



THE TIMES OF INDIA

A FORCE FOR GOOD

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

BUMPER ISSUE: INCLUSIVE OF LOC FEATURE & DELHI TIMES (CIRCULATED ONLY IN DELHI NCR) | *APPLICABLE ONLY ON MONTHLY PURCHASE (IN DELHI NCR)

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER



On the eve of I-Day, observed as 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day', PM Modi recalls sufferings of people impacted by Partition and pays tribute to their courage, which he says 'illustrates the power of human resilience', **FLAP OPP**

Japanese PM Fumio Kishida announces that he won't contest the upcoming party leadership vote in Sept, paving the way for the country to get a new PM, **INSIDE JACKET**

WHO declares Mpox outbreaks in Congo & elsewhere in Africa a global emergency, with cases confirmed among children and adults in over a dozen countries and a new form of the virus spreading, **INSIDE JACKET**

Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar writes about Indian women's accomplishments at the Olympics, and about what it will take to give more women a shot at a podium finish, **EDIT PAGE**



A FORCE FOR GOOD

This Independence Day, celebrate India's unstoppable spirit. Turn to Page 6 & 7

PSUs, mining cos to pay states royalty, tax dues from 2005: SC

Payments To Be Staggered Over 12 Years

Dhananjay Mahapatra
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: In a financial bonanza for mineral-rich states, Supreme Court on Wednesday asked public sector undertakings and private entities engaged in mining activities, as well as those using mineral produce as raw material, to pay arrears of royalty and tax on mineral-bearing land to states from 2005 in a staggered manner over the next 12 years.

A 9-judge bench of CJI D Y Chandrachud and Justices Hrishikesh Roy, A S Oka, J B Pardiwala, Manoj Misra, Ujjal Bhuyan, S C Sharma and A G Masih, with Justice B V Nagra-

PAYOUTS TO BEGIN FROM APR 2026

- Arrears won't include interest on principal amount due, no penalty for late payment on demands made before July 25, 2024. **Prerogative of state legislatures to forego dues**
- Payouts, in instalments over 12 yrs, to begin Apr 1, 2026
- Financial implication for PSUs, without interest, stands at ₹70,000cr. Together with pvt sector industries, **arrears from 2005 would be ₹1.5L crore**



➤ States expected to reap huge windfall are **Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan**

➤ **INDIA'S 1ST LITHIUM MINES IN C'GARH, **INSIDE JACKET****

rathna dissenting, said the arrears would not include interest on principal amount due, or penalty for late payment "on demands made for the period before July 25, 2024".

The bench had by 8:1 majority on July 25 overruled a 1991 7-judge bench ruling (India Cement case) and agreed with a

Retro blow to cos; mining stocks bruised

The apex court's order on mining arrears is expected to impact the industry at large, with public and private sector players staring at Rs 1.5 lakh crore to be paid in dues, report Sanjay Dutta and Reeba Zachariah.

NMDC chairman Amitava Mukherjee said the company was evaluating short- and long-term implications. SAIL is looking at an outstanding of Rs 3,000 crore. Among private players, Tata Steel saw an impact of Rs 17,347 crore. Major metal and mining stocks took a beating Wednesday, with NMDC falling 6.1%, Hindustan Copper 4.3% and Coal India 3.2%. **OTHER BOOK, P 13**

No interim bail to Kejriwal, SC seeks CBI reply

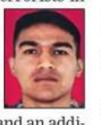
New Delhi: Supreme Court on Wednesday asked CBI to file its response by Aug 23 to Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal's petition seeking bail in the excise policy case but refused to grant him interim bail on medical grounds, reports **Dhananjay Mahapatra**. Kejriwal was arrested by CBI on June 29 when he was already in ED custody.

Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi termed CBI's decision to arrest Kejriwal an "insurance arrest" as the latter was on the verge of getting bail in ED's PMLA case, in which he was granted interim bail twice by SC itself — once for electioneering and then while referring the issue of arrest to a larger bench.

Capt killed in encounter in Doda, civilian injured

Jammu: Captain Deepak Singh of 48 Rashtriya Rifles died of bullet wounds Wednesday while leading an overnight counteroffensive against a group of three to four heavily armed Pakistani terrorists in Assar of Doda district — marking the 17th security casualty in J&K since May, with 13 fatalities in Jammu region and an additional four killed in Kashmir, reports **Sanjay Khajuria**.

Singh's team gunned down a terrorist while a civilian was wounded in the crossfire. Sources said there could be more terrorist casualties as four bloodied rucksacks and clothing were found at the site.



➤ **More on **INSIDE JACKET****

Rajnath, NSA, CDS hold review meet

Defence minister Rajnath Singh, NSA Ajit Doval, CDS Gen Anil Chauhan, Army chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi and others reviewed measures to boost counter-infiltration and counter-terror grids on Wednesday. **FLAP OPP**

EC, MHA agree on forces for J&K polls

EC, which reached an agreement with the Union home secretary regarding the extent of forces to be deployed for polls in J&K, may announce the schedule any day after the revised electoral rolls are published Aug 20. **FLAP OPP**

CAS dismisses Vinesh's appeal for silver at Oly

In a setback to **Vinesh Phogat**, the ad hoc division of the Court of Arbitration for Sport has dismissed the petition filed by the wrestler against her dramatic disqualification before the women's 50kg final of the Paris Olympics.

Vinesh had appealed for the award of a joint silver medal as she had reached the final in the 50kg category, reports **Sabi Hussain**. "Application filed by Vinesh Phogat on 7 Aug 2024 is dismissed," read the operative part of the decision in her application against UWW & IOC.

➤ **IOA explores options, P 15**

Rahul, ally Mamata trade jibes on doc rape-murder

New Delhi/Kolkata: Congress MP Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday said the rape-murder of a doctor in Kolkata has led to an "atmosphere of insecurity among the doctor community and women". Breaking his silence on the sensational case with a strong statement that could be seen as an indictment of the Mamata Banerjee govt, Rahul added, "The attempt to save the accused instead of providing justice to the victim raises serious questions on the hospital and local administration."

Banerjee hit back. "I want to ask Congress... how many incidents have taken place in your states and what action have you taken? And under CPM rule (in Bengal), there were a plethora of heinous crimes and the

Miscreants vandalise hospital late at night

Miscreants entered the premises of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata shortly after midnight on Thursday and vandalised portions of the medical facility where a doctor was raped and murdered. The incident took place even as protesters led by women took to the streets of Kolkata and other cities to demand justice for the victim of the crime. **PTI**

govt was silent. Since there was no social media then, people were not aware," she said. **TNN**

➤ **More on **INSIDE JACKET****

Rahul Navin appointed ED chief for 2 yrs

The Centre on Wednesday appointed **Rahul Navin**, acting chief of Enforcement Directorate, as the central agency's full-time director for a fixed tenure of two years.

A 1993-batch IRS officer, he had been holding additional charge of ED director since Sept last year when its then chief S K Mishra demitted office.

His elevation had looked imminent since his promotion to the rank of additional secretary in Jan.

➤ **More on **INSIDE JACKET****

DOUBLE DELIGHT

Today's bumper issue of TOI is organised in two sections, both equally packed with news and analysis. To get the full reading experience of today's edition, make sure you don't miss the other section

OTHER BOOK TOP STORIES

- Hasina remarks won't help our ties with India: Bangladesh
- Strengthen affirmative action as inclusion tool: Prez
- IMD issues rain alert for Wayanad, says floods likely

India not keen on hosting pink-ball Tests as they end early: Jay Shah

TEAM TOI

BCCI has appointed South Africa's Morne Morkel as bowling coach of the Indian team, board secretary Jay Shah told TOI. Shah, who visited TOI's Mumbai office for an interaction, also made it clear India was not in favour of hosting pink-ball Tests because "they end in a couple of days".

FULL REPORT: P 15

Morkel's contract begins on Sept 1, Shah said. On pink-ball Tests under lights, he said, "You buy a ticket for a five-day match, but the game ends in 2-3



Morne Morkel will be India's new bowling coach, Shah said

in less than three days.

Shah said he had turned down Bangladesh Cricket Board's request for India to host the Women's T20 World Cup in Oct. "Next year, we'll host the 50-overs women's WC. We do not want to give any signal that we want to host consecutive World Cups," he said.

The 35-year-old BCCI secretary unveiled more board plans, including its state-of-the-art National Cricket Academy (NCA) on the outskirts of Bengaluru which is due to open soon. It can be accessed by top Indian athletes from other disciplines too, he said.



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TENDER NOTICE

The Director/Admin Northern Railway Central Hospital, New Delhi-110055, for and on behalf of the President of India invites sealed open electronic-tenders for under noted work:-

S. No.	Name of work	Approximate cost of work	Earnest money to be deposited	Completion period	Date of opening
A.	Repair to leaky roof and providing covering over water tanks & AC units and roof of buildings in NRCH in the section of SSE/W/NRCH.	Rs. 89,99,981.53	Rs. 1,80,000/-	6 Months	06.09.2024
B.	Operation and maintenance of 200 KLD combined sewage treatment plant and effluent treatment plant with online monitoring system for three years at Northern Railway Central Hospital in the section of SSE/W/NRCH under ADEN/NRCH.	Rs. 50,96,086.26	Rs. 1,01,900/-	36 Months	06.09.2024

The e-tender is to be submitted through railway website www.ireps.gov.in. The tenders can be submit on website up to 15:00 hrs. on 06.09.2024 and shall be opened there after.

No.: 128-W-269-O.E.T-5A-5B-NRCH-2024-25 Date: 13.08.2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2517/24

NORTHERN RAILWAY
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work:

1	Name of work: Augmentation of water supply network from over head tank complex up to station building and replacement of old worn-out water pipe line for washing line 1.2.3 & platform 2.3 and provision of flow meters at different water outlet for proper account of water uses and wastage at Anand Vihar Railway Terminal and special repair to platform surface, water booths, connecting underpasses & pathways, divyangjan facilities, flaming of stone granite at different ramps and other different passenger amenities and provision of various required signages at different locations as and where required as per new Railways norms at Anand Vihar Railway Terminal in the s/o SSE/W/ANVT under ADEN/NDLS.	Approx. cost of work: Rs 2,59,30,576.22/- (Rupees Two Crore Fifty Nine Lakh Thirty Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Six and Twenty Two Paisa Only).	Earnest Money to be deposited: Rs 2,79,700.00/- (Rupees Two Lakh Seventy Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Only)	Cost of tender document: Rs. 0.00/-	Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender: 06.09.2024 at 15:00 Hrs.	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen: www.ireps.gov.in	Allocation: 04-500-32
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The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E - Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system.

For all terms and conditions please refer tender document.

No manual offers are acceptable.

Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.

No. No. 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT/27/2024-25/W-3 Dated: 12.08.2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2516/2024

राष्ट्रीय धुवीय एवं समुद्री अनुसंधान केन्द्र
NATIONAL CENTRE FOR POLAR AND OCEAN RESEARCH
Vasco-da-Gama, Goa-403804

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

The Director, NCPOR invites eligible and prospective Indian Nationals for filling up the position of Junior Research Fellow at NCPOR on temporary contract basis under project mode through walk-in-interview on **17th September, 2024 (Tuesday)** at 08:30 AM (onwards) at NCPOR. For detailed advertisement, terms and conditions and instructions visit our website www.ncpor.res.in

Sd/
विज्ञापन सं: NCPOR/13/2024 Head (Administration)

यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण
प्रथम तल, कॉमर्शियल कॉम्प्लेक्स, सेक्टर-ओमेगा-1 (पी-2) ग्रेटर नोएडा
Toll Free No. 18001808296, वेबसाइट : www.yamunaexpresswayauthority.com

पत्रांक: वाई.ई.ए./मूलेख/669/2024 दिनांक: 14.08.2024

सार्वजनिक सूचना

निम्नलिखित भूमि यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण द्वारा अपनी सहमति के आधार पर कार्रवायों से क्रय किया जाना प्रस्तावित है:-

ग्राम सालारपुर, प्राधिकरण के सेक्टर 22बी. व 24 मीटर चौड़ी सड़क, एच.2 हॉस्पिटल, ग्रीन वैल्ट एवं आंशिक भाग सेक्टर 22 के जी.एच.4

क्रमांक	खाता संख्या	खसरा संख्या	खसरे का कुल क्षेत्रफल (हे. में)	खातेदार का नाम व पता	तहसील से प्राप्त रिपोर्ट के आधार पर कार्रवायों का हिस्सा (हे. में)	कार्रवायों का विक्रय हेतु क्षेत्रफल (हे. में)
1.	112	775	0.1010	श्रीमती संतोष पत्नी विनोद नि. ग्राम सालारपुर	0.1260	0.1260
2.	88	376	0.1010	मुनेश पत्नी राजेन्द्र नि. ग्राम सालारपुर	0.1010	0.1010

उपरोक्त भूमि क्रय किये जाने में यदि किसी व्यक्ति को कोई आपत्ति है तो वह लिखित रूप में 15 दिन के अन्दर अधोहस्ताक्षरी को अपनी आपत्ति प्रस्तुत कर सकता है।

पत्रांक: वाई.ई.ए./मूलेख(तह.)/877/2024 दिनांक: 14.08.2024

निम्नलिखित भूमि यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औ. वि. प्राधिकरण द्वारा आपसी सहमति के आधार पर प्राधिकरण के पक्ष में क्रय किया जाना प्रस्तावित है:-

क्रम सं.	ग्राम का नाम व परियोजना	खसरा नम्बरान
1.	ग्राम उस्मानपुर सेक्टर-18 पॉकेट 5ए की 24मी. चौड़ी सड़क व कमर्शियल मूखण्ड तथा 07 प्रतिशत आबादी के अन्तर्गत	291 व 272

उपरोक्त भूमि को प्राधिकरण के पक्ष में क्रय किये जाने में यदि किसी व्यक्ति को कोई आपत्ति है तो वह लिखित रूप में प्रकाशन के 15 दिनों के अन्दर सी.आर.सेल/तहसीलदार यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औ. वि. प्राधिकरण के पक्ष में क्रय किया जाना प्रस्तावित है।

यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औ. वि. प्राधिकरण

यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण के अधिसूचित क्षेत्र में प्राधिकरण द्वारा स्वीकृत मास्टर प्लान के अतिरिक्त प्लानिंग/हाउसिंग/कॉलोनी या किसी भी प्रकार का अन्य निर्माण पूरी तरह से अवैध है। सामान्यजन इस प्रकार की खरीद-फरोख्त से पूर्णतः सचेत रहें तथा कॉलोनाइजर के ग्रामक विज्ञापनों से बचें। अधिक जानकारी के लिए प्राधिकरण की वेबसाइट www.yamunaexpresswayauthority.com देखें।

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE

Track Supply Officer-II/N,Rly/Baroda House- New Delhi, acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-tender against Tender no. **CSP-KSF_03_2024-25 and CSP-KSF_04_2024-25 dated 12.08.2024**, Closing dated **03.09.2024; 15:00** Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing dated and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractor are allowed to make payments against this tender towards earnest money **only through online payment modes** available on IREPS portal like Net banking, Debit card, Credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. Other details about tender are available on website www.ireps.gov.in.

S. No.	Tender No.	Description	Tender Value	Earnest Money	Period of Completion
01	CSP-KSF_03_2024-25 dated 12.08.2024 (Time:18:33 hrs.)	Supply, installation and commissioning of IP based CCTV camera monitoring system with all accessories for remote monitoring of sleeper production in Concrete Sleeper Plant, Northern Railway Khalispur-Varanasi by installing CCTV cameras at critical locations. Live feed from cameras shall be provided to Zonal HQ and RDSO.	16,34,682.03	32,700.00	06 month
02	CSP-KSF_04_2024-25 dated 12.08.2024 (Time:18:36 hrs.)	Operation washout and maintenance of steam coil boiler including arrangements of steam coal at Concrete Sleeper Plant, Northern Railway, Khalispur-Varanasi.	70,39,188.00	1,40,800.00	12 month

Qty As per tender notice Date of Opening 03.09.2024 at 15:00

Note: The complete information along with tender document of above E-Procurement Tender is available in website on <https://www.ireps.gov.in>.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2508/24

WESTERN RAILWAY - VADODARA
GATI SHAKTI VISHWAVIDYALAYA
(A Central University under the Ministry of Railways, Government of India)
Lalbag, Vadodara, Gujarat 390004

GSV/Acad/Admissions-2024 14/08/2024

SPOT ROUND ADMISSIONS: B.TECH PROGRAMS (AY 2024-25)

Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV), Vadodara is a Central University established by an Act of Parliament vide Central Universities (Amendment) Act 2022. The University is sponsored by the Ministry of Railways, Govt. of India. Being a University of first-of-its-kind, GSV focuses on transport and logistics related education, multidisciplinary research and executive training.

Online Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the spot round admission to the B.Tech programs. **The eligibility criteria are the same as of JoSAA/CSAB.** For more details on the eligibility criteria, application procedure, the programs on offer and to apply, visit the GSV website (<https://gsv.ac.in>). Last date to apply is **22/08/2024**.

Follow us on: twitter.com/gsv_vadodara

Happy 78th
Independence Day
 to all Indians!



Conceptualised and launched in India in 2001, VFS Global is one of the earliest **'Made in India'** companies to become the global leader serving **68 sovereign governments across 153 countries.**

Providing visa services on behalf of **53 client governments in India.**

Long-standing partnerships with countries such as **Canada, Thailand, UK, USA and multiple Schengen member states.**

Presence in **19 Indian cities** with a network of **over 570 visa application centres.**

Processed over 63 million applications in India since 2001.

First outsourced visa services partner of the **Ministry of External Affairs (India) in 2008.**

Providing passport, visa, and consular services for **India in 13 countries.**

Handled **over 20 million applications** so far.

Operating the **Pravasi Bhartiya Sahayata Kendra**, a 24/7 information dissemination and grievance redressal centre started by the MEA for Indian diaspora, since 2014.

A reliable partner to the Indian government in historic missions such as **Operation Raahat 2015, Vande Bharat Mission 2020, and Operation Devi Shakti 2021.**

Celebrate Rakshabandhan with a heartfelt gift!

FLAT 20% OFF
 ON MRP OF **4000+** DIAMOND DESIGNS

Ends on **20th August**



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TRYSTS THAT SHAPED INDIA'S DESTINY

For an ancient civilisation like India, 77 years is the blink of an eye. But for a modern nation, it's a significantly long period. Long enough for us to take note of, and marvel at, the enormous strides that we've taken in this period.

VS Naipaul famously wrote of a million mutinies in India. Today, we can just as aptly talk of a million revolutions, each one transforming the country in dramatic ways.

Numbers can serve as milestones that record how far we've come. India's GDP has gone up from \$37 billion in 1960 to \$3.550 billion now. We have added over 30 years of life expectancy in the same period. But while statistics tell a tale, they don't do justice to what is, ultimately, a triumph of the human spirit in multiple fields of endeavour, from agriculture to space, from sporting arenas to corridors of academia, from factories to films. They don't adequately capture the enormity of vision of the pioneering men and women who dared to dream, the resilience of those who overcame daunting odds to nurture formidable institutions, the vibrant energy of the innovators who continue to remake India, driven by the audacity of hope.

They don't begin to encapsulate how Brand India has become the softest of superpowers, simultaneously enlightening the world through the timeless wisdom of Yoga and Ayurveda, enchanting it with the magic of cinema, and dazzling it with the prowess of its huge diaspora, which is now contributing numerous global leaders, both in politics and business.

