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01

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SAVEETHA DENTAL COLLEGE

SIMATS - DEEMED UNIVERSITY



12

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SAVEETHA MEDICAL COLLEGE



1
Dental

11
University

12
Medical

13
Law

20
Research

22
Overall

53
Engineering

74
Management

11-50
Innovation



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WHERE & WHEN

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	BENGALURU	
Taj Vivanta, Hyderabad, Begumpet Aug 15, 2024	Taj Vivanta, Vijayawada Aug 17, 2024	Christ University, Central Campus, Hosur Road, Koramangala Aug 19, 2024	Christ University, Kengeri Campus Aug 20, 2024
COIMBATORE	CHENNAI	KOCHI	DELHI
Vivanta by Taj, Race Course Road Aug 22, 2024	Kumaraguru College of Technology Aug 23, 2024	Loyola College Aug 25 & 26, 2024	Taj Vivanta, Ernakulam Aug 28, 2024
			Dr. Ambedkar International Convention Centre Aug 30, 2024

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DAMAGE CONTROL
Tungabhadra dam gate repair begins
STATES » PAGE 5



TEMPLE TRAGEDY
Seven dead, 16 injured in Bihar stampede
NEWS » PAGE 10



BROADCASTING SERVICES BILL
Govt. says fresh draft likely after review
NEWS » PAGE 11



RAISING VIGILANCE
Disinformation, AI and 'cyber chakravayuh'
There is a growing danger of digital threats
EDITORIAL » PAGE 6



COLLECTIONS IMPROVE
Net direct tax kitty surges by 22.5%
BUSINESS » PAGE 13

Adieu Paris



Flag bearers: Manu Bhaker and P.R. Sreejesh led the Indian contingent at the closing ceremony of the Paris Olympics on Monday. Los Angeles will host the 2028 edition of the Games. ANI (REPORT ON: PAGE 15)



SAMMAAN CAPITAL
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Statistical effects pull inflation to 59-month low

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Inflation in India's consumer prices cooled dramatically from 5.1% in June to an almost five-year low of 3.54% in July, with food price rise moderating to a 13-month low of 5.4% from a six-month high of 9.4% a month earlier.

However, this was driven by the base effect from last July when retail inflation stood at 7.4% and the food index was up 11.5%, rather than a tangible relief for consumer wallets with overall prices rising 1.4% over June and food prices ticking up by 2.8%. The decline in headline inflation was accompanied by a rise in core inflation (excluding food and energy prices), which is estimated at 3.4%-3.5%, from 3.1% in June, economists noted.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

SEBI row: BJP rejects calls for JPC probe

It alleges 'wider conspiracy' between Congress, Hindenburg Research; Opposition party threatens nationwide protest if demand is not met

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress on Monday continued to spar over Hindenburg Research's allegations against Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch, with the ruling party rejecting the Opposition demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe.

The BJP alleged that the Congress was part of a "wider conspiracy" involving Hindenburg Research and "a tool kit" gang to destabilise the Indian economy, crash the stock market on a Monday and create economic anarchy in the country.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10



Stock markets remain calm

Lalendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Contrary to fears of a massive fall owing to the publication of the Hindenburg and "a tool kit" gang to destabilise the Indian economy, crash the stock market on a Monday and create economic anarchy in the country.

However, Adani Group stocks lost an estimated \$13.4 billion in value, as per estimates by Reuters.

The S&P BSE Sensex, which opened weaker, and down 375 points from Friday's close, gradually recovered lost ground during the day and closed with a minor loss of 57 points at 79,649 points, led by public sector stocks. Similarly, the NSE Nifty-50 index closed with a loss of 20.50 points at 24,347.

FULL REPORT
» PAGE 13

IN BRIEF



CM gives police 7 days to crack W.B. murder case

KOLKATA
West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday gave the police seven days to solve the case of alleged rape and murder of a doctor at the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital. » Page 11

20 Afghan Sikhs get citizenship under CAA

NEW DELHI
Twenty Sikhs from Afghanistan, part of the first group of Afghan Sikhs who had applied for citizenship online nearly 100 days ago, have been accorded citizenship under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 in the past one week in New Delhi. » Page 10

IIT Madras retains top spot in NIRF ranking for sixth consecutive year

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras is the best educational institution in the country for the sixth time since 2019, shows the overall ranking based on parameters identified and defined in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF).

In the 2024 rankings, released by Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Monday, IIT Madras also retained the first position in engineering for the ninth year since 2016. The Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru is the top institution under both the universities and research categories, retaining both positions since 2016 and 2021, respectively.

The ranks were given in 16 categories this year,

Top institutions in India

The table shows the top 10 overall institutions and Central and State universities, according to India Rankings, 2024. IIT-Madras secured the top spot in overall category

Ranks	Overall	Top universities	State universities
1	IIT-Madras	IISc, Bengaluru	Anna University
2	IISc, Bengaluru	Jawaharlal Nehru University	Jadavpur University
3	IIT-Bombay	Jamia Millia Islamia	Savitribai Phule University
4	IIT-Delhi	MAHE, Manipal	Calcutta University
5	IIT-Kanpur	Banaras Hindu University	Punjab University
6	IIT-Kharagpur	University of Delhi	Osmania University
7	AIIMS, Delhi	Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham	Andhra University
8	IIT-Roorkee	Aligarh Muslim University	Bharathiar University
9	IIT-Guwahati	Jadavpur University	Kerala University
10	JNU	Vellore Institute of Technology	CUSAT

three more than last year. Open universities, skill universities, and State public universities are the three new categories. Mr. Pradhan said the Ministry is considering "sustainability" as a criterion, probably from next year.

While the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad continued to be

the top management institute for the fifth consecutive year since 2020, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi is the best place to study medical sciences as it retained the top spot for the seventh consecutive year.

IIT Bombay is the best 'innovational institution' followed by IIT Madras and

IIT Delhi. IIT Roorkee retained its first position in architecture and planning for the fourth consecutive year. The National Law School of India University, Bengaluru was named the best law school for the seventh year in a row.

DU IN SIXTH PLACE
» PAGE 2

Sisodia precedent in focus as SC reserves verdict on former T.N. Minister's bail plea

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday said factors such as delayed and prolonged jail time, which favoured former Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia's case for bail in the excise policy case, are not applicable to former Tamil Nadu Minister V. Senthilbalaji, who is seeking bail in a money laundering case linked to a cash-for-jobs 'scam'.

A Bench headed by Justice A.S. Oka reserved Mr. Senthilbalaji's bail petition for judgment. The Bench drew the ED's attention to the Supreme Court judgment on August 9 allowing



V. Senthilbalaji

bail to Mr. Sisodia in the money laundering case. He had spent 17 months in jail. The apex court had said there was not even a remote chance of the trial getting under way, and bail could not be withheld as a punishment. The court had upheld speedy trial as a fundamental right.

But Solicitor-General

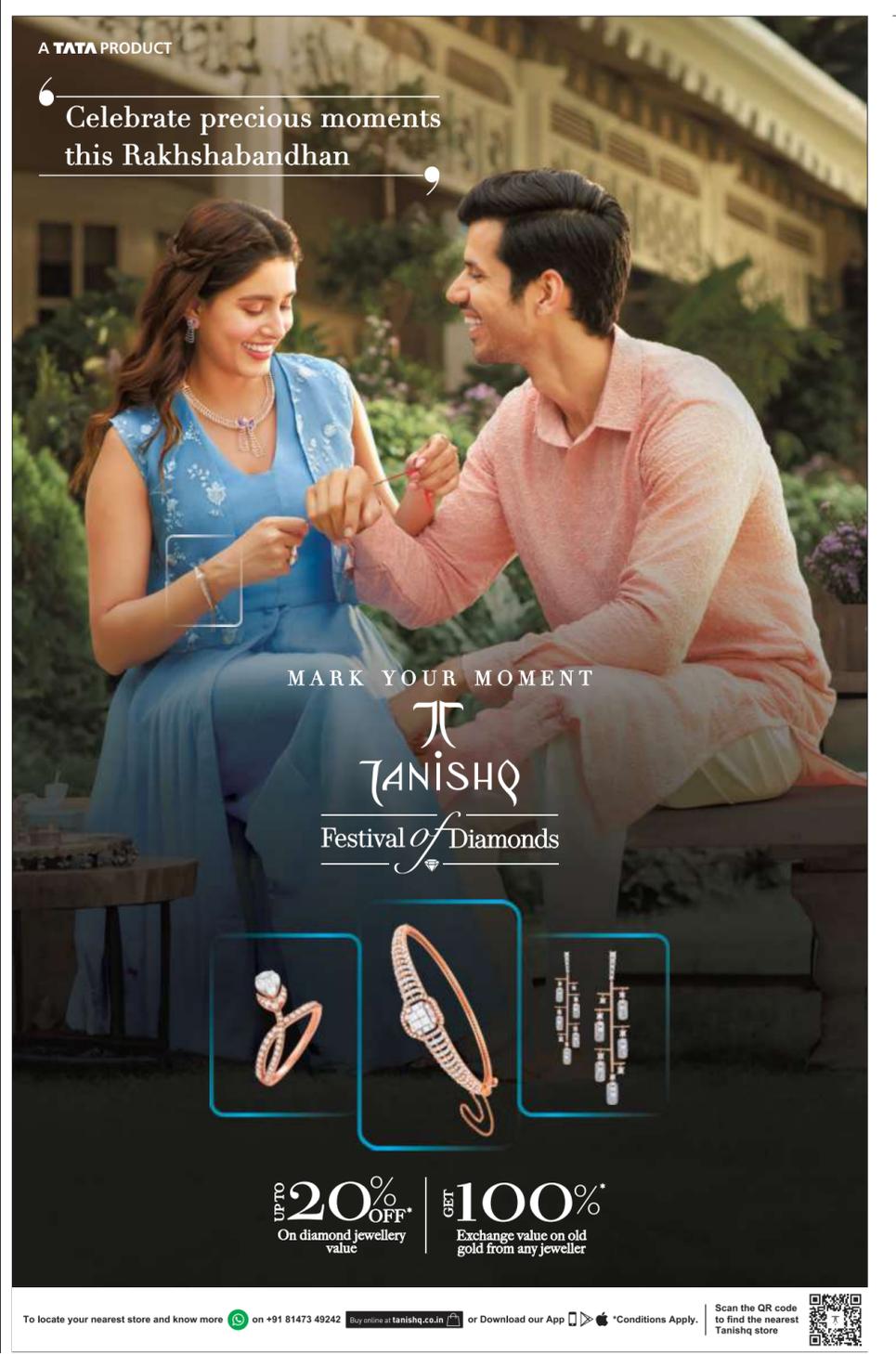
Tushar Mehta, for the ED, countered that Mr. Senthilbalaji was "hand-in-glove" with the State. The former Minister's brother was still absconding, witnesses in the case were turning hostile, and Mr. Senthilbalaji's influence was overwhelming, Mr. Mehta said. "His mere incarceration for a year and the potential of a delay in trial was not enough to grant him bail."

Senior advocate Guru Krishnakumar, intervening on behalf of one of the victims of the 'scam', said the delay in trial was due to lack of sanction by the State to try Mr. Senthilbalaji for corruption in public office. "The delay is due to

the accused himself... Please call upon the State to decide time limits for the trial," he argued.

Senior advocates Mukul Rohatgi and Siddharth Luthra, and advocate Ram Shanker, representing Mr. Senthilbalaji, said the opposite side was unfairly giving him an omniscient aura. "That I am behind the investigating officer, behind the witnesses, behind the State... behind everything," Mr. Rohatgi said.

He said the court had to decide primarily if Mr. Senthilbalaji's case was for bail. He had already spent over 300 days in jail and there was no word on when the trial would begin, he said.



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Atishi to hoist Tricolour on I-Day: Rai; directive 'unconstitutional', says BJP

Rai meets Kejriwal in jail, says CM wants Atishi to unfurl Tricolour in his place, tells General Administration Dept. to make preparations; jail officials term CM's letter to L-G over the issue an 'abuse of privileges', warn of action under prison rules

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Delhi General Administration Minister Gopal Rai on Monday instructed his department to make arrangements for the hoisting of the national flag by Finance Minister Atishi on Independence Day, a directive termed "unconstitutional" by the BJP.

"I had a meeting with Chief Minister [Arvind Kejriwal in Tihar Jail] today. He desires that Minister Atishi should hoist the flag



CM Arvind Kejriwal won't be able to hoist the Tricolour as he is lodged in jail. FILE PHOTO

on 15th August 2024 at the Chhatrasal stadium event in his place," Mr. Rai wrote to the department. The Minister issued the

instruction days after the Tihar Jail authorities withheld the CM's letter over the issue to Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena, terming the communication "abuse of privileges" under the prison rules.

"The undertrial prisoners are governed as per legal provisions of the Delhi Prison Rules, 2018... it is surprising to note that the contents of the letter, which was handed over by you on 6.8.2024, were leaked to the media without any authority," the jail authorities said in a note

on August 9, the content of which emerged in the public on Monday.

It stated that only private correspondence with a designated set of people is permissible under the rules, and the letter to the L-G office did not "qualify" for it.

The jail administration also asked the CM to desist from any such "impermissible activity" in future, failing which it warned of "invoking" provisions of the prison rules to "curtail" his privileges. Reacting to it, Delhi BJP

chief Virendra Sachdeva said the comments of the jail administration on the CM's letter show that he is not permitted to issue any governmental directives.

"As soon as the note from the Jail Superintendent surfaced, Rai issued a new misleading letter stating that as per the CM's instructions, Atishi would hoist the national flag," Mr. Sachdeva said.

"It is evident that Mr. Rai's letter is unconstitutional and invalid, and Atishi cannot hoist the national flag," he added.

DU colleges ask teachers to attend Centre's event on Partition horrors

Ashna Butani
NEW DELHI

Days after the Ministry of Culture invited Delhi University to participate in the 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day' programme on August 14, the university has asked colleges to send 20 teachers each to the event.

A few departments have made teachers' participation mandatory.

In its August 9 invite, the Ministry sought the participation of DU teachers and students, "especially those studying in postgraduate research courses and those in the second and third years of undergraduate courses", to

ensure "that the message of this event is disseminated among the youth".

DU professor Maya John termed the administration's call for the participation in the programme a "diktat".

When reached for a comment on the issue, Delhi University did not respond. However, a university official said, "Whenever the Centre organises such programmes, we are asked to participate and send a number of teachers. We then reach out to the colleges."

The official added, "There should be no issue regarding this event as teachers can participate and explore academic opportunities there."

JNUTA goes on strike over promotion process

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Jawaharlal Nehru University Teachers' Association (JNUTA) on Monday held a 24-hour hunger strike to protest alleged discrimination in the university's appointments and promotions policy under the Career Advancement Scheme. The teachers' union said in a statement that a "systematic practice of discrimination" against faculty members takes place on the basis of their social or religious backgrounds and their academic or ideological/political positions.

NIRF ranking: DU gets sixth place; JNU, JMI retain second, third spots

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Delhi University jumped five spots to enter the country's list of top 10 universities and secure sixth place in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) released by the Union Ministry of Education on Monday.

The last time DU was placed among the top 10

was in 2018. Last year, it secured the 11th position.

DU Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh said the improvement in the university's ranking was the result of teamwork. He added that six DU colleges had made it to the top 10, with Hindu College, Miranda House, and St. Stephen's College securing the first, second, and third spots, respectively.

Jawaharlal Nehru University and Jamia Millia Islamia continued to retain the second and third spots, respectively, in the NIRF. Other universities in Delhi that made it to the top 100 are Jamia Hamdard (40), Delhi Technological University (48), Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (80), and Netaji Subhas University of Technology (100).

बिहार सरकार

भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमण्डल, शेखपुरा

केवल ई. निविदा पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट एवं eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर ई०-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना-01 (SBD)/2024-25

कार्य का विवरणी :-

क्र. सं.	कार्य का नाम	प्रकल्पित राशि (रुपये)	अग्रघन की राशि (रुपये)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (रुपये)	बीड प्रोसेसिंग का मूल्य	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1.	व्यवहार न्यायालय, शेखपुरा में 10 पीओ ओओ आवास (G+5) के निर्माण कार्य (विद्युतीकरण सहित), वर्ष 2024-25	6,76,07,000/-	13,53,000/-	10000/-	As Per Website	12 माह

1. विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता :- कार्यपालक अभियंता, भवन प्रमण्डल, शेखपुरा।

2. निविदा आमंत्रण की तिथि :- दिनांक-07.08.2024

3. प्रिबीड मिति की तिथि समया एवं स्थान :- (क) दिनांक- 14.09.2024 को 3.00 बजे अखिल अभियंता, भवन प्रमण्डल, शेखपुरा। (ख) दिनांक- 20.09.2024 को 3.00 बजे मुख्य अभियंता (दक्षिण), भवन निर्माण विभाग, पटना।

4. परिमाण विपत्र (आरनलॉड करने) एवं निविदा जमा करने (अपलॉड करने) का अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :- दिनांक-08.09.2024 से दिनांक 30.09.2024 को 15:00 बजे तक।

5. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय (तकनीकी बीड) :- दिनांक- 01.10.2024 को 15:30 बजे तक।

6. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय (वित्तीय बीड) :- तकनीकी बीड का निष्पादन सक्षम प्राधिकार से होने के पश्चात्।

7. परिमाण विपत्र की विक्री स्थान :- वेबसाइट (eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

8. निविदा प्राप्ति का स्थान :- वेबसाइट (eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

9. निविदा वेबसाइट की तिथि :- 120 दिन

विस्तृत जानकारी एवं शर्तों के लिए वेबसाइट state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर देखा जा सकता है।

PR- 05845 (B C D) 2024-25 कार्यपालक अभियंता
नरो की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार। भवन प्रमण्डल, शेखपुरा।

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

ELECTRIC LOCO SHED GORAKHPUR

Online open e-tender are invited by Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRS/Electric Loco Shed/Gorakhpur/ North Eastern Railway, acting for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work. **Tender Notice No. : ELS-GKP-BOGIE-2023-rev** " Dismantling and Cleaning of Bogie Frame and its components of Electric Locomotives at Electric Loco Shed Gorakhpur for 02 Years." अनुमानित लागत (रु. में): ₹ 11,80,197.60 अग्रिम घन (रु. में): ₹ 23,600.00 Cost of Tender Form: ₹ 00 Contract Period : 24 Months. Offer can be uploaded by the tenderer, up to 15:00 Hrs. on 16.09.2024 and will be opened after 15:00 Hrs. on 16.09.2024. Detailed information, minimum eligibility criteria, Terms and Conditions regarding this e-tender are available at website www.ireps.gov.in Tenderer should check any correction/corrigendum related to this e-tender notice on the website before uploading their offer. DEETRS, Electric Loco Shed, CPRO/EL-109 Gorakhpur Do Not Smoke Bidi/Cigarette in train

Timings DELHI

TUESDAY, AUG. 13

RISE 05:50 SET 19:02
RISE 13:32 SET 23:57

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 14

RISE 05:51 SET 19:02
RISE 14:33 SET 00:00

THURSDAY, AUG. 15

RISE 05:51 SET 19:01
RISE 15:34 SET 00:43

Delhi Weather

max	min
Delhi City	32 25
Safdarjang	32 25
Palam	29 24

Delhi Palam Today
31°C Day will be slight warm with cloudy sky. Few spells of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower with gusty winds will occur.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
30°C The weather will be slight warm with cloudy sky. Night will be comfortable. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower to continue.

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THE HINDU

DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THE PUBLISHERS PVT. LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT e-Procurement Notice INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer Spiti Division, H.P.P.W.D. Kaza on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in 2 Cover System for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with HPPWD.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (In Rs.)	EMD. (In Rs.)	Time allowed	Eligible class of Contractor
1.	Construction of 4 Nos Type-II Residential for Civil Hospital at Kaza District L&S (SH-C/O Building portion, water supply & Sanitary Installation, Septic tank and soak pit thereof)	1,23,64,845/-	2,48,000/-	Two Year	Class A&B
2.	Construction of 2 Nos Type-III Residential for Civil Hospital at Kaza District L&S (SH-C/O Building portion, water supply & Sanitary Installation, Septic tank and soak pit thereof)	1,06,53,691/-	2,14,000/-	Two Year	Class B&C

Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: 1. The Bid document is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website <https://hptenders.gov.in>. Bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD may obtain the same from the website: <https://hptenders.gov.in>. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.

Key Dates:- 1. Date of Online Publication :-09/08/2024
2. Document Download Start and End Date:- 14/08/2024 at 11:30 AM up to 21/08/2024 at 10:00 AM
3. Bid Submission Start and End Date :- 14/08/2024 at 11:30 AM up to 21/08/2024 at 11:00 AM
4. Physical Submission of EMD and Cost of form and Tender Documents through offline mode up to 22/08/2024 at 2:30 PM
5. Date of Technical Bid opening (will be followed by Technical Evaluation of Bid and opening of Financial Bid):-22/08/2024 at 4:00 PM

TENDER DETAILS: The Tender Documents shall be uploaded online in 2 Cover. Cover 1: shall contain scanned copies of all "Technical Documents/ Eligibility Information". Cover 2: shall contain "BOQ/Financial Bid", where contractor will quote his offer for each item

SUBMISSION OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS: The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and other Technical Documents in O/o Executive Engineer Spiti B&R Division HPPWD Kaza as specified in Key Dates on Tender Opening Date, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.

Bid opening details 1. The bids shall be opened on 22/08/2024 at 4:00 PM in the office of Executive Engineer, Spiti B&R Division, HPPWD, Kaza by the authorized officer. In their interest the bidders are requested to be present at the time of opening of tenders. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on next working day at the same time and venue
2. The bid for the work shall be remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 120 days after the deadline date for bid submission.
3. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delays due system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bids updates, the employers shall not be liable for information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.
4. As per Govt. Notification PW/CTR/32-20 Genl Int-CPWD/2020-37996-38095 Dated 13/03/2023 the tenders above 5% of amount put to tenders will be summarily rejected and tenders up to below 30% of amount put to tender will also be accepted

- TERMS AND CONDITIONS :-**
- The Contractor / Firm shall have his /their PAN, GST Number & Copy of the same be attached with the application
 - The intending Contractor / Firm should have attached copy of registration/ renewal, copy of registration under EPF & miscellaneous provision Act, 1952 with application.
 - The intending contractors are requested to see the site of the work before submitting the tender.
 - Tender document shall be issued to those contractors / firm who submitted the certificate from Executive Engineer concerned to the affect that he has completed successfully similar nature of works during last three year in respect of tarring works.
 - Work done 40% similar nature for building work.
 - The tender shall be to the lowest bidder without any negotiation if his tendered amount is within limit of (+) 5% of the amount put to tender, otherwise the tender will be cancelled and recalled.
 - All the required materials like Cement/ Steel/ Bitumen/ Explosive etc. shall be arranged by contractor at his own level.
 - Bid security of L1, L2, & L3 shall be retained till the finalization of the offer of the lowest bidder or 120 days whichever is earlier.
 - No sub letting of work as a whole by the bidder is permissible.
 - The undersigned has right to accept or reject the bids without assigning / declaring any reason thereof.
 - Application without all documents will not be entertained.
 - Proxy application will not be entertained.
 - If it happen to be holiday on the date of opening the bids as specified the bids will be opened on the next working days at the same time and no separate notice will be given in this regard.
 - The department has right to extend or cancel the bids without declaring any reason thereof.
 - Evaluation of the technical bids shall be followed by opening of financial bids.
 - Physical submission of EMD and cost of form and tender documents on or before 22/08/2024 at 2.30 PM
 - The bidders must note that time is the essence of work and the stipulated time allowed includes harsh winter season in Spiti also. Therefore limited working season in Spiti valley shall not be considered an impediment in execution of work within stipulated time.
 - The bidders are advised to note other details of tender from the department website. www.hptenders.gov.in.

Executive Engineer,
Spiti B&R Division,
HPPWD Kaza.

HP/ 1396/24-25 HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPAK (On Behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh)

GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION SPECIAL PROJECTS DEPARTMENT

e-TENDER NOTICE e-Tender is invited for the following work in Two Cover System as per details furnished below.

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INTERZOID 2024

Delhi Public School Ghaziabad Vasundhara (DPSGV) continues their tradition of fostering holistic development through their annual 'Interzoid' event. This year's Interzoid, an evolution of the Mega Quiz and Tech Contest, saw over 500 students participating across junior and senior categories. Chief Guest Mr. Rohit Pathak, Chairman of DPSG Vasundhara, highlighted the event's role in shaping young minds. Principal Dr. Vinod Kumar praised the students' dedication and creativity, emphasising the event's importance in nurturing diverse talents and preparing them for future challenges.

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Presentation Convent Sr. Sec. School, Delhi-6, hosted the Sr Martha Crean Memorial Inter-School Fiesta, a vibrant three-day event featuring 15 esteemed Delhi schools. The Fiesta included debates, basketball, SDG-Champions, La Literati, EnvironMasquerade, and Movie Magic. The event concluded with a grand ceremony where Ms. Sangeeta Munjal and Ms. Dharna Durga, alumnae of the school, presented awards. Mater Dei School won the overall trophy. The Fiesta showcased exceptional talent, fostering camaraderie and inspiring students through diverse skills and creativity.

