

## UNDER FIRE FOR 'OVERREACH'

# Facing criticism, Govt withdraws new draft of broadcast Bill

Draft expands remit to include social media accounts, content creators

**SOUMYARENDRA BARIK**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 12

**EXPLAINED** **The key criticism**

THE NEW draft Bill faced criticism for including independent online news creators within its ambit — seen as government overreach. The ministry is now expected to re-work and fine-tune the definition of who can be called a broadcaster.

THE MINISTRY of Information and Broadcasting is learnt to have withdrawn the new draft Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill, 2024, which triggered a controversy and criticism over fears that the government was trying to exert greater control over online content. The draft Bill had raised several questions on the freedom of speech and expression, and the government's powers to regulate it.

Last month, the ministry had shared the new draft Bill with a handful of stakeholders and invited their comments.

At least three sources, including a senior government official and two industry executives, confirmed to *The Indian Express* that the ministry has now asked the stakeholders to return the draft Bill. The stakeholders re-

ceived a call from the ministry to return their copies of the draft Bill, said sources.

The ministry is expected to go back to the drawing board and work on a new proposal, said sources.

The ministry did not respond to requests for a comment on the issue. But, in a statement posted on X at night, the ministry

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



Protesters marched to R G Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata on Monday. Partha Paul

## Doctor's rape-murder: Protests swell, CM sets cops a deadline

**ATRI MITRA**  
KOLKATA, AUGUST 12

DOCTORS' PROTESTS over the rape and murder of a junior doctor at a state-run medical college in Kolkata intensified on Monday evening after the principal of the medical college, who had resigned earlier in the day, was immediately deputed to another institution in the city.

Earlier in the day, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said that if the state police are unable to solve the case by Sunday, it would be handed over to the CBI.

A 31-year-old junior doctor

### PROTESTS SPREAD

**RESIDENT DOCTORS** in Delhi Monday joined the strike, affecting services at several hospitals. AIIMS Delhi saw a 20% reduction in registrations in its OPD.

**IN SEVERAL** other cities, resident doctors held candlelight vigils. In Maharashtra, resident doctors announced an indefinite strike from Tuesday.

**REPORTS, PAGES 4, 12**

was found dead in a seminar hall at R G Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata on Friday, sending shockwaves through the state and prompting a protest by doctors at several hospitals. Police have arrested a civil volunteer, Sanjay Roy, in connection with the case.

The Chief Minister on Monday met the family of the doctor, and later told reporters: "We are trying our best to solve the case. I don't know how this type of incident can happen at a hospital. Police are giving utmost importance to the investigation. If there are more accused, and all are not arrested by Sunday, we

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## ATTACKS MAINLY IN BANGLADESH RURAL, BORDER AREAS

# 5 dead, 200 incidents: Fear grips Hindus, leaders meet Yunus today

Police in hiding, their absence gives attackers a free run



**EXPRESS IN DHAKA**

**SHUBHAJIT ROY**  
DHAKA, AUGUST 12

ON AUGUST 5, Gopal Rajbongshi, who runs Manda Pharmacy in Dhaka, was at home when he saw visuals of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina leaving the country. He rounded up his staff at the store, told them to shut shop and head home.

By 4.30 pm, a group of people vandalised his pharmacy; they broke open the shutters,



Graffiti by students on a Dhaka wall. It reads: 'Dhormo jar jar, Bangladesh sobar (Bangladesh is for all faiths)'. Shubhajit Roy

looted the medicines, the computer system, and cash of about Rs 27,000 (in local currency). "My shop had medicines and equipment worth about Rs 21.5

lakh, they took away everything," he told *The Indian Express*.

He was terrified as he heard the mob was "looking for me."

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## After five years, retail inflation falls below 4% — to 3.54% in July

**AANCHAL MAGAZINE**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 12

AFTER REMAINING above the 4 per cent mark for nearly five years, retail inflation slipped to a 59-month low of 3.54 per cent in July mainly due to a high base effect, data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) showed Monday. The last time retail inflation rate was below the 4 per cent mark — a key level in the 4+/- 2 per cent band of medium-term inflation target set by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) — was in September 2019.

Food inflation rate also slipped to a 13-month low of 5.42 per cent in July, from 9.36 per cent in June. Food inflation has hovered between 8-9 per cent during the last eight

months as prices of vegetables, cereals and pulses have stayed consistently elevated. On a month-on-month basis, however, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) (combined), on which retail inflation is based, gained momentum across the categories of food, clothing, housing and the overall index value. According to analysts, retail inflation is expected to breach the 4 per cent mark in August 2024, stoked by food inflation.

Data released separately showed the country's factory output for June, as measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), eased to a five-month low of 4.2 per cent, mainly due to a slower growth in manufacturing output.

The lower inflation rate has

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## NEW HINDENBURG REPORT

# As Opp seeks JPC probe, BJP hits back: Fictitious report, bid to destabilise markets

Concerned person, regulator have made their statements, nothing further to be added by Govt: Finance Ministry

**LIZ MATHEW & VIKAS PATHAK**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 12

COUNTERING ALLEGATIONS by US-based Hindenburg Research regarding SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and Adani Group, the BJP Monday rejected the Opposition's demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe.

At a press conference held at the BJP headquarters, senior party leader and former Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad slammed the Congress demand

### GOVT & POLITICS

**WILL LAUNCH STIR IF JPC PROBE DEMAND NOT MET: CONGRESS**  
PAGE 6

for a JPC probe, accusing the Opposition party of "seeking foreign help to discredit (and) destabilise our financial markets and to create chaos in the country... by spreading anarchy on a fictitious report".

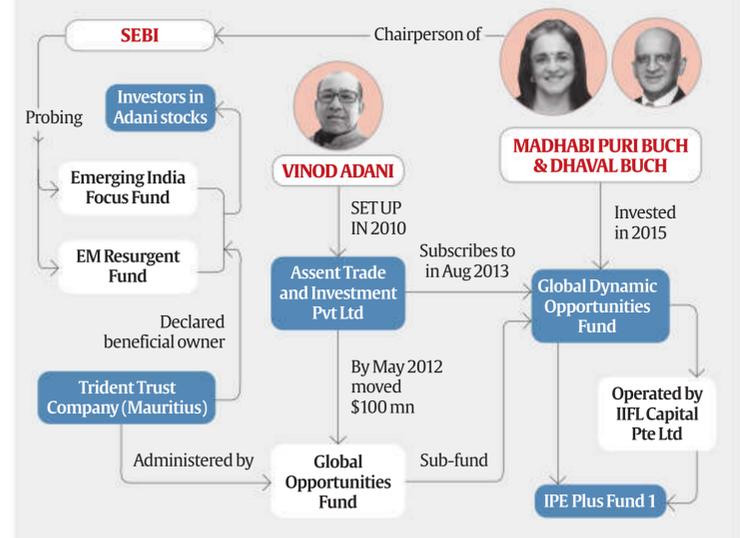
"Any Tom, Dick and Harry sitting in a foreign country will seek

to destabilise India and they (the Congress) will say 'JPC'. They will belittle India's investors. They will belittle India's stock market. That is their game. The JPC demand is a sham," Prasad said.

In its first official reaction to the Hindenburg allegations, the Union Ministry of Finance said it had nothing to add after the SEBI and Buch had issued their statements. Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth told reporters: "The SEBI has given a statement. The concerned person has given a statement. I have nothing further to add."

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 12**

## From Vinod Adani to SEBI chief



## Fund Buch couple invested in part of structure under Sebi probe

**JAY MAZOOMDAR & SANDEEP SINGH**  
NEW DELHI, MUMBAI, AUG 12

MAURITIUS-BASED IPE Plus Fund 1, which is at the centre of the controversy surrounding SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband Dhaval Buch, not only had investments by Vinod Adani, elder brother of industrialist Gautam Adani, but was also part of the investment

structure used by two of the 13 overseas funds being probed by the market regulator for opaque fund flows into Adani Group companies since 2016-17.

Information from multiple sources, including corporate records accessed by *The Indian Express*, the consortium of Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) and additional information made available by US-based Hindenburg Research, show that

the investments by Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband in 2015, are clearly linked to the fund which had significant investments by Vinod Adani.

A scrutiny of the web of funds and investments also reveals that the parent fund (Global Opportunities Fund) of the sub-fund (Global Dynamic Opportunities Fund) where Buch invested, was administered by Trident Trust Company

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 12**

**P4**  
**MANISH SISODIA**  
FORMER DELHI DEPUTY CM  
**THE EXPRESS INTERVIEW**

## To match Paris 2024, Los Angeles faces Mission Impossible



Tom Cruise at the Olympics closing ceremony. Reuters

**EXPRESS AT OLYMPICS**  
**MIHIR VASAVDA**  
PARIS, AUGUST 12

TOM CRUISE abseils from the roof, sprints towards the stage, picks up the Olympic flag from Simone Biles and zooms out of the Stade de France on a

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 12**

**BUSINESS AS USUAL**  
By UNNY

Will someone focus on 500 gram panchayats?

**Delhi Development Authority**

**Khushiyon Ko Mile Thikana Apna Bane Aashiyana**

**Launching 3 Housing Schemes — 19<sup>th</sup> August, 2024**

**FREEHOLD PROPERTY**

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FROM PAGE ONE FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

# Facing criticism for 'overreach', Govt withdraws draft broadcast Bill

referred to an earlier draft Bill placed in public domain in November last year, and said it "is holding a series of consultations with the stakeholders" and is offering them "further additional time" till October 15 to issue their comments. "A fresh draft will be published after detailed consultations," it said.

The ministry's statement, however, did not mention the new draft Bill which was shared with a few stakeholders last month, in a watermarked format to prevent any leak, and the fact that it has asked them to return these copies.

The statement has confused stakeholders, especially those who were not part of the group with which the government shared the 2024 version of the draft Bill. "Are we supposed to send our comments on the November 2023 version of the now withdrawn draft, because a copy was never formally shared with us," said a person from the industry, requesting anonymity.

The Bill, which sought to replace the 1995 Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, deals with television broadcasting. In November last year, the ministry had invited comments on a draft

Bill that consolidated the legal framework for the broadcasting sector and extended it to OTT content and digital news and current affairs as well. However, the new draft Bill, shared privately with some stakeholders last month, significantly altered the focus of the 2023 draft Bill.

The new draft Bill came under intense criticism after it expanded its remit from OTT content and digital news to include social media accounts and online video creators, sought to define a "digital news broadcaster" in sweeping terms to include independent content creators, and proposed prior registration with the government.

There was pushback from independent content creators publicly, and big tech companies privately, over fears of government overreach.

The *Indian Express* has learnt that a major difference of opinion emerged within the bureaucracy of the ministry on whether the Bill should apply to non-news online content creators. As per the draft Bill, such creators would have fallen under the category of OTT broadcasters. This is one of the reasons why the government wants to rework the contours of

the Bill, said sources.

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

This definition could include users on YouTube, Instagram, and even X, who generate advertising revenue through paid subscriptions or monetise their social media accounts through affiliate activities.

It allowed the government to specify a threshold for the number of subscribers or viewers for OTT broadcasters, who would then have to intimate it of their existence and operations and also adhere to a programme code and an advertisement code.

These online content creators would have to set up a content evaluation committee (CEC), and "strive to make" the committee diverse by including individuals with knowledge of different social groups, women, child welfare,

Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and minorities. The names of people in their CEC would have to be shared with the government.

Creators would be allowed to only run programmes which are certified by the CEC. However, such certification would not be required for programmes that are already certified for public viewing in India by a statutory body, educational programmes, news and current affairs programmes, live events, animation for children, and other programmes that the government may designate.

The Bill also sought to validate the "Code of Ethics" prescribed under the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, which has been stayed by the Bombay High Court and the Madras High Court.

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

## • 5 dead, 200 incidents: Fear grips Hindus, leaders meet Yunus today

since he also doubles up as the head of a local Durga temple committee. He fled his home, with his wife, 11-year-old son and a year-old daughter and has been in hiding for the last one week. "I have lost money, but I don't want to lose my life and my family," said Rajbongshi.

Rajbongshi is one of many from the Hindu minority community in Bangladesh, who have faced attacks in the last weeks since a beleaguered Hasina fled after more than 16 years of rule in the face of angry protesters marching towards her home.

Two organisations of minority communities reported Saturday that there had been at least 205 incidents of attacks on members of Hindu community in 52 districts since the fall of the Hasina government on August 5. They held protests over the weekend as well.

Bangladesh Hindu, Buddhist, Christian Unity Council and Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad, the two groups representing the minority community, will meet head of the interim government chief advisor Muhammad Yunus Tuesday, community leaders told *The Indian Express*.

That meeting is keenly anticipated. On August 8, as Yunus was sworn in, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had extended his best wishes to him urging him to ensure "the safety and protection of Hindus and all other minority communities" who have come under attack.

This direct reference to the safety of Hindus and other mi-

norities in Bangladesh underlined Delhi's expectations from the new players in Dhaka.

Basudeb Dhar, president of Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad, and one of the top Hindu minority leaders said: "There have been incidents of attacks on minorities after August 5, and we have got reports of five deaths so far. There is a sense of foreboding and uncertainty in the community, so we are meeting Prof Yunus tomorrow. The numbers of those being attacked have increased since we last got our reports of 205."

Dr Neem Chandra Bhowmik, president of Bangladesh Hindu, Buddhist, Christian Unity Council said, "We have been getting reports of vandalism, intimidation and threats on telephone from 52 of the 64 districts; the number is dynamic, and even today, I got a call about an incident, we are constantly trying to verify them."

Yet, both admit there has been "some improvement" over the last couple of days. Dhar said that in many places, local Muslim groups are taking the "initiative" of protecting some Hindu temples, including the Dhakeshwari temple in Dhaka. "These are positive developments and will help secure the peace," Dhar said.

While Dhaka has witnessed some attacks including Rajbongshi's, most have happened in villages and in the hinterland, especially in the border areas. The major challenge, community leaders said, has been to verify these reports. One key reason is the absence of the police over the last week — most of them

have abandoned the police stations for fear of retribution by the student protestors. Result: no police FIRs or complaints could be made in many cases, and the community was left defenceless in the absence of law-enforcement personnel.

Last week, English newspaper *The Daily Star* reported that Hindu houses and business establishments were attacked by mobs while their valuables were looted in at least 27 districts. Bengali daily Prothom Alo also reported that a former school teacher, a Hindu, had been killed and his wife and daughter were severely injured in an attack at their home in Bagerhat.

These reports have reinforced a sense of insecurity and foreboding among the Hindu community which, at about 8 per cent, is the largest minority population in the country of 170 million people.

About (91.04%) of Bangladeshis are Muslims, and the remaining 9 per cent has Hindus at (7.95%), Buddhists (0.61%) and Christians (0.30%) and others (0.12%) as per the 2022 census.

There is also a political dimension to the issue. Speaking to *The Indian Express*, a Hindu minority leader said that many of the Hindu families were targeted for being politically affiliated with the Awami League; some were attacked because people were looking for an "opportunity" in the absence of law and order; and they looted and robbed households. There were some incidents that were traced back to old property disputes as well.

"Since there were no police-men at the police stations, some of these miscreants got a free run. They took advantage and looted the people, especially vulnerable minorities," said Kishore Kumar Roy, an advocate and a Hindu minority leader.

Mindful of this growing challenge and aware that any escalation will cast a shadow on the transition, Yunus has called for the protection of the minority community in the country.

He has urged students to step up and ensure this. The *Daily Star* quoted him as saying, "You have been able to save the country. Can't you save some families?"

He called upon the students to protect all Hindu, Christian, and Buddhist families. You must say no one can harm them. They are my brothers. We fought together, and we will stay together."

Last week, heads of European Union missions in Bangladesh had also expressed their "concerns" about reported incidents of attacks on the people and temples of minority communities in the country.

In a deeply divided country, there is no escaping the polarised atmosphere in the wake of Sheikh Hasina's fall. There have been reports in a section of the local media and many social media posts downplaying the attacks on minorities, even calling some incidents "rumours." Supporters of Awami League, however, alleged that the mainstream media in Bangladesh have not been showing the "extent of atrocities on minorities and their party leaders."

## • Doctor's rape-murder: Protests on, CM sets deadline for police

will hand over the case to the CBI — even though their success rate is low."

On the same day, the principal of RG Kar Medical College, Sandip Ghosh, resigned from his post. "I am being defamed on social media. Some people are spreading false accusations against me. Students are being provoked to seek my removal. The deceased doctor was like my child, and I want the guilty to be punished. As a parent, I am resigning," he said. He was then deputed as principal of Calcutta National Medical College (CNMC).

Protesting doctors, whose demands included the resignation of the principal as well as other top officials of the medical college,

were angered by the decision to depute him to another institution. They said they would not allow Ghosh to take charge as CNMC principal.

At around 6 pm Monday, thousands of doctors, nurses, paramedical staff, and others reached RG Kar Medical College, carrying placards demanding justice for the victim. Later, doctors and students from CNMC also held a rally to RG Kar demanding that Ghosh be removed from his new post at their college.

On Sunday night, protesting doctors from state-run medical colleges across West Bengal had announced they would suspend emergency services from Monday onwards.

The Chief Minister said the police have been ordered to identify the culprits, "whoever they are".

"They will be tried in a fast-track court, and we will demand the death penalty for them. Police will be in constant touch with the family," she said.

Banerjee also mentioned the action already taken by the government, which on Sunday removed hospital superintendent Sanjay Vashisth. Kolkata police has also removed the ACP-rank officer who was in charge of the area concerned.

During her meeting with the family, the CM was accompanied by Kolkata Police Commissioner Vineet Goyal.

After the meeting, Goyal said,

"All those who were near the PO (place of occurrence of the crime) and have a connection or involvement are being summoned. We have already started a helpline number. Doctors can anonymously call to tell us if they suspect someone and why. They can come and talk to us physically too." He said police would stay in constant touch and share information regarding the progress of the investigation with the family.

"We are certain that in the next four-five days, if there are more culprits, we will be able to arrest them. If even after that, the family is not satisfied (with the probe), then whatever Madam (Banerjee) has said will happen," he said.

## • Retail inflation dips to 5-yr low

come after the RBI kept the repo rate unchanged for the ninth time in a row last week. After the monetary policy review Thursday, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had also raised concern about food inflation, saying that food inflation pressures cannot be ignored given the high share of food in the consumption basket.

Among food items, inflation rate of vegetables eased to 6.83 per cent in July from 29.32 per cent, while cereals and products inflation stood at 8.14 per cent in July as against 8.75 per cent in the previous month. Pulses inflation re-

mained in double digits at 14.77 per cent in July; it was 16.07 per cent in June. The retail inflation surge is mainly triggered by higher food inflation, with food and beverages carrying a weight of around 46 per cent in the CPI.

"Food inflation has come down to 5.4 per cent which is more due to a base effect rather than falling prices. The major pain points remain in the cereals and pulses basket. While inflation numbers may come down due to this effect, the new crop will enter only post-September, which will determine the future course

of price movements," Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist, Bank of Baroda, said. Economists are of the view that the slow pace of disinflation has delayed rate cuts by RBI and the process may get slowed further as inflation rate is expected to again rise above 4 per cent in the next two months, with even the RBI forecasting 4.4 per cent inflation in Q2 with food inflation as the major driving force.

The Consumer Food Price Index-based inflation eased to 5.42 per cent in July from 9.36 per cent in June, coming on the high base of 11.51 per cent in July 2023. Rural food inflation stood at 5.89 per cent in July, higher than urban food inflation of 4.63 per cent. Fuel and

light segment recorded a deflation of 5.48 per cent in July as against a deflation of 3.66 per cent in June, primarily due to base effect.

Core inflation — non-food, non-fuel segment — inched up marginally to 3.4 per cent in July, as compared to 3.1 per cent in June. However, it is "too early to term it as demand revival", Paras Jasrai, Senior Analyst, India Ratings said. "Retail inflation is expected to breach the 4% mark in August, mainly due to food inflation. The core inflation in August 2024 is expected to remain the same as July 2024 at 3.4%. Based on current inflationary and growth trends, India does not expect any change in policy rates/stance in FY25."



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**Time :** 11:00 AM

**Venue :** VASANT VIHAR BUS DEPOT, DELHI

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**NIRF RANKINGS**

# Where do DU colleges stand? Hindu tops list

VIDHEESHA KUNTAMALLA  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 12

DELHI UNIVERSITY'S Hindu College has this year bagged the first position, pushing DU's Miranda House to the second spot, in the college-wise rankings of the ninth edition of the annual list released by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) on Monday.

Four other DU colleges have made it to the top 10 list — St Stephen's College (third spot), Atma Ram Sanatan Dharma College (fifth spot), Kirori Mal College, and Lady Shri Ram College for Women (at the ninth and tenth spot, respectively).

The ranking framework evaluates institutions on five broad generic parameters — Teaching Learning and Resources (TLR); Research and professional Practice (RP); Graduation Outcome (GO); Outreach and Inclusivity (OI) and Perception (PR).

Even as it secured the top spot, Hindu College has seen a slight decrease in the TLR parameter while there has been significant improvement in the RP score (from 41.09 in 2023 to 59.88), and perception (from 86.91 in 2023 to 95.21 in 2024). Speaking to *The Indian Express*, principal Anju Srivastava said, "Keeping the students' needs in focus, the college has worked towards growth consistently over the years. We are very happy about our ranking, especially as it has come in the 125th year of the institution. We consider this as a tribute to our founding fathers."

| University-wise      | 2023 |      | 2024 |      |
|----------------------|------|------|------|------|
|                      | 2023 | 2024 | 2023 | 2024 |
| Delhi University     | 11   | 6    | 22   | 15   |
| JNU                  | 2    | 2    | 10   | 10   |
| Jamia Millia Islamia | 3    | 3    | 12   | 13   |

| College                         | 2023 | 2024 |
|---------------------------------|------|------|
| Hindu College                   | 2    | 1    |
| Miranda House                   | 1    | 2    |
| Kirori Mal College              | 9    | 9    |
| St Stephen's College            | 14   | 3    |
| ARSD                            | 6    | 5    |
| Lady Shri Ram College for Women | 9    | 10   |

Meanwhile, Miranda House saw a significant decrease in the TLR and RP parameters (from 70.10 and 55.41 in 2023 to 63.31 and 64.01 in 2024). In a significant leap, St Stephen's College jumped to the third spot from the 14th spot last year. The college has witnessed a significant increase in all four parameters, except TLR.

Atma Ram Sanatan Dharma College (ARSD) jumped up a rank. It saw a decrease in GO (from 80.52 in 2023 to 78.35 in 2024), and witnessed a slight increase in the rest of the four parameters. "Our research practice has al-

ways been strong. Even before the emphasis in the National Education Policy, our college has focused on research. There was a time when we were not so popular and had a perception close to zero. But now our perception is slowly improving," said ARSD principal Gyanatosh Kumar Jha. Kirori Mal this year retains the ninth position while LSR slightly dipped from the rank 9 last year to 10 this year.

LSR saw a slight dip in the TLR and GO parameters. Speaking to *The Indian Express*, LSR principal Suman Sharma said, "We will continue to strive for improvement. We have done extremely well in perception and also scored highest in Graduation Outcome."

# DU enters top 10, JNU, Jamia retain 2nd and 3rd spot

VIDHEESHA KUNTAMALLA  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 12

DELHI UNIVERSITY has made it to the list of top 10 universities in the country this year by securing the sixth position in the annual list of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) announced by the Ministry of Education on Monday. Meanwhile, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and Jamia Millia Islamia retain their positions at the second and third spots, respectively.

In the ninth edition of NIRF rankings, three new categories have been introduced — open universities, skill universities, and state-funded government universities.

Delhi University Vice Chancellor Yogesh Singh in an official statement said, "Last year too, DU had moved up two places and got 11th position in the university category at the national level... This time, in the overall ranking also DU jumped seven places, and got 15th position."

"This time, the overall rank of DU is 15th whereas last year it had improved by one point to reach 22nd position," the statement added.

This year, JNU — along with retaining its second position in the universities category — has

also retained the 10th spot in the overall category of institutions in the country. The university witnessed a significant increase in the perception category from 65.51 in 2023 to 70.39 in 2024.

JNU Vice Chancellor Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit said, "I thank the entire epistemic community for consistently doing very well at national and international rankings... JNU should be given the eminence tag and the grant for infrastructure and research development."

On Jamia Millia Islamia retaining its ranking for the third consecutive year, officiating Vice Chancellor Mohammad Shakeel said, "We are extremely happy to retain the third position for the third consecutive year in NIRF. The credit goes to the hard work of teachers and the discipline of our students. Our non-teaching staff who put their sweat and blood into maintaining the standard of the university also deserve this recognition. Our effort was to retain the position and not slip. It's easy to reach the top position but difficult to maintain it."

The higher educational institutes are listed under 16 categories. This year, as many as 10,885 higher educational institutions participated as compared to 5,543 last year.

**LESS THAN A WEEK AFTER STAFF CRUNCH FLAGGED**

# Majority of vacancies filled at Asha Kiran, Delhi govt tells HC

SOHINI GHOSH  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 12

LESS THAN a week after the High Court was informed of a "severe staff crunch" at Asha Kiran Home, a Delhi government-run shelter home for the intellectually challenged, the Department of Social Welfare on Monday told the court that it has now filled the vacancies in both health and non-health cadre staff. The shelter home has been under scrutiny after 14 inmates died in July.

With the shelter home also grappling with the issue of overcrowding, the High Court also told Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) commissioner Ashwani Kumar to "forthwith" hand over the building of Narela Nursing College to the Department of Social Welfare so that the inmates can be shifted after making suitable changes. At present, the shelter has 928 inmates against a capacity of 570.

According to a status report submitted by the Department of Social Welfare in the court, all sanctioned posts for health staff are now filled except two vacancies of clinical psychologists. The Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences (IHBAS) informed the court that the vacancies will be filled in 30 days.

Vacant positions for sanctioned posts of teachers, special educators, craft instructors, and music teachers too have been filled apart from posts for ad-



14 inmates died in July at Asha Kiran Home. File

ministrative and supportive staff. Four of 450 posts for caregivers, five of eight sanctioned posts for washermen and cooks are yet to be filled, which too are expected to be filled in a month.

The recruitment comes after the High Court on August 7 asked for "urgent steps" to tackle the situation while hearing a plea by NGO Samadhan Abhiyan.

On the issue of decongestion, Social Welfare Department secretary Vinod Kavle — appearing before the bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela — Monday informed the HC that 20 female for-

eign detainees at the shelter home will be shifted to Shehzada Bagh FRRO (Foreigners Regional Registration Office) Centre within a week, which in turn "shall pave the way to shift residents from Asha Kiran Complex to Asha Jyoti Home at Hari Nagar." Around 200 inmates from Asha Kiran can be housed at the nursing college and hostel building of MCD at Narela, which has been given in-principle approval by the MCD Commissioner, the High Court was informed. Kavle pointed out that the proposal would be required to be passed through the MCD's Standing Committee, which is yet to be constituted.

Additionally, the High Court was informed that the Social Welfare Department has agreed to purchase the MCD's nursing college and hostel at a price to be determined by the civic body. Taking cognisance of the submission, the HC recorded the asset value shall be conveyed to the department in due course.

The HC has directed that a fresh status report be filed in two weeks while posting the matter for further hearing on September 30.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR SKILLED INDIANS ACROSS THE WORLD**

**Home-Based Caregiver Opportunity in Israel**

Salaries starting from INR 1,30,000 per month\*

**Number Of Openings - 5000\*\***

**Eligibility Criteria:**

Gender: Male and Female    Age: 25 - 45 Years    Height/Weight: Min. 5 feet / 45 kgs or more

Min. Qualification: 10th Pass    Passport Validity: Min. 3 years validity    English Requirement: Good/Basic

**Experience, Diploma & Certification**

- Qualified in provision of caregiving services and should hold a certificate issued by a competent Indian regulatory authority, demonstrating successful completion of a caregiving course of at least 990 hours (including OJT), recognized, or supervised by relevant Indian authorities, or a diploma proving completion of training in nursing, physiotherapy, nurse assistant, or midwifery provided by an Indian Training Provider accredited and recognized by relevant Indian authorities.
- GDA/ANM/GNM/BSc Nursing/Post BSc Nursing

**Kindly Note:**

- It is important that the candidate has never previously worked in Israel/ do not have a spouse, parents or children currently working or residing in Israel.
- Selection and rejection decisions will be made exclusively by Israeli employer.
- NSDC is not the employer of caregiver workers, NSDC is only facilitator.

\* This is as per the minimum wages of Israel  
\*\* This is as per the current demand received from Israel

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**GOODS AND SERVICES TAX NETWORK**

Corporate Office: 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, East Wing, World Mark-1, Aerocity, Delhi-110037  
Tel: 011-4911200, [www.gstn.org.in](http://www.gstn.org.in)

**TENDER NOTICE**

Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN), a Government Enterprise, invites bids from eligible companies for the following goods/services:

| Particular(s)  | Pre-Bid Meeting Date & Time               | Last Date & Time for submission of bid           |
|--|---|--|
| RFP for Selection of Housekeeping Service Provider for GSTN Office | 21 <sup>st</sup> August, 2024<br>03:00 PM | 02 <sup>nd</sup> September, 2024<br>Upto 3:00 PM |

Tender/RFP document & related necessary information may be downloaded from GSTN website: [www.gstn.org.in](http://www.gstn.org.in).  
Any amendment/corrigendum shall be uploaded on GSTN website.  
Dr. Shilohu Rao, Sr. VP (P&C)

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NAVATNA COMPANY  
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)  
Website: [www.ircon.org](http://www.ircon.org), CIN - L45203DL1976G0008171

**e-Disposal Notice**

e-Tender No.: IRCON/MECH/P&E/DISPOSAL/DFCCIL-CTP-12/2024-25/749 Dated 09.08.2024  
e-Tender for and on behalf of IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED is invited from bidders meeting qualifying requirements for work of "Scrap Materials (Rails), Old and Used, Electrical Motor, Vibrator Motor, Screen Vibrator, Water Pump, Air Compressor, C-Clamp, Tyre, Cut Pieces/Test Pieces, Flats & I-beams lying at New Ancehil Depot & New Vangsan at DFCCIL-CTP-12 Project on as is where is basis".

Last Date & Time of e-Bid Submission: 02.09.2024 at 13:00 Hrs.

For further details, visit website <https://tenders.gov.in/e-procure/app>. Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website.  
CGM/Mechanical  
IRCON International Ltd.  
C-4, District Centre, Saket, New Delhi-110017

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**TENDER NOTICE (E-Tendering Mode Only)**

Online E-Bids are invited for Handling of Containers (Cycle Model) at CRT Karambeli, (Gujarat)

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Tender No.                     | CON/AREA-II/KEBG/HANDLING/2024/85993                           |
| Estimated Cost                 | Rs. 2,98,20,960/- (including GST) for four (2+2) years.        |
| Date of Sale (On Line)         | From 13/08/2024 at 15:00 hrs. to 27/08/2024 (up to 16:00 hrs.) |
| Last Date & Time of submission | On 28/08/2024 up to 16:00 hrs.                                 |
| Date & Time of Opening         | On 29/08/2024 at 15:30 hrs.                                    |

For eligibility criteria and other details please log on to [www.concorindia.com](http://www.concorindia.com) or [e-procure.gov.in](http://e-procure.gov.in) or [www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL](http://www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL). Bidders are requested to visit the websites regularly. For complete details log on to [www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL](http://www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL).

Group General Manager/Area Head-II

**पावरग्रिड**  
**POWERGRID**

Invitation for Bids (IFB) for 765 kV Reactor Package 7RT-15 for 7x110 MVAR, 765 kV, 1-Ph Reactors and 6x80 MVAR, 765 kV, 1-Ph Reactors under Bulk Procurement of 765 kV and 400 kV class Transformers & Reactors of various Capacities (Lot - 3).

**Single Stage Two Envelope (SSTE) Bidding Procedure (Funding: Domestic) DOMESTIC COMPETITIVE BIDDING**

Date: 13.08.2024  
POWERGRID invites online bids through e-tendering portal <https://etender.powergrid.in> for the following Package:

| RFX No. on e-tendering portal | Package Reference/ Specification No. | Downloading of Bidding Documents; Cost of Bidding Documents            | Deadline for Bid Submission (Soft copy part)            |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| 5002003641<br>0124-2823311    | CC/NT/W-RT/DOM/A02/24/07985          | Up to 28.08.2024, Time: up to 11:00 Hrs.<br>Document Fee: Rs. 25,000/- | Soft copy part: up to 28.08.2024, Time: up to 11:00 Hrs |

- For further details including complete Bidding Documents, addendum/changes in bidding program, if any, please visit procurement portal <https://etender.powergrid.in>.
- The first Envelope (Techno-Commercial part) of the bid shall be opened 30 minutes after the deadline of Bid Submission (soft copy part).
- The complete Bidding Documents are also available on our website <http://www.powergrid.in> and on Government of India's Central Public Procurement Portal (<https://e-procure.gov.in>) for the purpose of reference only.
- The NIT/IFB has already been published on <https://etender.powergrid.in> portal on 21.06.2024.
- For any other information, please contact: +919971399078, +919599814157, +917351188331

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Corp. Office : "Sautamini", Plot No. 2, Sector-29, Gurugram-120011, (Haryana)  
[www.powergrid.in](http://www.powergrid.in), CIN : L40101DL1989G0038121

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Tel: 022-47488312/46994679. Email: [admin@midcindia.org](mailto:admin@midcindia.org)

**GeM Portal Tender Notice No./MIDC/GAD/STORE/02/2024-25 (Corrigendum)**

GeM Portal Tender is invited from the reputed & experienced Companies /Agencies for supply of General stationery articles. The details of nature of work, Terms & conditions for submission of the tender are available on GeM portal. The blank tender forms are available on GeM portal during the period from Dt.07/08/2024 to Dt.19/08/2024 (upto 13.00 hrs.)

| Sr.No. | Particular                           | Instead of                                     | Must this Read                                 |
|--------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| 1.     | Duration of Tender form availability | Dt.07.08.2024 to Dt.15.08.2024 at 13.00 hours. | Dt.07.08.2024 to Dt.19.08.2024 at 13.00 hours. |

We do not change in GeM Portal Tender Notice no.02/2024-25. Only change in last submission date.