Today, as India celebrates the completion of 77 years since that unforgettable midnight tryst with destiny, we pay tribute to a few sectors in which we have made the most dramatic leaps. This is by no means a complete or exhaustive list of the myriad changes in a country of the size and complexity of India. But it is a humble effort to salute those who worked tirelessly to transform the country.

India has come a long way from where it all began in 1947. But our journey is by no means over. We still have miles to go and promises to keep. Fortunately, every day, in every part of this vast and vibrant nation, unseen heroes labour silently to bring real change at the grassroots. Their efforts go largely unnoticed, but time and patience have a way of eventually yielding dramatic results. Over the next few weeks, we will bring you some of their stories. Together, these determined men and women — and millions more like them — are propelling India forward. Collectively, they make up an unstoppable force. A Force For Good.

JUDICIARY

JUDGMENTS THAT CHANGED SOCIETY

Protecting Privacy • The move towards "digital India" made lives easier, but the fear of losing privacy got more pronounced. In 2017, the Supreme Court declared Right to Privacy was a fundamental right. SC ruled that Right to Privacy was "intrinsic to life and personal liberty and is inherently protected under Article 21".

Same-Sex Love Isn't Criminal • Introduced by the British in 1861, modelled on its own 18th century Buggery Act, Section 377 criminalised consensual sex between persons of the same sex. In 2018, all that changed as SC upheld the right to equal citizenship of members of the LGBTQ+ community. It ruled that Section 377 was unconstitutional "in so far as it criminalises consensual sexual conduct between adults of the same sex" and that punishing sexual activity between two consenting adults under Section 377 violated the right to equality, privacy and personal liberty of such persons.

Making Workplaces Safer • If workplaces are now aware of sexual harassment, it is because SC stipulated the "Vishaka Guidelines", enacting the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition & Redressal) Act in 2013. It defined sexual harassment as unwelcome sexually-determined behaviour (whether directly or by implication) like physical contact and advances, a demand or request for sexual favours, sexually coloured remarks or showing pornography.

Normalising 'Atypical' • When the Punjab and Haryana HC denied Deepika Singh, a nurse at PGI Chandigarh, maternity leave because she had availed it twice earlier when she had children from her previous marriage, Singh moved SC. This opened up a new world for atypical families and same-sex couples. The ruling, which took note of her "circumstances", expanded the definition of 'family' in Indian law to include unmarried partnerships, queer relationships and single-parent families. "Atypical families are deserving of equal protection under law guaranteed under Article 14 and benefits available under social welfare legislation," the court said.

'Basic Structure' • In 1973, a 13-judge Supreme Court bench ruled with a slender 7-6 margin that Parliament cannot alter the 'basic structure' of the Constitution "so as to change its identity". Earlier, the court had held that the power of Parliament to amend the Constitution was unfettered. All that changed with the ruling in the Kesavananda Bharati vs state of Kerala case. This still holds.

Protecting States • There was a time when President's rule was a stick that the govt at the Centre would readily wield over states run by an opposition party. But that's no longer the case, thanks mainly to the SR Bommai judgment. In its 1994 decision, Supreme Court came down against the misuse of emergency provision under Article 356 by the Centre to arbitrarily dismiss state govts. Centre-state relations may remain a contested area, but are on a firmer footing due to the lines drawn by the top court.

INFRASTRUCTURE

TEMPLES OF MODERN INDIA

Bhakra Nangal Dam • Bhakra Dam across the Sutlej River is one of the highest gravity dams in the world at 714.82 m. Together with the downstream Nangal Dam, these are referred to as Bhakra-Nangal dam. Bhakra Dam's reservoir, known as the Gobind Sagar, stores up to 9.34 billion m³ of water. It is located near Punjab's border with Himachal Pradesh. When completed in 1963 — 15 years after it was commissioned in 1948 — Jawaharlal Nehru described it as the "new temple of resurgent India".

Indira Gandhi Canal • It took almost five decades to complete but bringing water to the desert isn't an easy job. Works on the Rajasthan Canal, renamed Indira Gandhi Canal in Nov 1984, began in 1958, and now runs over 650km, bringing in a dash of green to the Thar desert. It now irrigates over 16 lakh acres in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer and Barmer districts.

Kolkata/Delhi Metro • The plan was drawn way back in 1920. But the foundation stone for the Kolkata (then Calcutta) Metro was laid only in 1972 and operations began in 1984. It became India's first rapid transit system and a blueprint for Metros in other Indian cities. Delhi was a late starter, but it blazed a trail after the first Metro track — the Red Line — opened in 2002. Delhi Metro now has 10 colour-coded lines that stretch over 350km with 256 stations. It has a daily ridership of 46 lakh, making it India's largest and busiest Metro.

Atal Tunnel • It is the world's highest highway tunnel, at 10,000 feet, built under the Rohtang Pass in Himachal Pradesh. The 5.02km stretch now links Ladakh to Manali and Chandigarh year-round. It provides strategic advantage to the Armed Forces, which get year-long connectivity to border areas.

Chenab Rail Bridge • The Chenab Rail Bridge — the world's tallest rail bridge at 1,178 feet, spanning the Chenab river — connects Kashmir to the rest of India. It was inaugurated in Aug 2022. The steel and concrete arch bridge carrying a single-track railway line connects Gaggaldan and Reasi stations. Train services that will connect Kashmir to Jammu are expected to start soon.

Mumbai Trans Harbour Link • India's financial capital, Mumbai, has always been synonymous with bad traffic. That changed for some early this year with the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link, a 21.8km six-lane expressway bridge — the world's 20th longest sea bridge — connecting Mumbai and Navi Mumbai. The bridge, first conceptualised six decades ago, has cut travel time between Sewri (near Parel in Mumbai) and Chirle in Navi Mumbai to under 20 minutes.

NOBEL LAUREATES

PATHBREAKERS

Mother Teresa | Peace (1979) • She was born Anjeze Gonxhe Bojaxhiu in Skopje, Macedonia, in 1910. She reached India in 1929 after spending a year in Ireland. Her first stop was Darjeeling and then she moved to Calcutta, teaching at Loreto School. In 1946, during a train ride from Calcutta to Darjeeling, she experienced what she says was an "inner call" to serve the poor. And thus came up the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta in 1950. Mother Teresa dedicated her life to the poor, sick and dying, for which she won the Nobel. She was canonised as Saint Teresa of Calcutta in 2016.

Amartya Sen | Economics (1998) • He won the Nobel "... for his contribution to welfare economics and social choice theory and for his interest in the problems of society's poorest members". He reasoned that to accurately evaluate people's well-being, economists need to consider information beyond just income. This reshaped thinking in development and welfare economics.

Kailash Satyarthi | Peace (2014) • In 1998, Kailash Satyarthi conceived and led the Global March Against Child Labour, covering 80,000km across 103 countries to demand an international law on most forms of child labour. This protest led the International Labour Organisation to adopt a convention protecting children against exploitation and hazardous work.

Abhijit Banerjee | Economics (2019) • He was awarded the Nobel Prize for economics along with his partner Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer for their extension of the concept of randomised control trials — much used in the sciences — to the fight against poverty. Banerjee and Duflo are co-founders of the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), an organisation whose "mission is to reduce poverty by ensuring that policy is informed by scientific evidence". They try to do this by breaking up the problem of poverty into smaller issues that can be fixed by using field experiments to see what works best in the real world. Among the areas they have worked on are improving educational outcomes and child health.

MOBILITY

SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL

It was everything that India of the 80s wasn't. Not a ponderous behemoth huffing and puffing to negotiate its passage but a blithe maverick able to confidently, and quietly, make its way. Not an ungainly workhorse weighed down by the decades but a petite charmer that had shed the burden of the past. It was of the govt, but not official — it was first hand perhaps the only people's car of India: not of the badminton and red tape, but for the bazaar and baraat. And so liberating — that too about a decade before liberalisation. The year was 1983. The inaugural price: Rs 47,500. The engine: 800cc. The rest is stuff of road legend. The last of the over 20 lakh Maruti 800s rolled out in 2014, but it will forever be a symbol of humble elegance that changed the way India drove.

DIASPORA

WORLD AT THEIR FEET

Sundar Pichai • Born in Madurai, educated at IIT Kharagpur, Stanford and Wharton, Pichai joined Google in 2004. He led product management and innovation efforts for Google's client software products like Chrome and ChromeOS, and was largely responsible for Google Drive. He also overtook Android. It came as no surprise when he was appointed Google's CEO in 2015.

Satya Nadella • When Satya Nadella was named the third CEO of Microsoft in 2014, he had to fill the very big shoes of Bill Gates and Steve Ballmer. Apart from his technical and business skills (MS in computer science in the US and MBA from University of Chicago Booth School of Business), he brought a shift in the company's philosophy, revising its mission statement to "empower every person and every organisation on the planet to achieve more." He orchestrated a cultural shift at Microsoft by emphasising empathy, collaboration, and a "growth" mindset.

Rishi Sunak • Whoever would have thought an Indian would run Great Britain? But that's exactly what happened when Rishi Sunak became British PM on Oct 25, 2022, aged just 42. Sunak was born in Southampton, UK, to Indian parents who migrated to Britain from East Africa. He was in office till last July. Elsewhere in the world, too, Indians have become a political force, with US vice-president Kamala Harris (Tamil mother, Jamaican father) in the race for US president.

Ajay Banga • Ajay Banga had already worked with a President and vice-president of the US. Barack Obama made him a member of his Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations in 2015 and he was an adviser to Kamala Harris. Now, Pune-born Banga, an alumnus of St Stephen's College, Delhi, and IIM-A, is the 14th president of the World Bank. Earlier, he was with top companies like Mastercard.

COUNTRIES WITH HIGHEST OVERSEAS INDIANS

Country	NRI's	PIO's	Total
US	19.1	15.9	35.0
UAE	2.1	35.0	37.1
Malaysia	29.1	0.0	29.1
Canada	28.8	0.0	28.8
Saudi Arabia	24.6	0.0	24.6

At \$145,000, median income of Indians in the US was the highest in 2022, 33% more than the second highest (Asian) and 80% higher than Whites'

ATMANNIBHAR

STORY OF TWO REVOLUTIONS

Bye-Bye Famines • India's Green Revolution came in the backdrop of famines and agricultural productivity. In the 1960s, geneticist M S Swaminathan convinced the govt that the high-yielding dwarf wheat that US scientist, Laxmibhai Chaudhary had introduced in Mexico was the answer to India's food shortage. And from 1968, what happened was indeed revolutionary. Production shot up in Punjab, Haryana and western UP. High-yielding variety of seeds of varying strains, mechanised tools, irrigation facilities, pesticides and fertilisers were used. By 1970, Punjab was producing 70% of India's foodgrain and the region came to be known as the "food bowl of India".

Milkman's Magic • Anand in Gujarat, the birthplace of Amul, is replete with stories of a livid Vallabhbhai Patel planning a resistance against Pakistan, a private dairy company that was fleecing farmers by buying milk cheap and selling it at a premium in then Bombay. It was around that time, in 1948, that a young Verghese Kurien reached Anand to work at a dairy farm there. And, as Patel built a robust co-operative movement to unite farmers, Kurien worked on increasing production. In about two decades, Operation Flood, or the White Revolution, was launched. Amul took on the likes of Nestle and it transformed India from a milk deficient nation to the world's largest milk producer, surpassing the US in 1998. It now contributes 25% of the world's total milk output, with a massive milk grid linking producers throughout India to consumers in over 700 towns and cities.

FINTECH

GOING CASHLESS

A decade ago had anyone told you that you would soon use your phone to pay for a cup of tea or your veggies, that cash would be virtually redundant, you would probably have doubted the sanity of that person. But in 2016, the future arrived, changing over the way Indians shop. National Payments Corporation of India rolled out UPI — or Unified Payments Interface — in 2016, and the slow shift began. During Covid, it was an avalanche. Last month, there were about 1,444 crore UPI transactions involving transfers worth Rs 20.6 lakh crore.

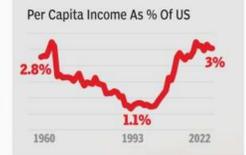
BIGGER, BETTER OFF, AND BEST

HOW INDIA, INDIANS AND THE INDIAN DIASPORA HAVE FARED ECONOMICALLY

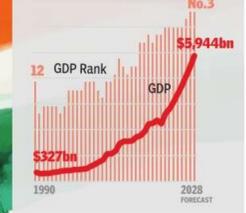
INDIANS ARE GETTING RICHER FASTER

No. Of Yrs To Double Per Capita Income

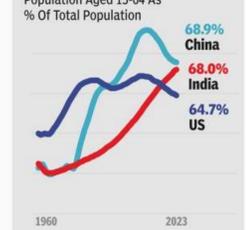
Period	Average Growth Rate	No. of Years to Double the Income
1950s	3.9%	19
1960s	4.1%	18
1970s	2.9%	25
1980s	5.7%	13
1990s	5.8%	13
2000s	6.3%	12
2010s	6.6%	11
2023-24 (PE)	8.2%	9



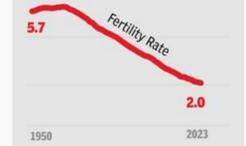
INDIA'S GDP RANK AMONG TOP 3 SOON



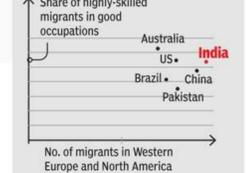
INDIA'S WORKFORCE WILL BE WORLD'S LARGEST



STEEP FALL IN FERTILITY WILL STABILISE POPULATION IN FUTURE



INDIAN DIASPORA IS THE MOST POWERFUL



Source: ILO reports, United Nations, World Bank, IIM, Economic Survey, PIB, TRAI, NSSO, NFHS-5

Text: Raja Bose, Avijit Ghosh, Kenneth Mohanty
Data: Atul Thakur
Design: Sajeev Kumarapuram

SPACE

BULLOCK CART TO OUTER SPACE

An Apple Defies Gravity • A last-minute test had to be carried out on India's first indigenous communication satellite. And it needed to be done in a non-magical way. The test was to lug the satellite — called Apple, or Ariane Passenger Payload Experiment — all the way to science labs in one of the big cities, which would have involved a considerable expense of time and money. The scientists figured they could just as easily do the test with the satellite placed on a bullock cart standing in an open field. Cost of the fix: 5 hours and Rs 150.

Acing the Launch Sequence • The Apple mission paved the way for the development of INSAT and GSAT satellites, but India also needed its own launch capabilities to be counted among space pioneers. Enter the SLVs, or satellite launch vehicles. It was with the launch of SLV-3 — our first experimental satellite launch vehicle — in July 1980, that India became the sixth member of an exclusive club of space-faring nations. From there on followed the 'Augmented', 'Polar', and 'Geosynchronous' SLVs, allowing India to not only launch its own satellites but also emerge as a major commercial transporter. Commercial launches started in 1999 and Isro has so far ferried well over 300 satellites of more than 30 countries to space.

Dark Side of The Moon • Once you have the rocket, space tripping becomes possible. In 2008, Chandrayaan-1 took off from Sriharikota. India's first lunar mission met its objectives. It also was the first to confirm the presence of water moon. The next year, India became the sixth member of an exclusive club of space-faring nations. From there on followed the 'Augmented', 'Polar', and 'Geosynchronous' SLVs, allowing India to not only launch its own satellites but also emerge as a major commercial transporter. Commercial launches started in 1999 and Isro has so far ferried well over 300 satellites of more than 30 countries to space.

On Your Mars • In between the Chandrayaan missions, Isro also called on Mars. The Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM), India's first interplanetary mission, took off in 2013 and Isro became the fourth space agency to reach the red planet's orbit. It was a real bang for the buck, too. MOM outlasted its designated mission life of six months to complete over seven years in Mars' orbit and cost only \$74 million. It takes more to make Hollywood movies on space, some pointed out.

SPORTS

CHAK DE, INDIA

1956: When India Finished 4th In Football In The Olympics • Hard to believe today, but it's true. Neville Stephen De Souza, the nippy striker, fired a delightful hat-trick, leading to India's memorable 4-2 triumph over host Australia in Melbourne. In the semifinals, India even led formidable Yugoslavia 1-0 at one stage; poacher De Souza the scorer. The improbable was happening. But in the end, India went down 1-4. A 0-3 loss to Bulgaria in the battle for bronze meant the team finished fourth. Now, nearly 70 years later, the triumph remains India's high point in a sport that's largely frustrated fans.

1975: When India Won A World Cup In Hockey • In the previous edition of the championship, India had suffered a heart-breaking loss after missing a penalty stroke in 'sudden death' against the Netherlands in the final. But in Kuala Lumpur, India pulled off a famous victory, overcoming Pakistan 2-1 in a thrilling final to lift the cherished trophy. Equally remembered is the 3-2 victory over Malaysia in the semifinal. At one point of time, with barely five minutes left, India trailed 1-2. Defender Asher Sham Khan's penalty conversion, after kissing the amulet given by his mother, is one of the unforgettable stories of Indian sports.

1983: When Kapil's Devils Became The Lords of Cricket • Many sceptics were forced to eat their words — literally, in the case of journalist David Frith — after India stunned 2-time champions West Indies. Another story, probably apocryphal, goes that someone bet on

an Indian victory and won an island, illustrating how implausible the triumph was. The 43-run victory, the first major sporting conquest to be telecast widely in India, set the tone for the one-day cricket revolution. It also made cricket India's national obsession, and paved the way for the triumphs that followed in 2007, 2011 and 2024.

1988: When Viswanathan Gave Anand • India is one of the superpowers of world chess today. Five-time World Champion V Anand started the fire. The Lightning Kid from Chennai became India's first Grand Master in 1988. Today, India has 85 GMs.

2008: Bindra's Bull's Eye • India had never won an individual gold at the Olympics. In Beijing 2008, shooter Abhinav Bindra wiped out the national deficiency. In the 10m air rifle category, he overcame the local favourite, shooting with accuracy and calm, and became India's unofficial Godfinger forever.

2016 & 2020: Sindhu's Double Delight • Saina Nehwal became the first Indian to win a badminton medal, a bronze, in the London Olympics. But PV Sindhu created Indian badminton 2.0. The Hyderabad-born shuttler produced a masterclass in tenacity to wrench out a silver in Rio. Four years later, she delivered another bronze in Tokyo. There was also the women's singles world title at Basel in 2019. A common feature in the rise and success of 'badmintoners' was their coach Pullela Gopichand, an all-India winner whose academy groomed a crop of top shuttlers.

2021: India's Spearhead • After sprinter Norman Pritchard's two silvers in Paris 1900, India had never won another Olympic medal in athletics. Just when the nation was resigned to reducing its ambitions, Neeraj Chopra came out of nowhere to claim a gold in javelin in Tokyo. This was just the beginning. He dominated his discipline for 3 years, winning the World Championships and the Diamond League. In Paris 2024, he earned the only silver of the 117-strong contingent.

2024: Just Two Good • In Tokyo, bad luck dogged Manu Bhaker. A pistol malfunction costed the Haryana teenage shooter's shot for a medal. The reaction was sharp. Against this backdrop, Manu's double medal haul in 10m air pistol (individual, and team with Sarabjot Singh) in Paris this year was an inspiring tale of redemption for the shooter. The achievement was special because she became the first Indian after Independence to win two medals at a single Olympics.