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OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

With great sadness we announce the loss of our beloved father

D. Ramamoorthy
Retired stores executive
(The Hindu) on 11.08.2024 at 9.15 pm at his residence.
His sons
R. Balajee 9840703543
R. Ramkumar 9840711133

DEATH

D. RAMAMOORTHY (86), Retired Stores Executive, The Hindu, Chennai passed away on 11-August-2024. Addr: Old No.4, New No.7, Shanmuga Vilas, Muthappa Street, Shenoy Nagar Post, Chennai-600030. Ct. 98407 03543

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पुलिस अधीक्षक का कार्यालय, गुमला

(गुमथदा की तलाश)



सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि पीड़िता मुक्ता टोपो, उम्र 14 वर्ष 05 महीने इजीनियरिंग टोपो ग्राम पुन्डी, थाना जारी, जिला गुमला (आरखण्ड) जो माह अप्रैल 2014 में अंतिम बार रोहकत (हरियाणा) में देखा गया था। जिसके संबंध में अहलु थाना कांड सं 14/21 दिनांक 28.08.21 दर्ज कर खोजबीन की जा रही है। जिसका रंग साबला, शरीर सामान्य, बाल काला, भाशा सादरी एवं हिन्दी बोलती है। इनकी खोजबीन हेतु जनता का सहयोग अपेक्षित है। उपरोक्त सूचना को सार्वजनिक किया जाना आवश्यक है।

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IN BRIEF



SP names six in-charges for U.P. Assembly byelections

Samajwadi Party on Monday announced its in-charges for six out of 10 Assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh where byelections are to be held. While party national general secretary Shivpal Singh Yadav will be in-charge of Katehari seat, Faizabad MP Awadhesh Prasad and Leader of Opposition in U.P. Legislative Council Lal Bihari Yadav will be in-charge of Milkipur seat, a senior SP leader said. MP Virendra Singh has been given charge of Majhwa seat, ex-Minister Chandradev Yadav will be in-charge of Karhal, MLA Indrajeet Saroj will be in-charge of Phulpur seat and MLA Rajendra Kumar will be in-charge of Sishamau seat, he said. PTI

Women Sakhi workers stage protest over their demands

Demanding status of government employee and salary, hundreds of women from Uttar Pradesh working under the BC Sakhi (Banking Correspondent) Yojna held a protest in Lucknow on Monday. They were detained when they tried to storm the U.P. Assembly. The women workers alleged that the U.P. government is organising different events to mark the Independence Day, but silent on rightful demands of the needy people. The police first tried to stop the march which started from Charbagh, but when the protesters did not agree, they were detained before they reaching they U.P. Assembly.

Rajasthan govt. under fire for lack of clarity over Disaster Relief Minister's resignation amid crisis

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

The Opposition Congress in Rajasthan on Monday criticised the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government over the lack of clarity on Disaster Relief Minister Kirodi Lal Meena's resignation amid heavy rain occurring in several parts of the State. Over 25 persons have died because of rain and related accidents in the State.

No decision yet
Mr. Meena, 72, a veteran tribal leader, had tendered his resignation last month, taking responsibility for the BJP's below-par performance in the 2024 Lok Sabha election in the State, and the defeat at four of the seven seats put under his charge. The party's central leadership is yet to take a decision on the acceptance of his papers.



Rajasthan Cabinet Minister Kirodi Lal Meena. FILE PHOTO

While Mr. Meena has refused to withdraw his resignation and stopped attending his office, Congress leader and former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said it was unfortunate that the public did not know during the disaster situation whether Mr. Meena was in office or his resignation had been accepted. "Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma needs to clarify the situation so that proper monitoring may be ensured and directions given

Kolkata rape-murder sparks doctors' strike across cities

OPDs and routine surgeries impacted in several govt. hospitals; emergency services to operate as usual, say resident doctors; protesters are also demanding adequate security for medical staff

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

Medical services across multiple cities were disrupted on Monday as resident doctors from government hospitals held protests against the rape and murder of a trainee doctor while on duty at the R.G. Kar Medical College in Kolkata. Demanding a time-bound probe into the matter, doctors suspended their work, paralysing elective services including outpatient departments (OPDs) and non-emergency surgeries. Doctors in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and several other cities have announced that all elective services would be stalled till the probe is completed. The protesters are also demanding adequate security for all medical staff.

Ensure protection

The protests come in response to a nationwide indefinite strike call by the Federation of Resident Doctors' Association (FORDA) in solidarity with their colleagues in West Bengal, where junior doctors, interns, and postgraduate trainees at go-



In solidarity: Medical students and doctors take part in a candlelight protest in Mumbai on Monday. PTI

vernment medical establishments across the State vowed to continue their agitation, now in its fourth day, until the culprits are brought to justice.

The body of the 32-year-old trainee doctor was found on the morning of August 9 in the seminar hall of the government-run hospital, where she was on night duty on August 8.

According to the FORDA, during the indefinite strike, OPDs, operation theatres, and ward duties will be shut, but emergency services will continue to operate as usual.

In Delhi, OPD and rou-

tine surgeries were impacted in several government hospitals, including the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Safdarjung Hospital, and Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences.

In Chandigarh, resident doctors of the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) took out a protest march under the banner of the Association of Resident Doctors (ARD), PGIMER. Hundreds of resident doctors suspended their regular work and staged a peaceful rally in Jammu. (With inputs from PTI)

healthcare service personnel.

In Mumbai, the Maharashtra State Association of Resident Doctors (MARD) stated, "In solidarity with our colleagues, we support the nationwide halting of elective services. Resident doctors at Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation-run Cooper, KEM, Nair and Sion hospitals (BMC MARD) also announced indefinite strike, a statement said.

In Uttar Pradesh's capital Lucknow, protests were held at the King George's Medical University (KGMU), Kalyan Singh Super Speciality Cancer Institute (KSSSCI) and Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences.

In Chandigarh, resident doctors of the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) took out a protest march under the banner of the Association of Resident Doctors (ARD), PGIMER. Hundreds of resident doctors suspended their regular work and staged a peaceful rally in Jammu.

(With inputs from PTI)

SEE ALSO
» PAGE 11

Will support Centre if it extends quota to Marathas: Pawar

Snehal Mutha
MUMBAI



NCP(SP) chief Sharad Pawar

Under pressure from Maratha reservation protesters over clearing his stand, Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) chief Sharad Pawar on Monday said he will back the Centre if it decides to extend quota benefits to the community by going beyond the 50% ceiling. "The power to cross the 50% ceiling on reservation lies with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government at the Centre, and if it decides to extend the limit and provide the quota to the Maratha community, I will support the move," he said, putting the ball in the Centre's court.

On Sunday, protesters had stopped Mr. Pawar's convoy in Solapur's Barshi town, waved black flags and raised slogans in support of quota activist Manoj Jarange-Patil. Following this, Maratha Kranti Thok Morcha co-ordinator Ramesh Kere Patil led a 'Jawab Do' protest in front of Mr. Pawar's house in Pune on Monday.

Mr. Patil slammed the ruling Mahayuti alliance as well as the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi for 'using' the Maratha reservation is-

sue for their political gains. "If parties don't clear their stance, we will boycott the Assembly election," he said while extending support to Mr. Jarange-Patil's Maratha reservation demand.

Mr. Pawar on Monday also urged Chief Minister Eknath Shinde to conduct an all-party meeting and invite Mr. Jarange-Patil and Other Backward Classes (OBC) leaders such as Chhagan Bhujbal to discuss the reservation issue.

Legal complexities

"All political parties in Maharashtra should come together and urge the Centre for removal of the cap. If the policy is changed, the Opposition will cooperate," the NCP (SP) leader said, pointing to the legal complexities involved and citing the example of Tamil Nadu, which has reservations beyond 50%.

'Women can be tried for penetrative sexual assault on children'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Criminal proceedings can be initiated against a woman for committing the offence of "penetrative sexual assault" on a child, the Delhi High Court has said, noting that the offence is not restricted to only men.

The court made the observation on August 9 while hearing a plea by an accused in a case lodged under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. The accused had argued that since she was a woman, the offences of "penetrative sexual assault" and "aggravated penetrative sexual assault" can't be made out against her.

The public prosecutor had contended that the POCSO Act is a gender-neutral legislation and holds perpetrators, regardless of their gender, accountable

for sexual offences against minors.

Agreeing with it, the Bench of Justice Anup Jairam Bhambhani said the POCSO Act was enacted to protect children from sexual offences "regardless of whether an offence is committed upon a child by a man or a woman".

"There is no reason why the word person appearing in Section 3 of the POCSO Act should be read as referring only to a male," the court said.

The court held that the word "he" appearing in the POCSO Act cannot be given a restrictive meaning, to say that it refers only to a "male". "It must be given its intended meaning, namely that it includes within its ambit any offender irrespective of their gender," it said, adding that the petitioner can be put to trial for the offences as charged.

Teachers' federation issues appeal not to come to school drunk after one case too many

Shubhomoy Sikdar
JASHPUR (CHHATTISGARH)

"School is our temple and education is our religion, and when it comes to religion and temple, consuming alcohol within those limits is a sin. I request that no teacher should come to school drunk from today onwards..."

Troubling trend

This impassioned plea comes from a teachers' body in Jashpur district of Chhattisgarh, as the State grapples with a troubling trend: an increasing number of incidents where teachers have reported to duty under the influence of alcohol. Ajay Gupta, the president of the Jashpur unit of the Chhattisgarh Sahayak Shikshak/Samagra Shikshak Federation [Chhattisgarh Assistant Teachers/All Teachers Federation] -

a registered body that counts nearly one lakh teachers as its members - says they issued the appeal last week taking note of the rising number of such cases.

On August 7, Romanus Kujur, the principal of a school in Jashpur's Farsabhar, reported drunk and created a ruckus. A video that went viral showed him engaged in a heated argument with a fellow teacher. He was suspended subsequently. In July, one such case was reported in Kabirdham district.

FIR registered

Similarly in Bilaspur, the video of an assistant teacher drinking alcohol in a primary school had gone viral in March which also led to the registration of an FIR. In Jashpur itself, there was another alleged incident in which a teacher and his

brother had both gone to the school intoxicated. It is alleged that the inebriated brother had assaulted a Class V student for merely asking him the time and addressing him as 'Bhaiya', a common way of addressing elders.

'Mahua very common'

Ramprakash Pandey, a lawyer-cum-social activist from Jashpur, says there is also the question of easy availability of alcohol. "In the tribal areas, mahua liquor is easily made and stored. The excise laws give provide some exemptions as far as storage and sale of such liquor in tribal areas is concerned. This encourages consumption."

Manish Mishra, the State president of the teachers' federation, says they would issue similar appeals in other areas as well.

Rescued bonded labourer builds school for underprivileged children

Mohammed Iqbal
JAIPUR

Having emerged as a role model for the tribal community, a survivor of bonded labour and trafficking has established a community school for underprivileged children at his native village in Rajasthan's Rajsamand district.

The school is catering to children in the age group of 4 to 16 years who have been deprived of the benefits of formal education system.

Khemraj Gameti, who supervises the school's functioning from a building of the Pachhmata village panchayat, was confined to a brick kiln along with his wife and a daughter in a neighbouring village for four years. The family was forced to work because of Mr. Gameti's fai-

lure to return ₹40,000 which he had borrowed from the brick kiln's owner to repay some of his debts.

Mr. Gameti and some other adults like him were exploited at the kiln, situated in Kunwariya village, working for 18 hours a day and not paid the prescribed minimum wages. The children's job was to turn the bricks as they dried in the sun, to make them dry evenly. Together as a family, they were only paid ₹500 to ₹800 for the whole week in spite of making 1,500 bricks a day.

Rescued after raid

Even after years of work, the owner said the advance was not paid off and did not allow the family to leave the kiln under the threat of violence. Mr. Gameti and the family members were rescued in a raid



Rescued bonded labourer Khemraj Gameti (in cream shirt) at his school in Rajasthan's Rajsamand district. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

conducted by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate and the police in April 2016, when a total of 24 persons were saved from the bonded labour at the site.

The State government issued 13 release certificates to the adult labourers after an inquiry and booked the brick kiln owner under Section 370 (traf-

ficking of persons) of Indian Penal Code, the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, and the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

Ever since his release, Mr. Gameti, 43, has been generating awareness about bonded labour among the villagers and asking them to combat traf-

ficking with sustained efforts. Six months ago, he came up with an idea of founding a school for his Bhil community in Pachhmata, as the only upper primary government school in the region is far away from the village and is not easily accessible.

Project supervisor

Mr. Gameti told *The Hindu* that he conducted a survey in the village to understand the requirements of underprivileged children who had never been to school before. He established the school with the help of Udaipur-based Gayatri Seva Sansthan as part of its Shikshalaya Project. As many as 30 children from the Bhil community study in the school, with Mr. Gameti acting as a supervisor for the project.

"Over time, these chil-

dren will be enrolled in regular schools or colleges as needed. A teacher, who comes every day from the nearby Basanta villages, takes care of the children as a group, giving them lessons and clarifying their doubts," Mr. Gameti said. The children are a happy lot, as they are getting education for the first time.

Gayatri Seva Sansthan's director Shailendra Pandya said the innovative Shikshalaya Project was facilitating overall development of children in the targeted villages of four tribal-dominated districts in southern Rajasthan, where there was no basic facility even for primary education. A total of 304 community schools are at present functioning in Rajsamand, Udaipur, Salumbar and Pratapgarh districts.

'Peacock curry recipe' lands YouTuber from Telangana in soup

Press Trust of India
HYDERABAD

A case has been registered against a YouTuber for allegedly uploading a video on 'peacock curry recipe' on his channel, in Telangana's Rajanna Sircilla district. The YouTuber, apparently to garner more views for his channel, resorted to the act, a forest official said, based on preliminary investigation.

Home raided

Upon receiving information that a man posted a video on his channel on how to cook peacock curry, a team of forest officials reached Tangallapalli vil-

The curry sample has been sent to a lab for forensic analysis and investigation is on. A case has been filed against the man

lage and recovered the curry from the man's house. The curry sample has been sent to a lab for forensic analysis and investigation is on.

Video taken down

A case was registered against the YouTuber on Sunday. After animal rights activists raised the issue the video was also taken down.

Delhi CM moves SC for bail in CBI excise case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday moved the Supreme Court for bail in a corruption case registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in connection with the excise policy case. Appearing before Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, in an oral mentioning, sought a hearing on Tuesday.

The Chief Justice asked Mr. Kejriwal's lawyers to send an email to him to consider the urgency for listing.

Earlier in August, the Delhi High Court had confirmed the legality of Mr. Kejriwal's arrest by the CBI. Refusing to quash his arrest, the HC had advised him to approach the trial court for bail. The CBI had portrayed Mr. Kejriwal as the "mastermind" of the alleged scam. They said he was an influential person who could sway the witnesses in his favour.

SEE ALSO
» PAGE 10

Tungabhadra repairs on, water diverted to canals

Deputy Chief Minister says authorities striving to save some 60 tmcft of water so that farmers could get water to support at least one crop in the year; Karnataka to form dam safety committee

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After a crest gate of Tungabhadra dam was washed away on Saturday, the Karnataka government has decided to constitute a dam safety committee to study the safety aspects of all the reservoirs in the State.

Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar, who also holds the Major Irrigation portfolio, said the proposed committee would submit its report within a month.

Mr. Shivakumar, who inspected the Tungabhadra dam site, said the repairs started in the early hours of Monday.

Explaining the processes involved, he said the Tungabhadra Irrigation Board comprises members from the Centre and the three riparian States. Information related to the snapping of the chain link of the gates had been



Water wastage: Officials had to increase discharge to 98,000 cusecs by opening all 32 gates at the Tungabhadra reservoir to reduce pressure on the broken gate. SRIDHAR KAVALI

passed on to all the members soon after the incident came to light, besides discussing the issue with experts who had worked on dam safety.

As per their suggestion, the relevant map of the dam had been obtained to help the crest gate makers to understand the requirements.

"I have spoken to the

Jindal factory that makes the gates and they have commenced repair work on Monday," he said.

Though it was necessary to reduce the storage to complete the repairs, the authorities were striving to save 50 tmcft to 60 tmcft of water so that farmers could get water to support at least one crop in the year, he noted.

Broken crest gate dashes farmers' hope

Kumar Buradikatti
KALABURAGI

The farmers in the Tungabhadra command area in Koppal, Raichur, Ballari, and Vijayanagara districts were a delighted lot till the weekend, as the reservoir was full, thanks to the good monsoon in the catchment area, especially in the Sahyadri range. However, the snapping of a crest gate on Saturday has shattered their hopes overnight.

As much as 35,000 cusecs of water began gushing through the broken gate. The authorities raised the remaining 32 gates to discharge water to reduce the pressure. As per experts, the repairs can be taken up only after half of the water is drained. s

CBI, ED reply sought on Kavitha's bail plea

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday sought the responses of the Central Bureau of Investigation and

the Enforcement Directorate in a plea for bail filed by BRS leader K. Kavitha in two cases of corruption and money laundering linked to the Delhi excise policy case.

A Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and K.V. Viswanathan issued notice to both Central agencies on the bail pleas of Ms. Kavitha. The case is posted for hearing on August 20.

Bank to write off loans of Wayanad landslide survivors

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Bank has decided on Monday to write off loans taken from its Chooralmala branch by the victims and survivors of the devastating landslides in

Wayanad. The decision was taken by the governing council of the bank.

It had contributed ₹50 lakh to the Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund following the catastrophe. In addition to this, the bank staff had voluntarily contribut-

ed five days' salary to the CMDRF.

The State government had announced that a special meeting of the State Level Bankers Committee would meet soon to discuss the outstanding loans of the survivors.

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Har Pal Aapke Saath



Kashmir file

J&K needs a participatory democratic set-up to deal with people's needs

The recent two-day visit by a team of the Election Commission of India (ECI), led by the Chief Election Commissioner, Rajiv Kumar, to Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) – its second since March to meet representatives of political parties and the local administration – comes amid the growing chorus from regional parties to hold elections to the 90-seat Assembly of the five-year-old Union Territory (UT). In its December 2023 judgment on Article 370, the Supreme Court was specific in its direction on holding elections in J&K. The Court had noted that “direct elections to legislative assemblies cannot be put on hold until Statehood is restored” and directed the ECI to conduct elections in J&K by September 30, 2024. The erstwhile State of J&K was bifurcated into two UTs, and its special status scrapped in 2019. J&K saw its last Assembly election in 2014. After the collapse of the coalition government of the Peoples’ Democratic Party-Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in 2018, J&K has not had a representative government. The Centre should be buoyed by the faith shown by voters in the Lok Sabha elections held in April-May this year. Voters chose to depart from the previous trend, especially in the Kashmir Valley, of election boycotts, and instead posted a historic turnout of 58% in five Lok Sabha seats. Since 1990, J&K’s voting percentage had never crossed the 50% mark. Therefore, holding Assembly elections will be a statement of confidence by the Centre. It will also be a positive reciprocation to voter enthusiasm. The Centre has been accused by several rights groups of curtailing democratic processes in J&K since its semi-autonomous status ended in 2019. Allowing people to choose their representatives will be a major step towards ensuring the restoration and the building up of political processes. Recurrent militant attacks in J&K point to the fact that a lot of work is still required to attain complete peace in J&K. However, making elections subservient to the security situation will only make the Centre hostage to the whims of terrorists. On the one hand, the Centre needs to further its efforts to deal with militancy, while on the other, kick off political processes. Assembly elections can turn out to be a democratic instrument to ensure that any sense of alienation does not get amplified and exploited by the enemies of the country. J&K needs to have a participatory democratic set-up in place to deal with issues such as growing unemployment, electricity crisis, and poor health infrastructure. These elections have the potential to act as a healing process for a place wounded by over three decades of conflict.

More and better

States must develop capacity to conduct testing and sequencing of viruses

Since the Zika outbreak began on June 20, when the first case was reported from Pune, confirmed cases have been slowly but steadily rising. As of August first week, Maharashtra has reported 88 confirmed cases. Pune city, the epicentre, alone accounts for 73 cases, while six are from Pune rural. Of the total number reported so far, at 37, pregnant women alone account for half the number of confirmed infections. Though rare, people with Zika virus infection run a risk of suffering from Guillain-Barré syndrome, a neurological disorder in which the immune system mistakenly attacks part of the peripheral nervous system. But a more harmful effect is seen in pregnant women who run a risk of giving birth to babies with a smaller than average head size, called microcephaly, and other neurological impairments. As in a January 2023 paper in *The Lancet Regional Health - Americas*, a meta-analysis of babies born to 1,548 pregnant women infected with the Zika virus, from 13 studies in Brazil between 2015 and 2017, found the absolute risk of microcephaly to be 6.6% either at birth or during follow-up. Babies also had 18.7% absolute risk of suffering from functional neurological abnormalities, and a relatively smaller risk of neuroimaging, ophthalmic and auditory abnormalities. There was also a significant risk of premature birth (10.5%), low birth weight and small for gestational age (16.2%). Less known is the risk of sexual transmission of the virus by infected men due to the presence of potentially infectious virus in their semen for at least two months. It is hence important for infected men, especially those planning a family, to be made aware of the risk as well as recommend measures to prevent viral transmission to women for at least three months, as in the U.S. CDC guidelines.

Given the harmful effects of the virus, it is shocking that the Pune-based ICMR lab ramped up testing only after the publication of news about the Pune Municipal Corporation planning to send samples to a government medical college instead to cut the delay in testing. As Kerala just demonstrated in the latest outbreak of the Nipah virus, and as Gujarat learnt it the hard way in the ongoing Chandipura virus outbreak and acute encephalitis syndrome cases, it is becoming increasingly important and necessary that States develop the capacity to conduct high-quality testing and sequencing of viruses that cause frequent and deadly outbreaks. From the time that the first suspected case is observed, the reduction in the lead time to test results is the key to instituting timely public health responses that can limit the virus spread and stop an outbreak. The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the advantages of decentralised testing and sequencing, and this should be replicated for every pathogen that causes deadly outbreaks.

Disinformation, AI and ‘cyber chakravayuh’

The year 2024 had dawned with forebodings of a new wave of security threats, and security specialists the world over, had braced for a wave of attacks along a wide spectrum. Their concerns essentially stemmed from fears arising out of new threats posed by Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its different manifestations, including Generative AI and Artificial General Intelligence (AGI). Together with the expanding horizons of disinformation and cyber threats, the outlook seemed distinctly gloomy.

The 33rd Summer Olympic Games in France, during July-August 2024, were seen as a real and tempting target for digital, including cyber and other criminals. Experts across the world were, hence, bracing themselves for digital attacks of a kind they had not encountered hitherto, quite apart from those launched by known terror groups.

Such fears were not unfounded, given the rising profile of both AI and cyber, and the consequential increase in disinformation attacks. Several months down the road, the absence of any spectacular attack has been a relief. This is no reason to relax the vigil as newer variations of digital threats are beginning to emerge. The Paris Games ended peacefully, but eternal vigilance is still the price that security agencies need to pay to ensure proper safety. Undoubtedly, an Olympic Games of this size passing off without a major incident is indeed a triumph for security managers engaged in providing security for the Games, yet vigil can hardly be relaxed.

The year so far

It might be worthwhile to look back and see what did, or did not, happen in 2024. The year started seeming to confirm the prognosis that 2024 may well be the year when the world confronts a cornucopia of security threats. Disinformation was already having a field day in the run up to the elections in Taiwan in January 2024, and the atmosphere was loaded with fake posts and videos, causing widespread confusion. This was attributed to China, but we live in a world today where nothing is what it seems. What was, however, evident was that the advent of AI seemed to have made it far easier to spread disinformation cloaked in the garb of reality. AI was the principal, though not, perhaps, the sole culprit.

It is indeed true that spreading disinformation has become far easier with the advent of AI. Deep fakes, comprising digitally manipulated video, audio, or images, repeatedly hit the headlines today, causing a miasma of disinformation. The truth is revealed much later – and after the damage has been done.

Yet, there is not enough comprehension today, about the threat posed by AI generated or other types of deep fakes. Together with cyber attacks, the world needs to realise that we face a new and grim reality which cannot be ignored any longer. National security stands imperilled by these



M.K. Narayanan

a former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser, and a former Governor of West Bengal

newer threats. But even when it manifests itself, there is not enough comprehension of what is taking place. A combination of cyber attacks and AI-enabled disinformation had and is still, causing grave havoc in the conflict in Ukraine. Ukraine is a good case study of how two sides in a conflict could employ disinformation – including AI-enabled disruption – against one another, to each other’s disadvantage. Together with cyber attacks, this has led to major disruptions in critical infrastructure, including telecommunications and power grids.

The CrowdStrike outage as ‘preview’

The world had a preview last month of what could happen, or is in store, in the event of a massive cyberattack, whether AI-enabled or otherwise. A ‘glitch’ in a software update concerning Microsoft Windows caused a massive outage, which initially affected parts of the United States, but rapidly spread to different parts of the globe, including India. It disrupted flight operations, air traffic, stock exchanges and more. The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-IN) issued a severity rating of ‘critical’ for the incident. This was, however, not a cyberattack, but it provided a preview of the kind of disruption that could take place in the event of a cyberattack. According to Microsoft, over eight million Windows devices failed, leading to global disruption on a massive scale.

Human memory tends to be short, and it may be necessary to remind the world about some of the better known cyberattacks in the past, which caused mayhem across the globe. The world may, or may not, remember the widespread disruption that occurred in 2017 in the wake of the WannaCry ransomware attack employing the WannaCry ransomware cryptoworm, which infected well over 2,30,000 computers in 150 countries, resulting in damage amounting to billions of dollars. The same year witnessed another cyberattack using the Shamoon Computer Virus which was directed mainly against oil companies such as SA ARAMCO (Saudi Arabia) and RasGas (Qatar), and was labelled, at the time, as the ‘biggest hack in history’. Again, around the same period, a cyberattack involving the ‘Petya’ Malware severely affected banks, electricity grids and a host of other institutions across Europe and the United Kingdom, as also the U.S. and Australia.

Few cyberattacks have, however, had a more devastating impact than that caused by the Stuxnet ‘attack’ in 2010. Over 2,00,000 computers were impacted and physically degraded as a result. Stuxnet was a malicious computer worm, believed to have been in development for nearly five years, and specifically targeting supervisory control and data acquisition systems. The target in this case was the Iran nuclear programme, leading to the inference that it was state sponsored. What is now known is that Stuxnet’s design and architecture is not domain specific, but could be

This year may well be the one when the world confronts a cornucopia of security threats

The top court as custodian of liberties

Former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia’s enlargement on bail by the Supreme Court of India, after an unconscionably long incarceration, is a welcome vindication of the apex court’s remit as custodian of individual liberties. In an eloquent exposition of its mandate, the Court reiterated that ‘a constitutional court has to lean in favour of constitutionalism and the rule of law of which liberty is an intrinsic part.’

Citing its judgment in *Arnab Manoranjan Goswami vs The State of Maharashtra and Ors.* (2020), it reaffirmed that ‘liberty across human eras is as tenacious as tenacious can be’. Reiterating the salutary constitutional principle expounded as early as 1977 by Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer, that bail is the rule and jail an exception, the Court reaffirmed that the right to fair and speedy trial was implicit in the right to life under Article 21. It concluded that this right was denied to Mr. Sisodia.

