR, OHSR,CWPM, RWPM, distribution of transformer, pumps, laying pipeline, providing balance FHTC, road restoration in various areas and allied works, EMD : Rs. 500000. Tender fee : Rs. 16540. Last Date for submitting Tender : 23-08-2024 03:00 pm. Phone : 04832974871

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Name of Work and its location: 30-ELECT-16-T-R1-24-25-E3 Electrical work in connection with Augmentation/replacement of VT Pumps of Pumping Installation at Ranney-well near AKHARDHAM Mandir under Nizamuddin.
Approx cost of the works in Rs. 161.85 lacs

Office of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division, U.P. JAL NIGAM (Urban), Water Works Compound, Krishna Nagar, Mathura- 281004
E-mail : eecdmathura@gmail.com
Letter No. 768/Nivida/14 Date : 07.08.2024
LIST OF IMPORTANT DATES
1. Name of Work : Operation, Maintenance And Running of Chandrapuri Colony, New Bus Stand and Old Bus Stand Storme Water Pumping Station Including All Electrical Panels/ Starters, Motor, D.G Set, Civil Structure and Allied Works at Mathura.

Govt. of Jharkhand Office of the Director
Ranchi Institute of Neuro-Psychiatry & Allied Sciences
Ranchi Institute - 834006 (Ph.:2450303, 2450813)
www.rinpas.nic.in, Director-rinpas@jharkhandmail.gov.in & Directorrinpas@gmail.com
Providing manpower services at Ranchi Institute of Neuro-Psychiatry & Allied Sciences (RINPAS) Government of Jharkhand, India. E-bidding document No. Tender Document No- DIR/08/08-2024-2025/Recruitment (Nursing staff, Paramedical staff & Other technical staff including driver) are invited in two bid system (Technical & Price Bid) through e-tendering process only, from competent and eligible agencies, for a period of minimum one year.

RAKSHA BANDHAN SPECIAL TRAINS
For the convenience of passengers, Northern Railway will run following Raksha Bandhan Special Trains as per schedule given below:-

Table with 4 columns: Train No., ARR., DEP., STATIONS. Train No. 04412/04411 Hazrat Nizamuddin-Indore Jn.- Hazrat Nizamuddin Superfast Exp. Spl. Train. 02 Trips.

Days of Run : 04412 Ex. Hazrat Nizamuddin on 14.08.2024 (Wednesday) and 04411 Ex. Indore Jn. on 15.08.2024 (Thursday);
Accommodation : AC 2 Tier-Cum-3 Tier, Sleeper & General
Stoppages: Mathura, Bharatpur Jn., Gangapur City, Sawai Madhopur Jn., Kota, Ramganj Mandi, Sharnagar, Nagda & Ujjain Jn. Station.

Table with 4 columns: Train No., ARR., DEP., STATIONS. Train No. 04087/04088 New Delhi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-New Delhi Reserved Exp. Spl. Train. 04 Trips.

Days of Run : 04087 Ex. New Delhi on 14.08.2024 & 16.08.2024 (Wednesday & Friday) and 04088 Ex. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra on 15.08.2024 & 17.08.2024 (Thursday & Saturday);
Accommodation : AC 2 Tier-Cum-3 Tier, Sleeper & General
Stoppages: Sonapat, Panipat, Karnal, Kurukshetra Jn., Ambala Cantt., Dhandari Kalan, Jalandhar Cantt., Pathankot Cantt., Jammu Tawi & Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan Stations.

Table with 4 columns: Train No., ARR., DEP., STATIONS. Train No. 04081/04082 New Delhi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-New Delhi Reserved Exp. Spl. Train. 02 Trips.

Days of Run : 04081 Ex. New Delhi on 15.08.2024 (Thursday) and 04082 Ex. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra on 16.08.2024 (Friday);
Accommodation : AC 2 Tier-Cum-3 Tier, Sleeper & General
Stoppages: Sonapat, Panipat, Karnal, Kurukshetra Jn., Ambala Cantt., Dhandari Kalan, Jalandhar Cantt., Pathankot Cantt., Jammu Tawi & Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan Stations.

Table with 4 columns: Train No., ARR., DEP., STATIONS. Train No. 04085/04086 New Delhi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-New Delhi Reserved Exp. Spl. Train. 02 Trips.

Days of Run : 04085 Ex. New Delhi on 17.08.2024 (Saturday) and 04086 Ex. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra on 18.08.2024 (Sunday);
Accommodation : AC 2 Tier-Cum-3 Tier, Sleeper & General
Stoppages: Sonapat, Panipat, Karnal, Kurukshetra Jn., Ambala Cantt., Dhandari Kalan, Jalandhar Cantt., Pathankot Cantt., Jammu Tawi & Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan Stations.

Table with 4 columns: Train No., ARR., DEP., STATIONS. Train No. 04080/04079 Delhi Jn.-Varanasi-Delhi Jn. Reserved Festival Express Special Train. 04 Trips.

Days of Run : 04080 Ex. Delhi Jn. on 14.08.2024 & 18.08.2024 (Wednesday & Sunday) and 04079 Ex. Varanasi on 15.08.2024 & 19.08.2024 (Thursday & Monday);
Accommodation : AC 2 Tier-Cum-3 Tier, Sleeper & General
Stoppages: Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow & Maa Belha Devi Dham Pratapgarh Jn. Stations.

For any kind of information, passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App.

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NORTHERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 40/2024-2025 Dated: 07.08.2024
Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system
Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

NOTE-1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained.

क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय
उपग्रह प्रदर्शन निर्यंत्रण बोर्ड
1-ए/आई.एन.एस.-1, आवास विकास कालोनी, बौद्ध विहार, दिल्ली रोड, मुरादाबाद
ई-मेल: romoradabad@uppcb.in, दूरभाष 0591-2972012

शुद्धि पत्र
मैसर्स त्रिवेणी इंजीनियरिंग एण्ड इण्डस्ट्रीज लिमिटेड (शुगर यूनिट), ग्राम मिलाक नारायणपुर, तहसील टाण्डा, जनपद रामपुर द्वारा क्षमता विस्तारीकरण से पूर्व दिनांक 24.08.2024 को आयोजित होने वाली लोक सुनवाई की सूचना दिनांक 23.07.2024 को प्रकाशित की गयी थी। उक्त विज्ञापन में लोक सुनवाई का समय पूर्वान्ह 12:00 बजे त्रुटिस्थ अंकित हो गया था। अतः लोक सुनवाई हेतु दिनांक 24.08.2024 (शनिवार) तथा संशोधित समय दोपहर 12:00 बजे पढ़ा जाए।

NORTHERN RAILWAY Open E-Tender Notice
For and on behalf of President of India, Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer (EnHM & DM), Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites sealed e-tender on 'SINGLE PACKET SYSTEM' for following work from experienced and capable tenders.

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 performa are available on the Directorate's website www.dte.punjab.gov.in

कार्यालय प्रधान महाप्रबन्धक (अभियंत्रण)-आर
उपग्रह प्रदर्शन निर्यंत्रण बोर्ड
ई-निविदा सूचना
एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि प्राधिकरण के सिनिमन जनपद में स्थित औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में विस्तृत विकास कार्य हेतु सरकारी/कामगार/व्यवसायिक उपकरणों/निर्माण/प्राधिकरण/परिष्कार/नगर विकास में प्रयुक्त विस्तृत सहायक एवं अनुसंधान उपकरणों/सूचना से ई-निविदा प्रणाली को जारी है जो दिनांक 09.08.2024 को आरम्भ 04.00 बजे से दिनांक 20.08.2024 को अन्तर्गत 04.00 बजे तक जारी रहेगी। निविदा सूचना का प्रकाशन दिनांक 02.08.2024 को राय 6.00 बजे तक कार्यालय में जारी की जा सकती है। ई-निविदा के माध्यम से आमंत्रित की जाने वाली निविदा सन्वये विकल्प विनियम है:-

Table with 4 columns: क्र.सं., कार्य का नाम, कार्य की मात्रा (वर्ग मी.), कार्य की दर (रु. प्रति वर्ग मी.). Construction of 1x10 MVA, 33/11 KV Sub-Station Gopalpur-II under Atal Industrial Infrastructure Mission 3.0 (2024-25) at I.A. Sikandrabad (Bulandshahar).