EDUCATION

OUR BUILDING BLOCKS

IITs • "Here stands the fine monument of India... India's future in the making..." said Jawaharlal Nehru, while delivering the first convocation address at IIT Kharagpur in 1956. It was the country's first IIT, set up in 1950 after a committee recommended these institutes be developed along the lines of Massachusetts Institute of Technology. While four other campuses came up in quick succession — Bombay (1958), Madras (1959), Kanpur (1959) and Delhi (1961) — more IITs followed after a long gap. There are now 23 IITs.

IIMs • After India became independent, the Planning Commission was entrusted to oversee the development of the nascent nation that was witnessing rapid growth in the 50s. The commission began finding it difficult to get managers to run the public sector enterprises that were being established. In 1959, the panel invited a UCLA professor to set up an institute of management studies. In 1961, the first of the IIMs came up in Calcutta, followed by Ahmedabad and Bangalore. There are 21 IIMs in the country now.

BITS-Pilani • At a time when India was building its IITs, a regional engineering college in Pilani in Rajasthan was transformed into a top national university in 1964, headed by GD Birla. Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS-Pilani) now has campuses in Goa, Hyderabad and Eran Dabai.

AIIMS • Kolkata's loss was Delhi's gain. When the first AIIMS was proposed in Calcutta, former West Bengal CM Bidhan Chandra Roy said no. So, Rajkumar Amal Kumar, health minister in the Nehru Cabinet, built the institute in Delhi in the early 50s, after she introduced a bill in Parliament.

FTII • From Smita Patil, Naseeruddin Shah and Shabana Azmi to Santosh Sivan and Rajkumar Rao, the sprawling Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) campus in Pune has given India's best in cinema. FTII came up in 1960, when India saw a culture boom. It also had the likes of Shyam Benegal, Mrinal Sen and Adoor Gopalakrishnan as its presidents and Satyajit Ray, Ritwik Ghatak and David Lean as its faculty members.

NID • Yet another path-breaking institute came up in the 1960s when the National Institute of Design was established in Ahmedabad. It came at a time when a young India was faced with the task of nation building and balancing traditions with modern ideas and technology.

LITERATURE

INHERITANCE OF WORDS

Midnight's Children, Salman Rushdie • Published in 1981, Salman Rushdie's 'Midnight's Children' went on to win the Booker. Best of the Booker and James Tait Memorial Prize. It's a loose assembly of events in 1947, with the protagonist born at the exact moment when India became independent. Having lived under the shadow of a fatwa for many years, Rushdie was stabbed multiple times in Aug 2022, but survived, though he lost vision in one eye. His latest work, Knife, recounts this attack.

The Golden Gate & A Suitable Boy, Vikram Seth • Published in 1988, The Golden Gate & A Suitable Boy is a literary household name in India, and in the US. The novel, written in verse translation of 590 Ogegin stanzas, was inspired by Charles Johnston's composition of Pushkin's 'Eugene Onegin'. Seven years later, Seth came up with another blockbuster novel: A Suitable Boy, spanning 1,488 pages (paperback), making it one of the longest novels published in a single volume.

The Shadow Lines, Amitav Ghosh • The novel, published in 1988, is set against the backdrop of historical events like the Swadeshi Movement, World War II, Partition and communal riots of 1963-64 in Dhaka and Calcutta. The fluidity of border lines is presented through these events.

God of Small Things, Arundhati Roy • "The Great Stories are the ones you have heard and want to hear again. The ones you can enter anywhere and inhabit comfortably. That is their mystery and their magic," wrote Arundhati Roy in her debut novel, 'The God of Small Things', which bagged the Booker Prize in 1997. Then HarperCollins' editor Pankaj Mishra sent the draft of the novel to British publishers and Roy received a \$500,000 advance.

Inheritance of Loss, Kiran Desai • Her mother, Anita Desai, was a trailblazer, with novels like the iconic 'Clear Light of Day'. When Kiran Desai went up to receive the Man Booker Prize in 2007 for 'The Inheritance of Loss', she was — at 35 — the youngest female author to be awarded this prize. Set in the mid-90s, the book dwells on globalisation, terrorism and immigration.

The Immortals of Meluha, Amish Tripathi • When 'The Immortals of Meluha', Amish Tripathi's first novel and the first book in the Shiva trilogy, was published in 2010, it started a new trend in Indian writing — the mythological novel. Along with Chetan Bhagat, he was the boy driver in making popular writing in English commercially viable.



GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
 EE/PHD, P.W. (Roads) Directorate invites online e-Quotation for the work of "Providing round the clock security arrangement by deploying 15 nos. security guard per day for guarding at different office premises, stack yard under Purulia Highway Division in the district of Purulia during the year 2024-2025. Tender Id : 2024_SH_731168_1. Bid submission closing date (online) : 02.09.2024 at 01.30pm. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT and Tender documents may be downloaded from : <http://wbtdenders.gov.in/> - EE/PHD, P.W.RD, GOVT. OF WB.

ICA-T14142(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE
 Tender Ref.No. NIT/ 14 of EE/RD/PHED of 2024-2025
 Tender Id: 2024_PHEd_728510_1 to 21
 Last date for submission of Technical and Financial Bid (online): 23/08/2024 upto 3:00 P.M. Tender invited by the undersigned for Balance Pipeline works under Raiganj Division, PHE Dte. All details available in website <http://wbtdenders.gov.in/> & <http://www.wbtdenders.gov.in/> - Executive Engineer, Raiganj Division, PHE Dte., Govt. of West Bengal. ICA-T14105(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
 e-Tender invited by the Executive Engineer, Tamluk Division, PHE, Dte. Vide No. WBP/EE/ETD/PHED/104/2024-2025 (Sl. No. 03 & 05) and Tender 2024_PHEd_709192_3 & 2024_PHEd_709192_5 of works in the NIT. Bid submission end date extend to: 16/08/2024 at 14:00 P.M. All details can be obtained from the website <http://wbtdenders.gov.in/> - Executive Engineer, Tamluk Division, PHE Directorate. ICA-T14113(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
 Superintending Engineer, Southern Circle PWD, 76 Dr. Deodar Rahaman Road, Lax Gardens, Kolkata 700033 invites NIT No. WBPWD/SE/SC/ NIT/01/2024-2025 (3rd Call) for the work of Uttargut to Dhosa Road via Moutalanching 0.00 kmp to 15.00 kmp - Surfacing work under South 24 Parganas Division during the year 2023-2024 (Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_732436_1). Estimated Amount: Rs. 32791121.00. Bid Submission start date (online): 16.08.2024 from 4.00 PM. Bid submission closing (online) 09.09.2024 upto 1.00 PM. The detail NITs may be seen and downloaded from the website <http://wbtdenders.gov.in/> Corrigendum and addendum to this NITs, if any will be published only in the above website. Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Southern Circle, PWD. ICA-T14135(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
 The Principal, ITI Tollygange is inviting e-Tender for up gradation & repair/maintenance of equipments/machinery of different trade courses. Please visit <http://wbtdenders.gov.in/> for more details. Documents downloading start date (Online) on 08.08.2024 at 11.00 A.M. and closing date for bid Submission (Online) is 30.08.2024 upto 4.00 P.M. Tender ID No. 2024_ITT_722496_1 Date 26.07.2024. Sd/- Principal, ITI Tollygange. ICA-T14089(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
 EE, CED, P.W. Dte invite online e-tender for the work of, (i) Special repairing of EI works of different type Quarter Buildings at parul area in the district of Alipurduar. Bid submission Start Date (online): 13.08.2024. Bid submission closing date (online): 30.08.2024 upto 01.00p.m. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT and tender documents may be downloaded from <http://wbtdenders.gov.in/> & <http://www.wbtdenders.gov.in/> - Executive Engineer, P.W.D, GOVT. OF WB. ICA-T14166(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
KMDA TENDER NOTICE
 e-NIT No. KMDA/EE/EE/ED/IV/ e-NIT/2024-25
 Online Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, EM Sector, KMDA, 3rd floor, Block-I, Unnayan Bhavan, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700091, from the eligible agencies, for the work, Name of Work, Estimated Value of work, Earnest Money Deposit, Time of Completion, Daily/Routine periodic Maintenance work of the electro-mechanical installations/equipments of Electric Animal Cessing comprising of Single Family with Pollution Control Unit at Promodnagar under South Dum Dum Municipality for a period of one year. Rs.18,54,666/-, Rs.37,094/-, 12 Calendar months, Last date of online Tender submission: 05.09.2024 upto 14.00 hrs. for details contact the above office or visit both websites. (KMDA-392) www.kmda.org.in/ & [www.wbtdenders.gov.in/](http://wbtdenders.gov.in/)

ICA-T14084(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
 NIT No.: HST/1P-143-2024/BB/2024/317; Dated 12.08.2024
 e-Tender for procurement of different types of Blood Bags for two years from the date of award of contract (AOE), to be invited from the manufacturers/direct importers. Interested bidders may visit the website: <https://wbtdenders.gov.in/> or www.wbhealth.gov.in/ for further details. Bid submission start date (online): 22.08.2024. Bid submission closing date (online): 06.09.2024. Bid opening date (online): 06.09.2024. Sd/- D.H.H.S. (E&S), W.B. ICA-T14091(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
 Notice Inviting e-Tender No.WB/PWD/AE/SSD/NT No. 03 of 2024-2025 AE, SSD, SS, PW. Dte. invites e-Tender for the work of: Motor Vehicle (Petrol/Diesel) driver Motor Cab with commercial registration for the use of the Assistant Engineer, Siliguri Sub-Division, Social Sector, P.W. Dte. Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD/EE/ETD/PHED/104/2024-2025 (Sl. No. 03 & 05) and Tender 2024_PHEd_709192_3 & 2024_PHEd_709192_5 of works in the NIT. Bid submission end date extend to: 16/08/2024 at 14:00 P.M. All details can be obtained from the website <http://wbtdenders.gov.in/> - Executive Engineer, Tamluk Division, PHE Directorate. ICA-T14113(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
 e-Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Central Mechanical Division, PHE Dte. on behalf of Governor of West Bengal vide Ref. No. PHE/CMD/e-NIT/08/24-25 e-NIT No. Southern Circle, 2024_PHEd_729414_1 to 16 for Illumination arrangement and miscellaneous works at different augmentation water supply scheme under different Block under Central Mechanical Division, PHE Dte., Dist. Purba Bardhaman, (Sl. No. 1 to 16). Details will be available in the Website wbtdenders.gov.in/ & wbphd.gov.in/ The last date for Submission of Tender is 28.08.2024 upto 16:30 P.M. Hours: Sd/- Executive Engineer, Central Mechanical Division, PHE Dte. ICA-T14108(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE (3rd Call)
 Executive Engineer, Alipore Division, PHE Dte. on behalf of Governor, West Bengal vide Ref. No. PHE/EE/ETD/PHED/33/AD/2024-2025 and Tender ID: 2024_PHEd_728616_1 to 3 for sinking of replacement Tube well, construction of approach road and installation of direct pumps of Mega Surface Scheme of Falta-Mathurapur under Diamond Harbour Sub-Division of Alipore Division, PHE Dte. Details will be available in the website wbtdenders.gov.in/ The last date for submission of tender is 28.08.2024 upto 03:00 P.M. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Alipore Division, PHE Dte. ICA-T14110(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
 Notice Inviting e-Tender No.WB/PWD/AE/SSD/NT No. 03 of 2024-2025 AE, SSD, SS, PW. Dte. invites e-Tender for the work of: Motor Vehicle (Petrol/Diesel) driver Motor Cab with commercial registration for the use of the Assistant Engineer, Siliguri Sub-Division, Social Sector, P.W. Dte. Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD/EE/ETD/PHED/104/2024-2025 (Sl. No. 03 & 05) and Tender 2024_PHEd_709192_3 & 2024_PHEd_709192_5 of works in the NIT. Bid submission end date extend to: 16/08/2024 at 14:00 P.M. All details can be obtained from the website <http://wbtdenders.gov.in/> - Executive Engineer, Tamluk Division, PHE Directorate. ICA-T14113(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
WRIADD. e-NIT
 Executive Engineer (A-M), Kalyani (A-M) Division, WRI&DD invites e-tender for following Works- Special repair of existing WTA of 3 nos. Govt. Owned and Operated Major RLI Schemes under Kalyani (Agricultural) Division under Sorasri Mukhmantri programme, vide e-NIT No. 06/Sl. No. -1(3)-24/25 Tender ID-2024_WRDD_733554_1-3. Last dropping date & time is 29/08/2024 up to 11 A.M. Intending bidders are requested to visit the website <https://wbtdenders.gov.in/> for details.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (A-M), Kalyani (A-M) Division. ICA-T14098(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
WRIADD. e-NIT
 Executive Engineer (A-I), Berhampore-I(A-I) Division, Berhampore, Murshidabad invites e-NIT for Red-dressing and allied works of DTW Scheme in Damsal, Belanga-II and Nowda Block of Murshidabad District under the E.E. (A-I), Berhampore-I (A-I) Division Under Core-Sector Program during F.Y. 2024-25 vide e-NIT No. WRD/EE(A-I)/BER-I/06 of 2024-25 and Tender ID: 2024_WRDD_733246_1 to 5 maximum amount put to tender Rs.13,81,311.00 and Last date of online bid submission 31.08.2024 upto 05.00 P.M. For details please visit to website [www.wbtdenders.gov.in/](http://wbtdenders.gov.in/)

Sd/- Executive Engineer (A-I), Berhampore-I(A-I) Division, Berhampore, Murshidabad. ICA-T14095(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
 Online tender is invited by the undersigned for the works: "Day to day Maintenance of entire Electrical Installations (Inside & Outside) and operation of DG set & lift at the Presidency University, New Town Campus, Action Area 1D, Kolkata-700156. (for 02 Years from date of layout)." Tender No. WBPWD/EE/BE/EE/NIT/17/2024-25 and e-Tender ID No. 2024_WBPWD_731729_1. Document Download Closing Date: 06.09.2024 upto 15.00 hrs. Details may be downloaded from wbtdenders.gov.in/ & www.wbtdenders.gov.in/ Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D, Bidhannagar Electrical Division. ICA-T14144(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
WRIADD. e-NIT
 Executive Engineer (A-I), Berhampore-I(A-I) Division, Berhampore, Murshidabad invites e-NIT for Red-dressing and allied works of DTW Scheme in Damsal, Belanga-II and Nowda Block of Murshidabad District under the E.E. (A-I), Berhampore-I (A-I) Division Under Core-Sector Program during F.Y. 2024-25 vide e-NIT No. WRD/EE(A-I)/BER-I/06 of 2024-25 and Tender ID: 2024_WRDD_733246_1 to 5 maximum amount put to tender Rs.13,81,311.00 and Last date of online bid submission 31.08.2024 upto 05.00 P.M. For details please visit to website [www.wbtdenders.gov.in/](http://wbtdenders.gov.in/)

Sd/- Executive Engineer (A-I), Berhampore-I(A-I) Division, Berhampore, Murshidabad. ICA-T14095(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
 Executive Engineer (P.W.D.), Jalpaiguri invites online tender for the work: "Repairing of Potholes with premix carpet & sealcoat of Town portion road from 0.00 km to 2.00km up under Jalpaiguri Sub Division during the year 2024-25." Tender ID No. 2024_WBPWD/EE/PGD/NIT/08/2024-25. Bid Submission closing date (online) : 28.08.2024 upto 12.00hrs Bid Opening date (online): 22.08.2024 at 12.30hrs. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT documents may be downloaded from : <http://wbtdenders.gov.in/> Sd/- EE, JALPAIGURI DIVISION, GOVT. OF WB. ICA-T14130(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
 e-Tender of NIT No. 13 of 2024-25 by the of E.E./Diamond Harbour Highway Division, EE, Diamond Harbour Hwy Div, Dakshin Hazipur, Diamond Harbour, 743331 invites on line percentage rate e tender whose id No. 2024_SH_732559_1 to 8. The details can be obtained from the website <https://wbtdenders.gov.in/> & office notice board. Corrigendum or Addendum if issued will be published only on website previously mentioned. Documents download load end date (online) & Bid submission end date (online) 08.08.2024 upto 18:00 Hrs. Sd/- EE, Diamond Harbour Highway Division P.W.(Roads) Directorate, Govt. of WB. ICA-T14167(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
 e-Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Alipore Division, PHE Dte. on behalf of Governor, West Bengal vide Ref. No. WBP/EE/ETD/PHED/33/AD/2024-2025 and Tender ID: 2024_PHEd_729858_1 to 5 for the work of laying distribution system, construction of approach road, restoration of road etc for different Water Supply Schemes of Kachowdi & Diamond Harbour Sub-Division under Alipore Division, PHE Dte. in district South 24 Parganas. Details will be available in the website wbtdenders.gov.in/ The last date for submission of tender is 04.09.2024 upto 03:00 P.M. Sd/- for Executive Engineer, Alipore Division, PHE Dte. ICA-T14112(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
OR/O to Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Dte., Purba Medinipur Electrical Division, Tamluk, Pin-721636
Notice Inviting Quotation
 NIT No. NIT: WBPWD/EE/PHED/NIT/20/24-25 Tender ID No. 2024_WBPWD_731726_1. Bid Submission Last date: 28-08-2024 upto 1:00 p.m. Opening Date: 28-08-2024 upto 1:00 p.m. Name of Work: Annual Comprehensive, Corrective & Preventive Maintenance of various types of AC machines at different locations at Contal Sub-Divisional Hospital under Contal Electrical Sub-Division, P.W.Dte. Further details can be seen in the above mentioned office during working hours. Details of NIT and Tender documents may be downloaded from : <http://wbtdenders.gov.in/> Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.Dte., Purba Medinipur Electrical Division. ICA-T14145(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
 The Executive Engineer, N.H. Division-IX, P.W.(Roads) Directorate, Matigara invites online percentage rate tender for the work: (i) "Emergent repairing of damaged road surface of NH 327 from 0.00 kmp to 8.00 kmp under National Highway Division -IX, in the district of Darjeeling during the year 2024-2025" amounting to Rs.9844881.00, vide NIT No.: 4 (e-Tender) ID: EE/NHD-IX; Bid submission closing date (online): 27.08.2024 upto 17:00 hrs. Details of NIT and Tender documents may be downloaded from the web portal: <https://wbtdenders.gov.in/> and for any other queries please contact through email: nhdix@wbtdenders.gov.in or information's regarding bid evaluation will be published/sent in through e-tender portal only. Sd/- EE/NHD-IX, Matigara, Siliguri. ICA-T14106(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
 Principal, North Bengal Medical College is inviting e-tender from financially strong, reputed and bonafide Manufacturers / Direct Importers / Authorized Distributors / Authorized Dealers for procurement of Stationary articles for Central/ College store of North Bengal Medical College vide Notice Inviting Tender No. NMB/C-4/Tender/Central Store/1453/ NMB/2024 Dated 09/08/2024 and Tender ID 2024_HFW_732426_1. The last date of submission of tender documents is latest by 2:00 PM on 27/08/2024. Details are available in the websites <https://wbtdenders.gov.in/> & www.nbmc.ac.in/ Sd/- Principal, North Bengal Medical College. ICA-T14087(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
 Executive Engineer, Murshidabad Highway Division No.-1, invites online e-tender for the work of: Name of Work: Construction of Overhead Head Guard Sign at Berhampur Hariharpara Amtala & Belganda Amtala Patikabari road under Berhampore Highway Sub-Division in the district of Murshidabad during the year 2024-25. NIT No. 04 of 2024-2025 (Sl.No 1) 2nd Call. Tender ID: 2024_SH_732440_1. Bid Submission closing date (online): 28.08.2024 upto 11:00 AM. Bid Submission Closing date (Online): 02.09.2024 upto 1.00 p.m. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT and Tender documents may be downloaded from : <http://wbtdenders.gov.in/> Sd/- Executive Engineer, Murshidabad Highway Division No.1, P.W.(Roads) Directorate. ICA-T14093(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Corrigendum Notice
 It is hereby informed that the following matters has been revised as per following manner for the below mentioned tender. The details of NIT and Tender documents may be downloaded from the web portal: <https://wbtdenders.gov.in/> and for any other queries please contact through email: nhdix@wbtdenders.gov.in or information's regarding bid evaluation will be published/sent in through e-tender portal only. Sd/- EE/NHD-IX, Matigara, Siliguri. ICA-T14106(3)/2024

Seats Allocated To Anand To Remain Without Minister

Atul.Mathur@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Seven departments of Delhi govt, which were held by former minister Raaj Kumar Anand before his resignation from AAP will continue to remain without a minister till CM Arvind Kejriwal allocates them to somebody else.

