

“We’ve stayed away from the war, but we are not neutral, we are for peace. I told Putin on his face that this isn’t the era of war”
PRIME MINISTER **NARENDRA MODI**

Today, history was made with PM visit. India supports Ukraine’s national sovereignty, territorial integrity
PRESIDENT **VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY**

India lends Ukraine a shoulder

Sit with Putin to find way out of crisis, India ready to help: Modi to Zelenskyy

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

MODI’S 7 HOURS IN KYIV

- Reaches Kyiv on Rail Force One from Poland after a 10-hour journey
- Meets members of the Indian community at the Hyatt Hotel
- With Zelenskyy, visits a memorial for children killed in the war with Russia
- Pays tribute at the Mahatma Gandhi statue located in the ‘Oasis of Peace’ park
- Holds delegation-level and one-on-one talks with Zelenskyy

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv on Friday. PTI

MORE REPORTS, PAGE 6

Milestone for 3 new journeys: India in Europe, diplomatic space, Kyiv ties

C. RAJA MOHAN
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

IT TOOK the tragic and a globally disruptive war to bring Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Kyiv, the first such visit since Ukraine re-established itself as an independent nation amid the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991. But by showing up in Ukraine and lending a shoulder to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who is leading a badly battered nation to defend its territorial integrity and sovereignty, Modi has initiated three important processes: insert India into Europe’s quest for peace; expand Delhi’s room for manoeuvre in the global geopolitical churning triggered by the Russian invasion of Ukraine; and reclaim Delhi’s lost bonds with Kyiv in the post-Soviet era.

First, on the question of ending the war in Ukraine, Modi had no spectacular peace plan to unveil. That Modi took a long train

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‘NEW WAY FORWARD’

Democratic presidential nominee and US Vice President Kamala Harris during her acceptance speech on the final day of the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. AP P16

India, US sign key defence supply pact as Rajnath begins 4-day visit

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

AS DEFENCE Minister Rajnath Singh reached Washington DC on a four-day official visit, India and US on Thursday signed two key pacts — a non-binding Security of Supply Arrangement (SOSA) and a Memorandum of Agreement regarding Assignment of Liaison Officers.

The SOSA will mandate the US and India to provide reciprocal priority support for goods and services that promote national defence.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin in Washington on Friday. PTI

SEBI imposes ₹25 cr penalty on Anil Ambani, bans him from market for 5 yrs

Anil Ambani named by SEBI for diversion of funds

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, AUGUST 23

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has barred industrialist Anil Ambani and 24 other entities, including former key officials of Reliance Home Finance Ltd (RHFL), from the securities market for five years for diversion of funds from the company.

Further, the regulator has imposed a penalty of Rs 25 crore on Ambani and restrained him from being associated with the securities market including as a director or Key Managerial Personnel (KMP) in any listed company, or any intermediary registered with it, for five years.

The total penalty on Ambani and other 24 entities works out to over Rs 625 crore.

Shares of Anil Ambani group companies plunged on the stock exchanges after the SEBI order. Reliance Power fell 5 per cent, Reliance Infra 10.4 per cent and RHFL 4.90 per cent.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Rescuers at the site of the bus accident in Tanahun district of Nepal on Friday. Reuters

Bus falls into river in Nepal, 27 pilgrims from Maharashtra die

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE & VALLABH OZARKAR
KATHMANDU, MUMBAI, AUGUST 23

AT LEAST 27 pilgrims from Maharashtra were killed and more than a dozen injured when the bus in which they were travelling skidded off the road and fell 250 metres into the swollen

Marsyangdi River in Tanahun district of Nepal, around 115 km from Kathmandu, on Friday.

The bus, which had an Uttar Pradesh registration number, was heading towards Kathmandu from the resort town of Pokhara, carrying 43 people, including the driver.

Confirming the 27 deaths, the Indian embassy in Kathmandu in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

GO-AHEAD UNDER PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION ACT

CBI gets Delhi L-G’s sanction to prosecute Kejriwal in excise case

NIRBHAY THAKUR
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

THE CBI has obtained sanction from Delhi Lt Governor V K Saxena for the prosecution of Chief Minister and AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal in an alleged case of corruption related to the Delhi excise policy.

The probe agency submitted the prosecution sanction Friday in the Rouse Avenue court of Special Judge Kaveri Baweja



Kejriwal has got bail in ED case, not in CBI case

where the matter will be heard next on August 27.

Once the court takes cognizance of the CBI’s supplementary chargesheet that names him as an accused, charges will be framed against Kejriwal. He has

been in judicial custody ever since March after his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate in an alleged money laundering case linked to the excise policy.

On June 26, the CBI placed him under “formal” arrest in the corruption case it is probing separately. On Friday, the Supreme Court adjourned the hearing on Kejriwal’s bail plea and gave the CBI a week to respond.

Official sources said the CBI had approached the Lt Governor’s

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

Manipur strife hits football dreams, rival clubs knock on HC door

SOHINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

THE PLAYING field may be new, but the stakes have never been higher for these two rival football clubs based in Manipur. Relegated to a lower-rung league by the All India Football Federation (AIFF) on account of their low scores in the 2023-24 season, the two rivals have put their differences aside — and the ball firmly in a court of law.

With Manipur engulfed in an ethnic strife since May 3, 2023, curfews across the state meant abruptly cancelled practice ses-

sions, unavailability of support staff and accommodation for players. In spite of these disadvantages, the two Manipur clubs — North Eastern Re-Organising Cultural Association Football Club (NEROCA FC) and the Tiddim Road Athletic Union Football Club (TRAU FC), which goes by the moniker ‘Red Pythons’ — played in the I-League (men’s second-tier of the Indian football league system), which commenced in October-November 2023.

However, their season results were lower compared to the last one. NEROCA FC closed the season with 14 points against last season’s 25 points, while TRAU

FC scored just 13 points in the 2023-24 season, compared to 35 points in the 2022-23 season. Relegated from I-League 2 to the lower rung I-League 2 by the All India Football Federation (AIFF) on account of their low scores, the clubs moved the Delhi High Court, seeking a reversal of the apex football body’s decision. The matter is scheduled to come up for hearing on September 6.

The clubs have impressed before the High Court that the AIFF’s decision, taken after they failed to make the requisite score, was “arbitrary”, taken without considering their past performances, and “the societal



NEROCA FC, an established football club in Manipur, has called the AIFF’s decision “arbitrary”. Special Arrangement

background immediately preceding the qualifying matches which determined the petitioners’ placement”.

The Indian Express reached out to the AIFF for a comment through its lawyer. However, AIFF declined to comment, stating that the matter “was currently sub-judice”.

Lourembam David Singh, 24, who has been with NEROCA FC for over four years, says the players’ training schedules went for a toss due to the violence and curfews. “We would do our basic exercises at home but it was next to impossible to go out and train because of the curfews.”

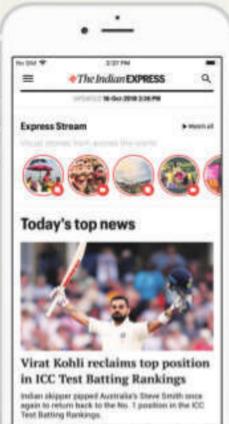
The restrictions were especially hard for goalkeeper Jackson Singh Khoirom, 19, a resident of Moirang, located around 45 km from Imphal and known for the only floating national park in the world. Jackson, who joined NEROCA FC just before the I-League tournament started in October-November 2023, says, “At the peak of violence in Manipur, Moirang saw rampant gun fighting. I used to get worried about my parents and they would get worried about me. It does affect your morale and performance on the field ultimately.”

NEROCA FC’s petition before the court says: “The unsatisfac-

tory performance of the Petitioner is solely attributable to the ongoing situation in Manipur and, therefore, any relegation from 1st division to 2nd division will not only impact the morale and mindset of the players, but will also impact the growth and development of football in Manipur.”

On the mental toll the violence has had on the players, the petition states, “One amongst the affected victims of the ethnic clashes in the state was Manipur’s national footballer Kongsam Chinglensana, who had to drop out of two international

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EXPRESS AUDIO

Badlapur case, 69,000 assistant teachers, and SC on Kolkata case

In this episode of 3 Things, we discuss the Badlapur sexual assault case, how the appointment of 69,000 assistant teachers in UP is in question, and finally what has the Supreme Court said on the rape and murder of a junior doctor in Kolkata

India, US sign key defence pact

"The arrangement will enable both countries to acquire the industrial resources they need from one another to resolve unanticipated supply chain disruptions to meet national security needs," said a statement issued by the US Department of Defence.

The two pacts were signed ahead of Singh's meeting with US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin in the Pentagon on Friday. At the meeting, both sides expressed satisfaction over the conclusion of the SOSA, a Defence Ministry statement said Friday.

The SOSA signed yesterday in Washington DC encourages the defence industrial ecosystems of both countries to work together, and enhances the supply chain resilience," it said.

India is the 18th SOSA partner of the US after Australia, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, and the UK.

According to the US Department of Defence statement, the SOSA was signed between Dr Vic Ramdass, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence for Industrial Base Policy, on behalf of the US, and Samir Kumar Sinha, Additional Secretary and Director General (Acquisitions), from India.

It quoted Dr Ramdass as stating that the SOSA represents a pivotal moment in the US-India major defence partner relationship and will be a key factor in strengthening the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) between the two countries.

Under the Arrangement, the US and India have committed to support one another's priority delivery requests for procurement of critical national defence resources, the statement said. It said the US will provide India assurances under the US Defence Priorities and Allocations System, with programme determinations by DoD and rating authorisation by the Department of Commerce. India will in turn establish a government-industry Code of Conduct with its industrial base, where Indian firms will voluntarily agree to make every reasonable effort to provide the US priority support.

The statement said that with an expanding global supply chain for DoD, SOSAs are an important mechanism to strengthen interoperability with US defence trade partners. "The Arrangements institute working groups, establish communication mechanisms, streamline DoD processes, and

proactively act to allay anticipated supply chain issues in peacetime, emergency, and armed conflict," it said, adding that they are also a useful tool in developing investment strategies to ensure redundancy and security.

Dr Swasti Rao, Associate Fellow, Europe and Eurasia Centre, MP-IDSA told The Indian Express that India and the US defence co-operation has been achieving new heights since 2016 with the signing of the foundational agreements and SOSA is the latest in that order. "SOSA is not a game-changer by itself but is an important element of the defence ecosystem that India has developed with the US," she said.

"SOSA will make it easier for Indian companies to get priority supplies from the US and revitalise the defence industry cooperation between the two countries, especially at a time the US has emerged to be one of the biggest procurers of India's growing defence exports," she said. However, she clarified that SOSA, despite being an important agreement, is not legally binding and is not sanctioned proofed. "Once the Reciprocal Defence Procurement Agreement which is the second level is signed, it will be legally binding and, in my opinion, that would also be signed soon," she said.

Defence Minister Singh during his meeting with Austin also highlighted the various co-development and co-production opportunities in India in areas identified in the India-US Defence Industrial Cooperation Roadmap, adopted last year, the defence ministry said in its statement.

It said Singh and Austin also welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement between India and US regarding the deployment of Liaison Officers.

The Memorandum of Agreement regarding the Assignment of Liaison Officers progresses on an earlier decision between the two sides to increase sharing of information between India and the US and will entail posting of Indian armed forces officers in key strategic US Commands. India would deploy the first Liaison Officer to the Headquarters Special Operations Command in Florida, US.

In a post on X, Singh termed the signing of the two agreements as "pathbreaking developments", and added that he and Austin reviewed the existing defence cooperation activities and discussed ways to deepen it further at their meeting.

FROM PAGE ONE India lends Ukraine a shoulder

FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

message of peace. I had told President Putin on his face that this is not the era of war. I told him last month that solutions can't be found on the battlefield."

"I want to assure you that India is ready to play an active role in any effort towards peace. If I can play any role in this personally, I will do that. I want to assure you as a friend," he said, adding that he hoped to see the "rising sun of peace". Departing from Kyiv, Modi, in a post on X, said, "My visit to Ukraine was historic. I came to this great nation with the aim of deepening India-Ukraine friendship. I had productive talks with President Zelenskyy. India firmly believes that peace must always prevail. I thank the Government and people of Ukraine for their hospitality."

Zelenskyy said, "Today, history was made. The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, made his first visit to Ukraine since our country's independence, on the eve of our Independence Day."

"India supports Ukraine's national sovereignty and territorial integrity. And this is critical because everyone in the world must equally respect the UN Charter."

A joint statement, in a section titled "Ensuring a Comprehensive, Just, and Lasting Peace", said Modi and Zelenskyy "reiterated their readiness for further cooperation in upholding principles of international law, including the UN Charter, such as respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty of states. They agreed on the desirability of closer bilateral dialogue in this regard."

It said "Prime Minister Modi reiterated the need for sincere and practical engagement between all stakeholders to

develop innovative solutions that will have broad acceptability and contribute towards early restoration of peace. He reiterated India's willingness to contribute in all possible ways".

Accompanied by Zelenskyy, Modi visited the multimedia Martyrologist Exposition on children at the National Museum of History of Ukraine in Kyiv.

Modi said it was "heartbreaking" to see that "innocent children are the first casualty in a war". He said "such incidents cannot be acceptable to any person who believes in human values and in any civilised society".

A statement from the Ministry of External Affairs said the PM was "deeply touched by the poignant exposition set up in memory of children who have lost their lives in the conflict. He expressed his sorrow at the tragic loss of young lives and as a mark of respect placed a toy in their memory". Zelenskyy said Modi and he "honoured the memory of the children whose lives were taken by Russian aggression. Children in every country deserve to live in safety. We must make this possible."

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, during a briefing on the discussions between the two leaders, said much of the conversation was about the conflict.

"I think there was a lot that we said which he (Zelenskyy) heard with a great deal of attention. He knows that we mean well by Ukraine. He knows that we are very keen that this conflict should come to an end. And essentially, what the message from our side to him is that if there is anything that we can do in any way, in sort of upfront or behind or support-

ing somebody... We are willing to do whatever we can, because we do think that the continuation of this conflict is terrible for Ukraine itself and for the world as well."

Jaishankar said Modi sought Zelenskyy's assessment of both the ground situation and the diplomatic scenario. In this context, without mentioning the inroads by the Ukrainian forces in the Kursk region of Russia, he said that "recent developments" were discussed. He said the discussions revolved around "the military situation", "concerns like food and energy" and most of all, on "conceivable pathways to peace and conflict resolution".

He said the Ukrainian side also clearly wants "continued involvement of India with the global peace summit... There was also a discussion about what could be effective ways of taking these discussions forward, not necessarily within the format of the summit. There are obviously multiple possibilities here, and multiple views about those possibilities."

"I want to emphasise that the Prime Minister and the President reiterated the readiness to further cooperation in upholding principles of international law, such as respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty of states," he said.

On India's energy trade with Russia, he said it came up during the discussions and it was explained to the Ukrainian side about the "tight energy market".

"India is a big oil consumer. It's a big oil importer because we don't produce oil. So, it's not like there is a political strategy to buy oil. There is an oil strategy to buy oil. There's a market strategy to buy oil... The fact that the market

is tight, that today big suppliers like Iran and Venezuela, who used to supply India, are constrained from operating freely in the markets... This factor needs to be taken into account," he said.