नोट-1. निविदादाता अपनी निविदाओं में प्रत्येक एक सही प्रतिलिपि करे। नीचे सूचीबद्ध अलग से दिये गये हैं। 2. विस्तृत कार्य हेतु निविदादाताओं को निविदा प्रणाली पर सही प्रतिलिपि सूचना विनियम उपरोक्त प्रमाण, सखनन में श्रेणी 'क' अनुसूचित सखनन-आवृत्त करण अतिव्यय होना, अन्वय निविदा की Consider नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदा सूचना के विस्तृत जानकारी प्राधिकरण की वेबसाइट: www.onlineupsida.com पर स्थित है-ई-निविदा एवं सूचकालो की वेबसाइट: http://etender.up.nic.in पर देखी जा सकती है। उप महाप्रबन्धक (सि) नुं, उपग्रहप्रदर्शन निर्यंत्रण, कानपुर

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM
SR. No. NAME OF BOARD CORP/AUTH OLD REFERENCE /NIT NO. NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP/AUTH NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL

Government of Jharkhand Department of School Education and Literacy (Jharkhand Education Project Council, Ranchi) JSCA Stadium Road, Sector-III, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004
Phone: 0651-2444501, E-Mail: jepc.ranchi1@gmail.com
e-Procurement Notice
JEPC invites Separate Technical & Financial Bids through e-procurement method from eligible and interested contractors registered in appropriate class for Construction of Jharkhand Balika Awasiya Vidyalaya, Sadar Hazaribagh located in Hazaribagh District of North Chotanagpur Division of Jharkhand. Interested and eligible bidders are requested to submit their proposal latest by 2:00 PM on 30.08.2024.

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, सरायकेला
ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या - RDD/SD/SKELLA/02/2024-25(2nd Call)
1.कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी:
क्र.सं. कार्य का नाम प्राकृतिक राशि अग्रघन की राशि परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि

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Phone No.: 03227-280176/280317; Fax No.: 03227-280744/280222
OPEN TENDER ENQUIRY (OTE)/NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (NCB)
Bids are invited under Two-Part bidding system for the following e-Tenders through MStC Portal:-

PUNJAB ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
Solar Passive Complex, Plot No- 1 & 2, Sector - 33 D, Chandigarh
RFS No. PEDA/KUSUM-C/2024-25/11
Online e-bids are invited for installation and commissioning of 264 MW decentralized solar power plants of capacity 4 MW each on 66 nos. 66 KV substations from the list of 333 nos substations of PSPCL under Component-C of PM-KUSUM scheme.

NORTHERN RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM
Ref:-i) Tender Notice No. 36/2024-2025 Dated 26.07.2024 S.N.-14
ii) Tender No. 07240108 due on 01.10.2024.
In reference to above tender, the due date of opening of tender No. 07240108 has been prepond from 01.10.2024 to 30.08.2024. All other terms and condition remain unchanged. The corrigendum was published on website www.ireps.gov.in, 24/8/2024

JHARKHAND URJA SANCHARAN NIGAM LIMITED
CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001704
Regd. Office: SLDC Building, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi - 834002, JH
Phone: 0651-2400804 Website: www.jusn.in
Office of the General Manager Transmission Zone - IV, Medininagar (Daltonganj) Address-Sudna, Daltonganj e-mail : gmtzdal@gmail.com
Tender Cancellation Notice
Due to some unavoidable circumstances and reasons, Tender invited vide e-NIT No. 24/PR/JUSNL/2024-25 is hereby cancelled.

HARYANA GOVERNMENT HERITAGE AND TOURISM DEPARTMENT Notification
The 06th Aug.2024
No. 12/250-Haveli of Chowdhury Kashi Ram and old Kacheri-2024/Pura2848-55 Whereas the Governor of Haryana is of the opinion that archaeological sites and remains and ancient and historical monuments specified in column 1 of the Schedule given below require protection under the Haryana Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1964 (Punjab Act 20 of 1964);
Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Haryana Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1964 (Punjab Act 20 of 1964), the Governor of Haryana hereby proposes to declare the ancient and historical monuments specified in column 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the said Schedule to be protected area as specified in column 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the said Schedule to be protected area.

Directorate of Forensic Science Laboratories Home Department, Maharashtra State, Mumbai.
Vidyanagari, Hans Bhugra Marg, Santacruz (East)
Tel. No. : 022-26670755/58
e-Tender Notice
e-TENDERS in two bid system are invited from the manufacturers and authorised agents/ suppliers for supply of the items to this department.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
See Section 82 Cr. P.C.
Where as complaint has been made before me that accused Bittu Chauhan S/o om Prakash Chauhan R/o W2-204 Harijan Basti Tilak Nagar West Delhi has committed (or suspected to have committed) the offence in case registered vide FIR No. 2708/2023 U/s 379/411 IPC, Rajinder Nagar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused Bittu Chauhan cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Bittu Chauhan has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Bittu Chauhan of case FIR No. 2708/2023 U/s 379/411 IPC, Rajinder Nagar, Delhi is required to appear before this court (or before me) to answer the complaint on or before the day of 29.10.2024

# Opaque domestic rules pushed Vinesh into 50 kg class at Paris

**SHASHANK NAIR**  
AUGUST 7

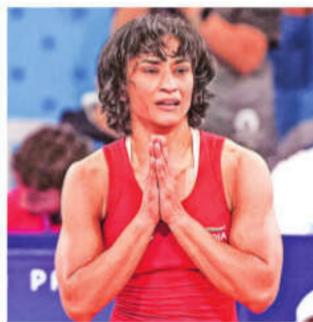
TWO HALLS at the National Institute of Sport in Patiala are abuzz, because Vinesh Phogat has done something audacious. The multiple-time Worlds medallist chooses to weigh in for both the 50 kg and 53 kg categories. She wins the 50 kg trials and finishes in the top four of the 53 kg trials. Phogat competed in two categories as she had no clarity on which category she could be part of due to the opaqueness of rules, and this way, her participation at the Olympics remained in her hands.

That was 12 March, 2024. Just under five months later, that punt by Phogat came extraordinarily close to delivering her a silver or gold medal at the

2024 Paris Olympics – a dream that came down to the last 100 grams.

Phogat competed in the 48 kg category at her maiden Olympic appearance at the 2016 Rio Games. She won the Asian Games gold medal in the 50 kg weight class but just over a year later, won a bronze in the 53 kg category at the 2019 World Championships. The reason for the switch was the weight cut she was struggling with. To avoid that struggle, Phogat chose to become a 53 kg wrestler after the Asian Games, and at one point after the Tokyo Games, was also wrestling in the 55 kg category. She won a bronze at the 2022 World Championships in 53 kg but after spearheading the protests against ex-WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, her return was curtailed by a knee ligament injury.

**Phogat believed that a WFI return wouldn't necessarily guarantee her a shot at the Olympics in the 53 kg category. Which meant she either had to switch to the 50 kg category, or the 57 kg**



Antim Panghal was India's entry in the 53 kg weight category, while Vinesh Phogat was in the 50kg class after winning the domestic trials. PPT

During that time, Antim Panghal won a bronze at the 2023 World Championships, thus getting India a Paris Olympics quota

in the 53 kg category. Former Wrestling Federation of India rules gave the quota winner the go-ahead for the Olympics, and so Phogat was in a fix, because the ad-hoc committee was running wrestling in India at the time and they had promised her that there would be a trial for the 53 kg category.

But that decision might have been taken away from their hands as the WFI was set to return to power after conducting their election and selecting Sanjay Singh as its new president. And thus when March 12 came, Phogat believed that a WFI return wouldn't necessarily guarantee her a shot at the Olympics in the 53 kg category. Which meant she either had to switch to the 50 kg category, or the 57 kg. She chose 50 – a weight class she had last been part of in 2018.