General Manager (HRD)  
Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation

**SIKKA PORTS & TERMINALS LIMITED**  
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CIN: U45102GJ1997PLC031906

**EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE 2024**  
(Rs. in crore, except per share data and ratios)

| Sr. No. | Particulars   | Quarter Ended |            |            | Year Ended |
|---------|---|---------------|------------|------------|------------|
|         |   | 30 Jun '24    | 30 Jun '23 | 31 Mar '24 |            |
|         |   | Unaudited     | Unaudited  | Audited    |            |
| 1       | Total Income from Operations  | 1,253.30      | 1,184.12   | 4,890.74   |            |
| 2       | Net Profit before Tax   | 359.17        | 629.23     | 1,824.40   |            |
| 3       | Net Profit after Tax  | 58.17         | 43.29      | 860.16     |            |
| 4       | Total Comprehensive Income [Comprising Profit (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (OCI) (after tax)] | 156.82        | 589.73     | 1,998.72   |            |
| 5       | Paid up Equity Share Capital  | 2,475.00      | 2,475.00   | 2,475.00   |            |
| 6       | Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)  | 17,967.47     | 17,967.47  | 17,967.47  |            |
| 7       | Securities Premium Account  | 21,728.56     | 20,344.42  | 21,489.23  |            |
| 8       | Net worth   | 24,136.35     | 21,780.15  | 24,179.05  |            |
| 9       | Paid up Debt Capital/ Outstanding Debt  | 47.00         | 47.00      | 47.00      |            |
| 10      | Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares  | -             | -          | -          |            |
| 11      | Outstanding Non-Cumulative Optionally Convertible Preference Shares   | 3,500.00      | -          | 3,500.00   |            |
| 12      | Debt Equity Ratio   | 0.99          | 0.98       | 1.00       |            |
| 13      | Earnings per Equity Share for the period/ year of face value of Rs. 1 each - Basic and Diluted (in Rupees)  | 0.02          | 0.17       | 0.35       |            |
| 14      | Capital Redemption Reserve  | -             | -          | -          |            |
| 15      | Debiture Redemption Reserve   | 1,316.80      | 1,916.80   | 1,316.80   |            |
| 16      | Debt Service Coverage Ratio   | 1.64          | 0.17       | 0.45       |            |
| 17      | Interest Service Coverage Ratio   | 1.83          | 2.22       | 2.01       |            |

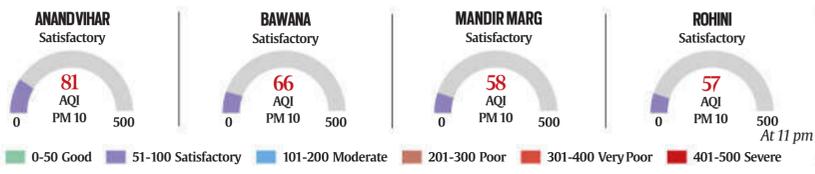
**Notes:**

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of the Unaudited Standalone Financial Results for the quarter ended 30th June 2024 filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 52 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Unaudited Standalone Financial Results for the quarter ended 30th June 2024 are available on the website of BSE Limited ([www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com)) and can be accessed on the Company's website ([www.spil.co.in](http://www.spil.co.in)).
- For the other line items referred in Regulation 52(4) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the pertinent disclosures have been made to BSE Limited ([www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com)) and can be accessed on the Company's website ([www.spil.co.in](http://www.spil.co.in)).
- The Audit Committee has reviewed, and the Board of Directors has approved the above results and its release at their respective meetings held on 12th August 2024. The statutory auditors of the Company have carried out a Limited Review of the aforesaid results.

For Sikka Ports & Terminals Limited  
Sd/-  
Sanjeev Dandekar  
Chairman  
DIN : 00022797

Place: Mumbai  
Date : 12th August 2024

# 4 THE CITY



**SKYWATCH**  
 August 13  
 Generally cloudy sky.  
 Light rain/thunderstorm  
**MAX: 33** | **MIN: 26**  
 1.2°C below normal | 1°C below normal

## Reason for city's infra problems is L-G's dictatorship: Sisodia

**JATIN ANAND**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 12

OUT AFTER 17 months in prison following his arrest in the excise policy case, AAP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said jail strengthened his belief that the country's path to development by 2047 rests on the foundation of excellent government schools. Behind bars, he says, he researched education systems across the world and read various interpretations of the Bhagavad Gita. In the absence of CM Arvind Kejriwal, he is now leading the party in its most important political battle — the 2025 Assembly polls. Excerpts from an interview:

This despite the party, from its point of view, passing through a crucial stage, a crisis — but governance did not buckle under a crisis. People's work did not stop.

**Almost the entire senior leadership was behind bars at some point. Do you think AAP is ready to head into the polls in such circumstances?**

There are six months but six months is not that long a window. There is complete enthusiasm in the party... a crisis always brings two opportunities — either you crumble or fight back. The good thing is that the party now has the spirit to fight back. *Jhukenge nahin, tootenge nahin* (We won't bow down or break)... I'm so proud of AAP workers and leaders... that the party came together...

**How do you think the AAP government in Delhi performed while you and CM Arvind Kejriwal were in jail?**

I am proud the government's work didn't stop during such a crucial time... 20 new schools came up, 14 new Schools of Excellence opened after I went (to jail)... the first batch of our Armed Forces Preparatory School saw the selection and appointment of eight Second Lieutenants. Three new hospitals opened recently, adding 3,000 more beds... around 7,500-8,000 buses are in the public fleet... the highest in the history of Delhi.

**Things have changed between when you were here and now — especially, the formation of the NCCSA after the amendment to the GNCTD Act. Has it added to the hurdles the government was facing in Delhi? How do you plan to overcome this?**

It is not about ministers versus bureaucrats; that is how the L-G tries to portray it... it's about democracy. The Supreme Court (in the matter regarding Services), interpreted the Constitution — that people of Delhi will elect the government,



Tashi Tobgyal

**THE EXPRESS INTERVIEW**  
 WITH **MANISH SISODIA**  
 AAP MLA, EX-DEPUTY CM

are suffering and the people... are facing delays in their work.

**While you were in jail, Delhi was hit by several issues — the water scarcity during**

**summer, now waterlogging during monsoon. What do you plan to do to fix these?**

For nearly two years, funds meant for the Delhi Jal Board have been stalled and the L-G has not allowed payments to go through; he indirectly threatens officers... The reason for this state of affairs is dictatorship; it is the L-G's dictatorship. For two successive years, the Delhi government passes the Budget with the Centre's approval, gives the DJB a budget, provides for a budget for desilting, but payments meant for sewers... for DJB are not being made... If these works were un-

der the ambit of ministers, they would have been done in two minutes; but the Centre says no, the L-G will get them done; the L-G is not letting that happen.

**Is there a possibility that the Rs 1,000 welfare payout for women will be implemented before the Assembly polls?**

... It is just a matter of time before Kejriwal is out... *jaise hi Kejriwal ji bahar aayenge, definitely ispe kaam hoga*. (As soon as Kejriwal is out, work will begin on the scheme).

**What was initially seen as an unlikely alliance between AAP and Congress went through. It, however, could not secure a single seat in Delhi. Is there a possibility of a similar alliance during the Assembly polls? Or beyond?**

I don't think political parties should see much in the role that alliances can be a part, a small fraction, of what the nation and its political process require today but the entire opposition needs to come together on national issues... If the Opposition comes together in reaction to the arrest of (Jharkhand Chief Minister) Hemant Soren *saab*, what they (BJP) have done in Maharashtra — the Opposition should unite... whenever there is an issue around the murder of the

Constitution or any tampering with it anywhere in the country or any issue related to atrocities against the people, the entire Opposition should unite... All parties in the country should come together, not just the Opposition. The people have certainly strengthened the hands of the Opposition, but also their own by meeting out the treatment which they have to their (the BJP's) '400 paar' slogan... They should speak up about Hindenburg too... Today it is Hindenburg, tomorrow it will be another issue. If the opposition unites over the issue of Kejriwal's wrongful arrest through misuse of PMLA, he will be out in 24 hours.

**Do you think the PMLA is being misused?**

There are numerous businessmen across the country whom they have caught; some of them may be involved in wrongdoing... but I've been talking to lawyers; a lot of people told me about cases where someone, for instance, with an (annual) turnover of Rs 5,000 crore was caught over a mistake involving a comma or a full-stop and slapped with PMLA only to be extorted. So many businessmen are leaving the country... earlier we used to say red tape is destroying the country, today I am saying extortion — government extortion — is doing so in the name of law...

**There is a speculation that you may be AAP's CM face?**

I can't say anything about such speculation, but as far as my mindset is concerned — I've just come out two days ago — I am focusing on the party, the people, and what MLAs and councillors are doing... My focus, of course, is the Delhi election as well as continuing governance. Tomorrow, when Kejriwal ji comes out, if he decides I should be a part of the government, it will be so... one thought is that with 4-6 months remaining (for the polls), I need to work for the party... Kejriwal ji is number one and everyone else, including me, is number two.

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

**theme of AAP's campaign during the Delhi polls? Statehood or work done in Delhi?**

It's not about achievements that are old or new; people see what a government has done for them... in a year, 2 crore people availed benefits at mohalla clinics, lakhs have received treatment at private hospitals under the Delhi government's scheme... lakhs of people are sending their children to (new) government schools... All of this was accomplished despite the party and government going through such a crucial period. People see all this. This is why they chose it twice and are going to choose it for the third time...

### Implementation of new criminal laws: L-G holds review meeting

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 12

L-G V K Saxena Monday held a review of the ongoing implementation of the three new criminal laws, urging officials to expedite the removal of any hurdles. The meeting, held at the L-G's office, was attended by Delhi Home Minister Kailash Gahlot, Delhi Law Minister Atishi was unable to participate, citing a family emergency.

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam came into effect on July 1. These replaced the colonial-era Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act, respectively.

During the meeting, Saxena directed officials from various departments — Home Department, Delhi Police, Forensic Science Laboratory, National Informatics Centre, and Directorate of Prosecution — to establish clear timelines for completing ongoing projects related to implementation of the new laws.

Training of nodal officers from the Health Department for the MedLeaPR portal, which is used for medico-legal cases, was among the key issues discussed. The meeting also addressed procurement of mobile forensic vans for police and forensic department, as well as infrastructure required for providing video conferencing facilities in all 691 courts in Delhi. The L-G directed the departments to expedite these processes. Another key talking point was filling 165 junior vacancies by the FSL for deployment at crime scenes. Officials assured the L-G that recruitment for these positions, on a contract basis for six months, would be completed by September 21.

### PROTESTS OVER KOLKATA DOCTOR RAPE-MURDER

## OPDs shut, surgeries on hold: Doctors' strike hits Capital

**ANKITA UPADHYAY**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 12

HUNDREDS OF patients who visited Delhi's hospitals Monday had to return without consulting a doctor or getting medical reports as resident doctors joined the nationwide strike to protest against the rape and murder of a trainee doctor in Kolkata, paralysing healthcare services.

AllIMS Delhi, which sees the largest Out-Patient Department (OPD) crowd with 10,000 patients a day, saw a 20% reduction in registrations. As per data released by the institute, surgeries, admissions, and lab services also dipped by 80%, 35% and 25% respectively. Services were disrupted in the emergency department as well.

Among the worst affected were patients who came from far-off states. Avadesh Kumar Jha, a 48-year-old cancer patient who came to Delhi two months ago from Bihar's Siwan, could not meet his doctor owing to the strike. "I developed oral cancer a few years ago... it has now led to an issue in my spine," he said, sitting in a wheelchair.

Avadesh's brother Jagadish had stood in line since 2 am to get an appointment for a consultation. For him, each day is important as he is losing business — he had to close up his sweets shop back home to come to the Capital. "I want to be done with all the tests and consultation as early as possible so I can go back soon," he said.

Rashida Khatoon (27), who is wheelchair-bound, is suffering from liver cirrhosis; she came to AllIMS after being referred by a



Praveen Khanna



(Clockwise) Doctors on strike at Lok Nayak Hospital; patients Rashida Khatoon, Avadesh Jha among those affected

doctor in Bihar's Muzaffarpur two days ago. Her brother Faiz Ahmed said he took her to the emergency first as she was in extreme pain and was unable to walk due to swelling in her legs. "But staff told us doctors were on strike and asked us to visit the OPD. But there are no doctors here," he said.

For Santosh Kumar, the wait was agonising. His son, Manish, is a psychiatric patient and has been showing symptoms of anxiety and restlessness for two days. "My son... has been saying that he will commit suicide. I am worried about him," he said. He was told to get an EEG test

done on Manish but could not get the report as there was no staff available. "When we went to the OPD to meet the doctor to tell them about this, the doctor had already left," complained Santosh. According to an AllIMS doctor, many patients who received surgery dates after a long wait were suffering the most as they are now being given fresh dates after 3-4 months. "We hope this issue is resolved as soon as possible else it will be a big setback for healthcare services in the city," he added.

Earlier in the day, around 1,000 junior and senior resident doctors held a march around AI-

IMS demanding justice for the Kolkata doctor. The hospital's Resident Doctors' Association (RDA), which conducted the strike, demanded that a central agency probe the case and a judicial inquiry be carried out.

At Safdarjung Hospital too, elective surgeries were postponed and faculty members sat in the OPD till 3 pm. Around 1,500 resident doctors participated in the strike in front of the Emergency Building. At RML hospital, around 300-400 resident doctors did not participate in the OPD services; emergency services continued.

As per RML Medical Superintendent Dr Ajay Shukla, a contingency plan has been prepared where faculty members will look after patients and services will continue amid the strike.

At Delhi government's largest Hospital, Lok Nayak, OPD services were suspended while emergency services continued. According to the Federation of All India Medical Association President, Dr Rohan Krishnan, the strike was important because questions have been raised on the investigation conducted by the police. "It also exposes the lack of security for female doctors, the lack of female doctors in the duty room," he said.

Dr Vipin Madhagarhia, orthopaedic surgeon and RDA president at DDU hospital, said, "It's about security of female doctors which is being violated and we can't tolerate the delay anymore."

The RDAs of RML, Safdarjung, and Lady Hardinge Medical College have announced that they will continue the strike Tuesday.

## Atishi to hoist flag on I-Day: Gopal Rai; Tihar sends a warning to CM

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 12

AMID ONGOING controversy over the Independence Day flag hoisting ceremony, Delhi minister Gopal Rai Monday — following a meeting with Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal at Tihar Jail — directed the General Administration Department (GAD) to make preparations for his cabinet colleague Atishi to unfurl the Tricolour on August 15.

The instructions came even as the Tihar administration, citing prison rules, warned the CM of curtailing privileges being extended to him if he undertook formal communication like a letter in which he had written to L-G V K Saxena nominating Atishi for the role last week. "After meeting CM Kejriwal, Minister Gopal Rai issued orders to the GAD to the ef-



Rai issued directions to GAD

fect that Cabinet Minister Atishi will hoist the flag on August 15," the Delhi government said.

Citing the CM's letter to Saxena on August 6, the Superintendent of Jail No. 2, where Kejriwal is lodged, wrote to him asking him to do so in the future, citing various provisions of Delhi Prison Rules, 2018. These, for instance, provide for the content of all let-

ters being limited to private matters, prisoners being allowed to write letters only to their family members, relatives, and close friends, and the counsel handling their cases among others.

"... it is clear your communication does not qualify in the permissible communication which can be sent outside the prison... Therefore, your letter dated 06.08.2024 has not been sent to the addressee but has been filed..." the letter stated.

"... It is surprising to note that contents of the letter which was handed over by you on 6.8.2024 were leaked to the media without any authority. This amounts to an abuse of privileges granted to you... You are therefore advised to desist from any such impermissible activity, failing which I shall be constrained to invoke provisions of Delhi Prison Rules 2018 to curtail your privileges..." it added.

## CM moves SC for bail in CBI's excise policy case

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 12

DELHI CHIEF Minister Arvind Kejriwal Monday approached the Supreme Court seeking bail in the case registered against him by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in connection with the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy.

The development comes days after his deputy Manish Sisodia was granted bail in the excise case registered by the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

Senior Advocate A M Singhvi, appearing for Kejriwal, commended this to a Bench presided by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, who in turn asked him to send an email request.



CM Arvind Kejriwal. Archive

The CJJ also assured that he would look into it.

Dismissing his bail plea on August 5, the Delhi HC had said that the CBI's arrest of Kejriwal "cannot be said to be without justifiable reasons or as illegal".

Kejriwal was arrested by the CBI on June 26. It came weeks after he was arrested by the ED on March 21.

## Sisodia to kick off AAP poll campaign

New Delhi: Following his release from jail, AAP leader Manish Sisodia is set to kickstart the party's 2025 Delhi Assembly poll campaign Wednesday. On Monday, Sisodia, along with CM Arvind Kejriwal's wife Sunita, held a high-level meeting with all MLAs. He will meet councillors Tuesday.

The meeting was also attended by ministers Saurabh Bharadwaj, Atishi, Gopal Rai, Imran Hussain, and Rajya Sabha MP Sandeep Pathak. Pathak said: "We have decided to go to every Vidhan Sabha... and tell people about BJP's truth — how it is trying to hurt them by creating obstacles in all decisions of the elected government."

Hitting back, BJP Delhi chief Virendra Sachdeva said people will question Sisodia about his scams but he won't be able to answer them. **ENS**

## 'Why no action against those who made weak gate?': Court to CBI on coaching centre deaths

**NIRBHAY THAKUR**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 12

"WHY AREN'T you holding accountable the persons who made such a weak gate?", a Delhi court asked the CBI Monday as it heard the bail plea of four accused in the coaching centre deaths case. Three civil services aspirants died on July 27 after the basement of Rau's IAS Study Circle in Old Rajinder Nagar flooded.

"We've heard of flyovers falling... if the contractor uses sub-standard material, then it is a natural consequence," Principal District and Sessions Judge Anju Bajaj Chandna said while hearing the bail plea of four co-owners of the building where the incident happened. The judge was referring to



3 students had drowned in the flooded basement. Archive

the breaching of the gate of the coaching centre after water that accumulated on the street outside Rau's entered the building and knocked it down on the day

of the incident. The basement got flooded, leading to the tragedy.

Advocate Amit Chadha appearing for the co-owners said, "Entire property is commercial and being used for coaching. The accused are only landowners. They never told Rau's to use the basement as a library." He said the accused voluntarily went to the police and didn't escape arrest.

He added that a case of negligence can be made against the owners, not a case of culpable homicide not amounting to murder. "Knowledge is when a person knows he's doing some act which is illegal and likely to cause death. There has to be direct proximity," he added. The co-owners didn't have the knowledge that the aspirants would drown, he said. The CBI rebutted the argu-

ments of Chadha vehemently: "You were getting Rs 4 lakh a month, and lives of three innocent children were taken away."

The judge asked the CBI if there was any evidence waterlogging took place on that same road "occasionally". As per the judge, if that was the case, it can be implied the owners had the "knowledge" that this drowning could occur.

Reading a student's complaint who had said the basement was unsafe for aspirants, the CBI made the case that the owners must have known about it. "Within 10 minutes of rain, waterlogging takes place in that area... shouldn't the owners also take some responsibility?" said advocate Abhijeet Anand, representing the victims.

The hearing was adjourned till Tuesday.

## Even a woman can be booked as a perpetrator of child sexual abuse: HC in POCSO case ruling

**SOHINI GHOSH**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 12

HOLDING THAT the law cannot be given a "restrictive meaning," the Delhi High Court in a significant ruling held that even a woman can be booked as the perpetrator of child sexual abuse.

Justice Anup Jairam Bhambhani, in an August 9 judgment on a revision plea filed by a woman accused under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, held that the accused must face trial under the Act.

"The word 'he' appearing in Section 3 of the POCSO Act cannot be given a restrictive meaning, to say that it refers only to a 'male'; but must be given its in-

tended meaning, namely that it includes within its ambit any offender irrespective of their gender," the ruling stated.

In the case in question, the accused woman is charged with aggravated sexual assault which includes committing "penetrative sexual assault causing grievous hurt or causing bodily harm and injury or injury to the sexual organs of the child." Under Section 6 of the POCSO Act, the offence carries a minimum sentence of 20 years to life imprisonment or the death penalty.

Crucially, the provision does not require the accused to have an "intent" to commit sexual assault. A Delhi court in January this year had sentenced the woman accused to 10 years' imprisonment under Section 6 of the

POCSO Act for aggravated penetrative sexual assault. The accused had then moved the HC challenging the framing of charge under Section 6 of the POCSO Act by the trial court and seeking dropping of charges.

Women are usually booked for "aiding and abetting" the charge of sexual assault but it is not common for them to be booked as a perpetrator.

The accused had argued that the offence of aggravated penetrative sexual assault under the POCSO Act "can never be made out against a woman" since the Act repeatedly uses the pronoun 'he'. The lawyers of the accused argued that the interpretation of Indian Penal Code provisions on rape, which only criminalises actions of a man, is similar to the def-

inition of penetrative sexual assault in Section 3 of the POCSO Act.

The prosecution, on the other hand, had submitted that the POCSO Act is gender neutral and the word 'person' is also used in the definition in Section 3 of the Act and thus it cannot be construed in a narrow sense "and must include women offenders as well".

The HC disagreed with the argument of the accused interpreting the meaning of "he" used in the Act. The ruling noted that in the IPC, Section 8 states that the pronoun 'he' and its derivatives are used of any person, whether male or female. The court also recorded that Section 3 in the POCSO Act itself starts with "a person is said to commit 'penetrative sexual assault' if..."



Govt. of Haryana



# Immense opportunities of **Employment** and **Self-employment** for the youth

Government jobs to 1.44 lakh youth in a transparent manner

Jobs of 1.20 lakh employees working under outsourcing services and HKRNL secured

Monthly unemployment allowance for eligible 12th pass unemployed youth Rs. 1200, for graduate Rs. 2000 and for post graduate Rs. 3500

5000 women from 500 women self-help groups will be trained in drone operation and maintenance under Drone Didi Yojana

Skill training to 10,000 youth to start their own business through Contractor Saksham Yuva Yojana

**Mhara Haryana**  
**Non-Stop Haryana**



# 6 GOVT & POLITICS



## ON THE FAST TRACK

**SAMAJWADI PARTY** president Akhilesh Yadav's complaint against the Central government seems to have been promptly addressed by the ministry concerned. Days after the Kannauj MP said in Parliament that the government has not developed any new expressway project in Uttar Pradesh, SP's Dhaurahra MP Anand Bhaduria met Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari and handed over a letter, requesting for construction of an expressway from Lucknow-Agra to Haridwar via his constituency. Later, Bhaduria expressed "happiness" over Gadkari's in-principle approval for the project. He said if the expressway construction starts, it will be like a "dream come true" for him.

## MINORITY CONCERN

THE VISHVA HINDU Parishad on Monday released a helpline number — 9111-26103495 — for "distressed" Bangladeshi Hindus to approach the organisation. "We in coordination with the Central government shall try to help them out in every possible way," the VHP said. The organisation also sought action from the interim government in Bangladesh against those attacking Hindus there. "We are surprised to see the grotesque silence of so-called human right bodies and persons who have not spoken a word for the suffering minorities in Bangladesh," said VHP president Alok Kumar.

## BJP, RSS brainstorm ties, state elections, Bangladesh unrest

At Rajnath's house; Shah, Nadda and Sangh's Hosable, Arun Kumar attend

**DEEPTIMAN TIWARY, LIZ MATHEW & VIKASPATHAK**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 12

A HIGH-LEVEL meeting was held between top leaders of the BJP and the RSS on Sunday at the residence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. Sources said the meeting discussed a host of issues ranging from the relations between the party and the Sangh to the upcoming state elections, to the Bangladesh crisis.

While official sources termed it as a "routine meeting", it assumes significance in the backdrop of strained ties between the party and its ideological parent in recent months, even as several pressing issues have also come up.

The RSS-linked outfits recently flagged the NEET paper leaks and called for improving the functioning of the National Testing Agency (NTA). The unrest in Bangladesh, where there are reports of attacks on Hindus, has been repeatedly highlighted by the RSS, which is constantly monitoring the situation.

The BJP is also likely to have a new president soon, with many in the party and the RSS expecting an announcement of the same before the August-end coordination meeting of the latter with its affiliated organisations in Kerala.

Sources said the leaders — Union Home Minister Amit Shah

and BJP president and Health Minister J P Nadda besides Rajnath Singh from the BJP and Dattatreya Hosable and Arun Kumar from the Sangh — discussed many issues including "ways to improve the party-Sangh relations further".

Apart from the prospective changes in the BJP, there were discussions about the upcoming RSS meeting in Kerala, where the coordination between the party and the Sangh would be taken up for deliberations.

Sources said the leaders also discussed the concerns over the safety of Bangladeshi Hindus and the government's efforts to ensure their security.

"When such meetings happen, a lot of issues are discussed. All I can tell you is that the matter of concern for the party in the near future (elections) were discussed. The Bangladesh situation is an important issue for the Sangh, so it was obviously discussed," a senior RSS leader said. Elaborating on the RSS's concern over the turmoil in Bangladesh, the leader said, "The Bangladesh situation is not just about protection of minorities. It is also a matter of our national security. The regime change there could have repercussions for our borders, our internal security. It could even cast its shadow on our domestic socio-politics."

The meeting, which was held for close to five hours in the evening, discussed a variety of prevailing issues, it is learnt.

## ADANI MEGASCAM BEYOND 24 MATTERS UNDER SEBI PROBE: CONG

# Hindenburg: Opp warns of nationwide protest if JPC probe demand not met

**ASAD REHMAN**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 12

AMID THE row over the latest Hindenburg report, Opposition parties on Monday reiterated their demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the allegations, with the Congress alleging that "the Adani MegaScam extends beyond the 24 matters under SEBI's investigation".

Congress general secretary in charge (organisation) K C Venugopal said the party would hold a nationwide protest if the Opposition's demand for a JPC probe is not accepted.

While the TMC demanded that SEBI chief Madhabi Puri Buch step aside till the probe is completed, the Samajwadi Party said the matter must be investigated properly and the entire truth should come out.

In a statement, Congress general secretary and in charge, communications, Jairam Ramesh said: "...the Adani MegaScam extends beyond the 24 matters under SEBI's investigation. It encompasses the source of the Rs 20,000 crore benami funds invested in the Adani Group, the over-invoicing of thousands of crores in coal and

power equipment, and the laundering of those proceeds."

"Additionally, it involves the granting of monopolies to the Adani Group in critical infrastructure sectors, and the manipulation of Indian foreign policy to secure Adani assets in neighbouring countries like Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, which are proving to be highly controversial," he alleged.

Ramesh said the "path forward is to immediately convene a JPC" to investigate the allegations.

In his statement, Ramesh also said: "In its August 11, 2024 statement on the on-going investigations into certain financial transactions of the Adani Group, the SEBI has sought to project an image of hyperactivity, stating that it has issued 100 summons, issued 1,100 letters and emails, and examined 300 documents containing 12,000 pages. This must have been very exhausting, but it diverts attention from the core issues involved. Actions matter, not activities."

He said that on February 14, 2023, he wrote to the SEBI Chairperson, urging the regulator to "play its role as the steward of India's financial markets" and that he never received a reply. "On March 3, 2023, the Supreme



Congress's K C Venugopal; TMC MP Sagarika Ghose

Court directed SEBI to 'expeditiously conclude the investigation' into allegations of stock manipulation and accounting fraud against the Adani Group within two months," Ramesh said.

"Now, 18 months later, SEBI has revealed that a critical investigation, likely regarding whether Adani violated Rule 19A relating to minimum public shareholding, remains incomplete," said Ramesh. "The fact is that the SEBI's seeming inability to close two of its 24 investigations delayed the publication of its findings for over a year. This delay conveniently allowed the Prime Minister to navigate an entire general election without addressing his role in facilitating his close friend's illicit activities," he alleged.

Despite the Adani Group's claims of receiving a "clean chit", SEBI has reportedly issued show-cause notices to several

Adani companies concerning these allegations, said Ramesh.

"However, the slow pace of these investigations, especially compared to the swift 'justice' that the Prime Minister's investigative agencies usually deliver to opposition leaders, remains inexplicable. Moreover, recent revelations raise disturbing questions about SEBI's integrity and conduct in investigating the Adani MegaScam," he alleged.

"It is shocking to discover that SEBI Chairperson and her husband invested in the same opaque Bermuda- and Mauritius-based offshore funds where Vinod Adani and his close associates, Chang Chung-Ling and Nasser Ali Shaban Ahli, also invested," Ramesh said.

"These funds were managed by Anil Ahuja, a close friend of the Buchs and an independent director in Adani Enterprises until May 31, 2017, a period that overlapped with the SEBI Chairperson's earlier tenure as a Whole-Time Member of SEBI," he said.

The Congress also appealed to the Supreme Court to "transfer the investigation to the CBI or a Special Investigation Team given the likelihood of SEBI's compromise". "At a minimum, the SEBI Chairperson must resign to restore SEBI's integrity,"

said Ramesh.

TMC Rajya Sabha member Sagarika Ghose told *The Indian Express* that the matter must be probed by a JPC, and that the SEBI chief Buch step aside till the probe is completed.

"Our party's stand is that we are concerned over this issue. We are concerned about the small investors of the country and the credibility of the market watchdog which must be transparent and not opaque. A thorough and open probe must be done by a JPC and SIT, and till the probe is completed, the SEBI chief should step aside. If her name is fully cleared, she can come back," she said. "The unwillingness to constitute a JPC is deeply problematic."

Samajwadi Party chief spokesperson Rajendra Choudhary said the matter must be investigated and the truth should come out. "These are big allegations, and should be probed. It is a matter of trust of investors," he told *The Indian Express*.

NCP (SP) working president Supriya Sule demanded a discussion in Parliament on the Hindenburg allegations against the SEBI Chairperson. Talking to reporters in Mumbai, she said: "Let's wait for data to come. At present, the allegations have been denied."

## SC reserves its order on Senthil Balaji's bail plea

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday reserved its verdict on the bail plea of former Tamil Nadu minister V Senthil Balaji, who was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate last year in connection with a money laundering case.

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih heard the submissions of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Enforcement Directorate (ED), and senior advocates Mukul Rohatgi and Sidharth Luthra, appearing for Balaji.

During the hearing, Mehta opposed grant of bail to the DMK leader and said the delay in trial is attributable to the ex-minister.

Rohatgi submitted that Balaji is in jail for over a year and there is no prospect of the trial getting completed anytime soon. "The allegation was then that I am influential but I am no longer holding the portfolio. Just had a surgery. What else is needed?" he said. **PTI**

## After 'flood jihad' tirade, Assam CM targets varsity: 'Mecca-like structure'

**SUKRITA BARUAH**  
GUWAHATI, AUGUST 12

AFTER CLAIMING that the University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya (USTM) — a private educational institution on the outskirts of Guwahati, owned by a Bengali-origin Muslim — is waging "flood jihad", Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma stepped up his attack, claiming the varsity is "destroying education" and that the architecture of its domed gate is a sign of "jihad".

Last week, Sarma had pinned the blame of flash floods in the city on construction work in USTM, located in Meghalaya's Ri-Bhoi district, stating that deforestation and hill-cutting for the campus was responsible for the floods. The University is promoted by the Education Research and Development Foundation,



There should be a namghar (community prayer hall): CM

founded by Mahbul Hoque, a Muslim of Bengali origin from Assam's Karimganj district in the Barak Valley. Hoque is also the Chancellor of the University.

On Monday, Sarma accelerated his attack on the university. The large main gate of the University has three domes atop it, about which he said, "It's embarrassing to go there, you have to go under 'Mecca'."

"What we are saying is that there should be a namghar (community prayer hall, part of

Assam's neo-Vaishnavite tradition) also there. 'Mecca-Medina', church. Make all three... They have kept a 'Mecca' there. Let them make a namghar, make a church. We will walk under all three, why will we walk under just one," he said.

Questioned by reporters on his use of the term 'jihad', he said, "They are doing *jihad* *baap* (slang, translating to 'father of jihad'). I'm being mild by calling it jihad. It is destroying our education system. Whatever attacks our civilisation, our culture, that is called jihad."

Sarma's political opponents have pointed out that he had inaugurated a new block at the university in 2021, in the presence of the Hoque. However, on Monday, Sarma said he had never visited the campus for an inauguration, but had rather gone there for a function attended by the then President Ram Nath Kovind.

## Sule: Whenever I speak in Parliament, husband gets notice from I-T

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
MUMBAI, AUGUST 12



NCP(SP) Lok Sabha MP Supriya Sule

OPPOSITION NATIONALIST Congress Party (SP) leader and Lok Sabha MP Supriya Sule claimed on Monday that her husband

Sadanand Sule received an income tax notice following her speech in Lok Sabha on Budget. Speaking at a press conference in Mumbai, Sule said, "It seems to have become a routine. Whenever I speak against the government in Parliament, my husband gets a notice from the income tax department. The same issue is raised each time, even though my husband has already addressed it."

The Baramati MP added, "I raised several issues during my speech, and now he is being served another notice. It seems that whenever I speak in Parliament, my husband receives an income tax notice."

When asked if she suspected government involvement in the hacking of her phone, Sule said, "With agencies like the income tax department, the CBI, and the ED at its disposal, the government doesn't need an application to hack into the phones of political opponents. There could be some form of surveillance." The phones of Sule and her associates were reportedly hacked last week. "I received a message from a known contact, and after opening it, my phone froze. Later, my associate Aditi Nalawade's phone was also hacked. I am grateful to the authorities for retrieving my WhatsApp account," she added.

## Next big test in UP near, BJP deploys big guns

**LALMANI VERMA**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 12

WITH FISSURES in Uttar Pradesh BJP emerging following its subpar performance in the Lok Sabha elections, the focus of the entire party machinery is now on the 10 Assembly bypolls, most of which have been necessitated by the election of their MLAs to Parliament. The ruling party has deployed 30 ministers and 15 senior leaders as "paalaks (caretakers)" to ensure every voter is accounted for and address the grievances of party workers ahead of the by-elections whose date has not been

announced yet.

Sources said the party appointed the 15 "caretakers" while Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath assigned constituencies to the ministers. However, a party insider claimed there were no differences between the party and the government. "They are working with each other to ensure victory," said the source.

The appointments come within months of differences emerging within the party in the crucial state during a review of the parliamentary election results. The review concluded that discontent among party workers over the alleged neglect by the state government machin-

ery contributed significantly to its poor performance that saw its tally dip from 62 in 2019 to 33. Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, among those who appeared to criticise Adityanath in the aftermath of the Lok Sabha poll results, even publicly said that the "sangathan (party) is bigger than the government".

State Transport Minister Dayashankar Singh who has been deployed in Phulpur said the party's focus was on addressing its workers' problems, executing development projects, and coordinating with the local administration.

Bypolls in nine constituen-

cies have been necessitated by the resignation of MLAs who have now moved on to Parliament while Sishamau will vote for a new MLA after its previous representative Irfan Solanki of the Samajwadi Party (SP) was convicted for harassing a woman over a land row.

The SP won five of these seats in the 2022 Assembly polls while the Jayant Chaudhary-led RLD, then its ally and now in NDA, won one. The BJP bagged three and ally NISHAD Party won one. Meanwhile, the SP on Monday appointed in-charges for six of the 10 Assembly seats.

**FULL REPORT**  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## Sharad Pawar asks Govt to go beyond 50% quota cap

**MANOJ MORE**  
PUNE, AUGUST 12

A DAY after his convoy was blocked and black flags were waved at him by Maratha quota protesters, NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar said on Monday if the central government decides to increase reservation beyond the 50 per cent ceiling, all parties in Maharashtra would support the Centre on the issue.

"The central government has the power to cross the 50 per cent

ceiling on reservation... If the Modi government takes the initiative to provide reservation to the Maratha community, we will extend support to it," Pawar said at a press conference in Pune, and also urged Chief Minister Eknath Shinde to convene an all-party meeting on the reservation issue.

Responding to Pawar's call, Shinde said in Mumbai, "I have had discussion with Pawar sahab... To maintain peace in the state and between people of all castes and religions, we will take all necessary steps."

## In boxes at Delhi's Lahore Shed, 12 lakh Partition-era settlement claims to be digitised

**DIVYAA**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 12

ON THE face of it, "26, Mansingh Road, Jaisalmer House" is just another Lutyens' Delhi address. But for lakhs of refugees of Partition who fled across the border from Pakistan in 1947, this was 'Lahore Shed'. Broken and homeless, they queued up at the bungalow that housed the Settlement Commission, where they submitted their claims for land and compensation, hoping to start their lives afresh in a new land.

For decades, the records of these claims — 12 lakh files held together by stories and struggles of countless families — remained forgotten, gathering dust at Lahore Shed. In recent years, however, these records have

been transferred by the Ministry of Home Affairs to the Ministry of Culture, where a painstaking process of conservation and digitisation is on. Now, all these files are indexed and accessible, ready to serve the descendants of those who once fought for their rightful compensation.

While the index of claimants is complete, the records are being preserved and will be made available online in the coming years, officials told *The Indian Express*. Until then, those who may want to access these documents can send a request to the National Archives of India (NAI).