Responding to a question on Modi's embrace of Putin last month in Moscow, he said, "In our part of the world, when people meet people, they are given to embracing each other. It may not be part of your culture, but I assure you, it's part of ours. So in fact, today, I think I saw the Prime Minister also embrace President Zelenskyy, and I have seen him do it with a number of other leaders in a number of other places."

After the bilateral talks, Modi presented four BHISHM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita & Maitri) Cubes to the Government of Ukraine. Zelenskyy said, "Today, we reached an agreement on four documents between Ukraine and India, covering the medical field, agricultural cooperation, humanitarian relations, and culture. Following the visit, we also agreed on a joint statement focusing on the development of a strategic partnership, bilateral trade, and continued military-technical cooperation."

Four agreements were signed: a pact on Cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Food Industry; MoU on Cooperation in the field of Medical Products Regulation; MoU on Indian Humanitarian Grant Assistance for Implementation of High Impact Community Development Projects; and Programme for Cultural Cooperation for 2024-2028.

Modi also invited Zelenskyy to visit India as per his convenience.

Milestone for 3 new journeys

ride from Warsaw to Ukraine to engage Zelenskyy in a long and intense conversation on war and peace was an important moment in itself.

What Kyiv needed was not yet another peace plan but Modi's understanding of Ukraine's concerns about survival as a nation that did not get sufficient resonance in India and the so-called Global South.

Zelenskyy hopes that Modi's willingness to hear Ukraine's case and contribute to the peace efforts will help turn the political tide in the Global South that has stood apart from the war, despite its massive economic consequences.

Second, as the geopolitical consequences of the war in Ukraine unfold, Modi's visit to Kyiv is a signal that Delhi will no longer be a passive by-stander in a conflict that is reshaping the world. For five centuries, India was a passive adjunct to European wars. Modi's visit to Ukraine underlines India's determination to actively shape the major European and global war of our time.

India is not the only Asian power trying to alter the European balance of power. That the Chinese Prime Minister Li Qiang was winding up his visit in Moscow when Modi was travelling from Warsaw to Kyiv is a reminder of China's growing role in shaping the contours of the war in Ukraine. Ukraine is not only about renewed contest between Russia and the West but also about the role of Delhi and Beijing in Europe.

As Modi arrived in Kyiv, Kamala Harris, in a thundering speech accepting the nomination of the Democratic Party to be the next President of the United States, declared her deep commitment to defend Ukraine and strengthen NATO.

The enthusiastic reception to Harris's candidacy and her strong

stance on Ukraine will test the widespread assessment that the US is a "weary titan" waiting to retreat from Europe. The Republican idea of pivoting away from Europe is now being challenged by Democrats. The outcome of that debate will have major consequences for India's security policy.

If the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in Washington this week underlines India's expanding strategic ties with the US, Modi's engagement with President Vladimir Putin and Zelenskyy in quick succession underline India's determination to protect its interests amidst the tremors from the reordering of great power relations.

Finally, Modi's visit is also about re-establishing the lost bonds between India and Ukraine. Although India had privileged access to Ukraine in the Soviet era, Kyiv did not inherit its share of India's political affections for the USSR.

The extraordinary goodwill for India in Ukraine was reflected in the warm welcome extended to Modi in Kyiv. The commitment by Modi and Zelenskyy to elevate their relationship into a "strategic partnership", reboot their economic and defence ties, and revitalise their cultural ties marks the end of the prolonged neglect of India's ties with Ukraine.

Above all, Modi's visit should help bring greater nuance and sophistication to India's debate on the war in Ukraine that has been subject too long to political prejudice and ignorance about Central European history.

(C. Raja Mohan is a visiting research professor at the Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore and a contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express)

27 pilgrims die in Nepal mishap

a post on X said: "Remaining 16 passengers have been airlifted to Kathmandu for further treatment at TU (Tribhuvan University) Teaching Hospital. Embassy mourns the loss of lives & prays for early recovery of the injured."

Security personnel engaged in the search and rescue operation said 19 people died on the spot. Three more were declared dead in a nearby hospital. Two bodies were extricated by divers from inside the bus.

The passengers were from Bhusawal tehsil of Maharashtra's Jalgaon district. They were among 80 people from four villages — Varangaon, Talvel, Aachegaon and Pimpalgaon — who had left on a pilgrimage to Ayodhya, Prayagraj and Nepal on August 16 and were scheduled to return on August 28.

Sunil Kale, a villager from Varangaon, told The Indian Express, "A total of 80 people from these villages had gone on a pilgrimage in two different buses. There were 41 people in the bus that met with the accident."

Sources said the pilgrims reached Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh from where they hired two buses to reach Pokhara on Wednesday. After two days' stay in the resort town, they left for Kathmandu, around 200 km away, Friday morning. On the way, around noon, one of the buses met with the accident.

Samadhan Chaudhary, another villager, said that among the dead were two former corporators of Varangaon — Sudhakar Gawade and his wife Rohini — and five of their relatives.

"I spoke to Sudhakar on Thursday. They told me that it was raining heavily in Nepal. He had called to wish me on my birthday and they all were very happy. And suddenly we got to know about this news. It is shocking for all of us," said Chaudhary.

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis expressed condolences over the incident. Shinde spoke to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and senior officials about bringing home the bodies of the dead. According to a statement released by the CMO, Shah told Shinde that a special officer has been appointed for coordination and a special IAF aircraft will be provided to bring the bodies back.

"The bodies will be brought from Nepal to Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh. From there they will be brought to Nashik by Air Force aircraft. After that, the bodies will be handed over to the families," the statement said.

"We are also coordinating with the Uttar Pradesh government and Nepalese authorities to repatriate the bodies of the deceased back to Maharashtra," Fadnavis said in a post on X.

CBI gets Delhi L-G's sanction to prosecute CM

Secretariat on July 28 for sanction to prosecute the Chief Minister under Section 19 of the Prevention of Corruption Act. The sanction was granted this month.

Kejriwal has been named as an accused in chargesheets filed by both CBI and ED in cases related to the excise policy which has since been scrapped.

The probe agencies have claimed that the CM was "directly involved in the formulation" of the excise policy which was drafted "considering the favours to be granted to the 'South Group' which secured uninhibited access, undue favours, attained stakes in established wholesale businesses, and multiple retail zones (over and above what was allowed in the policy)".

While Kejriwal was granted bail by the Supreme Court in the ED's alleged money laundering case, he remains in judicial custody in the CBI case.

SEBI imposes ₹25 cr penalty on Anil Ambani

The regulator's investigation uncovered that significant funds were misused under the leadership of Anil Ambani and other key figures associated with the company. It concluded that these entities were involved in siphoning off money, leading to a violation of the securities laws and a breach of investor trust.

"Investigation in the matter has concluded that the Noticees were involved in perpetrating a fraudulent scheme by disbursing general purpose working capital (GWC) loans resulting in erosion of the company's finances due to such loans eventually being declared NPA," the order signed by SEBI Whole Time Member Ananth Narayan G said.

According to the SEBI, the findings have established the existence of a fraudulent scheme, orchestrated by Noticee No. 2 (Anil Ambani) and administered by the KMPs of RHFL, to siphon off funds from the public listed company (RHFL) by structuring them as 'loans' to credit unworthy conduit borrowers, and in turn, to onward borrowers, all of whom have been found to be 'promoter linked entities' — entities associated or linked with Noticee No. 2 (Anil Ambani).

In a detailed order, SEBI outlined the involvement of each entity and the specific roles they played in the diversion of funds.

According to SEBI's investigation, the scheme was administered by Key Managerial Personnel (KMPs) of RHFL, who structured loans to credit unworthy conduits and onward borrowers. These borrowers were closely linked to the promoters, raising serious concerns about the misuse of company funds.

The fraudulent loans, which were disbursed as general-purpose working capital loans, led to a significant erosion of RHFL's finances, SEBI said. "Most of the GPCCL borrowers' accounts turned into NPAs and as a consequence of the same, RHFL defaulted in its payment obligations towards its lenders which has culminated in its Resolution under RBI Framework. As a result, the company's public shareholders have been left high and dry," the order said.

"It is apparent that noticees 3 to 5, KMPs of the company, played an active role in perpetrating the

fraudulent scheme," the order said. While Noticee No. 2 was not a director in RHFL, he has used his position as 'Chairperson of the ADA group' and his significant indirect shareholding in the holding company of RHFL to orchestrate the fraud thereby not just adversely affecting RHFL's stakeholders but also the confidence in the integrity of governance structures in regulated financial sector entities, the order said.

"As per material available on record, subsequently, the entire outstanding of the GPCL lending of INR 6931.31 crore as on September 30, 2021 has been classified as NPA. RHFL has disclosed that GPCLs were secured against tangible and intangible assets," SEBI said. "However, as observed earlier... dealing with diversion of funds, the said GPC Loans were secured against current assets of borrowers which were negligible. It transpires now that all the GPC Loan borrowers covered in this order, and the entities they appeared to transfer or forward the funds to, were all connected to the promoter group in some form or another," it said.

it increasingly difficult to pay the players' salaries, NEROCA FC has had to transfer out several of its players. While Mohammad Sarif Khan, 24, who joined the club in 2023, has been transferred to KFA Southern Samity club in Kolkata, goalkeeper Jackson has been moved to Kickstart FC in Bengaluru. "These transfers may eventually be made permanent if our finances continue to remain precarious," says Rojit Meitei, office secretary with NEROCA FC.

Due to the violence in Manipur, home base matches in the 2023-24 football season were shifted from the state to Kolkata and Shillong. Instead of the "usual 30,000 fans cheering us on back home", Sarif and David say there would be hardly 50 fans in the stands in Kolkata and Shillong.

The absence of fans in the stands affected their morale during the matches, they add. The shift of base, says the NEROCA FC secretary, also meant additional costs for the club. "At our home base, we have fixed support staff and infrastructure, with the clubhouse having food and accommodation facilities. However, playing in Kolkata and Shillong meant an increase in travel, accommodation and food costs, as well as no support staff. There was no cook and the players had to cook for themselves. There were days when they would just skip meals." None of the teams from Manipur played in the 2023 Durand Cup tournament. This, NEROCA FC claims, is a testament to yet another impact of the ethnic strife.

Manipur strife hits football dreams

football tournaments after his house and football turf was completely burnt and vandalised by armed miscreants. This extreme violence faced by a peer of the football players in the Petitioner Club played havoc on the minds of the players and officials of the Petitioner Club, putting immense mental pressure on them."

There were concerns over the safety of players too. "Fearing for the safety of its players, the club let go of seven to eight Kuki players," a club official says.

Submitting before the Delhi High Court that the AIFC "should have taken a pragmatic and proportionate view of the matter and should have allowed the Petitioner's request against the

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In Brij Bhushan case, wrestler deposes before court

NIRBHAY THAKUR
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

ONE OF the four women wrestlers who have accused former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh of sexual harassment deposed before a Delhi court in a vulnerable witness deposition centre on Friday.

The trial in the case began in July, over a year after a chargesheet

was filed against Singh. Charges have been framed against the former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president under IPC sections 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty) and 354A (sexual harassment).

Following a thirty-minute exchange between advocate Rajiv Mohan, representing Bhushan, assisted by advocates Rishabh Bhati and Rehan Khan,

and the counsel of the wrestlers, Mohan said that he wished to cross-examine the wrestler — complainant number 4 — in person and not through video conference.

Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Priyanka Rajpoot of Rouse Avenue Court finally said that the victim will be heard in the vulnerable witness deposition room and the face of the accused won't be visible to her.

Currently, the chief examination (examination of the wrestler by the Public Prosecutor) is being done in the vulnerable witness deposition room. Meanwhile, a day after the female wrestlers informed the court that their security had been withdrawn on the eve of their appearance for proceedings, Delhi Police submitted that a "miscommunication" at the root of the episode has now been rectified.

High Court orders merger of school IDs in bid to 'serve larger goal of RTE Act'

SOHINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

"THERE ARE no poor or rich dreams nor are there poor or rich talents," said the Delhi High Court on Friday as it ordered the merger of identification numbers (or IDs) of different wings of the same schools to ensure a seamless transition and dignity of students of economically weaker section and disadvantaged group (EWS/DG). Stressing that the order aims to "serve and achieve the larger goal of the Right to Education (RTE) Act", the High Court also issued a slew of guidelines to be followed for admission under the Act. The appointment of nodal officers at all the schools to oversee the admissions is included in the guidelines.

The verdict by the court of Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma came over a bunch of petitions by parents of several minor children who were admitted to the junior wing of Holy Innocents Public School under the EWS/DG category. They were subsequently denied admission to the senior wing of the same school despite being promoted to class 1 because of different IDs of the two wings assigned to them by the Department of Education (DoE). The different IDs were issued on account of the two wings being located separately — one in Janakpuri and another in Vikaspuri — even as the two wings are run by the same trust. The DoE has now agreed to merge the two IDs.

Observing that this is a recurrent issue faced by EWS/DG students in the city, the High Court directed that the different identification numbers, assigned to the junior and senior wings of the same schools that are run by the same educational societies in Delhi, "be merged into a single ID by the DoE." The court said that the process of merging be completed within eight weeks of the passing of the judgment and a compliance report be filed by the DoE after eight weeks. "In this court's opinion," the HC said, "seamless transition from one class to another is important in ensuring that the dignity of the children and their parents is not compromised."



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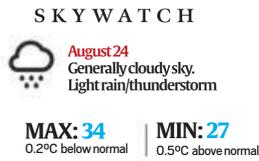
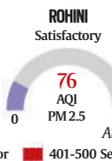
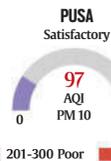
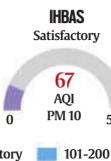
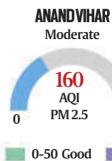
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HC comes to rescue of 6 DU aspirants, asks St Stephen's to grant them provisional admission

SOHINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

THE DELHI High Court Friday came to the rescue of six aspirants of St Stephen's College who cleared CUET and were provisionally allocated seats to the courses in the college but were left in a limbo with the college and Delhi University being at loggerheads over the policy.

Observing that the petitioners "are being kept under suspense regarding the fate of their admission", the court of Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma ruled that the petitioners will be granted provisional admission in the college as per DU's allocation.

The students had moved the HC, complaining that while they were provisionally allocated B A (Hons.) Economics at St Stephen's College, the college neither approved their candidature nor gave admission to them. As a result, the students have been unable to pay fees as well, they argued.

However, according to the college, DU allocated 19 candidates for the BA programme instead of three candidates who could have been accommodated "as per the settled policy." The college, in this regard, has "already lodged its protest by writing a letter to the university," St Stephen's College submitted before the court.

DU, on the other hand, informed the court that it will file a detailed reply in this regard and alleged that the college is "raising frivolous objections, and it is duty bound to comply with the allocation list issued by the University."

The court, meanwhile, directed: "Further, also keeping in mind the fact that in case the petitioners do not succeed in this petition, they may lose the prospects of securing admission in the second preference for a college...this Court orders that...University of Delhi will open its portal for depositing fee, only for the petitioners herein, tomorrow (Saturday) morning between 10.00am and 4.00pm." The court clarified that this is an interim arrangement "to ensure that the petitioners do not lose their chance of securing admission in another college..."

AGENCY CLAIMS IT HAS SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE

CBI to SC: Decisions on excise policy taken at CM's behest

ANANTHAKRISHNANG
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

ACCUSING DELHI Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal of trying to "politically sensationalise" the excise policy case in which he is accused, the CBI has told the Supreme Court that all critical decisions in the formulation of the policy were taken at his behest, adding there is substantial evidence pointing to his involvement.