Earlier observations

In arriving at its conclusions, the Court relied on the observations of the Court in its first order of October 30, 2023 (*Manish Sisodia vs Central Bureau of Investigation*), and also the submissions advanced before it in the first round, averting particularly to the 56,000 pages of documents and 456 witnesses (at that stage which, numbers were subsequently increased) in the two cases – and which the Court felt could delay the trial and conclusion of the case inordinately. It also referred to and relied upon several of its judgments, from *Kashmira Singh* (1977) till the later decisions – (in *P. Chidambaram* (2020) and *Satender Kumar Antil* (2022) – on the accused’s right to speedy trial. To these could be added the Court’s decision in *Sheikh Javed Iqbal* (2024).

Stating further that the constitutional mandate must prevail as the higher law, the apex court ruled, in *Manish Sisodia vs Directorate of Enforcement*, purposively that ‘the right to bail in cases of delay, coupled with incarceration for a



Ashwani Kumar

Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India and a former Union Minister for Law and Justice

The Manish Sisodia case raises the question whether the liberty of individuals can be held hostage to the benevolence or sense of fairness of the prosecutor alone

long period, depending on the nature of the allegations, should be read into Section 439 Cr.PC and Section 45 of the PMLA [Prevention of Money Laundering Act].

In its entirety, the judgment must gladden the hearts of libertarians, considering the troubling and persistent apprehensions about the weaponising of the stringent penal laws in the country, and concerns about the oppressive application and implementation of the PMLA. Taking cognisance of the information furnished to Parliament recently, the Court noticed that out of the over 5,000 cases brought under the PMLA in the last 10 years, only 40 cases resulted in convictions. In his statement in the Rajya Sabha, the Minister of State for Finance disclosed that ‘the ED filed 15 enforcement case information reports (ECIRs) in 2019, followed by 28 in 2020, 26 in 2021, 34 in 2022, 26 in 2023 and three in 2024 as on July 31. Only one conviction in the cases was reported to have been made in 2020.

Clearly, the processes of our criminal justice system, leading to endless delays, are oppressive, with procedure itself being the punishment. The reality of the technicalities of procedural laws defeating justice has been judicially recognised and eloquently summed up as ‘the mortality of justice at the hands of law’ – *Sushil Kumar Sen* (1975); *Rani Kusum* (2005).

A caveat

Notwithstanding its unexceptionable constitutional merit, the judgment begs a troubling question. Was it right for the Court, consistent with its other observations in the first round, to condone the custodial confinement of the accused based on the statement of the prosecution that the trial would be completed within six to eight months? Or to extend the detention of the accused on the basis of the prosecuting counsel’s statement recorded in the Court’s second order of June 4, 2024 that the complaint/charge sheet would be filed on or before July 3, 2024? In a sense, does this not

tailored for attacking most modern systems in use.

Growing cyber threats

While the potential threat posed by AI disinformation looms large across the global landscape, for ordinary individuals, cyber is already a persisting threat. The number of victims of cyber fraud and cyber hacking has grown exponentially in recent years. Our day-to-day existence is threatened by fraudsters posing as delivery company agents and making delivery attempts, and, in the process, obtaining personal information for malicious use.

There is today a rising curve of false credit card transactions, obtaining personal information in the process to defraud unwitting individuals. Compromising business e-mails is on the increase. One of the most widespread cyber frauds is ‘phishing’, that involves stealing personal information such as customer ID, credit/debit card numbers, and even PIN. The list is extensive and extends to ‘spamming’ as well (where someone receives unsolicited commercial messages sent through one of the many electronic messaging systems). ‘Identity theft’ is among the most serious dangers that has now become widespread.

Across the democratic world, governments are seeking to put in place proper systems to deal with digital threats. Industry and private institutions, however, appear to be lagging behind. It is the latter segment that is, perhaps, the most vulnerable to digital attacks. Having in place firewalls, anti-virus defences and a good back-up and disaster recovery system are not enough. Most CEOs of companies, again, are not adequately equipped to deal with digital threats. Hence it might be useful to have a chief information and security officer to look at their systems and advise them as to what they should do.

Awareness of the growing danger of digital threats is but the first step in the battle against cyber and AI-directed threats. Unauthorised use of Generative AI content has already become the stock-in-trade of digital bullying. Preventing this demands a great deal of effort and adequate budgetary allocations – whether in the private or public domain.

More than anything else, potentially dangerous digital technologies require more, and the specific, attention of those in-charge, specially in the case of democracies. Awareness about digital bullying and other forms of manipulation is fundamental if we are to prevent situations getting out of hand. More than anything else, there is a need to create a realisation that the struggle against digital threats calls for coordinated action. Also, a realisation that nations, especially democracies, are today under attack from a new and different source. There is, hence, every need to counter digital surveillance, disinformation, bullying and manipulation, for our survival.

make the prosecutor a judge in its own cause, contrary to the first principles of natural justice and vitiating at its core the procedural imperatives of fair trial?

The guarantee of civil liberties

In our constitutional scheme, the liberty of individuals cannot be held hostage to the benevolence or sense of fairness of the prosecutor alone. It must stand on the unbreachable foundation of justice anchored in inalienable rights ‘born in flesh, carried in our bodies from birth to death’. We know that sacrosanct rights ‘undergrid’ the law; that there is no virtue in legal processes that are unjust and laws that fail to render justice must be changed. Denial of freedom is denial of humanity itself. Therefore, its preservation against excesses of the executive is the first charge on the apex Court’s constitutional and moral authority. Although the ultimate guarantee of civil liberties lies in the faith and assertion of the people, as Justice Robert Jackson of the United States reminded us in *Douglas vs City of Jeannette* (1943), the courts’ auxiliary protection against encroachment of human rights is the crucial test of a vibrant democracy.

In eventually restoring Mr. Sisodia’s liberty, pending the final decision in his case, the apex court has redeemed itself of the charge of ambivalence in the earlier rounds despite the existence of legal and factual basis for bail. It need not now ‘trudge on the debris of conscience’. The judgment would have served its purpose if undertrials are not made to languish in custody endlessly, with their freedom, reputation, privacy and dignity irretrievably lost without apology or recompense. And, the nation must repurpose its politics away from personal animosities in an ennobling pursuit of justice and dignity for all, thereby revitalising a democracy under stress.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hindenburg report

The denial of allegations that have been raised in the latest Hindenburg report (against SEBI and its chairperson) is on expected lines and hardly clears the air. The crux of the matter is the opacity around offshore

funds investing in the Indian stock market. It is strange that the ruling party at the Centre has rushed in to assert that ‘many global forces with the help of the Congress’s dynasty’ are attempting to target India’s progress. That the ruling

dispensation will try to stonewall the issue in the coming days is clear. The Congress party’s demand for a JPC probe is likely to end up as a cry in the wilderness. One fervently hopes the top court will take steps to ensure the

holding of an independent inquiry.
Manohar Alembath,
Kannur, Kerala

Hindenburg Research’s relentless attacks are a blatant attempt to undermine India’s economic

progress and stability. The government must reassure investors and the public that India’s regulatory framework is robust and capable of handling such unwarranted attacks.
M. Ramdas Menon,
Kallai, Kozhikode, Kerala

The vanishing sparrow

The decline of sparrows points to biodiversity loss (‘Open Page’, August 11). It is our responsibility to make sure that this little bird holds its own.
R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

Possible revival of Dalit politics today

In the 2024 general election, with the decline of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) in Uttar Pradesh and the Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) in Maharashtra, the independent political assertion of Dalit politics has been relegated to a new low. However, Dalit political parties like the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) in Bihar and Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) in Tamil Nadu showcased a promise that Dalit politics can remain relevant in the democratic discourse if they form alliances with national political fronts.

Such diversification within the Dalit political discourse shows that the heightened ideological commitment to the Ambedkarite political values is diminishing, as Dalit political parties are exploring various alternatives to find meaning in their existence. This heterogeneity also reveals that the Dalit parties and leaders lack a grand political vision to build a national front against the conventional ruling elites, remaining comfortable with their regional specificities. For the rebirth of Dalit politics, newer ideological virtues under a committed political leadership are essential.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar expected that modern democracy would not re-establish the power and privileges of the conventional social elites but would instead allow the socially marginalised groups to take centre stage in transforming the power structure. He envisioned that independent India's new polity would allow Dalits to emerge as robust leaders of marginalised social groups and challenge the domination of social elites over political power. With the decline of parties, like the BSP and VBA, there are few takers of such a revolutionary vision.

Recently, Dalit politics based on the ideals of social justice have continuously been marginalised and have remained passive. The divisions between Dalit political parties showcase that there is no consensus on ideological



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While other political parties have often joined hands to secure their class and social interests, the Dalit parties hardly pondered the possibility of uniting different Dalit political and social organisations at the national level

parameters. The Dalit leadership lacks political vision and influential social initiatives. While other political parties have often joined hands to secure their class and social interests, Dalit parties hardly pondered the possibility of uniting different Dalit political and social organisations at the national level. These parties often remain attached to their regional specificities and lack the political imagination to ally with the social justice parties to announce a robust national Dalit agenda. Other marginalised communities, such as the Adivasis and Muslims, also hesitate to open a sincere dialogue with Dalit political outfits, as their political commitment and ideological merit often remain under doubt. Instead, national political fronts, especially the Congress, have reinvented themselves by engaging with the concerns of the marginalised social groups and building impressive campaigns to safeguard constitutional ideals.

In this context, the victory of Chandrashekhar Azad from the Nagina parliamentary constituency in Uttar Pradesh is a significant marker of the possibility of the arrival of independent Dalit politics. In contrast to the BSP-VBA bloc, Mr. Azad showed that a winning combination could be formed by building an engagement with the marginalised social groups, particularly Muslims. Further, on the ideological front, he offered a powerful challenge not only to right-wing politics but also reprimanded the secular-socialist political outfits for neglecting the issues of marginalised social groups. Building such an impressive social base with radical ideological values can revitalize the dormant Dalit movement today.

Unified political bloc

Similar to the INDIA bloc that created a collective political assertion based on the ideals of social justice and secularism, a unified political bloc of Dalit

parties, especially the BSP, VCK, and VBA, could reenergise the dormant social justice movement and mobilise oppressed communities for a substantive political change. The diverse Dalit political movements need to consider organising a unified political bloc, an alliance of all the Dalit parties at the national level. Such a bloc could associate with other regional and national alliances to form a broader political alliance over the slogan of social justice and the ideals of the Indian Constitution. It is equally important for the Dalit leaders and parties to imagine themselves as essential components in the battle against the right-wing juggernaut. However, till recent times, it is visible that the political decisions of parties like the BSP and the VBA mostly segregate the Dalits from associating with secular progressive alternatives and indirectly help the BJP.

Such an alliance is possible only if the segmented Dalit movement decides to come together to rewrite a new manifesto for social justice to confront the challenges raised by the neo-liberal economy and Hindutva fundamentalism. This ideological programme is possible if the current leadership could reduce their petty egos, sort out the intra-Dalit skirmishes with sensitivity, and work together to end their ideological diversions. For the revival of Dalit politics, it is imperative that contemporary Dalit leadership offers intellectual and visionary leadership to challenge the current passivity and dependency. It is required that various stakeholders, intellectuals, and civil society activists engage in deliberation upon the possibility of a federal Dalit front, forcing the political parties to reimagine their strategies and ideological goals.

A robust and engaged public deliberation to imagine a radical agenda for Dalit emancipation will help to rebuild a national movement for a substantive transformation in the economic and political spectrum.

Power sector woes in Andhra Pradesh

NDA government faces the daunting task of 're-energising' the power sector

STATE OF PLAY

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The initial exuberance of the NDA government in Andhra Pradesh quickly faded as it realised the daunting task of moving the bifurcation-hit State forward.

The government is concerned about the power sector, which, according to a White Paper released by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on July 9, was beset by a huge 'legacy loss' of ₹1,29,503 crore.

Given the pressing need to put the AP-Genco, AP-Transco, and the DISCOMs back on track, the government started revisiting the reforms in the power sector, aiming to restore its position as the top in the country. The due priority is to streamline supply to industrial consumers, and to the farm sector for nine hours during daytime.

The government noted that the operational and financial parameters of the power utilities have deteriorated in the last five years. While conducting its study, it sought suggestions from all stakeholders. Financially, the outstanding power sector loans amount to nearly ₹1.10 lakh crore, of which roughly ₹25,000 crore are owed by the government to DISCOMs for pending subsidy arrears and charges payable by government departments for electricity consumed by office buildings, lift irrigation schemes, and local bodies.

Besides, DISCOMs made partial payments to Independent Power Producers (IPPs) during the controversial review of the long-term solar and wind Power Purchase Agree-



ments (PPAs) in 2019-24 and they [DISCOMs] are obliged to pay the remaining amounts with interest having lost their case in the court.

Notably, the Ministry of Power had warned of the consequences of reviewing or negotiating the PPAs, but to no avail, as the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) government went ahead with its decision.

The total generation capacity increased from approximately 5,460 Megawatts (MW) in 2014-15, when the TDP came to power, to about 14,930 MW five years later.

A notable project under way is the 2,750-MW Integrated Renewable Energy Project (IREP) at Pinnapuram, touted as the world's largest Gigawatt-scale integrated project, comprising 1,200 MW of Pumped Storage Hydropower (PSH), 1,000 MW of solar and 550 MW wind power, expandable to a 7,400 MW.

While the Commercial Operation Date of the IREP is still a few months away and other PSH projects are in various stages, the AP-Genco commissioned two new thermal power units of 800 MW last year.

The generation side has, therefore, something to cheer about, despite the looming obligation to retire obsolete thermal units numbering 11 of 210 MW, at the Narla Tatarao, Sri Damodaram Sanjeevaiah, and Rayalaseema Thermal Power Stations, after 2030.

Another issue is the inordi-

nate delay in constructing the 960-MW Polavaram hydroelectric power plant, which suffered a major setback due to the termination of the turnkey contractor and the hiring of a new one. This resulted in protracted litigation, including an ongoing arbitration process expected to cost a whopping ₹1,500 crore. The Polavaram hydropower plant was scheduled to be commissioned in May 2023. There is an estimated generation loss of 3,000 Million Units (MU) till the latest expected commissioning date of January 2026. The delays in various projects entailed a huge burden in terms of the cost of power purchases. The precarious financial position of the utilities, mainly the DISCOMs, has been a cause for worry.

It is pertinent to mention that the YSRCP government allegedly raised power tariffs nine times during its tenure (2019-24), in the form of true-up and other charges to shore up its finances.

Meanwhile, the TDP claimed that the government did not jack up the tariffs even once, and the subsidy component increased from ₹2,607 crore in 2014-15 to ₹6,575 crore by the end of 2018-19.

The deliberate backing down of some generators in 2019-22 to buy power from short-term sources had major financial implications. These are only some aspects of the State power sector.

The government's ultimate objective is to provide a quality, reliable, and affordable power supply for 24 hours.

The government has to do a tough balancing act of carefully managing the financial standing of the utilities (mainly DISCOMs) and meeting the burgeoning grid demand by making incremental renewable energy capacity additions.

Socio-economic differentials within SCs/STs

Disparities among SC/ST sub-groups have led the Court to endorse sub-classification, aiming at ensuring a fairer distribution of reservation benefits

DATA POINT

Sanjeer Alam

A common critique of the group-based approach to affirmative action policies is that it treats the potential beneficiary group as a homogenous class. In reality, as critics argue, rarely does a group turn out to be a homogenous class. Even within an identified disadvantaged group, families are often found to be placed poles apart in terms of access to material as well as symbolic resources. Therefore, group-based affirmative action policies are seen as benefiting relatively advantaged families from the beneficiary group. An inevitable consequence is widening intra-group inequality. This, in a way, goes against the very purpose of affirmative action, which is, achieving greater equality in society.

Reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in educational institutions, public employment, and legislative bodies is constitutionally mandated. These two historically disadvantaged categories consist of a large number of subgroups of different ethnic origins, living in different spatialities and social relations. The outcomes of the reservation policy have generated discontent and dissension within. It has been asserted that the benefits of the reservation have accrued to a few subgroups within SCs/STs. This has led to the demand for a more equitable distribution of benefits by creating sub-classification within SCs/STs based on degrees of disadvantage and deprivation.

This demand has also reached the Supreme Court. In 2004, a five-member Bench of the Supreme Court (in *E.V. Chinnaiah vs State of Andhra Pradesh*) affirmed SCs/STs as a homogenous class and, ruled against sub-classifications within these umbrella categories, horizontally or vertically. However, in a landmark judgment

on August 1, 2024, the apex court allowed sub-classification and paved the way for sub-quotas within the SC/ST quota. While the Court has endorsed the existence of socio-economic differentials within SCs and STs and the idea of substantive equality over nominal equality, little analysis is available to get a sense of the extent of inequalities characterising these categories. This is even though India's population census collects and duly publishes data on socio-economic indicators for individual sub-groups within SCs and STs.

Here, we highlight socio-economic differentials within SCs/STs based on data from the 2011 population census. Owing to the space constraints, our analysis is confined to a few large States. Because the number of sub-groups comprising SCs and STs is too large in these States, we pick up two numerically important sub-groups (one being well-off and the other relatively deprived) to reflect the extent of socio-economic disparities.

Census data show that different sub-groups continue to have uneven exposure to urbanisation. Across States, while some sub-groups are marked by a decent level of urbanisation, others are overwhelmingly rural-based. Differential urban exposure shows a high correlation with opportunities for life chances. Invariably, sub-groups with higher urbanisation demonstrate higher levels of educational attainment and lower level placement in precarious forms of employment.

Among SCs, for example, (Table 1), Musahars in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh seem to be the most disadvantaged. Fewer members among them are likely to attain a high school degree. The number of those with a college degree is negligible. In contrast, Pasis in Bihar and Chamars in Uttar Pradesh are only a little way off the State average. In Maharashtra, sub-groups, such as Bhambis and Mangs, occupy disparate levels of educational

and occupational attainment, with the former being much better off compared with the latter. Likewise, Chamars in Punjab are ahead of Mazhabis in terms of access to education and exposure to urbanisation. The proportions of matriculates and graduates among the former were 1.5 times higher than the latter. In West Bengal, Namsudras and Bagdis stand poles apart in terms of urbanisation, educational attainment, and sources of livelihood.

Socio-economic differentials among STs are as pronounced as among SCs (Table 2). In Chhattisgarh, for instance, the Halba tribes are not only far more urbanised than and educationally ahead of the Baiga tribes but also have fewer members working as agricultural labourers when compared with the latter. Similar is the case between the Oraon and Mal Paharia tribes in Jharkhand. Oraons are also the most educated tribes in the neighbouring State of Odisha and far ahead of Bhumia – one of the tribes with minimal access to education. In Rajasthan, the Meenas are well known as the most educated and economically advanced tribal group. The developmental processes seem to have completely bypassed the Garasias, one of the largest tribal sub-groups of the State.

The above analysis brings into sharp focus the persistence of socio-economic disparities. It suggests that different sub-groups within SCs and STs are at disparate levels of socio-economic development. Given this, it is also not difficult to infer who might have most benefited from the undifferentiated reservation regime. The course to be taken by the political class is not known, but sub-classification within SC/ST and the creation of sub-quotas can be reasonably expected to result in a more equitable distribution of benefits of reservation.

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Inter-group variations

The data for the tables were sourced from Census 2011

Column key 1: % urban population, 2: % of people with matriculate education (aged >=15 years), 3: % graduate (aged >=20 years), 4: % agri-labourer (% of main workers aged >=15 years). SGs refer to sub-groups

Table 1: Socio-economic differentials within SCs by State (2011)

State/SGs	1	2	3	4
1. Andhra Pradesh	33.4	13.75	10.2	39.9
All SCs	21.8	12.4	6.7	64.3
SG 1: Adi Dravida	15.8	16	6.4	65.8
SG 2: Bayagara	6	10.5	3.4	55.5
Ratio (SG 2/SG 1)	0.37	0.65	0.53	0.85
2. Bihar	14	11.7	5.8	44.5
All SCs	7.4	6.2	2	69.4
SG 1: Pasi	18.9	9.4	4.4	46.9
SG 2: Musahar	3.4	0.9	0.1	87.5
Ratio (SG 2/SG 1)	0.17	0.1	0.02	1.86
3. Maharashtra	45.2	16.4	12	25.2
All SCs	43.5	14.8	8.2	44.5
SG 1: Bhambi etc.	54.4	16.3	10.4	2.6
SG 2: Mang	36.3	11.3	3.7	57.3
Ratio (SG 2/SG 1)	0.66	0.69	0.35	22.2
4. Punjab	37.4	20.2	9.9	13.7
All SCs	26.7	13.9	3	31.9
SG 1: Chamar	30.1	17.8	5	22.6
SG 2: Mazhabi	18.2	12.7	3	48.9
Ratio (SG 2/SG 1)	0.6	0.71	0.6	2.16
5. Uttar Pradesh	22.2	11.8	9.4	21.7
All SCs	13.7	8.6	4.6	38
SG 1: Chamar	13.3	9.5	5.3	38.7
SG 2: Musahar	3	1.1	0.2	52.4
Ratio (SG 2/SG 1)	0.22	0.11	0.03	1.3
6. West Bengal	30.5	8.1	8.4	22.8
All SCs	20.4	5.5	3.5	35.2
SG 1: Namasudra	31.3	7.6	5.9	22.1
SG 2: Bagdi, Duley	10.3	2.9	1	58.3
Ratio (SG 2/SG 1)	0.32	0.38	0.16	2.6

Table 2: Socio-economic differentials within STs by State (2011)

State/SGs	1	2	3	4
1. Chhattisgarh	23.2	9.4	6.9	30.3
All STs	7.6	5.6	2.5	31.4
SG 1: Halba	13.4	9.2	4.6	22.2
SG 2: Baiga	1.8	1.4	0.2	37.2
Ratio (SG 2/SG 1)	0.13	0.15	0.04	1.67
2. Jharkhand	24	11.7	7.4	18.4
All STs	8.9	8	3.1	22.3
SG 1: Oraon	14.2	11.8	6.7	15.6
SG 2: Mal Paharia	1.1	2	0.3	41.1
Ratio (SG 2/SG 1)	0.07	0.16	0.04	2.63
3. Odisha	16.6	10.8	6.9	22.5
All STs	6.2	4.9	1.2	32.3
SG 1: Oraon etc.	17.3	11.5	3.1	14.8
SG 2: Bhumia	2.1	1.2	0.2	27.7
Ratio (SG 2/SG 1)	0.12	0.1	0.06	1.87
4. Rajasthan	24.8	10.3	8.1	10.3
All STs	5.9	5.9	4.3	14.1
SG 1: Meena	7.1	8.5	7.2	8.2
SG 2: Garasia (excluding Rajput Garasia)	1.1	1.5	0.5	26.8
Ratio (SG 2/SG 1)	0.15	0.17	0.07	3.2
5. West Bengal	30.5	8.1	8.4	22.8
All STs	8.3	4.1	2	42.2
SG 1: Bhutia	39	10.7	11.6	6.3
SG 2: Bhumiij	3.9	3.4	1.2	61.4
Ratio (SG 2/SG 1)	0.1	0.31	0.1	9.7

FROM THE ARCHIVES



FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 13, 1974

Life term for food adulteration: Bill introduced

New Delhi, August 12: The Bill to inflict penalties including life imprisonment for food adulteration offences was introduced in the Rajya Sabha to-day by the Health Minister, Dr. Karan Singh.

"The Prevention of Food Adulteration (amendment) Bill, 1974" seeks to make food adulteration offences as "cognizable and non-bailable". The Bill seeks to plug loopholes and provide for more stringent and effective measures to curb the adulteration menace, which had "made a heavy dent in the already low nutritional standards."

An adulterator, according to the Bill, would be liable to be imprisoned for a minimum of three years extending up to life imprisonment and asked to pay a minimum fine of Rs. 5,000.

The Bill also seeks to provide for representation for consumers' interests in the Central Committee for Food Standards and in the Central Food Laboratory.

Under the Bill, if any colouring matter other than that prescribed or not within the prescribed limits of variability was used, the food article would be declared as adulterated. The Bill seeks to add to the definition of food under the parent Act "any other article which the Central Government, having regard to its character, use or composition, declares by notification in the official gazette, as food for the purposes of this Act".

In the parent Act "food" meant an article used as food or drink for human consumption other than drugs and water and included those used in the composition or preparation of human food and flavouring matter or condiments. The Bill also seeks to appoint the "local (health) authority" in relation to local areas to be in charge of health administration. Under the parent Act, there was a provision for appointment of "food (health) authority" meaning the Director of Health Services or the Chief Officer in charge of health administration.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 13, 1924

Submarine K. 26.

London, August 12: The largest submarine K. 26 has returned to Portsmouth after a record submarine voyage of twenty thousand miles to Singapore unaccompanied by a parent ship.

Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

India's industrial production growth in the month of June

4.2 In per cent. The country's industrial production slowed to a five-month low in June 2024, mainly due to poor performance of the manufacturing sector, though the power and mining sectors performed well. PTI

People who fled the Kursk region since Ukraine's attack

1.2 In lakh. Kyiv launched a surprise offensive into Russia's western Kursk region last Tuesday, capturing over two dozen settlements in the most significant cross-border attack on Russian soil since World War II. AFP

The increase in India's direct tax collections from last year

24 In per cent. The government's gross direct tax collections for April 1 to August 11 rose to ₹8.13 trillion (\$96.87 billion). Net direct tax collections, after adjusting for refunds, were ₹6.93 trillion during the period, about 22.5% higher than last year. REUTERS

Distress calls received by Gujarat's DWUG suicide helpline

1,600 The Diamond Workers Union Gujarat (DWUG) has received distress calls from those in the sector over financial stress. 65 diamond workers have committed suicide in Surat in the last 16 months. PTI

People affected by micronutrient deficiencies globally

2.2 In billion. According to the Global Food Policy Report, poor-quality diets are the main reason for all forms of malnutrition and the leading cause of various diseases worldwide. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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On the allegations against the SEBI chief

What are the accusations brought forth by New York-based Hindenburg Research against SEBI Chairman Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband Dhaval Buch? How is Blackstone involved? What is the status of the ongoing investigation by SEBI into the Adani Group's actions?

EXPLAINER

Saptaparno Ghosh

The story so far:

New York-based Hindenburg Research has released a new set of documents to substantiate its accusation that the ongoing investigation into insider trading and other stock market violations by the Adani Group by India's financial regulator – the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) – is compromised. In its latest tranche, Hindenburg has included emails and publicly available records of stakes held by SEBI Chairman Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband Dhaval Buch in Adani Group-related entities through offshore investment funds to allege a conflict of interest that aided the Adani Group to “siphon monies”. The short seller attempts to establish a correlation between the alleged use of two offshore funds, the couple's investments and varied professional engagements to accuse Ms. Buch of being biased toward the Adani Group. Both Ms. Buch and the Adani Group have denied the charge.