Ranjan Mishra, Assistant Director of Archives, who has been entrusted with organising the records and indexing them, said more than a lakh such Partition-era claims are still un-

der litigation, while lakhs of other families seek these records to settle land and family disputes. Every month, he said, they get requests from four to five descendants of the original claimants, who approach the Archives through the MHA or the courts. "There are still some cases where claims were awarded but the compensation is still awaited," he said, adding that most of these requests come from district courts in Punjab, Haryana and Delhi, through the MHA.

Mishra said the indexing will help those looking for records. "So now, if someone asks for a record pertaining to their family, we can search and revert if the records indeed exist among the 12 lakh files housed in Lahore Shed," he said.

To these people and others,



The erstwhile Lahore Shed. Divyaa A

including researchers and historians, the conservation efforts of the Archives will help open a door to the past, allowing them to uncover family histories, resolve legal disputes, and connect with a chapter of history that shaped modern India.

For almost a decade after the events of August 14, 1947, the road outside Lahore Shed is said to have been teeming with refugee families, who camped with food and water as they waited to submit their claims. In fact, the settlement of some of these claims gave birth

to several refugee colonies in Delhi, including the now-thriving Lajpat Nagar. Officials said the compensation given to the refugees included agricultural land, shops, houses and even cash in some cases.

Pradeep Kumar, another Assistant Director of the Archives, who is among those overseeing the project, said that it was in 2010 that they were tasked by the MHA to appraise the rehabilitation files housed in the dilapidated Lahore Shed. As part of the appraisal, officials from the government departments concerned and Archives sat together to assess which of these records could be declassified and preserved.

"Between 2010 and 2015, almost 3.37 lakh records were appraised and transferred from Lahore Shed to the NAI campus

on Janpath," said Kumar. In 2014, the MHA transferred the remaining records along with the building itself to the Archives.

The MHA order on the transfer of the documents said that in addition to the claims and compensation files, "the records of the then Ministry of Rehabilitation, and a large number of unlisted non-current records/files... kept in 102 wooden/steel almirahs, 1,045 steel racks and two big wooden racks", were transferred to the Archives.

Describing the condition of the records, an official said they received the papers as cloth potlis (bundles), each containing around 5 kg of papers and no less than "two kg of dust". The double-storeyed building itself was in bad shape, infested with rats, monkeys and even snakes, officials said.

The files at the Lahore Shed

are now neatly arranged on racks, categorised under different cities and states where the refugees were resettled — mostly Haryana, UP, Punjab and Delhi, but also as far as Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Until the recent conservation exercise, there was no way of tracing or pulling out a Partition-era claim record from the dusty boxes in Lahore Shed. "People would keep trying in vain... some even filed RTI requests. But now, with the entire index being uploaded on the Archives website, people can check in advance if their records are available with us, and send us a request," explained Arun Singhal, Director-General of the Archives. "Once the records are digitised and online, people don't have to come to us, they can simply download," he added.

## I&B to news channels: Use timestamp and date on visuals of disasters

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 12

THE CENTRE on Monday issued an advisory to private news channels to carry a date and timestamp on visuals of natural disasters and major accidents while reporting on such incidents.

The advisory, issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, noted that television channels provide continuous coverage of natural disasters, major accidents over several days but keep showing the footage from the day the incident took place.

The ministry argued that the footage shown by television channels several days after the accident or disaster does not necessarily reflect the real-time ground situation which leads to "unnecessary confusion and potential panic among viewers".

"Therefore, to avoid any misunderstanding among viewers, all private satellite TV channels are hereby advised to ensure that visuals of disasters, natural calamity or major accidents should prominently display a 'DATE AND TIME' stamp on the top of the footage," the advisory read, adding it will ensure viewers are informed about the date of the footage and the fact that it does not reflect the real time position at the incident site.



Govt. of Haryana



“सरकार का ध्येय है कि अब विकास कार्यों को और भी तीव्रता से संपन्न करवाना है, इसी श्रृंखला में राज्यभर में आधारभूत संरचनाओं को शीघ्रता से मजबूत किया जा रहा है।”

- नायब सिंह सैनी



“आज हमारी हर नीति, हर रणनीति- जनकल्याण से राष्ट्रकल्याण की है। जन अभियान से राष्ट्रनिर्माण की है।”

- नरेन्द्र मोदी

Mhara Haryana  
Non-Stop Haryana

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**220**

and

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# 8 EXPRESS NETWORK

## NIRF rankings out: IIT Madras at top for 6th year, IISc best university for 9th time

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 12

THE IITs continue to dominate the top 10 ranks in the National Institute Ranking Framework (NIRF), with IIT Madras retaining the first spot for the sixth consecutive year, according to the latest edition released by the Government on Monday.

The overall top 10 list is similar to last year's, comprising seven IITs, IISc Bengaluru, AIIMS Delhi and Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). And just like 2023, IISc has again been placed in the second position and JNU at the 10th spot.

In the universities list, however, IISc has emerged at the top yet again — a position it has held since 2016, when the first edition of the NIRF rankings was released. While Delhi University has improved from the 11th spot to the sixth, the University of Hyderabad has slipped from 10th to 17th spot.

Only three private institutions — the Manipal Academy of Higher Education, the Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, and the Vellore Institute of Technology —

| INDIA'S TOP 5                       |      |      |
|-------------------------------------|------|------|
|                                     | 2024 | 2023 |
| <b>Overall</b>                      |      |      |
| IIT Madras                          | 1    | 1    |
| IISc Bengaluru                      | 2    | 2    |
| IIT Bombay                          | 3    | 4    |
| IIT Delhi                           | 4    | 3    |
| IIT Kanpur                          | 5    | 5    |
| <b>Universities</b>                 |      |      |
| IISc Bengaluru                      | 1    | 1    |
| JNU                                 | 2    | 2    |
| Jamia Millia Islamia                | 3    | 3    |
| Manipal Academy of Higher Education | 4    | 6    |
| BHU                                 | 5    | 5    |

are among the top 10 universities, just like last year.

"Publicly funded institutions, including CFTIs (centrally funded technical institutes) and centrally funded universities, dominate the top ranks across most categories," noted the report on the rankings, announced by Union

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

Among engineering colleges, while IIT Madras has retained its position as the top all through the nine NIRF editions, in the list of research institutions this year, it stands second after IISc.

Said IIT Madras Director

Professor V Kamakoti: "Unlike IISc, we are a more teaching oriented institution. IISc is more research oriented. If I want to compete with IISc on the research front, I have to reduce the teaching load of the faculty and that will happen only if I have more faculty. We are now on a very big recruitment spree. We want to recruit more people so that the (faculty-student) ratio is 1:10. We are now somewhere at 1:14."

Under the NIRF, institutions are evaluated on five groups of parameters: Teaching, Learning and Resources (TLR), which includes faculty-student ratio, faculty with PhD, and, this year, the introduction of courses on the Indian knowledge systems; Research and Professional Practice (RP); Graduation Outcome (GO); Outreach and Inclusivity (OI), and Perception (PR).

Among the top 10 in the universities category, JNU scored the lowest in the Research and Professional Practice parameter (45.27/100), while IISc scored the highest (86.5/100).

"It was observed that faculty with doctoral qualification is concentrated in the top 100 institu-

tions, the remaining institutions have fewer faculty with doctoral degrees". "This is a serious handicap since mentorship received during the doctoral training as Teaching Assistant can play a vital role in preparing the faculty for a teaching career in higher education," the report said.

Among the top 100 institutions, the report said, "faculty with PhD vary from minimum of 62.98% in case of 'college' category to the maximum of 93.45% in case of management institutions". "Whereas faculty with PhD in remaining institutions vary from minimum of 32.30% in case of pharmacy institutions to the maximum of 67.55% in case of universities," it added.

This year, institutions were ranked in 16 categories, three more than last year. The new categories were: open universities, state public universities and skill universities. For the rankings, 10,845 applications were received from 6,517 institutions.

Pointing out that a key aspect of the NEP 2020 is accreditation and ranking, Pradhan appealed to "all 58,000 institutions" to participate in the NIRF ranking process.

## HC to rule again on probe into forgery charges in SSC member recruitment

Officer Sanjiv Chaturvedi alleged forgery to deny him post

JAY MAZOOMDAAR  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 12

THIS AUGUST 14, for the second time in 17 months, the Uttarakhand High Court will decide on a petition by an Indian Forest Service officer who has levelled allegations of forgery in the rejection of his application for the post of a member of the Staff Selection Commission (SSC).

The officer, Sanjiv Chaturvedi, who received the Ramon Magsaysay award in 2015 for "exemplary integrity, courage and tenacity in uncompromisingly exposing and painstakingly investigating corruption", has sought an independent probe into the rejection of his application.

One of the largest recruitment agencies of the government, the SSC conducts the annual Combined Graduate Level Examination for hiring non-gazetted officers.

In March 2023, ruling on Chaturvedi's petition for a CBI probe into alleged fabrication by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) in the selection of an SSC member, the High Court had asked him to file an FIR at the local police station.

The allegations of forgery date back to July 2020 when the DoPT disqualified Chaturvedi, claiming that his application for the SSC member's post was delivered "by hand" at a "wrong section" on May 29, well past the March 23 deadline.

According to Chaturvedi, the DoPT has been silent on the Postal Tracking Report which showed that his papers, sent by Speed Post, were delivered on March 20.

The matter, which went up to the Supreme Court and the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), has returned to the High Court. A bench led by Chief Justice Ritu Bahri has asked the DoPT to "clarify" the gap of 70 days.

The Indian Express has reviewed submissions made in the

case. This is the chronology of events:

■ January 2020: DoPT invited applications by March 23 for the post of SSC member.

■ March 2020: Uttarakhand forwarded Chaturvedi's application, with its recommendation. According to multiple court submissions by the Department of Post, the application was delivered at the DoPT's central registry on March 20.

■ July 2020: Of 16 applicants, Indian Railway Personnel Service (IRPS) officer Ashok Kumar was picked by the DoPT as the first choice. Chaturvedi was disqualified on the ground that his application reached late and that he had a post-graduate diploma, and not a PG degree. His contention was that a diploma from the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA) had been recognised as equivalent to a PG degree since the 1990s.

■ August 2020: The DoPT relaxed the requirement of a mandatory three-year cooling period for its first choice, Ashok Kumar, who had returned from a deputation in December 2019. Records showed that then Minister of State Jitendra Singh signed the file on August 3, four days before the DoPT secretary signed on August 7.

■ September 2020: The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved Kumar's selection and the waiver.

■ January 2021: Chaturvedi petitioned Uttarakhand High Court to set aside Kumar's appointment, order a fresh selection and constitute a CBI probe, alleging that the DoPT forged records to disqualify him as a late applicant.

■ March 2023: After two years, the HC transferred the first two prayers to the CAT on technical grounds. On the third prayer, the HC said it could not order a CBI probe "at the drop of a hat" and asked Chaturvedi to lodge an FIR at the jurisdictional police station or approach a magistrate.

■ May 2023: The CAT re-

served its order on May 23. Chaturvedi moved the Supreme Court for a CBI probe.

■ July 2023: On July 4, the SC bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra ruled that "it will be too much for this Court to say anything" regarding a CBI probe, and told Chaturvedi that "it is always open for him to take appropriate steps in that regard, in accordance with law, before the appropriate forum".

On July 7, Chaturvedi urged the CAT to pronounce its judgment since Ashok Kumar's term in the SSC was to end on July 20. On July 24, the CAT ruled that Chaturvedi's application "was received in the wrong Section on 20.3.2020 but reached the concerned Section after the cut-off date, on 29.5.2020".

■ August 2023: Chaturvedi challenged the CAT order before the HC, submitting that there is no record of movement of his application for 70 days and that posts are delivered at the central registry, and not at sections of the DoPT. The HC gave the parties a month to file affidavits.

■ October 2023: Chaturvedi wrote directly to the CBI, seeking a probe. The CBI declined, citing the March 2023 HC order.

■ May 2024: The HC granted another 10 days to the DoPT "to clarify the position as to how the date of receiving the documents sent by the petitioner as reflected by the Postal Tracking Report on 20.03.2020, is reflected as received on 29.05.2020 by the respondent".

■ June 2024: The DoPT repeated that Chaturvedi's application was delivered by hand at the wrong section and that it took over two months for the letter to arrive at the correct desk.

On the minister signing the file ahead of the secretary, the DoPT said it was necessitated due to the Covid restrictions. It was silent on disregarding Chaturvedi's IGNTFA diploma.

■ July 2024: Chaturvedi reiterated his plea for an impartial probe. The hearing is on August 14.

## Ex-IAS trainee officer Puja Khedkar gets protection from arrest until Aug 21

SOHINI GHOSH  
DELHI, AUGUST 12

The Delhi High Court on Monday granted former IAS trainee officer Puja Khedkar protection from arrest until August 21 as it added UPSC as a respondent party to Khedkar's plea seeking anticipatory bail and issued notice to the authorities.

The authorities are expected to file its reply by August 21, specifically regarding the court's query as to why her custody is required and why she should not be granted anticipatory bail as sought by her.

The bench of Justice Subramonium Prasad asked respondent authorities why is her custody required when so far involvement of anybody else has not been found and the case pri-

marily appears to be one of misrepresentation of facts. Taking into account that UPSC has already suspended her candidature, Justice Prasad said, "She is not in the system to tamper with the system... Unfortunately, the trial court is bogged (down) by the offence and not why bail should not be granted."

On August 1, a Delhi court dismissed the anticipatory bail plea of Khedkar, who has been accused of fraudulently clearing the Civil Services Examination held by the Union Public Service Commission.

Responding to the Delhi High Court's query, UPSC called her "manipulative" and "influential". "The way she got into the system speaks volumes of how she is... Divorce of her parents is used for manipulating the system," said the Commission.



## URBAN PLANNING & CLIMATE CHANGE

Tamil Nadu's Minister for Information Technology and Digital Services Dr Palanivel Thiagarajan delivers the keynote address on 'Urban Planning in the Era of Climate Change' at The Indian Express's Thinc: Our Cities seminar in Chennai on Monday. The event, addressing the critical challenges facing coastal urbanisation, was organised in association with Omidyar Network India. Express

## Naveen urges Centre to continue support to UNESCO Kalinga Prize

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, BHUBANESWAR, BENGALURU, AUGUST 12

THE SCIENCE and Technology Ministry has withdrawn its contribution to the prestigious UNESCO Kalinga Prize for Popularisation of Science, UNESCO's oldest award, instituted through a donation by Odisha's former Chief Minister Biju Patnaik way back in 1951.

Official sources said the decision to withdraw the Department of Science and Technology's annual contribution to the award was part of the recent decision to 'rationalise' all science awards. The government had, last year, instituted a new set of science awards, called Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar, to replace all the earlier awards, including the coveted Shanti Swarup

**EXPLAINED**

### Behind the prize

THE SCIENCE Ministry had been supporting UNESCO's Kalinga Prize since 2001. The award carries a cash prize of US\$ 40,000. The winner also receives a Kalinga Chair established by the DST which carries a cash component of US\$ 5,000.

Bhatnagar Awards. The inaugural set of Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskars were announced last week.

Former Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, however, has protested the government's decision and written to Science and

Technology Minister Jitendra Singh to ensure that the support is restored.

"The Kalinga Prize is not just a symbol of Odia pride but it has set a legacy for independent India in the comity of nations globally... This prize was made possible with a generous grant of 1,000 pounds to UNESCO from Kalinga Foundation Trust... of which Biju Babu was the founder president. UNESCO Kalinga Prize is the only international award from India in the field of popularisation of science. Over the years, it has been a highly coveted prize and has also become a symbol of Odia identity at the international level... Kalinga prize is not just an international award but it is a great legacy, which the people of Odisha are proud of and identify with," Patnaik wrote in his letter.

## 2006 German woman rape: Convict Bitti Mohanty dies

SUJIT BISOIYI  
BHUBANESWAR, AUGUST 12

BITTIHOTRA MOHANTY, who was convicted of raping a German woman in Rajasthan's Alwar in 2006, died late Sunday night while undergoing treatment at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar.

Hospital sources said Mohanty, son of former Odisha Director General (Home Guards and Fire Services) Bidya Bhusan Mohanty, was diagnosed with stomach cancer in October last year and was admitted to AIIMS a month back.

Known as Bitti, Bittihotra Mohanty was 25 years old and doing a management course in Delhi when he was charged in 2006 with raping a German woman on March 21 that year.

A first-track court convicted Mohanty and sentenced him to

seven years' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs 10,000 in a record 21 days.

The chargesheet in the case was filed on March 24, 2006, and on April 12, the verdict was announced. The Rajasthan High Court upheld the conviction in the same year on October 4. Later, the Supreme Court upheld the verdict. While hearing petitions related to his case, the apex directed him to surrender by June 5, this year. Two months ago, he surrendered to the Circle Jail at Choudwar in Cuttack.

His father, a 1972-batch IPS officer, was suspended in August 2007 after a Rajasthan court issued a non-bailable arrest warrant against him for allegedly helping his son jump parole. Subsequently, he also turned fugitive. His suspension was revoked in May 2009, and he retired from service in 2012.

## Need time to think about apology: J&K IAS officer

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, AUGUST 12

J&K IAS officer Shyambir Singh, who has been accused of harassing Ganderbal's Chief Judicial Magistrate over a land acquisition case, has asked the state's High Court for time to think over whether he would file a written apology to the judge and "personally appear" in his court.

This comes less than a fortnight after the HC initiated contempt proceedings against Shyambir Singh on the back of a contempt reference made by Ganderbal Chief Judicial Magistrate Fayaz Ahmad Qureshi. Appearing before a Division Bench of Justices Atul Sreedharan and Sanjeev Kumar, Shyambir Singh orally asked for more time, saying no intention of "undermining the dignity of the learned court".

## 7 killed, 9 hurt in stampede at temple in Jehanabad

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
PATNA, AUGUST 12

AT LEAST seven devotees, including five women, were killed and nine others were injured in a stampede near Baba Siddheshwaramath Temple atop Barabar hills in Bihar's Jehanabad late Sunday night.

The incident took place at around 12.30 am when devotees were climbing Barabar hills in Makhdumpur area of Jehanabad. Some local residents have blamed poor crowd management and police lathicharge for the incident. "There had been common routes for people visiting the temple and returning from there. As number of devotees started swelling ahead of onset of fourth Monday of Saawan month, police could not manage crowd and instead opened lathicharge that might have caused the stampede",



Grieving family members of the victims in Jehanabad on Monday. PTI

said Suman Kumar, relative of an injured kanwariya.

Jehanabad District Magistrate Alankrita Pandey said: "We confirm seven deaths. We are looking into cause of the incident. We are getting the injured treated at the Jehanabad hospital".

## Bareilly serial killer targeted victims in sugarcane fields, say police

PRAGYNESH  
BAREILLY, AUGUST 12

AROUND 11 am on July 2, 2024, a 46-year-old woman set out on foot from her mother's home to her own, a distance of around 3 km. When she failed to reach by even 8 pm, her husband went out looking for her and was told about a body in a nearby sugarcane field. His wife was the sixth victim of an alleged serial killer active in the region for over a year.

On August 9, 2024, police in Bareilly announced the arrest of Kuldeep Kumar Gangwar, 35, the alleged serial killer. "He was arrested on Thursday (August 8, 2024). We had picked him up along with three other suspects earlier. He was spotted talking to many women near the sugarcane

fields. He has confessed to killing the six women. We are probing his involvement in three more cases," the Station Office (SO) of the local police station told The Indian Express.

Barring a nearly seven-month lull (from December 2023 to June 2024) — which coincided with the sugarcane harvest season — between June 2023 and July 2024 six women between the ages of 45 and 65 years were found dead in a 20-km radius of Bareilly district. All the six were found strangled with either their saris or dupattas. Police said the tall sugarcane crops provided the perfect cover for Kuldeep to allegedly carry out the killings.

"Multiple injuries were found on the victims' bodies. Some had injuries on their inner thighs, the others on their chins. Attempts to

sexually assault them are confirmed," Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Anurag Arya told The Indian Express, adding that he targeted women around the same age as his stepmother. The Indian Express has withheld the names of the victims.

A day before Kuldeep's highly publicised arrest, the local police had shared sketches of three suspects. His sketch, identical to his photograph shared with the media — from the crease in his grey shirt near the right shoulder to the shadow on his neck — sparked doubts about the investigation.

### The first victim

A pair of slippers on a decomposing body found in his uncle's sugarcane field was all the farmer needed to identify his wife on the morning of June 19, 2023. Two



The bodies of six women between the ages of 45 and 65 years were found in a 20-km radius of Bareilly district between June 2023 and July 2024. Gajendra Yadav

days earlier, his wife, 45, had left the house saying she was going to a nearby village to get medicine for her nagging backache.

Sitting on a plastic chair in the angan (courtyard) of his brick house, surrounded by his family, he says that when his wife didn't

return home by 1 pm, they went looking for her "all over the village, even the nearby jungle". On June 18, 2023, a missing complaint was filed at the police station.

A day later, her body was discovered at the most unexpected of places — minutes from the

Shambhu Border: Discuss partial reopening, SC tells Punjab and Haryana police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 12

THE SUPREME Court Monday asked Punjab and Haryana police chiefs to discuss within a week partial reopening of Shambhu Border for the movement of ambulances, senior citizens, women, students, essential services and any commuters of the nearby area. The apex court also said that the modalities for this may be worked out.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan also asked the Punjab government to persuade the farmers to remove their modified tractors, trolleys from the spot, saying highways are not parking spaces for the vehicles.

"Why don't you persuade the farmers... because highways are not parking space for tractors, trolleys etc." Justice Kant asked Punjab Advocate-General Gurminder Singh as he urged the bench to pass a direction to ease the barricading put in place by Haryana in order to allow vehicles going for emergency and essential services.

# Rajkot chief fire officer held for graft, weeks after predecessor's arrest in game zone fire case

GOPAL KATESHIYA & BRENDAN DABHI  
RAJKOT, AUGUST 12



Rajkot chief fire officer (CFO) Anil Maru

NEWLY-APPOINTED Rajkot chief fire officer (CFO) Anil Maru, who had assumed charge on June 29, was allegedly caught red-handed taking Rs 1.8 lakh bribe at his office in the headquarters of the Rajkot Municipal Corporation (RMC) Monday, said a statement from Gujarat's ACB. Maru was arrested weeks after former CFO Ilesh Kher was held in connection with the TRP Game Zone blaze that claimed 27 lives. Kher's deputy Bhikha Theba was arrested earlier in a disproportionate assets case.

Maru is the second fire officer of Rajkot to face ACB action in around two months and fourth to face police action after the May 25 fire incident. A team led by Jamnagar ACB police station in-charge-cum-inspector RN Virani laid the trap for Maru based on a complaint from a private contractor. The complainant alleged that Maru had demanded Rs 5 lakh for granting fire-safety clearance to a building. The contractor

said after installing a fire-fighting system in the building, he approached the CFO office seeking clearance.

"However, when the complainant went to the accused, he sought Rs 3 lakh bribe in lieu of the clearance. The complainant paid Rs 1.2 lakh even as the accused demanded that the balance Rs 1.8 lakh be paid within five days. Soon after, he approached Jamnagar ACB," said the statement.

According to the ACB, "The accused was detained from the spot after he accepted the Rs 1.8 lakh bribe." Later in the evening Maru was formally arrested, said inspector Virani. ACB officers said that they were conducting searches at places associated with Maru. The state government had appointed Maru as CFO in-charge after Kher was arrested on June 22 for his alleged negligence leading to the fire at TRP Game Zone. Meanwhile, Theba, the then

deputy CFO of Rajkot, was arrested by ACB on June 6 after being booked for allegedly acquiring disproportionate assets worth Rs 79.94 lakh between 2012 and 2024. Theba, who had served as in-charge CFO of Rajkot before Kher's appointment in 2020, was also arrested in the fire case on June 22. Both were eventually suspended. After the two arrests, fire station officer Amit Dave was made deputy CFO in-charge. On June 15, 2024 the RMC relieved Dave from the additional responsibility, giving the interim charge of deputy CFO to another station officer Hardik Gadhvi.

However, Gadhvi took voluntary retirement, after which Maru, the then fire officer of Bhuj town in Kutch district was appointed CFO in-charge. His appointment had come amid an ongoing crackdown by the RMC on buildings not compliant with fire safety norms and the civic body sealing dozens of buildings in the aftermath of the fire incident. Incidentally, fire station officer Rohit Vigora was also held for his alleged inaction against the TRP Game Zone.

Kannauj: Former block president arrested for bid to disrobe girl

MANISH SAHU  
LUCKNOW, AUGUST 12

A 48-YEAR-OLD businessman and former block pramukh has been arrested in Uttar Pradesh's Kannauj for allegedly attempting to disrobe a teenage girl whom he had called on the pretext of arranging a job, police said. The 15-year-old girl was accompanied by her aunt, who is in her 30s. Police reached the spot after receiving a call from the girl and arrested Singh, who officers said was found "partially clothed".

The incident also triggered a political slugfest, with the ruling BJP claiming that the accused is a Samajwadi Party member with close ties to its senior SP leaders. However, the SP denied the allegations, saying that Nawab Singh is no longer affiliated with the party.

An FIR was registered against Singh under Section 76 (assault or use of criminal force with the intent to disrobe) of the IPC along with several sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. Singh was produced before a local court and sent to judicial custody.

# 61 madrasas face derecognition as MP begins inspection exercise

ALL 1,677 ACROSS STATE TO BE INSPECTED

ANAND MOHAN J  
BHOPAL, AUGUST 12

CITING REASONS such as "suspicious activities" and missing students, the Madhya Pradesh state education department has issued orders to cancel the recognition of 61 madrasas. The development comes against the backdrop of the state government ordering an inspection of all 1,677 madrasas across the state.

School Education Minister Uday Pratap Singh had on July 30 directed that madrasas "failing to meet state guidelines should have their recognition revoked and any assistance from the School Education Department discontinued immediately".

This is the first such inspection exercise carried out by the state government under Chief Minister Mohan Singh Yadav. In 2023, former CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan, during the assembly poll campaign, had promised that "illegal madrasas and institutions in the state that teach lessons of bigotry will be reviewed".

District education officers from Sheopur and Ratlam districts have submitted reports to the ed-

ucation department. The Indian Express has learnt. The 569 children who were studying in the affected madrasas here will be accommodated in government schools, the district education officers said.

In Ratlam, where action has been taken against five madrasas, the DEO wrote in the report that the madrasas needed to be closed down "in the interest of the society, city and country".

Two madrasas, the report states, appeared "to be carrying out wrong and other suspicious activities". On one of these, it states, "The madrasa is running in two rooms and one hall, no record of any child is available. Madrasa appears to be carrying out wrong and other suspicious activities."

In Sheopur, DEO R S Tomar told The Indian Express, "Fifty-six Madrasas were found not fully operational. In our district, thankfully, we have not found any suspicious activities in these establishments." However, the team noted that many of the institutions did not have proper documentation, or had fewer students and staff than what the rolls reflected. Moreover, some madrasas were either found non-

existent during a physical verification or were being run out of one-room rented accommodations. When a new madrasa is established, it gets a one-year certificate from the state madrasa board, the governing body for all madrasas in the state. Afterwards, the madrasa applies for a three-year extension. These institutions are provided with a mid-day meal, textbooks and a Rs 26,650 yearly grant. However, since 2021 the registration of new madrasas has been put on hold.

Several madrasas have, over the years, opted not to renew their registration. One madrasa owner from Sheopur said their financial assistance has been on hold for three years now, and they have no money to provide mid-day meals or teacher salaries.

State Commission for Protection of Child Rights member Dr Nivedita Sharma told The Indian Express, "These institutions are not to inculcate religious training. They are being given the status of a school and should fulfil the education criteria. They don't have buildings or teaching staff, and such institutions which get government grants should shut down."

# Western Ghats: States' submission on ESAs to Centre's committee based on old surveys

NIKHIL GHANEKAR  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 12

THE CENTRE'S expert panel — tasked with finalising the extent of eco-sensitive areas (ESA) in the Western Ghats — has received submissions broadly based on old ground truthing surveys carried out by states governments, The Indian Express has learnt.

The Environment Ministry's expert panel headed by Sanjay Kumar, former Director General of Forest, is currently examining objections and submissions by six states to arrive at a consensus after the Centre last week reissued a draft notification demarcating

ESAs in the Western Ghats across 56,825 sq km.

New mining projects, thermal power plants, sand mining, quarrying, township constructions are banned in villages proposed as ESAs. Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu carried out the surveys between 2013 and 2018 to physically verify the extent of villages declared as ESA by Centre in a draft notification based on the K Kasturirangan panel's report.

"Everyone has presented their region specific implementation problems and hurdles. Some have sought exclusion only, some have sought exclusion and inclusion of ESAs. The submissions are largely

based on the past ground surveys," a source, aware of developments, said.

It is learnt that the expert panel is being assisted by the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Dehradun to verify the green cover and extent of villages marked as ESA and weed out survey errors. A Goa government official confirmed on the condition of anonymity that the statewide physical verification surveys carried out in the past to demarcate ESAs in the state were at the heart of the submissions made to the Centre's expert panel. "The surveys in the past had shown overlaps, spelling mistakes and gaps with regards

to the villages demarcated as ESAs based on the Kasturirangan report. We have reconciled these gaps and sent them to the panel," the official said.

It is learnt that most states, except Gujarat — where the spread of ESA proposed (449 sq km) is the smallest — have sought reductions in the area under ESA. There has been negligible headway made with Karnataka as they have rejected implementation of the Kasturirangan panel's recommendations.

For Kerala, where the devastating Wayanad landslides has brought the focus back, the panel has sought more information from them, sources said.

# Implement law on healthcare professions or face action: SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 12

CONCERNED OVER "proliferation of illegal allied healthcare educational institutions and bodies", the Supreme Court on Monday cautioned the Centre, States and UTs of coercive action if they fail to implement the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions (NC-AHP) Act, 2021.

A three-judge bench presided by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud said "though this court entertained the petition in

September 2023, the fact remains that provisions of the Act have still not been implemented". It noted that out of all the states and union territories, only 14 have set up state councils.

The court said, "The parliamentary legislation was intended to provide a legislative framework to protect the public interest against the proliferation of illegal institutional bodies. Despite the passage of three years since the enactment of the law, both the Union Government and the state governments have completely failed to discharge their statutory responsibilities."

CSIR-CENTRAL ROAD RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
DELHI-MATHURA ROAD,  
P.O. CRRI, NEW DELHI-110025  
CANCELLATION OF ADVT. NO. 02/PC/  
JHT-2024

This is to inform that the Advertisement No. 02/PC/JHT-2024 for 01 post of Junior Hindi Translator in CSIR-CRRI stands cancelled with immediate effect due to certain administrative exigencies. No further queries will be entertained in this matter.

Controller of Administration  
CSIR-CRRI

CBC-36211/11/0003/2425

Ministry of Culture  
Government of India

Prime Ministers Museum and Library  
cordially invites you to a Talk  
on  
India and China in East Asia:  
Contestations and Competition in the  
Indo-Pacific Era  
by  
Dr. Amlan Dutta  
Junior Fellow, PMML  
Wednesday, 14 August 2024 at 3:00pm  
Venue:  
Seminar Room, Prime Ministers Museum and Library  
Teen Murti House, New Delhi  
All are Welcome.  
Those wishing to have their names added to the email list may please email us at: [ecs2nmmml@gmail.com](mailto:ecs2nmmml@gmail.com)  
CBC-09142/12/0017/2425

**All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi**  
presents  
**PUBLIC LECTURE & PANEL DISCUSSION ON**  
**VITILIGO (Leukoderma)**  
Welcome  
Dr. (Prof.) M. Srinivas, Director, AIIMS, New Delhi  
**Introduction**  
Dr. (Prof.) Kaushal Verma  
Dean (Acad.) & HoD (Dermatology and Venereology),  
AIIMS, New Delhi  
**Speakers & Panelists**  
Dr. M. Ramam, Dr. Sujay Khandpur  
Dr. Somesh Gupta, Dr. Kanika Sahni,  
Dr. Vishal Gupta, Dr. Neha Taneja

- Vitiligo: myths and psychological impact
- Surgery and melanocyte transplant
- Medical and light therapies
- Adjunctive measures: camouflage

Date : 13.08.2024 (Tuesday)  
Time : 04:00 to 5:00 PM  
Venue : J.L. Auditorium, New Delhi

Scan QR code for live telecast

All are cordially invited  
(Please take your seat by 3:45 PM)  
Programme will also be live streamed on YouTube  
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CBC-17112/11/0029/2425

**HARYANA STAFF SELECTION COMMISSION**  
BAYS NO.67-70, SECTOR-2, PANCHKULA-134151  
(www.hssc.gov.in)  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice to the candidates for Physical Screening Test (PST) for the post of Female Constable (GD) against Advt. No. 06/2024, Cat. No.02 of Police Department, Haryana

This is for information of the candidates that the list of female candidates who have qualified the Physical Measurement Test is published below. The Physical Screening Test (PST) of shortlisted candidates is scheduled to start from 12.08.2024 for the post of Female Constable (GD) against Advt. No.06/2024, Cat. No.01. The schedule of the PST is attached vide Annexure-A. The qualified candidates are advised to be prepared for their PST accordingly.

The list of candidates who have not qualified PMT is mentioned vide Annexure - B.

The Registration No's of candidates who have qualified PMT in ascending order are available on the official website of the Commission i.e. [www.hssc.gov.in](http://www.hssc.gov.in)

-Sd/-  
Deputy Secretary  
Haryana Staff Selection Commission  
No. 28826/HRY Dated: 10.08.2024

**SML ISUZU LIMITED**  
CIN : L50101PB1983PLC005516  
Regd Office & Works : Village Ason, Distt. Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar (Nawanshahr) Punjab - 144 533. Phone : 01881-270155; Fax: 01881-270223  
Corporate Office: SCO 204-205, Sector 34-A, Chandigarh-160022  
Phone: 0172-2647700-02; Fax : 0172-2615111  
Email: [investors@smlisuzu.com](mailto:investors@smlisuzu.com) | Website: [www.smlisuzu.com](http://www.smlisuzu.com)

**40TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SML ISUZU LIMITED TO BE HELD THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING (VC) / OTHER AUDIO VISUAL MEANS (OAVM)**

Members of the Company may please note that the 40th Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the Company will be held on Friday, 20th September, 2024 at 11:00 A.M. through Video Conferencing (VC) / Other Audio Visual Means (OAVM) in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 (the Act), the Rules made thereunder and the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 ("Listing Regulations") read with the General Circular No(s) 14/2020 dated 8th April, 2020, 17/2020 dated 13th April, 2020, 20/2020 dated 5th May, 2020 and 09/2023 dated 25th September, 2023 issued by Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA").

Pursuant to MCA Circulars and all other applicable circulars issued by SEBI, Notice of 40th AGM along with the Annual Report for Financial Year 2023-24 will be sent in due course ONLY in electronic mode to those Members whose e-mail addresses are registered with the Company/Depository Participant(s) (DPs). Members desirous of obtaining the physical copy of the Notice of AGM and Annual Report 2024, may send their request at [investors@smlisuzu.com](mailto:investors@smlisuzu.com).

Notice of AGM and the Annual Report 2024 will be available on the website of the Company at [www.smlisuzu.com](http://www.smlisuzu.com), on the website of BSE Limited at [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com), on the website of National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE) at [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com) and also on the website of NSDL at [www.evoting.nsdl.com](http://www.evoting.nsdl.com).

Members will have an opportunity to cast their vote remotely on the business items as set out in the Notice of AGM through remote e-voting / e-voting at AGM. The manner of casting vote through remote e-voting / e-voting at AGM for Members will be provided in the Notice of AGM.