"I had no clarity about the 53kg quota situation, whether there would be trials or not. Usually, the quota is won by the country but they hadn't held trials before. They (ad hoc committee) said that it wouldn't be the case this time. I had no option but to do

this because I have to participate in the Olympics," the 29-year-old had said then, confirming that the decision to take part in the 50 kg category was to ensure that her Paris dreams remained in her own hands.

Phogat's walk-around weight is usually around 55-56 kgs. Cutting down to 50 on consecutive days takes its toll. That's why United World Wrestling president Nenad Lalovic said that it wasn't a matter of one kilo, rather the large amount she had to cut in the first place to reach that figure of '100 grams' that caused the issue.

American wrestling legend Jordan Burroughs proposed some immediate rule changes on social media to avoid a repeat of the Phogat-like situation. "1.) 1kg second Day Weight Allowance, 2.) Weigh-ins pushed from 8:30am to 10:30am, 3.) Forfeit will occur in future finals if the opposing finalist misses weight, 4.) After a semifinal victory, both finalists' medals are secured even if weight is missed on Day 2. Gold can only be won by a wrestler who makes weight on the second day, 5.) Give Vinesh the Silver medal.



Antim Panghal was India's entry in the 53kg class after winning a bronze medal at the 2023 World Championships. PPT

## Antim faces deportation over bid to 'smuggle' sister into Village

**MIHIR VASAVDA**  
PARIS, AUGUST 7

Indian wrestler Antim Panghal, who lost in the 53kg category, was summoned by the police inside the Athletes' Village in Paris. Antim was accused of 'smuggling' her sister inside the village, in a major violation of the rules. The IOA, confirming the development, in a statement said: "The Indian Olympic Association has decided to fly wrestler Antim and her support staff back after a disciplinary breach was brought to IOA's notice by the French authorities."

It is learnt that Antim and her sister are likely to be 'deported' back to India on Thursday.

Moreover, Antim's support staff – coaches Bhagat Singh and Vikas – were embroiled in another police case. According to sources, they took a cab from the Village to their hotel on Wednesday evening. Upon reaching the hotel, they refused to pay the cab driver and misbehaved with him before rushing inside the premises. The cab driver, sources added, also approached the police following the incident.

Antim made her Olympic debut on Wednesday in the 53 kg category – the pet weight class of Vinesh Phogat. Considered one of India's medal prospects, she lost in a one-sided first round bout against Zeynep Yetgil. The 19-year-old left the Champ-de-Mars Arena in tears and was accompanied by her sister and coaches to the hotel where they were staying.

She then asked her sister to pack her belongings and travel with her to the Village, where Antim passed the heavy security checkpoints with her accreditation card. Then, she passed the card to her sister. When she tried to sneak in posing as Antim, she was caught by the Village security.

Late on Wednesday evening, Antim and her sister were at the police station inside the Village. It is learnt that the police have advised the Indian team officials to book them on the flight back to India on Thursday.

## Disqualification is the severest setback on Phogat's long list of Games trauma



**EXPRESS AT OLYMPICS**

**MIHIR VASAVDA**  
PARIS, AUGUST 7

IMAGINE WHAT it must feel like to be Vinesh Phogat today.

Wednesday night, under the sparkling Eiffel Tower, was to be her moment of crowning glory. A medal, finally. Gold even, possibly. An Olympic-sized revenge for all those Games that have given her only grief.

Who knew the morning would only bring more torment for a wrestler whose entire career has been a tale of unbearable suffering?

Broken knees and ruptured ligaments didn't break her spirit. Spending nights on the footpaths of the Capital and being dragged into a van by Delhi Police couldn't stop her. A hundred grams did. The extra weight that disqualified her from competing for the gold medal at the Paris Olympics.

There would be no happy ending to this story. At least for now.

Phogat is one of a kind in Indian sports. 'Moochfat' in the Indian sporting universe of meek. She got this courage from her mother, who raised her alone after being widowed at the age of 32. Before she left the Champ-de-Mars arena on Tuesday night, Phogat promised her she'd bring home the gold.

The next morning, she was on the bed of the Athletes' Village polyclinic, getting intravenous drips. The podium wasn't her destiny.

Phogat once spoke about how life only keeps throwing curveballs at her.

This was while sitting inside a tent on a hot summer afternoon at Jantar Mantar, desperate and helpless that her protests and those of her wrestling mates, Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia, were hitting a dead end.

"Par unhe kya pata Vinesh kya cheez hai!" she laughed. "Sab sehen kar lenge. Gir, gir kar seekh gaye hai thoda." (What do they know who Vinesh is! I'll tolerate everything. I've learnt a lot with every fall.)

Headstrong and impulsive, the 29-year-old has for long been Indian wrestling's rebel with a cause, a wrestler-philosopher whose career has seen as many lows as highs, and who has endured deep, dark moments off the mat as well as shone under the spotlight on it.

Ask any athlete and they will be prompt to say that the Olympics are the ultimate highlights of their careers. For Phogat, however, they've only been a source of heartbreaks and



IOA chief PT Usha called on Vinesh Phogat at the Games Village clinic. Reuters

miseries. She maintains a diary, which gives a peek into the other side of elite sport. The bit that the HD cameras and flashlights do not allow capture.

In late 2016, after the Rio Olympics, she noted down motivational quotes from self-help books in her diary.

In Rio, Phogat twisted her knee during a bout and was carried off the mat in tears, with an ambulance waiting for her outside the stadium to carry her to a hospital. She fought back and returned with vengeance to win the Asian gold two years later.

Three years ago, at the Tokyo Olympics, it was the 'mental torture' that jeopardised her campaign.

### Trauma after upset

Going into those Games, Phogat was flying high, beating almost every opponent that stood in her way, winning titles and becoming one of the favourites to win a medal in the 53 kg category.

But she lost in the quarterfinals to former world champion Vanesa Kaladzinskaya of Belarus and was subsequently sanctioned by the federation for perceived 'indiscipline' and was roundly criticised for her performance.

She had no motivation, was tired mentally and decided to give up wrestling. "Imagine how it must feel if it reaches a stage where an athlete wants to stop doing the only thing she has done all her life?" she had told *The Indian Express* in an interview earlier.

But the fighter in her didn't throw in the towel. An "inner voice", Phogat had said, urged her to give it one more shot. The athletes who she routinely defeated finished on the podium in Tokyo. It bruised her ego but also gave her the confidence to return.

Two months later, she was back on the

mat, mesmerised by the aura of the five rings and the unfulfilled Olympic dream.

For more than a year, she didn't make a single entry in her diary. "What would I have written?" she had said. "Another sob story?" When she restarted her habit, Phogat found new things to note: her heartbeat while running, the average times of the 400m laps she ran, her speed while attacking, the food she ate, the body weight she maintained.

When it looked like her career was back on track, Phogat chose to pause it and take on a 'bigger, more important task' – to call out former Wrestling Federation of India president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. She led the protests against him with Sakshi and Bajrang, accusing the BJP MP of sexual harassment.

Phogat spent months on New Delhi streets, returned her awards and nearly threw all her medals into the Ganges in trying to get the authorities to act against the WFI chief. A Delhi court has now framed charges against Brij Bhushan. During that one year of struggle – when most of her wrestling mates lost the will to continue – Phogat's hunger for a medal in Paris remained strong.

She dropped a weight category, competed in a class nearly six kilos below her normal weight, and blended stubbornness with shrewdness to script one of the biggest upsets of these Olympics by beating the once-unbeatable Yui Susaki of Japan.

Regardless of what happened on Wednesday, Phogat halting the Japanese juggernaut continues to be one of the biggest upsets of these Games.

But as it has always been with Phogat, bad news always follows something good. Perhaps, don't imagine how it must feel to be Vinesh Phogat. This torment, this constant bouts with misfortune, isn't for mere mortals.

## Could she have got silver medal? Impossible, rules are rules, says UWW chief

**MIHIR VASAVDA**  
PARIS, AUGUST 7

THE AMERICANS have proposed wholesale rule changes. The Greeks have pleaded with the world body to keep the weigh-in for just one day. The Nigerians suggest a 2-kg exemption. And the Turks can't help but feel sorry for Vinesh Phogat.