What is short selling about?

Short selling entails profiting from a fall in the prices of a scrip. Although short selling can serve many purposes, such as mitigating demand-supply imbalances in scrips and ensuring price efficiency, it has also been used as a means of manipulation – or what the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has described as a “bear raid”. Thus, prompting concerns about intent and credibility. As a practice, it entails selling a borrowed scrip in anticipation of a downward price movement and buying it back when the lower price level is realised. Let us say, anticipating a downward movement, an individual sells 10 shares at ₹100 apiece. The total sale value is ₹1,000. The price of the share decreases to ₹85 apiece and they opt to buy the quantity back. This time it will cost them ₹850 – a direct profit of ₹150.

The short seller in discussion had shorted electric truck maker Nikola Corp in 2020 placing concerns about their functionality. In October 2022, the Nikola's founder Trevor Milton was convicted by a U.S. jury of fraud for lying to investors about the technology.

What is the SEBI chief accused of?

At the centre of the allegations are the Buchs' alleged “hidden stakes” in certain offshore funds in Bermuda and Mauritius, two tax havens, and their professional engagements during and before Ms. Buch's tenure at SEBI. Hindenburg asserts concern on two fronts, a conflict of interest and an ensuing collusion.

About personal investments: gathering from investigations by the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP), the short seller points to Vinod Adani, brother of Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani, who invested in the Bermuda-based ‘Global Dynamic Opportunities Fund’ (GDOF), which then invested in the Mauritius-based IPE Plus Fund 1. A separate investigation by the *Financial Times* said that the parent fund of GDOF, that is, the Global Opportunities Fund (GOF) were used by two Adani associates, Nasser Ali Shaban Ahli from UAE and Chang Chung-Ling from Taiwan, to amass and acquire large positions in scrips of the conglomerate, amounting to stock manipulation. Additionally, as per the Hindenburg report, the founder and Chief Investment Officer (CIO) of the IPE Plus Fund was Anil Ahuja, director at Adani Enterprises for nine years until



REUTERS

2017.

The Buchs opened an account with the Mauritius-based fund in 2015. The short seller places that SEBI's alleged unwillingness to take “meaningful action” (in the ongoing investigation) could stem from the chairperson's “complicity” in using the exact same funds as Mr. Adani.

The other set of accusations relate to their professional engagements. In 2013, Ms. Buch had set up a consulting firm Agora Partners in India and Singapore respectively. Important to note that she became a whole-time member with SEBI in April 2017 before being elevated as the chairperson in March 2022. SEBI's Code of Conflict of Interests for Members of Board stipulates that whole-time members can neither hold any office of profit nor engage in any professional activity that involves receiving any fees or payment. However, the short seller accuses her of transferring only the 100% stake in the Singapore unit (not the Indian one) after her appointment to the top post, and that too only in 2022. In an X post responding to the Buchs statement Hindenburg says: “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 2 weeks after her appointment as SEBI Chairperson.”

The last set of accusations concern her husband, Dhaval Buch. The short seller stated that Mr. Buch notwithstanding a lack of prior experience in either real estate nor fund management, was appointed senior advisor at the investment management firm Blackstone in 2019. With Ms. Buch employed at SEBI and later at the helm of affairs, the report accuses, that SEBI “proposed, approved

and facilitated” major changes to real-estate investment trusts' (REITs) policies and rules on listing and other stock market related activities. Thus, enabling Blackstone – “one of the largest REIT sponsors in India” – to benefit from the changes, Hindenburg alleged.

What has been the recent exchange about their investments?

In a detailed statement, the Buchs said the investments referred to in Hindenburg's report were made two years before Ms. Buch joined SEBI. While addressing concerns about collusion, the Buchs stated the investment was undertaken considering Mr. Ahuja's “strong investing career” and that he was also Mr. Buch's “childhood friend” and a batchmate at IIT Delhi. Re-emphasising their argument, they pointed to redeeming their investment in the fund when Mr. Ahuja stepped down as its CIO in 2018. The joint statement further affirms that at no point the fund invested in any bond, equity or derivative of the Adani conglomerate.

However, Hindenburg in its response on ‘X’, said the response only confirmed the investment in the offshore fund. Mr. Ahuja also served as a director at the Adani Group until 2017, something the conglomerate has also mentioned in their response to the short-seller's allegations. Hindenburg emphasised the Buchs' investments in the offshore fund was first made in 2015, when Mr. Ahuja was still a director at the Adani Group. The short seller also pointed to Ms. Buch's communications in 2017 and 2018. In 2017, Mr. Buch had sought that the ownership be transferred entirely to him. However, in 2018, during her tenure as a whole-time SEBI member, Ms. Buch sought to redeem the units in the fund –

prompting concerns about continued engagement.

What about the consulting firm?

The statement from the Buchs also stated that two consulting companies in discussion had become “immediately dormant on her appointment with SEBI”. This was also disclosed to SEBI. It further informs that Dhaval Buch in 2019, started his own consultancy practice with “prominent clients in the Indian industry” enabled by his deep expertise in “supply chain” management.

In their ‘X’ post however, Hindenburg accused the SEBI chief of still holding a 99% stake in the Indian consulting entity, and not her husband. The entity, it said, was active and generated revenues to the tune of \$3,12,000 between financial years 2022-2024, when Ms. Buch was the SEBI chief. About the Singapore unit, the short seller said Ms. Buch only transferred the stake in 2022, after becoming the chairperson and held it during her entire tenure as a whole-time member.

Hindenburg further alluded to more conflict of interest concerns based on the firm's clientele (if they are regulated by SEBI) and its revenue. The short seller expresses its inability to trace the same (about the Singapore unit) citing the local legislation exempting the firm from making disclosures. However, it deems the information as necessary to assess the “probity of the chairperson's external business”.

What of the Blackstone appointment?

About Mr. Buch's appointment at Blackstone, the couple stated that the appointment was on account of Mr. Buch's expertise in supply chain management. It further states that at no point was Dhaval Buch associated with the real-estate side of Blackstone.

In fact, it also informs about Blackstone Group being immediately added to the incumbent SEBI chief's recusal list. The markets regulator in its standalone statement also described Hindenburg's accusations as “inappropriate”. The statement other than explaining the mandatory exhaustive consultation process, also pointed to having underscored the potential of REITs, SM REITs, InvITs and Municipal Bonds among other asset classes for democratisation of markets, financialisation of household savings and for capital formation through markets.

Where do we stand now?

The Supreme Court in an order this January had, among other things, sought SEBI to also probe whether the losses suffered by Indian investors because of Hindenburg's erstwhile report involved any “infraction of the law”. SEBI issued a show cause notice to the short seller this June. “It is unfortunate that instead of replying to the show cause notice, they have chosen to attack the credibility of SEBI and attempt character assassination of the Chairperson,” SEBI said. In an order dated January 3, the SC had also asked SEBI to complete the investigation into the pending two allegations of the twenty-four overall ones within three months. It informed on Sunday about having completed one of them and the other being “close to completion”.

In fact, the apex court in the same order had refused to transfer the investigation from SEBI to the Special Investigative Team (SIT) or the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). But it noted that it would exercise its powers in “extraordinary circumstances” if the competent authority displays a “glaring, wilful and deliberate” inaction in carrying out the investigation.

THE GIST

New York-based Hindenburg Research has released a new set of documents to substantiate its accusation that the ongoing investigation into insider trading and other stock market violations by the Adani Group by India's financial regulator – the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) – is compromised.

At the centre of the allegations are the Buchs' alleged “hidden stakes” in certain offshore funds in Bermuda and Mauritius, two tax havens, and their professional engagements during and before Ms. Buch's tenure at SEBI.

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BUILDING BLOCKS

The tech that helps vehicles from bumping into each other

Most collision avoidance systems require two pieces of information: the locations of all the other vehicles and the location of this vehicle relative to those vehicles

Vasudevan Mukunth

Vehicular traffic is a mainstay of modern life. And therefore, the number of transport options people have invented and the number of places to deploy them in have increased. Today, we have traffic on the road, in the air, across various water bodies, and – in a dubitable sign of progress – in space. For better or for worse, we can't roll this traffic back very much, so we have collision avoidance systems instead.

What is a collision avoidance system?

In broad terms, a collision avoidance system (CAS) is a collection of technologies to help a vehicle steer clear of another vehicle or obstacle. For example, a CAS device fit on a train will be designed to help that train avoid colliding with another train. Most CAS devices require two pieces of information, preferably in real-time: the locations of all the other vehicles and the location of this vehicle relative to those vehicles. Over the years, scientists and engineers have developed instruments that collect this information and transmit it and other instruments that receive this information and aid in the navigation of the vehicle.

Such a vehicle can be driven by a human, in which case CAS's purpose would be to assist the driver, or be autonomous.

How does CAS help land-based vehicles?

Say two cars, called the Front Car and the Back Car, are moving in sequence and both are fit with CAS devices. Typically, the Back Car will be tracking the speed of the Front Car, the distance between the two cars, and the speed of the Back Car. If the separation between the two cars is expected to drop within a certain value in a stipulated time frame, the CAS may be empowered to deploy an automatic emergency brake – as required of cars in the European Union, for example – without the driver's intervention.

In order to achieve this, the CAS will have to be connected to the Back Car's braking system and be able to override the driver's instructions. It will also be connected to the Back Car's speed metre as well as equipped with a sensing technology to track the Front Car, like radar, lidar, and/or cameras with object recognition.

What is 'Kavach'?

Another important land-based mode of transport is the railway.

A spate of train accidents in India recently put the spotlight on the sluggish implementation of 'Kavach', the homegrown CAS for the Indian Railways. In their fundamentals, Kavach's components perform the same functions that CAS does in cars, but the railway system is more complicated.

Kavach has three main components: onboard, trackside, and communications. For the purpose of explanation, let's regroup them as computers, communications, and control.

Computers – there is a computer onboard the train plus two other computers for station masters. Of the latter, one is the master computer: it



NAGARA GOPAL

collates and processes information from signals and interlocking points and sends its output to the locomotive computer. The other is the remote interface unit, which also collates and processes information from various points on the railway network, and eventually transmits its data to the master computer; it doesn't communicate directly with the locomotive computer.

The locomotive computer receives information from two other sources – (i) from the two Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) readers mounted on its underside. The tracks will be fit with RFID cards at fixed intervals. When the locomotive passes over the cards, the readers will scan the cards and retrieve the train's location and a track ID number, and send them to the onboard computer; (ii) additionally, onboard computers can communicate with each other if their respective locomotives are nearby.

Taken together, the system facilitates communications between stations and locomotive pilots, facilitates pilots'

decision-making (with or without having to visually spot another train), maintains speed, issues sounds and alarms when passing through areas with low visibility, and applies emergency brakes when a collision is expected.

Communication – the remote interface unit transmits data to the master computer via fibre-optic cables. The master computer communicates with the locomotive computer via ultra-high frequency radio. The onboard computer uses GSM-Railway to communicate with the overall network management system (the software system that animates the Kavach CAS), including to authenticate its communications with nearby master computers and locomotive computers.

Control – as with cars, the onboard computer is connected to various other parts of the locomotive, including its braking system and an alarm to alert pilots. While operating the locomotive, pilots will use a bespoke interface – like a digital screen – that relays information from the computer and receives inputs

from the pilots. The station master will have a similar interface, with the ability to send SOS messages as well.

How does CAS work in ships and aircraft?

The Traffic Collision Avoidance System for aircraft also has a computer-communication-control setup as for trains. An important component is the transponder – a device that, when it receives a radio-frequency ping, produces a response. Using the transponders of various other aircraft, the host aircraft can build up a 3D view of the air traffic around itself.

Another salient component of aircraft CAS is the alerts. If another aircraft is within 48 seconds away on a potential collision course, the computer sounds a traffic advisory that requires the pilots to visually identify the other aircraft. If the aircraft is less than 30 seconds away, the computer requires the pilots to make a resolution: report the alert as soon as possible to air traffic control and manoeuvre the aircraft to a safer course, if required contrary to air traffic control's instructions; and revert to the original course once the resolution is complete.

Finally, aircraft may also have radar altimeters to sense the distance to the ground and another system to alert pilots to 'tall' features like towers and ground antennae.

Ships – akin to cars and aircraft – use a combination of visual sighting and radar to steer clear of each other, while these operations are similarly assisted with the use of additional systems. Two important ones are AIS and LRIT. In the AIS, or Automatic Identification System, base stations on land track data received from transceivers onboard ships to infer their location, speed, and bearing, and transmit the details to each vessel.

LRIT is short for 'Long Range Identification and Tracking'. According to the International Maritime Organisation, a ship on an international voyage is required to report its location, local time, and onboard equipment once every six hours to the authorities in the country under whose flag the ship is sailing. This data is distributed to contracting governments and to operators of search-and-rescue missions via the International LRIT Data Exchange.

How have satellites changed CAS?

An important alternative to the transponder-based system for aircraft is the Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) system, which collects and processes information shared actively by each aircraft via satellites to understand the relative location, bearing, and speed of a group of aircraft. Similarly, the AIS for ships can be facilitated by satellites as well: such S-AIS systems are useful to track ships that are too far from AIS stations on land.

The advent of the U.S. Global Positioning System (GPS) had a transformative effect on navigation and collision avoidance worldwide, and which some countries have augmented with systems of their own to cater to specific national needs. For example, India already envisages the use of its NavIC constellation of navigational satellites to assist road and railway traffic.

Recall also the Front Car + Back Car scenario: if the country these cars are moving through also has a GPS-tagged database of its various traffic elements (stop signs, turns, signals, intersections, etc.), the CAS onboard the cars can also be assisted by GPS data. The spatial frequency of GPS for civilian applications is restricted to 10 metres, which is not good enough for CAS. But systems can overcome this limitation using differential GPS capabilities, which can improve the resolution to less than a metre.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Are we going to talk about spelling again?"
 "Yes."
 "Good."
 "Why?"
 "I know the spelling of a word but don't know its pronunciation. Maybe you could tell me."
 "Let me see."
 "How do you pronounce p...u...s...i...l...l...a...n...i...m...o...u...s?"
 "Where did you come across that word?"
 "Our newspapers used that word very often last week. They called some of our politicians."
 "Pusillanimous."
 "Pusillanimous?"
 "Yes. that's it. The first syllable 'pu' rhymes with 'few', 'due' and 'cue'; the 'si' is pronounced like the 'si' in 'sip' and 'sit'; the third syllable 'ila' is pronounced like the 'la' in words like 'ladder', 'lamb' and 'land'. The 'ni' is pronounced like the 'ni' in 'nib' and the final syllable 'ous' rhymes with the final syllable in Christmas."
 "So, it is pusillanimous. And the stress is on the third syllable?"
 "Yes, the stress is on the third syllable 'ila'."
 "Pusillanimous. Pusillanimous politicians. That's a mouthful, isn't it?"
 "Yes, it certainly is. I suppose you know what it means."
 "Well, er..."
 "It means 'cowardly and weak'."
 "You mean somebody like our former Principal."
 "Yes. Very much so. The pusillanimous principal gave in to the demands of the students. Many of us are too pusillanimous to fight for our rights."
 "It is not good to be pusillanimous, but it's certainly a good word to have in one's vocabulary. Now I can use it to impress my friends."
 "But 'pusillanimous' is a formal word."
 "So?"
 "You can use it in writing, not in conversation. Otherwise, people would think you're trying to show off. Well, let us discuss a spelling rule. Sometimes you wonder whether 'believe' + 'able' is 'believable' or 'believable'. The general rule is that when a word ending in silent 'e' is followed by a suffix beginning with a vowel, the silent 'e' in the word is dropped."
 "So we have 'believable', famous, losing, arranging. However, some words like 'movable', 'livable', 'lovable', 'likable' are also spelt 'move able', 'live able', 'love able', 'like able'. But when the suffix begins with a consonant the final 'e' in the word is retained: loveless, movement, arrangement, sincerely, hopeful, careful, lively. This is enough for this week. More about this rule next week."
 "For this relief, much thanks."
 Published in *The Hindu* on December 29, 1992.

THE DAILY QUIZ

A quiz based on the facts and figures from the Olympic Games, Paris 2024

V. V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1

Though the U.S. and China ended up with 40 Gold medals each, the former took the top spot in the medals table for the fourth straight time by winning the final gold on offer in which event?

QUESTION 2

Name the countries for whom these athletes won their first-ever Gold medals: Letsile Tebogo (Men's 200m), Thea LaFond (Women's triple jump), and Adriana Ruano Oliva (Women's trap shooting).

QUESTION 3

Across 19 days of competition, apart from the IOC Refugee

Olympic Team, how many National Olympic Committees were represented?

QUESTION 4

Paris 2024 was the first Olympic Games with full gender parity. Of the 329 medal events, how many women events and mixed-gender events were held?

QUESTION 5

In which specific event did Swapnil Kusale and Aman Sehrawat win Bronze medals?

QUESTION 6

What connects Leon Marchand (France), Mollie O'Callaghan (Australia), and Torri Huske (U.S.)?

QUESTION 7

In which event did China sweep all the eight gold medals on offer?



Visual question: Name this Cuban grappler who became the first Summer Olympian in an individual sport to win five consecutive gold medals in the same event. REUTERS

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Name the national research institute Sarabhai founded in November 1947.

Ans: The Physical Research Laboratory
 2. The body which oversaw space-related activities in India before INCOSPAR. **Ans: Department of Atomic Energy**

3. This man was Sarabhai's doctoral adviser in Cambridge. Sarabhai was this ISRO chairman's doctoral adviser. **Ans: C.V. Raman; U.R. Rao**

4. In the mid-1970s, a French aerospace company transferred its Viking engine technology to India, where the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre used it to build the famous _____ engine. **Ans: Vikas**

5. These individuals were instrumental in establishing the National Institute of Design in Ahmedabad. **Ans: Gautam and Gira, Sarabhai's siblings**

Visual: The original name of this building and its connection to Sarabhai. **Ans: Halcyon Castle, place where Sarabhai died**
Early Birds: Joseph Nelson| Rahul Singh| K.N.Viswanathan| Aditi Rewrij| Jyot Prakash

Word of the day

Fusty: stale and unclean smelling; old-fashioned and out of date

Synonyms: musty, standpat, non-progressive

Usage: This room smells slightly fusty. You should open a window.

Pronunciation: bit.ly/fustypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /fʌsti/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to letters@thehindu.co.in with the subject 'Text & Context'

From Page One

SEBI row: BJP rejects calls for JPC probe

However, investors had seen through the plot as the markets remained stable, former Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad told a press conference.

Mr. Prasad said billionaire George Soros is an investor in Hindenburg and is known to be "running propaganda against the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi".

"It is obvious that Hindenburg is in the same game... the pathological hatred of the Congress leadership against the Prime Minister has developed into a hatred against India itself," Mr. Prasad said, adding that the report was "fictitious".

Stepping up its attack on the Modi government over the latest Hindenburg report, the Congress threatened to launch a nationwide protest if its demand for a JPC was not accepted. The principal Opposition party urged the Supreme Court to transfer the probe against the Adani group to the Central Bureau of Investigation or a Special Investigation Team "given the likelihood that SEBI is compromised".

"The SEBI chairperson, responsible for regulating the stock market, ensuring its credibility and taking action against scams, allegedly has investments in shell companies (associated with Adani Group). How does the government view this news? It's astonishing that despite such a serious allegation, Ms. Buch remains in the same position," Congress general secretary (organisation), K. C. Venugopal said in Thiruvananthapuram.

"The Prime Minister's silence on the matter amounts to destruction of credibility," he added.

On Saturday, Hindenburg Research had alleged that Ms. Buch and her husband had undisclosed investments in obscure offshore funds in Bermuda and Mauritius, the same entities allegedly used by Vinod Adani - the elder brother of Adani group chairman Gautam Adani - to round-trip funds and inflate stock prices.

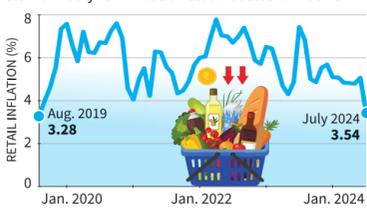
Mr. Venugopal asked "why is the government afraid of a JPC?"

Congress communication chief Jairam Ramesh said that on March 3, 2023, the Supreme Court had directed SEBI to "expeditiously conclude the investigation" into allegations of stock manipulation and accounting fraud against the Adani Group within two months. 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, he added. "The fact is that 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," Mr. Ramesh said.

Retail inflation slips to 59-month low

Record low

India's retail inflation slid to nearly five-year low of 3.54% in July. CPI inflation stood at 5.08% in June



Inflation faced by urban consumers dropped to just under 3% in July, from 4.4% in June, while rural consumers experienced a relatively higher price rise of 4.1%, down from 5.7% in June. Food price rise was also higher in rural India at 5.9% compared with 4.6% in urban areas. In June, rural food inflation was lower at 9.15% while urban food prices rose to 9.6%.

July's inflation pace is not only the slowest recorded since September 2019, but also marks the first time since then that it has dropped below the 4% median target pursued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its monetary policy framework. With the RBI raising its inflation projection for the July to September quarter to 4.4% at its latest monetary policy review last week, price rise is expected to regain momentum over this month and next.

Vegetables inflation recorded the biggest drop in sequential terms, falling to 6.8% in July from 29.3% in June. While the Statistics and Programme Implementation Ministry emphasised that July clocked a decline in all groups of the Consumer Price Index, with a significant dip in vegetables, fruits and spices sub-groups, economists flagged that some pain points remain.

Inflation in 'personal care and effects' accelerated to 8.44% from 8.2% in June. Pulses inflation also remained more than 10% for the 14th straight month, at 14.77%, while meat, fish and eggs, recorded high upticks of 6% and 6.8%, respectively.

"Cereals' inflation has remained more than 8%, which is a concern for both government and RBI. The favourable base effect on vegetable inflation will remain only till August," said Paras Jasrai, senior economic analyst at India Ratings and Research.

Among the 22 States for which inflation rates are released, seven recorded higher inflation than the national average, including Bihar (5.9%), Assam (5.1%), and Odisha (4.8%). Seven of the other 15 States saw inflation of 3% or lower, with Jharkhand seeing the lowest inflation of 1.7%, followed by Delhi at 2.1%, Chhatisgarh at 2.2%.

Seven killed in stampede at temple in Bihar's Jehanabad

Residents blame administration for not taking precautionary measures to tackle the huge crowd at temple; official says cause of stampede was a clash between a flower seller and some devotees

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

Seven devotees, three of them women, were killed and 16 injured in a stampede at the Baba Siddheshwarnath temple located atop a hillock in Jehanabad district of central Bihar on Monday.

Of the 16 injured, 10 were discharged from a government hospital after receiving primary medical attention, while three persons continue to receive treatment there. Three others have been sent to the Anugrah Narayan Medical College and Hospital in Gaya.

The death toll could mount further, local residents said. They blamed the administration for not taking precautionary measures to tackle the huge crowd that had gathered at the temple.

Some volunteers, along with police personnel deputed at the temple, allegedly used batons to control the crowd, which led to the stampede, witnesses told presspersons.

"The cause of the stampede was a clash between a flower seller and some devotee. The flower seller is absconding after the incident. There was no baton charge by those deployed for the management of the crowd at the temple," Jehanabad District Magistrate Alankrita Pandey said.



Tragic incident: Family members of the victims mourn after a stampede at the Baba Siddheshwarnath temple in Jehanabad district of Bihar on Monday. PTI

There was a huge rush of devotees as it was the fourth Monday of the holy month of Shraavan. "After midnight on August 11, the devotees rushed towards the temple located on the hillock to offer puja to Lord Shiva and the stampede followed," Hareram Sharma, 36, a resident of Jehanabad town, said, adding that he too had gone to offer prayers but escaped unhurt due to "Baba's (Lord Shiva's) blessings".

"There was total mismanagement at the temple and no system for crowd management except for the deployment of a few policemen and volunteers," Mr. Sharma said.

Expressing grief over the incident, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar announced ex gratia assistance of ₹4 lakh to the kin of each deceased person, and directed officials to ensure proper treatment for the injured.

Known as "Magadh's Baidyanath Dham" in a reference to the famous Shiva temple at Deogarh in Jharkhand, which is celebrated as one of the 12 sacred Jyotirlingas, the Baba Siddheshwarnath temple was built in the seventh century under the Gupta reign.

Legends attribute the construction of the temple to king Bana, father-in-law of king Jarasandha of ancient Rajgriha (Rajgir), which is located about 30 km from Jehanabad.

Officials said the hiding terrorists were using the topography to their advantage, said the officials.

Two soldiers and one civilian were killed in the initial exchange of fire between the terrorists and security forces.

The Kishtwar operation in the Chenab Valley, which saw a gunfight on August 11, has failed to track down the terrorists. An alert has been sounded in Kishtwar, and security forces are preparing to increase patrols in the upper reaches to cut off mobility of the terrorist groups.

No terrorist could be traced in Basantgarh of Udhampur on Monday. The area witnessed two stand-offs between security forces and terrorists on August 6 and August 11. On both occasions, the terrorists managed to flee after a brief exchange of fire.

Anti-terror operations continue in Kishtwar, Anantnag, Udhampur

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Anti-terror operations against three groups of highly trained terrorists in Udhampur, Kishtwar, and Anantnag districts of Jammu and Kashmir failed to make headway for the third day on Monday.

The search-and-cordon operation, which started on August 10 in the Ahlan Gagarmandu area of Anantnag district, continued for the third day. Additional deployments were made to replenish the team involved in the combing operation against three or four terrorists hiding in a forest area which falls between the Chenab Valley and the Kashmir Valley.

Dense forest

Officials said the hiding terrorists were using the topography to their advantage. The forest belt has dense green cover, steep slopes, and natural caves. The operation is going on at an altitude of 10,000 feet, with limited mobilisation of security personnel owing to lack of roads. Official sources said the past three days witnessed a couple of contacts with the terrorists.



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Court gives CBI time till August 27 in Kejriwal case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Monday granted the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) 15 days to obtain the requisite sanctions to prosecute Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Durgesh Pathak in a corruption case pertaining to the now-scraped Delhi excise policy 2021-22 scam.