In its counter affidavit filed in the top court in response to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader's plea for bail in the CBI case registered under the Prevention of Corruption Act, the probe agency said "the Petitioner does not hold any Ministerial portfolio, including that of Excise. However, it emerged over a period of time that all the critical decisions in the formulation of the new Excise Policy were taken at the behest of the Petitioner, in connivance with the then Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Excise Manish Sisodia".

It said that Kejriwal "was ini-



Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal

tially asked to join investigation under Section 160 CrPc being understood as one of the persons acquainted with the facts of the case. However, there was certain material which pointed a needle of suspicion towards him".

The agency further said, "As the investigation progressed, it started becoming clear that the Petitioner has a pivotal role in the formulation of the new Excise Policy. Therefore, permission under Section 17-A PC Act was sought to investigate against the Petitioner. Such permission was obtained only on 23.04.2024. During this period, the investiga-

tion against other accused and the offence as such was being done and the material was collected. The material was pieced together and the role of the Petitioner emerged..."

The affidavit stated that "...Kejriwal is simply attempting to politically sensationalise the case before this court, despite repeated orders passed by various courts being satisfied with the commission of the offences, and for which cognisance has already been taken. Such unwarranted averments are liable to be discarded and the CBI is restricting its reply only to the issues relevant for the adjudication of the case herein".

The agency claimed that "Kejriwal deliberately caused the manipulation of the excise policy 2021-22 and enhanced the profit margin of wholesalers from 5 per cent to 12 per cent without any rationale, in view of the illegal gratification of Rs 100 crore from the South Group and to meet the election-related expenses of AAP at Goa (during 2022 Assembly polls)".

It added that when "exam-

ined/interrogated in Tihar Jail...he remained evasive and non-cooperative..."

Kejriwal had approached the SC with separate petitions challenging the Delhi High Court order upholding his arrest and rejecting his bail.

The counter affidavit was filed by the CBI in one of the two cases.

On Friday, his bail plea came up before a bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan when Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, appearing for the CBI, urged the bench to grant more time to file counter affidavit in the other petition too.

When the court pointed out that the counter had not come on record before it, senior advocate A M Singhvi, appearing for Kejriwal, said it was filed late Thursday night so that it does not come on record Friday and the agency can seek more time. He accused the agency of deliberate delay. The bench granted the CBI a week's time to file its response and another two days to Singhvi to file a rejoinder to the counter affidavit and fixed it for hearing next on September 5.

Pension for 1 lakh elderly people released, says Atishi; BJP claims its protest prompted the move

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

PENSIONS OF around one lakh elderly people, withheld for the past five months, have now been resumed, Delhi Finance Minister Atishi said on Friday as she targeted the BJP-led central government over the delay.

"Despite being behind bars, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal secured the release of pensions for one lakh elderly Delhi residents, which had been withheld by the BJP-led central government for five months," Atishi said. However, the Delhi unit of the BJP shot back at the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) by leading protests outside the Social Welfare Department while alleging the Delhi government's failure to provide pensions to widows and the elderly. The release of pensions, the Delhi BJP claimed, came followed its protest.

The Capital has a total of four lakh pensioners, with a portion of their pensions funded by the central government, according to officials. The Delhi government provides per pensioner Rs 2,200 every month, with the central government contributing an additional Rs 300.

The affected pensioners, many of whom come from poor families and have no other fi-



Despite being behind bars, CM Kejriwal secured the release of pensions, said Atishi on Friday. Express

nancial means, were severely distressed, claimed Atishi. "These elderly people used to come to me often. They used to go to our different MLAs. These one lakh elderly people of Delhi were very upset for the last five months," she added.

The pensions, which had been halted in April, have now been reinstated and are being credited to the recipients' accounts by Delhi's Social Welfare Department as of Friday. "As of yesterday, about 90,000 pensions have been transferred, and the remaining 10,000 pensions will be credited into the bank accounts of Delhi's elderly today," Atishi said.

"I want to promise the elderly people of Delhi that even if

their son Arvind Kejriwal is in jail, he will not stop fighting for their rights," Atishi said.

Accusing the BJP of deliberately causing hardship for Delhi's citizens, she added, "The BJP has only one work — to harass the people of Delhi, to stop their work, and in this series, the pension of the elderly was stopped. But I promise the people of Delhi on behalf of the Arvind Kejriwal government that no matter how much we have to fight, we will keep getting the work of the people of Delhi done."

Meanwhile, Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva led a protest outside the Department of Social Welfare office in Lajpat Nagar over the AAP's alleged failure to provide old age and widow pensions so far. "Any government's primary duty is to provide social pensions to the elderly and widows promptly, but the...Kejriwal government, with its double standards, has stopped these pensions for the last five months," Sachdeva alleged.

"After stopping pensions for the last five months, when BJP has taken to the streets, AAP minister Atishi has announced through a press conference that the elderly's pensions will be issued from today. Ms. Atishi's statement is a victory for the BJP," he added.



WATERLOGGED, AND STRANDED

Commuters wait under a flyover following waterlogging at Dhaula Kuan after rainfall in New Delhi on Friday. Praveen Khanna

Health Minister, L-G spar over recruitments, infra at govt hospitals

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

DELHI HEALTH Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj and Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Friday locked horns yet again over recruitment and infrastructure issues at the government hospitals in Delhi.

While Bharadwaj alleged that the L-G's office and the Services Department failed to create vacancies and recruit doctors and specialists, officials at the L-G Secretariat made counterclaims. "The work that comes under the Delhi government is being done by the Delhi government, such as building hospitals. Meanwhile, the appointment of doctors in those hospitals is the work of L-G Saab's 'Services' Department...we are fighting in the court to give us the 'Services' department," Bharadwaj said.

Anticipating the need for 80,000 hospital beds due to Covid in 2020, the Health Minister said, the Delhi government began constructing facilities to house 14,000 additional beds as he challenged Saxena to discuss issues around



L-G VK Saxena, Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj

the city's health infrastructure publicly.

L-G House officials accused Bharadwaj of "misleading" the people, alleging that the Health Department and his predecessors had never created around 37,000 posts or asked the Services Department to make recruitments despite having sanctioned the construction of hospitals in 2019.

"The posts are created by the Department concerned in consultation with the AR Department, Planning Department & Finance Department. All these are transferred subjects under the AAP Government. After creation, they are sent to the Services Department for filling up. Even the first step has not been taken till now," officials alleged.

WEEKS AFTER SC ALDERMAN VERDICT

Hold poll for Standing Committee, Mayor tells Municipal Secretary

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

DELHI MAYOR Shelly Oberoi on Friday directed Municipal Secretary Siva Prasad KV to initiate the election process for the Standing Committee. The election has been pending for over one and a half years.

The direction follows the Supreme Court's August 5 ruling, which underlined that the Lieutenant Governor (L-G) of Delhi could nominate MCD (Municipal Corporation of Delhi) aldermen without consulting the Delhi government.

In her directive, Oberoi stated, "You are now directed to start the election process for the election of chairmen, deputy chairmen of the Wards Committee, and one member to the Standing Committee from the Wards Committee..."

In each of MCD's 12 zones, all elected councillors are part of a ward committee. Each ward committee is led by a chairman who acts as a "mini-mayor" at the zonal level.

"The chairman of the ward committee generally holds



At present, Shelly Oberoi is the Mayor while Aaley Mohammad Iqbal is the Deputy Mayor of MCD. Archive

weekly meetings, exercising similar powers to those of the mayor in MCD's monthly house assembly where all zonal officers are present," an MCD official said.

Congress councillor Ariba Khan from Abul Fazal Enclave said, "At the zonal level, we can raise issues, pose questions, and get direct responses from zonal officers. Without the ward committee, we had to run to the deputy commissioner for every

No bail for co-owners of building where 3 civil service aspirants died

NIRBHAY THAKUR
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

A DELHI court on Friday denied bail to the four co-owners of a building in Delhi's Old Rajinder Nagar where three civil services aspirants had died by drowning last month.

"...the investigation is at a very nascent stage, I am, therefore, not enlarging them on bail," said Principal District and Sessions Judge Anju Bajaj Chandna of Rouse Avenue Court.

The court took note of the fact that just one month before the incident, Kishore Singh Kushwaha, a resident of Karol Bagh, had brought to the knowledge of the authorities that Rau's IAS was conducting classes in the basement of the building without permission.

"It is painful to note that authorities kept sitting on the said complaint and did not take prompt action, otherwise precious lives could have been saved," the judge said.

3 DEATHS IN 24 HOURS
Teenager drowns while playing on waterlogged road, two electrocuted

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

A 15-YEAR-OLD boy drowned to death in Chanakyapuri in Delhi on Friday when he went out to play with his friends on a waterlogged road near his house in Vivekanand Camp, said police.

Sourabh was playing on San Martin Marg with a group of friends from his locality. The water, however, was flowing rapidly and dragged the 15-year-old away from his friends in a matter of seconds, said officials. His friends managed to pull him out of the water. He was taken to a nearby

hospital where he was declared dead.

A few kilometres away, in Ranjit Nagar, a woman was electrocuted to death while she was on her way home. Seema (40) was navigating the waterlogged street in front of her house when the incident occurred.

On Thursday, a man from Outer Delhi's Kirari in Prem Nagar was electrocuted when water on the street entered his house. Sanjay (40) was found unconscious at his home and was taken to a nearby hospital where he was declared dead. Initial investigation revealed that the man had died due to electrocution.

Waterlogging triggers fresh blame game between AAP, BJP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

POLITICAL SPARRING and blame game intensified on Friday over incidents of waterlogging and electrocution as the AAP, BJP, and Congress pointed fingers at each other.

The primary reason for the waterlogging, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva alleged, was the "corruption" of its former water ministers — Saurabh Bharadwaj and Satyendar Jain.

"The entire city is struggling with waterlogging, with places like Kirari, Sangam Vihar, and Burari permanently waterlogged...yet (Delhi Jal) Board officials are unable to issue any orders for repairs

or major cleaning work... Water Minister Atishi has been busy blaming officials instead of taking action," Sachdeva alleged.

"On June 5, 2020, Jain, and then on July 21, 2023, former water minister Bharadwaj issued orders that no official could issue a work order worth even Rs 100 without the approval of the departmental minister — that is the DJB Chairman. This led to a complete breakdown in the maintenance services," he claimed, demanding Bharadwaj's resignation.

The AAP said these were administrative orders that were changed from time to time and that the sewage problem in the Capital stems from an "artificially created financial crisis" in the DJB "orchestrated by the L-G and BJP-

controlled officers."

"Despite the Delhi government allocating 9.5% of the budget to the DJB, the agency remains starved of funds. This is due to files endlessly shuttling between the DJB, Urban Development Department, and Finance Department, leading to the ongoing crisis. The BJP through its L-G and bureaucracy has turned Delhi into a living hell," the AAP alleged.

On the other hand, Delhi Congress president Devender Yadav alleged that the civic infrastructure in the Capital was in a dilapidated state.

The AAP had come to power by giving a "false hope" of improving civic services in the city even as nothing had been done to set this right, he added.

HC orders Khao Gali Restaurants to pay over Rs 35 cr to Pernod Ricard India; both figure in ED's excise case

SOHINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

IN A matter involving two firms named as accused in the excise policy case, the Delhi High Court on Friday ordered Khao Gali Restaurants Pvt Ltd to pay over Rs 35.88 crore to Pernod Ricard India, along with an interest of 9% per year, from the date of the payment made by the alcohol beverage company till the date of the institution of the suit. The High Court was hearing a suit for recovery filed by Pernod Ricard India.

As per the suit, to increase its market share, Pernod Ricard India had extended financial assistance to Khao Gali Restaurants Pvt Ltd to bid for the Delhi excise policy 2021-22. The assistance was in the

form of a corporate guarantee in favour of an HSBC branch from where Khao Gali Restaurants availed a loan to the tune of around Rs 50 crore in April 2022.

Khao Gali Restaurants, however, defaulted on the repayment of the loan availed and the bank branch had then auto-debited the outstanding amount from Pernod Ricard India by invoking the corporate guarantee that the latter had issued. In January 2023, Pernod Ricard India demanded the amount from Khao Gali Restaurants Pvt Ltd, which the latter did not pay, leading to the recovery suit.

Notably, the Enforcement Directorate (ED), in its complaint pertaining to money laundering in the alleged scam, claimed that the loan amounts and the costs in-

Khao Gali Restaurants had defaulted on loan repayment and the bank had auto-debited the amount from Pernod Ricard India

curring by Pernod Ricard India in facilitating the issuance of the corporate guarantee are "proceeds of crime" under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The court of Justice Jasmeet Singh held that upon default by Khao Gali Restaurants, Pernod Ricard India, is "entitled to recover the debited amount" from Khao Gali Restaurants, and also

recorded that Khao Gali Restaurants did not challenge or file a suit seeking a declaration of the corporate guarantee invoked by the bank for repayment of dues as void.

Reasoning on Khao Gali Restaurants' argument that criminal proceedings against both companies are pending before the special court and the corporate guarantee has been alleged to be "proceeds of crime" by the ED, Justice Singh held, "Both the proceedings i.e. civil and criminal proceedings, are to be decided on the basis of evidence produced therein. In civil proceedings, the suits are decided on the basis of balance of convenience and in criminal proceedings, the burden of proof lies on the prosecution."

Sameer Mahendru, who runs

M/s Indospirit Group and Khao Gali Restaurants, also an accused in the excise policy case, has been called as the 'kingpin'. Mahendru had a 35% partnership stake in Indospirit LLP, which got a wholesale L1 licence and also obtained two retail zone licences under the name of Khao Gali restaurants which is under the name of his father-in-law "but (he) used to take all financial decisions in Khao Gali" and was the beneficial owner of the company, ED has alleged.

The ED in its first chargesheet filed in the case of alleged money laundering in the now scrapped policy had named Mahendru and three firms where he holds stake, including Khao Gali Restaurants Pvt Ltd. The second chargesheet in the case had named 12 accused, including Pernod Ricard.



KANNADA CONFIDENCE

CONGRESS GENERAL secretary in-charge for Karnataka Randeep Surjewala shared a light-hearted moment with journalists after a press briefing at the AICC headquarters on Friday. Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar were also present at the briefing and some journalists from the state insisted that they address the media in Kannada after their statements in English. Surjewala immediately said he too is fluent in Kannada and can answer their questions in the language. He even challenged a journalist to ask a question in Kannada, leaving the crowd in splits. Whether Surjewala, who hails from Haryana, knows the language or not remains a mystery.

MISSING IN ACTION

CONGRESS'S PARLIAMENTARY party chairperson Sonia Gandhi did not attend the party's Central Election Committee meeting on Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections on Friday. Some leaders at the party headquarters said this was perhaps the first time she didn't attend the CEC meeting in a long time. A source said the party has finalised four names for the elections and is likely to make the announcement soon.

SPECIAL SCREENING

IN A unique initiative, the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities organised a special screening of actor Rajkumar Rao-starrer Srikanth in sign language at a theatre in Delhi. The screening was attended by students with hearing impairments, officials from the department and the film's director, Tushar Hiranandani. The movie is based on Srikanth Bolla, a visually impaired industrialist.

Leading people astray knowingly is against dharma, says Dhankhar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE AHMEDABAD, AUGUST 22

VICE-PRESIDENT JAGDEEP Dhankhar said on Friday that it is against dharma when "informed minds knowingly" lead people astray for political mileage and compromise on national interest.