On Tuesday, the Indian wrestler became the toast of the wrestling world by producing one of the upsets of the Paris Olympics, beating Japan's Yui Susaki. The next morning, they turned out in force, supporting her in her hour of tragedy. The weigh-in rules were the biggest talking points on the day.

Olympic champions and legendary coaches empathised with Phogat after she could not make the weight for final, and implored the United World Wrestling (UWW) to consider rule changes.

Speaking at the Champ-de-Mars Arena, Purity Akuh, the Nigerian women's coach, said this is the 'first time' he had seen something like this happen. "For Vinesh, I really feel for her. She has broken a record here and she deserves to be on the podium."

On social media, former Olympic gold medallist Jordan Burroughs added: "Give Vinesh the Silver medal."

Phogat was denied a medal despite her reaching the final fairly – she was within the permissible weight limit on day one of her competition on Tuesday. As much as this, the wrestlers and coaches said the rule to have strict weigh-ins on both days of the tournament should be changed.

Like Akuh, Greece coach Evangelia Nikolaou said she too felt 'sorry' for Phogat and said the two days of weigh-in is 'very dangerous' for women wrestlers. Describing the ordeal some of her wrestlers had to go through to make the weight, Nikolaou said: "No food, no drink, very (hard) training. For me, one (weight) control is okay. Two (day) control for women is a very (big) problem."

### The idea behind the rule

This rule came into being in 2017 when the UWW changed the format of Olympic wrestling. Instead of conducting the competition in a weight category in one day, the

UWW moved to a two-day system. This was done so that athletes wouldn't lose a huge amount of weight in one day and compete.

The international governing body's president, Nenad Lalovic, insisted they won't revise the rules based on this one incident. He added the playing regulations were formed to ensure wrestlers 'compete in their natural weight category' rather than drastically reducing weight, which can 'impact health'.

"The wrestlers are losing too much weight and it's not good for their health. Many have seen their interest at the moment but they don't see what happens in 20-30 years. We want athletes to compete at their natural weight. That's the idea. This is when they make the best performances," Lalovic said.

The wrestlers and coaches, however, are of the view that athletes put their bodies through a lot just to make weight. To do that twice, they add, is a health hazard too. "You need a two-kilo exemption for the next day, if that will be put into consideration, for me, it would be okay," Purity, the coach of Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Blessing Oborududu, said. "For athletes who have gone through very rigorous exercises and come back to make the same weight, it's a bit heavy on them. A 2 kg allowance would have been a perfect deal for the next day's tournaments."

Purity's views were echoed by Kenny Monday, former Olympic and world champion, who is now a coach. The American noted 'there should always be weight allowance on the second day.' Burroughs, who won a gold medal at the London Olympics, proposed on X that 'after a semifinal victory, both finalists' medals are secured even if weight is missed on Day 2. Gold can only be won by a wrestler who makes weight on the second day.'

Lalovic dismissed the ideas. When asked if it was possible to hand Phogat a silver, given she made the weight the previous day, he replied: "Impossible. Because the brackets are changing. Everything is changing. And anyway, the rules are rules."

He also said it wasn't considered to exempt Phogat even though she was 'only 100 grams' over. "I am really so sad and I understand Vinesh, her disappointment... (But) if you allow this 100 grams, then you would be allowed 200 grams. There is no end..."

**The wrestlers are losing too much weight and it's not good for their health. Many have seen their interest at the moment but they don't see what happens to them in the next 20-30 years.**

**NENAD LALOVIC, UWW CHIEF**

### MEDAL TALLY

Pos.	Country	G	S	B	Total
1.	USA	25	32	32	89
2.	China	23	22	16	61
3.	Australia	17	12	10	39
4.	France	13	16	19	48
5.	Britain	12	16	20	48
64.	India	0	0	3	3

## WHAT TO WATCH

### INDIA VIEWFINDER: NEERAJ BEGINS TITLE DEFENCE

**ATHLETICS**  
MEN'S JAVELIN THROW  
FINAL: 11.55 PM

NEERAJ CHOPRA

As the reigning Olympic and World Champion all Indian eyes will once again be on the star athlete who topped the qualification rounds with 89.34m.

**HOCKEY**  
MEN'S HOCKEY BRONZE MEDAL MATCH: 5.30 PM

INDIA VS SPAIN

Harmanpreet Singh and Co looked heartbroken after their semifinal defeat against Germany, but have a chance to repeat their feat in Tokyo. Spain, who knocked out Belgium in the quarterfinals, won't be pushovers.

**GOLF**  
WOMEN'S INDIVIDUAL ROUND 2: 12.30 PM

ADITI ASHOK, DIKSHA DAGAR

Both Aditi and Diksha started their first rounds really well, before falling behind. Still, with Diksha 1 under par, and Aditi on par, they remain in the mix.

**WRESTLING**  
MEN'S FREESTYLE 57KG: 2.30 PM (R16 TO SF)

AMAN SEHRAWAT

India's only male wrestler in Paris has big boots to fill. After Ravi Dahiya's silver in Tokyo, Aman will look to bring some cheer back to the Indian wrestling contingent that is still reeling with Vinesh's setback.

**WRESTLING:**  
WOMEN'S FREESTYLE 57KG: 2.30 PM (R16 TO SF)

ANSHU MALIK

To make her 2nd Olympic appearance, Anshu Malik had to get past Sarita Mor in the domestic trials. She faces a tough ask against an American wrestler right away.

**ATHLETICS**  
WOMEN'S 100MH REPECHAGE: 2.05 PM

JYOTHI YARRAJI

After consistently dipping below 13 seconds in the last year or so, Jyothi didn't have the best of heats on her Olympic debut. But under new athletics rules, she gets at least one more chance through repechage.



**NEERAJ CHOPRA**  
MEN'S JAVELIN

### WORLD VIEWFINDER: LYLES EYES DOUBLE DELIGHT

**TRACK AND FIELD**  
MEN'S 200M FINAL AND WOMEN'S 400M H FINAL: 12 AND 12:55 AM (FRIDAY)

NOAH LYLES

Noah Lyles's quest for history continues after he bagging the 100m crown in the most dramatic fashion

**BASKETBALL**  
MEN'S SEMIFINALS 9PM AND 12:20 AM (FRIDAY)

USA VS SERBIA & FRANCE VS GERMANY

USA has not been challenged yet at the Games, steamrolling Brazil in the quarters. On the other hand, Serbia is coming off one of the most intense games of the tournament, beating Australia in overtime.

**HOCKEY**  
MEN'S GOLD MEDAL: 10:30 PM

NETHERLANDS VS GERMANY

Their fierce European rivalry has regularly been played out at world level events, with the two meeting in the Olympic gold medal match at the London Games in 2012.

**FOOTBALL**  
MENS' BRONZE MEDAL: 8.30 PM

EGYPT VS MOROCCO

Despite seeing their gold medal dreams dashed, Egypt and Morocco will be looking to cap their remarkable Olympic men's football campaigns with their first ever podium finish when they meet in Nantes.

# Another fourth finish, Mirabai fails to make it to the podium

**MIHIR VASAVDA**  
PARIS, AUGUST 7

WHEN MIRABAI Chanu squatted, the weight of an entire medal-hungry nation rested on her shoulders. However, that was not to be. As the 4'11" lifter tried to get back on her feet and outstretch her arms, they wobbled and she gave up. The barbell dropped and India settled for another fourth place with a total of 199 kg. Chanu, one of the favourites for a podium finish, missed it by one kilo as lifters from China, Hou Zhihui (total 206), Valentina Cambel (205, Romania) and Surudchana Khambai (200, Thailand) won medals.

Chanu stood on the platform in disbelief, breaking into tears.

This has been an Olympic cycle like none other for her: managing a broken body, healing an overworked mind, away for months on end from the family, worrying about them as Manipur, her home, burnt.

Never, during these most testing years, did Chanu lose her infectious smile, the unending energy and the will to put her body to more torture. She did all that but it wasn't enough.