Special Judge Kaveri Bajwa of the Rouse Avenue Court allowed the Central agency time till August 27 to secure necessary sanctions in the case. The court's order came after the agency submitted that it is yet to receive the sanction from the authorities concerned.

The CBI had earlier secured sanctions to investigate them in the case. In the final chargesheet filed in the matter, the agency had termed Mr. Kejriwal as the "mastermind" of the alleged excise policy scam.

The court last week had extended the judicial custody of Mr. Kejriwal.

20 Sikhs from Afghanistan granted citizenship certificate under CAA

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Twenty Sikhs from Afghanistan, part of the first group of Afghan Sikhs who had applied for citizenship online nearly 100 days ago, have been accorded citizenship under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019 in the past one week in New Delhi.

Some of the applicants came way back in 1997 but continued to live here on a long-term visa. Additionally, there are around 400 Afghan Sikhs whose applications under the Citizenship Act, 1955 have been pending since 2010, with many applicants having entered India in 1992 after the Leftist government in Afghanistan fell.

In 2009, the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government had significantly eased long-term visa norms for Hindus and Sikhs from Pakistan and Afghanistan enabling them to apply for citizenship under the 1955 Act as many lost their passports or the document expired in transit.



Major relief: Many Sikhs have now petitioned the Centre to migrate their applications from the 1955 Act to the CAA. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

LTVs are a precursor to citizenship.

Many Sikhs have now petitioned the Union Home Ministry to migrate their applications from the 1955 Act to the CAA, as, under the latter, the chances of getting citizenship are better.

Fateh Singh, general secretary of the Khalsa Diwan Welfare Society in New Delhi, said he had come to India in 1992 but continues to live here on an LTV, which is renewed every two years. Mr. Singh set up a camp at a gurdwara at Mahabir Nagar in west Delhi to help Sikh migrants file applications under the

CAA. "We opened the camp in April after the CAA Rules were notified on March 11. Over 400 Afghan Sikhs applied through this camp and within 100 days around 20 of them have got their citizenship certificates. Now they can apply for an Indian passport," Mr. Singh said.

Mr. Singh said he continued to live as a refugee as his application under the 1955 Act is pending with the Home Ministry, which is clearing the applications under the CAA.

"Under the parent Act, multiple authorities, including the State government officials, were in-

volved. However, under the CAA, the role of the State government has been obliterated, so the applications are processed quickly," he said.

Tarlok Singh, 48, who came to India in 2007, said while three members of his family are Indian citizens now under the CAA, his two minor sons, 11 and 13, will have to await a little longer.

Narrating the circumstances under which he migrated to India, he said, "I used to run a perfume shop in Afghanistan. One day someone had a fight with me over ₹100. I was dragged to the police station three times. While several Afghan Muslims stood by me, saying it was not my fault. However, I decided to come to India for the safety of my family."

Mr. Tarlok said he had previously never applied for Indian citizenship and used to assist a relative at a hosiery shop in central New Delhi's Karol Bagh market for a living. "We are very happy. I got the citizenship certificate on August 9," he said.

Indian Coast Guard beefs up maritime surveillance

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Considering the recent political events in Bangladesh and the emerging situation there, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has positioned operational units for robust surveillance in the region and to thwart any attempts of illegal migration through sea routes, it said on Monday.

"Surface surveillance has been enhanced along the Indo-Bangladesh International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) by Off-shore Patrol Vessels and Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs). Layered surface surveillance has been instituted by additional FPVs. All units at sea have been advised to monitor/board all fishing boats and undertake positive identification of Indian fishermen," the ICG said in a statement.

Sea-air coordinated aerial surveillance has been augmented along the IMBL by Coast Guard aircraft from Kolkata and Bhubaneswar especially during dawn and dusk hours to track scooting contacts, if any, it stated. Additional assets are also kept on standby at Paradip and Haldia for immediate deployment, if any subversive activity is reported. "Electronic surveillance has been promptly maintained for all close coast transferring contacts and interrogated," the statement said.

The ICG said necessary coordination has been maintained with agencies and stakeholders to prevent any ingress through possible infiltration and landing points. "So far, no instances of infiltration or any such activity have been reported on the maritime front," it said adding that enhanced surveillance measures will be maintained in the area until the situation improves and stabilises.

The Border Security Force has thwarted several attempts by Bangladeshi citizens attempting to cross the border.

Manipur CM calls for survey to reorganise districts

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh on Monday called for a State-wide survey to reorganise district boundaries.

Criticising the way some of the districts in the State were created, he accused past governments of drawing boundaries that served their "political interests" and not administrative convenience.

'Political aspirations'

This comes even as the ethnic conflict between the valley-based Meitei people and the hills-based Scheduled Tribe Kuki-Zo-Hmar people has continued for over a year now, killing over 220 people, injuring thousands, and internally



Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said Naga residents of Churachandpur claimed they were not receiving essential services. @NBIRENSINGH/X

displacing tens of thousands.

The Chief Minister was speaking in the Assembly on Monday, addressing concerns raised by Naga People's Front legislator Leishiyu Keishing, who pointed out that the formation of the Kangpokpi district in 2016 had affected

the political aspirations and other opportunities of many Tangkhul and Rongmei Nagas.

Later in the day, Sagolband MLA Rajkumar Imo Singh said the government was "contemplating fresh demarcation" of districts for "actual and better administrative reasons".

In his address to the Assembly, the Chief Minister acknowledged complaints of some villages being incorrectly assigned to new districts and said the State-wide survey should involve village authorities, community leaders, and legislators.

Mr. Singh added that there were also calls for the rollback of some newly created districts.

Speaking on the concerns raised by Mr. Keishing, Mr. Singh said that several Naga residents of Churachandpur and Kangpokpi districts had met him recently, claiming that they were not receiving essential services, commodities, and opportunities in their districts and that they were being "illegally taxed".

The Chief Minister

claimed that all of these issues had come up because the new districts never took care of the needs of local communities.

Mr. Singh also criticised certain communities, saying it was "most unfortunate and detrimental to peace and harmony" that these communities viewed district boundaries through an ethnic lens.

In 2016, the erstwhile Congress government led by Ibobi Singh had created seven new districts. While the districts of Kangpokpi and Tengnoupal were carved out of Senapati and Chandel districts, respectively, Pherzawl and Jiribam were carved out of Churachandpur and Imphal East districts, respectively. (With PTI inputs)

Mamata gives police seven days to crack doctor's murder case

Will transfer case to CBI if there is no progress within the deadline, says Chief Minister after visiting kin of victim; students reject her offer and continue protests even as parties target State govt. and urge it to take strict action and ensure justice

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

As protests continued to rage over the rape and murder of a doctor at the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital here, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday set a seven-day deadline for the police to make progress in the case, failing which she would hand it over to the Central Bureau of Investigation.

"I want the police to arrest the culprits as soon as possible. If by Sunday, they are unable to crack the case, then I will hand over the investigation to the CBI... because insiders may be involved," Ms. Banerjee said.

The Chief Minister made the announcement after meeting the family members of the victim who was found dead in a seminar room of the State-run hospital on Friday.

Ms. Banerjee said that even the family members alleged the possibility of an



Seeking justice: Doctors and medical staff display placards as they protest in New Delhi on Monday against the murder of a young doctor in Kolkata. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

outsider being involved. "I am surprised as to how the incident occurred - nurses were there, the security personnel were there," she added.

The Chief Minister said that all the people who were in positions of responsibility - like the principal and medical superintendent of the hospital and the police officer in charge

of security - have been removed from their respective positions.

Earlier in the day, the Principal of the medical college and hospital, Sandip Ghosh, resigned from the post.

The Kolkata Police on Saturday arrested a civic police volunteer in connection with the crime. The accused was allegedly seen

in CCTV footage near the crime scene. Signs of sexual assault have emerged from the post-mortem exam.

The junior doctors protesting against the crime rejected the Chief Minister's offer and said that they would keep up the demonstrations. The Federation of Resident Doctors' Association of India (FORDA)

has endorsed the strike. A two-member team of the National Commission for Women (NCW) arrived in Kolkata and visited the State police headquarters to probe the incident.

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra described the incident as heart-breaking. "Safety of women at the workplace is a big issue in the country and concrete efforts are needed for this. I appeal to the State government to take immediate and strict action in this case and ensure justice to the victim's family and fellow doctors," she said.

BJP leader Amit Malviya alleged that the underlying implication of this deadline was that she required more time to obfuscate the situation, protect the influential individuals and their kin involved in the rape and murder, intimidate the victim's family. "She will subsequently transfer a compromised case to the CBI, blame them and mask her own administrative failings," he added.

I&B Ministry to release fresh draft Broadcasting Bill after detailed dialogue

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry on Monday extended the time for receiving feedback on the draft Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill till October 15, stating that a fresh draft would be published after detailed consultations with the stakeholders.

The draft Bill was placed in the public domain on November 10, 2023, along with the explanatory notes seeking comments from the stakeholders and the general public. "In response, multiple recommendations/ comments/suggestions were received, including from various Associations," said the Ministry in a post on social media platform X.

The Ministry said it was

It has extended the time for receiving feedback on the draft placed in public domain till Oct. 15

holding a series of consultations with the stakeholders on the draft Bill.

Amid reports on the withdrawal of the draft Bill, Apar Gupta, lawyer and co-founder of the Internet Freedom Foundation (IFF), on Monday said via an X post: "I would like to thank everyone who reported, worked and educated others on its dangerous provisions. This is a broad coalition of diverse individuals, groups and organisations who have stood up and asked the government for transparency and contested political censorship."

He said: "Hope that the MIB practises the Pre-Legislative Consultation Process (PLCP) in letter and spirit for future legal proposals. I hope to continue providing a political economy framing and a detailed legal analysis that advances policy and public deliberation."

Earlier, the IFF had criticised the "secret" changes to the draft Bill, which expanded regulatory requirements on online news and entertainment media. The IFF had reiterated the concerns raised by civil society that the Bill would lead to further censorship implications for online platforms.

The government has been working on the draft Bill which is aimed at replacing the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995.

Display date, time stamp on visuals of disasters: govt. to TV channels

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Monday issued an advisory to private television channels and instructed them to ensure that the visuals of disasters, natural calamity, or major accidents prominently display the date and time stamp on the top of the footage.

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry said it had noticed that television channels gave continuous coverage to such disasters/calamities/accidents running over several days, but repeatedly showed footage from the day of the incident or some previous footage, "not necessarily reflecting the real-time ground situation which leads to unnecessary confusion and potential panic among viewers".

'To inform viewers'

The Union I&B Ministry said: "Therefore, to avoid any misunderstanding among viewers, all private television channels are hereby advised to ensure that visuals of disasters/natural calamity/major accidents should prominently display date and time stamp on the top of the footage. This will ensure viewers are suitably informed about the exact date of the footage being telecast and the fact that it does not necessarily reflect the real-time position at the location of the incident."

The television channels have also been advised to ensure adherence to the programme code while telecasting such incidents.

Centre takes a guarded position on Supreme Court's sub-quota verdict

Abhinav Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Amid widespread opposition to the view of a few judges on the Constitution Bench on Scheduled Caste sub-categorisation that the "creamy layer" among these castes should be excluded from reservation, the Centre remains silent on the power granted to the States by the Supreme Court to sub-classify the community for quota.

Union Social Justice Minister Virendra Kumar on Monday dodged repeated questions about the Centre's position on the matter. Instead, Dr. Kumar insisted the government had taken a strong position against introducing the "creamy layer".

When pressed further, the Minister said: "This part about the creamy layer is what has been decided."

The Centre's silence on sub-classification after the judgment stands in contrast to the strong position it had taken while arguing the case before the Supreme Court in February. At the time, it argued that the Centre and the States should be allowed to sub-classify the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to "further the



Virendra Kumar

ideals of social justice".

About two weeks after the judgment was delivered on August 1, the Centre has now arrived at an understanding that the verdict "clearly" applies to the State governments, according to sources aware of the deliberations. The order allows the States to sub-classify and has laid down the conditions under which they may exercise this power, one of them said.

While the Bench ruled in a 6:1 majority that the State governments are permitted to sub-classify the Scheduled Caste list, its judgment first laid down that this is a permissible exercise, different from including or excluding communities on the list.

Meanwhile, a high-level government panel formed ahead of the Lok Sabha election to engage with communities demanding

sub-categorisation has not met since the new government was formed on June 9, *The Hindu* has learnt.

The last meeting of the committee was held before the Lok Sabha election were announced, during which representatives of the Madiga community in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana met officials and pleaded their case.

This committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary was constituted in January, weeks after Prime Minister Narendra Modi had promised at an election rally in Telangana to examine issues faced by the Madiga community in getting benefits.

But even as the "creamy layer" observations of judges dominates the political rhetoric on the judgment, the central leaderships of neither the ruling party nor the principal Opposition party have come out with a detailed position on the core issue of sub-categorisation.

While anger against the suggestion of a "creamy layer" was nearly unanimous among Dalit voices across the political spectrum in the country, the issue of sub-quotas continues to create a sharp divide within these communities.

Restore nod for coverage inside House: press body

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Working News Camera-men's Association has written to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla urging him to restore the permission for coverage of developments inside the Parliament complex.

It said a large number of photojournalists had been rendered jobless by the restrictions. It said most of these had been imposed during the pandemic.

"Now that conditions have normalised, we hope that the coverage passes for photojournalists is restored completely," it said.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The question of who will be the next BJP president and the timing of the election to that post is still hanging fire, with the BJP and the RSS getting into a huddle before the formal *samanvay* (coordination) meeting of Sangh Parivar affiliates to be held in Palakkad at the end of this month.

On Sunday evening, a marathon meeting, lasting up to five hours, was held at Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's residence. RSS second-in-command Dattatreya Hosabale and joint general secretary Arun Kumar were present, along with Mr. Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah and Health Minister and BJP chief J.P. Nadda.

According to top sources, the meeting took up the

RSS has been clear that next BJP chief should be elected in active consultation with the Sangh

question of the next BJP chief as well as the situation on the safety of minority Hindus in Bangladesh.

"There are two schools of thought with regard to the next BJP president - one, that a working president, who will ultimately be the only candidate, be named early; another school is battling for the Maharashtra, Haryana and Jharkhand polls to be over for any new working president to be announced," said the source. There was no clarity on who prevailed during this meeting.

The RSS has been clear that the next BJP president is to be elected in active

consultation with it, unlike in the past, while the BJP is playing for time. "The results of the Lok Sabha polls have convinced the RSS that someone who will be strong enough to handle the organisation needs to be in place, while the BJP high command wants the seamless coordination between it and the president's office as before," the source said.

With regard to the safety of Bangladeshi Hindus, the government has put in place a committee to monitor the situation on the India-Bangladesh border, with several States in the northeast quite firm that they do not want a deluge of refugees in their States.

For the RSS, the frequent meetings for "coordination" are its strongest signal yet that unlike in the past it wants an active role in the way the BJP is run.

K-DISC
Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council (K-DISC)
India Heights, Govt. Women's College Road, Vazhuthacaud, Thiruvananthapuram

Expression of Interest (EOI)
EOI ID: 2024_KDIC_684392_1
EOI reference no: 1990_2024_KDISC_EOI dated 07 Aug 2024
Scope of Work: "Identification of Private Entrepreneurs to establish Job Stations in State of Kerala in association with K-DISC"
Last date for online submission of bids: 29-Aug-2024 05:00 PM
Bid opening: 31-Aug-2024 11:00 AM
For details, please visit website: etenders.kerala.gov.in D3/480/2024/MP&RD

International Institute for Population Sciences
(Deemed to be University)
An Autonomous Organization of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India, Govandi Station Road, Deonar, Mumbai - 400088.
Contact Details: Tel: 91-22-42372428
Email: distanceeducation@iipsindia.ac.in Website: www.iipsindia.ac.in

ADMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT FOR DISTANCE PROGRAMME - for the academic session July-August, 2024

The International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), an autonomous organization established in 1956 under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, invites applications for admission to the M.A. in Population Studies programme (Distance Mode) for the Academic Year July-August 2024-2025.
Last date to submit application offline and online: 20 August 2024
For more details, please visit: www.iipsindia.ac.in
DIRECTOR & SR. PROFESSOR

ANDHRA PRADESH POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED
VIDYUT SODHA :: VIJAYAWADA
NIT No. 610001655

APGENCO invites Online tenders for "Providing of 51 No's security persons (including 03 nos. Watchmen at Jalaput dam) to safeguard the assets of MHE(JI) Scheme for the period from 01.09.2024 (or from actual date of commencement of the work) to 31.03.2026"
Bid Start date & time: 09.08.2024 at 05:30 PM.
Bid Submission closing date & time: 23.08.2024 at 3:00 PM.
For further details visit: <https://etender.apgenco.gov.in> Phone: (08864-294192), DIPP 3114PP/CL, Dt.12/08/2024 CHIEF ENGINEER (O&M)/LSHES

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division, R.R. Nagara Zone, BBMP Building, CA No-3, 1st Main Road, Outer Ring Road, Kommaghatta Road, Kengeri Upanagar, Bengaluru - 560 060
No: EE/KEN/TEND/05/2024-25 Date: 12.08.2024

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Short Term Tender Notification) (Two Cover System) (Call-1) (Through GOK KPP Portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> only)
The Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division, BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the Construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl No.	Name of the work
1.	Comprehensive Development of RCC Drain, Roads and Other Development works in Ward No-26, Doddabidarakallu, Indiranagara and Surrounding Area. Amount put to tender: ₹.199.74 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.3,00,000/-

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents can be downloaded through kpp portal from 16.08.2024, 4:00 pm. (2) Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before 23.08.2024 upto 4:00 pm. (3) Pre-Bid meeting on 20.08.2024 at 3:00 pm O/o Chief Engineer, Ideal Homes, Rajarajeswari Nagar Zone, Bengaluru - 98. (4) Last date & Time for Receipt of Tenders on 23.08.2024 upto 4:00 pm. (5) Opening of Bids on 26.08.2024 at 11:00 am.
Sd/- Executive Engineer Kengeri Division

K-RIDE
RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (KARNATAKA) LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of Karnataka & Ministry of Railways)
BENGALURU SUBURBAN RAIL PROJECT
Website: www.kride.in | Email ID: gmprocurement@kride.in
Date: 12/08/2024

e-TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice No.: K-RIDE/BSRP/C2/Track Laying/2024
Tender ID: 2024_KRIDE_204391_1
PACKAGE - C-2 Track Laying
"Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Ballastless, Ballasted Track, Fastening System and Turnouts in Corridor 2 from Benniganahalli to Chikkabanavara @ Chainage (-) 1413 to Chainage 27029 including Ballasted and Special Tracks in Soladevanahalli Depot".
Last date for submission of bids is 26/09/2024, IST 15:00 Hrs, for details visit <https://etenders.gov.in/e procure/app>.
Sd/- GENERAL MANAGER /Procurement/KRIDE
DIPP/CR/1307/20n/2024-25
KridePrm KrideBsrp kride_bsrp KRIDE.BSRP

KERALA IRRIGATION INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD
Thiruvananthapuram

NOTICE INVITING EOI
KIIDC, a PSU under Govt of Kerala invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for the Submission of Proposals for Developing Irrigation Tourism Project at Kolapra Island, Thodupuzha, Idukki District from Local Self-Government Organisations/Institutions or Other Government Organisations/Institutions or Private Organisations/Institutions or Individuals or Societies. Detailed EOI along with formats and timelines is uploaded in the KIIDC website: <http://kiidc.kerala.gov.in>
Managing Director

ODISHA CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Govt. of Odisha Undertaking)
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER (MECH.),
ERECTION AND MAINTENANCE,
CENTRAL WORKSHOP, RASULGARH, BHUBANESWAR -751010 (ODISHA)
Tel- 0674: 2580896, E-mail: gmercetionoccc@gmail.com
(GSTIN-21AAAC02571K2ZM)

"e" - Tender Notice No. 15 /OCCL/2024-25 (on-line)

Type of work : "Fitting of 1st. stage embedded parts for both radial gates & stoplogs for 12 sets. erection of anchorage system for 06 Nos of radial gates (05 nos of intermediate piers), erection & testing of pulley supporting girders for 130T rope drum hoist of radial gates for 12 sets, erection & testing of anchor bars for gear box supporting frame for 130T rope drum hoist for 12 sets and concreting of 2" stage embedded parts for radial gates and stoplog, pertaining to Kanupur Gate Erection Project, Basudevpur, Keonjhar as per drawings, scope of work and instruction of engineer-in-charge"
Total No. of work : 01(One).
Period of completion : 180 (One hundred eighty) days.

Tendering Officer	Bid Identification No.	Cost of Tender document (including GST) through on-line transfer system	Availability of Tender (On-line)	Submission of Bid (On-line)
General Manager (Mech.), Erection and Maintenance, OCC Ltd., Central Workshop, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar	OCCL-G.M./E&M/02/2024-25	Rs.11,800/- (Non-refundable)	13.08.2024 10.00 AM to 27.08.2024 5.00 PM	13.08.2024 10.00 AM to 27.08.2024 5.00 PM

Date of opening of the Technical Bid : 28.08.2024 at 11.30 A.M.
Further details can be seen from the Govt. website (www.tendersodisha.gov.in)
Amendment/corrigendum/cancellation, if any shall be posted on-line only.
General Manager (Mech.),
Erection and Maintenance, OCC Ltd., Bhubaneswar
OIPR-34163/11/0013/2425

IN BRIEF



HC grants interim protection from arrest to Puja Khedkar

The Delhi High Court on Monday granted interim protection from arrest to former IAS probationer Puja Khedkar, who has been accused of fraudulently clearing UPSC examination, till August 21. The court issued notice to the Delhi Police and the UPSC on the anticipatory bail plea filed by Ms. Khedkar. "In the facts of the present case, the court is of the opinion that the petitioner be not arrested till the next date of hearing," the court said, listing the case for further hearing on August 21. The judge also said there was hardly any discussion by the trial court as to why bail sought cannot be granted.

'Some parties campaign that India is unsafe for minorities'

Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju on Monday said that a campaign was being run across the globe to project that minorities were not safe in India. He accused Opposition parties of defaming the country using foreign media. Speaking at an event organised by the BJP minority morcha in Delhi, Mr. Rijju said, "There are six constitutionally recognised minorities but it is just a name that we call them minority... no one in this country is suppressed or oppressed, there is no discrimination against minorities here." He also said that whenever there was tension or disturbance in the neighbouring countries, the people of those places took refuge in India.

MNS, Sena (UBT) leaders seek to defuse tensions after convoy attacks

Raj appeals to his cadre to exercise restraint after cow dung, coconuts, tomatoes were hurled at Uddhav's car in Thane; Raut distances his party from attack on MNS chief's motorcade in Beed

Ateeq Shaikh
MUMBAI

Days after the convoys of estranged cousins Uddhav Thackeray and Raj Thackeray came under attack, leaders of their respective parties – Shiv Sena (UBT) and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) – have sought to defuse escalating tensions ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly election. While the Sena (UBT) has distanced itself from the incident, the MNS has appealed to its cadre to exercise restraint.



Uddhav and Raj Thackeray have had strained ties after the latter quit the undivided Shiv Sena and formed the MNS in 2006. FILE PHOTO

A group of MNS workers had allegedly targeted Mr. Uddhav's convoy in Thane with cow dung, coconuts, and tomatoes on Saturday evening, a day after betel nuts (*supari*) were hurled at the motorcade of Mr. Raj in Beed following allegations that he took a '*supari* (contract)' to go solo in the upcoming election. While eight people were booked in connection with the attack on Mr. Raj's vehicle,

about 40 MNS workers were detained for targeting Mr. Uddhav's convoy. "One should ensure that such tension-building incidents are prevented. Politics means clash of views, not creating hurdles in others' journeys," Mr. Raj said, appealing to MNS workers to restrain themselves from such retaliatory attacks. He also urged them to channelise their energy towards resolving the problems faced by people.

The MNS chief said his cadre gave a "befitting reply" as the Sena (UBT) leaders had failed to discourage their workers from indulging in such acts. "Bid to mislead" Meanwhile, Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut distanced the party from the actions of those detained in Beed and took a dig at the MNS and the BJP. "Ahmad Shah Abdali of Delhi has given you the '*supari*'

to do this [attack on Uddhav's car] to spread anarchy. You are being used and made to do this. They are trying to mislead people with the Assembly poll nearing," Mr. Raut said. After Union Home Minister Amit Shah described Mr. Uddhav as the chief of the 'Aurangzeb fan club', the Sena (UBT) chief on August 3 called him the "political heir" of 18th-century Afghan ruler Ahmad Shah Abdali and that he indulges in 'power jihad' by splitting political outfits to form his party's own government. Mr. Raut also took a swipe at Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, who termed the attack on Mr. Uddhav a "reaction to an action", without naming him. "We have already clarified that the party has nothing to do with the (Beed) attack. Still, if anyone wants to term the attack in Thane as a 'reaction to an action', then they are confused. We will show them after two months what the real reaction is," he said.

Top court declines petition against fresh UGC-NET

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Aspirants wait at an exam centre in Patna to appear for the UGC-NET exam. FILE PHOTO

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a plea challenging a decision of the Centre to conduct the University Grants Commission (UGC) National Eligibility Test (UGC-NET) afresh from August 21. A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud said it did not want to introduce chaos and uncertainty for nine lakh candidates by entertaining the petition filed by 47 persons. The petitioners had challenged the decision of the Ministry of Education to cancel the previous examination held on June 18. The Ministry had announced its decision the day after the June 18 exam based on prima facie indicators found by the Home Ministry's National Cyber Crime Threat Analytics Unit that the integrity of the exam was compromised. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is investigating into the matter. Noting that two months have passed since the Ministry's decision to conduct a re-examination, the court said any change now would only cause further confu-

sion. The reliefs sought by the petitioners included a direction to the UGC to produce evidence of paper leak. The petitioners also sought the CBI to share the results of its investigation till date. They said the original results ought to be released in case the CBI found no evidence of any leak. The petitioners said the prospect of a complete re-test was unjust, and if a leak was after all found, re-exam should be held only for that portion. The petitioners had asked the court to constitute an expert committee comprising retired or sitting judges, distinguished cyberlaw experts, administrative heads, and educational experts.