Maintaining that "it is a serious challenge to society", Dhankhar said, "It is antithetical to dharma when informed minds knowingly seek to lead people astray for political mileage or subvert personal interest, compromising national interest... They use iconic status to lead people astray. In such situations, this is no less than the sacrilege of dharma."

"Tolerance of such forces will not be an act of dharma. It demands we neutralise such force that belittle it, tarnish our institutions and run down our nationalism... No words are sufficient to condemn such actions that are adharma. We need to counsel such souls and neutralise such tendencies," he added.

Congress leader Salman Khurshid had recently said that what is happening in Bangladesh can happen in India though "everything may look normal on the surface".

Dhankhar was speaking at the inauguration of the 8th international conference on Dharma-Dhamma traditions organised by India Foundation and Gujarat University in Ahmedabad.

Vinesh Phogat meets Hoodas, fuels speculation of joining Congress

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 23

WRESTLER VINESH Phogat Friday met former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda at his residence in New Delhi amid speculation that she may join the Congress and contest the October 1 Vidhan Sabha elections. While Vinesh did not say anything, Hooda said whoever comes to Congress, "we welcome them".

"An athlete does not belong to any particular party or state. An athlete belongs to the entire nation. She belongs to the entire nation. It is her choice whether she joins any party or not. Whoever comes to Congress party, we always welcome him or her. It is her decision what she wants to do," said Hooda.

Hooda's son and Rohtak MP Deepender Hooda said, "Had a family meeting with the daughter of the country, pride of Haryana, our sister Vinesh Phogat and her husband Somveer Rathi".

Rohtak MP's wife Sweta and



Wrestler Vinesh Phogat, her husband Somveer Rathi with the Hooda family in New Delhi, Friday. Express

mother Asha were also present.

Deepender was the first political leader to reach IGI Airport in Delhi on August 17 to accord a rousing welcome to Vinesh when she returned from the Paris Olympics after being disqualified just ahead of her Gold medal bout in the 50-kg final match on August 8. Vinesh was disqualified after being found

overweight by 100 grams on August 8. Her appeal against her disqualification was rejected by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). Vinesh had by then announced retirement from wrestling.

As she reached India, Deepender had felicitated the wrestler with a 'Hanuman Gada', a symbol of victory, and had for

the citizens of the country, she was an Olympic gold medalist. He also travelled some distance in an open vehicle with Vinesh as she headed towards her native village in Haryana's Charki Dabri. The Congress leader had extended support to the agitation led by Vinesh and other wrestlers, mostly from Haryana, against the then Wrestling Federation of India chief and BJP leader Brijbhushan Sharan Singh over allegations of sexual harassment.

Asked by reporters in Delhi if the Congress has approached Vinesh to contest the Haryana assembly polls, Congress's Haryana affairs in-charge, Deepak Babaria, said, "If any of our leaders have approached her, I do not know. But if she wants to fight, she will be welcome... If she wants to contest, certainly we will accommodate her."

Hooda, who is also the Leader of the Opposition in the Haryana Vidhan Sabha, had earlier said that his party would have nominated Vinesh to Rajya Sabha if they had required numbers, something that he reiterated after meeting the wrestler.

Subhadra Yojana: ₹ 10k per annum for 5 years to 1 cr women in Odisha

SUJIT BISOI BHUBANESWAR, AUGUST 23

OVER 1 crore women, aged between 21 and 60 years, in Odisha will receive ₹10,000 annually under the Subhadra Yojana of the BJP-led government in the state.

Calling it a "pathbreaking" initiative for women empowerment in Odisha, CM Mohan Charan Majhi on Friday announced the standard operating procedure (SOP) for the scheme, which is set to be launched on the occasion of PM Modi's birthday — on September 17. According to BJP insiders, women's support helped the party to increase vote share from 32.8% in 2019 to 40.07% in the latest Assembly polls.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER (MSME)

ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POST OF DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER AT MSME TECHNOLOGY CENTRE ROHTAK, DURG & GREATER NOIDA

Office of Development Commissioner (MSME), Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India invites application from suitably qualified, result oriented and dedicated Indian Citizens for filling up the post of Deputy General Manager(s) in the Pay Level - 13 (Rs. 123100-Rs. 215900) as per 7th CPC at MSME-TC, Rohtak & Durg (For General Engineering Sector) and MSME-TC, Greater Noida (For ESDM Sector) on contract basis initially for a period of 5 years with further extension based on review of performance, till superannuation.

For other details regarding essential qualification, desired qualification, required experience, job description, application proforma etc, please visit <http://www.dcmsme.gov.in>, www.msme.rohtak.org, www.msme.durg.org and www.msme.greaternoida.org. The complete application (in the prescribed format) should reach by speed post/registered post only to the Joint Development Commissioner (TCSP), O/o DC(MSME), Room No. 738-B, 7th Floor, A-Wing, Nirman Bhawan, Maulana Azad Road, New Delhi 110011 on or before 24.09.2024 by 5:30 PM. Separate application should be sent for separate post/location (The envelope containing the application must be superscribed with the vacancy of respective post(s)/location(s) applied for.....).

CBC 25113/12/0050/2425

First-time offenders to get retrospective benefit of BNSS Section 479

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

THE SUPREME Court Friday said that first-time offenders who have completed one-third or more of their maximum possible sentence as undertrials shall be entitled to bail under Section 479 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).

While BNSS, which replaced the Criminal Procedure Code, took effect on July 1, 2024, Friday's order would mean that the benefit of Section 479 would apply to cases even prior to that date.

The Centre has also backed the retrospective application. The order came from a bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Sandeep Mehta while hearing a PIL regarding overcrowding of prisons in the country.

The bench asked jail superintendents to process applications of those eligible through courts at the earliest, preferably within three months. As per BNSS, undertrials would be entitled to bail if they have completed half of the

maximum sentence — prescribed for the offence they are charged with — in detention either during the period of investigation, inquiry or trial. For first time offenders, it says that those who have completed one-third of the maximum sentence prescribed under the law for the offence, can be released on bail. The beneficial provision does not apply to offences where the punishment is life imprisonment or death.

Senior Advocate Gaurav Aggarwal who was amicus curiae in the case had suggested that applying the provision retrospectively will go a long way in addressing overcrowding in prisons.

Accordingly, the bench sought the Centre's view.

Stating the Centre's position on Friday, Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati said, "I am happy to report that Union of India is also of the view that the provisions has to be given full effect to... It has to apply to any undertrial who has completed up to one-third of the imprisonment and must be considered accordingly."

NATIONAL FERTILIZERS LIMITED
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
A-11, Sector -24, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. - 201301

Date: 24.08.2024

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

National Fertilizers Limited intends to invite Expression of Interest (EOI) for Pre-qualification of LSTK bidders with respect to setting up 1500 KWp Roof Top Grid connected Solar PV Power Plant at NFL Panipat in Haryana. The mode of tendering is e-tender (Tender ID: 2024_NFL_205790_1). For eligibility criteria & other details please visit <https://etenders.gov.in/e procure/app> or our website: www.nationalfertilizers.com. Last date for submission of online bids is 16.09.2024 up to 03:00 PM. Corrigendum / Addendum (if any) will be displayed on our website only. General Manager (Projects)-I/c

Government of India
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
(Department of Health Research)

Department of Health Research invites application from eligible and suitable officers for filling up of two posts each of Scientist D and E on Deputation (including short-term contract) basis. The last date for submission of application is 24th October 2024. Details of post, eligibility conditions, etc. for the post of Scientist D and E are available on the website of Department of Health Research- <https://dhr.gov.in/vacancies>.

Sd/-
Rajeev Saxena
Under Secretary

A.12025/02/2022-HR
CBC-17301/11/0006/2425

बाइरैक
BIRAC
BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY RESEARCH ASSISTANCE COUNCIL (BIRAC)
(A Government of India Enterprise)

Invites Applications for the below Post
DIRECTOR (OPERATIONS)

Last date for receipt of applications/nominations in Department of Biotechnology is 30 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in the Employment News for local candidates and 45 days for the candidates residing abroad, Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep Island, States/ Union Territories in the North-Eastern region, Ladakh region of J & K, Sikkim, sub division Chamba and Lahaul and Spiti districts of Himachal Pradesh.

For more information, please log on to website www.dbtindia.gov.in or www.birac.nic.in

CBC-36302/11/0001/2425

NOTICE

Notice u/s 82 of CrPC against **Anthony Akolo @ Tony** by the ASJ/ Special Judge (NDPS) Act, South District, New Delhi, in relation to SC. No.6571/2016

DATE OF ORDER	05.07.2024	NAME OF PROCESS SERVER
DATE OF FILING OF PF		
DATE OF ISSUE	09.07.2024	NUMBER OF PROCESS
NO OF DOCUMENTS ANNEXED		
NEXT DATE OF HEARING	05.09.2024	DATE OF RETURN

SC. No.6571/2016
PS
U/S 22/23/25 A/29 NDPS ACT.
DRI vs. RAKESH ARORA AND ORS.
Court of Sh. Gaurav Gupta ASJ/ Special Judge (NDPS) Act South District, Room No.505, Fifth Floor, Saket Court Complex, New Delhi-110017
Proclamation Requiring The Appearance of a Person Accused (Section 82)

Whereas complainant has been made before me that **Anthony Akolo @ Tony R/o 211, Masjid Moth, South Extension-II, New Delhi-110049** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence punishable under section U/S 22/23/25A/29 NDPS ACT and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Anthony Akolo @ Tony** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Anthony Akolo @ Tony** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that **Anthony Akolo @ Tony** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on the day of **05-09-2024**.

Sd/-
ASJ/ Special Judge (NDPS) Act South District, Room No.505, Fifth Floor, Saket Court Complex, New Delhi-110017

Share OTP and details of Debit or Credit cards while using public Wi-Fi because it's mandatory.

Your lapsed policy has a refund of ₹ 1 Lakh. Just provide your bank details to claim it.

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E-mail to CP Delhi at : cp.sanjayarora@delhipolice.gov.in | Write to CP, Delhi at P.O. Box No. 171, GPO, New Delhi

IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Website: www.ircon.org, CIN - L48200DL1975GO0008173

e-Procurement Notice (National Competitive Bidding)

e-Tender No.: IRCON/LECT/P&E/ISPOSAL/Steel Drums/2024-25/737, Dated 23.08.2024

e-Tenders are invited from bidders meeting qualifying requirements for the following work:

Name of Work : Sale of Materials like 33KV and 11KV Steel Cable Drums at IRCON project site in Banihal- Sangaldan section, Khari, Dist- Ramban, Jammu & Kashmir under USBRL Project, ON AS IS WHERE IS BASIS.

Estimated cost of the work	₹ 1,62,74,060.15
Last Date & Time of e-Bid Submission	16.09.2024 upto 15:00 Hrs.

For further details, visit website <https://etenders.gov.in/e procure/app>. Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website. Adtl. General Manager/Electrical, IRCON Project Office, Vill-Krawah, Post-Banihal, Distt-Ramban-182146

File No 10/14/2020-NCLT (Pt-II)/ 833
Govt of India
National Company Law Tribunal
6th Floor, Block-03 CGO Complex, Lodhi Road New Delhi 110003
Dated: 07/08/2024

Vacancy Notice

Filling up of the Post of Registrar, National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), New Delhi on deputation basis.

Applications are invited for the following post on deputation basis in the National Company Law Tribunal, New Delhi

Name of the Post	No of Posts	Level in the pay matrix
Registrar, National Company Law Tribunal	01	Level-14 (144200-218200)

The selected candidate will be required to serve at Principal Bench, New Delhi Last date for receipt of applications will be 60 days from the date of publication of the advertisement in the Employment News.

For further details please visit www.nclt.gov.in (under "Career").

Sd/-
(Kamal Sultanpuri)
Joint Registrar,
National Company Law Tribunal

CBC 07118/12/0011/2425

Ministry of Culture
Government of India
NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE
(A Unit of National Council of Science Museums)
Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India
Pragati Maidan, Near Gate No. 4, Bhairon Road, New Delhi - 110001

Advertisement No. : 05 /2024

National Science Centre, Delhi is constituent unit of National Council of Science Museums, an autonomous scientific organization under the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India invites application for the following Administrative post.

Sl. No.	Name of the post	No. of Post	Pay Level	Maximum Age Limit
1.	Office Assistant (Grade- III)	01 Post (UR)	Level 2 of 7th CPC year	25

For details, please log on to <http://nscd.gov.in/career> Completed application in the prescribed format should reach to the National Science Centre, Delhi latest by 24/09/2024.

6 GOVT & POLITICS



PM Narendra Modi pays tribute to Mahatma Gandhi; with members of the Indian community and, along with President Zelenskyy, at the Martyrologist Exposition in Kyiv on Friday. PTI & Reuters

'We are not neutral, we are for peace'

On a seven-hour historic visit to war-torn Ukraine before its Independence Day, Prime Minister Modi discusses ground situation with President Zelenskyy, pays tribute to children killed in the war with Russia, meets the Indian diaspora

Getting India into power play, Modi tries to bring Kyiv, Moscow to table

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

EXACTLY TWO-AND-A-HALF years into the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, India on Friday took a remarkable step to proactively offer New Delhi's help — to any "active role" that will help end the Russia-Ukraine war.

This is the most clear and categorical statement that has come from New Delhi, in the first ever visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Ukraine since it became independent in December 1991, and diplomacies were established between the two countries in January 1992.

The fact that Modi visited Moscow on July 8-9 to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin and followed it up six weeks later with a visit to Kyiv to meet President Volodymyr Zelenskyy — puts him in a unique position of developing direct contact between the leaders of the two warring sides.

India chose to distance itself from the US-led Western bloc's position of imposing sanctions on Russia, but it also expressed "heartbreaking" concern at the killing of innocent children. Modi conveyed to the Russian President Putin that "this is not the era of war". This signalled that New Delhi doesn't turn a blind eye to Russian actions and that didn't go unnoticed by the Western bloc.

New Delhi has stayed away from contributing to the war efforts on both sides directly, and instead, sent humanitarian assistance to Ukraine; 17 consignments so far, and another consignment of medical devices on Friday, highlighting Delhi's humanitarian-focused and people-centric approach towards the situation.

The Indian position of ab-

staining from the UN resolutions over the past two-and-half years, and making it clear that "dialogue and diplomacy" is the way forward projects Delhi as a player working towards peace.

And finally, the important element of India asking Putin and Zelenskyy to sit together — means that Delhi is ready to nudge both to have a direct conversation, instead of peace summits which are unrepresented by one side — Russia was not part of the Ukraine summit in Switzerland's Burgenstock in June this year.

India has been part of several multilateral summits, starting from Copenhagen, Jeddah, Riyadh, Davos and Burgenstock, which have talked about the process to resolve the conflict, but there has not been any headway so far.

Delhi firmly believes Moscow and Kyiv need to talk to each other, and not talk at each other — to put an end to the war. That's easier said than done, especially with Russia having the upper hand all these months, since end 2023; the two sides are not yet ready to blink even in the backdrop of the Kursk push by Ukraine, which some view as a game-changer.

And, with the US elections due in November, the Joe Biden administration is too distracted towards its domestic political front. In this context, besides China, India is another player to play a role in the global geopolitics power play.