The information was recently conveyed to minister Gopal Rai who had asked the additional chief secretary (ACS) of the general administration department (GAD) to instruct secretaries and heads of those departments to start reporting to Atishi.

In his communication to ACS-GAD on Aug 6, Rai gave reference to a gazette notification, issued on Dec 8, 2023, which stated that "Atishi has been allocated 13 portfolios and all other portfolios not allocated to any other minister".

Rai had said in the communication that since Anand's resignation had already been accepted by the competent authority and his portfolios - surudwara, election, ST and ST welfare, social welfare, cooperative, land & building, labour and employment - had not been allocated to anyone else, those should automa-

tically be assigned to Atishi.

Sources said the chief secretary in his response to Rai said that the phrase "all other portfolios not specifically allocated to any other minister" in the notification of Dec 8, 2023, referred to the departments which were not mentioned in that particular order. The portfolios assigned to Anand fell vacant in April when he resigned from govt and the party, much after the notification was issued and hence not covered by it.

The chief secretary also reasoned that chief minister Arvind Kejriwal did not "recommend" for allocating the portfolios to any other minister at the time of recommending the acceptance of the resignation of Raaj Kumar Anand to LG, which was subsequently sent to the President of India through MHA.

While Anand quit from govt and AAP on April 10, the notification of the acceptance of his resignation by the President was issued on June 11. Kejriwal had accepted his resignation before he went back to judicial custody.

Sources said a communication had



Atishi

also been sent to the Union home ministry on June 26 intimating about the "unprecedented" situation, arising after the resignation of Anand and seeking its advice. The MHA said that advice was sought from the Union ministry of law and justice.

MHA in its communication said that as per the provisions of Rule 3 of Allocation of Business Rules-1993, the recommendation of CM was required for allocation of portfolios.

According to officials, before sending his response to Rai, the chief secretary sent the file containing his reply to the LG for his approval. The LG mentioned that he referred the matter to MHA to bring it to the notice of the President and advice on further action for smooth functioning of the departments in consultation with the ministry of law and justice.

"I'll receipt of advice of MHA in the matter, the administrative secretaries of these departments may be advised to act appropriately as per extant Acts and rules," the LG said.

'Financial means not sole ground', mother gets kids' interim custody

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A court has granted the interim custody of a five-year-old girl and a two-year-old boy to their mother until the final disposal of the case, saying financial means is not the only ground to decide the issue and various factors, such as the children's age, gender, preference and the stability of the parties, must be considered to ensure their maximum welfare.

The court of metropolitan magistrate Sana Khan noted on Aug 5 that both parties had almost equally good claims over the children and the father's financial capacity was a compelling consideration as he was capable of providing the best education, healthcare and lifestyle to his children. However, it pointed out, considering their tender age, the odds are tilting a little more in favour of the mother.

"This court is of the view that if children are denied the mother's company in such crucial and formative years of their lives, it would be detrimental to their overall development and well-being, and there is nothing on record which shows that the complainant is unfit to have custody of the children," the judge said.

The court was hearing a plea filed by Parul Gaur, seeking the custody of her children under Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act. The court directed that the custody be handed over within three weeks of the order.

The woman had sought the custody on the grounds of being their mother and natural guardian, while the father opposed it, saying he is a dotting father, capable of providing the requisite comforts to them. While the man now stays in Dubai, the woman lives in Delhi. Advocate Vibhor Verdhan, representing the woman, submitted that the boy was a breast-feeding child and depriving him of his mother at such a crucial age was not only detrimental to his health, but was also a denial of the complainant's inalienable right to breastfeed her child.

The couple got married in 2016 as per Hindu rites. The woman has alleged atrocities, including demands for dowry and verbal and physical violence at the hands of the husband.

Cong says MLALAD funds unutilised, LG seeks report

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Following a complaint from Congress that the MLA Local Area Development (MLALAD) Fund in the city was not being utilised for critical civil infrastructure projects, LG's secretariat has sought details from the chief secretary for a "comprehensive understanding of the scheme and its implementation".

AAP slammed LG's office for allegedly deploying "obstructive" tactics to "derail" Delhi's development by probing MLALAD funds and stalling critical public works.

In an internal communication to the chief secretary, an official at LG's secretariat said Congress secretary Abhishek Dutt had sent a letter expressing concern over the alleged "non-utilisation of MLA Local Area Development funds for critical infrastructure projects such as improvement of sewage drains and water pipelines leading to major civic problems".

LG's office asked the chief secretary to provide the details of the scheme, including its objectives, eligibility criteria and guidelines; scope of work with specific reference to civic infrastructure projects; and modalities for its utilisation, including the process of identification of projects and approval. LG's office has also sought the consolidated list of various works executed under the scheme during the financial years 2023-24 and 2024-25, the mechanism to monitor its util-

isation, including progress reports, audit procedures and grievance redressal system.

AAP alleged there were "constant" efforts by LG's office to stop all development works in Delhi. It claimed that to create problems concerning infrastructure in Delhi, the funds meant for Delhi Jal Board were stopped and the agency was not allowed to relay, replace and desilt sewer lines, and install new water lines and tubewells. It also alleged Rs 500 crore were allocated to the mayor's fund but LG's officials "conspired" to stop its utilisation.

"This fund could have been used for the construction of drainage systems and MCD roads. Similarly, Mukhyamantri Sadak Punarnirman Yojana has also been stopped by the officers who directly come under the control of LG," AAP alleged. It further alleged that after stopping all works under different schemes, LG's office "realised" that there were works going on under the MLALAD scheme. "In the past also, many efforts have been made by LG's office and officials to create problems in MLALAD funds. This is another desperate attempt to stop the works of Delhi," AAP claimed. "We welcome any inquiry, however, it should not affect the works of the people," it added.

Welcoming the probe, Delhi Congress president Devender Yadav alleged that Rs 70-100 crore had been received on this account, but very little money had been spent on development works.

Apex court to hear Kejriwal's regular bail plea on Aug 23

Continued from P1

Singhvi said CBI acted in a mala fide manner to ensure an elected CM stayed inside jail. He emphasised that the agency had interrogated Kejriwal for nine hours in April last year even though the case was registered in 2022. "There was no further action by either Enforcement Directorate or CBI till March 2024 when ED arrested him. When the CM is on the cusp of coming out based on an interim bail granted by the SC, he is arrested by CBI in June," Singhvi said.

After the bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan sought CBI's response and posted the matter for further hearing on Aug 23, Singhvi sought interim bail, citing Kejriwal's health and pointing out that he was granted interim bail in the ED case despite PMLA's stringent provisions. But the bench rejected the plea.

Kejriwal was arrested by ED in a PMLA case for allegedly laundering Rs 45 crore and using it in the Goa elections in 2022. CBI arrested him on June 29. Delhi HC had rejected Kejriwal's bail plea in the CBI case on Aug 5.



Singhvi sought interim bail citing Kejriwal's health

While terming HC's decision erroneous and pointing out that there was no possibility of the trial concluding in the near future, Kejriwal in his petition said most co-accused in the case registered by CBI - Vijay Nair, Abhishek Boipally, Butchi Babu, Chanpreet Singh and Manish Sisodia - were granted bail over the last two years.

Claiming that his bail plea stood on a far better ground, the CM said, "There is no proof that he committed any offence and all the vague evidence collected by CBI are either hearsay or coerced statement of the co-accused persons which has negligible value in the eyes of law."

CBI case strong, says BJP; plea not rejected: AAP

New Delhi: Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva claimed on Wednesday that the rejection of the interim bail application of chief minister Arvind Kejriwal in the excise policy case clearly showed that Supreme Court had found the CBI case to be strong.

"The AAP functionaries on bail keep claiming that they are innocent and have been framed in cooked-up cases, but they should know that the people of Delhi no longer trust Arvind Kejriwal govt," he alleged.

Sachdeva said that though every party was free to carry out its campaign, it was time for Sisodia to call his padyatra 'pashchatap yatra'. AAP claimed that the top court had only issued a notice for Aug 23 and not rejected the application. "We are confident that after the matter is heard by SC, CM Arvind Kejriwal will get bail," it said.

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TENDER NOTICE FOR GROUP MEDICLAIM POLICY FOR BANK'S EMPLOYEES

RFP is invited for renewal of Group Mediclaim Policy for Bank's Employees. For details please visit Bank's website www.idbibank.in in Notices & Tenders or contact on 022-66552014 / 66552700. Last date for submission of application is September 4, 2024 at 3.00 p.m. Any further Clarification in respect of the above shall be posted only on Bank's website and no separate notification shall be issued in the newspapers. Sd/- General Manager (Admin)

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Notice Inviting E-Tender
Ref. No.: WBPDC/ Tend-Adv/24-25/KTPS/CC-2203 Date: 06.08.2024
NIT No.: WBPDC/KTPS/NIT/E3041/24-25

E-Tenders in prescribed form are invited at <https://wbtdenders.gov.in/> by the General Manager, KTPS, WBPDC from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 part bid system for "Supply & Delivery of 06 sets of Grinding Ring & Grinding Balls of 8.5E (10) Coal Mill for KTPS". Tender Document Download Start Date: 16.08.2024 at 02:00 PM. Bid Submission End Date: 09.09.2024 at 03:00 PM. Contact Person: Subhasis Das, Dy. General Manager (Purchase), KTPS. Mobile: 8336904051. E-mail: sdsao1@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: <https://wbtdenders.gov.in/> ICA-T14171(3)/2024



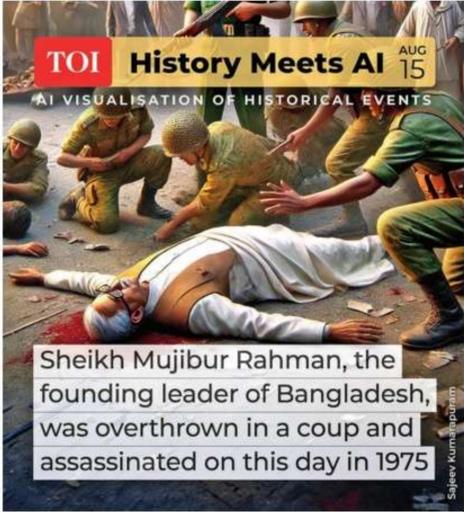
80 STRAY DOGS CREMATED IN JULY BY MCD

The decision to establish these CNG-based facilities was made after an encouraging response from pet owners who have utilised the services at the Dwarka crematorium. "In July, we carried out the cremation of 80 strays and 79 pet dogs. These numbers are expected to increase in the coming days," an official said. "For the convenience of people living in other parts of the city, we are chalking out a plan to develop more such CNG-based facilities. While land has already been made available for Mandoli, for the area near Sanjay Jheel, the land was transferred to



PAK WILL EITHER MERGE WITH INDIA OR CEASE TO EXIST, SAYS YOGI, BLAMES CONG FOR PARTITION

'ONLY OUTSIDE TN': SC ON UDHAYANIDHI PLEA TO CLUB CASES OVER SANATAN REMARKS



TOI History Meets AI AUG 15
AI VISUALISATION OF HISTORICAL EVENTS

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the founding leader of Bangladesh, was overthrown in a coup and assassinated on this day in 1975

K'taka-Centre row brews as state shuts down Jan Aushadhi outlets

BJP Plans Stir To Oppose Cong Govt Decision

BV.Shivashankar
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Fresh conflict is brewing between the Congress govt in Karnataka and Centre, with the state health and medical education departments deciding to close down Jan Aushadhi outlets in state govt hospitals. The Centre's Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi scheme provides quality generic drugs at affordable rates for the public.

Currently, these outlets operate at a limited number of govt facilities, including KC General Hospital in Bengaluru, but health department brass have indicated plans to close them soon. The decision could cause more friction



FRESH CONFLICT: The decision comes amid ongoing disputes over authority over HMT Ltd land, repair of the Tungbhadra dam crest gate and Karnataka's share of devolution of taxes

between state and Centre, since it comes amid ongoing disputes over authority over HMT Ltd land, repair of the Tungbhadra dam crest gate and Karnataka's share of devolution of taxes.

Karnataka BJP has already announced plans to launch an agitation over the latest decision. But Congress functionaries say govt hospitals provide medicines for free and Jan Aushadhi outlets on the premises would only lead to corruption. However, officials emphasise govt is not against Jan Aushadhi outlets outside hospital premises.

Earlier, it dropped the scheme introduced by the BS Yediyurappa-led govt to provide an additional grant of Rs 4,000 to farmers under the Centre's Kisan Samman Yojana. Now, it is going all out to ban Jan Aushadhi outlets meant for poor patients. We will fight this," Vijayendra said some 20 lakh households benefit from the Jan Aushadhi scheme. There are about 8,900 centres across the state.

The controversy erupted late on Tuesday when medical education minister Sharan Prakash Patil said Jan Aushadhi outlets are no longer necessary in govt-run hospitals, including those under his department. He said the 22 hospitals affiliated with medical colleges and 11 govt super speciality hospitals, besides 158 hospitals at district and taluk-levels managed by the health department, are sufficient to cater to medical needs of the poor.

Govind Mohan named new home secy, succeeds Bhalla

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Govt on Wednesday named culture secretary **Govind Mohan** as the new home secretary, replacing Ajay Bhalla, who is the longest-serving officer in the job. Mohan's appointment as an officer on special duty marks his return to North Block having spent three years in home ministry handling Union territories. He has also had long stints in finance ministry, dealing with crucial issues, before moving to the cabinet secretariat, where he was involved with the successful resolution of the Enron dispute.

secretary and was involved with projects from Modi govt's point of view, ranging from installations in Parliament, including the Sengol, to Amrit Mahotsav, Har Ghar Tiranga and the proposed Yuge Yugeen Museum.



Among the key challenges awaiting him in his new assignment is the situation in J&K, especially with Election Commission looking at holding elections in the Union territory.

Besides, smooth implementation of the new criminal laws as well as the census, which has been pending for several years. The tension in Bangladesh has also created pressure at the border as there is an influx from the neighbouring nation, which will need careful handling.

Phase-3 clinical trial of dengue vaccine starts

DurgeshNandan.Jha
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The first-ever phase 3 clinical trial of a dengue vaccine in India started on Wednesday with a person in Rohtak, Haryana getting vaccinated with DengiAll.

DengiAll is a dengue vaccine that has been developed by an Indian company called Panacea Biotec that has shown promising results in pre-clinical and clinical trials. Panacea Biotec is collaborating with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the country's apex health research agency, to carry out a phase 3 clinical trial of the vaccine to compare its efficacy over the standard treatment.

The trial involving 10,335 healthy adult participants will be spread across 19 sites in 18 states and Union territories. It is funded by the ICMR. "The initiation of phase 3 clinical trial for India's first indigenous dengue vaccine

marks a critical advancement in our fight against dengue. It reflects our commitment to protecting our citizens from this pervasive disease and underscores India's capabilities in vaccine research and development," health minister J P Nadda said.

Currently, there is no antiviral treatment or licenced vaccine against dengue in India. There are, however, multiple companies that are

A FIRST FOR INDIA

in the race to launch a vaccine against dengue. The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) recently gave a green signal for phase II clinical trials of dengue vaccine developed by the Serum Institute of India (SII).

So far, two dengue vaccines — Qdenga and Dengvaxia — have completed phase 3 trials globally. Both the vaccines have also received approval from the World Health Organisation.

B'luru pressure cooker blast kills man

A 28-year-old man, who was injured in a pressure cooker blast in Bengaluru, died while undergoing treatment on Wednesday morning. Based on a preliminary probe, police have ruled out a terror angle. Two persons were injured when the blast took place while they were cooking on Tuesday morning. The deceased, Moshin, and his injured roommate Samir worked in a salon and hailed from Uttar Pradesh.

Coming two days before Independence Day, the incident came under the spotlight of security agencies. NIA, internal security division and bomb detection and disposal squad officers visited the spot and combed the premises to check for traces of explosive materials in the room, but found none. Bengaluru police commissioner B Dayananda told TOI: "Prima facie, it appears to be an incident of a cooker blast." Another senior police officer confirmed the incident had nothing to do with terror activity. TNN

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers

Private Funding & Paris Olympics

The Paris games were 100% privately funded. 4% of public funding was used to finance the Paralympic Games

Budget
€4.38 billion

Financing by	Amount (€ billion)	% of budget
Partnerships	1.2	28.0
Ticketing	1.1	25.1
TV Rights	0.8	17.1
IOC's TOP Partnerships Programme	0.5	10.7
Other Revenue	0.2	4.4
Hospitality	0.2	3.9
Licensing	0.1	2.9

Source: IOC

Teen kills girl to settle score with her dad

Raipur: A 15-year-old girl was chased and beaten to death by a 19-year-old who had a score to settle with her father in Chhattisgarh's Kabirdham district Tuesday. Vicky was waiting for the girl at her school, said police. As she stepped out, he intercepted her and passed lewd comments, to which she objected. When he picked up a stick and swung at her, she started running. She ran for about 1km, calling for help, but no one saved her. Vicky caught up with her and hit her on the head. She collapsed, severely injured, as he fled. She was taken to hospital but died during treatment.

Vicky was rounded up a few hours later. He told police he got into a fight with the girl's father and was looking for an opportunity to take revenge. TNN

2 'cross-voting' Cong MLAs meet Shinde, trigger buzz

Chaitanya.Marpakwar
@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Amid speculation that some Congress MLAs cross-voted in the recently held MLC polls—the party is yet to take action over that—two party MLAs, Hiranman Khoskar (Dgatpuri) and Jitesh Antapurkar (Deglur), met CM Eknath Shinde late Tuesday, fuelling the buzz that they could join Shiv Sena. Khoskar had met Shinde last month, too. Antapurkar met BJP MP Ashok Chavan last month, which had given rise to the speculation that some Congress MLAs who had allegedly cross-voted could switch over to Mahayuti. Khoskar and Antapurkar played down the meet-

All 6 acquitted in NHA consultant murder case

Jaipur: Three years after Jaipur police celebrated with gallantry awards for solving the murder of NHA consultant Rajinder Kumar Chawla, a trial court on Tuesday acquitted all six accused arrested in 2021, citing numerous inconsistencies and gaps in the investigation. The verdict has come as an embarrassment for the police department and a stark reminder of the inadequacies in the investigation in another high-profile case, the 2008 Jaipur serial blasts, in which Rajasthan HC had last year acquitted all four accused awarded death penalty.