The Board, at its meeting held on 23rd May 2024, has recommended Final Dividend of 160% (Rs. 16/- per share). The Dividend, subject to the approval of the Members, will be paid on or before 20th October, 2024 to those Members whose names appear on the Register of Members as on the Record Date i.e. 8th September, 2024. The Register of Members and share transfer books will remain closed from 7th September, 2024 to 13th September, 2024 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of AGM. Instruction for Members who have not registered their email and/or not updated bank account details or other KYC details with the Company/DPS:

**PHYSICAL HOLDING**  
Pursuant to Master Circular dated 7th May 2024 and Circular dated 10th June 2024 issued by SEBI, it shall be mandatory for the holders of physical securities to furnish PAN, contact details (Postal address with PIN and Mobile number), Bank A/c details and specimen signature for their corresponding folio numbers. Members of such folios where in any one of the above mentioned document/details are not updated shall be eligible:  
• To lodge grievance or avail any service request from the RTA ONLY after furnishing PAN and KYC details.  
• For any payment including dividend, interest or redemption payment in respect of such folios ONLY through electronic mode with effect from 1st April, 2024.  
Members are requested to register/update the details in prescribed Form ISR-1 and other relevant forms duly filled along with self-attested supporting documents and other relevant forms with Mrs. MCS Share Transfer Agent Limited, Registrar and Share Transfer Agent of the Company (MCS) at [helpdesk@delhi@mcsregistrars.com](mailto:helpdesk@delhi@mcsregistrars.com). Members may download the prescribed forms from the Company's website at [www.smlisuzu.com](http://www.smlisuzu.com)

**DEMAT HOLDING**  
Members holding shares in Demat mode are requested to register/update their E-mail address/Bank account details other KYC details with their Depository Participant(s).

Members may note that pursuant to the Income Tax Act, 1961, as amended by the Finance Act, 2020, dividend is taxable in the hands of the Members. The Company shall, therefore, deduct Tax at Source ("TDS") at the time of making payment of dividend.

For SML ISUZU LIMITED  
PARVESH MADAN  
Company Secretary  
ACS-31266  
Date: 12.08.2024  
Place: Chandigarh

**AHMEDABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
MAHANAGAR SEVA SADAN  
Advt. No.: 08/2024-25 & Circular No. 01/2024-25

Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation had published an Advertisement No. 08/2024-25 & Circular No 1/2024-25 Dated: 09/07/2024 to fill the post of Deputy Municipal Commissioner. The syllabus & marking pattern has been revised as under and also published on Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation website [www.ahmedabadcity.gov.in](http://www.ahmedabadcity.gov.in). All the candidates who applied for the said post are advised to take a note of this.

| Sr. No. | Type of Test   | Section Marks | Time                        |
|---------|--|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 1       | PART - 1<br>MCQ Test<br>• Logical Reasoning & Aptitude, Data Interpretation & Quantitative Ability.<br>• Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension.<br>• Current Affairs & General Knowledge.<br>• GPMC Act - 1949.<br>• Urban Governance Current Issues<br>• Municipal Administration.<br>• A.M.C. | 30            | 60 Minutes                  |
|         |  | 20            | 30 Minutes                  |
|         |  | 10            | 30 Minutes                  |
|         | Descriptive Test   | 70            | Minimum Qualifying Marks 35 |
|         | 1. Social/Economical/Political/Legal/Environment issues related to National/ Global scenario.  | 10            |                             |
|         | 2. Topics Related to AMC.  | 10            |                             |
|         | Total  | 100           | Minimum Qualifying Marks 35 |
| 2       | PART - 2<br>Document Verification  | -             | -                           |
|         |  | 30            | Minimum Qualifying Marks 10 |
| 3       | Interview  | 30            | Minimum Qualifying Marks 10 |
|         | Total  | 100           |                             |

• Written test based on candidates performance - 70 marks (Minimum Qualifying Marks 35) and Oral Interview - 30 (Minimum Qualifying Marks 10) According to marks obtained, final merit will be prepared out of total 100 marks.

• Detailed information regarding the recruitment process for the post will be published on the AMC's website [www.ahmedabadcity.gov.in](http://www.ahmedabadcity.gov.in)

• Advt No. 08/2024-25 & Circular No 1/2024-25 Dated: 09/07/2024 from all caste candidates qualified, only online applications are invited & to be received by 23:59 hrs on 20/08/2024. Online application fees to be paid by all category candidates by 22/08/2024. (Disabled category candidates are exempted from Fees paying)

• Candidates who have applied earlier need not apply again.

MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER



## The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY  
RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

# Institution & Individual

Hindenburg revelations raise questions about the market regulator. Sebi has not yet answered them



P VAIDYANATHAN IYER

## WHEN IT RAINS

Bumper kharif harvest and benign global prices with no fresh supply shocks could ease food inflationary pressures

THE SOUTHWEST MONSOON season had a poor start, with all-India rainfall in June 10.9 per cent below the long period average ("normal") for the month. The rains were subpar everywhere, save the South, Maharashtra, west Madhya Pradesh and east Rajasthan. But as El Niño ebbed and transitioned into a "neutral" phase, July recorded 9 per cent above-normal rains, with all regions, barring the North and East, receiving robust precipitation. The current month has been even better — 26 per cent above normal rainfall, taking the cumulative surplus for the season (June-September) to 6.3 per cent till August 12. The deficiency is now largely in Bihar, Jharkhand and parts of Northwest India where farmers have access to irrigation. In short, the monsoon has been good so far, while also helping recharge groundwater tables and fill up the country's major reservoir dams to 64.7 per cent of full storage capacity — more than 60.8 per cent last year and the 53.7 per cent 10-year-average for this time.

The well-distributed rains, both spatially and temporally, have led to increased area sown under all big-ticket kharif crops — paddy, pulses, maize and oilseeds. There are exceptions like cotton, whose acreage has fallen more due to farmers switching to groundnut, maize or paddy. Pink bollworm insect attacks, and no significant yield-protecting technologies after Bt cotton, have made them hesitant in growing the fibre crop. With global weather agencies predicting a La Niña — El Niño's "cool cousin" generally known to boost rainfall activity in India — to develop by September and persist through winter and spring, the prospects appear encouraging for the upcoming rabi cropping season as well. The last El Niño from April 2023 to almost May this year not only suppressed the monsoon and post-monsoon rains, but also probably contributed to the winter's late arrival and higher-than-normal temperatures, especially in Central and South Peninsular India. A La Niña, hopefully, will deliver the opposite.

A munificent monsoon and no heat waves will provide welcome relief on food inflation. The latter ruled above 8 per cent year on year for eight straight months from November 2023, falling to 5.4 per cent in July only thanks to a high base inflation of 11.5 per cent last year for the same month. The Reserve Bank of India has refrained from cutting its interest rates — rightly so, knowing how food prices matter in influencing inflation expectations among Indian households and firms. A bumper kharif harvest and benign global prices with no fresh supply shocks could ease food inflationary pressures going forward. That should provide room for the government to lift export and stocking limit curbs on cereals, sugar and pulses, even while keeping the zero/low duty import window open on all major food commodities.

## FOR PATIENT'S SAKE

Removing clinical trial requirements for cutting-edge therapies could be a first step towards increasing accessibility

LAST WEEK, THE Centre waived the requirement of clinical trials for five categories of drugs if they have been approved by regulators in the US, UK, Australia, Japan, Canada and the EU. The regulatory relaxation covers drugs that provide "significant therapeutic advances over the current standard care, gene and cellular therapy products, medicines used to treat rare diseases, therapies that become necessary during a pandemic, and drugs used for special defence purposes". Currently, a drug launched in developed economies takes between three to 15 years before becoming available in the Indian market. The waiver could be the first step in enabling doctors in the country to deploy novel therapies for Alzheimer's, advanced stages of cancer and autoimmune disorders. The global pharma majors will save on the costs of conducting local trials and incentivise them in passing on some of the benefits to Indian patients. However, more needs to be done to ensure that cutting-edge therapies become available in the country's pharmacies without imposing a high financial burden on the seriously ill.

India has traditionally relied on its generic industry and price-controlling mechanisms to increase the accessibility of drugs. These measures have worked to an extent. However, restrictions on market mechanisms remain the major reason for state-of-the-art medical research — in gene therapy, for instance — remaining inaccessible to large sections of patients in the country. After relaxing the clinical trial requirement, the government should initiate conversations on how best to enhance ease of business and innovation — the goal should be to ensure availability without hurting patient interest. This could mean more creativity in framing healthcare safety nets — making Ayushman Bharat more expansive, for instance — or even state procurement of novel drugs for a fixed period.

The government believes that the latest regulatory relaxation will promote indigenous research by providing early access to patient data. The country's growing burden of communicable diseases requires synergies between laboratories in the country and outside its shores. But here, too, the government will need to handhold industry. Drug discovery is a long-term commitment that involves high costs. A leader in developing out-of-patent drugs, the country has been lagging in developing new medicine molecules. Low investor interest in biotech seems to have made the ecosystem challenging for start-ups. Given the premium it attaches to healthcare and R&D, the government should find ways to make the domestic pharma industry competitive.

## A CONFIDENT MUSIC

The songs of Haniya, one half of a singing duo that smashed barriers in Pakistan, travelled far

OVER A DECADE ago, Haniya Aslam and Zebunissa Bangash, cousins from Kohat in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (North West Frontier Province), presented 'Paimana bitte' and 'Bibi sanam janam' — modernised versions of folk songs in Dari, the dominant language in Afghanistan besides Pashto. As the two performed, it was easy to spot the soul of the tunes — the traditional cross-border links between the peoples of two countries. Sung alongside a rabab, the national instrument of Afghanistan, that merged with Haniya's acoustic guitar chords, the songs on *Coke Studio Pakistan* felt like a reminder that songs could reach places, undeterred by borders, and differences. These women were not coy — as Haniya played the guitar, Zeb sang of desire. Theirs was a confident music, and wonderful. On Sunday, Haniya, one half of the duo that smashed barriers by becoming the first all-woman music group from Pakistan, and who is remembered for the duo's album *Chup* (2007), died of a sudden cardiac arrest.

Not many knew then that the idea for the album came in an abandoned room in a basement during a winter break in Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts where Zeb was studying. Haniya was downtown in Smith and homesickness brought the two together. Aslam pulled out her guitar, which she'd learned to play online, and began strumming an old tune which the two had heard their grandparents and parents sing. And just like that, 'Paimana bitte' came about. Before their songs became popular through *Coke Studio Pakistan*, they were on the radio, and on YouTube. The songs drew the attention of producer Mekaal Hasan who then produced *Chup*, which reached across the border riding the internet.

The duo disbanded in 2013, and Haniya moved to Canada to study audio engineering and music production. She returned over five years ago and created a song titled 'Main irada' — inspired by Maya Angelou's 'Phenomenal woman'. It was an anthem for women, which came with the words 'Jurraat hoon, mein aurat hoon... (I am daring, I am woman...)'.

AFTER M DAMODARAN took charge of the Unit Trust of India in 2001 following the historic US-64 fiasco in December 2000 (when sale and redemption of India's first mutual fund Unit Scheme 64 launched by UTI in 1964 was suspended), he took a conscious call to sell the only equity holding he had — 50 shares of State Bank of India that he was allotted during its initial public offer in 1993. Back then, he didn't have the heart to say no to a request by the manager of the local SBI branch where he held a savings bank account. There was nothing that UTI, the country's first mutual fund set up by state-owned institutions, could conceivably have done that could be construed as a conflict of interest later on given Damodaran's holding of a meagre 50 SBI shares. But he held himself to exacting standards of governance. The IAS officer of 1971 batch, Tripura cadre, went on to become the chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) in February 2005.

The point of this anecdote, recalled by another former regulator, is that it is individuals who make institutions when they lead; and it is also true that, at times, the institution shapes the character of the person occupying its highest seat. The latest revelations by US-headquartered Hindenburg Research on the investments by Sebi Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband Dhaval Buch in a certain global offshore fund linked to the Adani Group puts to test the balance between institutional autonomy and accountability that such positions demand. The market regulator's advice that "investors should remain calm and exercise due diligence before acting on such reports" sounds more like a Sebi order dictated by the Sebi chief. It could have been more convincing if it had addressed the many questions that the Hindenburg revelations have raised.

These questions are: Did Buch disclose her investment in the sub-fund of the foreign portfolio investor, to which a company set up by Vinod Adani also subscribed? What did she do when the Adani Group investigation first came to her table, when she was a whole-time director and later as chairperson? Did she offer to recuse herself when there were allegations relating to other investors in this sub-account? Did she tell the board or the court that

The revelations have put the onus on the market regulator to clear the haze around allegations of market manipulation by the Adani Group, which the latter has consistently maintained are baseless. Buch, who had joined Sebi as a whole-time director in 2017 and was appointed its chairperson in March 2022, had at least two clear opportunities to make disclosures about her and her husband's investments in the Adani-related offshore fund. The need to make this disclosure is seen to be critical by many in the regulatory circles because this is unlike a Systematic Investment Plan in a mutual fund which a common person puts her money in.

the ambit of the probe that Sebi had been asked to conduct covered the period when she and her husband were involved in an investment transaction that had a dotted line link to Vinod Adani?

The confidence of common investors in the securities market rests squarely on Sebi's professional competence and institutional credibility as much as it does on the integrity of the person helming the regulatory body. And the regulator must not only be of impeccable integrity but also be seen to be above board.

Hindenburg, which claims to specialise in forensic financial research, says on its site that it looks for "man-made disasters floating around in the market". Of course, it doesn't say that in these disasters, it smells profit-making opportunities by selling short. In short selling, a trader, who believes stock prices will fall, makes money by selling shares at higher prices, and then buying them back at lower prices. Eighteen months back, in January 2023, Hindenburg had kicked up a political storm by accusing the Adani Group of brazen stock market manipulation and accounting fraud. In this, it admitted it had short positions on Adani. Its August 10 report seems like a Part 2.

Interestingly, the company chose its name after a disaster in 1937 when a huge German passenger airship LZ 129 Hindenburg, was destroyed by fire. The disaster was in the making since the makers had decided to use a lighter but highly flammable gas hydrogen, instead of helium, to lift the airship. But the image of it bursting into flames, and killing almost a hundred, shattered the world's confidence in airships. Borrowing from this literature, a particular price movement pattern of stocks called the "Hindenburg omen" presages a market crash, and hence presents an opportunity for short selling — what Hindenburg did in January 2023.

Now, the revelations have put the onus on the market regulator to clear the haze around allegations of market manipulation by the Adani Group, which the latter has consistently maintained are baseless. Buch, who had joined Sebi as a whole-time director in 2017 and was appointed its chairperson in March 2022, had at least two clear opportunities to make disclosures about her and her husband's investments in the Adani-related offshore

fund. The need to make this disclosure is seen to be critical by many in the regulatory circles because this is unlike a Systematic Investment Plan in a mutual fund which a common person puts her money in. Investments in offshore funds by high net worth individuals (HNIs) are managed by portfolio managers. In a normal mutual fund, an investor has zero say in how her money is invested by the fund manager. In most Portfolio Management Schemes, the HNI has greater interaction with the portfolio fund manager and more knowledge about the investment. This then begs a question: Did she and her husband have "constructive knowledge" about the deployment of funds?

To whom could she have disclosed this? First, to the Supreme Court. Would the Court have dismissed a plea to set up a court-monitored team to probe the allegations against the Adani Group, if it had knowledge about the Sebi chief's conflict of interest? Would it not have asked Sebi or the government to recuse her from the investigation to ascertain the real economic ownership of 13 overseas entities — which the regulator has been struggling to find out since October 2020?

Second, to the six-member expert committee set up by the SC in March 2023. This committee with members, including KV Kamath, Nandan Nilekani and OP Bhatt, was set up to examine if there was regulatory failure in dealing with the alleged contravention of laws pertaining to the securities market in relation with the Adani Group or other companies. If she did make this disclosure to the committee, it was incumbent upon it to inform the Supreme Court.

A voluntary disclosure about investments to the Sebi board alone may not suffice when it comes to the head of a market regulator. Yes, telling the board, in one way, means keeping the government informed, since at least two Government of India secretaries and an RBI nominee sit on the board of the regulator. The government, for all practical purposes, would be seen as having all information. Before looking for a foreign hand and a conspiracy to undermine Indian institutions, maybe these three should also look within.

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REKHA SHARMA

## THE COURT IS A SHIELD

SC has done well to pull up judiciary, prosecuting agencies in Manish Sisodia case

ON AUGUST 9, the Supreme Court delivered a landmark judgment in Manish Sisodia's case holding that a speedy trial is a fundamental right within the broad scope of Article 21 of the Constitution, which includes the right to live with dignity.

The judgment not only sets Manish Sisodia free but also holds hope for lakhs of prisoners who are languishing in jail without trial or on account of the slow pace of trials. Although the SC has said nothing new, this verdict goes beyond salutary words. It has acted on its stated position. More importantly, it has held that the right to speedy trial should be read in Section 45 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), which says that no person shall be released on bail unless the court is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for believing that he is not guilty of such offence, and that he is not likely to commit any offence while on bail. In other words, the PMLA puts the burden of proving innocence on the accused — a departure from normal criminal jurisprudence where the burden of proving guilt lies on the prosecution. Notwithstanding this draconian provision that virtually makes it impossible for an accused to obtain bail, the Court has held that Section 45 of the PMLA will not come in the way of granting bail to an accused if he is suffering long incarceration without trial or due to a slow trial.

As of now, Sisodia is a free man, thanks to the SC. But this freedom has come to him at

We all know that law has to be obeyed and respected, but what happens when state-owned agencies, meant to protect the citizen, are seen to be acting as a tool to prosecute and deprive her of the constitutional right to live with dignity? In such circumstances, courts are supposed to act as a shield against the tyranny of the state. Therefore, in the words of the SC, it is high time that the trial and high courts recognise their legal and constitutional duty to act in appropriate cases, and not add to the burden of the apex court.

a heavy price. Seventeen months in jail, when jail and not bail is the rule. Who is to be blamed? The state or the courts? The SC has chided both in its order.

Sisodia first approached the SC in October 2023 after his bail application was rejected both by the trial and High Court. The SC too rejected his bail application on the basis of representations made to it by the prosecution that the trial would be concluded in 6-8 months. With the greatest of respect to the SC, it was as clear that given the complexity of the case, and the fact that even the chargesheet had not been filed, there was no way that the trial would be concluded within that time.

During the hearing, the then bench of the Supreme Court had reportedly observed that except for the statement of a businessman-turned-approver, there was no evidence against the accused. But when it came to the crunch, Sisodia's bail was rejected. What happened to the words of the Supreme Court "that in the matter of personal liberty every day counts"? They were as true in October 2023 and as on August 9, 2024.

The falsity of the prosecution's assurance is evident from the fact that it proposes to examine 493 witnesses, and besides that, the case involves thousands of pages of documents, and over a lakh pages of digitised documents.

The SC is also critical of the trial court and High Court. It observed both should have considered the long period of incarceration with-

out trial. It further observed that the high courts and trial courts play safe and fail to recognise that "bail is the rule and jail an exception". The SC added that it is high time these courts recognise this rule. The SC's observations could not be more true. In some cases, courts even go into overdrive to support the prosecution's case. If any proof is needed, one has to go back a little when an Honourable Judge of the High Court stayed the order releasing Arvind Kejriwal even before the impugned order of the trial court was uploaded.

We all know that law has to be obeyed and respected, but what happens when state-controlled agencies, meant to protect the citizen, are seen to be acting as a tool to prosecute and deprive her of the constitutional right to live with dignity? In such circumstances, courts are supposed to act as a shield against the tyranny of the state. Therefore, in the words of the SC, it is high time that the trial and high courts recognise their legal and constitutional duty to act in appropriate cases, and not add to the burden of the apex court. The petitioner before the SC was not an ordinary citizen nor devoid of means to engage high profile lawyers to represent him, and yet suffered long months of deprivation of liberty.

The plight of common citizens would be much worse.

The writer is a former judge of the Delhi High Court

## AUGUST 13, 1984, FORTY YEARS AGO



### TAMIL EXTREMISTS HELD

AT LEAST 19 suspected Tamil extremists were killed when a massive explosion brought down the one-storeyed Chunnakam police station building, near Sri Lanka's Jaffna town. The explosion occurred when a group of militants went to the police station to rescue some of the Tamil youths arrested during security operations. The sources said a booby trap triggered the explosion when rescuers attempted to break into the police station.

### PM COMMENDS PAK

PRIME MINISTER Mrs Indira Gandhi, has con-

gratulated the Pakistani President Zia-ul Haq on Pakistan's winning the Olympic gold medal for hockey. In a message Mrs Gandhi said: "Your hockey team played well". "People of India join me in congratulating Pakistan on its winning the Olympic gold medal."

### UK-INDIA TIES

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT has decided not to take any action against Jagjit Singh Chauhan, self-styled leader of so-called Khalistan, for his inflammatory statements against the Indian leader which evoked strong protests in India. A statement by Chauhan on BBC Radio was considered by the

Indian Government to be an incitement to violence against PM Indira Gandhi and her family. It was condemned in Indian Parliament where a demand for breaking off diplomatic ties with Britain was made a few days ago.

### No 'WAR' ON STATES

THE UNION FINANCE Minister, Pranab Mukherjee, said that all recommendations of the Eighth Finance Commission had been accepted, but by not implementing them this year the centre was not "pocketing" any money due to the states. Explaining the non-implementation, he said it was too late and would involve many financial adjustments.

# 11 THE IDEAS PAGE

## After Olympics, a question

We need to ask if state involvement in elite sports is the best way of using public money, and who benefits from it. And whether it may be better left to the private sector



SANJAY SRIVASTAVA

APART FROM THE unfortunate news surrounding Vinesh Phogat's disqualification from her wrestling event at the Olympics, there has been another news item that did the rounds in several international newspapers. This concerned the Ambani family and their "quest" to improve India's standing in elite sporting events such as the Olympics. Leaving aside the expected hype about the role of private wealth in securing sporting "glory", it is worth considering the case for its involvement in elite sport. This, actually, goes to the heart of ideas of public welfare and the role of the state and its responsibility towards the most marginalised.

There is a difference between promoting physical activity among the general population and sponsoring elite sporting activity. The former improves public health, while the latter is mainly concerned with adding to private profits and feelings of (frequently middle-class) nationalism. How should we define the role of the state: Should its limited resources be devoted to increasing public welfare or enhancing private profit and the ephemeral buzz of nationalist feeling?

There does not appear to be any evidence that the state's involvement in sponsoring Olympic participation has had any public welfare effects. First, it does not translate into any concrete benefits in terms of improved health because audiences for global sporting events are inspired to adopt better lifestyle activities. In a poor country, where livelihoods are precarious, this is a much more complicated affair and there can, in fact, be little connection between elite sport and the welfare of the majority of the population. Second, even if we were to grant that nationalism-fueled exultation over medals adds to some form of emotional well-being, the fact that, over the years, India has won under 45 medals altogether makes a weak case for publicly funding what are clearly very poor returns on investment.

There is, on the other hand, a clear relationship between national wealth and medals acquisition. At just over 3,000 medals, the US has the largest number, followed, as expected, by countries such as Germany and the UK. Long-distance runners from Africa fuel our views about the indomitability of the human spirit under adverse circumstances and sport as an equaliser between the well-off and the deprived. However, individual effort and personal willpower can never be a way of understanding how one builds systems that lead to better outcomes. And, to come to grips with this, we need to understand the nature of the state in our part of the world and why it should not fund preparations for participation in elite sports.

Historically, there has been a close relationship between parties in power and their patronage activities. Patronage binds the party and its supporters and provides a source of support for the party. Unfortunately, the sporting arena in India has been a prime source of political patronage and since the key functionaries in sporting bodies tend to be political appointees, both their incompetence as well as deliberate mis-



CR Sasikummar

deeds go unpunished. This directly relates to their nature as political appointees: Their primary significance and role is to further the aims of party politics rather than nurture sporting talent. Sport is politics and since the politics of sport reflects the nature of the state, sporting success cannot be an outcome of state sponsorship.

On the other hand, those who genuinely believe in both greater sporting success as well as improved public welfare might consider that greater private involvement might bring about both. First, private investment is subject to the most significant rule of business: Profits. These, in terms of investment in sport, will be the expectation of more medals which, in turn, enhance the company's public image and better branding of its products. The state's involvement, on the other hand, does not entail any "shareholder" scrutiny of this kind. Party politics and state functioning have different dynamics and, at least, in the Indian context, voters don't necessarily punish parties on the basis of misuse of public funds. The appeal of religious, caste and ethnic loyalties has produced a particular kind of electoral democracy.

A genuine concern with public welfare requires a re-think regarding the nature of the state and the kinds of activities it should fund. Should the state fund activities that provide almost no public benefit, bolster party-political machinations and are the

A genuine concern with public welfare requires a re-think regarding the nature of the state and the kinds of activities it should fund. Should the state fund activities that provide almost no public benefit, bolster party-political machinations and are the sources of occasional shouts of joy in the TV rooms of the relatively well-off? Or, should it focus attention on those parts of society that market forces will not consider profitable enough to invest in: Good quality education, health facilities and housing for the most deprived?

sources of occasional shouts of joy in the TV rooms of the relatively well-off? Or, should it focus attention on those parts of society that market forces will not consider profitable enough to invest in: Good quality education, health facilities and housing for the most deprived?

There is a romanticism to the manner in which we view the state as both an organ that must undertake all forms of public activity as well as that which, by definition, delivers public good. The former has usually meant an overstretching of its capacities so that there is little it does well and the latter has never really been true. State forms are historical developments and the Indian one has its own peculiarity. Given this, we need to ask if state involvement in elite sports is the best way of using public money and who benefits from it. If elite sport is primarily about selling goods and commodities (no necessary evil in itself) and bolstering middle-class nationalism, should public funds be deployed for it? Can the private sector do it better — perhaps even create systems that are currently lacking — and should we aim at a society where public funds are expended in increasing the welfare of the majority?

The writer is British Academy Global Professor, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, SOAS University of London

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Besides enforced disappearance, the Awami League regime had also been regularly accused of allowing extrajudicial killings and custodial torture, and so the interim government must start the process of establishing justice for all such activities."  
— THE DAILY STAR, BANGLADESH

## Relook at Dhaka

Fall of Sheikh Hasina regime calls for a measured and pragmatic response from India, keeping in mind regional stability and mutual interest



RAMANATHAN KUMAR

THE OUSTER OF former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a mass upsurge of "people's power", and the assumption of power in Dhaka by an interim government headed by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus is, doubtless, a watershed moment in Bangladesh's tumultuous history. As many have pointed out, it is a moment that holds both peril and promise, calling for a measured and sagacious response from all those who have a stake in regional stability.

For close to 15 years, in stark contrast to the preceding years, the use of Bangladeshi territory was effectively denied to all manner of terrorist and insurgent organisations and their backers who were eager to do India harm. This decisive transformation would not have been possible but for the concerted efforts of the government that was in power in Bangladesh during this period and the mutually beneficial cooperation between the concerned institutions of both countries. These are incontrovertible realities that no government in New Delhi can be oblivious or indifferent to.

In accordance with the well-established principle on non-interference, it has been India's long-standing policy to refrain from passing judgement on what are essentially internal political matters of other countries. Bangladesh has been no exception in this regard. Those who espouse the view that, given India's perceived proximity to — and influence over — key decision makers in Dhaka, we could somehow have influenced the course of Bangladesh's internal politics during the years that Sheikh Hasina and the Awami League were in power would do well to keep this fundamental limitation in mind.

For the last decade and a half, Bangladesh and India have, by and large, lived peacefully as neighbours, unburdened by the rancour and recrimination that was a defining characteristic of their relationship for much of the past. The outcome has been the healthy blossoming of ties in a multitude of areas, ranging from security to multi-modal connectivity to trade and commerce to infrastructure development and people-to-people contact. More than 15 lakh Bangladeshi nationals travel annually to India for a host of purposes ranging from tourism to business and medical treatment. Bilateral trade rose to \$18 billion in 2021-22. Cooperation in the power and energy sector, once unthinkable, has become an important pillar of the bilateral relationship, with Bangladesh currently importing as much as 1,160 MW of power from India. The potential for further progress in all these areas — and more — is nothing less than immense.

The remarkable progress made by Bangladesh in many indices of socio-economic

development, such as literacy, infant mortality, women's empowerment and financial inclusion is acknowledged and respected by many in India. The success achieved by Bangladesh's garment industry has been lauded and sought to be replicated by business enterprises in India. The concept of microfinance, pioneered by Bangladesh's Grameen Bank, has been embraced by several Indian institutions.

This is not to romanticise the recent past or to assert that everything has been perfect between India and Bangladesh. India has made every effort to reciprocate Bangladesh's contribution towards alleviating its security concerns, but dismay persists among sections of Bangladeshi civil society over the issue of the killing of Bangladeshi nationals at the borders by Indian security forces, despite India's effort to bring down the number of such casualties. The matter of equitable sharing of river waters, which assumes overarching priority for Bangladesh, defies easy resolution, not least on account of India's burgeoning needs. Finding lasting solutions to these complex problems remains a work in progress, but given political will and perseverance, they can and will be resolved to the satisfaction of both sides. Mutual recrimination and whipping up negative sentiment over contentious issues cannot be the answer.

The anarchy unleashed by the fall of the previous regime has, understandably, brought to the fore concerns about the prospects of Bangladesh being engulfed by the winner-takes-all brand of politics that it has experienced in the past; by religious fanaticism and by the cross-currents of untrammelled geopolitical rivalry among major powers. These are concerns that cannot be taken lightly by the decision makers, opinion shapers and people of Bangladesh or by those of other countries in the neighbourhood and beyond.

At a time when new social and political forces are rapidly emerging in Bangladesh, the young student leaders who spearheaded the movement for political change and their supporters should bear in mind that millions of ordinary Indians share the developmental aspirations of their counterparts in Bangladesh and wish them well in their endeavours. Endemic poverty, mass unemployment among youth, runaway inflation, climate change, environmental degradation and the spread of infectious diseases are some of the all-pervasive enemies that respect no borders and stalk the people of both countries. It goes without saying that these common challenges can only be addressed in a spirit of mutual cooperation rather than one of hostility and mistrust.

India and Bangladesh must face the future with renewed hope and confidence, eschewing the perils and embracing the promise of the fundamental reset that has taken place in Bangladesh. A reversion to the nay-saying and finger-pointing of yesteryears is not an option.

The writer, a former special secretary in the Research & Analysis Wing, served in Bangladesh. Views are personal

## My friend and patron

Natwar Singh's warmth and courtesy served India well



MANI SHANKAR AIYAR

IN THE PASSING away of K Natwar Singh, the Indian Foreign Service has lost one of its most exceptional members. Exceptional because Natwar was never a run-of-the-mill officer, but someone quasi-political who smoothly made the transition from the IFS to frontline politics and rose to be external affairs minister until he was struck down suddenly at the height of his professional achievement. The reasons remain obscure despite his telling his side of the story in his autobiography, *One Life is Not Enough*.

His school days gave no hint of the role he was due to play. He spent most of his time running away from Scindia School, Gwalior. It was at St Stephen's that he really came into his own, becoming a college legend even before he graduated. It was there that he struck up a strong friendship with Harsha Hutheesing, son of Jawaharlal Nehru's youngest sister, Krishna. This gave him an entrée to Panditji's breakfast table presided over by Indira Gandhi. It was the beginning of an almost lifelong relationship with the Nehru-Gandhis.

He combined his political interests with literary flair. At Cambridge, where he was sent for a year as a probationer in the Foreign Service, he sought out E M Forster, author of the novel, *A Passage to India*. It was a friendship that, like many Natwar cultivated, lasted forever. He picked Chinese as his compulsory foreign language and was in Beijing when "Hindi-Chini bhai-bhai" was at its peak, lead-

ing to another lifelong friendship with the Chinese writer, Han Suyin, who had written the best-seller, *A Many-Splendoured Thing* about her love for an Indian journalist killed in the Korean war. This penchant for friendships with literary and artistic figures eventually drew into his net Mulik Raj Anand and M F Husain, among a galaxy of others.

As India's representative on the Decolonisation Committee at the UN, his personality and India's standing among the emerging nations opened the gates to warm connections with a series of African freedom fighters who were struggling to free their countries. They eventually became presidents of their countries at independence and never forgot the young Indian diplomat who had stood by them in their moments of challenge.

When Indira Gandhi became PM in 1966, she immediately flew him out of New York to join her PMO. I was then a very raw new entrant into the IFS and heard a lot of idle gossip as to whether he was really a talented civil servant or a courtier who had made his dizzy way upwards by flattery. Of course, people were jealous of his obvious closeness to the highest in the land and took him down behind his back, especially when he secured an out-of-turn posting as ambassador to Warsaw and later Deputy High Commissioner in London with the personal rank of ambassador.

While he was in London, the Emergency

was proclaimed. As a diplomat, he was, of course, obliged to defend the negative reporting in the UK press, but he went about his duties with such zeal that he was targeted by Morarji Desai when the Emergency ended. He was sent on a "punishment posting" to Zambia. What Desai had not perhaps briefed himself on was that Kenneth Kaunda was an old friend from Natwar's New York days. Natwar made the most of his punishment posting and earned a bonus when he introduced the godman, Chandraswami, to Kaunda.

Meanwhile, the Morarji government fell, and Natwar was back in favour. Indira Gandhi sent him to man our embassy in Islamabad. I was posted as Consul-General in Karachi and had a remarkable run for two years with little interference from the ambassador in faraway Islamabad. Apprehensive that things would change with this high-profile new boss, I rang a close friend and colleague who had served with Natwar in London. He said I could continue being in the Karachi papers daily provided I ensured that Natwar alone would figure in Indian coverage. Armed with this advice, I flew with considerable concern to Islamabad to make Natwar's acquaintance.

Natwar was friendliness, warmth and courtesy personified. He knew my affection for the people of Pakistan did not quite tally with his own perceptions and policy instructions, but he let me know that I was to con-

tinue doing my work as I thought fit while he got on with dealing with Zia-ul-Haq.

My admiration for him grew when he publicly announced that the 1980 Moradabad Eidgah police firing and the riots all over UP and Delhi that followed had "humiliated him as an Indian and diminished him as a human being". He came to Karachi and, without standing on protocol, received in my office a delegation of incensed protesters, and listened patiently to their grievances.

He entered politics as I entered Rajiv Gandhi's PMO. Our friendship grew and survived differences when he became a founding member of the Tiwari Congress. He was most responsible for urging me to set my sights on a cabinet post when we won in 2004 and instrumental in backing me as minister of petroleum when I ran afoul of his senior bureaucrats.

I never quite understood what the Paul Volcker Committee report was all about. But he felt so badly let down that he walked out of the Congress and cut all his links to the Gandhi family. He urged me to do the same. I resisted.

I have lost a friend and a patron. It is heartbreaking that he did not live to see his centenary, as he confidently expected. May he find in the afterlife the peace that eluded him in his last two decades.

The writer is a former Union minister

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### TRANSPARENCY IS KEY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'SEBI and a cloud' (IE, August 12). The allegations by Hindenburg Research against the chairperson of India's stock market regulator "for having stakes in an obscure offshore entity" will further undermine the already deteriorating trust that a common man has in the government. The faith reposed in SEBI by the apex court raised eyebrows; after all, had the Court trusted the board all along, why would it have set up a separate expert panel to look into regulatory lapses in the wake of Hindenburg's January 2023 report? Transparency is necessary.

SS Paul, Nadia

### LESSONS FROM PARIS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'After the Olympics' (IE, August 12). A total of six medals and slipping to the 70th place was not how India's expected performance at the Paris Olympics. There is an urgent need to learn from the lessons Paris has taught before the next world event. More than the participants, it is the governing bodies that should be held accountable. The promises that were shown in the Tokyo Olympics may have been belied, but there are reasons to be optimistic, provided politics is kept away from sports.