It may not be enough, but New Delhi believes it has more leverage with the Western bloc, than Beijing. Ultimately, the war will be resolved once the US, Europe and Russia come together, but a conversation between Ukraine and Russia can be a start. PM Modi's visit is part of India's effort to bring the two warring sides to the table directly, and Delhi can be the facilitator.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, EAM S Jaishankar and NSA Ajit Doval in Kyiv. Reuters

New Delhi's gift to Kyiv: 4 BHISHM cubes for emergency medical care

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

AFTER HIS bilateral talks with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv on Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifted four BHISHM cubes — compact, mobile medical units aimed at providing emergency care — to his government.

"Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita & Maitri (BHISHM) is a unique effort which will ensure medical facilities in a rapidly deployable manner. It consists of cubes which contain medicines and equipment for medical care. Today, presented BHISHM cubes to President @ZelenskyyUa," Modi said in a post on X.

A statement from the Ministry of External Affairs said President Zelenskyy thanked Prime Minister Modi for the



PM Modi presents BHISHM cubes to President Zelenskyy. PTI

cubes, a critical tool that will help expedite the treatment of the injured and save precious lives amid the war with Russia.

The BHISHM cubes have been developed under the government's Project Aarogya Maitri, a programme to provide

essential medical supplies to developing countries as humanitarian assistance.

Describing the cubes, the MEA statement said each one consists of medicines and equipment for the first line of care for all kinds of injuries and medical

situations. It also includes surgical equipment for a basic Operation Room that can manage 10-15 basic surgeries per day.

"The cube has the capacity to handle about 200 cases of diverse nature in emergency situations such as trauma, bleeding, burns, fractures, etc. It can also generate its own power and oxygen in limited amounts," the MEA statement said.

A team of experts from India has been deployed to provide initial training to the Ukrainian side to operate the cube, the statement added. The humanitarian gesture, the MEA said, underscored "India's continued commitment to provide humanitarian assistance" to war-torn Ukraine.

Meanwhile, during his visit to Kyiv, PM Modi also interacted with Ukrainian students learning Hindi at the School of Oriental Studies in Kyiv.

With silent prayer, PM places a toy at children's memorial

UNICEF recently said nearly 2,000 children killed since Russia started war

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KYIV, AUGUST 23

A WARM hug, a silent prayer with folded hands and a small toy.

That was how Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday honoured the memories of children who have lost their lives in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Soon after reaching the Ukrainian capital here from Poland, Modi was greeted by Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the multimedia Martyrologist Exposition on children at the National Museum of History of Ukraine here.

After a handshake, Modi gave a warm hug to Zelenskyy and as the two leaders walked towards the multimedia Exposition, slid a hand on his shoulder symbolising support for the leader of the war-torn nation.

After watching the multimedia presentations — that gave information about scores of children who died during the conflict — as part of the Exposition, Modi and Zelenskyy both stood in front of a wall-like structure, which already had a lot of toys placed in the memory of the children and honoured the memory of the fallen young Ukrainians with a moment of silence.

With folded hands, Modi offered a silent prayer before placing a small toy (a doll) at the memorial as the Ukrainian President placed a teddy bear.

According to a statement issued by Zelenskyy's office, Prosecutor General Andriy Kostin briefed Modi and Zelenskyy about the history of the exhibition and the Russian attacks on places where children are present, including the missile strike on the largest chil-



PM Modi at the Martyrologist Exposition in Kyiv. PTI

dren's hospital 'Okhmatdyt.' "President @ZelenskyyUa and I paid homage at the Martyrologist Exposition in Kyiv. Conflict is particularly devastating for young children. My heart goes out to the families of children who lost their lives, and I pray that they find the strength to endure their grief," Modi posted on X after the visit.

Zelenskyy posted a video showing Modi hugging him on his Telegram channel.

"Prime Minister was deeply touched by the poignant exposition set up in memory of children who have lost their lives in the conflict. He expressed his sorrow at the tragic loss of young lives and as a mark of respect placed a toy in their memory," said a statement from the Ministry of External Affairs later.

The multimedia project 'Children' was created in June 2022 on the Day of Remembrance of Children Killed by Russia's Armed Aggression Against Ukraine, the statement from Zelenskyy's office said.

In May 2024, UNICEF said that nearly 2,000 children have been killed since the beginning of the Ukraine-Russia war.

CAG reports subject to scrutiny of Parliament: Supreme Court

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

REPORTS OF the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) are "subject to scrutiny by Parliament and the Government can always offer its views on the said report", the Supreme Court said on Friday while setting aside a Delhi court order framing charges against a Karnataka-based private firm accused of facilitating illegal sale of coal rejects. The court said the CBI embarked on a "roving and fishing inquiry" based on a CAG report, which had not received parliamentary approval and as such had not attained finality.

"...We are of the opinion that the respondent - CBI - embarked on a roving and fishing inquiry on the strength of the audit report of the CAG and then

started working backwards to sniff out criminal intent against the appellants. The underpinnings of what was a civil dispute premised on a contract between the parties, breach whereof could at best lead to determination of the contract or even the underlying lease deed, has been painted with the brush of criminality without any justification. This criminal intent has been threaded into the dispute by the respondent — CBI — by misinterpreting the clauses of the agreements governing the parties and by heavily banking on the observations made in the audit report of the CAG that has not attained finality till date," said a bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Ahsanuddin Amanullah.

The court referred to Article 151(1), which says that the reports of the CAG are required to be submitted to the President,

who shall cause them to be laid before each House of Parliament, and Article 151(2), which says that in the case of states, the reports are submitted to the Governor, who shall cause them to be laid before the legislature of the state. "When reports are received in Parliament, they are scrutinised by the Public Accounts Committee (PAC)," it said.

The SC said "the recommendations of the PAC are premised on the response that is received from the ministries concerned and the action taken reports, which include the replies furnished by the Government and the comments of the PAC to the said replies. Finally, it is for Parliament to comment on the CAG's report after it receives the report of the PAC."

FULL REPORT
www.indianexpress.com

India takes up issue of seized copies of Sikh scripture with Qatar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

INDIA HAS taken up the issue of reported seizure of the two Swaroops (copies) of Holy Guru Granth Sahib with Qatar on high priority, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Friday.

The two copies were taken by Qatar authorities from two individuals, accused of running a religious establishment without approval of the government.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, "We have seen reports regarding the Guru Granth Sahib seized by the Qatari authorities and the demand for their release by the Sikh community. The government has already taken up the matter with

the Qatar side and our Embassy in Doha has kept the Sikh community abreast of developments in this regard."

"Our Embassy rendered all possible assistance within the ambit of local laws and regulations," Jaiswal said, adding, "One of them was returned by Qatari authorities and it was assured that the other Swaroop is also kept with respect."

The controversy arose when Qatari authorities confiscated two copies of the Holy Book from individuals accused of operating a religious establishment without their approval, as per the local laws and regulations. The incident, which happened in December 2023, came to light recently, causing concern among Sikh leaders.

BLACK ROBES A COLONIAL LEGACY: HEALTH MINISTRY LETTER

Centre asks medical colleges to have local attire for convocations

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

CALLING BLACK robes and cloaks worn at convocations "a colonial legacy", the Union Health Ministry on Friday asked all the medical colleges under it to design a dress code based on local traditions.

The instruction will be applicable to all the Central government-run medical colleges, the All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) across the country, and institutes of national importance such as the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research-Chandigarh (PGIMER).

"It is observed that currently as a matter of practice black robe and cap is being used during con-



'The tradition needs to be changed': Health Ministry

code for convocation ceremonies that is based on the local traditions of the states in which the institute is located. The institutes should submit proposals for approval by the Secretary, Health, the letter added.

The Health Ministry's missive is in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "panch pran" or five resolutions to help India become a developed nation in the next 25 years. These include "100 per cent freedom from slavery (100% Azadi from Ghulami)" and taking pride in Indian heritage.

A few years ago, the country's apex medical education regulator, the National Medical Commission, was embroiled in controversy after it suggested that medical colleges adopt the Charak Shapath instead of the Physician's pledge.



UTTAR PRADESH

NORTH INDIA'S IT, ITES AND ELECTRONICS HUB

In the recent past, Uttar Pradesh has dearly embraced e-governance practices and tools to see transformations taking shape. It has put in place proactive policies and systems to ensure that every aspect of electronic and digital technologies flourish here and generate the required transformative spirit for the state and the country.

India is now one of the biggest IT capitals of the modern world and all the major players in the world IT sector are present in the country. In this journey, Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the IT Hub of North India and has 6th highest share in software exports with compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of approximately 8%. Being one of the largest contributors in the country's IT/ITeS sector has almost 3.55 lakh-strong workforce. It has been consistently focusing on developing infrastructure, human capital development and effective policy implementation to create conducive ambience for IT-ITeS industry.



Uttar Pradesh is on the verge of becoming the country's data centre hub and has realised its target of attracting investments worth Rs 20,000 crore and received proposals of 600 mega watt of data centres within a year of announcing the state's data centre policy.

Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

A Digital India is an empowered India, boosting 'Ease of Living' and transparency. We have made huge strides in a decade, thanks to effective usage of technology.

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister



Hon'ble Prime Minister, Narendra Modi at Samsung plant in Noida



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath visit Addverb, India's largest robotics firm at Noida



HCL IT City, Lucknow



Yotta Data Center Park, Greater Noida

Substantial Surge

The state government's industry-friendly policies have positioned the state as a key destination for technology-driven innovations and investments. Almost every major IT superbrand including Infosys, Microsoft, IBM, HCL Technologies, TCS, Paytm, Wipro, Genpact, NXP Semiconductor, MAQ Software, Adobe, Dell, Barclays, Tech Mahindra has set up its operations in the state. There are more than 300 STPI registered IT/ITes units in the state and the export volume of units in STPIs and SEZs was Rs. 72,000 crore, last year.

IT parks and Special Economic Zones (SEZs)

UP has been developing IT parks and SEZs to provide world-class infrastructure for IT and IT-enabled services companies. At present, there are 12 IT/ITeS SEZs in the state besides 07 Centers of Excellence in the field of AI, Blockchain, 5G, 6G and other Emerging Technologies. Also, the state has 06 STPI Parks in Noida, Meerut, Lucknow, Kanpur, Prayagraj and Agra. Work is in progress for development of IT parks in Varanasi, Bareilly, Panki (Kanpur), Ghaziabad & Gorakhpur.

IT City in Lucknow

One of the main achievements of the state in the IT and ITeS sector is the construction of 100-acres IT City on PPP model with HCL in Lucknow. Uttar Pradesh plans to build the country's first AI city in Lucknow to house and promote the AI ecosystem. Government vision also envisages transforming emerging Tier 2 city into IT hubs after Noida

Skilling initiatives

To meet the demand for skilled manpower in the IT, ITeS and electronics industries, UP has been focusing on skill development initiatives. It has implemented programmes aimed at providing training to the local workforce. Also, the state is home to world class educational institutions e.g. IIT Kanpur, IIT Varanasi, NIT Prayagraj, IIIT Prayagraj and IIIT Lucknow that impart top-end education in the field of IT and computer Science. The state has 3rd highest number of NIRF ranked engineering colleges in the country, producing high quality IT talent.

Focus Cities for different segments

The state government has identified different cities with different sub-sectors in emerging technologies. Kanpur has been identified as Robotic and Drones hotspot, leveraging Centre of Mechatronics at IIT Kanpur, ER&D hub are being developed at eminent institutions like IITs and IIITs within the state.

IT UPVAN

To encourage Start Ups, the Government based incubator IT UPVAN has been started in Ghaziabad and Lucknow. Rural incubation cum training centres, eSETU (e-Skill Entrepreneurship Training Unit) have been planned in 13 cities of the state.

DigiLocker

Uttar Pradesh ranks as the 3rd largest provider of DigiLocker services in the country. By April 2024, over 36 crore integrated documents were available on the DigiLocker platform. As many as 148 document types, including certificates and educational records issued by various departments, have been integrated with the platform.

e-District portals

UP is the first state in country to successfully rollout e-District scheme in all the 75 Districts of the State. The e-District portals, hosted at Uttar Pradesh State Data Centre (UPSDC), automate the workflow and internal process of district administration with seamless integration of various services like Caste, Income, Domicile, Birth/Death certificates, Pension, Khatauni etc. Presently, 320+ Government to Citizen (G2C) services of 47 departments are available through these portals. Till date, more than 35 Crore applications have been processed through e-District portals.

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank A Govt. of India Undertaking

सिंडिकेट Syndicate

RECOVERY & LEGAL SECTION, CIRCLE OFFICE

3rd Floor, Luv-Kush Tower, Exhibition Road, Patna - 800001, Ph. : 0612-2320180, Email : npacopat@canarabank.com

PROPERTY FOR E-AUCTION

E-AUCTION Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged / hypothecated/ Pledged / charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive / physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Canara Bank will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 25.09.2024. Details are as under :