NCERT finds shortfalls in functioning of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI



Contract and outsourced employees protest in Vijayawada for minimum time scale and job security on Friday. GIRI KVS

Lack of transparency in the utilisation of funds, weak infrastructure, shortage of teachers, low salary of teachers, and concerns about safety are among the challenges identified in an evaluation of 254 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV) by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). The NCERT has submitted the report to the Education Ministry. Of the 5,639 approved KGBVs, 4,260 are fully functional, 799 partially functional, and 580 completely non-functional as on June 30, 2023, the report says. A greater percentage of the non-functional KGBVs are in Bihar (132), Andhra Pradesh (88), Jammu & Kashmir (84), Uttar Pradesh (78), and Odisha (76). "Non-completion of

construction work, land issues with other departments, delays in process of selection of sites, approval of funds, delays in seeking approval of posts of teachers and other staff are some reasons for non-functionality," the report says. In all, 6,88,013 girls are enrolled from Classes 6 to 12 in 5,035 KGBVs. The study of an indicative sample of 254 KGBVs showed there is a shortage of regular and full-time teaching and administrative staff.

er, the report disagrees. "It is recommended that slowly and gradually there should be only KGBVs with stand-alone hostels and students must go to nearby State school for studies in inclusive environment," the report recommends. Around 44% of the teachers said they had less than five years of experience in KGBVs, indicating low retention of teachers. Approximately one-fourth of the teachers have six to 10 years of experience in KGBVs, and another fourth have 10 to 15 years of experience. Only 3% of teachers have more than 15 years of experience in KGBVs, suggesting that the more experienced teachers quit KGBVs to find jobs elsewhere. Two-thirds of the girls (65.6%) did not respond to the question on safety and security, one-third responded that they are not safe, and less than 1% said they are safe.

'Most security camps in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand set up on tribal properties'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Most of the security camps set up in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand post 2019 have come up on private or community properties of tribals without their consent and in severe violation of existing laws, according to a citizens' report released here on Monday. The report, "Security and Insecurity, Bastar Division, Chhattisgarh, 2023-24", published after a fact-finding team visited the areas, says the proliferation of paramilitary camps, set up in violation of several laws in Bastar and other Adivasi (tribal) areas, is an "imposition" on local Adivasis. The government has said that setting up of paramilitary camps is necessary for laying roads, constructing schools, health

centres and voting booths, all of which are needed for State services. The people told the fact-finding team that they are not opposed to roads but would like a say in how and where these roads are being built. "The layout and width of the roads makes it quite clear in many cases that they are meant to facilitate mining operations. On the one hand these camps and roads are being built without people's consent and on the other, as of 2022, 51 mining leases have been granted in the Bastar region, of which only 14 are with the public sector," the

report says. It says the situation is similar in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district where at least 30 camps have been set up in the past four years in Saranda and Kolhan forests. "The peaceful democratic protests against the camps have been ignored or worse suppressed using brutal methods from lathi charge to burning the sites to firing on protesters. It is very apparent that the real purpose of the camps is to protect and promote corporate interests particularly mining interests at the cost of Adivasi lives and constitutional rights," members of the fact-finding team said at a press conference. The activists called for implementation of the Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act of 2006 and the Forest Rights Act 2006 in letter and spirit.

Take steps to reopen Shambhu border: SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday urged Punjab and Haryana to work together towards a phased opening of the long-blockaded Shambhu border. A Bench led by Justice Surya Kant orally approved the two States' suggestions of names to fill a 'neutral' panel to open negotiations with the agitating farmers camped on the inter-State boundary since February 13. The court agreed to pass a formal judicial order detailing the terms of reference of the panel. The court said it was essential to at least partially open the main highway lanes to facilitate the movement of medical emergency vehicles, students travelling to and from their schools, and local commuters.

THE CROSSWORD+ 14252 (set by Crescent)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ <https://qrqo.page.link/jjpTn>

Across

- Case of fire enveloping meat served in this way? (6)
- It can sense and stop, taking care of outside temperature (8)
- Points in time not entirely clear (4)
- Benevolent nature spreading its love and energy (10)
- Closure of service on cutting streetcar cable (8)
- Perceptions of male ego over generations (6)

Down

- Fall behind vehicle, ultimately gripping car's rear bumper (5)
- Marks cut after I fail to pick up properly (7)
- Ahead of time, holding back, say with anticipation (7)
- Mule team and exhausted hack go off? Go on! (4,4,2,5)
- Fur worn by royalty, mostly spreading it around extremities (7)
- Old Russian cavalryman thus caught returning fire (7)
- Root faults probed by article in book one after another (2,3,4)
- Rest rubbish bins to heave litter (9)
- No rain, pressure shifts geological layer (4,3)
- Song about desire expressing lover's initial state (7)
- Row back sharing brief warning (7)
- Urges in pursuits for pleasure when husband's left (7)
- Spice divided in two (5)

SUDOKU

	9		2	5				8
2	3				1			
		6	4				1	
			3			9		
1			2				6	
	9			5				
6				4	1			
			6				8	7
4			7	8			5	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

W	H	I	T	T	L	E	D	A	B	U	S	E	S
E	M	E	N	L	I	O							
N	U	M	E	R	A	T	E	W	I	N	T	E	R
T	U	A	I	U	N	D	E						
B	A	R	R	I	S	T	E	R	D	R	A	W	N
Y	E	R	L	G	S	T	E						
R	I	D	E	E	X	P	R	E	S	S			
S	M	N	E	O	D	S							
T	R	A	P	E	Z	E	F	A	T	E			
C	H	E	R	T	E	D	D	Y	B	E	A	R	
K	R	N	S	E	O	L	I	E					
L	O	I	T	E	R	G	O	N	D	E	N	S	E
E	A	S	U	E	T	E	N						
R	E	L	A	T	E	S	T	I	L	I	S	T	S

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	1	4	7	5	8	6	3	2
2	3	7	4	9	6	5	8	1
8	5	6	3	2	1	9	4	7
1	7	3	9	6	4	8	2	5
4	2	9	5	8	7	3	1	6
6	8	5	1	3	2	4	7	9
7	9	8	6	1	3	2	5	4
3	6	1	2	4	5	7	9	8
5	4	2	8	7	9	1	6	3

MADGALDEEP SCENT 3in1

FAITH

The way out of ignorance

The composition of a song needs the blend of both *sruthi* and *laya*. As an adage says, *Sruthi matha, layam pitha* – a song will be good with both *sruthi* and *laya*, like a child growing up well-groomed by its parents. Equally, prosody and alliteration are essential for a poem. Creating rhythms (*Sandham*) without changing the meanings is tough, and Sri Arunagirinathar deftly handled them in his works. Similarly, none can equal Saint Thiruvalluvar in describing righteousness, and Kambar in writing Kavya.

Lanka Sri Jeyaraj said as long as desires grip people, their knowledge is dominated by ignorance like a vessel covered by rust. The mind will constantly be wavering. Even if one faculty is let loose and uncontrolled, it will drag the other four its way. It is important for a person to realise his mistakes and refine himself. Sri Arunagirinathar repented all his past misdeeds with a contrite heart and became an ascetic with the blessings of Lord Muruga. In his divine composition, Kandhar Anubhoothi, the saint says that his relationship with people changed, and his ignorance got destroyed as soon as he received the blessings from Lord Muruga (*Kuriyai Kuriyadhu Kuritharum Neri*).

Reciting Kandhar Anubhoothi will help a person transform, derive the blessings of Lord Muruga, and reach the realm of His abode.

IN BRIEF



Shriram Life policy sales more than doubles in June quarter

Shriram Life Insurance Co. Ltd. said it sold 1.27 lakh individual policies in the June quarter, registering a 131% increase from the same quarter in the year-earlier period. The market share for regular pay retail policies more than doubled to 7.3%, even as net profit contracted 23% to ₹27 crore, the firm said. Growth in individual policies and new business premium demonstrates our products are resonating well with consumers," said MD & CEO Casparus J.H. Kromhout.

Amazon India, Gentari tie up for 10,000 EV fleet by 2025

Amazon India on Monday said that it had formed a strategic partnership with electric mobility firm Gentari for its EV deployment programme as it targets a fleet of 10,000 electric vehicles (EVs) for last-mile deliveries by 2025. Under the collaboration, Gentari Green Mobility Business will procure and deploy EVs for the firm in the next three years besides providing comprehensive fleet management services to the delivery service partners, Amazon India said.

Kinetic Green raises \$25 mn from Green Pacific Capital

Electric vehicle manufacturer Kinetic Green said it had secured an investment of \$25 million from Greater Pacific Capital (GPC), a global PE firm, and was in talks with other potential investors to secure another \$15 million during 2024. The company said it intended to utilise the funds for scaling up production at its Supa facility, marketing and distribution of current products including the recently-launched E-Luna, and towards R&D of new products.

STT, PIT spikes lift net direct tax receipts to 22.5%

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's net direct tax collections' growth accelerated to 22.5% by August 11, from 19.54% a month ago, led by a 30% spike in Personal Income Tax (PIT) revenues and a 111% surge in Securities Transaction Tax (STT) receipts, even as corporate tax inflows grew a mere 5.9% from last year.

Data from the Central Board of Direct Taxes showed that gross tax collections rose 24% by Sunday to ₹8.13 lakh crore, while refunds to taxpayers rose 33.5% to a tad over ₹1.2 lakh crore. Net revenues from direct taxes

PIT receipts so far is 64.55% of net tax receipts; corporate taxes' share dropped to 32.1% as of Aug. 11

stood at almost ₹6.93 lakh crore, compared with ₹5.66 lakh crore in the year ago period.

Personal income tax receipts so far this year now account for 64.55% of net tax receipts. A rise of about 60.2% from a month ago and 60.8% by the same time last year. Corporate taxes' share has dropped to 32.1% from 36.6% on July 11, and 37.1% as of August 11 last year.

Bharti Global to acquire 24.5% stake in U.K.'s BT Group

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Bharti Global, the international investment arm of Bharti Enterprises is set to acquire a 24.5% stake in the U.K.-based-BT Group plc, the company said in a statement.

Bharti Enterprises, which owns Airtel, entered into a binding agreement with Altice UK, to buy 9.9% of its stake in BT Group. The remaining 14.51% will be bought after receiving regulatory clearances, the company said.

"Bharti and British Telecom (BT) have an enduring relationship going back more than two decades, wherein BT owned 21% stake along with 2 board



Sunil Bharti Mittal

seats in Bharti Airtel Ltd. from 1997-2001. Today marks a significant milestone in Bharti Group's history as we invest in BT, an iconic British company," Sunil Bharti Mittal, Chairperson of Bharti Enterprises, said in the statement.

Deutsche Telekom, which owns 12% stake in BT Group, welcomed the acquisition, calling it a pos-

Markets remain calm as Hindenburg report impact 'minimal'

Eight out of 10 Adani group stocks suffer losses estimated at \$13.4 billion; loss 'negligible' as latest report is targeted more at SEBI chief, say analysts

Lalendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Contrary to fears of a massive fall owing to the publication of the Hindenburg Research report on Saturday, wherein the U.S. based short-seller accused the SEBI chief of having links with offshore funds used by the Adanis to allegedly jack up their share prices, the benchmark stock indices on Monday remained nearly calm and ended range-bound.

However, Adani group stocks bore the brunt and lost an estimated \$13.4 billion in value, as per estimates by Reuters.

The S&P BSE Sensex, which opened 375 points down from Friday's close, gradually recovered lost ground during the day and closed with a minor loss of 57 points, or 0.07%, at 79,649 points.

Similarly, the NSE Nifty-50 index closed with a loss of 20.50 points, or 0.08%, at 24,347.

"Domestic benchmark indices opened lower on Monday due to uncertainty stemming from Hindenburg's allegations against SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband. Despite this uncertainty, Indian markets displayed resilience and settled the day on a flat to negative note," said Hrishi-



Business as usual: BSE Sensex, which opened 375 points down from Friday's close, closed at a minor loss of 57 points. REUTERS

kesh Yedve, AVP Technical and Derivatives Research at Asit C. Mehta Investment Intermediates Ltd.

'Personal attack'

Elaborating on the lukewarm response from the markets, Arun Kejriwal, founder, Kejriwal Research & Investment Services said, "Investors and institutions by now are aware that this [Hindenburg Report] is a continuation of the previous report and this is full of personal attack on a regulator, which has issued a show-cause notice. That is why they have discounted the personal allegations made against the SEBI chief."

He said the losses suffered by Adani group stocks this time were "too negligible" compared with last time when the first Hindenburg report on Adani was released 18 months ago. On Monday,

eight out of 10 Adani group stocks closed with losses. These included Adani Enterprises (-1.09%); Adani Ports (-2.02%); Adani Power (-0.65%); Adani Energy Solutions (-3.70%); Adani Total Gas (-4.03%); Adani Wilmar (-4.14%), NDTV (-3.08%), and ACC (-1.55%).

In January 2023, when the U.S. shortseller accused the Adani group of manipulating its share prices by making use of offshore funds, group company stocks had crashed about 10% each. Reportedly, the bonds and shares of Adani Group companies were devalued by more than \$104 billion in market value, causing colossal losses to the Indian conglomerate and its founder.

This time, the impact was minimal as the latest report was targeted more at the SEBI chairperson rather than the Adani group per se, analysts said.

June industrial output growth slumps to 5-month low of 4.2%

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's industrial output growth slumped to a five-month low of 4.2% in June, with manufacturing output growth dipping to a seven-month low of 2.6%, almost half the previous month's growth, and power generation easing 2.8% from a record high in May as the heat wave receded.

On end-use basis, production growth fell in all six segments compared with May, with consumer non-durables' output shrinking 1.4% from last June - the second such contraction in three months.

The National Statistical Office also upgraded May's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) to 6.2%, the highest in seven months, from its initial estimate of 5.9%.

Mining was the only segment with accelerated growth in June with output rising 10.3% year-on-year (YoY). However, actual production levels were 1.2% lower sequentially.

Within manufacturing, accounting for almost 78% of the IIP, nine of 23 segments reported a contraction this June, including beverages, textiles, leather products and pharmaceuticals. Three sectors reported a double-digit production rise, electrical equipment (28.4%), furniture (16%) and computers and electronics (10.7%).

June's industrial performance fell below most economists' forecasts, despite a beneficial base from last year when output had grown 4%. Consumer dur-



ables' production clocked the highest uptick of 8.6%, over a 6.8% contraction last year, while primary goods grew 6.3%.

Capital goods' output growth slowed to 2.4% from 2.9% in May, but June's production levels were the highest so far in 2024-25. Intermediate goods' production growth cooled to 3.1% from 3.9% in May and 5.2% a year ago, while infrastructure and construction goods rose just 4.4% compared with 6.3% in May and 13.3% a year ago.

Overall industrial output rose 5.2% in Q1 FY25, from 4.7% in Q1 FY24, with consumer non-durables being the only segment to report a contraction, with production dropping 0.5% from a 6.8% uptick.

While July's high frequency data suggests mixed trends, rating agency ICRA said it expects IIP growth to be between 2.5% and 4.5%, over a base of 6.2% growth recorded last July. "With a slowdown in government capex and lacklustre rural demand, we anticipate a moderation in GDP growth" in Q1 FY25, said Aditi Nayar, ICRA's chief economist.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	79,649	-0.07
US Dollar	83.97	-0.02
Gold	72,350	-0.13
Brent oil	81.20	-

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter.	3151.75	-35.80
Adani Ports	1501.40	-32.40
Apollo Hosp	6502.40	-85.45
Asian Paints	3053.20	12.60
Axis Bank	1164.30	21.55
Bajaj Auto	9710.85	-55.10
Bajaj Finserv	1559.00	-1.20
Bajaj Finance	6608.15	-10.05
Bharti Airtel	1458.60	-5.50
BPCL	333.40	-0.00
Britannia Ind	5645.75	-94.55
Cipla	1586.25	11.50
Coal India	523.95	-5.85
Divis Lab	4891.00	61.05
Dr Reddys Lab	6886.55	-126.95
Eicher Motors	4808.80	-21.80
Grasim Ind	2571.10	-1.65
HCL Tech	1585.25	-4.70
HDFC Bank	1660.10	9.90
HDFC Life	702.45	0.05
Hero MotoCorp	5311.85	104.65
Hindalco	629.35	6.45
Hind Unilever	2748.70	1.50
ICICI Bank	1172.80	1.20
IndusInd Bank	1350.85	-1.05
Infosys	1797.40	26.65
ITC	494.60	-1.30
JSW Steel	917.35	12.25
Kotak Bank	1772.55	2.90
L&T	1371.95	-20.10
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5400.45	26.90
M&M	2717.65	-31.50
Maruti Suzuki	12273.25	49.05
NestleIndia	2473.10	-31.60
NTPC	400.85	-9.80
ONGC	341.30	8.75
PowerGrid Corp	341.15	-4.85
Reliance Ind	3201.25	-77.35
SBI Life	1705.00	-20.10
State Bank	812.60	-11.70
Shriram Finance	2976.10	18.00
Sun Pharma	1733.85	-1.45
TataConsumer	1170.80	-15.35
Tata Motors	1076.15	8.05
Tata Steel	152.06	0.25
TCS	4195.65	-33.10
Tech Mahindra	1512.50	5.80
Titan	320.85	-10.85
UltraTech Cement	11302.85	2.50
Wipro	489.05	-2.25

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 12

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.77	84.09
Euro	91.51	91.86
British Pound	106.88	107.30
Japanese Yen (100)	56.77	56.99
Chinese Yuan	11.67	11.71
Swiss Franc	96.36	96.74
Singapore Dollar	63.23	63.48
Canadian Dollar	61.05	61.29
Malaysian Ringgit	18.79	18.90
Australian Dollar	55.30	55.51

Source: Indian Bank

Three M Paper Boards plans 25% capacity expansion

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Three M Paper Boards Ltd., which is into manufacture of recycled paper-based products, said it is planning to expand capacity by 25% to cater to the growing demand of its products from domestic and international markets.

Currently, the company has an installed capacity of 72,000 tonnes per annum (TPA), which would be enhanced, a top company executive said. "We are planning to increase capacity by 25% in two years, which will be met through available funds and internal accruals," MD Rushabh H. Shah said in an interview.

The company recently raised up to ₹40 crore through its SME IPO and is listed on the BSE.

The Coated Duplex Boards produced by the company are made from 100% recycled wastepaper imported from the U.S. and Europe and are fully biodegradable, making them an eco-friendly choice for packaging various FMCG and pharma goods, Mr. Shah said.

The company's recycled paper-based Duplex Board products range from 200 to 500 GSM and are used in various packaging applications across industries such as food and beverage, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and consumer goods.

BHEL gets 1,600 MW thermal power project

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

State-owned BHEL on Monday said it secured a 1,600 MW thermal power project from Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC).

The unit will be set up in the Jharkhand's Koderma district on an EPC (Engineering, Procurement, and Construction) basis, BHEL said in a statement.

The 2x800 MW supercritical thermal power project is the largest in terms of capacity for DVC, and will be set up adjacent to its existing 2x500 MW units also installed by BHEL earlier, BHEL said in a statement.

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LEGAL NOTICE

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT (Order 3, Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)
IN THE COURT OF MS. NIRJA BHATTIA, LD. DISTRICT JUDGE (COMMERCIAL COURT-07), DIGITAL, SOUTH-EAST DISTRICT ROOM NO.39, SAKET COURTS, NEW DELHI.
SUIT NO.: CS/COMM/2884/2024
Bank of Baroda ...Plaintiff
VS
Bhola Nath Soni ...Defendant TO,
Sh. Bhola Nath Soni (Prop. OMS Pricely Leather Garments) House No. 191, Gali No. 13, Lalpala Colony, Part-3, Meethapur Extn., Badarpur, New Delhi-110044 (Mobile: 7503321083)
WHEREAS you are intentionally evading service of the above cited writ if you do not attend the case on the 27.08.2024 the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex-parte.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, this 07th August, 2024.
District Judge (Commercial Court)-07 (Digital) South-East District Saket Court Complex, New Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

BEFORE SPECIAL DISTRICT JUDGE NO.1, CUDDALORE (MIL. WADU) MCOP No. 1197 / 2023
K.Srinivasan, S/o. Kannan Akkaraigori, Cuddalore Port. ...Petitioner
-Vs-
Kapoor Diesels Garage Pvt Ltd., (Rep. by its Proprietor), No.29/5 Village Nanngli Poona, G.T.Karnal Road, New Delhi - 110 036 .. 1st Respondent
NOTICE TO 1st RESPONDENT
The Petitioner claimed compensation of Rs.30,00,000/- for injuries caused by your Goods Carrier bearing Regn. No. NL-01-L-5121 in a motor accident on 15.05.2023. The case is posted to 09.09.2024, for your appearance. You should appear in the court in person or through Advocate at 10.00 AM on 09.09.2024 and file your objection else the case will be decided in your absence.

M. Sivamani, B.A., B.L., Advocate for Petitioner, Cell No. 9442135031

PUBLIC NOTICE

BEFORE SPECIAL DISTRICT JUDGE NO.1, CUDDALORE (MIL. WADU) MCOP No. 1196 / 2023
Minor R.Veera Sanjivi S/o Ragupathy (Minor guardian, Mother R. Manjula) Akkaraigori, Cuddalore Port. ...Petitioner
-Vs-
Kapoor Diesels Garage Pvt Ltd., (Rep. by its Proprietor), No.29/5 Village Nanngli Poona, G.T.Karnal Road, New Delhi - 110 036 .. 1st Respondent
NOTICE TO 1st RESPONDENT
The Petitioner claimed compensation of Rs.30,00,000/- for injuries caused by your Goods Carrier bearing Regn. No. NL-01-L-5121 in a motor accident on 15.05.2023. The case is posted to 27.08.2024, for your appearance. You should appear in the court in person or through Advocate at 10.00 AM on 27.08.2024 and file your objection else the case will be decided in your absence.

M. Sivamani, B.A., B.L., Advocate for Petitioner, Cell No. 9442135031

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कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, खूँटी। ई-अति अल्पकालीन पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
ई-अति अल्पकालीन पुनर्निविदा संख्या-13/RI/2024-25/RWD/KHUNTI, दिनांक-12.08.2024
कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, खूँटी द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से पैकेज के रूप में निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।
1. कार्य का नाम-
क्र.सं. आइंजीन सं./ पैकेज सं. प्रखण्ड पथ का नाम प्राकलित राशि (रुपये में) अग्रयन की राशि (रुपये में) कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि टेण्डर कॉल नं.
1 RWD-KHU-STPKG-15/2023-24 अड़की 1. सलगाडीह कैनल एनएच-33 से बारीगड़ा तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य (लं-18.00 कि०मी०)। 14,62,97,200.00 (बौद्ध करोड़ बासठ लाख सैतान्ने हजार दो सौ रुपये मात्र)। 29,26,000.00 (उनतीस लाख छबीस हजार रुपये मात्र)। 15 माह। द्वितीय
2 वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि- 13.08.2024।
3 ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय- 20.08.2024 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे।
4 निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय- 22.08.2024 अपराह्न 3.30 बजे।
5 निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता- कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, खूँटी, पिन-835210।
6 ई- निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं- 9431170803।
7 अग्रयन की राशि स्वीकृत परिमाण विपत्र के अनुरूप भी मान्य होगा।
विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट jarkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।
कार्यपालक अभियंता ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, खूँटी।
PR 332509 Rural Work Department(24-25)D

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, खूँटी। ई-अति अल्पकालीन पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
ई-अति अल्पकालीन पुनर्निविदा संख्या-05/RI/2024-25/RWD/KHUNTI, दिनांक-12.08.2024
कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, खूँटी द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से पैकेज के रूप में निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।
1. योजना का नाम-
क्र.सं. आइंजीन सं./ पैकेज सं. प्रखण्ड पथ का नाम प्राकलित राशि (रुपये में) अग्रयन की राशि (रुपये में) कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि टेण्डर कॉल नं.
1 RWD-KHU-STPKG-21/2023-24 सोरपा 1. L026 नावाटोली से पाटपुर तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य (लं-2.710 कि०मी०)।
2. L023 कुर्मिंग से पैरा कोक्या तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य (लं-4.750 कि०मी०)।
3. L062 कुदाम से अलंगकेल (VR95) तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य (लं-1.732 कि०मी०)।
4. L056 ओड़मा से तिरिलेपौड़ी तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य (लं-3.224 कि०मी०)।
5. L024 तिरला से बरकाटोली तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य (लं-1.410 कि०मी०)।
6. L053 ओड़मा गोविन्दपुर पथ से ओंकरा तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य (लं-3.100 कि०मी०)।
7. PWD पथ से चन्दपुर तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य (लं-2.975 कि०मी०)।
12,80,46,200.00 25,62,000.00 (बारह करोड़ अस्सी लाख शियालीस हजार दो सौ रूपे मात्र)। (पच्चीस लाख बासठ हजार रूपे मात्र)। 15 माह। द्वितीय
2 वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि - 13.08.2024।
3 ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय - 20.08.2024 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे।
4 निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय - 22.08.2024 अपराह्न 3.30 बजे।
5 निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता- कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, खूँटी, पिन-835210।
6 ई- निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं- 9431170803।
7 अग्रयन की राशि स्वीकृत परिमाण विपत्र के अनुरूप भी मान्य होगा।
विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट jarkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।
कार्यपालक अभियंता ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, खूँटी।
PR.00.332510 Rural Work Department(24-25):D

ATHENS

Greek wildfire spreads to edge of Athens; towns, hospitals evacuated

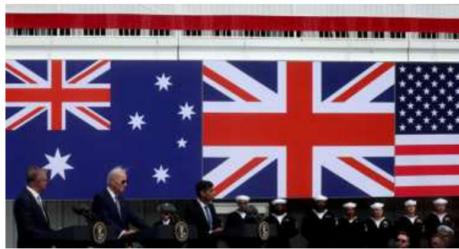


REUTERS

A fast-moving wildfire fuelled by gale-force winds spread to the edge of Athens on Monday, torching trees, houses and cars and forcing evacuations of several hospitals and a dozen towns and villages. The European Union on Monday said four countries would send firefighters to Greece upon the government's request. AP

SYDNEY

Australia, U.S. and U.K. sign nuclear transfer deal for AUKUS submarine



REUTERS

Australia said it had signed a deal to allow the exchange of nuclear secrets and material with the United States and Britain, a key step toward equipping its navy with nuclear-powered submarines. It will allow the transfer of sensitive U.S. and U.K. nuclear material and knowhow as part of the tripartite 2021 AUKUS accord. AFP

JAKARTA

Indonesia President holds first Cabinet meeting in future capital



AP

Indonesian President Joko Widodo on Monday held his first Cabinet meeting in the country's future capital, despite much of the city remaining under construction as it runs behind schedule. The \$32-billion megaproject Nusantara was originally expected to be inaugurated on August 17 but has been delayed. AFP

DAR ES SALAAM

Tanzania arrests opposition leaders in mass round-up



AFP

Tanzanian police have detained leading opposition figures including Chadema party leader Freeman Mbowe, in picture, and his deputy Tundu Lissu and rounded up several hundred youth supporters on the eve of a planned rally, a move condemned by rights activists on Monday as "troubling". AFP

Police resume patrols of Dhaka streets as strike ends

Agence France-Presse
DHAKA

Bangladeshi police resumed patrols of the capital city Dhaka on Monday, ending a week-long strike.