Vijai Pant, Hempur

### POLICY OVERSIGHT

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'SEBI and a cloud' (IE, August 12). Eighteen months after it accused the Adani Group of pulling off "the largest con in corporate history", US short-seller Hindenburg Research has trained its guns on the chairperson of SEBI. Flagging conflict of interest, Hindenburg alleged that the couple had stakes in obscure offshore funds used in the scandal. SEBI's credibility is at stake, even as knives are out in the political arena. Congress has reiterated its demand for a joint parliamentary committee to investigate the scam. Hindenburg's claims cannot be conveniently brushed aside; they need to be countered with indisputable facts. The sooner the better.

Kholkan Das, Kolkata

### POLICY OVERSIGHT

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Three neighbourhood questions' (IE, August 12). It explains the structural basis of the decision-making process to assess the political and intelligence standing in India's neighbourhood. Despite that, the disconcerting arrival of Sheikh Hasina on August 5 at the Hindon Air Force Station caught everyone by surprise even the deteriorating political situation in Bangladesh was well known. The common man cannot but view this as an oversight of Indian foreign policy all the more because the former Bangladeshi premier was proudly hailed as the first state guest of Modi 3.0 less than two months ago.

Animesh Rai, Noida

FROM PAGE ONE FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

As Opp seeks JPC probe, BJP hits back: Fictitious report

Seth, as the Department of Economic Affairs Secretary, is a part-time member on the SEBI board. When asked whether Buch would step aside, Seth reiterated, "Both of them, the concerned person as well as the regulator, have made their statements and there is nothing further to be added by the government."

A detailed questionnaire sent by The Indian Express to Seth did not elicit a response.

Later in the evening, Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju targeted the Opposition. He told reporters: "We must understand one thing. Today, all those against India inside and outside the country... There are several powers who are against India and work against India. They must be recognised. Those against India's economic power are playing games to harm India. The country's top opposition parties and some people in the Congress... want to destroy India." "They couldn't unseat Modiji because the country is standing with him. People of India want to move ahead under Modiji's leadership. The elections are done, and the government has been formed under the leadership of Modiji. They couldn't win the elections, and to harm India, they are working with anti-India forces... They won't succeed because the people have understood who are against the country."

On the question of Buch personally, BJP leaders, however, did not disagree that she should step down in the wake of "such serious allegations". At least three senior BJP leaders as well as two leaders among allies TDP and JD(U) that The Indian Express spoke with, said it would be better if Buch steps down immediately. However, one of them admitted that there was no signal from the BJP top leadership of her resignation being sought.

ABJP office-bearer indicated that this would remain the party's stand. "Buch has to defend herself and the SEBI has to do the damage control. The BJP does not need to react to her alleged links with any business groups."

Instead, the party will keep up its counter-attack, questioning "the intentions" of such allegations by "external forces" and the Congress role in it. An NDA leader said: "Ideally, the SEBI chief should step down. But what is most dangerous is how India's image has taken a hit in terms of the credibility of its institutions."

Prasad said at the press conference: "After being rebuffed by the people of India, the Congress party, its allies and the toolkit gang have conspired together to usher in economic anarchy and instability in India... The Hindenburg report is released on Saturday, there is uproar on Sunday, so the capital market is destabilised on Monday."

Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's "pathological hatred

for Prime Minister Narendra Modi" had caused the Congress "to develop hatred for India", Prasad said, adding that global advocacy funder George Soros, "who regularly runs propaganda against India", is the main investor in Hindenburg.

Prasad also said that the SEBI had sent a notice to the US-based Hindenburg as part of its probe into the firm's allegations of stock market manipulation against the Adani Group and that, instead of replying, Hindenburg had chosen to target Buch.

Senior BJP leader and former Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar said: "It is terribly disconcerting and irresponsible that Rahul Gandhi-led Opposition has been, as a pattern, constantly undermining important institutions, the judiciary first, then the Election Commission, the EVM and the democratic process, the RBI and so many others, including the SEBI. This could destabilise the perception of Indian and financial markets globally, especially at a time when India's economy is growing fast. We will not permit them to do it."

BJP's alliance partner TDP also talked about the "perception" such allegations could create. TDP parliamentary party leader Lavu Srikrishna Devarayalu told The Indian Express: "Since the first allegations came out (by Hindenburg), enough scrutiny has been done and all the facts are available... The Opposition keeps talking

about creating jobs, but what kind of narrative are they creating even about the Budget, which intends to create jobs?"

Devarayalu said the Opposition's claims that the Modi government would not last was part of the same "narrative". "In the past, the Congress formed coalition governments. Why does it think that the BJP-led NDA would not be stable?"

On Saturday, Hindenburg Research alleged that Buch and her husband had stakes in obscure offshore funds, which it claims were used to siphon off money by the Adani Group.

The SEBI came out in Buch's defence Sunday, saying they had adequate internal mechanisms to address issues related to conflict of interest. "The Chairperson has also recused herself in matters involving potential conflicts of interest," the regulator said.

The report by Hindenburg Research comes almost 18 months after the short-seller first kicked up a political storm, accusing the Adani Group of "brazen stock market manipulation" and "accounting fraud" in January 2023. The port-to-energy conglomerate had denied the allegations, and the Supreme Court had rejected the demand for a CBI or court-monitored probe.

A senior BJP leader said the fallout of the current "revelations" is less than what happened in January 2023. "It is less damaging to the credibility of the government," he said.

Fund in which Buchs invested

(Mauritius) — the declared beneficial owner of Emerging India Focus Fund and EM Resurgent Fund that were part of the 13 overseas entities under Sebi lens.

The period under investigation (at least since 2016-17) of the two funds in question — Emerging India Focus Fund and EM Resurgent Fund — overlaps with the period (2015-2018) of investment in IPE Plus Fund 1 by Buch and her husband. SEBI started the investigation in October 2020 when Buch was a Whole-Time Member.

In March 2017, days before Madhabi Puri Buch became a SEBI member, Dhaval Buch became the sole person authorised to operate their fund account IPE Plus Fund 1. In February 2018, Madhabi Puri Buch instructed the fund manager to redeem their entire investment. With approximately \$52.2 million in assets, Global Dynamic Opportunities Fund Limited (Bermuda) is a hedge fund operated by IIFL Capital Pte Ltd (360 One) which also manages IPE Plus Fund.

In a statement issued on Sunday, Madhabi Puri Buch said, "When, in 2018, Mr Ahuja, left his position as CIO of the fund, we re-deemed the investment in that fund." Ahuja was the CIO of IIFL and her husband Dhaval's childhood friend. "All disclosures and recusals have been diligently followed, including disclosures of all securities held or subsequently transferred," it said.

A statement by 360 One said that throughout the fund's tenure, IPE-Plus Fund 1 made zero investments in any shares of the Adani Group either directly or indirectly through any fund.

KOLKATA DOCTOR RAPE-MURDER

Nationwide protests hit basic medical services

NEW DELHI, CHANDIGARH, JAIPUR, LUCKNOW, AUGUST 12

RESIDENT DOCTORS from several government hospitals in Chandigarh, Rohtak, Jaipur, Jammu, and Lucknow staged protests against the recent rape-murder of a doctor in Kolkata, demanding a time-bound probe into the incident and better security arrangements in hospitals.

In Chandigarh, junior doctors of the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) held a protest, while resident doctors and medical students from Rohtak's Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (PGIMS) staged a march. Resident Doctors Association president at PGIMS Rohtak Dr Prajwal said they are concerned about the safety of the doctors.

In Lucknow, resident doctors from several government hospitals held protests, demanding a time-bound probe into the matter. The protests were also held at the King George's Medical



Outside KGM University in Lucknow on Monday. Vishal Srivastava

University (KGMU), Kalyan Singh Super Speciality Cancer Institute (KSSSCI), and Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences. Dr Ritika, President of Resident Doctors' Association, KSSSCI, said, "We demand a probe into the matter. It should be time bound."

According to KGMU spokesperson Dr Sudhir Singh, services of the hospital, including OPD and emergency, were not affected due to the protests. Meanwhile, members of the Jaipur Association of Resident

Doctors (JAR) took out a candle-light march and announced to go on a strike. JARD president Dr Manohar Sijol said that all non-essential services have been immediately suspended. In Jammu, hundreds of resident doctors suspended their regular work and took out a peaceful rally to lodge their protest against the incident.

In Maharashtra, resident doctors announced an indefinite strike from Tuesday to show solidarity with their colleagues who are protesting across the nation.

Two booked for beating up Dalit woman for taking water from tubewell: Police

Lucknow: A FARMER and his son were booked for allegedly beating up a Dalit woman and hurling casteist abuse for collecting water from their tubewell in Banda, police said. The woman, 36, works as an agricultural labourer, officers said.

An FIR was registered under Sections 115 (voluntarily causing hurt) and 352 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace) of the Indian Penal Code. The police have also invoked the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act against the accused.

Moni Nishad, Station House Officer, Jaspura police station (Banda), said that no arrests have been made yet and a probe is underway. The police identified the accused as Rajendra Singh and his son Jitendra Pratap Singh, residents of Sikahula village. ENS

UP officials raze two Mirzapur churches over encroachment

MANISH SAHU LUCKNOW, AUGUST 12

A JOINT team of the forest department, district administration and police personnel on Monday demolished two churches that had been built on "encroached land" within the reserved forest area of the Chunar Range, under Mirzapur forest division, officials said. Police said they found out about the structures during a probe into complaints that people were being lured there for conversion to Christianity.

On Sunday, the teams reached the sites and demolished the two buildings, located in Jungle Mohal and Belkhara villages, which are approximately 25 km apart.

Earlier, the police found that the churches were built nearly a

decade ago on encroached forest land. A forest department team also surveyed the two villages, the residents of which predominantly belong to the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe communities.

Officials said the forest department issued notices, and as nobody was found present at the site, the notices were pasted on the walls of the two buildings. No reply was filed, leading to directives to vacate the land, the officials said.

Sub-Divisional Magistrate of Mirzapur, Rajesh Kumar Verma, said that after completing the formalities, the forest department issued a demolition order.

He added that a team of policemen and administration officials also accompanied the forest department personnel to assist them and maintain law and order.

UP man, three relatives gangrape Ludhiana woman as 'revenge'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUDHIANA, AUGUST 12

A MAN from Uttar Pradesh and three members of his family allegedly gangraped a 30-year-old woman in Ludhiana in "revenge" day after her brother eloped with his daughter and got married, police said.

The victim woman alleged that the men, from Gorakhpur in UP, also recorded the act on their mobile phones and threatened that they will upload it on social media if she went to the police.

The incident took place on May 1 but she filed the complaint only last week as she felt "scared and threatened", police said.

Based on the woman's complaint, the Ludhiana Police lodged an FIR against the man from Kushi Nagar in Gorakhpur, his brother

and son and an associate.

The complainant alleged that the accused came to her home searching for their daughter on May 1 and started enquiring from her about their location.

The victim alleged that the accused, infuriated, "took revenge" by sexually assaulting her. The accused recorded the act on their mobile phones and threatened to spread the video on social media if she reported the incident to police.

Inspector Bhagatveer Singh, station house officer at Tibba Road police station, citing the complaint, said that the woman was under trauma and earlier chose not to file a complaint.

Later, she gathered courage and approached the police on Friday, she said. Soon after receiving the complaint, the police lodged an FIR under Section 376D (gang rape) of the IPC.

J&K Police bust terror module with arrest of 9

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Monday claimed to have busted a terror module with the arrest of nine people that allegedly facilitated movement of terrorists infiltrating from Pakistan in the upper reaches of Doda, Udhampur and Kathua districts.

Those arrested were identified as Mohammad Lateef and Akhter Ali of Ambe Naal in Kathua; and brothers Saddam, Khadim and Kushal of Bhaddu Billawar in Kathua district; Noorani of Juthana under the Rajbagh police jurisdiction, Maqbool of Soffain, Liaquat and Kasim Din.

Sources said the module was busted on the basis of leads from central intelligence agencies following the killing of three foreign terrorists in Doda district last month.

Police described Lateef as the kingpin of the module, saying that he acted as a guide and arranged logistics for terrorists passing through the area. ENS

Pak singer Haniya Aslam, one-half of music duo Zeb and Haniya, dies

SUANSHU KHURANA NEW DELHI, AUGUST 12



Haniya Aslam

POPULAR PAKISTANI singer Haniya Aslam, known for her Coke Studio hits 'Laili Jaan', 'Bibi Sanam', 'Paimona', and 'Chup', has died, her cousin and music collaborator Zeb Bangash confirmed on social media. Local media reports said Aslam died of cardiac arrest and was in her late 30s.

Much before 'Le li jaan', a song picturised in Bhopal in Alankrita Srivastav's Lipstick Under My Burkha (2016), struck a chord with the popular culture in India, it was performed in Coke Studio Pakistan by Aslam and Bangash in 2013. It was composed in Dari then, the language dominantly spoken in Afghanistan, besides Pashto.

Both Aslam and Bangash grew up in Lahore, but their roots were

back on campus, the two found an abandoned room in Bangash's dormitory basement and began to jam there. This evening of song and talk resulted in them putting up two songs online, which went viral and reached Pakistani radio stations. This is when the songs were heard by producer Mekaal Hasan, who then produced the duo's debut album Chup (2007). An invite to sing in Coke Studio Pakistan followed, bringing them more fame, especially in India.

Aslam toured with Bangash for some time but she wasn't comfortable with the life of a touring musician. She left the band soon to study audio engineering and music production in Canada. Aslam returned to Pakistan some years ago and created 'Main irada' with Ali Hamza in the 11th Season of Coke Studio in 2018. The song was inspired by Maya Angelou's poem, 'Phenomenal Woman'.

To match Paris 2024, Los Angeles faces Mission Impossible

motorcycle. A Hollywood ending that few saw coming. And that marked the beginning of a mission impossible for the organisers of the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics — to go one up on Paris.

There might have been no warm bienvenue from the grumpy, anxious Parisians when the Games came to their doorstep. But when the time came to bid au revoir, they found it hard to let go of this magical fortnight.

"We saw ourselves as people of diehard moaners. Instead, we found ourselves a nation of wild supporters," Tony Estanguet, an Olympic champion and the organising committee head, said during Sunday's closing ceremony.

Even Estanguet sounded disbelieving as he said those words to a joyous crowd of 80,000-plus people. For 17 days, they shed the boring stereotype of the French being notoriously cynical and turned into hardcore optimists.

The only thing over the top were the smiling faces. Everything else was subtle, unpretentious and brave artistically — simply put, it was Paris being Paris.

There was a nod to the past. The medal bearers, who blend into the background, paid an ode to the 1924 Paris Games outfits in

their Louis Vuitton retro polo shirt, roomy pants and a traditional Garmont cap. There was a hopeful peek into the future as well. Depicted in the vibrant official poster — the "stadium city and utopian version of Paris" — by cartoonist Ugo Gattoni.

But mostly, the Parisians — coming off a long period of political instability — wanted to stay in the present.

"Nostalgia can be tedious," said Jean, manning the security at Champ-de-Mars Arena. "Earlier, we only spoke about the 1900 and 1924 Olympics, the shooting of live pigeons and the marathoners who were given wine. But we weren't there, neither were our parents or grandparents. But in these Games, we could feel it, experience it. And even if there will be no tomorrow, we will remember it."

These weren't just one of the best Olympics ever, Paris may have also rescued the brand Olympics. After the financial and infrastructural issues at Rio 2016 and the pandemic-hit Games of Tokyo 2020, the Games were fighting for relevance. Too big and too out of touch were the big challenges it faced.

Paris showed the size of investment could be scaled down

with a little imagination. They created temporary venues in breath-taking settings.

This allowed them to not construct new stadiums that end up being nothing but white elephants and come at a heavy cost to the exchequer — a lesson for future hosts, especially India, which is eyeing the 2036 Olympics.

Japan spent \$13 billion to host the Tokyo Games. The Paris Olympics are estimated to cost almost \$5 billion less. It will take months to know exactly how much money was splurged.

The temporary venues were carefully designed so that the spectators in the stands as well as the television audience could take in the beauty. At the Grand Palais, the eyes were as much on the swooshing swords of the fencers as the magnificent dome they competed under.

The Eiffel Tower Stadium, which hosted beach volleyball, was easily the most snapped arena, especially in the night when the tower sparkled. The walk through the gardens of Château de Versailles to reach the stands of the equestrian arena gave a sense of being at a truly historic place.

Those Parisians who fled the city anticipating trouble — of an

overcrowded public transport system and high security — were the victims of "FOMO".

The first post-Covid Olympics saw every venue brimming with fans. Early in the morning, they grabbed their coffees and croissants to queue up outside for judo and table tennis; by night, they'd be chugging beer at swimming and athletics.

There would be emotional renditions of the La Marseillaise, the French national anthem, and ferocious chanting of the names of their new heroes.

One evening, hundreds at a cafe on the banks of the Seine (a proper tourist trap) were glued to their mobile screens, watching swim sensation Leon Marchand going for his fourth gold medal. When he touched the wall, there were impromptu celebrations: strangers, young and old, hugging each other, crying and dancing; emotions only sport can trigger.

Estanguet was right when he said: "We searched for inspiration. We found Leon Marchand."

Indeed, there were issues. The athletes were made to wait in long queues for food, which wasn't always enough to fill their appetites. And they were ferried to the stadiums in unpunctual buses that felt like saunas.

The unsavoury gender debate surrounding Algeria's Imane Khelif triggered debates over the athlete and human rights. And swimming in the murky, E. coli-filled waters of the Seine turned out to be the biggest adventure sport.

Parisians might not be the

most sentimental people. But the thought of reclaiming the river on which the city is built makes them giddy; so does the idea of taking a dip in the water next summer, the first time since 1923.

The legacy of these Games could also be the regeneration of the poor suburbs of Seine-Saint-Denis, which hosted several events, including the closing ceremony, and was the site of the Athletes Village.

Simon Kuper, the author of Impossible City: Paris in the Twenty-First Century, said these things — cleaning up the Seine and uplifting Saint-Denis — had been in the works for decades. "But the deadline was hurried because it had to open for the Olympics," Kuper said.

The sport at the Olympics is always jaw-dropping. But it's these factors — being creative in stadium construction, regenerating underprivileged regions, making it accessible to all and keeping it within budget — that will be lessons, and a challenge, for future hosts.

The International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach called Paris 2024 a "sensational Olympic Games from start to finish".

The five rings on top of the Hollywood mountain was a great teaser to Los Angeles 2028. How the world will look in four years and what happens to the big stars who shone in the last fortnight, nobody knows.

But as Humphrey Bogart said in Casablanca, "We'll always have Paris".

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM table with columns for Sr. No., Name of Board/Corp./Auth, Old Reference, Nature of Corrigendum, Website of the Board/Corp./Auth, and Nodal Officer/Contact Details/Email.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE table with columns for Sr. No., Name of Board/Corp./Auth, Name of Work Notice Tender, Opening Date, Closing Date, Amount, Website of the Board/Corp./Auth, and Nodal Officer/Contact Details/Email.

ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग कार्य प्रमंडल, देवघर। जिला परिषद बिन्डीगं, सस्निंगगर, देवघर। ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई-निविदा संख्या :- 09/2024-25/RWD/EE/DEOGHAR दिनांक :- 10.08.2024

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, देवघर द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति के रूप में निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

Table with 5 columns: SRO No., Name of Board/Corp./Auth, Name of Work Notice Tender, Opening Date, Closing Date, Amount, Website of the Board/Corp./Auth, and Nodal Officer/Contact Details/Email. Includes details for various road works and water supply projects.

ANDHRA PRADESH STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED HEAD OFFICE: 10-152/1, SRI SAI TOWERS, BANDAR ROAD, KANURU, VIJAYAWADA-520007. TENDER NOTICE for supply of 22,500 MTs of 50 KG PP BAGS TO ALL THE 251 MLs POINTS OF APSCSL IN TWENTY SIX (26) DISTRICTS ACROSS THE ANDHRA PRADESH STATE FOR DISTRIBUTION UNDER PDS/CDS/THR SCHEMES THROUGH THE AP E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL.

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar (U.P.). Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in. सार्वजनिक सूचना: सर्वसाधारण को एतद द्वारा सूचना दी जाती है कि 'नवीन ओखला औद्योगिक विकास क्षेत्र (योजना को तैयार करना और अंतिम रूप देना) विनियमावली 2010 (यथा संशोधित)' के प्रावधानों के अधीन नौएडा मवन विनियमावली तथा नौएडा महायोजना - 2031 में प्रस्तावित संशोधन करने के सम्बन्ध में जनसामान्य से आपत्ति / सुझाव आमंत्रित है।

# How Tungabhadra dam gate was swept away, why farmers are fearful

**AKRAM M**  
BENGALURU, AUGUST 12

A FLOOD alert has been sounded downstream of the Tungabhadra dam in Karnataka's Koppal district after one of the 33 crest gates of the massive stone masonry dam across the Tungabhadra river was washed away late on Saturday evening.

Repairs can be carried out only after two-thirds of the dam is emptied, the Tungabhadra Board, which manages the project, said. Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, who is also the Water Resources Minister, visited the dam on Sunday.

**EXPLAINED  
INFRA**

## How the gate broke

The dam has 33 'vertical lift' type gates that move on rollers embedded in the masonry. The gates are operated from an overhead bridge.

"On 10.08.2024, 10 spillway gates were operated, i.e. from gate No. 12 to 21 to height of 1.5 feet and the discharge through the spillway gate was 22,890 Cusecs," the Tungabhadra Board said in a statement on Sunday. Spillways or overflow channels are structures used for the controlled release of water from a reservoir.

"During the said incident, i.e., at 10.50 pm, the spillway gate No. 19 was washed away from the groove of spillway," the statement said.

The crest (or spillway) gate failed after a link in the chain used to operate it broke. The force of the water in the dam swept the 60-foot-by-20-foot gate, weighing around 20 tonnes, some 500 ft away, J Purushotham, president of the Tungabhadra Farmers' Association, said.

Local sources said welding was carried out on the chain links of the spillway gates to strengthen them 3-4 years ago. Purushotham said that considering the chain links were old, Karnataka had suggested that the links be replaced with steel cables to operate the crest gates. "Such a system is in place in the Alamatti dam in Bagalkot district," he said.

## Water in reservoir

On August 10, the reservoir level was at its maximum 1,633 ft, and the dam was full to its capacity, about 105.8 thousand million cubic (TMC) ft, according to Tungabhadra Board data. The inflow was 40,925 cusecs (cubic ft per second), and outflow was 28,133 cusecs.

According to the Tungabhadra Board statement issued by its Secretary O R K Reddy, following early inflows into the dam, water had



The 33-gate dam on the Tungabhadra in Karnataka was completed in 1953. PTI

been released through three gates on July 22 and, as inflows increased subsequently, around 1.65 lakh cusecs was released on August 1.

On Monday, the water level was almost 1,631 ft, and the reservoir capacity was 97.75 TMC ft, Board data show.

Accumulated silt over the years now fills around 30% of the original capacity of the dam. The state government has proposed to build a balancing reservoir to address this problem.

## River and the dam

The Tungabhadra, which is formed at

the confluence near Shimoga of two streams, Tunga and Bhadra, that rise in the Western Ghats, flows into the Krishna at Sangameshwaram in Andhra Pradesh. The river, which forms part of the boundary between Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, has a total catchment area of almost 70,000 sq km.

The Tungabhadra reservoir sprawls over an area of 378 sq km primarily in Karnataka's Vijayanagar district. It is one of the major reservoirs in South India that supplies water for irrigation and industrial use,



Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana.

## Repairs and fears

The crest gate that has been swept away is located in the middle of the dam, and repairs can begin only after 60-65% of the water in the reservoir has been discharged.

The repair will be carried out as soon as possible with consultation with experts, the Tungabhadra Board has said. "Action is being taken to fabricate new stop lock gate... The...work will be completed within a week," the Board said.

Cultivators with fields upstream are afraid that draining of the reservoir to carry out repairs will impact irrigation; those downstream have the same fear, apart from apprehensions of flooding due to increased outflows from the dam. The Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre has issued a flood alert to downstream areas.

Heavy rainfall could make the situation worse; however, no heavy rain is forecast in the region in the coming days.

Last year, due to a severe drought in the state, farmers either did not get the yield they hoped for, or avoided sowing altogether. Shivakumar said a projected inflow of around 50-60 TMC ft in September and October would help farmers in the region cultivate at least one crop this year.

**EXPLAINED GLOBAL**

# UKRAINE PUSH INTO RUSSIA'S KURSK: WHAT'S HAPPENING, WHY NOW

**ALIND CHAUHAN**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 12

UKRAINIAN TROOPS have advanced around 30 km into Russian territory in the Kursk Oblast, in what might be Kyiv's largest incursion into Russia since the start of the war in 2022. On Sunday, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the surprise attack, which began on August 6, would "restore justice" and "push the war into the aggressor's territory".



Where the Ukrainian incursion has taken place in the Kursk Oblast.

## What is happening?

Although no independent reports are available, some suggest that Ukraine has already captured more land since the beginning of this attack than it did over the course of last summer's counter-offensive.

Russian forces are currently fighting Ukrainian troops near the villages of Tolpino and Obshchy Kolodez, 25 km and 30 km respectively from the Russia-Ukraine border, Russia's defence ministry said on Sunday. The incursion involves three Ukrainian brigades — comprising six to eight thousand troops — sources told TVP World, a Poland-based news outlet.

On social media, Ukrainian soldiers have made claims of having captured a host of Russian settlements — soldiers have filmed themselves tearing down Russian flags in captured villages, or standing in front of road signs to show they have entered Russia.

Around 76,000 people have been evacuated from the region, where a state of emergency has been declared by local authorities, Moscow officials say.

## Why has Ukraine launched the attack?

Currently, there is no clarity about the attack's objectives, but military experts say that there could be several political and military reasons behind it. Some suggest that Ukraine wants to seize as much land as

possible to strengthen its position on the negotiating table. Ukrainian land captured by Russia could be exchanged for Russian land conquered by Ukraine.

It could also be possible that Ukraine wants to capture the Kursk nuclear power plant as a payback for Russia's seizure of Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant in 2022. The Kursk plant is just 60 km away from the Ukrainian border. The incursion could also be part of Ukraine's effort to force Russia to redeploy its troops from the east — the attack comes just weeks after Moscow captured several villages in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region.

## What happens next?

It is quite unlikely that Ukraine would be able to hold all of the Russian territory it has advanced into. Even to maintain its current position, Kyiv would need to deploy more troops, tanks, and resources.

In an interview with the Polish Press Agency, retired Polish General Roman Polko said, "the use of highly capable Ukrainian combat forces in Kursk is either a brilliant countermove to shift the momentum in the war, or a strategic error which compounds the challenges in Ukraine's eastern Ukraine defensive operations".

**EXPLAINED ECONOMICS**

# Hindenburg-Adani-Buch saga

18 months after its accusations against Adani, Hindenburg has alleged Sebi chief Madhabi Puri Buch had 'hidden stakes in the exact same obscure offshore Bermuda and Mauritius funds...used by Vinod Adani'

**HITESH VYAS & GEORGE MATHEW**  
MUMBAI, AUGUST 12

A YEAR and a half after its January 2023 report on the Adani Group, US-based short seller Hindenburg Research has levelled allegations against the chairperson of India's capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).

Hindenburg alleged on Saturday that Sebi chief Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband, Dhaval Buch, had stakes in offshore funds used in the alleged Adani money siphoning scandal.

The Buchs have denied the allegation and Sebi has said that it has adequate internal mechanisms for addressing issues relating to conflict of interest, including a disclosure framework and provisions for recusal.

## How and when did this saga begin?

In a 106-page report released on January 25, 2023, Hindenburg accused Gautam Adani's Adani Group of "brazen stock manipulation and accounting fraud scheme over the course of decades".

The report was published ahead of the Rs 20,000-crore follow-on public offer (FPO) of Adani Enterprises Ltd. Shares of Adani companies tanked, and the group subsequently called off the FPO, which was fully subscribed.

Adani denied the allegations. Most Adani shares have now recovered.

## What happened after that?

On March 2, 2023, the Supreme Court set up a six-member expert committee to investigate whether there was regulatory failure in dealing with the alleged contravention of laws by the Adani Group or other companies.

Separately, the court asked Sebi, which was already looking at allegations against Adani companies, to specifically investigate if there was a violation of the minimum public shareholding norms in public limited companies, a failure to disclose transactions with related parties, or any manipulation of stock prices.

In May 2023, the expert committee said that the markets regulator "had drawn a blank" in its investigation into alleged violations in money flows from offshore entities into Adani companies.

In November 2023, the court said it had no reason to discredit Sebi, and that it did not have to treat the contents of the Hindenburg

## KEY PLAYERS IN THE STORY

### HINDENBURG

Founded in 2017, New York-based Hindenburg Research says it specialises in forensic financial research. "...We...look for situations where companies may have... accounting irregularities, bad actors in management or key service provider roles, undisclosed related-party transactions, illegal/unethical business or financial reporting practices and undisclosed regulatory, product or financial issues," it says on its website.

### ADANI GROUP

10 publicly traded companies with a market capitalisation of around \$200 billion. Businesses include seaport and airport management, electricity generation and transmission, mining, natural gas, food, weapons, cement, power, etc.

### MADHABI PURI BUCH

Chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India, alumnus of IIM-Ahmedabad. Started her career in ICICI Bank in 1989, moved to Singapore in 2011 to join Greater Pacific Capital. Worked in various capacities in the corporate sector until 2017 and set up two consultancy firms. Became Whole Time Member of Sebi in 2017, and its chairperson in March 2022.

### DHAVAL BUCH

Husband of Madhabi Puri Buch, senior advisor at Blackstone and Alvarez & Marsal. Alumnus of IIT-Delhi, worked with Unilever group in India, London, and Singapore for 35 years, was Executive Director of Hindustan Unilever. Retired in 2019 and started his own consultancy practice through two companies.

report as the "true state of affairs".

On January 3, 2024, the court endorsed Sebi's investigation, and refused to transfer the case to a Special Investigation Team (SIT) or the CBI. It said Sebi had completed the probe in 20 out of 22 matters, and asked it to finish the job within three months. Sebi completed its probe into one more case in March, and has said the final investigation is close to completion.

## What has Sebi been doing in this period?

On July 1, 2024, Hindenburg announced that it had received a show cause notice from Sebi for short selling of Adani Enterprises Ltd stock immediately before and after the release of its January 2023 report. The notice named Hindenburg Research, its founder Nathan Anderson, partner-investor Mark Kingdon, and three entities owned or controlled by Kingdon: Kingdon Capital Management LLC, M Kingdon Offshore Master Fund LP, and K India Opportunities Fund (KIOF) - Class F.

Hindenburg also said Sebi's notice had "conspicuously failed to name...Kotak Bank, one of India's largest banks and brokerage firms... which created and oversaw the off-

shore fund structure used by our investor partner (Kingdon) to bet against Adani".

A day later, Kotak Mahindra International Limited (KMIL) and KIOF stated that Hindenburg was never their client, nor had it ever been an investor in the Fund. The Fund was not aware that Hindenburg was a partner of any of its investors, it said.

## What is Hindenburg's new allegation?

Hindenburg has now alleged that "it suspects Sebi's unwillingness to take meaningful action against suspect offshore shareholders in the Adani Group may stem from Sebi Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch's complicity in using the exact same funds used by Vinod Adani, brother of Gautam Adani".

Quoting "whistleblower documents", Hindenburg alleged, "Sebi's Chairperson had stake in obscure offshore entities used in the Adani money siphoning scandal." It said Sebi was yet to take any action against other suspect Adani shareholders operated by wealth management firm India Infoline — EM Resurgent Fund and Emerging India Focus Funds.

Hindenburg alleged that Buch had en-

ured that accounts with ties to Adani "be registered solely in the name of Dhaval Buch", her husband, two weeks before her appointment as Sebi Whole Time Member, and had subsequently redeemed the funds "through her husband's name".

"Despite disclaiming control, a private email she sent a year into her Sebi term (in 2018) shows she redeemed stakes in the funds through her husband's name..." Hindenburg has alleged.

## How has the Sebi chairperson responded to the allegations?

Madhabi Puri Buch and Dhaval Buch have said their investment in the offshore funds mentioned by Hindenburg were made in 2015 when they were "private citizens" living in Singapore. The investment was made "almost 2 years before Madhabi joined Sebi...as a Whole Time Member", they have said.

"The decision to invest in this fund was because the Chief Investment Officer, Anil Ahuja, is Dhaval's childhood friend from school and IIT Delhi and, being an ex-employee of Citibank, JP Morgan and 3i Group plc, had many decades of a strong investing career. The fact that these were the drivers of the investment decision is borne out by the fact that when, in 2018, Ahuja left his position as CIO of the fund, we redeemed the investment in that fund," the Buchs have said. From 2011 to March 2017, Madhabi lived and worked from Singapore, initially as an employee of a private equity firm and subsequently as a consultant. The two consulting companies she set up, one each in India and Singapore, became dormant on her appointment at Sebi. These companies (and her shareholding in them) were explicitly part of her disclosures to Sebi, they have said.

## What position has Sebi taken?

On Sunday, the regulator defended Buch. She has from time to time made relevant disclosures required in terms of holdings of securities and their transfers, Sebi said. "Chairperson has also recused herself in matters involving potential conflicts of interest," it said.

"...More than 100 communications have been made seeking assistance from domestic/foreign regulators and external agencies. Also, more than 300 documents...have been examined" during the probe into the Hindenburg matter, Sebi said. It advised investors to remain calm and exercise due diligence.

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22 August | 6 PM | 29 अपरल | सुबह 8 बजे  
707, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, New Delhi | Tashkand Marg, Civil Lines, Prayagraj

# Once thriving, now all but gone: a history of Kerala's Jewish communities

**SHAJU PHILIP**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, AUGUST 12

QUEENIE HALLEGUA, 89, died in Kochi on Sunday. She was the last woman of Kerala's once-vibrant Paradesi Jewish community. Her death left her nephew Keith, 65, as the last Paradesi Jew in Kerala.

## The Jews of Kerala

From boasting a population of 20,000-50,000 in the mid-1940s, India's Jewish population today is estimated to comprise 4,000-5,000 members. Almost all belong to the Marathi-speaking Bene Israel community, settled on the Konkan coast for hundreds of years. They are not, however, the oldest Jewish community of India. That honour goes to one of Kerala's two main Jewish communities. MALABAR JEWS, also known as the Cochin Jews, trace their history to the days of

King Solomon (hypothesised to be in the 10th century BCE, almost 3,000 years ago). Initially, they settled in Cranganore (present-day Kodungallur in Thrissur district), which the community itself referred to as Shingly.

The oldest documentary evidence of this community — a set of copper plates given to the local Jewish leader by the Cranganore's Hindu ruler, from circa 1,000 CE — lists various economic and ceremonial privileges that the Jews enjoyed in the region. From the 14th century onward, and especially following the arrival of the Portuguese in the 16th century, Malabar Jews moved further south from Cranganore to Cochin (now Kochi) where the local king rolled out the red carpet for them.

PARADESI JEWS, literally "foreign" Jews, migrated to the Indian subcontinent in the 15th and 16th centuries from the Iberian Peninsula. They fled to India due to persecu-

tion by the Catholic rulers of Spain and Portugal, and settled on the Malabar coast alongside pre-settled Jewish communities, as well as in Madras (now Chennai). The Paradesi Jews of Cochin were active in Kerala's spice trade, and those settled in Madras were involved in the trade of Golconda diamonds and other precious stones.

In Kerala, the Paradesi Jews adopted Malayalam, and many local customs and traditions. But at some point, they stopped marrying those from Kerala's older Jewish community, and began to look down on them. This effectively created two distinct Jewish communities in Kerala. Many accounts, especially by Western writers, refer to the Paradesis as "White Jews" and the Malabar as "Black Jews", although this pejorative characterisation is largely inaccurate.