Sl. No.	Name / Add. Contact No. of the Branch	Name and Address of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor (s)	Outstanding in Rs.	Details of Property	Reserve Price (Rs.) (EMD/Bid Multiplier Amt./A/c No./ IFSC Code)
1	Patna Rajeev Nagar Branch Mob. 8210998443	(1) Mr. Vicky Kumar, S/o Ganesh Sao, Pethiya Bazar, Ward No. 4, Phulwari Sharif, Patna - 801505, Also at - M/s Apna Fashion, Sohgi More, Sampachak, Patna - 800007, (2) Sri Ganesh Sao, S/o Late Mannu Lal Sao, Prop: M/s Apna Jewellers, Pethiya Bazar, Ward No. 4, Phulwari Sharif, Patna - 801505, (3) Sri Manish Kumar, S/o Ganesh Sao, Prop: M/s Manish Jewellers, Pethiya Bazar, Ward No. 4, Phulwari Sharif, Patna - 801505	Rs. 47,67,447/- as on 01.08.2024 + interest & Other Cost thereon till realization	Property - 1 - All that part and parcel of Land and Building in the name of Sri. Ganesh Sao/S/o Late Mannu Lal Sao, situated at Tauzi No. 309, Thana No. 126, Khata No. 208, S. Plot No. 594 & 595 Part, Mauza - Sohgi, P.S. - Gourichak, Patna Sadar Registry, Patna District, Area: 1 Katha Boundary: North - Successors of Krishna Sao, South - Jagat Narayana Rai, East - Branch Road, West - Recent Purchaser, As per Sale deed no. 7563 of 2015 Property - 2 - All that part and parcel of Land and Building in the name of Sri. Ganesh Sao/S/o Late Mannu Lal Sao, situated at Tauzi No. 309, Thana No. 126, Khata No. 208, S. Plot No. 594 & 595 Part, Mauza - Sohgi, P.S. - Gourichak, Patna Sadar Registry, Patna District, Area: 1 Katha, Boundary: North - Sri Awadesh Kumar Agarwal, South - Prerna Srivastava, East - Branch Road, West - Recent Purchaser, As per Sale deed no. 8513 of 2015	Rs. 49,50,000/- Rs. 4,95,000/- Rs. 10,000/- A/c - 209272434 IFSC Code - CNRB0003052
2	Madhepura Branch 1st Flr., Main Road, Madhepura, Bihar-852113 Mob. 8210998611	M/s Jai and Co., Prop. Mr. Ritesh Kumar, Prabhat Nagar, Main Road, At College Chouk, Madhepura - 852113 Borrower - Mr. Ritesh Kumar S/o Mr. Chandeshwari Prasad Yadav, At Anand Nagar, Ward No.-02, Madhepura Nagar Parishad, Madhepura - 852113, Guarantor - Mrs. Sonam Raj W/o Mr. Ritesh Kumar, At Anand Bihar, Ward No. -02, Madhepura - 852113	Rs. 31,40,210.64 as on 30.04.2024 + interest & Other Cost thereon till realization	All That Part and Parcel of Land measuring 4.367 Decimal Covered under Khata No. - 1933, Khesra No. - 9993 (Old) & 13883 (New) situated at Mohalla / Village - Bhagawatpur, Mauja - Sahugahr, Ward No. - 1/1/2 Nagar Panchayat Area, Paragana - Nishankpur Kudha, Thana - Madhepura, Thana No. - 60, Tauzi No. - 676, Jamabandi No. - 140 (Old) & 1933 (New) in the name of Sri Ritesh Kumar, S/o Sri Chandeshwari Prasad Yadav. Boundary - North - Niz Manmohar, South - Kacchi Sadak, East - Niz Manmohar, West - Tarun Kumar and Varun Kumar	Rs. 40,32,000/- Rs. 4,03,200/- Rs. 10,000/- A/c - 209272434 IFSC Code - CNRB0008362
3	Madhepura Branch First Floor, Main Road, Madhepura, Bihar - 852113 Mob : 8210998611	1. M/s Pavan Filtration, Prop. Mr. Pavan Kumar, S/o Chhatrabhuj Das, At Kevat Tola, Ward No. - 10, Madhepura, Bihar - 852113. 2. Mr. Pavan Kumar (Borrower) S/o Chhatrabhuj Das, At - PO + PS - Madhepura, Ward No. - 10, Madhepura, Bihar - 852113. 3. Mrs. Babli Devi (Guarantor) W/o Pavan Kumar, At - PO + PS - Madhepura, Ward No. - 10, Madhepura, Bihar - 852113	Rs. 26,08,618.67 as on 10.01.2024 + interest & Other Cost thereon till realization	Sale Deed No. - 10378, Dt. - 03.12.2010, All that part and parcel of land and building measuring 1.74 Decimal = 08 Dhur situated at Thana No. - 61, Ward No. - 10, Khata No.-470 (Old)/84 (New), Khesra No. - 1348 (Old)/52 (New) Mauza + Thana + Anchal + Dist - Madhepura Bihar in the name of Mr. Pavan Kumar S/o Chhatrabhuj Das. Boundary - North - Nunulal Yadav & Arun Yadav, South - Md. Mokim & Others, East - Rubilal Mandal & Bishnu Mandal & Gangiya Devi West - Shoukat Ali.	Rs. 25,03,800/- Rs. 2,50,380/- 10,000/- A/c - 209272434 IFSC Code - CNRB0008362
4	Forbesganj Branch Netaji Market Subash Chowk Jogbani Mob. 8210998595	Borrower - M/s Taniya Enterprises, Prop- Mr. Manash Kumar Jha S/o Ram Shankar Jha, At Bhadreshwar, Ward No-5, Po + Ps- Forbesganj, Araria, Bihar-854318	Rs. 21,87,227.26 as on 29.04.2024 + interest & Other Cost thereon till realization	Sale Deed No - 7564 Dated- 15/11/1994 All That Part And Parcel of Land Measuring 4 Decimal Covered Under Khata No - 153, Khesra No- 2044, Tauji No-8/1, Thana No- 145, Situated At Mauja- Bhadreshwar, Pargana- Sultanpur, Thana + Sub-Registry- Forbesganj, District- Araria, Bihar In The Name of Mr. Manash Kumar Jha S/o Ram Shankar Jha. Boundary : North - Subhash Jha, South - Road, East - Road, West - Prakash Jha	Rs. 12,00,000/- Rs. 1,20,000/- 10,000/- A/c - 209272434 IFSC Code - CNRB0008362
5	Khagaria Branch Near Baluahi Bypass, Opp DAV School, Baluahi Mob. 8210998607	Borrower - Mr. Ramashish Thakur S/o Late Dhanik Thakur	Rs. 9,93,178.94 as on 08.04.2024 + interest & Other Cost thereon till realization	Sale Deed No- 1253 Dated- 31/03/2009 All That Part And Parcel Of Land And Building Measuring 01 Katha = 4.36 Decimal Covered Under Khata No- 257, Khesra No- 98, Thana No- 275, Tauji No- 525, Situated At Mauja- Mansi, Pargana- Farakiya, Thana + Anchal- Mansi, Sub-registry- Gogri, District- Khagaria, Bihar In The Name Of Mr. Ramashish Thakur S/o Late Dhanik Thakur	Rs. 11,41,000/- Rs. 1,14,100/- 10,000/- A/c - 209272434 IFSC Code - CNRB0008362
Boundary -North - Purchaser Imroja Ambika Thakur South- Purchaser Imroja Indradev Thakur East- Pramod Sharma West- Road					
6	Sasaram Branch Distt. Rohtas 821115 Mob. 8210998565	Borrower - Mr. Santosh Kumar Singh, S/o Ram Dayal Singh, R/o Ward No 35, Bhartigunj, Sasaram, Dist- Rohtas, Bihar, 821115 Guarantor- Mr. Ravindra Kumar Chaurasiya S/o Kashi Prasad, R/o Lakhnu Saray Sasaram, Dist- Rohtas, Bihar 821115	Rs. 7,99,170.68 as on 06.05.2024 + interest & Other Cost thereon till realization	Residential Constructed Building (G+1) Situated At Mauza - Karpurwa, Thana No. - 127, Khata No. - 147, Plot No. - 592, PO- Sasaram, Dist- Rohtas, Bihar in the Name of Sri Santosh Kumar S/o Sri Ram Dayal Singh, Total Area : 03 Decimal, Boundary - North - Road, South - Other's Property, East - Uday Kumar & Other, West - Other's Property.	Rs. 26,29,000/- Rs. 2,62,900/- Rs. 10,000/- A/c - 209272434 IFSC Code - CNRB0002315
7	Bihar Sharif II Branch Mob. 9162838178	Borrower - Smt. Ranju Devi W/o Subodh Gop, R/o Vill Diripar, P.O.+ Mauza- Barara, P.S.- Noorsarai, Dist-Nalanda, Bihar- 803113, Sri Suresh Prasad (Guarantor) S/o Late Ramji Prasad R/o Vill- Diripar, P.O.+ Mauza- Barara, P.S. - Noorsarai, Dist- Nalanda, Bihar- 803118	Rs. 10,60,652.04 as on 05.04.2024 + interest & Other Cost thereon till realization	EMT of Residential property (Floor-G.F), Khata No- 320, Plot No- 1942, Thana No- 73, Mauza- Barara, Anchal+PS- Noorsarai, Nalanda Bihar in the name of Smt. Ranju Devi W/o Sri Subodh Prasad Total Extent of Area- 6.00 Decimal Boundary : North - Niz. South - Kachha Rasta, East - P.C.C Rasta, West - Vijendra Gope & Dayanand Gope	Rs. 12,85,000/- Rs. 1,28,500/- Rs. 10,000/- A/c - 209272434 IFSC Code - CNRB0007566

Last Date of EMD 23.09.2024 For Detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in www.canarabank.com

Authorised Officer Canara Bank

Pasmanda Muslim groups seek inclusion among SCs

SANTOSH SINGH PATNA, AUGUST 23

WHILE THERE is a debate over Supreme Court's recent verdict on sub-classification of Scheduled Castes, the All India Pasmanda Muslim Mehaaz (AIPMM) and other Muslim groups Friday demanded inclusion of at least 12 Muslim castes among scheduled castes.

The representatives from various groups met the Justice (Retired) KG Balakrishnan Committee that has been examining the inclusion of several castes from various religions among Scheduled Castes on the

basis of their social, economic and educational conditions.

Former MP Ali Anwar, who heads AIMPM demanded inclusion of at least 12 Muslim castes among Scheduled Castes with the plea that their condition had been much "worse than several Hindu scheduled castes" and had been "also treated as untouchables" by their own community.

Anwar told The Indian Express: "There are about 20 castes among Muslims, whose economic condition is much worse than several Hindu Scheduled Castes as per Bihar caste based survey 2022-23". These castes are about 6.62 per cent of Muslims and 1.16 per cent of the state population.

Insult an offence under SC/ST Act only if based on caste: SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

THE SUPREME COURT on Friday reiterated that "insults or intimidations" of a member of Scheduled Castes (SC) or Scheduled Tribes (ST) are not an offence under the SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, unless it is on the ground that the victim belongs to an SC or ST.

In its ruling, a bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra also said that Section 18 of the Act does not impose an absolute fetter on the power of the courts to examine whether a prima facie case attracting the provisions of the 1989 Act is made out or not.

"The courts should not shy away from conducting a preliminary inquiry to determine if the narration of facts in the complaint/FIR in fact discloses the essential ingredients required to constitute an offence under the Act, 1989," the bench said.

The court's ruling came as it granted anticipatory bail to Shajan Skaria, the editor of the Malayalam YouTube news channel 'Marunadan Malayalee' who was booked by Kerala Police for making alleged derogatory remarks against CPI(M) MLA PV Sreenjan.

Skaria had approached the SC after the Kerala High Court upheld the order of the Special Judge for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, Ernakulam Division declining to grant anticipatory bail to him. The MLA had accused Skaria of uploading a video critical of him on his news channel "with the intention to humiliate and ridicule him among the general public with the knowledge that the complainant is a member of the Pulaya community, which is a Scheduled Caste".

The court said that the phrase "intent to humiliate" under the Act's Section 3(1)(r) (intentional insult or intimidation with intent to humiliate a member of a SC/ST within public view) is "closely linked to the caste identity of the person subjected to intentional insult or intimidation".

"It is not the purport of the Act, 1989 that every act of intentional insult or intimidation meted by a person who is not a member of a SC or ST to a person who belongs to a SC or ST would attract Section 3(1)(r) of the Act, 1989 merely because it is committed against a person who happens to be a member of a SC or ST. On the contrary, Section 3(1)(r) of the Act, 1989 is attracted where the reason for the intentional insult or intimidation is that the person who is subjected to it belongs to a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe," the court said.

On Skaria's video referred to by MLA Sreenjan, the court said "there is nothing in the transcript of the uploaded video to indicate even prima facie that those allegations were made by the appellant only on account of the fact that the complainant belongs to a Scheduled Caste".

Meanwhile, writing for the bench, Justice Pardiwala said that "Section 18 of the Act, 1989, stipulates that in any case which involves the arrest of any person on the accusation of having committed an offence under the Act, the benefit of anticipatory bail under Section 438 of CrPc would not be available to the accused". "We have deliberated on the significance of the expression 'arrest of any person' appearing in the text of Section 18... and are of the view that it bars the remedy of anticipatory bail only in those cases where a valid arrest of the accused person can be made as per Section 41 read with Section 60A of CrPc," the court said. Section 60A of CrPc provides that no arrest shall be made except in accordance with the provisions of CrPc or any other law for the time being in force and providing for arrest. Section 41 of CrPc confers upon the police the power to arrest without warrant in certain situations as specified therein.

However, the judgement said, "if the necessary ingredients to constitute the offence under the Act, 1989 are not disclosed on the prima facie reading of the allegations levelled in the complaint or FIR, then in such circumstances, as per the consistent exposition by various decisions of this court, the bar of Section 18 would not apply and the courts would not be absolutely precluded from granting pre-arrest bail to the accused persons".

"The duty to determine prima facie existence of the case is cast upon the courts with a view to ensure that no unnecessary humiliation is caused to the accused," it added.

Government of Jharkhand Department of Industries 3rd Floor, Nepal House, Doranda, Ranchi-834002 Tender Reference No. 1837 Dated: 23.08.2024 TENDER NOTICE

Selection of Event Management firm for Jharkhand Pavilion Sealed tenders are invited by Director of Industries, Government of Jharkhand for Design, Erection, Decoration, Maintenance & Management of Jharkhand Pavilion during "IITF - 2024" scheduled from 14th to 27th November, 2024 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

S. No.	Particulars	Details
1	Publishing of RFP/ Tender on website	23rd August, 2024
2	Period of downloading and Submission of tender	Start date: 23rd August, 2024 to End date 06th September, 2024, 3:00 PM
3	Last date for receiving queries	08th September, 2024
4	Response to queries	10th September, 2024
5	Technical proposal opening	12th September, 2024, 5:00 PM
6	Presentation on approach & methodology	12th September, 2024, 12:00 PM
7	Financial Bid Opening	To be notified
8	Cost of Tender	INR 10,000/- in Form of Demand Draft in favour of Director- Industries, Ranchi (to be submitted physically latest by 3.00 PM on 27 August 2024)
9	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	INR 1,00,000/- (Rupees one lakhs only) in form of Bank Guarantee in favour of Director- Industries, Ranchi by 3.00 PM on 06th September 2024
10	Website for downloading Tender Documents	https://www.jharkhand.gov.in/industries
11	Mode of submission of Tender	Offline
12	Contact Details	Directorate of Industries, Nepal House, Doranda, Ranchi, Jharkhand 834002 Website: https://www.jharkhand.gov.in/industries Email: jhr-doi@nic.in

Tender document can be collected from O/o Director Industries, Directorate of Industries, 3rd floor, Nepal House, Doranda, Ranchi or downloaded from https://www.jharkhand.gov.in/industries

For any clarification, please contact Sh. Lalit Kumar (Mob No. 9934706606), Under Secretary, Directorate of Industries, the undersigned reserved the right to reject, cancel any particular or all bid offer without assigning any reason whatsoever. The decision of the undersigned shall be final and binding. Director of Industries Govt. of Jharkhand PR 333586 Industries (24-25)_D

झारखण्ड सरकार कार्यपालक अखियत का कार्यालय, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, खुँटी ई-0 प्रोक्वोरमेंट अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना (तृतीय कॉल) T. Reference No. :- DWSD/KHUNTI-08(WEIR)/2023-24, Date 23.08.2024

S. No.	Name of work:-	Estimated cost (In Lakh)	Earnest Money (In Lakh)	Cost of BOQ (In Rs.)	Time of Completion
1	Detailed Survey, designing and drawing, Construction of Weir with allied work etc. All complete job for Construction of Weir/Check Dam on Banai River for Murhu Block (H.Q.) Rural Water Supply Scheme under D.W. & S. Division, Khunti on turnkey basis for the Year 2024-25.	333.94	3.34	10000.00	09 Months
2	Date of Tender uploading on website			24.08.2024 at 05.00 PM	
3	Last Date/Time of Online Bidding			31.08.2024 at 05.00 PM	
4	Last Date/Time of Online Payment for Cost of BOQ & Earnest Money (As Per direction of Secretary, IT & e Governance, Jharkhand Government vide Memo No.- 120, Dt.- 03.10.2023)			31.08.2024 at 05.00 PM	
5	Date/Time of Opening of Tender			01.09.2024 at 11:00 PM	
6	Name & address of Opening Officer			Executive Engineer, Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Khunti	
7	Name & address of office inviting Tender			Executive Engineer, Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Khunti	
8	Contact No. of office inviting Tender			06528-299928	
9	Contact No. of Procurement Office			0651-2480345	

नोट:- केवल ई निविदा ही स्वीकार किये जायेंगे एवं निविदा की राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है। अधिक जानकारी के लिए देखें www.jharkhandtender.gov.in

Executive Engineer D.W. & S. Division, Khunti. PR 333637 Drinking Water and Sanitation(24-25)#D

बिहार राज्य शैक्षणिक आधारभूत संरचना विकास निगम लिमिटेड BIHAR STATE EDUCATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD. (A Govt. of Bihar Undertaking) ISO 9001:14001:OHSAS 18001