Aware that they were way behind China's Hou Zhihui, the gold medalist, Chanu attempted to execute the only plan she and her

coach, Vijay Sharma, had been devising: to lift a personal best, nothing less, to guarantee a spot on the podium. But in a field full of top lifters, even Chanu's best didn't take her to the podium.

Though she will not return home with a medal, the effort she put in can't be undermined or overlooked. The coaching staff had had bubble-wrapped the fragile weightlifter and somehow held together her body that was broken and torn at various joints and tissues; a result of 'inhuman' workload which Chanu very nonchalantly dismisses as professional hazard. It had been that kind of a build-up to the Olympics.

The one where she has spent as much time, if not more, in an orthopaedic's clinic and sitting across from a psychologist. On the outside, Chanu was lifting weights and defying gravity, which she so gracefully does. On the inside, she was tangled in a web of self-doubt. The kind of build-up where, at least until last year, she endured more injuries than the number of competitions she's competed in.

The wrist, the shoulder, the back and the hip, combined with the thigh, troubled Mirabai so much that even her mind, which remains unwavering and strong when the 49kg dynamo lifts iron more than twice her weight, started playing games.



Tokyo silver medalist Mirabai Chanu lifted a total of 199 kg.

PTI

Confiding in her therapist, Chanu would wonder 'why is this happening?' 'Did I do anything wrong? Or is it something else?'

The hunt for a cure took Chanu and Sharma far beyond the secure and familiar training environment in Patiala, which has been their home for a better part of the last decade, to a physio's lab in the USA and a surgeon in Mumbai.

And just like that, her Tokyo-to-Paris cycle became a 'project' to 'fix' Mirabai Chanu. That's how her approach to the Tokyo Games had been too. Back then, it was a 'mysterious' back injury. This time, as she found herself in another race against time to get fit, it was a lot more. Sharma said her struggles were a result of lifting 'one truckload' of weight for close to a decade. That, he added, was a maximum training load; the total value of the number of sets, repetitions and weight. It was a slight peek at the behind the scenes grind of an athlete who got battered with decades of pumping iron.

The consequence of which was seen at the Asian Games last year, when she crumbled and fell down in the middle of her lift, with the bar dropping in front of her. Chanu was carried away by the coaching staff and when she returned to India, she was directly taken to meet a doctor who has fixed dozens of India's ath-

letes, Dr. Dinshaw Pardiwala.

When she first met him, Chanu complained of pain in the right side of her hip. By the time that was healed, her shoulder gave up — more specifically, a torn rotator cuff, a layer of muscles that allows the shoulder to stabilise so that the larger muscles can do their job.

So serious was the injury that Chanu was asked to keep away from doing what she loves the most — lifting weights. She was asked to let the 'traumatic tears' heal before the training load could be gradually increased.

Those five months until the start of 2024 were among the 'most stressful', a period when she 'kept sanity' by befriending the stray dogs inside Patiala's National Institute of Sport, feeding them, taking them for a walk and arranging veterinary visits. Her mother came over from Manipur, providing the comfort of home food. Those months Sharma said made them wiser as he planned Chanu's rehab in a way that when the day came, she could do exactly what they hoped for: a 200-plus lift.

They arrived at the magic number knowing that no other lifter except the Chinese, among those competing in Paris, had a total more than her. All she needed was a proper execution and touch the 200 kg mark.

But on a gloomy day, there was no silver lining.

## All hopes on Neeraj after rest of track & field disappoint



Neeraj Chopra topped the qualifying rounds with a 89.34 throw. PTI

**VINAYAKK MOHANARANGAN**  
AUGUST 7

IN JANUARY this year, India's superstar athlete Neeraj Chopra had the chance to meet the legendary Roger Federer in Switzerland. It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to pick the brains of someone who has seen it all in his career, from the highest of highs to some crushing lows. After a quick chat about Indian food, Neeraj wanted to know something specific from the 20-time Grand Slam champion, who had one of the longest elite sporting careers in the world.

"Javelin and tennis are very different but the main thing I wanted to ask him was about his longevity at the top and his mentality. He said that maintaining a balance between competition, training and recovery was the most important thing, and I agree with that. I try to do that as well," Neeraj had said before his season began, recalling that chat with the Swiss great.

Neeraj, 26 years old, will enter the Stade de France on Thursday night as the reigning Olympic and World Champion in men's javelin throw. He might already know a thing or two about longevity. He's still young, but has been at the centre of all Indian athletics hopes since the time he broke the junior world record back in 2016.

But striking a balance between competing and staying healthy is something he has had to learn in 2024. The temptation to test his preparation for the title defence in Paris might have been strong, but he and his team have been cautious in taking part in meets in the lead-up to the Olympics.

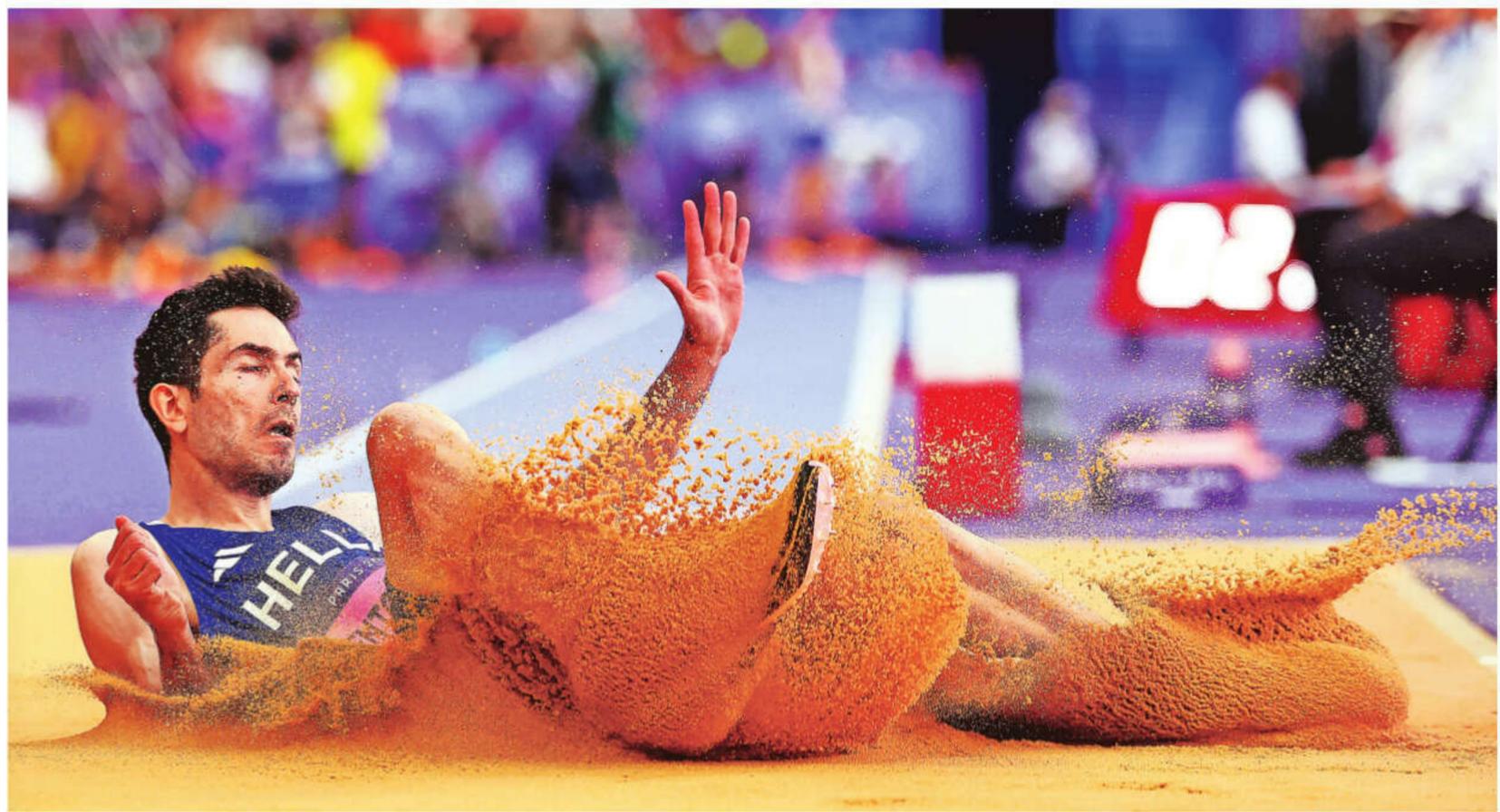
While he has largely remained tight-lipped about his fitness concerns, Neeraj said after his qualification throw of 89.34m that he decided to focus on remaining fit for Paris instead of participating in meets to warm himself up. But if there were any concerns over his competitive level, he allayed some of those fears with the second-best throw of his career so far. One and done, into the final.