Chawla was shot dead outside NHA office in Aug 2021. Police said they would examine the order and decide on the next course of action. TNN

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<p>CASHBACK UPTO ₹7,500/- EMI starting from ₹1,999</p>	<p>CASHBACK UPTO ₹6,000/- EMI starting from ₹2,990</p>	<p>CASHBACK UPTO ₹12,500/- EMI starting from ₹2,995</p>	<p>PRICE ₹79,990/- OFFER PRICE ₹44,990/- DOWN PAYMENT ₹8,998 EMI ₹4,499 x 8 months</p>

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- Maj Malla Rama Gopal Naidu, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
- Rfn Ravi Kumar, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles (POSTHUMOUS)
- DSP Himayun Muzzamil Bhat, J&K Police (POSTHUMOUS)

SHAURYA CHAKRA

- Col Pawan Singh, Army Aviation Corps
- Maj CVS Nikhil, Infantry
- Maj Aashish Dhonchak, SM, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles (POSTHUMOUS)
- Maj Tripatpreet Singh, Army Service Corps, Rashtriya Rifles
- Maj Sahil Randhawa, Artillery, Rashtriya Rifles
- Sub Sanjeev Singh Jasrotia, Infantry
- Nb Sub P Pabin Singha, Artillery, Rashtriya Rifles
- Sep Pardeep Singh, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles (POSTHUMOUS)
- SPO Abdul Latif, J&K Police

BAR TO SENA MEDAL (GALLANTRY)

- Lt Col Nitin Kumar Singh, SM, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles

SENA MEDAL (GALLANTRY)

- Lt Col Raman Tyagi, Engineers, Assam Rifles
- Lt Col Ajay Kumar, Intelligence Corps
- Lt Col Sudhir Singh Kalakoti, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
- Lt Col S Harshavardhanan, Army Ordnance Corps
- Lt Col Roshan Kumar Jain, Infantry
- Lt Col Priyank Puri, Army Aviation Corps
- Lt Col Sakil Ahmad, Artillery, Assam Rifles
- Lt Col Nagendra Kumar Saraswat, Infantry
- Lt Col Mutum Ajoy Meitei, Infantry
- Maj Gaurav Bhardwaj, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
- Maj Robin Dev Anand, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
- Maj Nachatar Singh Goraya, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
- Maj Sachin Kumar, Army Avn Corps
- Maj Prasun Pande, Infantry
- Maj Amar Bakshi, Infantry
- Maj Gagandeep Singh, Artillery, Army Aviation Corps
- Maj Nitin Rawat, Infantry, Army Aviation Corps
- Maj Shantanu Ghatpande, Infantry
- Maj Gautam Dev Singh, Infantry
- Maj Manohar Singh, Infantry, Assam Rifles
- Maj Girish A Masti, Electronics & Mechanical Engineers, Rashtriya Rifles
- Maj Saurav Singh, Infantry
- Maj Gaurav Bisht, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
- Maj Gitansh Ahluwalia, Infantry
- Maj Pushpinder Singh Verma, Infantry
- Maj Mohit Rawat, Army Aviation Corps
- Maj Anil Kumar, Engineers, Rashtriya Rifles

- Maj Ramsagar Panday, Infantry
- Maj Manik Singh, Mechanised Infantry, Assam Rifles
- Maj Anand Gaurav, Infantry
- Maj Sougrakpam Rishikesh Singh, Engineers, Army Aviation Corps
- Maj Laldinggheta, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
- Maj Amit Sharma, Infantry (Territorial Army)
- Capt Ajay Sharma, Engineers
- Capt Rajesh Singh, Infantry
- Capt Rohan Ravindra Hanagi, Electronics & Mechanical Engineers, Infantry
- Nb Sub Deepak Kumar Sharma, Infantry
- Nb Sub Ramesh Chander, Infantry
- Nb Sub Bhoj Raj Thapa, Infantry
- Hav Prakash Chhetri, Infantry
- Hav Sudesh Kumar, Infantry
- Hav Anil Dinkar Kalase, Engineers (POSTHUMOUS)
- Hav Veerabhadrapa Ninganur, Engineers
- Nk Subhash Chandra Verma, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
- Nk Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat, Infantry
- Nk Shashi Thakur, Infantry
- Nk Lokinder Sharma, Infantry
- Nk L Machinmi, Infantry
- Nk Gore Amol Tanhaji, Infantry (POSTHUMOUS)
- Nk Sonu Pratap Singh, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
- Nk Mohd Iqbal Khan, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
- L/Nk Manir Hossain, Infantry
- ALD Rajesh Kumar Umare, Remount Veterinary Corps
- Sep Shashi Ranjan, Army Air Defence, Rashtriya Rifles
- Sep Ashok G, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
- Sep Kanerkar Sandip Krishnath, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
- Sep Muttu Sappuri, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
- Sep Rakee Sengar, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
- Sep Mohit Kumar, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
- Sep Tara Chand Ranwa, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
- Sep Vikas, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
- Gnr Hari Chand, Artillery, Rashtriya Rifles
- Ptr Sushil, Infantry

MENTION-IN-DESPATCHES**OPERATION RAKSHAK**

- Maj Ashutosh Kumar Yadav, Infantry
- Capt Jaideep Singh, Infantry
- Sub Tank Bahadur Darlami, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
- Nb Sub Mahender Singh, Infantry
- Nb Sub Kalesh K Pillai, Infantry
- Hav Jugendra Singh, Infantry
- Hav Virender Singh, Infantry
- Hav Charo Oraon, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles

- Hav Kamaljit Singh, Infantry
- Nk Suresh Undure, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
- Nk Bikram Keshri Mall, Infantry
- Nk Dhiraj Magrati, Infantry
- ALD Hans Raj, Armoured Corps, Rashtriya Rifles
- Sep Ravi Shankar, Army Air Defence, Rashtriya Rifles
- Sep Vishal Kumar, Army Air Defence, Rashtriya Rifles
- Sep Bittu Kumar, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
- Rfn Gautam Pun, Infantry
- Rfn Raj Kumar Sunam, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
- Swr Jitendra, Armoured Corps, Rashtriya Rifles
- Swr Deepak Kumar, Armoured Corps, Rashtriya Rifles
- Army Dog Kent, Remount Veterinary Corps (POSTHUMOUS)

OPERATION SNOW LEOPARD

- Maj Bhuwan Pratap Singh, Infantry
- Maj Harmandeep Singh Brar, Army Air Defence, Rashtriya Rifles
- Sub Lalit Mohan Singh, Infantry
- Hav Shadii Hussain Itoo, Infantry
- Nk Raminder Singh, Engineers
- L/Nk Karma Wangyal Bhutia, Infantry
- Sep H Lalrokima, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles

OPERATION SAHAYATA

- Lt Harwant Singh, Infantry
- Hav Devendra Kumar Pandey, Artillery

OPERATION HIFAZAT

- Maj Durgeshwar Pratap Singh, Infantry, Assam Rifles
- Hav Moakaba Ao, Infantry

OPERATION ORCHID

- Maj Amit Mishra, Artillery, Assam Rifles
- Maj Ravikant Mehra, Infantry, Assam Rifles
- Hav Hari Thapa, Infantry

OPERATION KATCHAL

- Lt Yugant Kumar Pandey, Infantry

IS DUTY

- Nb Sub Thaman Bahadur Thapa, Infantry

MISC OPERATION

- Maj Vishal Kumar Yadav, Infantry
- Maj Prateek Kumar, Infantry



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ON THE OCCASION OF 78TH INDEPENDENCE DAY (15 AUG 2024)



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DIG Balakrishnan Murugan
Tatrakshak Medal



Dy Comdt Aaqil Pathan
Tatrakshak Medal (G)



Girish Kumar Verma, P/Adh (RO)
Tatrakshak Medal



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विकसित भारत विकसित उत्तर प्रदेश



"मां भारती की सेवा में सर्वस्व न्योछावर करने वाले वीर सपूतों, स्वातंत्र्य समर के ज्ञात-अज्ञात सेनानियों को शत-शत नमन। आदरणीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी के नेतृत्व में 'सबका साथ-सबका विकास' के मंत्र को आत्मसात कर भारतवर्ष प्रगति के नए पथ पर गतिमान है। आइए, हम सब मिलकर विकसित एवं आत्मनिर्भर भारत के निर्माण का संकल्प लें। यही राष्ट्र निर्माताओं के प्रति हमारी सच्ची श्रद्धांजलि होगी।"

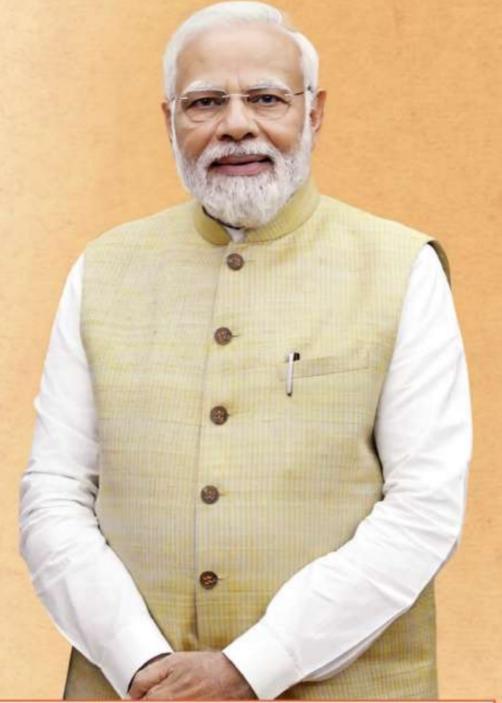
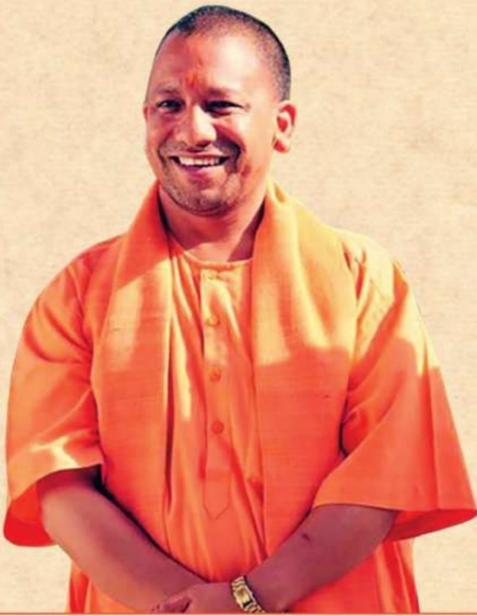
जय हिंद!

78^{वें} स्वतंत्रता दिवस

की

हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

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65 मेडिकल कॉलेज
संचालित



15 एयरपोर्ट
संचालित
6 निर्माणाधीन



6 एक्सप्रेसवे
संचालित
7 निर्माणाधीन



A thought for today

Migration is an expression of the human aspiration for dignity, safety and a better future

BAN KI-MOON

India & Indiaspora

Success of diaspora in US and other countries is reason for Centre to make emigration a standalone ministry

Regardless of the way US presidential elections go, there will be an Indian-origin woman in the citadel of power in Washington next Jan, whether it is as POTUS (Kamala Harris) or as Second Lady (Usha Vance). That encapsulates the power and influence the Indian diaspora has come to have on American life. From technology and business to healthcare, education and public policy, the 5.1mn-strong Indian diaspora in US – which comprises just 1.5% of its population – has punched far above its weight in the country. To take one metric, it contributes as much as 5-6% to US's tax kitty. To take another, at \$136,000, the median income of diaspora members is almost double the American population's average.

A great success story | The spread of Indian-origin people across different spheres of American life is commendable. They are also giving back to their home country, sending \$26bn in remittances in 2022-23. Similar is the story for Indian migrants to West Asia, Europe and elsewhere.

In fact, if the economic heft of the more than 3cr Indian migrants worldwide is taken into account, we already have a \$5tn GDP. And this has not happened only because of highly skilled professionals. As a TOI story highlighted earlier this year, there is a Great Indian Outplacement at work involving blue-collar workers. This must be tapped to the fullest.

A Donald Trump or Nigel Farage may not accept it owing to political reasons, but it presents a win-win scenario for both India and the destination countries.

Create a special ministry | With their birth rates going down and populations growing older, labour shortages in developed countries offer India's large young population a great opportunity. Several states have already put in place systems to help with skilling and migration of young workers. But this must be pursued with far more vigour at Centre than has been the case so far. What we need is an emigration ministry in Union govt that coordinates with MEA, skill development ministry and states to institutionalise a mechanism for migration of Indian workers to countries around the world. It's illegal migration that's mostly the issue in the West – undocumented people account for 14% of Indian diaspora in US, for instance. Having a powerful minister who furthers legal migration would not just help deal with the huge unemployment problem India faces. It would also take the sting off the tirades of far-right leaders in the West.

Supremely Clear

Two SC orders within a week should settle once and for all that bail, not jail, is the norm

Supreme Court's latest order granting bail, in a case under anti-terror law UAPA, adds to its last week's order bailing Sisodia in a PMLA (money laundering) case. Both UAPA and PMLA have special provisions for bail – negative provisions – that an accused is "not presumed innocent". In ordinary law, presumption of innocence is a fundamental principle in grant of bail.

SC's clear signal | In Sisodia's case, SC said that delay in trial and a long period behind bars are reason enough to grant bail, while in the UAPA case it said that "bail as rule and jail as exception is settled law" for all legislation. Taken together, the back-to-back SC rulings provide clear direction to grant of bail in cases under most stringent laws. On earlier occasions too, SC has observed that statutory restrictions on bail must not overshadow constitutional rights.

For SC to direct | It is this clarity in direction to interpret controversial legislation – whose provisions are under challenge in SC – that is much required for HCs and trial courts to take their cue. Barely six months ago, another SC bench had held the reverse in another order – that in UAPA jail, not bail, is norm. It is such contradictory signals from top court that can distort how any law is interpreted. The two latest orders should settle any such confusion, taken on a case by case basis.

For SC to decide | Pleas on constitutionality of provisions in UAPA and PMLA are waiting for SC deliberations. Challenges to amendments introduced as money bills are awaiting SC's decision. Several PMLA and UAPA undertrials are behind bars where their lawyers argue against the very need for custody. Incarceration is damaging. Sooner the challenges to such laws are settled, better the direction SC can provide to investigators, litigants, and the accused.

I-Day, You-Day

Big B's old tryst, small b's new wish-list

Bachi Karkaria

Hasina's inglorious exit triggered recalls of India's glorious role in freeing Bangladesh. Alas, too many countries have squandered their hard-fought for independence. Net-net, we've kept our tryst, 'not wholly or in full measure, but very substantially' – even if *netas* keep trying to enslave the Net. Since this *Erratica* has coincided with I-Day, let me go back to the Middy/midnight hour in 2002 when FM radio awoke to licence and freedom.

Working briefly at that tabloid, I'd asked mellifluous Mr Bachchan if he'd launch our station with Nehru's historic speech. 'Sure,' he said, 'provided you get Sonia Gandhi's permission'. Why? It wasn't her property. But they'd had their infamous fall-out so arguably he didn't want any other fall-out. We kept writing to her PS, *dwarpal* George, but got only, erm, radio silence. We let go of Ms G, but not of Mr B. Would he read out the as-ap Tagore poem instead? 'Sure,' he said, 'provided I can record it beforehand'. But the whole point was to have him personally flagging off the FM station. 'I'll be there too,' he promised. He practised till inflection-perfect; recorded; and kept his tryst with us at the midnight hour.

So, here's my take on Tagore's 1913 prayer:
'Where the pedestrian is without fear and can walk without head held low

Where access is free
Where the pavement has not been broken up into fragments
Or narrowed by encroachment walls
Where wheels don't need to come out from the depth of potholes
Where tired commute stretches its arms towards relief
Where the clear stream of traffic has not lost its way
Into the dreary desert sand of municipal indifference
Where endless infrastructure blunts the brain
With ever-widening din and destruction,
Into that heaven of freedom, my civic Fathers, let my city awake.'

Alec Smart said: "Tiranga plea: Saffron, please make white-flag peace with green."

Our Sporting HerStory

One of India's finest sportspersons writes about Indian women's accomplishments at the Olympics, and about what it will take to give more women a shot at a podium finish

Sachin Tendulkar



For Indians, the Paris Olympics began with a display of women power. When Manu Bhaker won two medals for the two 10m air pistol events, our chests swelled with collective national pride.

With this, she also created two records, becoming the first Indian woman to win an Olympic shooting medal and the first Indian to win two medals in a single edition of the Olympics. She narrowly missed a third medal, ranking fourth in the 25m pistol event.

If her near miss was painful, there were others acutely so. Such as circumstances preventing Vinesh Phogat from competing for the gold. Or Nisha Dahiya's injury, which prevented/kept her from winning. And yet, despite the disappointments, Vinesh and Nisha's dedication, grit and perseverance have set an example for all sportspersons. Actually, the entire nation is united in cheering and supporting these Olympians. Such is the power of sports.

I still remember the excitement and pride I felt when Karnam Malleswari became the first Indian woman to win an Olympic medal. That was a weightlifting bronze in Sydney at the turn of the century. She was also the first Indian weightlifter (male or female) to win an Olympic medal.

This was followed by Mary Kom and Saina Nehwal climbing the podium in London 2012; PV Sindhu and Sakshi Malik in Rio 2016; and Mirabai Chhanu, PV Sindhu and Lovlina Borgohain in Tokyo 2020. Their triumphs too have brought a united cheer from the nation. Beyond this, I sincerely hope that the success of our women athletes will inspire many more women to participate in sports. The more is the participating, the more will be the excelling.

But as in other spheres, in sports too, equal opportunity and equal pay are important factors in women succeeding. So, it's highly pertinent that one of the highlights of the Paris Olympics was the effort to ensure gender parity. This included the

International Olympic Committee distributing quota places to male and female athletes 50:50. From just 2.2% women's participation in the 1900 Paris Games to achieving equal participation of female athletes this year, Olympics has certainly come a long way.

What is as important is that Olympics is moving towards equality between men and women in a deeper way, with 28 out of the 32 sports being fully gender equal now. Out of the 329 medal events, 157 are men's events, 152 are women's events and 20 are mixed-gender events.

This reminds me of developments closer home, where we have seen India also lead the march towards gender parity in sports. It was a historic moment in Oct 2022 when the Board of Control for Cricket in India announced equal pay for all centrally contracted men and women cricketers for Team India. This was then followed by other global bodies such as US Open Tennis, the English Cricket Board and the International Cricket Council announcing equal pay for their players.



Many medal winners come from backgrounds where they cannot afford the required funding, for the intensive training one must undergo to have a shot at topping world competitions. Funding support, grants, and scholarships are critical in this context. Such support can play an important role in helping female athletes access sports academies and modern training facilities. Yes, there are corporates already playing this role. But many more need to step forward and support women athletes.

For example, many companies have their manufacturing plants in the interiors of different parts of the country and support the communities around these plants. As part of their CSR, they can also be much more proactive about supporting talent-scouting in these communities. Talent identification at a young age has given a dramatic leg-up to countries like US, China and Australia to make their mark in the global arena.

In addition to equality in sports, we must also work towards equality in the governance of these sports. We need more women heading sports federations that regulate and manage sports in the country. Our sports federations must also work to promote sports for women and celebrate their success stories. This cannot be just about the major events, it has to be at every stage of the sports journeys.