Shiksha Bhawan, Bihar Rashtabhasa, Parishad Campus, Acharya Shivpujan Sahay Path, Saidpur, Patna-04 Tel. No : 0612 - 2660850 *Fax No : 0612 - 2660256 E-mail: bseidc@gmail.com * Website : http://www.bseidc.in * CIN: U50301BR2010SG0015859

अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या 06 वर्ष 2024-25 F2/SBD अकारित प्रतिस्तर दर निविदा (केवल ई-टेंडरिंग पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

बिहार राज्य अंतर्गत विभिन्न विद्यालयों के कार्य हेतु अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। कोई भी आवेदक जो केन्द्रीय/राज्य सरकार/सार्वजनिक क्षेत्रों में नियुक्त हो, निविदा में भाग ले सकता है परन्तु इस निगम का रजिस्ट्रेशन कार्य के आवंटन के बाद करना अनिवार्य होगा।

- विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता : मुख्य अभियंता, बिहार राज्य शैक्षणिक आधारभूत संरचना विकास निगम, पटना।
- निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत की तिथि : 22-08-2024
- निविदा कमजोरत डाउनलोड करने एवं अपलोड करने की अन्तिम प्रकीर्ण से : दिनांक-31-08-2024 से 06-09-2024, 15.00 बजे तक। (on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
- संवेदक द्वारा निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि/समय : दिनांक-06-09-2024 के 15.00 बजे तक। (on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
- अग्रगण्य समीक्षण सूत्र, मूल में जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि/समय स्थान : दिनांक-07-09-2024 के 15.00 बजे तक। बिहार राज्य शैक्षणिक आधारभूत संरचना विकास निगम, पटना।
- बी-बीड मीटिंग का समय एवं स्थान : मुख्य अभियंता, बिहार राज्य शैक्षणिक आधारभूत संरचना विकास निगम, पटना। दिनांक-02-09-2024 के 15.00 बजे।
- तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि/समय अन्तिम तिथि/समय : दिनांक 09-09-2024 के 15.30 बजे (on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
- वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान : तकनीकी बीड के निष्पत्ति के उपरान्त। (on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
- कार्य की विवरणी:-

Sl No.	Name of Work	BOQ Amount (In Lacs)	EMD (In Lacs)	Cost of BOQ (In Rs.)	Period of Completion	Remarks
1	Construction of Entrance gate Boundary Wall, Badminton Court, Bitumeneous Road, Hostel Renovation, & Campus Development Work at A.N. Sinha Institute of Social Studies Patna	211.28	4.22	10,000/-	15 Months	Tender
2	Construction of internal approach road with paver block under different work of Sainik School Gopalganj in Bihar.	321.98	6.44	10,000/-	6 Month	ReTender
3	Construction of 108 Nos Additional Class Room in 19 School in Gopalganj District (ACR-1028)	1247.78	24.96	10,000/-	18 Months	ReTender
4	Construction of 98 Nos Additional Class Room in 13 School in Madhepura District (ACR-1037)	1075.41	21.51	10,000/-	18 Months	ReTender

PR. No. 006753 (B & C) 2024-25 मुख्य अभियंता वित्तुत जाणकारी www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar से प्राप्त की जा सकती है। नरो से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/Freight, Delhi Division, Northern Railway, in terms of Railway Board letter no. 2022/TC(FM)/10/04 dated 13.06.2022, invites bids through e-Auction (www.ireps.gov.in) for leasing of parcel space of SLR compartments and Parcel Vans (on round trip basis) for a period of two years as per detail and schedule given below:-

S. No.	Date & time of e-Auction	Assets to be auctioned
1.	28.08.2024 at 10:30 am	12045 (F1), 12265 (F1), 12754 (F1), 14053 (R1), 14152 (F1), 14164 (F1), 14681 (F1), 20938 (F1 & R1), 22401 (F1), 22634 (F1)
2.	29.08.2024 at 10:30 am	12463 (F1), 12584 (F1), 14035 (F1, F2 & R1), 14212 (F1), 14521 (F1, F2 & R1), 22210 (F1)
3.	02.09.2024 at 10:30 am	12191 (F1, F2 & R1), 12457 (F1, F2 & R1), 12918 (F1), 12963 (F1), 14041 (R1), 14316 (F1), 14507 (F1, F2 & R1), 15035 (F1 & R1), 19338 (F1), 20914 (F1), 20946 (F1), 22429 (F1), 22463 (F1)
4.	03.09.2024 at 10:30 am	12066 (F1), 12428 (F1), 14087 (F1, F2 & R1), 14089 (F1, F2 & R1), 14316 (R1), 14731 (F1 & R1), 15060 (F1 & R1), 20473 (F1 & R1), 20488 (F1), 22168 (F1 & F2), 22950 (F1), 22986 (F1)
5.	04.09.2024 at 10:30 am	12005 (F1), 12038 (F1), 12055 (F1), 12057 (F1), 12148 (R1), 12276 (F1), 12282 (F1), 12444 (F1), 12481 (F1, F2 & R1), 14714 (F1), 18428 (F1), 20806 (F1), 20958 (F1), 22408 (F1), 22421 (F2 & R1)
6.	05.09.2024 at 10:30 am	01 LVPH (24 tonnes) on round trip basis in each train - 12226/12225, 12236/12235, 12264/12263, 12284/12283, 12284/12426, 12425/12426, 12432/12431, 12442/12441, 12445/12446, 12454/12453, 12488/12487, 14033/14034, 20408/20407, 22420/22419, 22428/22427, 22429/22430, 22434/22433, 22460/22459 & 01 VP (23 tonnes) on round trip basis in train number: 22418/22417
7.	06.09.2024 at 10:30 am	12060 (F1) (Monday and Tuesday), 12060 (F1) (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday), 12284 (F1), 12310 (F1), 14014 (F1), 14303 (F1 & R1), 14305 (F1 & R1), 14331 (F1, F2 & R1), 14545 (F1, F2 & R1), 22168 (R1), 22806 (F1), 22812 (F1)
8.	09.09.2024 at 10:30 am	12011 (F1), 12017 (F1), 12029 (F1), 12040 (F1), 12148 (F1 & F2), 12455 (F1), 14041 (F1), 14053 (F2), 22454 (F1, F2 & R1)

Important notes: 1. For more information, requirement and various aspects regarding these e-Auctions, interested bidders are advised to visit https://www.ireps.gov.in/html/helpdesk/learning_centre.html. (e-Auction leasing section). 2. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): 5% of the total contractual bid value to be deposited online during the auction. EMD of the successful bidder will be retained as Security Deposit. 3. Railway Administration reserves the full and absolute rights to short terminate these contracts at any point of time and/or for taking any decision regarding the discontinuation/continuation of these contracts with modified/additional terms and conditions depending upon the continuation/discontinuation of these trains or commencement of new train services. 2637/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Bihar State Tourism Development Corporation Ltd. A Government of Bihar Undertaking Email - contactbstdc@gmail.com/ eebstdc2@gmail.com Tel: +91 0612 2222622

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER NO. 13/RFP/2024-25 File No.- 130 / Engg / 2022 / 944 / Engg / 24 (Through e-procurement mode only - www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in.)

1. Executive Engineer, BSTDC invites Request for Proposal for engagement of agency for Revamping and operation & Maintenance of Rajgir Chairlift Passenger ropeway at Nalanda District Bihar, on turnkey lump-sum price basis from eligible experienced Firms/Contractors/agencies/ Bidders for the execution of work as given below :-

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Bid Security (Rs.)	Cost of RFP Document (Rs.)	Bid Processing Fee (Online Payment) (Rs.) (Non-Refundable)	Revamping work re-commissioning of the project (in months)
1	Revamping and operation & Maintenance of Rajgir Chairlift Passenger Ropeway System at Nalanda District Bihar.	3,00,000/-	10,000/-</		

NORTHERN RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM Ref:-i) Tender Notice No. 36/2024-2025 Dated 26.07.2024 S.N.-16 ii) Tender No. 07241585 due on 30.10.2024.

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED (Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala - 147001)

Tender Enquiry No. 1701/TGM/O&M/PC-2579 Dated: 22.08.2024 Chief Engineer/O&M (P&P Cell-II), GHPT Lehra Mohabbat invites E-tender for the Procurement of Sealing and Antiseptic Compound.

ANDHRA PRADESH STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED Head Office: 10-152/1, Ashoknagar, Bandar Road, Vijayawada-520 007

TENDER NOTICE BIDS ARE INVITED FROM ELIGIBLE BIDDERS FOR SUPPLY OF IDLI RAVVA, WHEAT ATTA, WHEAT RAVVA AND RAGI POWDER FOR THE PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 2024 TO MARCH 2025 TO ALL THE MLS POINTS OF APSCSCL IN (26) DISTRICTS OF AP STATE FOR SUPPLY TO THE WELFARE DEPARTMENT THROUGH NCDEX E-MARKETS LIMITED (NEM) AUCTION PLATFORM.

Government of Karnataka DIRECTORATE OF URBAN LAND TRANSPORT URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER URBAN LAND TRANSPORT

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Northern Railway, Trainset Depot, Shakurbasti; for and on behalf of President of India, Invites GeM portal (https://gem.gov.in) for the under noted work.

TAMIL NADU CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION HEAD OFFICE, POONAMALEE HIGH ROAD, Chennai Metro Rail Limited, (CMRL) Admin Building, Koyambedu, Chennai-600 107

SHORT E-TENDER NOTICE BS3/028830/2024 Date: 23.08.2024 Short e-tender No.BS3/028830/2024-TNCS/24-25 Tamilnadu Civil Supplies Corporation invites online short electronic tender for the "PURCHASE OF 600 LAKH NUMBERS OF FORTIFIED RBD PALMOLEIN OIL OF 1 LITRE POUCHES (910 gms)" for the months of October 2024, November 2024 and December 2024.

NMDC Limited (A Government of India Enterprise) Khajni Bhawan, 10-3-311/A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad-500028

WORKS DIVISION CONTRACTS DEPARTMENT Tender Enquiry No.: HQ(Works)/Contracts/ERP/MTSS/DIOM/2024/999/216 Dated: 24/08/2024 NMDC Limited, A "NAVARATNA" Public Sector Company under Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India, invites online bids through MSTC Portal

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY Tender Notice No. 87/2024 Dt. 23.08.2024 Supply Of Stores Items E-procurement Tender Notice The following Tenders have been floated online. Tenders are requested to visit the website www.ireps.gov.in and submit their offers online.

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY E-TENDERING NOTICE Online open E-tender are invited by Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRS)/N.E.Railway/Loco Shed Gonda acting for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work.

Advertisement MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY (MBMA) Meghalaya State Housing Financing & Cooperative Society Ltd. Campus, Upper Nongrim Hills, Shillong-793003

Table with 2 columns: Tender No, Brief Description. Items include LH246192A Stored pressure type, water based, 80241223A Lubricating Grease for Tractor motor, LM245488A Blade server, 66245910 Procurement of Honda Engines, 79241015A Bed, sheet mill made white bleached, 66246318 Procurement of Ball bearing, Gasket, 66746506 Procurement of plasser PAC items, 66246235 Procurement of DROP DOWN GEAR BOX, 45241037A Contractor for Net 1&2 Rated voltage Supply & commissioning of micro controller, 66246875 Supply & commissioning of micro controller, 29241049 Housing for traction bars per CLW, 29241032 Gear Case machined (MS) for WAP7, 29241050 Push pull rod (traction bar), 45241056 Low maintenance Diesel loco Starter Battery

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम सतना (म.प्र.) N.I.T क्र. 16(E.T.)/निगम/न.पा.नि./2024-25 सतना, दिनांक 23.08.2024 // निविदा सूचना // निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु केन्द्रीयकृत प्रणाली में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से ऑन लाइन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

Note:- Due dates of Tender Opening SL.No.01 on dt.06.09.2024.SL.No 02 to 04 on dt.09.09.2024. SL.No.05 & 06 on dt 10.09.2024. SL.No.07&08 on dt.17.09.2024 SL.No.09 & 10 on dt.18.09.2024. SL.No.11 on dt.19.09.2024 SL.No.12 on dt.20.09.2024 SL.No.13 on dt 23.09.2024 SL.No. 14. on dt 24.09.2024.

NO-ITPB/BTC/QM/PUBLIC AUCTION/2024-10977 Office Of Inspector General, BTC Indo Tibetan Border Police Force (MHA/Govt.Of India) Madanpur Sec-26 Panchkula (H.R.) 134103

Table with 6 columns: Lot No, Name of work, Total Value, Estimated Auction cost, Auction Date/Time, Place. Items include E.I. Clothing/Furniture/Wooden items, Misc. Items, Wooden/cotton/E.I. Clothing Items, TOTAL

DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI Advertisement State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA), Department of Women and Child Development, Govt. of NCT of Delhi invites application for recognition of Specialized Adoption Agencies (SAAs) under Regulation 24 of the Adoption Regulations 2022

विशेष शाखा पुलिस मुख्यालय मध्यप्रदेश भोपाल दिनांक 14/08/2024 निविदा सूचना का शुद्धि पत्र (Corrigendum) विशेष शाखा पुलिस मुख्यालय की निविदा सूचना क्रमांक SB/Store/2024-25 (211), Bhopal, Dated 24-06-2024 द्वारा Photo Identity Making System के क्रय हेतु ई-निविदा सूचना जारी की गई है।

ICAR-INDIAN VETERINARY RESEARCH INSTITUTE IZATNAGAR-243122 (UP) WALK IN INTERVIEW A "Walk-in-Interview" has been scheduled to be held at Division of Biological Products, ICAR-IVRI, Izatnagar, Bareilly on 13 September 2024, from 11.00 AM onwards for engagement of One JRF in DST-SERB funded CRG project.

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER AGRA CIRCLE, P.W.D AGRA Notice inviting E-Tender Letter No. 4568 / 14M-A.C/2024 Date: 17.08.2024 1. The Superintending Engineer Agra Circle, U.P.P.W.D. on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids online from the eligible and approved registered Contractors.

Table with 13 columns: Sl. No, District, Name of Work, Estimated cost (Rs.in Lac), Bid Security (Rs.in Lacs), Time of completion of the work (Including rainy season), Cost of tender documents including GST, Category of road contractor eligible. Item 1: Widening & Strengthening work in Ch. 7.700 to 8.965 of Lalpur Bahella Setu Road to Karanpur Via Singhankheda road (ODR-15)

Office of the Superintending Engineer, Moradabad Circle, P.W.D. Moradabad E-Procurement Notice Inviting Tenders No. 4111/E-Tender/MBD Circle/24-25 Dated :17-08-2024 1. On behalf of the Governor of UP, tenders for following work are invited by the Superintending Engineer, Moradabad Circle, PWD Moradabad online on website http://etender.up.nic.in & Prahari website http://wms.uppwd.gov.in/prahari

कार्यालयक अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जामताड़ा ई-अल्टिमेटम निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना 09/2024-25/RWD/JAMTARA दिनांक-22.08.2024 कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जामताड़ा द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

Varthana Finance Private Limited Registered Office at: No. 5 BC-110, Varasahi, 3rd Floor, Outer Ring Road, Service Road, 3rd Block, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore-560043. Website www.varthana.com. Email: care@varthana.com, Phone : 080-6845577, Branch Office :1162 & 1163, Tower B-11, 11th Floor, Spaze I Tech Park, Sector 49, Sohna Road, Gurgaon 122018

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE Jammu & Kashmir 24 August 1995

The 20th Battalion of CRPF was deployed in Srinagar for anti-terrorist operations. On 24 August 1995, while stationed at Shaheed L/Nk Purshtam Chand 10-02-1962 To 24-08-1995 20 BN

Chand was severely injured while repositioning but continued to fight bravely from the front. He was evacuated to the Hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries, attaining martyrdom.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION, BALANGIR At-Tulsingar, Balangir-767001 Tel-06652-234647, Email- cephhgr@yahoo.co.in No. 4875 / Dated. 21/08/24

TENDER CALL NOTICE OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL PRANANATH COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) KHORDHA

No.:19152904/2024-25/OHEPEE/03 DATE: 23.08.2024 Sealed tenders are invited from registered firms/agencies/suppliers with up to date VAT/GST clearance certificates to supply and install "FURNITURE IN 250 SEATED LECTURE HALL".