The clash for the podium, though, promises to be an absolute cracker given how the main contenders of the medal faded during qualification. "The final will be a cracker, the Tokyo final mark has already been surpassed in qualification," Neeraj said. It could be a different final too, if Neeraj finds himself playing catch-up early on unlike Tokyo where he laid down the early marker.

But in the years since, Neeraj has had sufficient experience in fighting back. While he is a good starter naturally, Neeraj has also shown he can dig deep if needed, as he did at the 2022 Oregon Worlds to win silver, at the Hangzhou Asian Games last year to respond to Kishore Kumar Jena's challenge, and at the Doha Diamond League meet earlier this year.

### Pressure is a privilege

Pressure? Of course, there will be pressure. He has been asked that question pretty much in every single one of his media interactions since Tokyo. His response, however, has always been uniform. He prefers to look at the weight of expectations as a motivation. But even for someone who has stepped up repeatedly on big occasions, the atmosphere at a potentially packed Stade de France will be a new experience. Once again though, in a sea of global superstars, Neeraj will have to stand up as the solitary Indian title contender. It's a privilege he enjoys.



## GOLD DUST

Greece's Miltiadis Tentoglou leapt 8.48m to win the gold as Jamaican Wayne Pinnock took silver with 8.36 and Italy's Mattia Furlani (8.34) claimed bronze. Reuters

# Tentoglou leaps into history

Greek athlete becomes second long jumper after legendary Carl Lewis to retain Olympic title

**REUTERS**  
PARIS, AUGUST 6

GREECE'S MILTIADIS Tentoglou leapt 8.48 metres to become only the second man after Carl Lewis to successfully defend the men's Olympic long jump title on Tuesday, delivering his country's first gold of the Paris Games.

In a high-quality competition, Jamaican Wayne Pinnock took silver with 8.36 and Italy's Mattia Furlani (8.34) claimed bronze.

Poker-faced world champion Tentoglou clinched the title with his second attempt, cracking a smile only once he was able to embrace his team in the stands before wrapping himself in the Greece flag.

Tentoglou joined long jump royalty as only American Lewis, who won the title four times from 1984-1996, had retained the title. "This is for my country. Greece is the country that invented the Olympics, so I am happy to do it for them," he told reporters. The world champion arrived in Paris in extraordinary form, having won all but one of the 11 competitions he had contested this season, but was second in the standings behind Italy's Furlani after a first attempt of 8.27. Tentoglou stared solemnly down the runway before his winning leap, an effort that earned gasps from the crowd even as he barely registered a reaction.

He chased a bit of insurance but could only reach 8.24 on the third attempt and clapped his hands in frustration as he recorded 8.36 on the fourth.

It did not matter, however, as Furlani could not improve on his opening jump and Pinnock took silver with his second attempt after also finishing second at the World Championships in Budapest.

The Greek told reporters he had hoped to jump farther, calling it only a "decent" performance, even as his country's leaders leapt



Joint defending champion Gianmarco Tamberi finished a disappointing sixth in the qualifying round but was still comfortably among the 12 advancing. Reuters

to congratulate him on social media.

"Mythical Miltos Tentoglou at the top of the world for one more time," Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis wrote on the social media platform X.

President Katerina Sakellariopoulou added: "Tentoglou earned a well-deserved place in the pantheon of top long jump athletes." The 19-year-old Furlani, who is coached by his mother, described his third-place finish as a dream come true.

"It's crazy because on the track, with my little work with my mother, I dreamed of this medal with her, and now I've done it.

It's crazy," he said.

### Rough sailing

Joint-defending champions Gianmarco Tamberi and Mutaz Barshim advanced to the high jump final but it was anything but smooth as the Italian had three fails at 2.27 metres and his Qatari rival cleared it only after lengthy treatment for an injury.

Three years ago the pair agreed to share gold after asking permission from the event officials in one of the most memorable moments of the Tokyo Olympics. Three days ago, however, Tamberi posted a picture of him-

self in a hospital bed after being taken ill with what he thought might be a kidney stone.

It delayed his travel plans to France, and, coming after a troublesome thigh injury, it was hardly the ideal build up after things had been looking good in June when he won the European title in Rome with a 2.37 jump that remains the highest anyone has managed this year. Tamberi, sporting full length tights, opened with 2.20m but appeared unhappy with his narrow clearance. He made it over 2.24 but, stripped down to his shorts, failed three times at 2.27. That left him in sixth place but still comfortably among the 12 advancing.

"I can say good after the last few days, but I feel tired," he said when asked about his morning's work. "In the approach I can't accelerate as I usually do."

"But in the past my qualification has never been good and then in the final something's changed, so that's the hope."

Looking ahead to his bid to become the first man to retain the Olympic title, he added: "There is not expectation, there is a hope and a dream. I want it so much, I sacrificed my life for this goal, so I will just come on Saturday with all my strength."

"Nobody has done it before and there is a reason, it's not easy. I'm just waiting for Saturday and hope it's going to be better."

Barshim has also had injury problems this season and though he looked comfortable enough clearing 2.24, he then pulled up holding his calf as he aborted his first attempt at 2.27.

He underwent extensive treatment and recovered to clear it at the second attempt, but looked in some pain on the mat. New Zealand's Hamish Kerr — after two fails at 2.20 — American Shelby McEwan, Korean Woo Sanghyeok and Ryoichi Akamatsu of Japan were the only other men to clear 2.27. World silver medalist JuVaughn Harrison of the U.S. failed to progress after three fails at 2.24.

## Police release Aussie hockey player caught buying drugs

**REUTERS**  
PARIS, AUGUST 7

AUSTRALIA'S OLYMPIC hockey player Tom Craig was released from police custody and apologised to his family and teammates on Wednesday, after being arrested in Paris for buying cocaine.

Craig, 28, a silver medalist at the Tokyo Olympics three years ago, has played more than 100 games for the national side. The men's team, known as the Kookaburras, were knocked out of the Paris Olympics on Sunday in the quarter-finals by the Netherlands. "I'd firstly like to apologise for what has occurred in the last 24 hours. I made a terrible mistake. I take full responsibility for my actions," Craig said as he left police offices. "My actions are my own and in no way, reflect the values of my family, my teammates, my friends, my sport, and the Australian Olympic team. I've embarrassed you all. I'm truly sorry," he added.

Police issued Craig with a warning, said Dominic Sullivan, spokesperson for the Australian team.

### 1 gram but a ton of trouble

French media cited police sources as saying Craig had bought about one gram of cocaine. There was no immediate comment from the International Hockey Federation, the sport's global governing body.

Earlier, the Paris prosecutor's office confirmed that an Australian athlete had been detained for buying cocaine.

"Police officers who witnessed a cocaine transaction at the foot of a building in the ninth arrondissement (of Paris), on the night of August 6 to 7, arrested the seller, born in December 2006, and the buyer, born in September 1995 in Australia," prosecutors said.

## Swimmers dive into the Seine amidst concerns over dirty water



Swimmers during a course warm-up in the river Seine. Reuters

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
PARIS, AUGUST 7

A BRIDGE lined with ornate statues overlooks an Olympic open water course like no other. The Eiffel Tower, gold-domed Invalides and other Paris landmarks provide a stunning backdrop. Yet there was no getting around concerns about the safety of swimming in the long-polluted Seine River, not to mention contending with its strong current.