Officers vanished from the streets of the sprawling megacity of 20 million people last week after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's resignation.

The police were loathed for spearheading a lethal crackdown on the protests that forced her departure, with 42 officers among the more than 450 people killed.

Police had vowed not to resume work until their safety was guaranteed, but they agreed to return after talks with the new interim government, helmed by Muhammad Yunus.

Bangladesh is experiencing a student-led revolution: Yunus

The country's interim leader says the developments that transpired were absolutely unparalleled; resignations of Chief Justice and central bank governor were conducted lawfully, he says

Agence France-Presse
DHAKA

Bangladesh was experiencing a "student-led revolution" after the ouster of Premier Sheikh Hasina, the South Asian country's new interim leader Muhammad Yunus said.

"This is a revolution, a student-led revolution," the Nobel laureate told a news briefing. "There's no doubt about (that) because the business of the whole government collapsed."

Mr. Yunus arrived back in Bangladesh from Europe on Thursday after he was called by the student leaders of the protests that toppled Ms. Hasina and



Modicum of normalcy: A police officer controls traffic at a junction in Dhaka, after the police called off their strike, on Monday. AFP

asked to steer democratic reforms. "I said, 'I respect you, I admire you. What you have done is absolutely unparalleled,'" he said. "Because you ordered me

to do this, I take your order," Mr. Yunus said he told them.

Several top allies of Ms. Hasina, whose iron-fisted tenure ended with her

abrupt resignation and flight to India a week ago, subsequently stepped down. Among them were the former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the central bank Governor.

They had been issued ultimatums to quit their posts by students. Mr. Yunus said their resignations had been conducted legally. "I'm sure they will find the legal way to justify all of this, because legally... all the steps were followed," he said.

Mr. Yunus made the comments at an off-the-record media briefing on Sunday night at a state building being used as a temporary seat of government.

Iran could launch 'significant' attack on Israel this week: U.S.

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

Iran could launch a "significant" attack on Israel as soon as this week, the White House said Monday, as U.S. President Joe Biden discussed the crisis with European leaders.

"We have to be prepared for what could be a significant set of attacks," National Security Council spokesman John Kirby told reporters.

"We share the same concerns and expectations that our Israeli counterparts have with respect to potential timing here — could be this week," Mr. Kirby added.

Mr. Kirby's comments came as the United States is rushing an aircraft carrier strike group and a guided missile submarine to the region in a show of



Tit for tat: Iran has vowed to avenge last month's killings of Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh. REUTERS

support for Israel.

Iran and Lebanon's Hezbollah group have vowed to avenge last month's killings of Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh and Hezbollah commander Fuad Shukur.

Mr. Biden called the leaders of France, Germany, Italy and Britain on Monday to discuss the

growing tensions, the White House added.

Call for ceasefire

The leaders also called for a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, with difficult talks set for Thursday on halting the conflict that started when the Palestinian group attacked Israel on October 7.

Russia evacuates two border regions as it fights Ukraine forces

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

Two Russian regions bordering Ukraine ordered more evacuations on Monday as Moscow battled to contain an unprecedented push onto its territory.

Ukraine sent troops into Russia last week in its biggest cross-border operation since Moscow launched its invasion in February 2022 and the most significant one conducted by a foreign Army since the Second World War.

Authorities in the Kursk region announced they were widening their evacuation area to include Belovsky district, home to some 14,000 people.

Ukraine sent troops into Russia last week in its biggest operation since the war began in 2022

The neighbouring Belgorod region in Russia said it was evacuating its border district of Krasnoyarskiy.

"For the health and security of our population, we are beginning to move people who live in Krasnoyarskiy to safer places," Belgorod region Governor Vyacheslav Gladkov said on Telegram.

The assault on Kursk had already led to 76,000 people being ordered out.

On the boil



A boy, affected by flooding in Sudan, cooking food at a makeshift camp used by people displaced by civil war. The UN migration agency warns that Sudan is at a catastrophic 'breaking point', with tens of thousands of preventable deaths looming from multiple crises. AFP

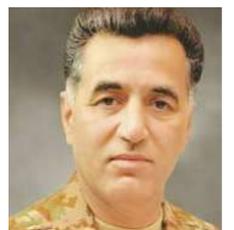
Former Pakistan spy chief held over land development case

Reuters
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's military said on Monday it had arrested retired General Faiz Hameed, former head of the powerful Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) agency, in connection with a land development case.

The detention of a high-profile officer is unusual in Pakistan, where the military has ruled for over 30 of the 77 years since independence, and continues to hold sway.

The arrest was ordered by the Supreme Court, the military said in a statement, adding that multiple violations of the Pakistan Army Act after Mr. Ha-



Faiz Hameed

meed's retirement had also been established.

Mr. Hameed was director general of the ISI from 2019 to 2021.

Mr. Hameed was also considered to be close to Imran Khan, who named him to head the ISI when he was premier. Mr. Khan was ousted in 2022.

Afghanistan's Taliban rulers score diplomatic wins and consolidate power

Agence France-Presse
KABUL

Three years into its rule of Afghanistan, the Taliban government has achieved some diplomatic wins even as it has consolidated power and enforced its strict version of Islamic law.

The Taliban rulers continue to operate without official recognition from any country — its restrictions on women a major sticking point.

But concern over Afghanistan's worsening humanitarian crisis, the threat of terrorism, and hard-nosed pragmatism have led to some international engagement.

The most notable example was the Taliban government's participation, for the first time, in United Nations-hosted talks in June

in Qatar to discuss economic issues and counter-narcotics efforts.

Chief Taliban government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid, who led the delegation, said the gathering was further proof that "Afghanistan has come out of isolation".

"We are in favour of positive meetings with the condition that Afghanistan's situation is taken into account," he said in a recent interview ahead of this week's three-year anniversary of the Taliban taking back power.

The talks went ahead after Kabul obtained the agreement of the UN — which has described restrictions on women in Afghanistan as "gender apartheid" — that civil society and women's rights groups would not attend.

Obaidullah Baheer, grandson of former warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and an Afghan academic, said engagement at the talks was a "smart approach".

"The international community cannot solve the women's rights issue. What they can do is try to create an environment" to gradually stabilise the economy in Afghanistan, Mr. Baheer said.

"Economic stability naturally brings with it some sort of opening for politics as well."

Security the 'priority'

The Taliban authorities, who are still pushing to fill Afghanistan's seat at the UN, are also forging regional ties.

"Currently we have very good relations with neigh-



Small gains: The Taliban participated in UN-hosted talks in June in Qatar to discuss economic issues and counter-narcotics efforts. AP

boursing, regional and Muslim countries," Mujahid said, adding that about 40 countries had embassies or consulates in Afghanistan.

While Western embassies in Kabul have been closed for three years, Pakistan, China, Russia, Iran

takeover.

Fears over the growing security threat from the Islamic State group's branch in the region, known as Islamic State Khorasan Province, have also spurred engagement.

Last week, the UN warned that IS-K posed the greatest external terrorist threat to Europe and was growing in strength.

Mujahid insisted the IS threat was being overblown.

"We have brought the phenomenon of ISKP to nearly zero," he said.

After ousting the foreign-backed government and ending their 20-year insurgency, the Taliban rulers have made security one of their highest priorities.

The Taliban authorities still allocate a large part of

the national budget to security despite Afghanistan no longer being at war and its economy in dire straits.

And while Afghans may welcome restored security after more than 40 years of successive conflicts, many also struggle to feed themselves and strain under tightening restrictions.

A civil society activist described the rules on daily life as becoming "stricter and stricter".

Government affairs are mostly run through religious edicts from the reclusive Supreme Leader Hibatullah Akhundzada.

Politically, there is no visible opposition: parties are banned and there are no elections.

"There is no one to challenge the Emir," the civil

society activist said.

The UN has described a "climate of fear" in the country, where popular protests are virtually non-existent.

The Taliban government rejects these accusations.

"We don't accept that we are totalitarian," Mujahid said.

The authorities have "mechanisms... to convey the voice of the people to the government", spokesman Mujahid said, referring to provincial councils comprising clerics and tribal elders.

"They might not be the same as in the previous government or what are common in democratic governments, but we have developed these mechanisms in an Islamic way," Mujahid said.

CONCERNING

Lyles opens up about competing after testing positive for Covid



Asthma didn't stop Noah Lyles from taking on the 200 metre at the Paris Olympics, even after testing positive for Covid-19. "We were back in the medical bay underneath the track. Their biggest concern was me getting bronchitis because we didn't want something to get infected and the asthma really starts to take form."

CALLING IT QUITS

Tom Daley announces retirement from diving



Former Olympic gold medalist Tom Daley announced his retirement from diving on Monday following the Paris Games. "I have to make the decision at some point, and it feels like the right time. It's the right time to call it a day," Daley said. He had won silver in the Paris Games men's synchronised 10m platform.

HEALTH SCARE

Irish Olympian Wiffen hospitalised after Seine swim



Irish double medal-winning Olympian Daniel Wiffen said on Monday he had "rushed" to a hospital in Paris with a stomach bug, two days after taking part in the marathon swimming in Seine. "Yesterday I rushed to hospital as I was very unwell with a bug that I am being treated for, and am feeling better now."

DETOUR

Neeraj leaves for Germany to take medical advice



Neeraj Chopra has left for Germany after winning a silver medal in the Paris Games to take medical advice regarding a possible surgery and to decide whether to feature in the upcoming Diamond League meetings. "Neeraj will not return to India for another month and a half," a family source said.

The City of Light serves up a visual spectacle to mark the end of the greatest sporting show on earth

The Stade de France fills to the brim as athletes, celebrities and dignitaries come together to celebrate the Olympics; Paris will now get ready to welcome the Paralympic Games



Y.B. Sarangi
PARIS

Highlighting the marriage of tradition and modernity as one of its underlying themes, Paris 2024 – which began unconventionally on the beautiful Seine – closed the greatest show on earth conventionally with the Stade de France serving as a grand theatre to emphasise the Olympic Games as a human monument.

The Sunday night wowed more than 71,000 spectators in the stands and millions around the world to celebrate humanity as well as the extraordinary athletic endeavours, in the form of nearly 850 medals won and 42 records broken (including 10 World records and 32 Olympic records).

The ceremony began with a musical perfor-

mance as an ode to the Games' host city as the Olympic flame travelled from the Louvre to the Stade de France.

Following the entry of French president Emmanuel Macron and International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach, the French National flag and the Olympic flag were raised while the National anthem of the host country, the Marseillaise, was sung by the Maîtrise de Fontainebleau and Orchestre Divertimento, under the baton of conductor Zahia Ziouani.

Ultimate celebration

The entry of the flag-bearers and the parade of athletes from 205 delegations were the ultimate celebration of the heroes of Paris 2024. They started the parade on the stage, in the centre of the stadium, that symbolically represented a planisphere. Then the athletes entered the arena together from two entry points to join the parade.

India could not have found a better pair of flag-bearers as double bronze medalist shooter Manu Bhaker, the best Indian athlete here, and double bronze medalist hockey goalkeeper P.R. Sreejesh,



Mission LA 2028: During the festivities, Tom Cruise descended from the top of the Stade de France on a cable and acted out a sequence of taking the Olympic flag to the Hollywood sign in Los Angeles. RITU RAJ KONWAR & AP



who signed off on a high, proudly performed their duty. For the first time, the women's marathon concluded the Olympic Games and its top three finishers were handed medals in the final victory ceremony to underline Paris 2024's effort to make it the most gender-equal Games.

A sequence showing the Marathon Pour Tous, a unique race open to the pu-

blic and run on Saturday evening on the same course as the one used by the Olympic athletes, exhibiting the Games Wide Open.

As ancient Greek civilisation and modern artistic presentation – drawing reference from the Voyager Golden Record of the launch of Voyager spaceship in 1977 – mixed, a futuristic extraterrestrial cha-

acter, after getting to know about humanity, arrived from space to explore earth. In a dreamlike setting beyond space and time, it gave out the message that the Games created by humanity must be kept alive.

The Greek flag and anthem stirred emotions and Goddess Nike, the Goddess of victory associated with the ancient Games, appear-

ing as the statue of Victory of Samothrace displayed in the famous Louvre museum, made it spectacular.

A reference to Sorbonne and Pierre de Coubertin to underscore the revival of the Games, the excavation, dramatic formation and raising of the Olympic rings with a round of fireworks and some captivating music preceded the speeches of Paris 2024 president Tony

Estanguet and IOC chief Bach.

"Together, we have shown the world the most beautiful face of France," said Estanguet. "We have broken a new record that is very close to our hearts: the most marriage proposals (seven) ever at an Olympic Games! These feelings of hope, and love, and inspiration, will remain."

"These were sensational Olympic Games from start to finish - or dare I say: these were SEINE-sational Olympic Games from start to finish," said Bach.

After the playing of the Olympic anthem, when Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo handed over the Olympic flag to her Los Angeles counterpart Karen Bass, the Games symbolically moved to Los Angeles 2028.

Playing of the American National anthem by Grammy award winning H.E.R., Tom Cruise's stunts and an instantaneous virtual journey from Paris to the land of Hollywood and L.A. Coliseum were magical as some top USA athletes, including track and field legend Michael Johnson, showed their readiness to welcome the Games. A performance by rapper Snoop Dogg completed the lovely shift.

Iconic song

Yseult performed *My Way*, an iconic song depicting a strong link between France and the USA, as the Olympic flame was extinguished to mark the end of 33rd edition of the Games while the City of Light got ready to welcome the Paralympic Games.

No one ever loses in the Olympics

Abhinav Bindra



Bindra. IOC MEDIA

For a long time now, the Olympic movement has been a big part of my life. First as an athlete and now as someone using the power of sports to give back to communities and to the environment.

The ceremony at the 142nd IOC session last Saturday forced to me reflect on my journey as an athlete. I can admit it was not easy, as an athlete's life never is. But it also underscores the lifelong commitment every Olympian makes to their sport and country, and I claim this award on behalf of every athlete that has persevered, sacrificed and still prevailed.

Complete devotion

It takes complete devotion towards one's sport and requires sincere passion from an athlete to even earn the opportunity to be named as an Olympian. The pressure of the stage is almost insurmountable. With millions watching worldwide, and the best of the best by your side as your opponents, it takes nerves of steel to stand there, feigning confidence.

The Olympic stage teaches you many things, but above all, you learn

what it truly means to be human. All athletes make tremendous sacrifices to climb up that ladder and reach the pinnacle, in service of their country, and with a chance to create history. To me, the Olympic experience is not only life changing, but also life-affirming.

I had my fair share of lessons during my time as an Olympic Gold medalist back in the day. But winning the Gold medal was just one part. Through the lens of Olympism, I have come to realise that the real victory lies in the journey, the values we uphold, and the positive impact we can have on society. My experiences taught me the cause of Olympism and instilled values in me to strive towards a more inclusive



The Olympic experience is not only life changing, but also life-affirming...it teaches you many things, but above all, you learn what it truly means to be human

society. As a society, we need to imbibe the Olympic spirit in our daily lives and promote the ideals, values, and vision for acceptance, human rights, and non-discrimination.

Holistic development

Henceforth, post my retirement I began working across multiple non-profit organisations and founded Performance Centres, to support the development of sports across all layers. I would like to dedicate my life's work towards promoting the holistic development of young children and attempting to make positive contributions to society, including the planet we will leave behind for the generation to follow.

Having been presented with the Olympic Order, I often wonder if any of it would have been possible if I had not first traversed the hard road and spilled all the blood, sweat and tears,

much like each athlete who makes their way to the Olympics.

Perhaps, this is why, we, as a nation, and as sports lovers, must not only reserve our cheers, claps, support and love for the Olympic medal winners. We must never forget anyone who decides to compete in the first place, because they are the ones who will eventually make it to the Olympics.

How can we ever produce Olympians if we don't as a country encourage our children to play, to lose, to win, and stick it out even when the odds seem stacked against you. For only when you are forged by the values of sports, the rigours of losses and victory can one emerge as an Olympian. And then when they do, it is critical that we remember that the spirit of the Olympics goes beyond medals and accolades; it's about the shared human experience and the legacy we leave behind.

And that is why I truly believe that at the Olympics, every athlete who represents the Indian flag here is a hero and at the Olympics, no one truly ever loses.

(The writer is a 2008 Olympic Gold-medal winning shooter)

Graham Thorpe's death was a suicide, reveals wife Amanda

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Graham Thorpe's wife Amanda has revealed the former England cricketer took his own life after battling depression and anxiety for several years. Aged just 55, Thorpe's death in August plunged the cricket world into mourning for the popular star.

He enjoyed an impressive England career as an elegant batsman between 1993 and 2005, before spending 12 years in various coaching roles. But Thorpe was hospitalised in May 2022 and declared "seriously ill".

Amanda Thorpe has now revealed in an interview with *The Times* that the former Surrey player attempted suicide two years ago before taking his own life earlier this month.

"Despite having a wife and two daughters whom he loved and who loved him, he did not get better. 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," said Amanda.



Thorpe. REUTERS

"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."

The left-hander featured in 100 Tests and 82 one-day internationals for England, scoring over 9,000 runs for his country, including 16 Test hundreds.

(Assistance for overcoming suicidal thoughts is available on the State's health helpline 104, TeleMANAS 14416 and Sneha's suicide prevention helpline 044-24640050. Helplines across the country can be accessed here: <https://bit.ly/4dJLM6C>)

One Duleep Trophy fixture set to be moved to Bengaluru

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

One of the two opening round fixtures of the Duleep Trophy - the domestic season-opening tournament in the men's calendar - is set to be shifted from Anantapur to Bengaluru with an eye on optimising the international regulars' participation in a domestic match.

The Duleep Trophy has been tweaked this season from its conventional inter-zonal format into a four-team tournament, with the sides picked by the senior national selection committee.

According to the fixtures made public by the Board of Control for Cricket in India, the tournament will be played at two venues in a league format from September 5 to 22.

With the Indian team having a six-week break from the international calendar, the Ajit Agarkar-chaired panel wants the majority of Test regulars to participate in the Duleep Trophy opening round. From then on, the players will join the preparatory camp ahead of the first

Test against Bangladesh, starting September 19.

The BCCI management, in consultation with the Andhra Cricket Association and the Karnataka State Cricket Association, decided to move one of the two first-round games to the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium considering the logistical challenges involved in travelling to Anantapur.

The Hindu understands that the selectors have given Jasprit Bumrah and R. Ashwin an extended break while Virat Kohli and captain Rohit Sharma have been given an option to decide for themselves. The duo will inform their decision to the national selection committee before its meeting to finalise the four squads.

Rishabh Pant is set to feature in his maiden First Class game for nearly two years while Suryakumar Yadav, the T20 captain, is hopeful of making a case for a Test return.

Ishan Kishan and Shreyas Iyer - stripped of a national retainer due to their lack of will to play domestic cricket last season - are set to be included.

INBRIEF



Sreeja ruled out of UTT due to stress fracture

Sreeja Akula has been ruled out of the upcoming season of Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) due to a stress fracture. She has been replaced by under-19 youth National champion Nithyashree Mani. The two-time National champion was slated to play for Jaipur Patriots.

Mira Khatun strikes winner for Bangladesh team

Mira Khatun struck the match-winner to guide Bangladesh Krira Shikha Protishtan to a 1-0 victory over The Porompat Sabal Leikai High School, Imphal, in the semifinals of the 63rd Subroto Cup under-17 girls' football tournament at the Tejas ground in New Delhi on Monday. In the other semifinal, Mother International School, Ranchi, beat Government Senior Secondary School, Alakhpura, Haryana 4-2 in the penalty shoot-out, after the teams were locked goalless in regulation period. Kranti Oraon, Lalita Boipai, Naina Kumari and Urwashi Kumari converted for the Ranchi team. Rishika and Ritika were successful for the Haryana team. The final is scheduled to be played at the Ambedkar Stadium from 5 p.m. on Tuesday.

Delhi Open swimming meet on August 25

The Delhi Open swimming competition is scheduled to be staged at the Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee swimming pool in New Delhi on August 25. The competition will be open for all age-groups from five to over-70, in both the men's and women's sections, for all swimmers across the country. The focus of the competition is talent search, and events will start from 8 a.m. Further details can be had from swimming coach, Dr. Jitender Tokas, mob: 70651 95811.

Lyles, Hassan bookend a fabulous programme

Pole-vaulter extraordinaire Duplantis, hurdler McLaughlin-Levrone, and the American mixed 4x400 relay team set World Records

PARIS OLYMPICS
Reuters
PARIS

The Olympic athletics programme, highlighted by the shortest event and then the longest, saw performances of astonishing quality and spine-tingling drama, played out to a beautiful and unique purple backdrop that will forever mean Paris.

The closest and highest quality men's 100 metres race and a late-night pole vault world record lit up the first week, while Sifan Hassan's final-day marathon win to cap a barely believable hat-trick of medals was a fitting way to bring down the curtain.

"It's been fantastic and I think the quality of athletics at the moment is almost beyond description," Sebastian Coe, head of World Athletics said this week.

Nowhere was that more visible than in the men's 100 where Noah Lyles caught Kishane Thompson on the line to win by five thousandths of a second in 9.79. The six men behind them were also sub-10 – the first time that has happened in a legal race.

World records

The United States delivered a world record in the rarely-run mixed 4x400 relay but Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone's obliteration of her own world record to win the 400 hurdles was of a different magnitude of



Phenom: Hassan gives vent to her emotions after clinching the marathon gold. GETTY IMAGES

quality. Mondo Duplantis also beat his own pole vault world record in a moment of great theatre at the Stade de France. With all other events finished and the Swede's expected gold long pocketed, he failed twice at 6.25m before sailing clear to a stupendous roar. Coe hoped the men's 1,500 would be a "race for the ages" and it was – though not in the way he or anyone else expected.

Briton Josh Kerr ran the race of his life to get past defending champion Jakob Ingebrigtsen, only for long-shot American Cole Hocker to come past them both and win in a huge personal best to produce one of the biggest upsets of the Games.

Ingebrigtsen bounced back to win the 5,000, while in the women's 1,500 Kenya's peerless Faith Kipyegon completed an unprecedented hat-trick.

Medals galore over the shorter distances has usually been the norm for the United States but it found remarkable success in all sorts of events in Paris.

The final event provided a fabulous and scarcely believable finale as Dutchwoman Hassan won the women's marathon after taking bronze in the 5,000 and 10,000. She was the first woman to even attempt the treble, let alone medal in all three, and now stands alongside athletics royalty in the shape of Emil Zatopek, who won all three in 1952.

Forty three countries won athletics medals, with Saint Lucia, Dominica and Pakistan doing so for the first time, all golds, via Julian Alfred in the women's 100, Thea LaFond in the women's triple jump, and Arshad Nadeem in the men's javelin.

Siddharth takes the honours in feature

HYDERABAD: Trainer M. Srinivas Reddy's Siddharth, ridden by Akshay Kumar, won the Bhagyanagar Million, the main event of Monday's (Aug. 12) races here. The winner is owned by Mr. Aditya P. Thackersey. Jockey-turned-trainer A. Imran Khan, who recently secured his trainer's licence at HRC, scored his debut winner through the 20-to-1 longshot Sopranos in the upper division of the Independence Cup.

1. ROYAL WINDSOR PLATE: WHITE PEARL (Akshay Kumar) 1, Voice Of A Dream (Surya Prakash) 2, London Bell (Md. Ekram) 3 and Caraxes (Shivansh) 4. 4, 8 and 6. Im, 56.43s. ₹12 (w), 11, 10 and 16 (p). SHP: 33. THP: 34, SHW: 11 and 17, FP: 40, Q: 36. Tanala: 155. Favourite: White Pearl. Owner: M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar Of Chettinad Charitable Trust. Trainer: K. Satheesh.

2. THREE WISHES PLATE: NAV LAKHAA (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 1, Blue Label (R.S. Jodha) 2, Retiring Queen (Surya Prakash) 3 and Fortune Art (P. Sai K) 4. Dist. Head and Dist. Im, 9.12s. ₹15 (w), 11, 10 and 15 (p). SHP: 28, THP: 38, SHW: 10 and 15, FP: 40, Q: 28, Tanala: 129. Favourite: Nav Lakhaa. Owner: Mr. Kapil Agarwal. Trainer: Ananta Vatsalya.

3. DEVARAKONDA CUP: ESPIONAGE (Kuldeep Singh Sr.) 1, Calista Girl (Ajay Kumar) 2, N R I Skypower (Likith Appu) 3 and Crimson Rose (Shivansh) 4. 1/2, 1-1/2 and Neck. Im, 8.31s. ₹13 (w), 10, 12 and 16 (p). SHP: 29, THP: 50, SHW: 13 and 15, FP: 35, Q: 32, Tanala: 157. Favourite: Espionage. Owners: Mr. Prakash Babu, Mr. P. Ranga Raju and Mrs. T. Rohini. Trainer: D. Netto.

4. RAZIA SULTAN PLATE: PRICELESS PRINCE (Suraj Narredu) 1, Flying Fury (Afroz Khan) 2, Golden Unicorn (P. Sai Kumar) 3 and Annihilator (Kuldeep Sr.) 4. Neck, 9-3/4 and Neck. Im, 7.91s. ₹22 (w), 16, 14 and 15 (p). SHP: 56, THP: 57, SHW: 14 and 27, FP: 144, Q: 77, Tanala: 597. Favourites: Priceless Prince. Owners: Mr. Daulat Chhabria & M/s. Blazing Saddles. Trainer: Satish Narredu.