On this Independence Day, let us take a moment to acknowledge the thousands of female athletes whose dream it is to stand on the podium. Not just for a medal, but to hear our National Anthem being played in a stadium filled with people from across the world standing in respect. It is for this that they train hard and relentlessly, many leaving the comfort of their homes to hone their skills. Let us work together to create an India where many more women can chase their dreams and make them come true.

Happy Independence Day.

'Hasina had to go...Yunus govt formed unconstitutionally...Can't have secularism & state religion...Hindus can't all come to India'

Turmoil in Bangladesh has seen its minorities come under attack, raising global concern. Head of interim govt Muhammad Yunus has assured equal protection to Bangladeshi Hindus. **Surendra Kumar Sinha**, former chief justice of Bangladesh, the first Hindu to occupy the post who was removed unconstitutionally by the Hasina govt, spoke to **Rudroneel Ghosh** about the current situation:

• **What is this moment's significance in Bangladesh?**

It was only a matter of time. Sheikh Hasina had to resign, face her fate. History says a dictator cannot keep governing in this manner indefinitely. We know what brutality she has carried out. If she can kick out a sitting chief justice, what more proof do you need of her autocratic ways? What has happened is an achievement of the people of Bangladesh. Politicians have failed for 53 years here. But students showed that if intentions are good, anything is possible.



Q&A • **Yunus visited Dhakeshwari temple, reached out to Hindus.**

It's good Yunus visited Dhakeshwari and assured community leaders. But we have to remember minorities have always supported Hasina. But Hasina wasn't able to protect them. Two years ago, many mandirs and pandals were vandalised during Durga Puja. But her govt took no action. No one was booked. This culture of impunity is a long-running problem. Three types of people commit atrocities – radical fanatics, opportunistic thugs, and politically motivated people who want to sow chaos. Minorities always bear the brunt.

• **Will Yunus's outreach impact Bangladeshi Hindus?**

You will have secularism, but keep Islam as the state religion in the constitution. The two cannot go together. You *have* to keep state and laws neutral. You cannot have laws like the Vested Property Act that confiscated Hindu properties. Similarly, there cannot be separate

laws for management of Hindu temples. No impunity for anyone. If real democracy, rule of law and equality prevail, Hindus will stay safe in Bangladesh. All Hindus cannot come to India.

• **How did Bangladesh get to this point?**

Bangladesh's foundation has never been strong. Mujibur himself was guilty of throttling the nascent Bangladeshi democracy. He attended the OIC meeting in Pakistan in 1974, even tried a one-party system, and sidelined tall leaders like Tajuddin Ahmad. Thereafter, we had two martial law periods till 1991. The first Hasina



govt came to office in 1996 – this was the best govt. But her tenure since 2009 was very different. Constitutionally, Bangladesh has a parliamentary form of govt, but Hasina practically ran the country in a presidential style. In 2015, we passed several judgments in line with India's Kesavananda Bharati upholding the sanctity of the basic structure of the constitution of Bangladesh. But Hasina introduced all kinds of messy changes.

• **Your thoughts on the new interim govt.**

I congratulate Yunus. At the same time, I'm shocked. We're always working towards illegality. Now, even if

the Jan national election was disputed, there was a parliament. And Hasina was compelled to step down. Till Aug 6, parliament was still operational. In this situation, parliament should have been called, the president asked to step down, and a new president elected. That would have been by the constitution. The new president then could have decided to dissolve parliament or sack the army chief. But now under a puppet president, a new interim govt has been formed. This is unconstitutional. There is illegality upon illegality. This is the root cause for Bangladesh's instability.

• **What should be interim govt's immediate task?**

Many important institutions in Bangladesh continue to run under Pakistani colonial laws. Like our armed forces. These need to be discarded. If possible, redraft the constitution. Of course, it'll take time. But without this Bangladesh will keep repeating the cycle of instability. Interim govt has to overhaul police, military, bureaucracy and, importantly, judiciary. If it were up to me, I wouldn't opt for elections for at least two years.

• **What role should India play?**

Hasina opted to flee to India. That's a problem. If New Delhi allows her to stay, gives her asylum, New Delhi will be in a difficult position. Hasina stands guilty of serious crime – her administration's killed more than 300 students. Send Hasina back and let her face justice. If New Delhi doesn't do this, India-Bangladesh relations will suffer in future.

• **What are your thoughts on students forcing the Bangladesh chief justice to resign?**

The procedure for removal of chief justice isn't acceptable. The constitution is still working. The proper thing would have been for the president to call upon the CJ to resign. If illegal actions like this are justified, then other illegalities would need to be justified too.

That said, the new CJ is talented and highly qualified, but the procedure of his selection wasn't legal. In Bangladesh, almost all crucial issues are addressed overlooking constitutional mandate.

Calvin & Hobbes



The 'How' And The 'Why' Of Life

Jug Suraiya

Has India's education system become a contradiction in terms, in that it does not educate and is no longer a system, an orderly arrangement of ideas and functions formulated to achieve a desired objective?

A spate of scams, of mass-copying, leaked question papers, and faked certificates, poses a threat to the groves of academe which are being turned into a blackboard jungle, producing hordes of purportedly educated unemployed young people, making a cruel mockery of our vaunted 'demographic dividend'.

But more than the economic and social repercussions of mass unemployment, our derelict educational edifice is haunted by the spectre of a deeper existential crisis.

In an interview on social media, a student has identified a fundamental

flaw in what and how we teach by dividing courses into the science stream and the arts stream.

Students who opt for 'hard' science subjects like physics and chemistry, can't also choose 'soft' subjects like history and literature, and vice versa. This creates an asymmetry not only in terms of job skills and employment opportunities but, at a deeper level, it can lead to an ethical, moral, and spiritual vacuum, a void in the heart of our body politic.

Science teaches the 'how' of life: how to do brain surgery, how to cure disease, how to build rocket ships.

The arts guide us to the 'why' of life: why peace is better than war, why love should overcome hate, why there's a difference between good and evil.

Both the 'how' and the 'why' are

essential to life. Without the 'hows' – how to make fire, how to invent the wheel, how to discover gravity – we'd still be living in caves. Without the 'whys' – why we choose a profession, why we adhere to a particular creed or ideology – we'd have no compass with which to chart the journey of life.

The 'how' is the superfast train in which we travel; the 'why' is the direction we travel in and the destination we hope to arrive at.

When Neil Armstrong took his historic "One small step for man, a giant leap for mankind", a commentator observed that the American tragedy was that it had put a man on the Moon without knowing why.

The 'why', of course, was America's rivalry with USSR, the space race being an adjunct to the arms race. And the tragic irony was that the images relayed

Sacredspace



To be free of all authority, of your own and that of another, is to die to everything of yesterday, so that your mind is always fresh, always young, innocent, full of vigour and passion. It is only in that state that one learns and observes...

J Krishnamurti





MOURINHO'S FENERBAHCE FAIL TO REACH CHAMPIONS LEAGUE AFTER LOSS TO LILLE

'SHORT MEMORY' THE KEY TO SUCCESS, SAYS TENNIS STAR ARYNA SABALENKA



“It doesn't make sense to add to Virat and Rohit's load by asking them to play domestic cricket. Our players play the most. We must treat our players respectfully and not treat them like servants. None of the top players in England and Australia play domestic cricket.”

“We are thinking of hiring a mental coach. However, it's not necessary that we'll hire foreigners. If we don't find the experts from here, then we will get them from abroad.”

“No domestic cricketer has requested me for a rise in pay. We've already increased their pay a lot, by 100%. They should focus on cricket, and not match fees. Money is a byproduct. If I was a player, I would've thought about playing for India and earning a BCCI contract.”

'NEW NCA WILL BE OPEN FOR OLYMPIC SPORTSPERSONS TOO'



JAY SHAH
TETE-A-TETE

Team TOI

Jay Shah is a man on a mission these days. After predicting India's victory in the T20 World Cup successfully, in Feb, in Rajkot, India's youngest BCCI secretary, still only 35, and already in his second term, is taking giant steps to take Indian cricket to even greater heights. During a visit to the TOI Mumbai office on the eve of India's 78th Independence Day, Shah announced that the new state of the art NCA will soon come up on the outskirts of Bengaluru in Sept. "We are going to make it available for Olympic sportspersons too like Neeraj Chopra," he revealed. During a 15-minute presentation, followed by a 23-minute chat, he also announced plans for a cricket stadium in Varanasi and an NCA in six North-East states and the seventh one in Jammu. Excerpts from the interaction.

Everybody wants to know about the Champions Trophy and will India travel to Pakistan? What is BCCI's stand?
No stand as of now. We will cross the bridge when it comes.

Champions Trophy though comes later, but the Bangladesh series is upon us (Sept 19, Chennai). With the turmoil that the nation is currently experiencing, are there concerns? None as of now. A new government has just been formed over there. They will surely reach out to us. If they do not, I will surely reach out to them. For us, Bangladesh series is very important. We will try our best to host it.

Bangladesh are also the hosts of the Women's T20 WC scheduled in Oct. With the security concerns there, are there any obligations for India to host it, considering that India is a neighbouring country?
They had asked the BCCI if they can host the event, but I flatly refused. We would be still in the monsoon season and next year, we are going to host the ODI Women's World Cup. I do not want to give the impression that I want to host consecutive World Cups.

The Australia Test series is the big-ticket event for Team India and the fans. How are India going to prepare for it?
Our team is already well prepared. We have rested Jasprit Bumrah for a while now. Mohammad Shami is expected to be fit too. This is an experienced Indian side now. Seniors like Rohit and Kohli are fit.

What is the fitness status of Shami and Mayank Yadav?

Your question about Shami is right, but I cannot give you any answer on Mayank Yadav as there is no guarantee whether he will be in the team or not. But he is potentially a good fast bowler, and we are looking after him. He is currently in the NCA. Shami will be there because he is experienced, and we need him in Australia.

There was so much talk about the impact player rule in IPL. Some franchises did not like it. The Indian captain also voiced his displeasure as he felt it was stopping the development of allrounders. Your take.

We had a long chat with the franchise owners in the recent meeting we had. The impact player rule has its pros and cons. The negative is that it makes the allrounder's role redundant. The positive is it creates a spot for an Indian player to showcase his talent. We should also think about the broadcaster, who is paying a lot of money. But as an administrator for me, the game is bigger. We will decide in a few days.

There is a lot of talk surrounding player retentions and the need for mega auctions.

We have heard everyone out. Now, the decision rests on us. We must take the majority view on it. But even the minority view is important. The teams that are settled do not want a mega auction. Those franchises that have an unsettled team, want a mega auction. As a cricket fan, I feel consistency is important, but shuffling things up makes it interesting and helps in growing the game.

Can you shed more light on the new NCA? 24 years after the idea of having an NCA was first formulated, finally Indian cricket now has its own high-performance centre.

When I took over as BCCI secretary in Sept 2019, immediately within three to four months, there was the Covid-19 pandemic. All our focus was on how to host the IPL and some domestic cricket. For two years, BCCI office was almost shut. Once we got the second term, we decided that we must take this forward. This was about developing facilities in North-East. And the NCA, I had laid the foundation stone in 2022 in Bengaluru. In 2008, we had procured land, but no work was done. I don't know why my predecessors didn't do anything.

Tell us about facilities being developed in the North-East...

They have been given full membership of the Board. They are an integral part of the country and getting opportunities is their right, and giving it is the Board's duty. Creating facilities in the North-East was in my mind for a long time. The moment the bonding between the local associations there and BCCI improved, we started work.

“100%, there should be touring fees for financially weak teams. I am a member of the F&CA (ICC Finance and Commercial Affairs Committee) and have suggested that there should be a dedicated fund for Tests, be it five million, 10 million or higher. It is expensive to host teams for five-day matches.”



They are also more than happy. Earlier, they would get Rs 5 crore to run cricket, today they get Rs 20 crore to host matches.

Let's talk about the women's game. We have seen two editions of the Women's Premier League now. Is there scope to increase the number of teams from five?

When we started the WPL, someone told me that we don't have the bench strength and asked how the league will succeed. But the moment we got five teams, they managed to find good combinations. The moment we are confident that more teams should be added to the league, we will do so. As of now even the window allows for a five-team tournament and a women's FTP is in place.

Can we expect a Test Championship for women too?

It's possible only when all teams begin playing Test cricket. A WTC for women will not be possible if they play a one-off Test or a two-Test series. But yes, we will try it in the future. As of now we have India, England, Australia, and South Africa playing Tests. New Zealand women have recently begun playing Tests. We can move forward once teams like West Indies and Zimbabwe begin playing Tests.

Recently, West Indies Cricket Board CEO Johnny Grave suggested that teams that are financially weaker should get touring fees to play Test cricket. Your views.

100%, there should be touring fees. I am a member of the F&CA (ICC Finance and Commercial Affairs Committee) and have suggested that there should be a dedicated fund for Tests, whether five million, 10 million or higher. It is expensive to host teams for five-day matches, so we are preparing for it. If the



board agrees, we are ready to do that.

Can we see pink-ball Tests in the forthcoming season? India last hosted one in March 2022.

No, there are no provisions. Pink-ball Tests get over within two days in India. As a result, spectators lose money, broadcasters lose money. We need to look at sentiments also. As a fan, you go to a cricket match and buy a ticket for five days, but the game gets over within two-three days. There is no refund. So, I am slightly emotional in this case.

But we have seen two-day Tests with the red ball too.

That's not happening today. If the opposing team plays badly, what can I do? If our boys are playing well, I can't tell them to let the game last longer.

Do you think there are double standards when it comes to views on pitches when India win?

There are double standards in only one way. When India plays well the pitches are bad but when India plays badly, the pitches are good.

Has India's bowling coach been appointed?

The bowling coach has been appointed. We have declared Morne Morkel as the bowling coach. He will be joining on 1st Sept.

The last two WTC finals have seen India's preparations a bit compromised because the team lands barely a week after the IPL ends and doesn't get time to acclimatise. Would you consider shortening the IPL if India qualify this year?

The team didn't reach late for previous WTC finals. We had no choice. From now on, we will be having a 15-day gap between the end of IPL and the WTC final. But we should also appreciate the fact that we have qualified for the final twice.

How will you reintegrate Ishan Kishan?

He will have to follow the rules. He will have to play domestic cricket.

Why did you feel the need to ask international stars to play in domestic cricket?

We have been little strict. When Ravindra Jadeja had got injured, I was the one who called him and asked him to play a domestic game. It's certain now, who ever gets injured and goes out, can only come into the Indian team after proving his fitness in domestic cricket. But it doesn't make sense to add to Virat and Rohit's load by asking them to play domestic cricket. They run the risk of getting injured. You also need to look at England and Australia. None of their top players play domestic cricket. We must treat our players respectfully and not treat them like servants.

If you look at the Duleep Trophy squad, apart from Rohit and Virat, the rest are going to play. It's because of the harsh steps I have taken, Shreyas Iyer and Ishan Kishan are playing Duleep Trophy.

Is it ok to expect one coach to be with the team for every series? India plays non-stop cricket.

We have good bench strength of coaches. When Rahul bhai was the coach and he wanted to rest, VVS Laxman would go as the coach. India is the only team that travels everywhere. The benefit we get from that is that our relations with other boards get stronger and the economy of the other country improves because of India. That's why we get 40% share (in revenues from the ICC) but in turn, the other countries, too earn.

Has BCCI thought of having different coaches for different formats like England and Pakistan?

It depends on the coach we have picked. Gautam Gambhir was interested in all three formats, then who I am to tell him that I am going to pick you only for this format. If you look at the makeup of the Test, T20 and ODI sides, 70% of the team is more less the same. Shubman Gill, Rishabh Pant, Axar Patel, Jadeja...pre T20 WC, we had Rohit and Virat. How will the players bond with different coaches?

Teams have issues with 10am starts in the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 tournament, purely because the ball moves around early in the morning, which makes it tough for batters to score quickly and make a case for IPL selection.

The scheduling is difficult because we've to organize a number of matches. What we kept in mind is that whether it's a weak or strong team, all will get morning and evening matches and similar playing conditions in the tournament. However, what happened in the last season due to (bad) weather (many matches were severely curtailed due to bad weather), the game suffered, we have kept that factor in mind. We will schedule Ranji Trophy matches in the North Zone after the winter, and in the East and West Zone, we will schedule the matches before winter.

Is VVS Laxman quitting his post as NCA chairman?

His contract ends in Sept. But he will continue.

The merger of Viacom and Disney does prompt fears of all the telecast rights being hogged by one organisation.

No views. Just see the bilateral rights and how much they went for. Sony gave a tough fight to Reliance. We were the only board that got incremental value for bilaterals compared to last time. Instead of rupees 6000 crore, we generated 6700 crore. We will always have competition for cricket rights here. ■

GALLERY

Man United signs De Ligt and Mazraoui

Manchester: Manchester United signed Netherlands center back Matthijs de Ligt and Morocco full back Noussair Mazraoui from Bayern Munich on Tuesday. The 25-year-old De Ligt agreed to a five-year deal, with the option to extend for a further year. The 26-year-old Mazraoui, who can play as a right back or left back, has a contract until June 2028, also with the option to extend for a further year. No transfer fees were announced but British media reported United was paying £60 million for Mazraoui and De Ligt. United earlier Tuesday sold Aaron Wan-Bissaka to Premier League rival West Ham for a reported fee of £15 million to end a five-year spell at United. One of the best one-on-one defenders in the English game, Wan-Bissaka will compete with Vladimir Coufal for the right-back spot at West Ham.

Chahal grabs 5 for 14 on Northamptonshire debut: Yuzvendra Chahal made a sensational debut for Northamptonshire Steelbacks, snapping five wickets to set up their nine-wicket win over former County side Kent Spitfires in the One-Day Cup in Canterbury on Wednesday. Chahal took five for 14 in his 10 overs to bundle them out for 82 in 35.1 overs. AGENCIES

IOA exploring legal options after CAS dismisses Vinesh's appeal

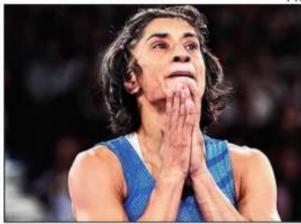
Continued from P1

The judgment was signed by CAS's Paris Olympics ad hoc division's sole arbitrator Annabelle Bennett, who was hearing the case. CAS had, on Tuesday, announced that it will pronounce its verdict on Aug 16, 1800 hrs Paris time (9:30 pm IST), but surprisingly came out with the order two days before the scheduled deadline.

One of the four lawyers representing Vinesh at CAS, Vidushpat Singhania, confirmed the development to TOI and said, "Yes, Vinesh's appeal has been dismissed. The order is very brief and no reason has been provided. CAS hasn't come up with a detailed order. We will now look into the options available and explore the next course of action."

Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president PT Usha expressed "shock and disappointment" at the turn of events. The association said it will stand by Vinesh in her tough times. In an official release, IOA also informed that it is exploring legal options so that the wrestler's case is properly heard.

"The operative part of the Aug 14 decision has significant implications for her in particular and the sporting community at large. The marginal discrepancy of a 100 grams and the resultant consequences has profound impact, not only in terms of Vinesh's career but also raises serious questions about ambiguous rules and their interpretation," IOA's statement read.



TOUGH LUCK: Vinesh Phogat

ring legal options so that the wrestler's case is properly heard.

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Dodda Ganesh appointed coach of Kenyan team

Manuja.Veerappa@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Starting a new chapter in his coaching career, former India pacer Dodda Ganesh on Wednesday took over as the head coach of the Kenyan cricket team in Nairobi.