A hearty group of endurance swimmers dove into the waterway on a cloudy, cool morning Wednesday, their one and only chance to check out the river before they start handing out gold medals.

The training session received the go-ahead around 4 a.m., when World Aquatics got the results of daily testing that showed the water was within acceptable guidelines for illness-causing bacteria — one day after another test run was canceled because of less-favorable readings.

From 2016 Olympic champion Sharon van Rouwendaal of the Netherlands to Irish star Daniel Wiffen, competing in open water for the first time, it appeared that most competitors took advantage of the chance to swim the actual 1.67-kilometer (1-mile) course through the center of the French capital after doing most of their training in the pool. The women's 10k marathon race will be held Thursday, followed by the men's race on Friday.

"I was very happy that we could train today," van Rouwendaal told The Associated Press, wrapped in a towel shortly after coming out of the chilly water. "We could see how the course is and where to swim and feel the current a little bit."

The three American competitors all took part in the training session, though none put their head under the surface. They used paddle boards to get a feel for the course without taking the chance of swallowing water that might cause an illness.

"We just wanted to mitigate the risk as much as possible of the water getting inside your body," U.S. swimmer Ivan Puskovitch told the AP. "Because even if the water is swimmable, and the levels are safe, there is still some degree of risk. And I think that it goes without saying that the risk is a little bit more significant here than most open water venues."

Before diving in, Austrian swimmers Felix Auboeck and Jan Hercog scouted the conditions from the Pont Alexandre III, the famed bridge that overlooks the starting buoy and finishing chute.

"I think if anyone's saying they're not concerned at all, they're probably lying," Auboeck said. "I am concerned. I just hope and trust the organization in the sense that they will let us in only when it's safe enough to do so. But, of course, you're concerned because no one wants to get ill."

Auboeck can certainly see the appeal of holding open water in the Seine, the river that slices through one of the world's most picturesque cities.

# Sights set on Tokyo encore

A bronze can barely console battered minds, but India deserve it for the brand of hockey they displayed

VINAYAKK MOHANARANGAN  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 7

*Khaali haath nahi aana hai...*

Indian men's hockey team captain Harmanpreet Singh uttered the exact same words after his side's last two matches, but the feelings behind them couldn't have been more contrasting. The first time was after the sensational backs-to-the-wall performance against Great Britain in the quarterfinal where India heroically held on for a 1-1 draw with 10 men on the pitch for 42 minutes, before winning the shootout. That day, he was brimming with confidence, looking forward to the semifinal challenge. A first shot at a gold medal after 44 years? Bring it on.

Harmanpreet reproduced those words after the semifinal defeat against Germany... this time, the tone - desolate, the body language - crestfallen, the emotion - agony.

As the final whistle blew, he was on his knees staring into the distance.

Hardik Singh was on his back on the blue turf, hiding his face but visibly sobbing. PR Sreejesh - who was hit by the realisation that his final match for India won't be fighting for that elusive gold - was stoic along the sidelines, where minutes earlier he had been belaboring instructions, with India going for 11 outfield players.

Three years back, after somehow staying in touch with eventual champions Belgium for three quarters, India were blown by 5-2 eventually. There was disappointment of course, but if you had asked for an honest opinion from most of the players if they would have been happy with a bronze at the end of the Games, they'd have probably nodded in agreement.

Tuesday in Paris was different. The absolute despair that was writ large on every Indian player's face told a story. Because this Indian team didn't come here to try and retain a third-place finish from Tokyo. The reactions in the end summed up the drive they had to win gold... or at least fight for it. The desire to give their talismanic goalkeeper a fitting farewell. The urge to end yet another long wait.

Coach Craig Fulton threw his notepad down in frustration after Shamsher Singh controlled an aerial ball beautifully to then shoot over the goal in the final second of the match. The South African, who has been with the squad for just over a year, had lost his voice when he spoke to the broadcasters after the match. Despite trying his best to sound upbeat about the prospect of fighting for a bronze, he couldn't hide his disappointment.

"A great game of hockey," he offered in explanation when asked where India lost the match. "One thing here or there could have



Indian coach Craig Fulton speaks with players after India lost the semifinal against Germany. Reuters

### How quickly India get back up from the emotional impact of that defeat, could well decide whether they retain the bronze or return with 'khaali haath'.

changed the result. Fine margins." He went on to add how one of the many chances India had, not just from penalty corners but also for field goals, went unconverted. But he mentioned at least a couple of times that the team must now get ready to bounce back.

#### A test for minds

Bouncing back. How quickly India get back up from the emotional impact of that defeat, could well decide whether they retain the bronze or return with 'khaali haath'. Paddy Upton, who has been working

with the Indian team over the past year as the mental conditioning expert, would have his task cut out. Because, on paper, India should be favourites against Spain.

There is not much to separate them on world rankings, but this is an India side that comes into the bronze medal match on the back of a fighting defeat against Belgium, a famous win against Australia, and a stunning rearguard against Great Britain. Even the semifinal against Germany was one of the best high-stakes knockout matches India have played in recent times.

But this match is unlikely to be decided purely on quality on paper, it will come down to their mindsets. If India are wallowing in their defeat, and are mentally not switched on quickly enough, Max Caldas' men will punish them. Spain have had a rollercoaster campaign. One day after losing to Great Britain 0-4, they defeated now-finalists Germany 2-0. But after knocking out the de-

fending champions Belgium 2-1 in a thrilling quarterfinal, they were thrashed 0-4 by Netherlands in the semis. They have, however, shown enough quality for India to know - or expect - they can't get off to a slow start.

India will of course be buoyed by the return of Amit Rohidas, who was missed, especially during Penalty Corner defensive routines.

More so, India will be able to play with a full squad of 16, bringing some respite to some seriously tired bodies and minds.

More than half of this current squad tasted the sweet success of bronze in Tokyo, so returning empty-handed is simply not an option for them. 'Khaali haath nahi aana hai' would be the perfect rallying call from Harmanpreet and Fulton, not because they are entitled to win bronze.

But because of the hockey India have played in their last four matches, they would have deserved it.

## Gibson bruised but undaunted after horror dive



Alison Gibson during the women's 3m Springboard Preliminary round. Reuters

REUTERS  
PARIS, AUGUST 7

THE DAY did not start off well for American diver Alison Gibson. Her feet crashed into the springboard when she was in a tucked position amid a somersault in her first dive in the preliminary round of the Olympic women's 3-metre springboard competition.

After a loud bang and gasps from the audience, Gibson fell awkwardly into the water, making a splash that no diver would be proud of. Her dive was judged as a failure and she got zero points.

Gibson, however, kept going and finished her remaining four dives with as much composure as she could muster but still finished last, marking the end of her Olympic journey. "I hit my heels and my feet on the board. I have cuts along the sides. And then I bruised my right heel pretty good, but I was determined to keep going," a tearful Gibson told Reuters, her cuts still raw on both feet.

"I definitely was in pain," she said. "But one thing that I say is I hope that anyone who is watching just was able to see what it looks like to get up and keep going even when things don't go the way you want them to. It's about the fight."

"Obviously, today didn't go the way I wanted it to. But I think you can learn and grow from every experience, and I truly hope that the next generation of athletes recognise that even in the worst moments you can keep fighting, you can walk courageously," she added.

The 25-year-old Gibson almost retired after finishing last in the Tokyo Games three years ago in the synchronised 3-metre springboard event. She decided to return to the sport, however, and make a bigger impact second time around.

She is sponsoring a school child in Kenya via Missions of Hope International, a non-profit organisation, and hoped her Olympic experience could shine a light.

"I decided I didn't just want to come back for diving, but I wanted to have an impact beyond myself," she said.