5. INDEPENDENCE CUP (DIV. I): SOPRANOS (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 1, Classical Music (Ajay Kumar) 2, Dynoos (Mukesh) 3 and True Icon (Gaurav Singh) 4. 1-1/2, 1/2 and Head. Im, 15.56s. ₹497 (w), 108, 49 and 18 (p). SHP: 137, THP: 43, SHW: 407 and 60, FP: 29, 332, Q: 1,679, Tanala: 50, 515. Favourite: Devils Magic. Owner: Mr. Narendra Vithaldas Shah. Trainer: A. Imran Khan.

6. BHAGYANAGAR MILLION : SIDDHARTH (Akshay Kumar) 1, Truth (Kuldeep Sr.) 2, High Command (Ashad Asbar) 3 and Livermore (Afroz Khan) 4. 2-1/4, 1-1/4 and 2. Im, 53.84s. ₹24 (w), 16 and 10, SHP: 32, THP: 26, SHW: 21 and 10, FP: 55, Q: 26, Tanala: 115. Favourite: Truth. Owner: Mr. Aditya P. Thackersey. Trainer: M. Srinivas Reddy.

7. INDEPENDENCE CUP (DIV. II): MIDSUMMER STAR (P. Sai Kumar) 1, Malibu (Md. Ekram) 2, Amyra (Abhay Singh) 3 and Winning Attitude (Afroz Khan) 4. Not run: Happy Go Lucky 2, 3/4 and 2. Im, 15.11s. ₹29 (w), 14, 14 and 39 (p). SHP: 46, THP: 82, SHW: 16 and 12, FP: 80, Q: 37, Tanala: 937. Favourite: Malibu. Owners: Mr. Jatin L. Trivedi & Mr. Nitin H. Jain rep. J.N. Racing & Breeders LLP. Trainer: K.S.V. Prasad Raju.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹32,526 (9 tkts.) & 30%: 3,301 (38 tkts.). Mini Jackpot: 74 (416 tkts.). Treble: (i) 50 (553 tkts.), (ii) 6,847 (5 tkts.).

Bodoland gets the better of BSF FT

Press Trust of India
KOKRAJHAR

Bodoland FC prevailed over Border Security Force FT 4-3 in the 133rd Durand Cup football here on Monday to keep its slim chances of progressing to the knockout stage alive. Jwngbla Brahma (54th and 71st) scored a brace while Mitinga Dwimary (second) and Sibra Narzary (62nd) got a goal each for the hosts.

Kishori (50th and 69th) struck twice for BSF and Asif Khan (89th) found the target once. Bodoland finished its group campaign with six points while BSF could not win a point.

LIVE TELECAST

Football: Durand Cup, Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 3.30 & 6.30 p.m.

SNAPSHOTS

Athanaze and rain thwart SA's victory bid

West Indies and South Africa drew the first Test of a two-match series on the final day of the rain-affected fixture at Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad on Sunday. West Indies finished on 201 for five, chasing 298, in its second innings.

The scores: South Africa 357 & 173/3 decl. in 29 overs (Stubbs 68, de Zorzi 45) drew with West Indies 233 & 201/5 in 56.2 overs (Athanaze 92, Holder 31 n.o., Maharaj 4/88). PoM: Maharaj.

Sugi Sai clinches silver in All-England junior badminton

India's Sugi Sai won men's silver in the Yonex All-England junior (under-19) badminton championships in Birmingham on Sunday, losing to second seed Tiago Berenguer of Portugal 21-11, 14-21, 5-21 in the final.

1. MALIBU (Md. Ekram) 1, Amyra (Abhay Singh) 3 and Winning Attitude (Afroz Khan) 4. Not run: Happy Go Lucky 2, 3/4 and 2. Im, 15.11s. ₹29 (w), 14, 14 and 39 (p). SHP: 46, THP: 82, SHW: 16 and 12, FP: 80, Q: 37, Tanala: 937. Favourite: Malibu. Owners: Mr. Jatin L. Trivedi & Mr. Nitin H. Jain rep. J.N. Racing & Breeders LLP. Trainer: K.S.V. Prasad Raju.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹32,526 (9 tkts.) & 30%: 3,301 (38 tkts.). Mini Jackpot: 74 (416 tkts.). Treble: (i) 50 (553 tkts.), (ii) 6,847 (5 tkts.).



Sugi Sai.

The unseeded Sugi defeated a few ranked players along the way, including former champion Jason Ou of England, the fourth seed, in the fourth round, Harper Leigh of Wales, seeded seventh, in the quarterfinal and top seed Bharath Latheesh of UAE in the last-four stage. Sugi is being trained by Aravindan Samiappan at the Fireball Academy in Chennai.

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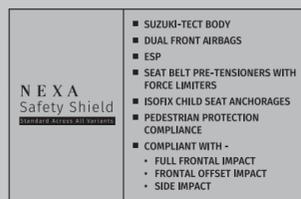
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Should the next Kapil really stand up?

The void that the 'Haryana Hurricane' left when he retired is perhaps best left alone. Laxmi Ratan Shukla, Ajit Agarkar and Irfan Pathan, among others, were all bracketed in the 'next Kapil' category. But none of them came close to matching the man himself, for no one can ever be as wholesome a package as Kapil Dev



Big shoes to fill: India has Shivam Dube, Hardik Pandya, right, and possibly Nitish Kumar Reddy, centre, to don the seaming all-rounder's garb in limited-overs internationals. AP, K.R. DEEPAK & GETTY IMAGES

R. Kaushik

To say that Kapil Dev has spoiled successive generations of Indian cricket followers with his unmatched genius will be no exaggeration. More than four and a half decades since his stirring debut in Pakistan, Kapil remains India's first, foremost and arguably only fast-bowling all-rounder, a phenom who could turn the course of a match with bat alone, ball alone, or just in the field – his celebrated catch to dismiss Viv Richards in the 1983 World Cup final is a shining, but hardly solitary, example of his status as a game-changing fielder.

Exigencies of workload management following his immediate climb to both India's shock and stock bowler in the wake of the retirements of the celebrated spin quartet not long after he broke through meant Kapil had to drop pace and conserve himself in national interest. That didn't prevent him from stacking up a then world record 434 Test wickets when he bid adieu to cricket in 1994. Throw in 253 One-Day International wickets, 5,248 Test runs, 3,783 ODI runs and 64 and 71 catches respectively in the longer and shorter formats internationally, and the picture of a larger-than-life persona is complete, even if these impressive numbers can't do justice to his natural athleticism and extraordinary skills.

Kapil's retirement spawned the quest for the next Kapil Dev – unfortunate on those who were instantaneously labelled that, because there can only be one Kapil Dev. Laxmi Ratan Shukla, current chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar and Irfan Pathan, among others, were bracketed in the 'next Kapil' category; predictably, none of them came close to matching the Haryana Hurricane, for no fault of theirs.

For a brief while, Hardik Pandya threatened to be that all-rounder in the Kapil mould – not the next Kapil, just the first Hardik Pandya. In just 13 months after his Test debut in July 2017, Pandya boasted a century and a five-wicket haul in his first 11 games. He could have gone on to make a difference with his power-packed batting and his intelligent fast bowling, but a frail and protesting body means Pandya is unlikely to add to his Test appearances.

His last five-day game was in September 2018, and he has informed the authorities that his red-ball career is all but over. What a shame. Pandya's travails only serve to lend greater aura to Kapil – not that it was needed. A staggering 48,853 deliveries in First Class cricket, 14,947 balls in one-day games. Not to mention nearly 17,000 runs in the two formats put together. And Kapil hardly missed a game through injury. Truly, to paraphrase a commercial in which he appeared, *Kapil da jawaab nahi*.

India at least have Pandya, and maybe Shivam Dube, to don the seaming all-rounder's garb in limited-overs internationals, but the quest for a like

resource in Test matches continues. Forget about an out-and-out all-rounder, there is hardly anyone who can bowl seam-up, a far cry for about a decade from 1996 when Sourav Ganguly and, if the mood seized him, Sachin Tendulkar would mark out a run-up and tease batters with their skill, particularly in helpful conditions.

A special quartet

Kapil formed a terrific quartet of top-class all-rounders through the 1980s with Imran Khan, Ian Botham and Richard Hadlee. Each of them was special; Hadlee didn't quite have the same numbers with the bat as his famed trio of counterparts, but many reckon he was the meanest bowler of them all and could play blistering knocks from time to time, if not with the same regularity as Kapil and Botham.

They were succeeded by Jacques Kallis, who many consider the premier all-rounder in cricket, with due respect to Garfield Sobers, the aforementioned quartet and numerous others. The versatile South African amassed more than 11,500 runs in Tests (13,289) and ODIs and stacked up 292 Test wickets and 273 ODI scalps. In Tests, largely in the slips, he snaffled 200 catches, and grabbed 131 in ODIs. He was equally adept at bowling with the new ball and coming on first- or second-change, and he almost exclusively batted in the top order. Even the other great all-rounders will concur that Kallis is right up there with the best, if not the best itself.

India might not have a seaming all-rounder in Tests, but in the larger all-rounder category, they are reasonably well covered when it comes to the five-day format. In R. Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel, they have three wonderful exponents of spin who are extremely capable

with the bat. Ashwin's batting has fallen off a little internationally in recent times though he does boast five Test hundreds. Jadeja and Axar, both left-handers, aren't just biffers of the ball down the order. So much has the former's batting come on that India have used him at No. 4 even overseas to make the most of his left-handedness, and Jadeja hasn't disappointed.

Axar's versatility means even if he bats at 7 or 8 in Tests, he is adept at batting higher up in limited-overs cricket – like he showed at the T20 World Cup in June – and playing according to the situation.

This trio gives Rohit Sharma plenty of options during a home Test, and while it will be impossible to fit all of them into the XI when India play outside the sub-continent, the think-tank can rest easy in the knowledge that even if one of the premier all-rounders were to be rendered unavailable for one reason or the other, they have various other fallback options. It's a great luxury to possess, as was evident during the home series against England early this year, and as will be obvious when India play five Tests in their own backyard between September and November, first against Bangladesh and then against New Zealand.

Like Rohit and Virat Kohli, Jadeja announced his retirement from international T20s less than 24 hours after India defeated South Africa in the final of the T20 World Cup in Bridgetown towards the end of June. Jadeja is still available for ODIs, but already, signs are that in 20-overs cricket, India have a couple of promising names to bank on.

Vital cogs

Pandya, Dube, Jadeja and Axar were key to India's undefeated march through the World Cup draw in the Americas. Without Jadeja, now the spotlight is trained on Washington Sundar and Riyan Parag, who were both impressive during the short tour of Sri Lanka straddling July

and August. Washington started off as a top-order batter who has now been pigeonholed as an off-spinner who can weigh in with good runs lower down.

Win-win

Parag is very much a batter first, but in both the T20Is and on his ODI debut earlier this month, showed great craft and control with his varied mix of the off-break and the leg-break. It's to the credit of the decision-makers that they have got Parag to bowl a fair bit; for Parag to have an additional string to his bow means he will have a slight edge over his nearest batting competitors, of whom there are many. Talk of a win-win.

Sometimes, when you don't have what you need, you must find a way around it and one of those ways is to get specialist batters to chip in with a few overs. That might not be enough to earn them the label of an all-rounder, but to have the insurance of a few overs from one or two top-order batters is never a bad thing. India were fortunate for much of the 2000s and beyond to be able to get multiple and successful overs from Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag, Ganguly and Yuvraj Singh, all top-order batters but definitely more than just part-time bowlers. Between them, they had more than 450 ODI scalps – only Ganguly of this foursome had fewer than 100 wickets. What would Rohit not give to have two such multi-skilled players in his ranks now?

In addition to Pandya and Dube, India have one other possible seam-up all-rounder in the making, a 21-year-old from Visakhapatnam answering to the name of Nitish Kumar Reddy. Nitish has played 17 First Class and 22 List A (domestic 50-over) games, but it wasn't until he exploded with the bat primarily for Sunrisers Hyderabad in IPL 2024 that he forced a majority of the cricket-lovers in India to sit up and take notice.

Nitish is a clean striker of the ball but he isn't just that; he is situationally aware and has multiple gears to his batting. He is also a brisk fast-medium bowler with a good head on his shoulders. Reward for his exploits during SRH's wonderful run to the final came in the form of a maiden T20I call-up for the five-match series in Zimbabwe last month, but an injury sustained at the fast bowlers' camp at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru not long before the team's departure meant his joy was short-lived.

Nitish will be back, of course. He is on the radar of the selection panel and the team's brains' trust; Rohit, new T20I skipper Suryakumar Yadav and head coach Gautam Gambhir will be monitoring his progress closely alongside the selectors, and it shouldn't be long before Nitish makes his India debut, which ideally should be a means to an end, not an end in itself.

Thankfully, no one has started talking about Nitish being the next Kapil. Let him be. Let him be Nitish Kumar Reddy. As we have established, they don't make them like Kapil Dev anymore.

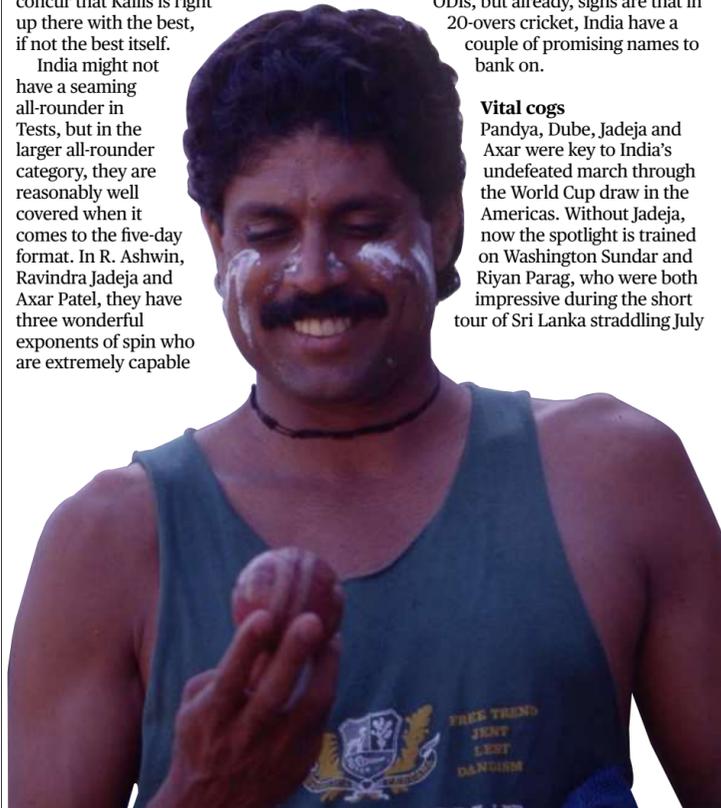
THE GIST

In India, there is hardly anyone who can bowl seam-up, a far cry for about a decade from 1996 when Sourav Ganguly and, if the mood seized him, Sachin Tendulkar would mark out a run-up and tease batters with their skill

Hardik Pandya could have gone on to make a difference with his power-packed batting and his intelligent fast bowling, but a frail and protesting body means he is unlikely to add to his Test appearances

In the larger all-rounder category, India is reasonably well covered when it comes to the five-day format. In R. Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel, it has three wonderful exponents of spin who are extremely capable with the bat

Of late, India has tried the likes of Shivam Dube, Washington Sundar and Riyan Parag for the all-rounders' role. Also on the radar is Nitish Kumar Reddy, who shone for SRH in the recent IPL



Behind India's record performance at International Math Olympiad 2024

What is it about this year's preparation that made team India's success possible? According to the national coordinator of the mathematics olympiad programme, this is explained in part by a collaboration between the Indian and Iranian Olympiad teams while preparing their respective candidates

Savantam Datta

Mathematics always interested 18-year-old Ananda Bhaduri. Growing up in Guwahati, he spent his formative years learning topics not generally covered in school curricula. Last year, he dove into the expansive archives of mathematics problems on the internet, carefully curating the hardest ones and solving them – sometimes in solitude, and other times at online meetings with his friends.

When the results of the International Mathematics Olympiad (IMO) were declared earlier this year in July, Mr. Bhaduri was overjoyed when he found he had won a gold medal.

Mr. Bhaduri was a part of a six-member Indian team that created history at the IMO this year. He and three other members of the team won gold medals, one bagged a silver, and one received an honourable mention. Together, the Indian team ranked fourth among teams from 108 participating countries – the country's highest rank in the olympiad since its debut participation in 1989.

Tales of mathematical prowess often rely on tropes of prodigious talent. But in this case, the success story banks on meticulous practice and a cross-cultural collaboration.

The olympiad

The IMO is the oldest of the international science olympiads – annual international science competitions that attract pre-university students from around the world. Since 1959, when the first edition of the IMO was held in Romania, the olympiad has acquired a somewhat mythical status. Many of its medallists have eventually become notable mathematicians, with some even winning the Fields Medal, mathematics' equivalent of the Nobel Prize.

Terence Tao, widely regarded as one of the greatest mathematicians alive and a Fields Medallist, and the late Maryam Mirzakhani, the first woman to win the medal, were both IMO medallists.

Every year, more than a hundred countries send a team of six contestants to the IMO. Accompanying them is a team leader, a deputy leader, and a group of observers. This year, the IMO was held in Bath in the U.K.

The Indian team this year consisted of Adhitya Mangudy Venkata Ganesh (from Pune), Bhaduri (Guwahati), Kanav Talwar (Noida), Rushil Mathur (Mumbai), Arjun Gupta (Delhi), and Siddharth Choppara (Pune). The first four won gold medals, while Gupta won the silver; Choppara received the honourable mention for his performance.

Krishnan Sivasubramanian, professor of mathematics at IIT Bombay, and Rijul Saini, a visitor at the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education, Mumbai, were the leader and deputy leader of the team respectively. The two observers were Rohan Goyal, an undergraduate student at the Chennai Mathematical Institute, and Mainak Ghosh, a postdoctoral fellow at the Indian Statistical Institute, Bengaluru.

A different exam

While competitive examinations are not new for science students in India, the IMO sets itself apart both in its format and its syllabus. Unlike competitive examinations like the IIT-Joint Entrance Examination (JEE), where the focus is on solving a large number of problems in a limited amount of time, the IMO has only six problems of increasing difficulty that participants solve over two days. Successfully solving a problem counts for 7 marks, giving every participant a maximum of 42 marks to score in the



From left: Mainak Ghosh, Arjun Gupta, Adhitya Mangudy Venkata Ganesh, Rushil Mathur, Siddharth Choppara, Kanav Talwar, Ananda Bhaduri, and Rijul Saini. HOMI BHABHA CENTRE FOR SCIENCE EDUCATION

olympiad. The problems come from topics that are typically covered in school (e.g. algebra and combinatorics) as well as those that are not, like number theory.

Algebra is the study of variables of unspecified values (typically x and y) and their manipulation through mathematical operations (like $x^2 + y$). Number theory is the branch of mathematics concerned with the properties of whole numbers (1, 2, 3, 4, ...) and arithmetic operations on them. Combinatorics – including permutations and combinations – deals with the ways objects can be counted, selected, and arranged.

Notably, the IMO's contestants are not required to have knowledge of calculus. The idea behind the problems, as the Wikipedia entry on the IMO states, is to create “an incentive to find elegant, deceptively simple-looking solutions which nevertheless require a certain level of ingenuity”.

Making the cut

Mr. Bhaduri's tryst with the mathematics olympiad happened four years ago when he appeared for the first time in the Indian Olympiad Qualifier for Mathematics (IOQM). Passing the IOQM is the first step in making it to the eventual team of six that will represent the country at the IMO.

The next step is the Regional Math Olympiad (RMO), a three-hour exam in which participants solve six problems of “high level of difficulty and sophistication,” per the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE), the Mumbai-based institution that coordinates the selection and training of olympiad participants in India. Those selected from the RMO finally appear for the Indian National Math Olympiad (INMO).

Around 65 top performers of the INMO are selected to attend the International Mathematics Olympiad Training Camp (IMOTC). Here, several established mathematicians gather to strengthen students' understanding of mathematical concepts and to train them in problem-solving.

While Mr. Bhaduri's first attempt in 2020 got him selected to attend the IMOTC, the COVID-19 pandemic threw a spanner in the plans. When he was selected once again to attend the camp at the Chennai Mathematical Institute earlier this year, he was expectedly excited.

When he attended the camp, his



The IMO is the oldest of the international science olympiads that attract pre-university students from around the world. Many of its medallists have become notable mathematicians, with some winning the Fields Medal

excitement soared. “It was the best experience of my life,” he told this reporter. In their time at the IMOTC, participants take several selection tests and the six top performers are selected to represent the country at the IMO. Before the team departs for the IMO venue, the HBCSE holds another training programme for the team for 8-10 days.

The secret to success

Prithwiji De, associate professor at the HBCSE and the national coordinator of the mathematics olympiad programme, said that when students arrive at the IMOTC, they often already have a strong grasp on foundational concepts in mathematics. “This is probably because they have access to multiple sources on the internet,” he said. So the training camp trains students in topics they generally don't encounter in their school syllabi, and places them in a regimen of practicing difficult problems of the type expected in the IMO.

What about this year's preparation made team India's historic success possible? According to Dr. De, this is explained – at least partly – by the collaborative efforts between the Indian and Iranian olympiad teams while preparing the candidates.

For the first time, trainers from the two countries jointly prepared questions for practice tests that the two countries' IMO candidates then took together. This “cross-cultural collaboration”, as Dr. De put it, was inspired by collaborative efforts between other olympiad teams. He gave the example of teams from the U.K. and Hungary, who he said “have been training together for a long time now”.

That said, Dr. De said it might not be possible to delineate which individual aspects of the training contributed to the candidates' performance. This is because many of the candidates at the IMOTC have already independently trained for

olympiads before coming to the camp.

For instance, Mr. Venkata Ganesh, another IMO gold medallist this year, has attributed his success to his training under M. Prakash, the founder of the Pune-based M. Prakash Institute that trains students for both competitive exams like the IIT-JEE and the olympiads.

“I don't know what percentage of our training helped them and what percentage of this cross-cultural training helped them. It's very hard to distinguish between the effects of all these factors,” Dr. De said. “But this year, we tried something different.”

Keeping it up

Other countries have shown interest in collaborating with the olympiad programme in India to train their candidates jointly, according to Dr. De. As a result the Indian team is planning to both continue its existing collaboration with the Iranian team as well as to expand the repertoire of collaborations.

A detailed training plan for this year is also being charted out by a “dynamic group full of young people,” Dr. De said.

The HBCSE also plans to increase the participation of girls in the IMO. The lack of women in this year's team reflects a larger trend at the olympiad where less than 10% of participants between 2000 and 2021 were women.

In response, the U.K. launched the European Girls Mathematical Olympiad (EGMO) in 2012, opening it up eventually to more than 50 countries around the world. Each country can send a four-member team to participate in the EGMO.

India debuted at the EGMO in 2015 and struggled to send a four-member team to the competition. It is only in the last “three or four editions”, Dr. De said, “that we have had a full-strength team.”

A group of 16 girls has already been selected for the EGMO training camp slated for December this year at the Chennai Mathematical Institute. From this group, a team of four will be selected to represent the country in EGMO 2025. “We hope that this will inspire more girls to come forward and take interest in the IMO,” Dr. De added.

(The author thanks inputs by Vivek Tewary.)

Savantam Datta is a science journalist and a faculty member at Krea University. They tweet at @queersprings. dattasavantam95@gmail.com



ChatGPT tends to favour certain words, giving away its use. JONATHAN KEMPER/UNSPASH

Scientists brace for 'flood of junk' papers written by AI

Agence France Presse

An infographic of a rat with a preposterously large penis. Another showing human legs with way too many bones. An introduction that starts: “Certainly, here is a possible introduction for your topic.”

These are a few of the most egregious examples of artificial intelligence that have recently made their way into scientific journals, shining a light on the wave of AI-generated text and images washing over the academic publishing industry.

Several experts who track down problems in studies told AFP that the rise of AI has turbocharged the existing problems in the multi-billion-dollar sector.

All the experts emphasised that AI programmes such as ChatGPT can be a helpful tools for writing or translating papers if thoroughly checked and disclosed.

But that was not the case for several recent cases that somehow snuck past peer review. Earlier this year, a clearly AI-generated graphic of a rat with impossibly huge genitals was shared widely on social media. It was published in a journal of academic giant Frontiers, which later retracted the study.

Another study was retracted last month for an AI graphic showing legs with odd multi-jointed bones that resembled hands.

While these examples were images, it is thought to be ChatGPT, a chatbot launched in November 2022, that has most changed how the world's researchers present their findings.

Such embarrassing examples are rare and would be unlikely to make it through the peer review process at the most prestigious journals, several experts told

More than 13,000 papers were retracted last year, by far the most in history, according to the US-based group Retraction Watch

AFP.

It isn't always easy to spot the use of AI. But one clue is that ChatGPT tends to favour certain words.

Andrew Gray, a librarian at University College London, trawled through millions of papers searching for the overuse of words such as ‘meticulous’, ‘intricate’, or ‘commendable.’

He determined that at least 60,000 papers involved the use of AI in 2023, over 1% of the annual total.

“For 2024, we are going to see very significantly increased numbers,” Gray said.

Meanwhile, more than 13,000 papers were retracted last year, by far the most in history, according to the US-based group Retraction Watch.

AI has allowed the bad actors in scientific publishing and academia to “industrialise the overflow” of “junk” papers, Retraction Watch co-founder Ivan Oransky said.

Such bad actors include paper mills: “scammers” that sell authorship to researchers, pumping out vast amounts of very poor quality, plagiarised or fake papers, said Elisabeth Bik, a Dutch researcher who detects scientific image manipulation. And as AI opens the floodgates, she added, paper mills' output is “exploding.”

Oransky emphasised that the problem was not just paper mills, but a broader academic culture that pushes researchers to “publish or perish.” The insatiable demand for ever-more papers piles pressure on academics who are ranked by their output, creating a “vicious cycle,” he said.



The Indian delegation to the 12th European Girls Mathematical Olympiad, held from April 13-19, 2023, (EGM 02023) in Slovenia. From left: Rohan Goyal, Bhavya Sree N. Naga, Sunaina Pati, Gunjan Aggrawal, Sanjana Chaklo, Dr. Aditi Phadke. HOMI BHABHA CENTRE FOR SCIENCE EDUCATION



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