In Cochin, the Koders were among the



Clock tower of the Paradesi synagogue in Mattancherry. Wikimedia Commons

most prominent Paradesi Jewish families. Samuel Koder (1908-94) ran the Cochin Electric Company which operated from the

1940s till the late 1970s, before the Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) bought it. He was one of the tallest Jewish leaders in India, and, according to his obituary in *The New York Times*, "an authority on the history of the Jews of Kerala". Samuel's father, also named Samuel (1869-1941), built the famous Koder House, now a boutique hotel in Kochi. Queenie was Samuel Jr's daughter.

## A dwindling community

Unlike Jewish communities in Europe or West Asia, the ones in India seldom faced anti-Semitism or persecution. Many, like the Koders, rose to high positions as agents of foreign trade, and advisers to Dutch and Hindu rulers. Later, during British rule, Jews in Kerala prospered as merchants and were employed as teachers, clerks, and lawyers in the ever-expanding British bureaucracy.

However, since the 1950s, there has been a steady migration of Kerala Jews to Israel.

According to estimates, there are well over 4,000 "Cochinim" in Israel today. Most belong to the Malabar Jewish community, with a few hundred Paradesis. Only 14 Malabar Jews, and one Paradesi Jew are now left in Kerala.

"Jew Streets" in Mattancherry and Kochi, and formerly Jewish-owned shops and business houses, are among the few remaining relics of Kerala's once-thriving Jewish community. So are the state's seven synagogues, the most prominent among which is the Paradesi Synagogue built in 1568 CE in Mattancherry, among the oldest synagogues in the Commonwealth. Queenie's late husband Samuel Hallegua was its last warden.

There are three other Paradesi synagogues at Paravur, Chendammangalam, and Mala. All of them are protected monuments. Malabar Jews have three synagogues, with only the Kavumbhagam Emakulam Synagogue still active. This too was taken over by the state government in 2021 for conservation.

# 14 THE WORLD



## FANNED BY GALES, FIRE TORCHES TREES, HOMES WILDFIRE MENACES ATHENS SUBURBS

Greece's worst wildfire this year spread into the Athens suburbs Monday, forcing hundreds of people to flee as it torched trees, homes and cars. Greece requested help from EU members to tackle the fire, burning out of control for a second day, fanned by gale force winds. **REUTERS**

### TOP OF THE WORLD



The State Palace under construction in Nusantara. **Reuters**

#### INDONESIA

### 1st Cabinet meet held in proposed new capital city

**Jakarta:** Indonesian President Joko Widodo held his first cabinet meeting in his planned new capital, Nusantara, on Monday, as the outgoing leader seeks to reassure investors his \$32 billion mega-project remains on track before he steps down this October. Years after announcing his flagship infrastructure project, Nusantara has faced multiple problems, including construction delays and a lack of foreign investment. Preparing to leave office after serving the maximum two terms, Jokowi told his ministers the new capital marked a new chapter for the country. **REUTERS**

#### AUSTRALIA

### Helicopter crashes into roof of hotel, 1 killed

**Sydney:** A helicopter on an unauthorised flight crashed into the roof of a Hilton hotel in Australia's northern tourist town of Cairns on Monday, killing the pilot and forcing hundreds of guests to evacuate after a blaze, authorities said. Emergency crews were called at about 2 a.m. (1600 GMT on Sunday) after the twin-engine helicopter hit the roof of the hotel, setting part of the structure on fire and triggering the evacuations, Queensland state police said in a statement. Police said the helicopter had been taken from its hangar at Cairns airport for an "unauthorised flight", but did not elaborate. **REUTERS**

#### UNITED KINGDOM

### London man held after stabbing two, says police

**London:** A man has been arrested after an 11-year-old girl and a 34-year-old woman were stabbed in central London, London's Metropolitan Police said on Monday. The attack occurred in Leicester Square, a magnet for tourists with its shops, theatres and cinemas. The square and surrounding area have an estimated 2.5 million visitors every week. Police said the victims were hospitalised. It was not immediately clear whether the stabbing had any link to the right-wing unrest that had kept UK at the edge of violence over the past weeks. **AP**

### GALLANT HARMING CHANCES OF REACHING A HOSTAGE DEAL, SAYS PM'S OFFICE

## Split in Israel Cabinet: Defence Minister calls Netanyahu's total victory plan 'nonsense'

**REUTERS**  
JERUSALEM, AUGUST 12

ISRAELI PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu traded barbs with his defence minister on Monday, underscoring the deep internal splits that continue to plague the government as the war in Gaza risks spilling out into a wider regional conflict.

Following Israeli media reports quoting Defence Minister Yoav Gallant dismissing Netanyahu's war aim of total victory against the Islamist movement Hamas in Gaza as "nonsense", Netanyahu's office put out a statement rebuking Gallant.

"When Gallant adopts the anti-Israel narrative, he harms the chances of reaching a hostage deal," the statement said. It said Israel's war aim remained "total victory", with the elimination of Hamas and release of the remaining hostages seized by Hamas on October 7 last year. "This is the clear directive of Prime Minister Netanyahu and the Security Cabinet, and it obligates everyone - including Gallant," it said.

The exchange came as Israel has been bracing for a possible attack by Iran and the Iranian-backed Hezbollah movement in southern Lebanon, after a sharp escalation in tensions following a missile strike killed 12 youngsters in the Golan Heights on July 27.

In the wake of that attack, Israel killed a senior Hezbollah commander in Beirut. A day later, the political leader of Hamas Ismail Haniyeh was assassinated in Tehran, drawing vows of retaliation from Iran.



Palestinians flee from Hamad City in south Gaza's Khan Younis on Sunday. **AP**

## Amid fears of Iranian strike, US orders submarine to West Asia

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
WASHINGTON, AUGUST 12

US DEFENCE Secretary Lloyd Austin has ordered the USS Georgia guided missile submarine to the Middle East and is telling the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier strike group to sail more quickly to the area, the Defense Department said Sunday.

Officials have been on the lookout for retaliatory strikes by both Iran and Hezbollah for the killings of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran and a



US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin

senior Hezbollah commander in Beirut, and the US has been beefing up its presence in the region. Meanwhile, Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant told Austin Sunday that Iran was making preparations for a large-scale military attack on Israel. Axios reporter Barak Ravid said in a post on X, citing a source with knowledge of the call. In a statement on Monday, Gallant's ministry confirmed the call took place overnight.

The Lincoln, which has been in the Asia Pacific, had already been ordered to the region to replace the USS Theodore Roosevelt aircraft carrier strike group, which is scheduled to begin heading home. It wasn't clear Sunday how much more quickly the Lincoln will steam to the Middle East. The carrier has F-35 fighter jets aboard, along with the F/A-18 fighter aircraft that are also on carriers.

**WITH REUTERS INPUTS**

### UK, Germany, France endorse latest efforts for Gaza ceasefire

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
JERUSALEM, AUGUST 12

THE LEADERS of France, Germany and Britain have endorsed calls for a cease-fire in Gaza, the return of scores of hostages held by Hamas and the "unfettered" delivery of humanitarian aid.

In a joint statement released on Monday, they endorsed the latest push by the United States, Qatar and Egypt to broker an agreement to end the 10-month-old Israel-Hamas war. The mediators have spent months trying to get the sides to agree to a 3-phase plan in which Hamas would release the remaining hostages captured on October 7 in exchange for Palestinians jailed by Israel and Israel would withdraw from Gaza.

"The fighting must end now, and all hostages still detained by Hamas must be released. The people of Gaza need urgent and unfettered delivery and distribution of aid," the statement said. It was signed by French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

The statement also called on Iran and its allies to refrain from any retaliatory attacks that would further escalate regional tensions after the killing of two senior militants last month in Beirut and Tehran.

### Hong Kong top court dismisses Jimmy Lai's bid to revoke conviction

**REUTERS**  
HONG KONG, AUGUST 12

HONG KONG'S top court on Monday unanimously dismissed the bid to overturn the convictions of media tycoon Jimmy Lai and six other pro-democracy campaigners for an unauthorised assembly in 2019.

Lai, 76, founder of the newspaper *Apple Daily*, and six others had been found guilty of organising and participating in an unauthorised assembly in August 2019 during months-long pro-democracy protests in the city. While a lower court had overturned their conviction for organising the assembly, but their conviction for taking part in an unauthorised procession was upheld.

Their appeal centred on whether the conviction was proportionate to fundamental human rights protections, a principle set down in two non-binding decisions of Britain's Supreme Court known as "operational proportionality".

Chief Justice Andrew Cheung and Judge Roberto Ribeiro wrote in the main judgement that the two UK decisions should not be followed in Hong Kong, as there's differences between the human rights legal framework in Hong Kong and the UK.

The judgment came two months after the resignations of two British judges from Hong Kong's Court of Final Appeal (CFA), who said Hong Kong was becoming a totalitarian state.

## Soldiers to return to barracks after police resume operations: Bangladesh Army chief

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
DHAKA, AUGUST 12

BANGLADESH'S ARMY Chief General Waker-Uz-Zaman said on Monday that soldiers will return to barracks once the police resume normal operations, as he met and reviewed the security situation with the interim government head Muhammad Yunus.

He also said that there is improvement in the law and order situation in the country. "If the situation continues to improve, all regular forces will carry out their counter-terrorism operations," he was quoted as saying by *United News of Bangladesh* news agency. He said that 30 crimes against minority communities have been committed in 20 districts of the country. He called upon the political parties to shun all violence and



Police personnel regulate traffic in Dhaka on Monday. **AP**

do politics for the people. Earlier, he held a meeting with senior government officials.

During the political turmoil, most police stations in the country, including Dhaka, had no police personnel present. Multiple officers reported that over four

hundred police stations across the country have experienced attacks, vandalism, arson, and looting.

A police headquarters official said that the police have not faced such a situation since 1971, the report said. Meanwhile, the protesting police officers in Bangladesh



General Waker-Uz-Zaman

have agreed to call off their strike after the interim government assured them to meet most of their demands, according to media reports Monday.

### Resignations of top officials legal: Yunus

Muhammad Yunus, says the high-profile resignations of authorities close to ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina are legal after student leaders who organized protests against Hasina's government issued ultimatums for them to quit. "Legally ... all the steps were taken," Yunus, 83, told the media Sunday night.

## Elon Musk sets up Trump interview on X

**REUTERS**  
WASHINGTON, AUGUST 12

BILLIONAIRE ENTREPRENEUR Elon Musk is due to interview Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump on the X social media network on Monday in an event that could inject more surprises into the turbulent US presidential election.

The interview, scheduled for 8 p.m. Eastern Time (0000 Tuesday GMT), could provide the former president an opportunity to seize the limelight at a time when his



Elon Musk

campaign is seen as sagging. His Democratic rival for the Nov. 5 election, Vice President Kamala Harris, has erased Trump's lead in

opinion polls and energized Democratic voters with a series of high-energy rallies. The interview will be hosted live using Trump's official X account, his campaign said on Sunday.

Trump's access to his account was restored a month into Musk's ownership of X after being suspended by the platform's previous owners following the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on Congress by his supporters.

Trump frequently posts on his Truth Social platform, which was launched in February 2022. He has returned to X only once since his access was restored with a post in August 2023 appealing for donations showing his Fulton County jail mug shot.

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## ISI ex-chief held in housing scam, court martial initiated: Army

Lt Gen Hameed's 2021 ouster was seen as beginning Imran's clash with army

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
ISLAMABAD, AUGUST 12

IN AN unprecedented move, the Pakistan Army on Monday announced that it has arrested former ISI chief Lt Gen (retd.) Faiz Hameed and initiated court martial proceedings against him in connection with a housing scheme scandal.

"Complying with the orders of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, a detailed court of inquiry was undertaken by Pakistan Army, to ascertain correctness of complaints in Top City Case made against Lt Gen Faiz Hameed (Retd)," the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) - the media wing of the army - said in a statement.

"Consequently, appropriate disciplinary action has been initiated against Lt Gen Faiz Hameed (Retd.), under provisions of the Pakistan Army Act," it said.

"In addition, multiple instances of violation of the Pakistan Army Act post-retirement have also been established. The process of Field General Court Martial has been initiated and Lt Gen Faiz Hameed (Retd) has been taken into military custody," it added.

Lt Gen (retd.) Hameed was considered extremely powerful when he headed the spy agency from 2019 to 2021. He was appointed to the coveted post when then ISI chief and current Army chief Lt Gen Asim Munir was prematurely removed from the post.

Later, the army decided to replace Hameed, a move vehemently opposed by Imran Khan and it is believed that it was the beginning of souring of his ties with the powerful military.



Lt Gen (Retd.) Faiz Hameed. **X/@nadeemmalik**

The Top City case made headlines in 2023 when Moez Ahmed Khan, the owner of Top City, filed a petition in the Supreme Court in which he accused Gen Hameed and ISI officials of raiding the Top City office and his house and seizing valuables, including gold, diamonds and money. He alleged that the ISI officials extorted Rs 4 crore cash from him.

He also stated that Sardar Najaf, the brother of Hameed, also contacted him to resolve the issue later. The petition also claimed that Gen Hameed later personally met him to resolve the issue. He alleged that the ISI officials extorted Rs 4 crore cash from him.

A three-judge bench of the Supreme Court heard the case and decided to send it to the Ministry of Defence for probing the allegation. The army announced in April this year that it constituted a high-level inquiry committee headed by a major general to look into the allegations.

The post of ISI chief is considered one of the most important in the Pakistan Army, which has ruled the country for more than half of its 76-plus years of existence and has hitherto wielded considerable power in matters of security and foreign policy.

## Ukraine's incursion aimed at improving leverage in possible ceasefire talks: Putin

**REUTERS**  
MOSCOW, AUGUST 12

PRESIDENT VLADIMIR Putin said on Monday that Ukraine's biggest attack on Russian territory since the start of the war was aimed at improving Kyiv's negotiating position ahead of possible peace talks and at slowing the advance of Russian forces.

Ukrainian forces rammed through the Russian border last Tuesday and swept across some western parts of Russia's Kursk region, a surprise attack that laid bare the weakness of Russian border defences in the area. Putin, in his most detailed public remarks on the incursion, said Ukraine "with the help of its Western masters" was trying to improve its position ahead of possible talks.

He questioned what negotiations there could be with an enemy he accused of firing indiscriminately at Russian civilians and nuclear facilities. "The main



People wait for humanitarian aid in Kursk, Monday. **Reuters**

task, of course, is for the defence ministry to squeeze out, to knock out the enemy from our territories," Putin said, adding that Russian forces were accelerating their advance along the rest of the 1000-km main front.

"The enemy will certainly receive a worthy response," he said.

Russian officials say Ukraine is trying to show its Western backers it can still muster major military operations as pressure mounts on both Kyiv and Moscow to agree to talk about halting the war.

### THE COMET STRIKE USHERED IN A 1,200-YEAR ICE AGE AND LED TO EXTINCTION OF MANY LARGE ANIMALS

## An ancient calendar found in Turkey may have documented a 13,000-yr-old disaster

**CLAIRE MOSES**  
AUGUST 12

A RESEARCHER at the University of Edinburgh has discovered what he believes is the earliest calendar of its kind at Gobekli Tepe, an archaeological excavation site in what is now southern Turkey that used to be an ancient complex of temple-like enclosures.

The researcher, Martin Sweatman, a scientist at the University of Edinburgh, said in research published last month that V-shaped markings on the lunisolar calendar, which combines the movements of the

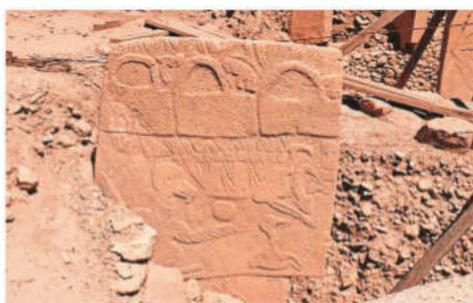
moon and sun, recorded a major astronomical event that had a huge impact on Earth - making the ancient pillar part of an ancient version of a memorial.

Sweatman said that the intricate carvings at Gobekli Tepe tell the story and document the date when fragments of a comet - which came from a meteor stream - hit Earth roughly 13,000 years ago. The comet strike, which the latest research has placed in the year 10,850 B.C., has long been a source of disagreement among academics and researchers.

This is not the first time that Dr. Sweatman has been able to connect the impact of the comet

to the site in Turkey, he said. In 2017, he linked the two in an academic paper in which he contended that the carvings at Gobekli Tepe were memorialized in the pillars, and that the site was used as a place to observe space.

At the time, a group of excavators at Gobekli Tepe challenged those findings. Jens Notroff, an archaeologist who wrote the post on the excavators' website, was not immediately convinced about the new findings and questioned whether the markings had a deeper meaning. He said on X that there was an "an obsession with the idea that there 'must' be a secret, a hidden code which needs



Researchers believe the calendar tracked the movements of the moon and the sun in today's Turkey. **NYT**

and can be decoded - while it's really just about past humans living their lives."

Sweatman said the recent discovery that one of the pillars also depicts a lunisolar calendar - and thus marks the day of the impact - lined up with his prior research. "We can be very confident indeed that it's a date," he said.

The comet strike ushered in a 1,200-year ice age and led to the extinction of many large animals, Dr. Sweatman said. For humans, the comet probably also led to differences in lifestyle and agriculture that helped usher in the rise of civilization as we know it.

Although Dr. Sweatman has

long researched the symbols at the ancient site in Turkey, this recent breakthrough came in the form of a tip when someone emailed him that the V-shaped symbols on the pillar could be interpreted as markings of the lunar cycle. "I had not spotted that myself before," he said. "I had always wondered what these box- and V-symbols might mean."

Each V-shaped symbol could represent a single day, according to Dr. Sweatman's research. "This allowed researchers to count a solar calendar of 365 days on one of the pillars, consisting of 12 lunar months plus 11 extra days," the research states.

The final V on the pillar is "represented by a V worn around the neck of a birdlike beast thought to represent the summer solstice constellation at the time," the researcher concluded. Other statues nearby, possibly representing deities, have been found with similar markings.

After interpreting the V-shaped symbols as such, everything fell into place, Dr. Sweatman said. The carvings suggest that "ancient people were able to record their observations of the sun, moon and constellations in the form of a solar calendar, created to keep track of time and mark the change of seasons," he said. **NYT**

# 15 ECONOMY

SENSEX: 79,648.92 ▼ 56.99 (0.07%) NIFTY: 24,347.00 ▼ 20.50 (0.08%) NIKKEI: 35,025.00 ▲ 193.85 HANG SENG: 17,111.65 ▲ 2142 FTSE: 8,209.65 ▲ 41.55 DAX: 17,770.73 ▲ 47.85

|             |                 |            |               |
|-------------|-----------------|------------|---------------|
|             |                 |            |               |
| <b>GOLD</b> | <b>USD RATE</b> | <b>OIL</b> | <b>SILVER</b> |
| ₹72,350     | ₹83.97          | \$77.99    | ₹83,500       |

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) per barrel as of August 8

International market data till 1900 IST

## TO BE UK FIRM'S LARGEST SHAREHOLDER

# Bharti Global to acquire 24.5% in Britain's BT Group for around \$4 bn

**JATING GROVER**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 12

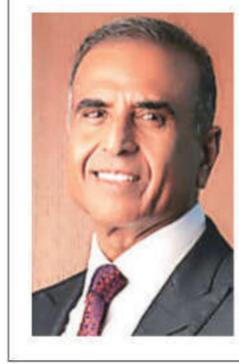
BHARTI GLOBAL, the international investment arm of Bharti Enterprises, will acquire a 24.5 per cent stake in BT Group, Britain's largest broadband and mobile company, from Altice UK.

Though Bharti did not disclose the transaction size, the deal at the current market price is likely to be valued around \$4 billion (Rs 31,850 crore), making it one of the biggest outbound deals struck by an Indian company.

Bharti Enterprises chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal said that though growth in fully-developed economies like the UK is very small at around 1-2 per cent a year, revenues are pretty large — \$25 billion in current revenue and \$10 billion in Ebitda.

"I think it's a very attractive buy. In the UK, we have many companies that are trading at low multiples. So, given the cash flows from BT, we believe it's going to be a good and a long-term investment," Mittal said.

"As far as BT's businesses are concerned, out of a revenue of \$25 billion, around \$9-10 billion is through enterprise, but it is the top mobile provider in



**At this stage, we are not asking for a board seat. We got into the company through a public block and the seller also didn't have any board seat... I think I can add a tremendous amount of value within and outside the board.**

**SUNIL BHARTI MITTAL**  
CHAIRMAN, BHARTI ENTERPRISES

### BINDING PACT WITH ALTICE UK

■ Bharti Televentures UK has entered into a binding agreement with Altice UK to acquire a 9.99 per cent stake of BT Group and issued capital imminently with the balance 14.51 per cent to be acquired following the receipt of applicable regulatory clearances

the UK under the EE brand," Mittal said.

He said that BT covers around 30 million homes on fibre broadband. "They have home broadband, they have wholesale fiber open reach, they have mobile and they have enterprise. So, this is exactly like Airtel. And if you look at Airtel, the revenue and Ebitda are mirror images. We provide all the similar services that we do in India and they do in the UK," Mittal said, explaining the rationale behind the stake purchase.

He made it clear that Bharti Airtel has nothing to do with the deal. "Airtel has not made this move. This is an invest-

ment from Bharti Enterprises. However, best practice sharing can always take place given the common shareholder on both sides. But Airtel at the moment is not engaged in this particular process of seeking any technology or any help from BT," Mittal said.

The way the deal is structured is that shares will be purchased through Bharti Televentures UK, a company established and wholly-owned by Bharti Global. Bharti Televentures UK has entered into a binding agreement with Altice UK to acquire a 9.99 per cent stake of BT Group and issued capital imminently with the balance 14.51 per cent to be

acquired following the receipt of applicable regulatory clearances.

Bharti has no immediate plan of buying out the rest of BT, and has not asked for a board seat. "At this stage, we are not asking for a board seat. We got into the company through a public block and the seller also didn't have any board seat. For me, I think I can add a tremendous amount of value within and outside the board. It will be probably in the future sometime if this particular issue needs to be addressed," Mittal said.

On whether Bharti Airtel is also looking at any overseas acquisition, he said that Airtel has

been busy building India and it will probably be focused on the country for the next 2-3 years on missions that are still to be completed in terms of more 5G, gaps of 4G, more fiber being rolled out, FWA, enterprise business and data centres.

"Airtel has its hands full. In 2-3 years' time, Airtel's cash profile looks pretty strong to us and at that point of time, based on what the board decides with large cash flows and India's capex becoming smaller, there could be an opportunity for Airtel to go global," Mittal said.

Bharti and BT have a relationship going back more than two decades. In 1997, BT acquired a 21 per cent stake in Bharti Airtel, which it sold in 2001.

Timotheus Höttges, chief executive of Deutsche Telekom, which owns 12 per cent of BT Group, described Bharti Global's stake purchase as a positive step. "We have a long and good working relationship with Bharti. So, we are looking forward to working together with Bharti and the board of directors for the sake of BT shareholders and customers," Höttges said.

Reacting to the development, commerce minister Piyush Goyal said the deal is a "testimony to the growing strength of India". **FE**

# Factory output slows to 4.2% in June as manufacturing drops to seven-month low

**ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 12

INDIA'S FACTORY output, as measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), eased to 4.2 per cent in June, the lowest level since January 2024, mainly due to a slower growth in manufacturing output. Manufacturing, which accounts for 77.6 per cent of the weight of the IIP, slowed to a seven-month low of 2.6 per cent compared with 5 per cent in May and 3.5 per cent in June 2023.

The overall industrial output had recorded a growth of 4 per cent in June 2023 and 6.2 per cent in May this year. Cumulatively so far in the financial year 2024-25, industrial growth has been recorded at 5.2 per cent during April-June as against 4.7 per cent in the previous financial year.

Mining output growth rose to 10.3 per cent in June from 6.6 per cent in May and 7.6 per cent in the year-ago period due to higher coal demand. As per the latest data, electricity output slowed to 8.6 per cent in June from 13.7 per cent in May but was higher than 4.2 per cent growth in the corresponding period in the previous year.

"Within manufacturing, growth was driven by electronics (after a long hiatus), electrical machinery, metals and the auto sector. There was some recovery in consumer demand for sure though aided by the base effect.

### EXPLAINED

**Festive season pickup likely**

CUMULATIVELY, SO far in the financial year 2024-25, industrial growth has been recorded at 5.2 per cent during April-June as against 4.7 per cent in the previous financial year. This is likely to pick up from the end of Q2 and Q3, as the festive season brings in higher demand. The overall industrial output had recorded a growth of 4 per cent in June 2023 and 6.2 per cent in May this year.

Infra work, though muted due to the elections, did have a positive impact on metals and machinery... industry does appear to be on the right path and further pickup can be expected from the end of Q2 and Q3, as the festive season brings in higher demand," Madan Sabnavis, chief economist, Bank of Baroda said.

As per the IIP data, 14 out of the 23 sectors in manufacturing registered growth in June, with manufacture of electrical equipment (28.4 per cent), furniture (16 per cent), and computer, electronic and optical products (10.7 per cent) were among the highest growing sectors. Other manufacturing (-12.6 per cent), tobacco

products (-10.9 per cent), leather and related products (-3.9 per cent) were amongst the significant non-performers.

On the basis of use-base classification, the capital goods segment, a key indicator of the investment sentiment, showed slower growth of 2.4 per cent in June from the 2.9 per cent growth rate seen both in the previous month and the year-ago period. Consumer durables output — an indicator of consumption demand — grew 8.6 per cent mainly coming on the back of the base of (-)6.8 per cent in June 2023. Consumer non-durable goods output, which reflects fast-moving consumer goods, was in negative territory at (-)1.4 per cent in June over just 0.5 per cent growth last year.

"Moderating growth in the manufacturing and electricity sectors offset the acceleration in mining growth weighing on the overall industrial performance. The performance in consumption related segments remained mixed with output of consumer durables rising by 8.6 per cent while non-durables output contracted by 1.4 per cent. Broad-based consumption improvement and the revival of private investment remain crucial for industrial activity. From the consumption perspective, the trajectory of food inflation and progress of monsoon remain the key monitorable," Rajani Sinha, chief economist, CareEdge Ratings said.

## BRIEFLY

### Need to improve timeliness of data: Rao Inderjit Singh

New Delhi: Union Minister Rao Inderjit Singh on Monday called for the cooperation of stakeholders in improving the quality, timeliness and relevance of data in the process of governance, an official statement said. The Minister of Statistics and Programme Implementation made the remarks at the 28th Conference of Central and State Statistical Organisations commenced in the Delhi. "He (the Minister) highlighted the importance of the conference in the federal set-up as it brings together all concerned stakeholders of the national statistical system at a forum for discussion as to how the system can be taken forward for improving the quality, timeliness and relevance of data in the process of governance," the statement said quoting the minister. **PTI**

### BHEL gets 1,600-MW DVC project order

New Delhi: State-owned BHEL on Monday said it has secured a 1,600 MW project from Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC). The coal-based unit will be set up in the Koderma district of Jharkhand on an EPC (Engineering, Procurement, and Construction) basis, BHEL said in a statement. **PTI**

### GST demand: Bajaj Finance gets show cause notice

New Delhi: Bajaj Finance has said, in a filing to the BSE, that it has received a show cause notice for a GST demand of Rs 342 crore. **PTI**

### VodafoneIdea losses narrow to ₹6,432.1 cr in Q1

New Delhi: Vodafone Idea on Monday said its losses for the just-ended June quarter narrowed to Rs 6,432.1 crore, mainly on the back of 4G subscriber additions. The telecom firm said it is in the midst of expanding 4G coverage and capacity and launching 5G services post the recent fundraising. VIL's losses stood at Rs 7,840 crore in Q1 FY24 and Rs 7,674.6 crore in Q4 FY24. **PTI**

## UPI transactions jump 36% to ₹60 lakh cr in June quarter

Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions in the first three months of the current fiscal have grown over 36% to Rs 60 lakh crore, Parliament was recently informed



### 4,122 crore

UPI transactions worth Rs 60 lakh crore took place between April and June in 2024-25, as per the details of UPI transactions shared by Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary in the Lok Sabha

### 13,113 crore

UPI transactions were made during the full fiscal 2023-24 with a value of Rs 200 lakh crore

### 8,371 crore

UPI transactions took place in FY23 with a value of Rs 139 lakh crore, while in FY22, there were 4,596 crore transactions involving Rs 84 lakh crore

**THE MINISTER** of State for Finance further said that a facility of cardless cash deposits on an inter-operable basis has

been extended through UPI **PRESENTLY, THIS** facility has been made available by a select few banks. To ensure the safety and security of cash deposits through UPI, certain conditions have been prescribed, including a customer is permitted to deposit a maximum of Rs 50,000 per transaction using this facility

**BANKS ARE** permitted to fix a lower limit based on their risk management policies

**NATIONAL PAYMENTS** Corporation of India (NPCI) has been advised to prescribe the permissible number of Interoperable Cash Deposit (ICD) transactions for a depositor at the level of Payer PSP or NPCI

**Transaction messages** shall capture the details of the depositor and clearly stipulate that it is a cash deposit transaction **Source: PTI**

## AS OF AUGUST 11 IN CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR Net direct tax mop-up rises 22.5%

**ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 12

THE CENTRE'S direct tax collections, net of refunds, as of August 11 in the current financial year stood at Rs 6.93 trillion, which is 22.5 per cent higher than the corresponding period of last year, an official release said.

Refunds during April 1-August 11 stood at Rs 1.2 trillion, which is 33.5 per cent higher than last year.

The direct tax data mop-up till August 11 accounted for 31 per cent of the total target for the current fiscal. Whereas, last year, collections in the same period accounted for 29 per cent of the target. This indicates robust tax collections, and shows that the mop-up may surpass the full-year's target, say experts.

### REFUNDS DURING APR 1-AUG 11 AT ₹1.2 TRN

■ Refunds during April 1 – August 11 stood at Rs 1.2 trillion, which is 33.5 per cent higher than last year.

■ The direct tax data mop-up till August 11 accounted for 31 per cent of the total target for the current fiscal

■ Last year, collections in the same period accounted for 29 per cent of the target

13.3 per cent on year. Access to large amounts of data with the authorities coupled with interplay of exchange of information with various regulators and other bodies is one of the key factors, which has led to higher compliance, and thereby collections say experts.

"Ease of compliances including payment of taxes at a click of a button, processing of refund payments quickly by the tax department post income-tax return filing tax-payers have helped direct tax collections surge in this growing economy," noted Dipesh Jain, partner at Economic Laws Practice (ELP).

Gross direct tax mop-up between April 1 – August 11 stood at Rs 8.13 trillion, up 24 per cent from the year ago period, said the official release. **FE**

# China test-flies biggest civilian cargo drone as low altitude economy takes off

**REUTERS**  
BEIJING, AUGUST 12

CHINA FLEW its biggest-yet unmanned cargo aircraft designed for civilian use, as the world's top drone-making nation steps up test flights of autonomous aerial vehicles (UAVs) that could ultimately ferry everything from takeouts to people.

Packing a payload capacity of 2 metric tonnes, the twin-engine aircraft took off on Sunday on an inaugural flight, state media said, citing developer Sichuan Tengden Sci-tech Innovation Co, for a trip of about 20 minutes in southwestern Sichuan province.

China's civilian drone makers are testing larger payloads as the government pushes to build a low-altitude economy, with the aviation regulator seeing a 2-trillion-yuan (\$279-billion) industry by 2030, for a four-fold expansion from 2023.

With a wingspan of 16.1 m (52.8 ft) and a height of 4.6 m (15 ft), the aircraft, built entirely by government-funded Tengden, is slightly larger than the world's most popular light aircraft, the four-seat Cessna 172.

Tengden's test flight followed the maiden flight in June of HH-100, a cargo drone developed by Aviation Industry Corp of China (AVIC) with payload ca-



An unmanned cargo aircraft developed by Sichuan Tengden Sci-tech Innovation takes part in a maiden flight at an airport in Zigong, China. **Reuters**

capacity of 700 kg (1,543 pounds) and a flight radius of 520 km (323 miles).

Next year, AVIC plans to test its biggest cargo drone, the TP2000, which can carry up to 2 tons of cargo a distance of 2,000 km (1,243 miles). In a report this year, the government identified the low-altitude economy as a new growth engine for the first time, with vertical mobility seen as a "new productive force" in areas such as passenger transport and cargo deliveries.

In April, aviation authorities issued a production certificate to UAV maker EHang Holdings, based in the southern city of Guangzhou, for its passenger-carrying drone, China's first such document for an autonomous passenger drone.

A month later, cargo drone firm Phoenix Wings, part of delivery giant SF Express, started delivering fresh fruit from the island province of Hainan to southern Guangdong, using Fengzhou-90 drones developed by SF, a unit of S.F. Holding. By 2023, China had more than 2,000 enterprises engaged in the design or manufacture of UAVs, led by privately held DJI, the world's largest drone maker.

## ONGC, OIL to price gas from new wells at 20% premium

**ARUNIMA BHARADWAJ**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 12

THE MINISTRY of Petroleum and Natural Gas on Monday allowed allocation of gas produced from new wells or well interventions from nominated fields of state-owned upstream companies ONGC and Oil India at a 20 per cent premium over the administered price mechanism (APM price) or the domestic natural gas price. The move is expected to make new gas development projects of the firms viable and help increase domestic production.

Following the notification, the gas produced from new wells in the nomination fields of ONGC and Oil India will attract premium of a total 12 per cent of Indian crude basket price, as under the current policy, gas pricing is linked to crude price. Currently, the APM gas price is fixed at 10 per cent of the Indian crude basket price, and revised by Petroleum Planning and Analysis (PPAC) on a monthly basis.

"The enhanced price for new gas will make the new gas development projects viable and help ONGC to augment the production of natural gas from nominated fields in challenging areas that require higher amounts of capital and technology," ONGC said. **FE**

# Buch redeemed funds through husband's name two weeks after getting Sebi top post: Hindenburg

**ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU**  
MUMBAI, AUGUST 12

US-BASED short seller Hindenburg Research on Monday hit back at Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch alleging that she ensured the accounts with ties to Adani 'be registered solely in the name of Dhaval Buch', her husband, two weeks after her appointment as Sebi Chairperson and "redeemed the funds through her husband's name".

"Despite disclaiming control, a private email she sent a year into her Sebi term shows she redeemed stakes in the funds through her husband's name, as per the whistleblower documents," it alleged. On Saturday, quoting "whistleblower documents," Hindenburg had alleged that "Sebi's Chairperson had stake in Adani money siphoning scandal." Sebi had come out in Buch's defence on Sunday, saying that the regulator has adequate internal mechanisms to address issues related to conflict of interest, which include disclosure framework and provision for recusal. Relevant disclosures required in terms of holdings of securities and their transfers have been made by the Chairperson from time to time, Sebi said. "Chairperson has also resolved herself in matters involving potential conflicts of interest," the regulator said, backing its



**Madhabi Puri Buch, Sebi Chairperson.** **File**

Chairperson and advising investors to remain calm and exercise due diligence.

In another statement issued on Sunday, Madhabi Puri Buch and Dhaval Buch said the investment in the fund referred to in the Hindenburg report was made in 2015 when they were both private citizens living in Singapore and almost two years before Madhabi joined Sebi, even as a Whole Time Member. At no point in time did the fund invest in any bond, equity, or derivative of any Adani group company, they said in the statement. Reacting to the clarification issued by Buch to its earlier allegations, Hindenburg said on Monday, "Buch's response now publicly confirms her investment in an obscure Bermuda/Mauritius fund structure, alongside money allegedly siphoned by Vinod Adani. She also confirmed the fund was run by a childhood friend of her husband, who at the

time was an Adani director."

Further, Hindenburg alleged that Buch remained a 100 per cent shareholder of Agora Partners Singapore until March 16th, 2022, per Singaporean records, owning it during her entire time as a Sebi Whole Time Member. She only transferred her shares into her husband's name two weeks after her appointment as Sebi Chairperson, the US firm alleged.