# 18-year-old Kaufmann's heroics knocks Batra & Co out

ANIL DIAS  
AUGUST 7

INDIAN WOMEN'S table tennis team had a dream draw. Their road to the semifinal at the Olympics was drawn out. They just had to show up, it seemed. What they failed to factor in, however, was an 18-year-old left-hander from Germany who goes by the name Annett Kaufmann. The youngster, with her attacking play, made a mockery of defensive pimped rubbers used by both India's stars - Manika Batra and Sreeja Akula. In their respective singles matches, the Indians just simply couldn't counter her attacking strokes - and she attacked everything. What was even more impressive was the way she read the game. She knew how the Indians were going to return, and attacked it seamlessly. It didn't matter if it came to her forehand or backhand, the ball went blazing away and India succumbed to a shocking 1-3 loss to end their campaign in Paris.

After beating Romania in the Rd of 16, India went in as favourites in their quarterfinal clash against Germany on Wednesday. The Europeans were missing their key player

in World No. 17 Nina Mittelham - who was out with a back injury - and Manika Batra & Co would've thought it was a perfect opportunity for them to enter the semifinal in the very first time they qualified for the team event at the Olympics.

It turns out, Germany didn't read the script. They had a mixed bag for a team, a mixture of youth and experience. 41-year-old China-born Xiaona Shan, who, for the record, was ranked as high as World No. 2 back in 2002. There was Yuan Wan, an exceptional player, and then there was Kaufmann, who has only recently climbed the WTT rankings.

Stunningly, Kaufmann wasn't even supposed to be in Germany's team for the Games. She was there only because of the injury of Ying Han, the 41-year-old defensive specialist who injured her Achilles tendon. Even Wan wasn't supposed to make it. She replaced Mittelham who had to pull out due to a disc injury, according to the German federation.

#### Doubles jolt

India knew they were in trouble when they lost the first game of the opening rubber.



Germany's Annett Kaufmann after winning her quarterfinal match against Sreeja Akula. Reuters

Sreeja and Archana Kamath struggled against Wan and Shan. The Germans tossed the ball high when they served and it threw the Indians off balance. The Sreeja-Archana tactic of defending with Sreeja's pimples and attacking with Archana's pace didn't work as the German pair had worked out their strat-

egy perfectly. They played it long to Sreeja and short to Archana before launching attacks of their own. The Indians managed to win only one game and went down tamely 11-5, 8-11, 12-10, 11-6.

After the jolt, Manika, who has been in sublime form, was expected to restore parity. She would've known that Kaufmann would be a challenge after watching Germany's Rd of 16 match against the USA where the youngster won both her matches confidently. What she surely didn't expect was an out-an-out attack. She didn't give Manika any time to tiddle. All Manika's serves to the forehand were promptly whacked down the line. Taps were returned with more pace and spin. Apart from the first game which Manika won, it was the first time the Delhi girl looked completely clueless in Paris as Kaufmann won 8-11, 11-5, 11-7, 11-5.

It was 2-0 up and India were staring at a whitewash with Archana Kamath up next against the seasoned Shan.

In a topsy-turvy whirlwind match, Archana came out trumps. Oh, she won the marathon first game 19-17, before being thrashed in the second 1-11. She then went on to win the next two games and the match

11-5, 11-9 to give India some hope.

Unfortunately for India, it was Kaufmann who was next against Sreeja and she did exactly what she had done to Manika. Straight games 11-6, 11-7, 11-7 and India were dumped out of the tournament.

There was a lot of talk about the advantage of Indian women using the pimped rubber on the backhand. Traditionally it's a defensive rubber that slows down the game and reverses the spin. Manika and Sreeja have used to perfection to change up the game and set up attacks. The disadvantage of it though, is that when the opponent can read the spin, it's very easily playable. Against an attacking player who is able to read the spin, it has more disadvantages than advantages.

Despite the loss, the Indian players can hold their heads up knowing that they've set the bar high. It was the first time two Indian players - Manika and Sreeja - reached the Rd of 16 in the women's singles competition and it was also the first time India qualified for the team event at the Olympics.

They would know, however, that a semifinal was well within their reach. If only they could figure out how to play against that 18-year-old.

# A step forward for Lanka cricket, one backward stride for India

VENKATA KRISHNAB  
AUGUST 7

DUNITH WELLALAGE, the architect of this famous triumph, was not even born when Sri Lanka last defeated India in a bilateral ODI series. So were four other teammates of his on Wednesday. Despite missing several key players to injuries, a young and inexperienced Sri Lanka side managed to achieve what even Mahela Jayawardene and Kumar Sangakkara couldn't in their glittering career. After 27 years, after a spirited effort from their batters, Wellalage's 5/27 routed India for 138 in 26.1 overs, giving Sri Lanka a 110-run win in the third ODI, which helped them clinch the series 2-0.

Unlike the first and second ODIs, there wasn't as much turn on offer, but that didn't stop India from enduring another painful outing at the Premadasa. For the third time in a week, despite having all the wealth of experience and class in their ranks, India's batting unit combusted at the first sight of pres-

sure. If anything, the procession was quicker than what unfolded in the first and second ODI. Even the quick-fire start that at least gave them some sort of hope in the first two matches, was absent without a trace.

Chasing 249 to level the series, India's chase seldom looked in control. From the moment Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill walked in, their only plan was to make the most out of the hard new ball before the spinners could seize control. They yielded success, though Lankans introduced Maheesh Theekshana to handle their headaches in the first powerplay. With Theekshana making no difference, Sri Lanka turned to Wellalage, the young all-rounder touted for bigger things in.

#### Left-arm, special

In his brief spell, Wellalage achieved what no other left-arm spinner has ever done before against India - take two five-wicket hauls in an ODI. Like he did against them a year back at the same venue, these were no ordinary scalps. His hit-list began with Rohit, before



Sri Lanka's Dunith Wellalage celebrates the wicket of India's Rohit Sharma. PTI

Rohit perished by going for an expansive sweep that only brushed his bat and Kusal Mendis pounced it safely. Kohli, like on Sunday played a completely wrong line to an arm-ball, that came in.

he switched ends to account for Virat Kohli, Axar Patel and Shreyas Iyer in the space of seven deliveries.

Rohit perished by going for an expansive sweep that only brushed his bat and Kusal Mendis pounced it safely. Kohli, like on Sunday, played the wrong line to an arm-ball with the angle. The bat was nowhere close to the pad. Axar lost his stumps by going back to a delivery he should have gone forward. And Shreyas, like Kohli, was guilty of playing for the non-existent turn, to be trapped in front. With Theekshana taking care of

Rishabh Pant, who was in a hurry earlier on, India were six down even before the drinks were called. If India lost the plot in the first two ODIs after the first drinks break, on Wednesday they sealed their own fate.

Coming in at No 9, Washington Sundar helped India cross the three-figure mark, but it wasn't going to hide the thrashing that came unexpectedly. The traces of the team that made the finals of the World Cup less than a year ago was nowhere to be seen. Sweeping the defeat under the carpet would only be detrimental as their struggles against spinners seems endless.

Rohit, though, wasn't fazed about their inability against spinners. "I don't think it's a concern. But it's something we need to look at seriously, our individual gameplans, and it's something that puts us under pressure. We lost the series, and I feel there are a lot of areas we need to look at, rather than the positives. We need to go back and look at what we need to do when we come up against conditions like these. A series lost doesn't mean the end of the world," Rohit said.

#### Fernando tornado

Earlier, with Avishka Fernando and Pathum Nissanka stitching together an 89-run stand, Sri Lanka reeled off a steady start. Though Nissanka perished for 45, Fernando stitched an 82-run second wicket partnership with Kusal Mendis, setting up a strong base for Sri Lanka. The dismissal of Fernando for 96, off debutant Riyan Parag, would alter Lanka's course. Though a total of 270 looked possible, Fernando's dismissal in the 36th over triggered a collapse. The hosts lost four wickets in a seven-over period as Parag's three-wicket haul brought India back in control.

But having taken the field with just lone pacer Mohammed Siraj, his expensive returns (9-0-78-1) meant India once again conceded whatever advantage the spinners had gained as Lanka posted the highest total of this series, which ensured a first series win over India this century. **BRIEF SCORES: Sri Lanka** 248/7 in 50 overs (Avishka 96, Mendis 59, Parag 3/54) beat **India** 138 in 26.1 overs (Rohit 35, Wellalage 5/27) by 110 runs.