Having signed on the dotted line on Tuesday, the 51-year-old — in his maiden role as a head coach of a national team — took over the team with screening of players. A seasoned warhorse on the domestic circuit, Ganesh has in the past worked with the Rwanda and

Nigerian national teams.

Speaking to TOI about the new role, Ganesh said: "I'm excited and ready for the challenge. With the ICC division challenger league next month followed by the T20 World Cup Africa qualifiers in October, it is going to be a race against time."

Ganesh, who has coached at the KSCA Academy and the state teams like Manipur and Goa, has been handed a one-year contract with former homegrown international Joseph Angara and Lameck Onyango assisting him.

"The IOA firmly believes that the total disqualification of an athlete for such a weight infraction on the second of two days warrants a deeper examination. Our legal representatives had duly brought this out in their submissions before the sole arbitrator. The matter involving Vinesh highlights the stringent and, arguably, inhumane regulations that fail to account for the physiological and psychological stresses athletes, particularly female athletes, undergo. In light of the order of the CAS, the IOA continues to stand in full support of Ms Phogat and is exploring further legal options. The IOA is committed to ensuring that Vinesh's case is heard."

Vinesh, who stormed into the final of the 50kg division with three wins, was debarred from competing in her gold medal bout against Sarah Hildebrandt of the USA as she was found 100gm above the prescribed limit in the morning weigh-in. The silver was awarded to Cuban Yusnelis Guzman Lopez, who lost to Vinesh in the semis but was later allowed to play the final following Vinesh's disqualification.

Karachi: Pakistan's most capped umpire, Aleem Dar has shared the saddest moment of his life when the death of his seven-month old daughter was kept a secret from him by his wife and family members in the early stages of his international career in 2003.

The 56-year-old recounted on a Pakistani channel that his wife and his family didn't tell him about the death of his infant daughter while he was umpiring in the 2003 World Cup.

"It was the start of my career as an ICC panel umpire and it was a very important assignment for my career and they knew if I came to know about my daughter's demise, I would return home immediately," Dar said on the show.

The highly-regarded Pakistani umpire said eventually when he learnt about his daughter's demise it was the most sad moment of his life and he was hurt badly.

No Virat, Rohit; Pant's red-ball comeback through Duleep

New Delhi: Senior stars including skipper Rohit Sharma, premier batter Virat Kohli, pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah and leading spinner R Ashwin received exemptions as the national selectors struck a fine balance between domestic performers and potential talent while picking up four squads for the Duleep Trophy starting September 5 in Bengaluru. The tournament will feature international stars such as Shubman Gill, Yas-hasvi Jaiswal, leading all-rounders Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav and pacer Mohammed Siraj.

T20 captain Suryakumar Yadav, who had played one Test against Australia in 2023 has also been picked. Apart from Surya, the others have confirmed slot in the team.

Wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant, who was part of India's T20 World Cup winning team, will also be featuring in the tournament, making it his first red-ball assignment after coming back from that horrific car accident in 2022. Also back in business will be another left-handed keeper Ishan Kishan, who was removed from BCCI's central contracts list after he skipped the Ranji Trophy tournament last season giving priority to cash-rich IPL.



BACK IN LONGEST FORMAT: Rishabh Pant

Sarfraz Khan and Dhruv Jurel, both of whom played vital role in India's home series win against England are also in the mix. Keepers Aryan Juyal and Abhishek Porel are also part of the various squads.

India players were supposed to play only one match and hence Kohli, Rohit, Bumrah and Ashwin were given exemptions. They had the choice to opt out. Suryakumar is part of Team C, led by Rituraj Gaikwad, which also has two exciting young pacers — Anshul Khambaj and Himanshu Chauhan, who would be under the scanner of the selector. PTI

'Family hid daughter's death during 2003 WC'

Karachi: Pakistan's most capped umpire, Aleem Dar has shared the saddest moment of his life when the death of his seven-month old daughter was kept a secret from him by his wife and family members in the early stages of his international career in 2003.

The 56-year-old recounted on a Pakistani channel that his wife and his family didn't tell him about the death of his infant daughter while he was umpiring in the 2003 World Cup.

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The highly-regarded Pakistani umpire said eventually when he learnt about his daughter's demise it was the most sad moment of his life and he was hurt badly.

"I was kept in the dark for nearly a month after her passing away and I only came to know about it by chance in Johannesburg where a Pakistani man who belonged to my hometown Sialkot came to offer his con-



SAD MOMENT: Aleem Dar

lences to me.

"It was a big shock to me at that time and I immediately informed the ICC and returned home," Dar said.

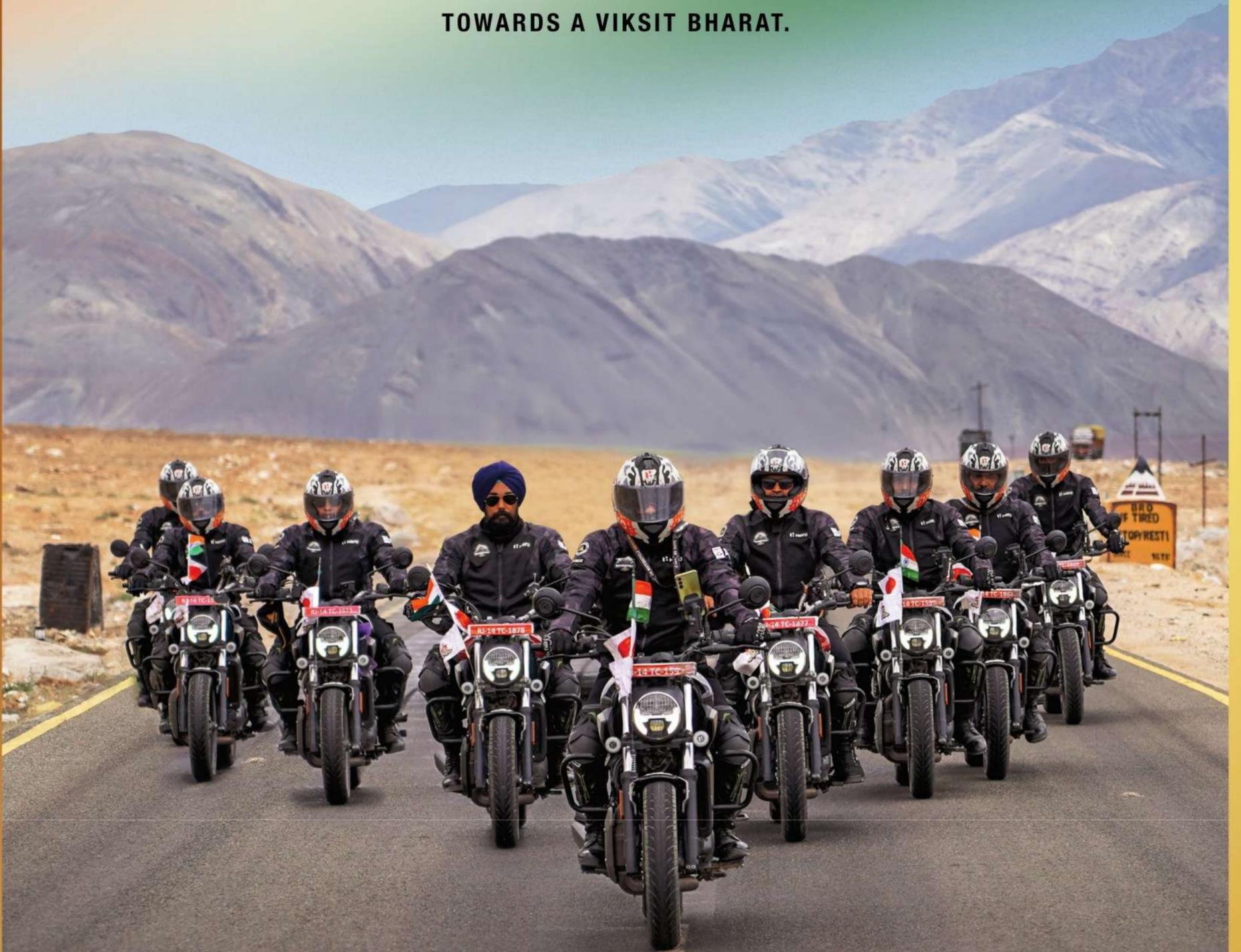
The umpire said the moment he learnt about his daughter he called up his wife and she started crying over the phone.

"I came to know later that my father had strictly told the media friends to not print the story," he added.

Dar stood in 145 Tests, 231 ODIs and 72 T20 Internationals in a career spanning from 2000 to 2023. PTI

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Genocide complaint against Hasina in crimes tribunal

Ex-PM's 2 Aides, Arrested In Murder Case, To Stay In Custody For 10 Days

AKM Moiuddin

Dhaka: A father who lost his schoolboy son in police firing on Aug 5 moved Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) against ex-PM Sheikh Hasina and 8 others Wednesday, accusing them of crimes against humanity and genocide between July 15 and the day Class 9 student Alif Ahmed Siam was fatally wounded.

Supreme Court lawyer Gazi MH Tanim filed the complaint around 1.30pm on behalf of Bulbul Kabir, the bereaved father. Alif died on Aug 7, two days after he was shot by police at Savar in Dhaka district.

Besides Hasina, the complaint names former cabinet ministers Obaidul Quader and Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal; ex-state ministers Zunaid Ahmed Palak and Mohammad Ali Arafat; former IGP Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun; erstwhile detective branch chief Harun Or Rashid; ex-Dhaka Metropolitan police commissioner Habibur Rahman; ex-RAB director general Harun Ar Rashid. ICT came into being after Bangladesh parliament brought the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973, providing for the detention, prosecution and punishment of people responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes under inter-



Salman F Rahman, an adviser to ex-PM Sheikh Hasina, appears at a Dhaka court on Wednesday

After murder charge, an enforced disappearance case against Hasina

A case of enforced disappearance was filed Wednesday against ex-PM Sheikh Hasina and several others, including former ministers of her cabinet, on the charge of kidnapping a lawyer in 2015. The case is the second to be filed against Hasina since she resigned. The victim of the forced disappearance, SC lawyer Sohail Rana filed the case application, the Daily Star reported. On Tuesday, a murder case was lodged against Hasina over the death of a grocery shop owner during protests. PTI

national law. The tribunal has the power to try and punish any individual or groups of individuals or organisations embroiled in such acts. Meanwhile, Hasina's ex-law minister Anisul Huq and adviser Salman F Rahman, both arrested in a murder case, were produced in court Wednesday and remanded in custody for 10 days. The murder case was filed after a shop employee was killed in a clash on July 16 during protests. A separate case was filed over a student's death in the same clash.

Cricketer and an MP in Hasina regime is allowed to play in Pak

Ousted Bangladesh lawmaker and cricketer Shakib Al Hasan was given permission on Wednesday to remain with the national side in Pakistan by the interim govt leaders. Shakib, a former Bangladesh captain, took office in Jan as a lawmaker for ex-PM Hasina's Awami League party after elections. He lost that job last week when parliament was dissolved. One of the student leaders, 26-year-old Asif Mahmud, who is now the de facto sports minister, granted Shakib permission to remain with the team despite his ties to Hasina and the Awami League. Shakib, 37, was seen training at the Gaddafi Cricket Stadium in Lahore Wednesday. AFP



Awami League to mark Mujibur's death anniversary today, students on alert

Student leaders Wednesday vowed to resist any potential "chaos" by Awami League activists after the interim govt cancelled the Aug 15 holiday marking the assassination of the country's founder Mujibur Rahman, also Sheikh Hasina's father. "We will remain on the streets," said Sarjis Alam of Anti-Discrimination Student Movement. In a statement posted by US-based son Sajeeb Wazed Joy on X, Hasina urged Bangladeshis to observe the day peacefully. PTI

Hamas to stay out of Gaza truce talks, may meet mediators later

Cairo: Hamas said Wednesday it would not take part in a new round of Gaza ceasefire talks slated for Thursday in Qatar, but an official briefed on the talks said mediators expected to consult with the Palestinian group afterwards.

The US said it expects indirect talks to go ahead as planned in Qatar's capital Doha on Thursday, and that a ceasefire deal was still possible. However, Axios reported that US secretary of state Antony Blinken has postponed a trip to the West Asia that had been expected to begin on Tuesday. Three senior Iranian officials have said that only a ceasefire deal in Gaza would hold Iran back from direct retaliation against Israel for the assassination of Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh on its soil last month. Hamas has blamed Israel for stalling negotiations, while Israeli PM Netanyahu says Hamas' top militant Yahya Sinwar has been the main obstacle to sealing a deal.

US approves \$20bn in weapons sales to Israel

The US has approved \$20 billion in arms sales to Israel, including over 50 F-15 fighter jets, advanced medium range air-to-air missiles and 120mm tank ammunition. It comes at a time of concern that Israel may become involved in a wider West Asia war. However, the arms are not expected to get to Israel anytime soon, they are contracts that will take years to fulfill. The Biden govt has had to balance its support for Israel with growing concern among public over civilian deaths in Gaza. AGENCIES

Trump's attacks on Kamala fuel fear he is setting stage for chaos in case of Nov loss

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: Concern is growing in US political circles that Donald Trump is laying the groundwork for rejecting election results if he loses in Nov.

The ex-prez's constant efforts to delegitimise his rival Kamala Harris by alleging she and her associates staged a "coup" against Prez Biden, exaggerated charges of voter fraud and illegal voting, spurious accusations of "election interference" by his rival using AI, and his own lack of enthusiasm and discipline in campaigning are among reasons political analysts fear a meltdown on Nov 5 if the results are not in his favour



Trump's accusation that Harris staged a 'coup' against Prez Biden, charges of voter fraud, and claims of AI-driven election interference are among the reasons political analysts fear a meltdown on Nov 5 if the results are not in his favour

is, and it's not gonna win talking about whether she's dumb... American people are smart," Nikki Haley, who challenged Trump for the party nomination and endorsed him after failing to win it, told Fox News, even berating the network for echoing the ex-prez's falsehoods.

Some political stalwarts are saying "Trump is simply firebombing the campaign because he's setting the stage for claiming a stolen election if he loses. "People need to start thinking more now about how to deny Trump the ability, the day after the election, if he loses, to try and throw the process into chaos again," Trump former NSA John Bolton, one of over 40 Trump White House aides who think he is a vapid, clueless candi-

date who should not be anywhere near the presidency, said. While many critics are now starting to question Trump's own mental acuity, some are warning it is a set-up to steal the election. "Donald Trump may be crazy, but he's not stupid... there is a method to his madness," the liberal senator Bernie Sanders warned. "If you can convince your supporters that thousands of people who attended a televised rally do not exist, it will not be hard to convince them that the election returns in Pennsylvania, Michigan, and elsewhere are 'fake'."

Political mavens are already zeroing in on Georgia as the most likely battleground where the next election scenario will play out. Trump Republicans

Harris campaign was target of 'foreign hack'

Kamala Harris' prez campaign said it was notified by the FBI last month that it was "targeted by a foreign actor influence operation," a campaign official said Tuesday. "We have robust cybersecurity measures in place, and are not aware of any security breaches resulting from those efforts," the official said. The FBI did not comment. The bureau said Monday that it was investigating after Trump's campaign said that it had been hacked. The ex-prez's team blamed Iran. REUTERS

Kamala edges Trump on honesty, discipline: Poll

Vice-prez Kamala Harris has a perceived advantage over ex-prez Donald Trump on several leadership qualities such as honesty, a poll from AP-NORC finds, although Americans are slightly more likely to trust Trump on the economy and immigration. Nearly half of Americans say "committed to democracy" and "disciplined" are attributes that better describe Harris. About 3 in 10 say these qualities better describe Trump. About 24% say that "honest" better describes Trump. AP

Ukraine's taken more ground, POWs in Russia: Zelensky

Moscow/Kyiv: Ukraine said on Wednesday its forces had advanced further into Russia's Kursk region in the biggest foreign incursion into Russia since WWII, posing a dilemma for Prez Putin according to US Prez Joe Biden. Thousands of Ukrainian troops rammed through the Russian border in the early hours of Aug 6 into Russia's western Kursk region in what Putin called a major provocation. Ukraine has carved out a slice of the Russian border region of Kursk.

2nd Russian border region declares emergency

Russia's Belgorod border region declared an emergency Wednesday under heavy shelling by Ukrainian forces that are pressing a major cross-border incursion into the adjacent Kursk region. Belgorod governor Vyacheslav Gladkov described the situation there as "extremely difficult and tense" as the attacks destroyed homes and caused civilian casualties, unnerving local people. Children in particular are being moved to safety, he said on his Telegram channel, adding that about 5,000 children are in camps in safe areas. He said the previous day that around 11,000 people had fled their homes, with about 1,000 staying in temporary accommodation centres. AP

Ukrainian Prez Zelensky wrote in a statement on Telegram, "We continue to advance further in the Kursk region. From one to two kilometres in various areas since the start of the day. And more than 100 Russian prisoners of war in the same period." The commander of the Ukrainian military General Oleksandr Syrskyi claimed that the Ukrainian forces have advanced into 1,000 sq km of the Kursk region.

Russia's defence ministry said 117 Ukrainian drones had been shot down within its territory overnight, mostly in the Kursk, Voronezh, Belgorod and Nizhny Novgorod regions. The Ukrainian drone attack included strikes on four Russian military airfields in an attempt to undermine Russia's ability to attack. AGENCIES

Constitutional court dismisses Thai PM, 4th such removal in 16 yrs

Bangkok: Thailand's constitutional court Wednesday dismissed PM Srettha Thavisin and ruled he "grossly" violated ethics by appointing a minister who was once jailed. Real estate tycoon Srettha is the fourth premier in 16 years to be removed in verdicts by the same court.

The ruling comes a week after the same court dissolved the main opposition Move Forward Party and banned its former leader from politics for 10 years. Srettha, 62, leaves office after less than a year; the third PM from Pheu Thai party to be removed. "I am saddened to leave as a PM who was found to be unethical. (But) I performed my duties with integrity," he said. Parliament will meet Friday to vote on a replacement. AGENCIES

Kishida to step down as PM next month

Public Ire Over Political Scandals & Rising Living Costs Behind Move

Tokyo: Japan PM Fumio Kishida said Wednesday he would step down next month, succumbing to public disaffection over political scandals and rising living costs that marred his three-year term, and setting off a scramble to replace him.

Kishida's ratings dipped after he took office in 2021 following revelations about the LDP's ties to the controversial Unification Church. His popularity took another hit when a slush fund of unrecorded political donations made at LDP fundraising events came to light. He also faced public discontent as wages failed to keep pace with rising living costs.

His successor as LDP leader will face the task of restoring the public's confidence in the party and tackle the rising cost of living, escalating geopolitical tensions with China, and the potential return of Donald Trump as US president.

Through his stint, Kishida broke from previous economic policy by eschewing corporate profit-driven trickle-down economics to set his sights on boosting household income, including wage hikes and promoting share ownership. His premiership was also marked by a changing security environment that spurred Japan to revisit its traditionally pacifist policy. He unveiled Japan's biggest military buildup since WWII with a commitment to double defence spending. Potential contenders to succeed as PM include ex-defence minister Shigeru Ishiba, foreign minister Yoko Kamikawa, digital minister Taro Kono, and former environment minister Shinjiro Koizumi. REUTERS

Didi's warning to parties: Don't play politics over doc's case

Continued from P1

Mamata Banerjee said she is "relieved" that Calcutta HC has asked CBI to probe the rape-murder case in RG Kar Medical College and Hospital. Banerjee said CBI should ensure the culprit gets the death penalty, and innocents are not punished. In a public appeal to agitating doctors, the CM said she is ready to "plead" with them and "touch their feet", urging them to return to work.