Buch became Sebi Whole Time Member in 2017 and Chairperson in 2022. The US short seller said "Buch's statement also claims that the two consulting companies she set up, including the Indian entity and the opaque Singaporean entity "became immediately dormant on her appointment with Sebi" in 2017, with her husband taking over starting in 2019."

"As per its latest shareholding list as of March 31st, 2024, Agora Advisory Limited (India), is still 99% owned by Madhabi Buch, not her husband. This entity is currently active and generating consulting revenue," it said. "Furthermore, Buch remained a 100% shareholder of Agora Partners Singapore until March 16th, 2022, per Singaporean records, owning it during her entire time as a Sebi Whole Time Member. She only transferred her shares into her husband's name two weeks after her appointment as Sebi Chairperson," Hindenburg said.

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

**PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED**  
 (Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala - 147001)  
 Corporate Identity Number: U40199PB2010SG033813 Website: www.pspcl.in  
 (Phone No. 01881-275289) E-mail: ps-hq-gstsp@pspcpl.in

**E-Tender Enquiry No. 548/P-2/EMPW-12757 Dated: 05.08.2024**  
 Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Purchase Cell-2) GGSSTP, Rupnagar invites  
**E-Tender ID No. 2024\_POWER\_124926.1** for Maintenance of Switchyard & Transformer Yard Areas (22 Acres Approximately) at 220KV Sub-Station, 66KV Sub-Station, GGSSTP, 2x850KW Micro hydel Project and transformer Yard Areas of 4x210 MW Units, GGSSTP, Rupnagar.  
 For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 08.08.2024 onwards.  
**Note:** Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>  
 No. - 36607/PB RTP-86/24

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav  
**Invitation of Tender 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.

| Tender No. | Brief Description   | Qty. | Closing Date |
|------------|---|------|--------------|
| 82245036   | Infra Red Heating Cabinet with All Accessories as per PDF Attached specification. | 1    | 06.09.2024   |

**Note:** 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained.  
**Tender Notice No.: 82245036/Infra-1 Dated: 08.08.2024 2497/2024**  
**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
**DIRECTOR CIVIL AVIATION**  
 GUJSAIL Complex, Nr. Torrent Sub-station, SVPI Airport, Ahmedabad-380004, Ph.-079-2288 2000

Tender is invited from the well-reputed and experience agencies for carry out the under mentioned work through e-tendering process.

| Tender ID | Name of Work  |
|-----------|---|
| 96009     | Maintenance and CAMO CONTRACT OF CHALLENGER 604 (VARIANT) AIRCRAFT, VTGOG, MSN-6143 at Ahmedabad Base, S.V.P.I. Airport.  |
| 96038     | Maintenance and SUB-CAMO CONTRACT OF SUPERKING AIRB200 AIRCRAFT, VT-GUJ MSN-BB 1687 at Ahmedabad Base, S.V.P.I. Airport.  |
| 96067     | MAINTENANCE AND CAMO CONTRACT OF AIRBUS DAUPHIN As365 N3 HELICOPTER, VT-SVP MSN:6767 AT Ahmedabad Base, S.V.P.I. Airport. |

**The last date of online submission for tender is 09/09/2024.**  
 Interested bidder may visit [tender.nprocure.com](http://tender.nprocure.com) for more information.

**PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD**  
 Regd Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala  
 Corporate Identity Number: U40199PB2010SG033813  
 Website: www.pspcl.in Contact No. 96461-16015

**E-Tender Enquiry No. 109/MEH-L/BCM-336/0/M/GHTP/2024 Dated 09.08.2024**  
 Dy Chief Engineer, Mechanical Mtc. Circle-I/GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat invites E-tender for Capital/Major overhauling of Furnace Pressure Parts, Air Pre-Heaters and Wind Box & Burner System of Unit-2 (210 MW, OEM-BHEL) at GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat on Lump sum rates.  
 For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 12/08/2024 from 03:00 PM onwards.  
**Note:** Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>  
 No. 36605/PSPCL GHTP 66/24

**OPSIDA**  
 कार्यालय उप महाप्रबन्धक (सिविल), निर्माण खण्ड-प्रथम  
**उपरोक्त कार्य का विवरण**  
 कार्यालय उप महाप्रबन्धक (सिविल), निर्माण खण्ड-प्रथम  
 30-Elect-35-T-R1-24-25-E3 Electrical work regarding Air-Conditioning System with Laminar Air Flow System at Newly Constructed 02 Nos. Modular OT in new building NRDH Hospital Old Delhi.

| Sl. No. | Particulars  | Approx cost of the works in Rs. | Address of the office                        |
|---------|--|---------------------------------|--|
| 1       | Providing and fixing signage board & road safety devices at I.A. Loha Mandi, Distt. Ghaziabad.   | 22.65                           | Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi. |
| 2       | Providing and Fixing of Cantilever gantry sign board, Road Direction Board and Guide Map in Industrial Area Bulandshahar road, Ghaziabad     | 27.93                           |  |
| 3       | Providing and fixing of cantilever gantry sign board, Road direction Board and Guide map in Industrial Area South Side G.T. Road, Ghaziabad. | 16.89                           |  |
| 4       | Bulandshahar road industrial area main road no. 20 per Drain & Construction work of RCC road ka nirmaan karya.                               | 60.61                           |  |

**उपरोक्त कार्य का निविदा पिनकोड 13.08.2024 को 11.00 बजे से पिनकोड 20.08.2024 को प्राय: 05:00 बजे तक अपनाने की जा सकती है। निविदाओं को दाखल करने की मूल प्रतियाँ पिनकोड 23.08.2024 को प्राय: 05:00 बजे तक पंजीकृत होनी चाहिए। निविदाएं केवल उपरोक्त दिनांक तक ही स्वीकार्य हैं।**  
**नोट:** 1. निविदा दाखल करने के लिए निविदा पिनकोड में उल्लेखित सभी शर्तें पढ़नी चाहिए। जीएचटी अलग से देय होगा। 2. निविदा सम्बन्धी विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए <https://onlineopsida.com> पर सत्यापित किए गए सूचीबद्ध की जा सकती है।  
 उप महाप्रबन्धक (सिविल), निर्माण खण्ड-प्रथम

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Name of Work and its location: 30-Elect-35-T-R1-24-25-E3 Electrical work regarding Air-Conditioning System with Laminar Air Flow System at Newly Constructed 02 Nos. Modular OT in new building NRDH Hospital Old Delhi.

Approx cost of the works in Rs. 45.85 lacs  
 Address of the office: Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.  
 Bid Security: Rs. 91700.00  
 Date & time of submission of tender: 05.09.2024, 12.00 Hrs.  
 Opening of tender: 05.09.2024, 12.00 Hrs.  
 Website & notice board: [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.  
**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE** 2501/24

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav  
**OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE**

No. 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT-51-2023-24/W-II Dated: 12.08.2024  
 The Sr. Divisional Engineer-II, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work.

| No. | Name of work  | Date & Time of opening of tender                       |
|-----|---|--|
| 1   | NIT -51 Name of work: Development of Goods shed at Daurala, KMT (Meerut Mandi Siding), MUT/Military siding, PRTP siding in the section of SSE/W/MTC and at Muzaffarnagar in the section of SSE/W/MOZ under ADEN/MUT. Approx cost of work: As per NIT or IREPS, Earnest Money to be deposited: As per NIT or IREPS | 06.09.2024 15:00 Hrs.                                  |
| 2   | Date & Time of opening of tender  | 06.09.2024 15:00 Hrs.                                  |
| 3   | Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen  | <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> |

\* The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for participating in the e-tender system. \* For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. \* No manual offers are acceptable. \* Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only. 2500/24

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM**  
**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, PWD (Roads)**  
 ASSAM, CHANDMARI, GUWAHATI-3  
 No. CE/STBR/RVS/SOPD/05/21-22/26  
**PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

The Chief Engineer P.W.D. (Roads), Assam on behalf of Governor of Assam invites bids for rehabilitation and retrofitting work of Six Mile Flyover in-Dispur LAC of Assam from eligible Contractors for 1 (one) Nos. of Package for the year 2024-25 for a total amount of Rs. 198.196 Lakhs (approx). Details may be seen at website <http://assamtenders.gov.in> and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours.  
**Chief Engineer PWD (Roads), Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3**  
 JANASANYOG/CF/1030/24/13-AUG-24

**Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI)**  
 (Set up under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Govt. of India)  
 B-500, Tower - B, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, World Trade Center, Nauraj Nagar, New Delhi - 110029  
 Telephone: 011-49431800/49431811/49431854/49431829/49431894/49431874  
 Website: [www.janaushadhi.gov.in](http://www.janaushadhi.gov.in)

**RAJASTHAN HOUSING BOARD**  
 No. :- 542 Dated :- 12/08/2024  
**Notice Inviting Bid 05/2024-25**

Bid for Construction of MIG-A-5 Nos. and HIG-04 Nos., Construction of LIG-16 Nos. and MIG-B-02 Nos. at Salumber Scheme, Salumber, Construction of EWS-04, MIG-A-14, MIG-B-03 & HIG-01 Nos. at Housing Scheme, Partapur, Distt-Banswara, Construction LIG-33 Nos., Construction MIG-A-16 Nos. Houses at Shivaji Nagar Housing Scheme, Dungarpur, Construction of EWS-23, MIG-A-07 & MIG-B-01 at Badi Sadri Housing Scheme, Badi Sadri Chittorgarh & Repair of House No. 1/154 at Pratapgarh for Compliance of Court Case (Offline Opened on 23.08.2024) of subject matter (s) of (Procurement) are invited from interested bidders from 14.08.2024 to 02.09.2024 upto 6:00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the state and RHB Department <https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> and <https://urban.rajasthan.gov.in/rhb> Websites.  
 UBN No. :- RHB2425WS0800136 To RHB2425WS0800143  
 Raj.Samwajd/C/24/3657 Dy. Housing Commissioner Circle, Udaipur

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF PERSONS ACCUSED**  
 (See Section 82 Cr. PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that two accused persons namely (1) Nisha D/o Sh. Kishor (2) Roopa W/o Sh. Sanjay R/o Jakheera Pul Ke Neeche, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 562/2016 U/s 379/411/34 IPC at PS: Janakpuri, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused (1) Nisha (2) Roopa can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused (1) Nisha (2) Roopa has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused (1) Nisha (2) Roopa of FIR No. 562/2016 U/s 379/411/34 IPC of PS: Janakpuri, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 20.09.2024.  
 By order  
 Harjot Singh Aujla  
 Judicial Magistrate, First Class-11  
 South-West District, Court No.05  
 Dwarka Courts New Delhi  
 DP/10605/WD/2024

**Metro Railway, Kolkata**

**E-Tender Notice No.: 07/24-25 dt.: 12.08.2024** for procurement of stores. E-Tenders for following items have already been uploaded in [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) with all details. Manual bid will not be accepted. Corrigendum/Amendment, if any, would be uploaded only in the aforesaid website.

| Tender No. | Brief Description                    | Quantity | Closing Date & Time   |
|------------|--------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------|
| 01245043   | Spare Parts for Gear Assy.           | 1 Set    | 19.08.2024 11.00 Hrs. |
| 01231855A  | Pressure Governor for AC Rakes       | 19 Sets  | 20.08.2024 11.00 Hrs. |
| 01221894F  | GP Relay M21                         | 78 Nos   | 27.08.2024 11.00 Hrs. |
| 01245013A  | Spare parts for MR-400 series Rake   | 1 Set    | 28.08.2024 11.00 Hrs. |
| 01235171A  | Spare parts for Pneumatic door items | 1 Set    | 11.09.2024 11.00 Hrs. |

PCMM, Metro Railway, Kolkata  
 Follow us at: [metrorailwaykolka](https://metrorailwaykolka) [metrorailkolkata](https://metrorailkolkata)

**e-TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF DRUGS ON RATE CONTRACT BASIS FOR TWO YEARS**

e-Tender for supply of 67 nos. of DRUGS for "Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)" are invited by PMBI. Last date and time for submission of online bids against e-Tender no. PMBI/DRUG/RC-219/2024 dated 06/08/2024 for supply of drugs is 30/08/2024 upto 17:00 hours.  
 For detailed eligibility criteria, terms & conditions of the tender, please visit the websites <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> & <https://janaushadhi.gov.in>.  
 Sd/-  
 CEO, PMBI

**कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड**  
 (एक महारत्न कंपनी)

\*All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of Coal India Ltd [www.coalindia.in](http://www.coalindia.in) / respective Subsidiary Company, CIL e-procurement portal <https://coalindiatenders.nic.in> and Central Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in>. In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal <https://gem.gov.in>.

**NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION**  
**Government of Meghalaya**

DHS/MCH/FW/NHM/ERS/29/2021-22 (CXL) 12.08.2024  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)**  
 Ref :- No.Health.223/2008/P/417. Dated Shillong, the 29th July, 2024.

Government of Meghalaya through National Health Mission (NHM) invites proposal from eligible entities for "Management and Operation of ERS-108 Ambulance Service & Mortuary Vans through Integrated Centralized Call Centre" in the State of Meghalaya.  
 Technical & Financial Evaluation of the Proposal/ RFP Document would be evaluated by the notified Tender Committee vide Notification No.Health.223/P/385. Dated Shillong, the 22nd May, 2024.  
**Sale of RFP:** 13th. August 2024.  
**Pre Bid Meeting:** 24th September, 2024 (timings to be updated in the website).  
**Last Date & Technical Bid Opening:** 4th October, 2024.  
 The detailed RFP document can be downloaded from our website: <http://nhmmeghalaya.nic.in>.  
 Any changes or further notification in respect to the above documents shall be made available only at the above mentioned website. Hence, respective bidders are advised to visit the website regularly for the aforementioned purposes.  
 Sd/-  
 Ramkumar S. IAS  
 Mission Director  
 National Health Mission  
 Meghalaya.  
 MIPR No : 683

**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: [jepranchi1@gmail.com](mailto:jepranchi1@gmail.com)

**e-Procurement Notice - 3<sup>rd</sup> Call**

JEPC invites Separate Technical & Financial Bids through e-procurement method from eligible and interested contractors registered in appropriate class for Construction of 09 Nos. of Upgraded +2 High School located in Giridih District of North Chotanagpur Division of Jharkhand. Interested and eligible bidders are requested to submit their proposal latest by 2:00 PM on 24.08.2024.  
 The details of tender documents can be seen and applied through website <https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> only. Tender notification & Tender document can also be seen (read only purpose) from departmental website <https://jepc.jharkhand.gov.in>.  
 Sd/-  
 Ref. No.: JEPC/CIV/03/803/2023/2941 Ranchi, Date : 08.08.2024 (Aditya Ranjan)  
 State Project Director  
 PR 332480 Jharkhand Education Project Council (24-25)\_D Jharkhand Education Project Council

**SPECIAL TRAIN - 2024**

In order to clear extra rush of passengers, Northern Railway has decided to run the following Special Train as per details give below:-

| Train No. 04016 | STATIONS       | Train No. 04015 |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| ARR. DEP.       |                | ARR. DEP.       |
| -- 23:00        | New Delhi      | 22:35 --        |
| 23:42 23:44     | Ghaziabad      | 21:43 21:45     |
| 01:45 01:47     | Tundla         | 19:18 19:20     |
| 04:47 04:52     | Kanpur Central | 16:35 16:40     |
| 07:37 07:47     | Prayagraj      | 14:10 14:15     |
| 09:03 09:05     | Gyanpur Road   | 12:46 12:48     |
| 10:25 --        | Banaras        | -- 12:00        |

Days of run : 04016 from New Delhi on 14.08.2024 (Wednesday) and 04015 from Banaras on 15.08.2024 (Thursday)  
 Accommodation : 3 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC Economy, Sleeper & General.

For detailed information, please call RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit enquiry website: [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in)

RailMadad Helpline No. 139 Visit RailMadad website: [www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in)  
 Download RailMadad app.

**केनरा बैंक Canara Bank**  
 भारत सरकार का अंग संस्था  
 A Government of India Undertaking  
**e-AUCTION NOTICE**  
 ARM BRANCH, VIPIN KHAND, GOMTI NAGAR, LUCKNOW-226010

**E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable/Movable Properties under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) & 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described Immovable/Movable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Canara Bank, will be sold through e-auction on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is without recourse" basis as per following details.

| SL | NAME & ADDRESS OF BORROWER(S), MORTGAGOR(S) & GUARANTOR(S)  | DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE/ MOVABLE PROPERTIES   | RESERVE PRICE EMD DEPOSIT  | TOTAL LIABILITIES  |
|----|---|--|--|--|
| 1  | M/s Globe Link Handicraft Industries (Borrower) H.No.265 Tambaku Watan Near Mumtaj Traders Moradabad-244001                                 | House No.265 Tambaku watan, Near MumtajTraders, Moradabad. Area 127.89 Sqmt  | ₹ 47,12,000/-  | ₹ 52,66,168.00 plus Interest w.e.f. 01.03.2016 + other expenses as per demand notice minus amount paid/recovered, if any |
| 2  | M/s Sameena Parveen (Proprietor & Mortgagor) W/o Mohd Suhail H.No. 265 Tambaku Watan Near Mumtaj Traders Moradabad-244001                   | Prop 1: House No. 97 & New no. 131, Outside Datia Gate, Tehsil & District Jhansi, Area 80.99 Sqmt<br>Boundaries: East: Road, West: House of Ghanshyam Kushwaha, North: Hanuman Temple, South: House of Babu Lal Gupta.<br>Prop 2: House No.96, Outside Datia Gate, Tehsil & District Jhansi. | ₹ 23,62,000/-<br>₹ 2,36,200/- (Prop 1)<br>₹ 18,55,000/-<br>₹ 1,85,500/- (Prop 2) | ₹ 61,26,952.53 plus Interest w.e.f. 01.12.2017 + other expenses as per demand notice minus amount paid/recovered, if any |
| 3  | M/s Balaji Associates (Borrower) Through its Proprietor Shri Sanjeev Kumar Gupta 132, outside Datia Gate, Near Hanuman Mandir Jhansi-284002 | Residential House part of H.No. 335/318, Mohalla Punjabpura, Mirchiya Tola, Bareilly, Area: 75.25 Sqmt.<br>Boundaries: East: House Baljnath Sharma, West: Rasta or Chabutara 24 Ft wide, North: Vakia Arazi Vikreta Neeru Singhal Or Makaan Kishan Lal, South: House Krishna Gopal Khanna.   | ₹ 12,80,000/-  | ₹ 10,88,032.37 plus Interest w.e.f. 19.06.2022 + other expenses as per demand notice minus amount paid/recovered, if any |
| 4  | M/s Shri Subhash Gaur (Borrower & Mortgagor) S/o Shri Ram Kumar Gaur H.No. 335/318, Punjabpura, Mirchiya Tola, Bareilly-243003              | Residential House part of H.No. 335/318, Mohalla Punjabpura, Mirchiya Tola, Bareilly, Area: 220.73 Sqmt<br>Boundaries: East: House of Uma Shanker Agarwal and Rasta, West: House of Yasmeen Khan, North: House of Dev Dutt Gangwar, South: House of Mahesh Chandra Gupta.                    | ₹ 29,32,000/-<br>₹ 2,93,200/-  | ₹ 26,32,825.01 plus Interest w.e.f. 01.06.2022 + other expenses as per demand notice minus amount paid/recovered, if any |
| 5  | M/s Shri Vinod Kumar Sharma (Guarantor) S/o Shri Govind Ram H. No. 16/1, PWD Colony, Rajendra Nagar Bareilly-243002                         | Area 83.64 Sqmt<br>Boundaries: East: Road, West: House of Suraj Kushwaha, North: House of Sanjeev Gupta, South: House of Shri Sita Ram.  | ₹ 12,80,000/-  | ₹ 10,88,032.37 plus Interest w.e.f. 19.06.2022 + other expenses as per demand notice minus amount paid/recovered, if any |

**A/c details for deposit of EMD Account No. 209272434 IFSC Code : CNRB0005248**  
 For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website ([www.canarabank.com](http://www.canarabank.com)) or may contact Canara Bank, ARM Branch, Ph. No. 0522-2307898/8173007833/79058699981/9451914461/6387225284, Email ID: [cb5248@canarabank.com](mailto:cb5248@canarabank.com) or the service provider M/S Antares Systems Ltd, Ramu G.K. & Kushal Bose, Contact No. 9945266022 & 9674758719, Email IDs: [ramu.gk@antaresystems.com](mailto:ramu.gk@antaresystems.com) & [kushal.b@antaresystems.com](mailto:kushal.b@antaresystems.com)  
 Date : 07.08.2024 Place : Lucknow Authorized Officer, Canara Bank

**JHARKHAND BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED**  
 (CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001702)  
 Registered office :-ENGINEERING BUILDING, HEC, DHURWA, RANCHI-4,  
 FAX No. 0651 - 2400799, email - [cere\\_jseb@yahoo.co.in](mailto:cere_jseb@yahoo.co.in)  
 (Department of Rural Electrification)

**Emergent Short E-Tender Notice**  
 (Through e-procurement mode only [www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in](http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in))

Online emergent short e-tender is invited by General Manager (RP), JBVNL for Electrification of un-electrified/partial electrified Habitation/Tolas/Households of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) and Contiguous to PVTG of Jharkhand State on fully turnkey basis under RDSS for following Electric Supply Area of JBVNL as detailed below:-

| Sl. | Name of Package (District) | NIT No.             | Estimated Cost (In Rs.) | Bid Security (EMD) (In Rs.) | Cost of BOQ (Tender) + processing fee (In Rs.) including GST |
|-----|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 1   | Dumka                      | 67/PR/JBVNL/2024-25 | Rs. 34,64,68,728.00     | Rs. 69,29,375.00            | Rs. 29,500   |
| 2   | Medininagar                | 68/PR/JBVNL/2024-25 | Rs. 26,53,75,495.00     | Rs. 53,07,510.00            | Rs. 29,500   |
| 3   | Ranchi                     | 69/PR/JBVNL/2024-25 | Rs. 13,74,13,192.00     | Rs. 27,48,264.00            | Rs. 29,500   |
| 4   | Jamshedpur                 | 70/PR/JBVNL/2024-25 | Rs. 8,34,93,787.00      | Rs. 16,69,876.00            | Rs. 29,500   |
| 5   | Hazaribagh                 | 71/PR/JBVNL/2024-25 | Rs. 4,22,03,518.00      | Rs. 8,44,070.00             | Rs. 29,500   |
| 6   | Giridih                    | 72/PR/JBVNL/2024-25 | Rs. 3,04,14,534.00      | Rs. 6,08,291.00             | Rs. 29,500   |
| 7   | Dhanbad                    | 73/PR/JBVNL/2024-25 | Rs. 7,38,075.00         | Rs. 14,762.00               | Rs. 29,500   |

Date of publication of tender notice & RFB: 12.08.2024  
 Last date of online submission of tender: Upto 16:00 Hours (IST) of 19.08.2024  
 Deadline for Submission of Bid in Hard Copy: Upto 16:00 Hours (IST) of 19.08.2024  
 Date of opening of technical & commercial Part: After 16:00 Hours (IST) of 20.08.2024

Date of opening of price part will be notified after technical bid Evaluation. The tender documents will be available at website [www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in](http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in). Tender Fee and EMD will be received through online mode only. Bidders can use internet banking facility for faster processing of tender fee and EMD. Alternatively, Bidders can use NEFT/RTGS challan generated for the tender from [jharkhandtenders.gov.in](http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in) in portal and upload payment evidence / details along with bid documents.  
 Refund will only be issued to the originated bank account used for the payment of Tender Fee and EMD. So, Bidders are advised NOT to close Bank Account used for online payment/(NEFT/RTGS) of tender fee and EMD.  
 No Hard copy/physical copy is required to be submitted for tender opening /Evaluation. However, Department may ask original documents for verification before award of contract.  
 स्थिति एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचावों। कृपया अपनी शिफारशों को 18003456570 (सर्वोत्तम संख्या) पर दर्ज कराएँ।  
 Sd/-  
 General Manager (RP)  
 PR 332584 Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd(24-25).D

**कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय,**  
 पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर।  
**ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट सूचना**

**नेशनल कम्पेटीटिव बिडिंग**  
**अल्पकालीन निविदा (द्वितीय निविदा)**  
 (प्रथम निविदा का PR No.-330142Road(24-25) (D))

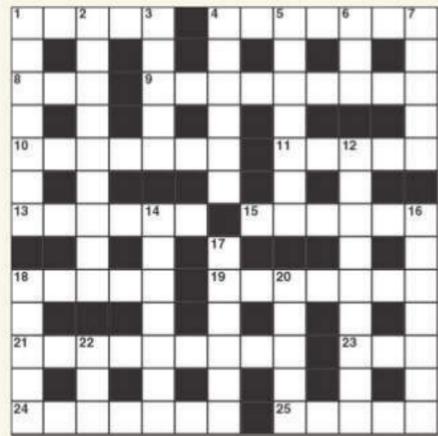
टेंडर रीफरेंस नं०-नियोजि/04/रौची-04/2024-25 दिनांक :- 12.08.2024

| क्र। संख्या / पैकेज संख्या | कार्य का नाम   | प्राकल्पित राशि (रुपये में) | अंश में  | कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि |
|----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| 1. JAMSHPUR/16/2024-25     | तेरना पंचायत चापडी गांव से पाटकिता मुख्य पथ तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। (लं-2.100 कि०मी०)                           | 2,09,30,600.00              | दो करोड़ नौ लाख तीस हजार छ सौ रू० मात्र          | 12 माह                |
| 2. JAMSHPUR/17/2024-25     | मुसाबनी प्रखण्ड सुरवा पंचायत पो.एम.जी. एस.वाडी, पथसे पाटकिता मुख्य पथ तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। (लं-2.100 कि०मी०) | 2,27,46,600.00              | दो करोड़ सत्ताईस लाख छियासीस हजार छ सौ रू० मात्र | 12 माह                |
| 3. JAMSHPUR/18/2024-25     | कसकमगाँवा चौक से बेरनाथडीह, शांतिपुर तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। (लं-1.800 कि०मी०)                                  | 1,86,84,600.00              | एक करोड़ छियासी लाख चौरसी हजार छ सौ रू० मात्र    | 12 माह                |
| 4. JAMSHPUR/19/2024-25     | कैलाशडीह, बाचाई नाला से खैरवीनी रेलवे फाटक तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। (लं-1.550 कि०मी०)                            | 1,35,29,100.00              | एक करोड़ पैंतीस लाख उन्तीस हजार एक सौ रू० मात्र  | 9 माह                 |
| 5. JAMSHPUR/20/2024-25     | बाबनीडीह चौक से निवारण घरे के घर भाया (मकर) किस्कु के घर तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। (लं-1.600 कि०मी०)              | 1,43,01,900.00              | एक करोड़ तिरासीस लाख एक हजार नौ सौ रू० मात्र     | 9 माह                 |

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि :- 14.08.2024।  
 3. ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :- 21.08.2024 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक।  
 4. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि



## CROSSWORD 5441



- ACROSS**
- 1 Still pics or flicks (5)
  - 4 Trick examination question (7)
  - 8 Free ride cut short (3)
  - 9 Very bad actor troubled with debts (9)
  - 10 Tom's nag is mixed in with others (7)
  - 11 Wood for burning? (5)
  - 13 He interrupts a politician with a supposition (6)
  - 15 Prosecutor takes on a cartel that's brazen (6)
  - 18 It has wings and flies (5)
  - 19 Arrange a star part in a Western (7)
  - 21 Happened to have been evicted (6,3)
  - 23 It's easily slipped on (3)
  - 24 Gets ready to eat or to be eaten (7)
  - 25 Musical journal? (5)
- DOWN**
- 1 One helping to restore taverns (7)
  - 2 Wife of Perseus wrongly named Dora (9)
  - 3 Word commonly used in various languages (5)
  - 4 A truce arranged between vicar and laity (6)
  - 5 Despoiled icon is restored to a city of Cyprus (7)
  - 6 Self-esteem for example comes to nought (3)
  - 7 Give an oral test (5)
  - 12 An illumination for the landing (9)
  - 14 Hemp is used in making these jackets (7)
  - 16 It's all gone wrong about getting a ship (7)
  - 17 Do some relief work? (6)
  - 18 Seen we hear to be lying (5)
  - 20 A riot getting out of proportion (5)
  - 22 Dear-sounding eggs (3)

Solutions Crossword 5440 Across: 1 Permission, 8 Licit, 9 Russian, 10 Cossets, 11 Lisle, 12 Answer, 14 Prompt, 17 Delta, 19 Enthusie, 21 Eudite, 22 Pilot, 23 Signetring  
Down: 2 Excises, 3 Mitre, 4 Surest, 5 Insular, 6 Nails, 7 Investment, 8 Lock and key, 13 Erasing, 15 Mauldin, 16 Severe, 18 Louts, 20 Taper

## OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



## CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



## MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



## DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

- ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)**  
Everything hinges around your ability to do business. To follow the money metaphor through, you'll also be counting the cost of an emotional entanglement. But whether the price is worth paying is something only you can decide.
- LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)**  
It's time to move on. You may have got the feeling that life would never change. If so, you forgot the fundamental law of the astrological universe - that all things must pass. And that's precisely why you can now make a fresh start.
- TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)**  
Partners won't have everything their own way; in spite of appearances they never do. But they do seem to hold the key, and there are times when they speak, you have to jump. Or, of course, you can always go into one of your famous obstinate moods - and completely ignore them.
- SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)**  
You're in a strong position today. Sure, you could be a little emotional but, as long as you direct your feelings in a positive direction, you'll be able to spread your share of love and light. Funny enough, today's planets also favour everyone messing about on boats.
- GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)**  
The days pass, your emotions change, and it seems that today you'll be even more emotional. A chance, perhaps, for you to get in touch with all those deep feelings. Domestic circumstances are changing, and I hope that by this time next week the stress level will have dipped.
- SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)**  
You're bound to be uncertain, but that's why you're in a powerful position. You'll be able to make the most of mysterious developments, especially ones which come loaded with deep significance and symbolic meaning! Don't rush it, though.
- CANCER (June 22 - July 23)**  
You're such a worrier. But then you know that already. That's one of the building blocks of your astrological character. Just at the moment I'd say that what you have to do now is sort out which of your doubts is genuine, and which is no more than a mirage in your mind.
- CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)**  
Your social stars are highlighted, but it could be family members who make the best friends. Don't forget those friends who feel like they're part of the family! Watch out for floating legal problems or moral minefields, as the last thing you want now is to be embroiled in a messy dispute.
- LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)**  
Your horoscope is one of diversity, so you can pick your own direction, and devise your personal strategy. Yet, your daily chart raises intense emotions, and puts the focus firmly on home affairs and family relationships. Tackle domestic issues and blockages will then shift.
- AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)**  
Professional Aquarians should be on good form. Astrologers often talk about your idealism, but they rarely mention that your work, or community activities, provide one of the most powerful areas for you to do your bit to make a better world and heal the wounds which divide people.
- VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)**  
You're coming to the end of a six-month period of planetary stress. It's been different for each one of you, for no Virgo is exactly the same as any other. That's obvious! But what you share is your tendency to worry about nothing - but that's about to change. You'll wonder what you were concerned about.
- PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**  
Sometimes you're happy with the relationships you have. But at other times you dream of the perfect romantic bliss. The outcome depends on whether you are prepared to take others with you, or you want to wander off in search of pastures new.

## 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.  
Put your heart, mind, and soul into even your smallest acts. This is the secret of success. - Swami Sivananda (8,4)

**CPAAE**      **EEMLIT**

**IYSSS**      **MUSCLY**

SOLUTION: APACE, SASSY, MERTLE, CLUMPS  
Answer: Put your heart, mind, and soul into even your smallest acts. This is the secret of success. - Swami Sivananda

## Difficulty Level 2s

**SUDOKU 5651**  
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.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|---|
|   | 4 | 3 |   | 1 | 6 |  |  |   |
| 8 |   |   | 4 |   |   |  |  | 5 |
|   |   | 2 |   | 7 |   |  |  |   |
| 2 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 5 |  |  | 6 |
| 9 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 3 |  |  | 1 |
|   |   | 6 |   | 8 |   |  |  |   |
| 1 |   |   | 2 |   |   |  |  | 3 |
| 2 | 4 | 3 |   | 7 |   |  |  |   |

## Difficulty Level

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

## SOLUTION SUDOKU 5650

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 5 |
| 8 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 9 |
| 5 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 7 |
| 2 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 6 |
| 3 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 1 |
| 1 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 8 |
| 6 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 3 |
| 9 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 4 |
| 4 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 2 |

### NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice

#### Train Side Vending (TSV) allotment contract.

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, N.W.Rly. Jaipur on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tender under Single packet system for the purpose of allotment of Train Side Vending (TSV) at Jaipur Division for the period as mentioned in the enclosed documents. The date of submission and opening of Tender and detail of the earnest money and cost of tender form are as under:-

|  |  |
|--|--|
| NIT No.  | (i) C-45/1/TSV/14715-16/JP/Div. Dated 08.08.2024.<br>(ii) C-45/1/TSV/14734/JP/Div. Dated 08.08.2024.   |
| Name of the work   | (i) Allotment of Train Side Vending (TSV) In Train No. 14715-16 (JP-HSR-JP) over JP-RE-JP Section of Jaipur Division.<br>(ii) Allotment of Train Side Vending (TSV) In Train No. 14734 (JP-BT) over JP-RE Section of Jaipur Division             |
| Approximate cost of the work   | Earning Contract   |
| Period of completion   | Six Month  |
| Reserve Price (in Rs.)   | (i) Rs. 656100/- (Rs. Six Lacs Fifty Six Thousand One Hundred Only) for the period of Six Month for Train No. 14715-16.<br>(ii) Rs. 166100/- (Rs. One Lacs Sixty Six Thousand One Hundred only) for the period of Six Month for Train No. 14734. |
| Earnest money to be deposited (Should be accepted only online net banking or gateway payment facilities only). | (i) Rs. 13200/- (Rs. Thirteen Thousand Two Hundred only) for Train No. 14715-16.<br>(ii) Rs. 3400/- (Rs. Three Thousand Four Hundred only) for Train No. 14734.  |
| Cost of tender documents (Non Refundable)  | Rs. 1000/- (Rs. One thousand only) for each tender form cost for each NIT. (non-refundable) Cost of tender shall be accepted only online net banking or payment gateway only.  |
| Date & time of submission of tender  | 16.08.2024 (Up to 15.15 Hrs.) through online <a href="http://www.irps.gov.in">www.irps.gov.in</a> only   |

Authority and place for submission of tender cost & Tender Security (EMD), required documents (if any) and seeking clarifications on tender documents; Through online [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in) only

Website Particulars : [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in) 941-DR/24

### NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

E-tenders are invited by Executive Director, Power Marketing, CESC Ltd on 13.08.2024, having registered office at CESC House, Chowringhee Square, Kolkata-70001 for purchase of Wind and Solar power on Short Term basis as per Ministry of Power (MOP), GOI guidelines dated 30.03.2016 and amendments thereof. Soft copy of tender docs are available on [www.mstcecommerce.com](http://www.mstcecommerce.com) and [www.cesc.co.in](http://www.cesc.co.in). The bids are to be submitted electronically through DEEP Portal of MSTC.

### कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, चाईबासा

email- [rdwchaibasa64@gmail.com](mailto:rdwchaibasa64@gmail.com)

#### शुद्धि पत्र

एतद द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि इस कार्यालय के पत्रक-1046(अनु0) दिनांक-26.07.2024 द्वारा आमंत्रित ई निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं0-04/2024-25/RWD/EE/CHAIBASA जिसके शुद्धि पत्र का PR No-332340 West Singhbhum (24-25)# D में निकाली गई निविदा को आंशिक रूप से संशोधित किया जाता है जो निम्न है -

| क्र0 | पूर्व में दैनिक समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि :- | संशोधित तिथि  |
|------|--|---|
| 1    | 14.08.2024   | वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि - 14.08.2024                             |
| 2    | ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :- 04.09.2024 अपराह्न 05:00 बजे तक।    | ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :- 24.08.2024 अपराह्न 05:00 बजे तक। |
| 3    | निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- 05.09.2024 अपराह्न 05:00 बजे।                  | निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- 27.08.2024 पूर्वाह्न 11:30 बजे।             |

निविदा की शेष कड़िकाएँ एवं शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी। विश्वासमान, १०/- कार्यपालक अभियंता ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, चाईबासा

PR 332489 West Singhbhum(24-25).D

### POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH CHANDIGARH

#### CORRIGENDUM

Ref: E-Tender Notice No. PHEP/24-25/01  
Following changes are made:-

| Sr. No. | Equipment/Item Name                      | Original Bid submission Date | Revised Bid Submission Date | Original Bid Opening Date | Revised Bid Opening Date | Dept. Name       |
|---------|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| 4.      | Online Examination (Computer Based Test) | 13.08.2024                   | 31.08.2024                  | 14.08.2024                | 02.09.2024               | Academic Section |

All other details shall remain the same. Professor In-Charge (EP)

### विज्ञप्ति

शिक्षुता अधिनियम 1961 के अंतर्गत इस कार्यालय में औद्योगिक शिक्षुओं का एक वर्ष के लिए चयन किया जाता है। चयनित शिक्षुओं को प्रशिक्षण प्रथम बत्ता अधिनियम 1961 के अंतर्गत देय होगा। कर्मशाला, इस्कर में दिनांक 20.08.2024 को नीचे दस्तावेज पर निम्नलिखित ट्रेड्स के प्रशिक्षण का चयन किया जाता है। जिन शिक्षुओं ने ऑनलाइन पोर्टल पर अपना नाम रजिस्ट्रेशन करवाया है। यह प्रशिक्षु अपने मूल दस्तावेज जैसे रजिस्ट्रेशन फॉर्म, मेट्रिक सर्विफिकेट, आई टी आई मार्कशीट, आधार कार्ड आदि लेकर दिनांक 20.08.2024 को कर्मशाला, इस्कर में प्रातः 10.00 बजे पहुंचें।

| क्रमांक | ट्रेड्स | त्रिक पद |
|---------|---------|----------|
| 1       | COPA    | 03       |

नोट:- शिक्षुता अधिनियम 1961 के अनुसार किसी भी संस्थान से पूर्व में प्रशिक्षण प्राप्त करने वाले उम्मीदवार दूसरी बार प्रशिक्षण लेने के पात्र नहीं हैं।  
2. इच्छुक उम्मीदवार ऑनलाइन पोर्टल <https://www.apprenticeshipindia.gov.in> पर अपना रजिस्ट्रेशन करके ऑनलाइन आवेदन दिनांक 19.08.2024 तक कर सकते हैं।  
3. महाप्रबंधक हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन इस्कर के पास अपरेंटिस विज्ञप्ति में वर्णित त्रिकों को भरने और बढ़ाने का अधिकार है।  
4. चयनित उम्मीदवार को सहायक शिक्षुता सलाहकार इस्कर द्वारा कॉन्ट्रैक्ट को स्वीकार करने के बाद प्रशिक्षण पर लिया जाएगा।  
5. चयनित शिक्षुओं को प्रशिक्षण हेतु इस्कर डिपो या बहादुरगढ़ सब डिपो कहीं पर भी भेजा जा सकता है।

महाप्रबंधक हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन इस्कर  
RO 28840

### SALUTE THE SOLDIER

#### CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE Jammu and Kashmir

9 August 2007

**Shaheed Constable Vaghela Baldev Singh**  
15-06-1984 To 13-08-2007 185-B

On 9 August 2007, troops of 185 Battalion of CRPF along with RR and SOG, launched an operation in Mindura village, Awantipora, Pulwama. As they searched the area, militants hiding in a house opened fire. The troops retaliated, and a fierce six-hour encounter ensued. Shaheed Constable Vaghela Baldev Singh played a pivotal role in neutralizing two militants, fighting bravely from the front despite being injured. He refused to leave the battlefield until the mission was accomplished, later succumbing to his injuries on 13 August. For his gallantry, he was posthumously awarded the President's Police Medal for Gallantry.

9420885A RFN SHAMSHER TAMANG  
13 AUG

No9420885 Rfn Shamsheer Tamang/11 Gorkha Rifles (BATALIK) made the supreme sacrifice during 'OP MEGHDOOT' on 13 Aug 1998 in a true act of valour. The brave soldier will always be remembered for his enthusiasm and outstanding professionalism. To this braveheart we pledge that his immortal spirit shall always guide us and we shall strive to do his name proud.

CO AND ALL RANKS, 1/11 GORKHA RIFLES (BATALIK) (BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE)

#### INDO-TIBETAN BORDER POLICE

Head Constable Hira Singh

ITBP salutes its braveheart Head Constable Hira Singh of ITBP Academy, who made supreme sacrifice in the line of duty on this day in Uttarakhand in 2000.

Resident of : Vill- Shoga, Distt. - Kullu (Himachal Pradesh)

### OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL GOVT. P.G. COLLEGE FOR WOMEN, ROHTAK

#### Notice Inviting Tender for Outsource of Service

Sealed Tenders (Separate Technical & financial Bids) are invited from the eligible tenderers/service agencies (approved by Govt. of Haryana) having at least three years experience of providing manpower services on outsource basis in Govt./Semi Govt. Organization, Board/Cooperation of Central/State Govt. or Central /State Universities for cleaning of premises, upkeeping security, house Keeping and multitasking service to be rendered in the College Hostel. The interested bidders may collect tender form from the College on non refundable payment of Rs 500/- (Payable through crossed demand draft/Banker Cheque of any nationalized bank drawn in favour of Principal, Govt. P.G. College for Women, Rohtak) between 12.08.2024 to 30.08.2024 on any working day between 09:00 to 04:00 pm except on public holiday. The bid in prescribed Tender form will only be considered. The last date of receipt of bid will be 30.08.2024 Up to 4 pm and bids will be opened on 31.08.2024 at 11:00 am in Principal Office. The bid should be accompanied by EMD of Rs10000/- in the form of crossed DD/Banker Cheque in favour of above mentioned account. The estimated tender cost is Rs 38 Lacs. The service Provider will be abide by the term & Conditions of outsource Policy and relevant labour laws of the Government Bids. In case the rates quoted by the bidder are same, the decision will be taken by draw of lots in the presence of participants, other necessary details are provided in the tender document. The undersigned reserve the right to alter the rules of bid and to cancel the tender without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-  
Principal  
Govt. P.G. College for Women  
Rohtak  
No. 28830/HRY

### CIDCO WE MAKE CITIES

#### NOTICE INVITING BID (2<sup>ND</sup> CALL)

Integrated Infrastructure development of 27M & 20M wide roads in TPS 2 under NAINA Project. (2<sup>nd</sup> Call)

CIDCO of Maharashtra Limited through the process of E-tendering invites "ON LINE" item rate percentage Bids in two bid system (Part-I Technical Bid & Part-II commercial bid) from experienced prospective bidders fulfilling the mandatory eligibility criteria and scoring minimum qualifying marks of 75 in the Technical bid evaluation, comprising of total 100 marks as per Annexure-I, registered with CIDCO Ltd. or with Central Govt., or with State Govt. of Maharashtra and its undertakings in appropriate class & Category, who have completed work of similar nature for the work mentioned below :

1. Name of Work: Integrated Infrastructure development of 27M & 20M wide roads in TPS 2 under NAINA Project. (2<sup>nd</sup> Call) 2. C.A. No.: 08/CIDCO/EE/(NAINA-I)/2023-24
3. Cost put to the Bid: ₹80,05,90,998.00 (excluding GST) (₹78,53,58,480.00 Biddable Part + ₹1,52,32,518.00 Non-Biddable Part) 4. E.M.D.: ₹80,06,000/- 5. Registration Class: Class - I A (Without Limit) - (Civil) 6. Completion Period: 730 (Seven Hundred Thirty) Days (including Monsoon) 7. Tender Processing Fee: ₹70,800.00 (including 18% GST (Non-Refundable))

Bid Document along with Bidding Programme will be available on the website <https://mahatenders.gov.in> from 14/08/2024 at 17.01 Hrs.

Superintending Engineer (NAINA)  
CIDCO/PR/173/2024-25  
CIN - U99999 MH 1970 SGC-014574  
[www.cidco.maharashtra.gov.in](http://www.cidco.maharashtra.gov.in)

### e-Procurement Cell URBAN DEVELOPMENT & HOUSING DEPARTMENT NAGAR PARISHAD CHATRA JHARKHAND

#### Very Short e-procurement Notice

e-Tender Reference No.- UDD/CH/NPC/07/2024-25 Dated-10.08.2024

| Sl. No. | Particular                               | Details (15 <sup>th</sup> Finance United Grant Scheme)   |
|---------|--|--|
| 01      | Name of Work (Group No.-01)              | Construction of 18 no. of solar energy based water plant with basement mounting HDPE, Water Storage Tank having capacity 10000 ltr. HYDT borewell at dry zone area under Nagar Parishad, Chatra.                             |
| 02      | Name of Work (Group No.-02)              | Construction of 22 no. (One for each Ward) of solar energy based mini water plant with basement mounting HDPE, Water Storage Tank having capacity 5000 ltr. On existing borewell in every ward under Nagar Parishad, Chatra. |
| 03      | Date of Tender Uploading in Website      | 16.08.2024 at 10:00 AM   |
| 04      | Bid Submission Start Date & Time         | 17.08.2024 at 10:00 AM   |
| 05      | Last Date-Time for Receipt of Bid        | 24.08.2024 upto 5:00 PM  |
| 06      | Date & Address for Opening of Bid.       | 27.08.2024 upto 11:00 AM, in the e-Procurement Cell, Nagar Parishad Chatra   |
| 07      | Name & Address of Office inviting Tender | Administrator, Nagar Parishad, Chatra (Jharkhand)  |
| 08      | Contact No. of Procurement Office        | +91- 7717752315, 7004394602  |
| 09      | Helpline No. of e-Procurement Cell       | 0651-2480345   |

Any change can be seen on Website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>  
Any other information can be seen on <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>  
Note:- 1. According to Secretary, Information Technology & e-Governance Department Order memorandum no.-120, dt.-03.10.2023, the entire process of receiving the tender fee and EMD amount is done through online method.  
2. नवीकरण उर्जा मंत्रालय भारत सरकार (MNRE) द्वारा अनुमोदित सोलर उपकरण के Distributor or Manufacturer ही निविदा में भाग ले सकते हैं। इसका प्रमाण पत्र अद्यतन संलग्न करना होगा।

PR.NO.332487 Urban Development(24-25):D  
Administrator, Nagar Parishad, Chatra.

### Issue for Duplicate Shares

Folio No. 1070227, Name of Shareholder Rajkumari, No of Shares 1250, Distinctive Nos. from 19114546 to 19115795 Certificate Nos. 62930 Name of Shareholder Rajkumari, Date 08/08/2024 Name and Registered Office address of Company : ICICI BANK LTD. Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodra Gujarat-390007

WESTERN RAILWAY - BHAVNAGAR DIVISION  
AMC OF ELECTRONIC INTERLOCKING SYSTEM  
The Divisional Railway Manager (S&T), western Railway, Bhavnagar invite e-tenders on behalf of President of India for the following works. (i) Tender No : 15-2024; Bhavnagar Division; Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of Electronic Interlocking System of KYOSAN make for a period of Three years at Somnath station in Junagadh - Somnath section Estimated Cost : 490267.11/- (Rs. Forty Nine Lakhs Ninety Two Thousand Sixty Hundred Seven and Eleven Paise Only) The bidders have to apply on line through link i.e. [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in) only for further detail please visit web site [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in) Last date for on line apply 06/09/2024 up to 15.00 Hrs. 75  
Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)

Vinesh verdict expected today; Usha defends chief doctor



Vinesh Phogat has appealed to the CAS after her disqualification. **PTI**

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
AUGUST 12

VINESH PHOGAT'S appeal against her disqualification at the Paris Olympics due to missing the weight cut by 100gms will find a resolution on Tuesday as Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), having heard arguments of all parties, gets ready to deliver the verdict.

Vinesh stormed into the final of the women's 50kg freestyle event after starting her campaign with a stunning win over wrestling royalty Yui Susaki of Japan last Tuesday. But on the second day of the event, she was debarred from the gold medal bout against eventual winner Sarah Hildebrandt of the United States as she was marginally above the prescribed limit in the customary morning weigh-in.

Vinesh appealed against the decision by UWW, arguing that she be given a joint silver with Cuban wrestler Yusneylis Guzman Lopez, who had lost to Vinesh but was later promoted to the final following the Indian's disqualification.

A day after her disqualification, Vinesh announced her retirement from the sport, saying she doesn't have the strength to continue, even as sporting icons from across the world threw their weight behind the 29-year-old wrestler who was appearing at her third Olympic Games.

Vinesh's legal team has French lawyers Joelle Monlouis, Estelle Ivanova, Habbine Estelle Kim and Charles Amson, who helped her and the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) during the filing of the application. They have been provided to her by the Paris Bar and are handling the case pro bono. In addition, senior counsels Harish Salve and Vidushpat Singhania were also roped in to help her in the case.

IOA president PT Usha on Sunday said that any attack on the contingent's medical team, especially Chief Medical Officer Dr. Dinshaw Pardiwala, around the Vinesh saga is unacceptable.

The former athlete said in a statement that, "...the responsibility of weight management of athletes in sport like wrestling, weightlifting, boxing and judo is that of each athlete and his or her coach and NOT that of the IOA-appointed Chief Medical Officer Dr. Dinshaw Pardiwala and his team. The hate directed at the IOA medical team, especially Dr. Pardiwala, is unacceptable and worthy of condemnation."

"Each Indian athlete in the Paris 2024 Olympic Games in such sport had his or her own support team. These support teams have been working with the athletes over so many years," Usha said.

"The IOA appointed a medical team a couple of months ago, primarily as a team that would assist in the recovery and injury management of athletes during and after their competition. This team was also designed to support athletes who did not have their own team of nutritionists and physiotherapists."

PARIS DIARY

# Cry-lympics: Watching adults tear up and a difficult question — Will India win gold?

Notes from MIHIR VASAVDA'S Olympic diary: Trains missed, laptops fried and an unanswerable query that was a taunt

24 JULY  
Wednesday

A SPORTING TOUR

Seen through the eyes of a sports tragic, Paris hits different compared to what the romantics come searching for.

It's here, inside the Grand Amphitheatre of the Sorbonne University that Pierre de Coubertin, gave a rousing speech to delegates from 12 countries 130 years ago. By the end of it, the French educator had convinced them to revive the Olympic Games.

Less than a mile from this historic institution, the first Olympic medals were designed at the Monnaie de Paris, the French Mint which has also played a role in the delivery of the medals for these Games.

Half hour on the metro and you are at Montmartre. In 1902, at a brasserie that no longer exists, the seeds were sown for the world's most gruelling cycling race, the Tour de France.

A short 10-minute ride to the south-west is Rue Sainte-Honoré, where Jules Rimet, a grocer's son, founded FIFA and went on to create the football World Cup.

Another 10-minute walk later, you arrive at Place de la Concorde where - a month after Rimet founded FIFA - automobile aficionados formed the International Automobile Association, which governs, among other things, the Formula One.

The historian Dominic Sandbrook was right when he said that if the British invented many sports, it's the French who codified it and invited the world to play.

26 JULY  
Friday

A GLAMOUROUS GIG?

There's a weather warning saying it will rain in the evening. When they issue such an alert back in Mumbai, it rarely does. I apply the same logic here and leave without an umbrella.

And, you now know, it rains during the opening ceremony. Constant, unrelenting rain.

We have other problems to grapple with. Me and two other colleagues are given 'seats' - basically, a spot on the grass banks - at the starting point near the Austerlitz Bridge. 'Great,' we think. This was a chance to capture the first emotions of athletes when the best boat ride of their life begins.

Turns out that after the first 'water curtain', some 20-30 minutes into the show, there is nothing to be seen or report here. So, we begin our march to the Trocadero, where the main action was taking place.

Walking around charming, cobbled Paris feels like being in a war zone.

Wherever you look, there are armed policemen suspiciously looking at everyone. There's military from different countries, countless check points, barricades and barbed wires along the 7km route. With metro lines shut, we cover more than half of it on foot.

The security at Trocadero stops us. Our Austerlitz Bridge passes, he says, won't get us inside the arena where ceremony formalities would take place. So, we stand on the sidewalks and watch the parade.

The ordeal has just begun. We sit on the sidewalk and open our laptops to begin writing when the heavens open. If at all there was a ceremony where you wanted to be protected by elements, it was this one.

A colleague is better prepared than I am - he has an umbrella.

Three grown men stand under that one medium-sized umbrella. Drenched. But protecting their laptops. For those who think this is a glamorous gig...



Paris 2024 chief Tony Estanguet said this edition broke the record for the most marriage proposals ever at an Olympics. **Reuters**

27 JULY  
Saturday

MISSING THE BUS

Reach 'home' from the opening ceremony at 2 am. The train to Chateauroux, roughly 300 km away, at 5.20. Decide to take a power nap. Bad idea. Wake up late, taxi is late.

The Olympics are like a marathon. But this one starts with a sprint. At Chateauroux, I hop into a cafe for an early morning cuppa, and guess what. The bus to the range is about to leave. Another sprint, leaving a trail of spilled coffee along the way, to the bus station. Too late, though. I walk back to the cafe, grab a croissant, and wait again.

At the range, the Indian shooters miss the bus too. A feeling of dread returns: Will this be Tokyo all over again?

30 JULY  
Tuesday

THE HUMBLE LEGENDS

Manu Bhaker does something even Manu Bhaker hasn't imagined in her wildest dreams - win two Olympic medals. Yet, the 22-year-old who was scapegoated and

singled out for the Tokyo debacle doesn't go to town with her celebrations.

"Can we call you an icon of Indian shooting", she is asked. "I don't know," Manu says. She just wants to shoot. The icon and legend status, she says, aren't for her.

Outside the venue, her coach Jaspal Rana - also vilified, ostracised and saw his reputation tarnished post Tokyo - stands in the bright harsh sun of Chateauroux. Rana has been on a spree of quotable quotes this afternoon.

Someone tells him to stand in the shade. Pat comes his reply, with a smirk: "Chav mein toh apne he maarte hai. (Only our own stab in the dark)."

A week later, PR Sreejesh is asked the same question as Manu.

Coach Craig Fulton reveals a secret. "In training, he talks to himself and goes, 'Great save, Sree! Great save, Sree! Even if it isn't a great save, 'Great save, Sree!'"

The hockey goalkeeper, who retires with a second Olympic bronze around his neck, is too polite to praise himself. Next to him is Harmanpreet Singh, who gets a little emotional. "We love you, bro," the India captain tells him. "You'll always stay here," Harman adds, pointing to the heart.

Later in the night, it is Neeraj Chopra's turn to get asked about his growing status. Chopra translates the question, asked in Hindi, for a global audience. He goes something like, "You are a legend in India..." Pauses, and tells the moderator, "I am not calling myself legend, by the way."

He smiles, embarrassed.

04 AUGUST  
Saturday

THE GOLDEN QUESTION

On the way to the hockey quarterfinal. It's a chilly morning and of all days, they decide to provide an air-conditioned bus (most other buses, and even trains, aren't air-conditioned, which makes travelling on them a nightmare on hot days).

Only three of us are on the bus for 45 people. Bump into a Canadian journalist. Polite conversation ensues and then he asks the awkward question. "So," he says, "do you think there's a gold anywhere for India?"

Yes, I think. In making excuses for not winning a gold medal. "Sure," I say. "Wait for



Nikhat Zareen exited with a Round of 16 0-5 loss to China's Wu Yu. **PTI**

a couple of days."

The chilly morning has turned into an excruciatingly hot day. So hot that the cover of my laptop gets deformed. I put on my sunglasses and bucket hat. The English journalist next to me looks amused. "Some cream and a drink with umbrellas, too, maybe?" he banter.

Seventy minutes later, I turn to him. "Some tissues, maybe?"

The question of a gold, though, doesn't stop following.

At the athletics a few days later, we wait for the Ukrainian high jumpers in the mixed zone. A well-travelled American writer who spent weeks in Patiala and Panipat before the Olympics breaks the ice: "Do you think it'll happen?" "It" meaning a gold medal.

The confidence has plummeted by now. A German tries to change the topic. "This thing about 2036, do you think India can do it?"

It's not easy being an Indian at the Olympics.

07 AUGUST  
Wednesday

THE CRY-LYMPICS

Nothing stirs up emotions like an Olympics. Everyone cries. Sifan Hasan tears up after winning the marathon. Hardik Singh sobs after losing the hockey semifinal. Nikhat Zareen's eyes go red as she rues her bad luck.

But nothing prepares the Indian contingent for this morning. The day begins by planning coverage for the evening when Vinesh Phogat would heroically stand on the podium. Within seconds, that plan is thrown out of the window.

Vinesh is 100 grams over. DQ-ed from competition. A punch in the guts. The Indian contingent goes into mourning.

At night, Mirabai Chanu exits the Olympics shocked and in tears, too. A medal favourite, she leaves in fourth place.

The most brutal for India at these, or any, Olympics.

11 AUGUST  
Sunday

CITY OF LOVE, LOST & FOUND?

Stumble into an Indian fan on the way to a stadium. The story goes something like this: Three hours before Neeraj's final, the person makes an impromptu decision to watch it from the stands. But it wasn't to be - the ticket window at Stade de France was shut minutes ago.

A volunteer tells the fan to stand near the gate where athletes exit from. There, in the scrum the person spots a familiar face - turns out that 22 years ago, the two dated each other. And of all places, they bump into each other here; in the mad scrum to spot Neeraj.

In the city of love, a case of love lost and found?

TOUGH LOVE

## Why Padukone is justified in his blunt assessment of Sen's medal miss

SHIVANINAIK

THERE ARE many ways to interpret Prakash Padukone's blunt assessment of the performance of Indian athletes, though his focus was on badminton returning with no medals. But the one man who this was meant for later stated he was "determined to reflect on what went wrong and where I need to improve." Lakshya Sen knew the bronze was there for the taking, but he couldn't nail it down. He will know it was an opportunity missed.

Shuttlers aren't fond of theatrics and public meltdowns, be it while splitting with coaches or when coaches lay out the facts, post failures. You will not get a "you are still a winner" platitude from Padukone, Vimal Kumar or Pullela Gopichand, because they are invested in getting the shuttlers to win internationally - planning, plotting and scything through difficult playing fields. They neither mince words, nor sugarcoat what needs to be done to dust up from defeats and start the grind again. It's why India had three medals from

three Olympics and 10 straight World Championship medals since 2011.

Missing a medal at the 2024 Olympics, despite receiving the best financial and coaching support, will sting at least till the next Olympic medal is secured. Satwik-Chirag and Sen are bona-fide successes on the international circuit and will carry forward their ambitions, and the likes of Priyanshu Rajawat and Treesa Jolly-Gayatri Gopichand will need to step up in the next Olympic cycle.

But Padukone's disappointment and urgency in hauling up Sen, soon after his bronze playoff loss, needs to be understood in a larger context. The men's singles circuit is highly competitive and will remain extremely tough to crack even in coming years. HS Prannoy was the only Indian singles male to win a Super 500 level title in the last two years.

Sen was tending to myriad injuries and not in form for most part. His defensive game style is dazzlingly gritty, but so bruising and brutal on his body that he cannot be expected to be a year-round workhorse. One nasty back/shoulder injury can set him back by years. His fitness



Missing a medal despite receiving the best financial and coaching support, will sting Lakshya Sen. **PTI**

just won't permit a round-the-year calendar. Sen will need to prioritise Olympics over mindless pursuit of Tour titles and ranking points, just like PV Sindhu in her early years.

He did well to reach the Olympics semifinals. An opportunity to fight for bronze isn't a guarantee at Los Angeles in a sport like badminton, where 70 percent of the top names in both singles, were nursing niggles, or felled by fitness at Paris. Carolina Marin had recovered and re-emerged, but still went out in tears to injury on the brink of the final. Tai Tzu-Ying just couldn't move in her final effort. The male Chinese and Indonesians, in the 23-to-29 age bracket, were soundly thrashed. So when you earn the chance to gun for bronze and are at your fittest like Sen was, a game and 8-3 up too, but still flub the opportunity due to nerves, your straight-shooting coach isn't going to mollycoddle.

With badminton and its bustling Top 15, you just can't sit back, tell yourself you are still young, fit and raring, with time on hand, and project a hopeful medal four years from now. Coaches seethed in Paris, because they pretty

much know 24x7, 365 days, 4 years, how tough medalling is. There's a reason they don't waste time penning inane inspirational scribbles on social media and instead honestly parse through what went wrong. For Satwik-Chirag and Sen, this was a sucker punch.

Padukone is a legend who slogged without any support, in times when there was none on offer, to win his All England in 1980, before he got roundly criticised for chiding Sen, a player whom he had talent-scouted and singled out for perhaps the biggest funding made available to anyone who was in Paris, for the last 12 years.

Sen's coach Vimal Kumar had stood on the court for high-intensity multi-feed shuttle sessions till age 60. One of the sharpest feeders, the ace coach had plotted gameplans for every Olympic and All England upset Sen has scored.

And Gopichand got India the first two Olympic podiums, besides multiple World Championship medals, both with 6 am sessions, and analysing on the spot opponents, barking out pinpoint instructions in competition crucibles that helped Saina Nehwal,

Sindhu, Kidambi Srikanth, Sai Praneeth and Prannoy nail down wins. Even double Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen was brought down at the 2023 Worlds for Prannoy's medal with Gopichand plotting. Players will acknowledge his timely interventions that nick a point in sticky 17-17 kind of situations. And nail down career-defining medals.

Gopi missed his own, hence knows how much it hurts when you can't win the podium knockouts. Badminton medals have always needed strong tactical backroom work. These coaches know what they're doing, and are also aware of the difference between a medal and a non-medal.

The same is true for players. Olympic medals matter to athletes. They are the stamps of recognition tattooed onto their identity, which nobody can take away. This explains Neeraj Chopra's disappointment at missing the gold and Padukone's outburst after Sen's loss in the bronze-medal playoff. Sen might see a lifetime of opportunities ahead of him in his young life, Padukone knows fate can be fickle.

# OVER TO LOS ANGELES



Pics: Reuters



## Au Revoir

**AFTER SUCCESSFULLY** playing host to a challenging Olympic games in Paris, the torch has now been passed to Hollywood as the buildup to LA 2028 kicks off, which was the overwhelming theme of the closing ceremony, that went into the early hours of Monday.

**HOLLYWOOD MOVIE** star Tom Cruise (right) repelled from the roof of the Stade de France - the country's national stadium - and received the Olympic flag from Simone Biles and LA mayor Karen Bass (above) before a video of the Hollywood sign turning into the Olympic rings was shown. The full Hollywood touch.

**EARLIER, TO** a raucous reception, newly anointed local hero, swimmer Leon Marchand (left), blew out the Olympic torch in front of an adoring audience.



## Wow moments

**THE MOST** eye-catching performer at the closing ceremony was the Golden Voyager. The masked man was said to be from the time when there were no Olympics games. According to those who had conceptualised the show, the sparkling voyager was inspired by the Spirit of the Bastille. There were shades of the ancient bronze statue shaped by Auguste Dumont in 1836 in the golden voyager.

**ANOTHER JAW-DROPPING** sight was that of the vertical piano performances by Swiss pianist Alain Roche. He performed a new version of Gabriel Fauré's Hymne à Apollo. After his performance, Roche would tell Classic FM: "It's so special to be in the middle of all this energy, all this adrenaline ... in a stadium with 70,000 people... I launched the 'vertical piano' project 11 years ago, because I was trying to challenge expectations, to reverse the way things are seen."



# Took his own life battling depression: Thorpe's wife

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
LONDON, AUGUST 12

FORMER ENGLAND cricketer **Graham Thorpe** took his own life after a struggle with depression and anxiety fuelled by his failing health in the last two years, his wife Amanda has revealed. The 55-year-old passed away on August 5. Thorpe's demise was announced by the England and Wales Cricket Board and now his wife has revealed in an interview to former England captain Michael Atherton that he had a long mental and physical battle with himself before he took his own life.

"Despite having a wife and two daughters whom he loved and who loved him, he did not get better," Thorpe's wife was quoted as saying by *The Times*. "He was so unwell in recent times and he really did believe that we would be better off without him and we are devastated that he acted on that and took his own life." A ceremony was held before the start of a match between the Farnham Cricket Club and the Chipstead Cricket Club last Saturday in memory of Thorpe, which was attended by his wife and their daughters Kitty (22) and Emma (19).



"For the past couple of years, Graham had been suffering from major depression and anxiety. This led him to make a serious attempt on his life in May 2022, which resulted in a prolonged stay in an intensive care unit," she said. His wife revealed that despite his work assignments, Thorpe continued to suffer. "Despite glimpses of hope and of the old Graham, he continued to suffer from depression and anxiety, which at times got very severe. We supported him as a family and he tried many, many treatments but unfortunately none of them really seemed to work," she said. The report added that the family is now considering starting a foundation in his name. Thorpe's daughter Kitty said he was "not the same person" after a point and that he "could not see a way out". "He had loved life and he loved us but he just couldn't see a way out. It was heartbreaking to see how withdrawn he had become," she said. "It was strange to see this person trapped in the body of Dad. That's why we've been so happy that the many reflections have been about his life before this illness took over."

# 1,100 entries expected for Khaitan badminton

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
PANCHKULA, AUGUST 12

THE 31ST edition of the Smt Krishna Khaitan Memorial All India Junior Ranking Badminton Prize Money tournament will be held at Tau Devi Lal Sports Complex, Sector 3, Panchkula, from September 12-19. The tournament, being organised by Express Shuttle Club Trust under the aegis of Haryana Badminton Association, will be one of the junior ranking tournaments in the Badminton Association of India (BAI) calendar this year. "We are expecting more than 1,100 entries for the 31st edition of the Smt Krishna Khaitan Memorial All India Junior Ranking Badminton Prize Money tournament this year. It will offer important ranking points to U-19 players and some of the top junior players on the domestic calendar are expected to feature in this year's tournament," said competition director Sanjiv Sachdeva. Last year, more than 1,150 entries were received for the tournament. This year's tournament will see players competing in U-19 categories in boys' and girls' singles as well as boys', girls' and mixed doubles. The tournament will carry a total prize money of Rs four lakh with quarter-finalists in boys' singles and girls' singles also getting a share.



The tournament will be held at the at Tau Devi Lal Sports Complex in Panchkula. File

Players born on or after January 1, 2006 are eligible to compete in the tournament and entries will be accepted till August 21. The qualification rounds will be held from September 12-15 with main draw matches from September 16-19.

## LONG-DISTANCE LEGEND

# Super Sifan, a hero in more ways than one

Despite challenging Olympics marathon course, the Flowing Dutchwoman did not flinch even once

NIHAL KOSHIE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 12

DURING HER first few weeks as a teenage asylum seeker in Zuidlaren in The Netherlands, a 15-year-old Sifan Hassan broke down many times. She's never shared details of why she left home, Adama in Ethiopia, as a refugee. She once used an analogy to describe her desolation when she reached the new country, "I was a flower that got no sun," Hassan told Dutch newspaper *de Volkskrant*.

A move to Eindhoven to pursue a course in nursing made her feel better. There she met fellow Ethiopians, trainees at the Eindhoven Atletiek club. The girl with failing arms started to blossom as an athlete once taken under the wings by coaches. The Dutchwoman is now the brightest tulip in the field of the greatest distance runners.

On Sunday morning, Sifan capped a remarkable Olympic Games by winning gold in the women's marathon, to add to bronze medals in the 5,000 metres and the 10,000 metres. The last time any man or woman won medals in these three events was in 1952. Emil Zátopek was called the Human Locomotive after the Helsinki Olympics.

Sifan needs a worthy sobriquet but that may take a while as the world is still wrapping its head around the scale of her achievements.

She is also the first woman to win Olympic gold in the marathon, the 5,000 metres and the 10,000 metres, the last two wins coming in Tokyo three years ago, where she also finished third in the 1,500 metres. Six Olympic medals in all.

Winning the marathon this Sunday was special. There was a thrilling sprint finish. Remarkably Sifan, at 31, despite more race kilometres clocked than any other athlete at these Olympic Games, did produce the kick which her competitors feared she would after being challenged on the toughest marathon course with three steep uphill points.

Runners who did a dry run of the course concluded that it was tougher than the toughest; New York and Boston. A legend had looked human the previous day in the men's marathon.

Eliud Kipchoge, one of the greatest, did not finish a race for the first time ever. The two-time Olympic gold-medal winner called Paris his 'worst marathon'. He's done with the Olympic Games, he said.

Despite the brutal course, Sifan set an Olympic record of two hours, 22 minutes and fifty-five seconds.

There were three key moments that shaped Sifan's win.

As the runners crossed the 28 kilometres mark, Sifan fell behind the leading group by over 50 metres when running uphill. The gap wasn't enough to keep her at bay. Sifan caught up as they moved to flat ground.

The next critical point was at the final bend. With less than 300 metres to go, Sifan tapped into her speed gained from training for the shorter races. This was an all-out sprint between Sifan and world record holder Tigst Assefa of Ethiopia. A sub-2 minute 800 metre runner like Sifan, Assefa wasn't going to roll over.

Assefa even put out her elbow at one point and there was jostling but Sifan burst



Sifan Hassan set an Olympic record of 2 hours, 22 minutes and 55 seconds. Reuters

through to win by three seconds. Sifan was suffering on the course but a chance to make history kept her going.

"I have no words. Every moment in the race I was regretting that I ran the 5000m and 10,000m. I was telling myself if I hadn't done that, I would feel great today. The moment I started to feel good at 20km, I knew that I wanted gold. But everybody else was fresh and all I was thinking was: 'When are they going to break? They're going to go hard'. At the end I thought: 'This is just a 100m sprint'. Come on, Sifan."

The significant podium moment from Sifan was wearing a pretty red print hijab at the victory ceremony when the host nation had banned its athletes from doing so at the opening ceremony. The moment was not lost on the world watching the Closing ceremony at Stade de France, as she stepped up on the podium, asserting her right to wear whatever she felt like, with the gorgeous confidence of an Olympic champ.

## Dash on the dot

Bronze medallist Kenyan Hellen Obiri had summed up why Sifan was special despite running her first marathon only last year.

"In the end, I knew she would carry the day because of her sprint finish. She has done so well in the 5000m, 10,000m and 1500m and so she was capable of winning in a sprint finish. She is so amazing, doing track and the marathon. So many people can't do that but Sifan has shown the world that she can do that," Obiri was quoted by the NRG Radio website.

The first time she competed in a marathon, London 2023, there was drama that's oftentimes the case when Sifan is running and pushing the boundaries of human endurance. She was nearly run over by a motorcycle when she veered across towards a water station to hydrate. She also stopped twice to stretch, lost time as the leading pack surged ahead but despite mini breaks won by four seconds. A few months later in Chicago she won again which was followed by a fourth-place in the Tokyo Marathon in March this year.

Still, she could not shake off the fear of running 42.195 kilometres. "I am scared of the marathon," she had said on reaching Paris.

Worried she was, but Sifan didn't choke or run with jelly legs. The Olympic gold is in the bag so what next for barrier-breaking Sifan. 400 metres? Expect the unexpected from the craziest and bravest woman to have worn running shoes.

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