Claiming that the state had acted swiftly, Banerjee said, "Police escorted the body of the victim. DNA samples were taken and tested, CCTV footage studied... everything was carried out within 12 hours and the accused was arrested. Thirty-four people were already summoned by police and more people were on the list, but HC intervened and transferred the case to CBI," she said, adding she wanted to fix responsibilities within the administration.

"Following a probe by the health department within 48 hours, I transferred everyone. People have to understand that I cannot act without evidence," Banerjee said, adding no one had the right to defame Bengal and warned political parties not to play politics over this "unfortunate and shocking death". She was reacting to Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's claim that the hospital and local administration tried to shield the accused.

Rahul wondered that "the way the layers of the cruel and inhuman act against the junior doctor are being revealed", how would parents send their daughters for studies if doctors are not safe in a place like a medical college?

"Why are even the strict laws framed after the Nirbhaya case unsuccessful in preventing such crimes? Every party, every section of society will have to hold serious discussions and take concrete steps on the continuously increasing incidents against women," Rahul said.

Minerals order to cost PSUs, private firms ₹1.5 lakh crore

Windfall For J'khand, MP, Odisha, K'taka, Raj, C'garh, AP

Continued from P1

Solicitor general Tushar Mehta had told the court that retrospective application of the July 25 judgment would require payment of arrears for the last 33 years (since 1991). This would have a huge financial implication that could adversely impact the country's economy, he had argued. "Increased cost of minerals will lead to spiralling prices of essential products, from needles to healthcare equipment, denting the economy and give a northward push to inflation," Mehta had said.

The argument, however, did not fly with the court as it asked for retrospective application of the landmark order, although the waiver of penal-

India's 1st lithium mines to open in C'garh

India is set to open its first lithium mines in Katghora region of Korba district of Chhattisgarh following confirmation of "significant deposits" of the metal by Geological Survey of India (GSI), reports **Rashmi Drolia**. This region is around 200km from Raipur. In a world increasingly powered by batteries, lithium can be one of the most valuable finds for a country. GSI has reported lithium concentrations of 10 to 2,000 parts per million (PPM) on a 250-hectare stretch in Katghora, with potential for even higher content. The decision to open lithium mines was announced at a meeting of National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) in New Delhi on Monday.

ty and interest and the staggered implementation of arrears would help soften the blow somewhat for PSUs and private companies.

The financial implication for public sector undertakings, without interest, is estimated to be Rs 70,000 crore. If the dues from private sector industries are included, the total arrears from 2005 are estimated to be around Rs 1.5 lakh crore. Mineral-rich states which would benefit hugely are Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Authoring the judgment, a clarificatory addenda to the July 25 verdict, CJI Chandrachud said since SC in West Bengal vs Kesoram Industries in 2004 had ruled in favour of the state, it was inclined to order collection of arrears from April 1, 2005. "While states may levy or renew demand of tax, the demand of tax shall not operate on transactions made prior to April 1, 2005," it said.

Allowing PSUs and private entities some time to assess finances for staggered payment of arrears, SC said, "The time for payment of the demand of tax shall be staggered in instalments over a period of 12 years commencing from April 1, 2026."

The bench acknowledged the huge financial burden that would be cast on PSUs and private entities but accepted senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi's arguments to rule in favour of states, saying their legitimate levies could not be denied to them.

However, on the SG's argument that some states like Madhya Pradesh had decided not to seek arrears, the bench said, "It is the prerogative of state legislatures to determine whether to forego the dues for the period before July 25, 2024."

SC added, "The total amount, that is the principal plus the interest, due by the assessee in the pending matters may be substantial in comparison to their total net worth. Steel Authority of India Ltd has stated in an affidavit that retrospective application of the July 25 judgment will lead to revival of cumulative demands to the tune of approximately Rs 3,000 crore from different states. The delay in court proceedings should not be to the detriment of the assessee."

New ED chief did B.Tech, M.Tech from IIT-K, MBA from Aus

Continued from P1

In a notification issued on Wednesday, Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved Rahul Navin's appointment as "director of enforcement in ED for a period of two years".

Navin, who has been with the agency since 2019, is considered an expert in international taxation, Foreign Exchange Management Act and Prevention of Money Laundering Act. During his tenure with ED, he has been involved in supervision of all high-profile investigations. Before taking over as acting chief of the agency, he held the charge of vigilance and administration. He holds B.Tech and M.Tech degrees from IIT Kanpur and an MBA from Swinburne University of Technology in Melbourne. With his appointment, Navin gets a fixed tenure of two years, in addition to the possibility of an extension of service thrice, as per the modified rules, one year at a time.

ED has been in the eye of controversy for arresting senior politicians, including sitting CMs. It has lately drawn attention for a different reason: restitution of properties to victims of financial crimes.

Isro's SSLV to launch satellite tomorrow

New Delhi: Isro will use its newly-developed small satellite launch vehicle SSLV-D3 to launch Earth Observation Satellite-8 (EOS-8) a day after Independence Day, reports **Surendra Singh**. The liftoff is on "Aug 16 in a launch window of one hour starting at 09:17 Hrs (IST)", Isro posted on X. This will be SSLV's third and final development flight from Sriharikota. "It completes SSLV development project and enables operational missions by Indian industry and NSIL," Isro stated.

Assar ultras may be same ones who fled Udhampur gunfight

Continued from P1

An American M4 carbine with an infrared thermal scope, an AK-series assault rifle, grenades, and ammunition were also recovered. Thermal scopes detect heat signatures emitted by people, allowing them to function equally well during the day or night.

"Warlike stores have been found. Bloodstains on the grass and rocks were seen at the site, indicating wounds," an official said. "Firing continues. Operation is ongoing."

The 25-year-old Captain, enlisted in 2020 following his graduation from NDA, was sixth soldier from Uttarakhand to die in J&K this year; after five men from 22 Garhwal Rifles were killed in an ambush on a two-truck patrol in Kathua district on July 8.

He leaves behind his parents and two elder sisters, both married. His father Mahesh Singh was an inspector

with Uttarakhand police and served as confidential assistant to the DGP before his retirement earlier this year. The family, originally from Kumaon, currently resides in Kuanwala on the outskirts of Dehradun.

Officials said security forces launched a search operation late Tuesday afternoon in the dense Shivgarh-Assar forest after receiving intelligence about suspected Jaish-e-Muhammed terrorists hiding there. As the troops advanced, the terrorists fired, triggering a shootout that continued till late after nightfall. Gunfire resumed at first light and Captain Singh, who was leading from the front, was struck in the chest. He was taken to a military hospital but could not be saved.

Security sources suspect that the terrorists involved in the Assar gunfight may be the same who escaped a brief shooting Sunday at Basantgarh in Udhampur.

IN THE COURTS

HC sets aside Bihar ex-MLA's conviction

Patna HC on Wednesday set aside the conviction of former Bihar MLA Anant Kumar Singh, in two cases of similar nature which had earned him sentences of 10 years each. In separate orders, Justice Chandra Shekhar Jha allowed appeals of Singh challenging the orders of MP/MLA court, Patna, passed in June and July. Singh is now expected to walk out of jail. Singh had faced disqualification following the first order of conviction passed in June 2022, relating to a case lodged after an AK-47 rifle, ammunition and two hand grenades were recovered from his ancestral residence. The second case related to the recovery of an INSAS rifle from the govt-allotted Patna residence of the MLA. PTI

HC: Don't need cop nod for I-Day rally

Are we still under British Raj?" asked Madras HC, while permitting all forms of rallies by any person to celebrate Independence Day on Thursday, reports **Suresh Kumar K**. Justice G Jayachandran, permitting the youth wing of Tamil Nadu BJP to take out two-wheeler rallies, took adverse judicial note of the police rejecting permission, pointing out that it has been 77 years since the nation got freedom. The court passed the order on a plea moved by youth wing secretary A Krishna Prasanth. Justice Jayachandran held that anyone is free to organise rallies after intimating the police, and added that no prior police permission is required.

Murmu stresses gender justice, climate change

Contd from P1 Other Book

The President quoted B R Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution, emphasising that "political democracy cannot last unless there lies at the base of it social democracy" and said steady progress of political democracy testifies to the progress made towards the consolidation of social democracy.

Murmu went on to list out measures taken to deliver on the social justice agenda. "Pradhan Mantri Samajik Utthan evam Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan (PM-SURAJ) for example, aims to provide direct financial assistance to the people from the marginalised communi-

ties," she said. In her address, the President also acknowledged the observance of Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas (Partition Horrors Remembrance Day), reflecting on the human tragedy of partition, which resulted in immense suffering and loss of life. "As we prepare to celebrate our Independence Day, we must remember the unparalleled tragedy and stand in solidarity with those families affected," she concluded.

Murmu also stressed on gender justice. "In our society, women are considered not only equal, but even more than equal. However, they have also suffered from traditional prejudices. But I am glad to note that govt has given equal importance to women's welfare and women's empowerment. The budget allocation for this purpose has more than tripled in the last decade," Murmu said. She cited the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, the law that seeks to make way for reservation for women in Parliament and assemblies to assert that it is "aimed at ensuring real empowerment of women". "Speaking of justice, let me also mention that in adopting the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita from July this year, we have removed one more relic of the coloni-

al era. The new code is oriented towards ensuring justice for the victims of crime instead of focusing on punishment alone. I see this change as a tribute to freedom fighters," she said.

Speaking about 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Prez Murmu while highlighting that the number of eligible voters stood at nearly 97 crore said that "this was a historic record, making it the largest electoral exercise mankind has ever witnessed". She congratulated Election Commission for "smooth and flawless conduct of such a gigantic event". "India's successful conduct of elections strengthens democratic forces around the world," she added.



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PM recalls tragedy of Partition, vows to protect bonds of unity

Remembrance Day Will Help In Nation-Building, Asserts Shah

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: On the eve of Independence day observed as 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day', Prime Minister Narendra Modi recalled the sufferings of people impacted by the Partition and paid tributes to their courage, which he said "illustrates the power of human resilience".

"A lot of those impacted by the Partition went on to rebuild their lives and attain immense success," he said. "We also reiterate our commitment to always protect the bonds of unity and brotherhood in our nation," he added.

The PM had announced from the ramparts of Red Fort on Aug 15, 2021, that Aug 14 would be observed annually as 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day', to honour sacrifices of Partition victims.



Courage of people impacted by the Partition 'illustrates the power of human resilience', the PM said

Home minister Amit Shah in a post on X paid homage to the millions who "suffered inhuman pains, lost lives, turned homeless" during what he described as the "most hideous episode of our history".

"Only a nation that remembers its history can build its future and emerge as a powerful entity. Observing this day is a foundational exercise in the process of nation building under the leadership of Modi-ji," he added.

To mark the day, Indira Gandhi National Centre for

the Arts (IGNCA) under the ministry of culture on Wednesday organised a programme at Bharat Mandapam to observe 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day'.

Culture and tourism minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat emphasised that it was important to remember the horrors of Partition so that future generations can understand and feel its impact. He clarified that the intention behind this remembrance was not political, but to reject divisive politics.

The tragedy did not receive the recognition in history that it deserved due to various political reasons, he said.

MoS Sukanta Majumdar recalled the background of 'Banga-Bhanga' (Partition of Bengal) imposed by the British in 1905. He mentioned that his grandfather was also displaced from East Bengal (now Bangladesh) and migrated to West Bengal. During that tragedy, his father's younger brother was separated from the family and was never found again.

Security brass reviews J&K terror situation

New Delhi: Measures being taken to strengthen counter-infiltration and counter-terror grids, as well as ground intelligence network in J&K, were reviewed at a meeting called by defence minister

Rajnath Singh Wednesday, amid continuing surge in terrorism and setbacks to forces, especially in Jammu.

The "rising" terror attacks in J&K, situation along the 778-km LoC with Pakistan, military-style ambushes of security forces by well-trained terrorists, among other issues, were discussed in the meeting.

"It dwelt upon overall strategy to deal with the situation, including spreading arc of terrorism in Jammu," an official said. The meet was attended by NSA Ajit Doval, chief of defence staff Gen Anil Chauhan, Army chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi, DGMO Lt-Gen Pratik Sharma and heads of security and intelligence agencies. **TNN**

EC, home min discuss forces for J&K polls

New Delhi: Election Commission, which on Wednesday reached an agreement with the home secretary regarding extent of forces to be deployed for assembly polls in J&K, may announce the schedule any day after revised electoral rolls for the UT are published Aug 20, reports **Bharti Jain**.

"J&K administration is geared to have an elected govt sworn in Oct," a govt functionary said, indicating a Sept poll schedule. Like previous elections, polling in J&K will be spread over 4-5 phases, added another source. Home secretary Ajay Bhalla, who was in Nirvachan Sadan Wednesday to discuss security arrangements for J&K polls, is reportedly on board with EC's assessment of security scenario in J&K and the force logistics required to ensure their smooth conduct.

Sources said a high number of central forces including the CRPF and BSF will be deployed for the polls in J&K.

Col, 3 others who laid down lives in J&K conferred Kirti Chakra

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Colonel Manpreet Singh and deputy superintendent of J&K Police Humayun Muzammil Bhat, who laid down their lives while battling terrorists in a fierce encounter in Anantnag district of J&K last Sept, and two others have been awarded Kirti Chakra, the nation's second-highest gallantry medal during peacetime, on Independence Day.

The other Kirti Chakra awardees are Rifleman Ravi Kumar (63 Rashtriya Rifles) posthumously, and Major Malla Rama Gopal Naidu (56 Rashtriya Rifles). Colonel Singh, already a Sena Medal awardee, was from the Sikh Light Infantry and commanding the 19 Rashtriya Rifles unit during the encounter in Anantnag on Sept 13.

In the gunfight with heavily-armed terrorists in densely-forested hills, Major Aashish Dhonchak and Sepoy Pardeep Singh displayed conspicuous gallantry while laying down their lives. They have been awarded Shaurya Chakra, the third-highest medal.

"Col Singh displayed raw courage and unparal-



A motorcyclist carries a poster of Colonel Manpreet Singh, who was killed while leading an anti-terror op in Anantnag. Singh was awarded the Kirti Chakra on Wednesday

led leadership by leading from the front during the operation. His undaunting valour and quick decision-making led to the elimination of one terrorist and preventing escape of other terrorists. DSP Bhat was leading the special operations group column of J&K Police," an officer said.

Shaurya Chakra was awarded to 16 others, with two CRPF personnel getting it posthumously. Two Navy officers, destroyer INS Kolkata's commanding officer Captain Sharad Sinsunwal & INS Visakhapatnam's engineering officer Lt-Commander

Kapil Yadav were conferred with Shaurya Chakra. The first for anti-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden, and the second for rescuing the crew of an oil tanker engulfed in flames on high seas.

The other Shaurya Chakra awardees are Colonel Pawan Singh (Army Aviation), Major C V S Nikhil (21 Para SF), Major Tripathpreet Singh (34 RR), Major Sahil Randhawa (34 RR), Wing Commander Kapil Yadav (IAF), Squadron Leader Deepak Kumar (IAF), Subedar Sanjeev Singh Jasrotia (5 J&K Rifles), Naib Subedar P Pabin Singha (56 RR), Abdul Latif (J&K Police), deputy commandant Lakhveer (CRPF), assistant commandant Rajesh Panchal (CRPF) and Malkit Singh (CRPF).

In all, the Independence Day list has 103 gallantry medals. There are also 39 Mention-in-Despatches, including to Army dog Kent (posthumously) for their significant contributions in different military operations. The operations include Operation Rakshak, Operation Snow Leopard, Operation Sahayata, Operation Hifazat, Operation Orchid and Operation Katchal.

Shaurya Chakra for 5 CRPF men, 2 of them posthumously

Bharti Jain@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Five Shaurya Chakras were conferred on CRPF bravehearts and 209 police officers honoured with gallantry medals on the eve of Independence Day for their acts of valour.

The five Shaurya Chakra awardees were part of CRPF's 201 CoBRA battalion and were recognised for displaying extraordinary courage during an engagement with Naxalites on Jan 30, 2024 while establishing a forward operating base in Chhattisgarh. While constables Pawan Kumar and Devan C laid down their lives as their team delivered significant blows to the insurgents and se-

cured the area and will be honoured posthumously, deputy commandant Lakhveer, assistant commandant Rajesh Panchal and constable Malkit Singh will also receive the gallantry medals for "displaying unmatched bravery in the face of fierce Naxal assault," CRPF said in a statement on Wednesday.

Telangana Police head constable Chuduvu Yadaiah, who apprehended two chain-snatchers in July 2022 even after being brutally stabbed by them, was named as the recipient of the lone President's Medal for Gallantry.

Of the total 1,037 medals announced by MHA on Wednesday, 908 medals are for various state police and

CAPFs; 59 for fire services personnel; 56 for Home Guards and Civil Defence personnel; and 14 for correctional services. Apart from 208 police personnel, three personnel from fire services in Jharkhand and one in Delhi, as well as one personnel from UP home guards and civil defence were also named for gallantry medals.

The 208 police gallantry medals are shared by CRPF (52); J&K Police (31); UP and Maharashtra Police (17 each); Chhattisgarh Police (15); MP Police (12); SSB (14); CISF (10); Jharkhand, Punjab and Telangana Police (7 each); BSF (6); Bihar Police (5); Andhra Police (4); Bengal Police (3); & Assam Rifles (1).

State obligated to offer compensation, says Kol cop when asked about claims of bid to buy doctor family's silence

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: Acting on Calcutta high court's directive, CBI took custody on Wednesday of Sanjoy Roy, the prime accused in the rape-murder of a resident doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, and all related documents and evidence from Kolkata police. Among the evidence the cops handed over were CCTV footage and a Bluetooth headphone found at the scene of the crime.

Police warned people against spreading rumours, clarifying that contrary to claims on social media, they never suggested the victim's death was a suicide. A police officer denied that semen from three people was found on the doctor's body or her collar bone and pelvic guard were broken. Addressing allegations that a police officer offered money to silence the victim's family, he clarified: "After the Nirbhaya case, the state is obligated to provide financial compensation to families of victims in cases of murder, acid attacks, rape and molestation."



A man with a young patient waits outside SSKM Hospital in Kolkata on Wednesday

Silchar medical college withdraws advisory

Silchar Medical College Hospital admin Wednesday withdrew its controversial advisory asking female doctors, students and staff to avoid situations where they are alone and to refrain from night-time outings, reports **Kangkan Kalita**.

Nursing super had key to hall: HoD

Kolkata: The chest department HoD of RG Kar Medical College on Wednesday slammed an assistant superintendent of the hospital for lying to the parents of the PG trainee doctor that she had died by suicide, reports **Prithvijit Mitra**. "The hospital authorities should have filed an FIR," said Arunava Dutta Chowdhury.

"I was not the first to see the body. I came to know about it after I reported for work. The seminar hall had been cordoned off by police by then," he said.

The seminar hall where the doctor's body was discovered was supposed to be locked by 8.30pm. Chowdhury said the keys were with the nursing superintendent of the floor. Asked if permission had been sought to use it at night, he said, "A written permission is needed to use the hall beyond working hours, but I am not aware if it was taken."