The undersigned reserves the right to reject or cancel any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof and the authority will not be held responsible for any postal delay.

Sd/- Principal Pranath College (Autonomous), Khordha

TENDER CALL NOTICE OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL PRANANATH COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) KHORDHA

No.:19152904/2024-25/OHEPEE/01&02 DATE: 23.08.2024 Sealed tenders are invited from registered firms/agencies/suppliers with up to date VAT/GST clearance certificates to supply and install "HVAC, LIGHT, SOUND & CAMERA" in 250 seated Lecture Hall.

The undersigned reserves the right to reject or cancel any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof and the authority will not be held responsible for any postal delay.

Sd./Principal Pranath College (Autonomous), Khordha

SHORT NIT NO 61

No. GED/NIT-NIQ/M&R/61 Sealed tenders in prescribed form to be eventually drawn up in A.P.W.D. F-2 form affixing non-refundable court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees Eight & twenty Five paise) only are hereby invited from the registered contractor of W.R. Deptt. for the year 2024-25 for the scheme "M&R to Flood Drill for the year 2024-25 (Ph-II)" for Rs. 19.95L.

Detail NIT, specification, terms & conditions for the work may be seen in the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working day up to 1.00 PM of 30.08.2024.

Executive Engineer Kamrup Metro W.R. Division Guwahati-08

NORTHERN RAILWAY Applications are invited under scheme of 'One Station One Product' for setting up:

- A. Stall at: Ghaziabad, Ganaur & Delhi Shahdara stations. B. Trolley at: Badli, Jakhai, Jind, Mansa, Narwana, Tapri, Tohana, Julana, Shami, Anand Vihar Terminal, Palam, Delhi Sadfardjung, Shivaji Bridge, Tilak Bridge, Muradnagar, Partapur, Deoband, Khatauli, Sakoti Tanda & Modinagar stations.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

WESTERN RAILWAY-AHMEDABAD ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT (CONSTRUCTION) E-Tender Notice No. EL/C/ADITRD/33/2024-25. (1) Name of work with its location: Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 25 KV AC high rise OHE in Gandhidham- Adipur section with Y-Connection, Ahmedabad Division of Western Railway in connection with Quadrupling between Gandhidham (GIM) - Adipur (AI) with Y connection at Adipur for providing direct entry (20 TKM) (2) Approx. Cost of the Work: ₹ 8,38,54,259/- (3) Earnest Money to be deposited: As specified on IREPS portal. (4) Date and time of submission and opening of bid: As specified on IREPS portal. (5) Tender fees: As specified on IREPS portal. (6) Completion Period of work: 06 Months (7) Website particular and Notice Board where details of tender can be seen and address of the office: www.ireps.gov.in

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Open E-tender is invited by DRM (S&T), Jodhpur for and on behalf of the President of India for S&T work. Details as below. E-Tender Notice No: S N T-JU-11-2024-25, Dated: 22.08.2024. Name of Work: Comprehensive Annual maintenance contract for the Electronic Interlocking (EI) System Model-ME1633 (Medha Make) at 05 station (BGKT, BANE, SZ, HWT, LN) over Jodhpur Division of NW Railway for Three years. Estimated cost of the work: ₹ 1,59,13,096/- (R/O). Address of the NIT Issuing office: Sr.DSTE/JU NWR, DRM Office Harish Joshi Marg Jodhpur. Bid security to be deposited: ₹ 2,29,600/-. Last Date & time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender: 16.09.2024 Upto 11:00 Hrs through E-tendering online submission on IREPS. Tender will be opened at 11:00 Hrs. Website particulars, where complete details of tender can be seen and participated: www.ireps.gov.in

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Open E-tender is invited by DRM (S&T), Jodhpur for and on behalf of the President of India for S&T work. Details as below. E-Tender Notice No: S N T-JU-09-2024-25, Dated: 22.08.2024. Name of Work: Comprehensive Annual maintenance contract for AMARA RAJA make IPS at 05 station (RKB, NYK, JWJ, KSW, KMNC in JU(Ex)-FL(Ex section) for THREE years AND 07 stations (MBT, MKHR, RDRA, POK, OCH, JCH, JSM in PLC(Ex)-JSM Section) for Two years over Jodhpur Division of NW Railway. Estimated cost of the work: ₹ 37,32,551/- (R/O). Address of the NIT Issuing office: Sr.DSTE/JU NWR, DRM Office Harish Joshi Marg Jodhpur. Bid security to be deposited: ₹ 74,700/-. Last Date & time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender: 16.09.2024 Upto 11:00 Hrs through E-tendering online submission on IREPS. Tender will be opened at 11:00 Hrs. Website particulars, where complete details of tender can be seen and participated: www.ireps.gov.in

Govt. of Bihar North Bihar Power Distribution Company Limited (Regd. Office : VidytBhawan, Baily Road, Patna) (Department of Stores & Purchase) CIN NO: U40109BR2012SGC018920 Contact No. : 7763815015 Email- cesnp4.nb@gmail.com NIT No:-61/PR/NBPDC/2024

Public Health Engineering Department Public Health Engineering Division, Arwal. TENDER NIT No -7/2024-25/O&M-PRD National Competitive Bidding (Through e-procurement mode on www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

Govt. of Bihar Public Health Engineering Department Public Health Engineering Division, Jehanabad. SHORT TIME TENDER NIT No -06/SBD/PRD/O&M/PHED/JBAD/2024-25 National Competitive Bidding (Through e-procurement mode on www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

Govt. of Bihar Public Health Engineering Department Public Health Engineering Division, Sheikhpura Short term TENDER NIT No -05/PHED/SKP/2024-25(SBD)/O&M-PRD National Competitive Bidding (Through e-procurement mode on www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE Divl. Rly. Manager, N.W.Rly, Bikaner for and on behalf of President of India invites open E-Tender for the following works up to 15:00 hours on 17.09.2024 as below:- E-Tender Notice No.: 97/24-25. Name of Work with its Location: Miscellaneous track works in connection with conversion of SWR into LWR of loop lines (51Kms) on RE-E11 section under control of ADEN/NWR/Sirs. Approx. cost of work: ₹ 4,16,55,127.37. Earnest Money: ₹ 3,58,300.00. Note: Other terms & conditions will be shown on the website www.ireps.gov.in

Table with 6 columns: Sl. No., Name of material, Qty, Estimated Cost (in Rs), Earnest Money (in Rs.), Tender Cost (in Rs). Includes items like Power Transformer Main test Kit, DVDF Test Kit, H.V. Test Kit.

"IMPORTANT" Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications.

अधीक्षक का कार्यालय नालंदा मेडिकल कालेज अस्पताल, पटना निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

North Bihar Power Distribution Company Limited (Regd. Office: Vidyt Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna) A Govt. Of Bihar Undertaking (Department of Operation & Maintenance) CIN No. U40109BR2012SGC018890 Website: www.nbpdc.co.in E-mail- nbpdclceom@gmail.com Contact No:- 9264437181 NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Through e-procurement mode only - www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) NIT NO:-66/PR/NBPDC/2024

North Bihar Power Distribution Company Limited (NBPDC), a Government of Bihar Undertaking, invites Request for Proposals (RFP) for Different materials for repairing of Power Transformer at Transformer Repairing Workshops, Muzaffarpur under North Bihar Power Distribution Company Limited (NBPDC) in two-tier (Techno-commercial and Financial) online bid from eligible and experienced Original manufacturers/ Authorized suppliers in this regard for NBPDC. The Details are as following:-

Table with 5 columns: Sl. No., Particulars, Estimated Project Value (₹), E.M.D. (₹), Cost of Tender Document (₹). Includes NIT for Different materials for repairing of Power Transformer at Transformer Repairing Workshops, Muzaffarpur under NBPDC.

The Time line for the above tender is as follows: Sale of BOQ from 06.09.2024 at 10:00 Hrs. Last Date of Online Submission of bid along with Tender Cost & processing fees: 26.09.2024 (up to 18:00 Hrs.)

Govt. of Bihar Public Health Engineering Department Public Health Engineering Division, Sheikhpura Short term TENDER NIT No -05/PHED/SKP/2024-25(SBD)/O&M-PRD National Competitive Bidding (Through e-procurement mode on www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

EXPRESS NETWORK

Teen's rape sparks protests, Assam CM says indigenous people living in fear

SUKRITA BARUAH
GUWAHATI, AUGUST 23

A 24-YEAR-OLD man was arrested on Friday in connection with the alleged gangrape of a 14-year-old girl in Assam's Nagaon district when she was returning home from tuition classes on Thursday evening. The incident triggered protests and outrage in the state, and evoked a sharp reaction from Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.



CM Himanta Biswa Sarma

done but the more sensitive we become of how our people live in these places, in what kind of difficulties. The more sensitive we become, the more secure our people will become... All the places in which indigenous people are in the minority, in those areas, our people are always living with troubles," he said.

Nagaon Superintendent of Police Swapnaneel Deka said the minor was found in a semi-conscious state by the side of the road at around 6:30 pm on Thursday, roughly 1.5 kms from her home. He said that she had been found by two boys from her village, who alerted her family and locals.

After this, she was taken to the Nagaon Medical College and Hospital for medical treatment and examination. SP Deka said that in her police statement on Thursday night, she said that she had been raped by the three men.

On Friday, Nagaon police arrested Tazul Islam and identified him as one of the three accused.

"He is an unemployed youth from another village and is not known to the victim. She would travel to a village around 6 kms from her own, for which she would cross the accused's village. The other two accused are absconding and the probe to locate them is underway," said SP Deka.

The incident set off massive protests in her town, with hundreds of locals demanding punishment for the accused. The town was at a standstill through the day, with all establishments closed.

CM Sarma, who is in the Barak Valley to attend government and political programmes, called the incident a "crime against humanity."

"I in Hailakandi, he told the reporters: "I always say that in places like Lower Assam, Central Assam and Barak, our indigenous people live in fear. The more the people of Assam understand these things, the better it will be for us. The process of law will be

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KOLKATA JUNIOR DOCTOR'S RAPE-MURDER



Social activists from Jharkhand protest against the junior doctor's rape and murder, in Kolkata on Friday. PTI

HC transfers probe into hospital financial irregularities to CBI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, AUGUST 23

THE CALCUTTA High Court on Friday transferred the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe into the alleged financial irregularities at R G Kar Medical College and Hospital to the CBI. The SIT was set up by the West Bengal government to probe the alleged corruption at the hospital, since January 2021, a period that corresponds with the tenure of Dr Sandip Ghosh, the former principal of the hospital.

Hearing a plea by Akhtar Ali, former deputy superintendent of R G Kar hospital, the HC directed the CBI to take over the probe by 10 am on Saturday.

After the rape and murder of a 31-year-old trainee woman doctor at the hospital, Ali had moved the Calcutta HC seeking a probe by the ED into corruption charges against Sandip Ghosh, former principal of the hospital, who was twice transferred over allegations of corruption but was reinstated.

A single-judge bench of Justice Rajarshi Bhargava on Friday ordered the state administration to hand over all documents of the case to the CBI by Saturday. The

CBI has been directed to submit a report about the probe after three weeks and the HC will hear the case again on September 17.

Ghosh, an orthopaedics professor, took charge as the principal of R G Kar hospital in mid-2021, after being promoted from his previous position at Calcutta National Medical College (CNMC).

On July 14 last year, Ali wrote a complaint letter to the state vigilance commission against Ghosh and two others. The letter highlighted issues and alleged squandering of government money, illegal giving out of assets of the government without prior nod, quotation amounts of crores of rupees being given out to a few ineligible bidders, evasion of financial rules etc. It also accused Ghosh of serious irregularities including "illegal selling of used hazardous biomedical waste through his additional security personnel" and "misuse of Covid funds for creation of a gym", among others.

Opposition parties in West Bengal have alleged a "nexus" between Ghosh, TMC leaders and government officials. TMC leader and former Rajya Sabha MP Santanu Sen had also sought that the CBI should investigate Ghosh. Ghosh's conduct came under

the scanner again after the rape and murder of the R G Kar doctor on August 9. After junior doctors demanded that he should be removed from his post, he was transferred to the CNMC. After he faced student protests there too, the HC ordered him to go on leave. He was later transferred to the health department as an officer on special duty. After taking over the investigation into the doctor's rape-murder case, the CBI has questioned Ghosh over six days.

The HC said: "This court shall refrain from delving into the substantive merits of the case. Nonetheless, a significant issue persists regarding the appropriate investigative authority, specifically whether the inquiry should remain under the purview of the SIT or be transferred to the CBI's jurisdiction... the probe should not be fragmented between agencies. Handing over the investigation to the CBI ensures consistency."

The SIT is directed to hand over the case diary, other records, CCTV footage, statements, if any, and all material and matters concerning the case to the CBI by 10 am on Saturday. Any other "information, which is relevant to the case as may be called for by the CBI, shall be provided by the SIT", it said.

Court allows polygraph test on arrested accused

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, AUGUST 23

A SPECIAL court in Kolkata on Friday allowed a polygraph test to be conducted on Sanjay Roy, the accused in the rape and killing of a trainee doctor at the state-run R G Kar Medical College and Hospital, officials said. The court remanded the accused to judicial custody for 14 days.

The Kolkata Police arrested Roy on August 10, day after the 31-year-old doctor was found raped and murdered at R G Kar hospital, after prolonged interrogation. Police found some injuries on his left cheek, an abrasion in his left hand between his left and ring finger, and an abrasion over the back of his left thigh among others.

Later, the CBI took him into custody after a court order and questioned for days. A psychological test was conducted on Roy.

Meanwhile, the court has already given its nod to conduct a polygraph test on Sandip Ghosh, the former principal of the medical college and four other doctors who were on duty at the hospital in the intervening night of August 8-9, they said. Ghosh has been questioned for over 88 hours in the past week, in the case.

BADLAPUR ABUSE PROTESTS

HC restrains parties from calling bandh

OMKAR GOKHALE
MUMBAI, AUGUST 23

THE BOMBAY High Court on Friday restrained any political party or individuals from going ahead with the Maharashtra bandh on August 24 or any subsequent date until further orders to protest against the alleged sexual assault of two schoolgirls in Thane district's Badlapur.

It said if the bandh is permitted on Saturday, it may "lead to crippling the life of entire Maharashtra" and "the entire life of Mumbai may come to a halt".

The HC issued notices returnable on October 9 to respondents, including the state government, state Home department and political parties belonging to the MVA, including the Shiv Sena (UBT), NCP (SP) and Congress, in the plea challenging the bandh.

"Until further orders all concerned are restrained from proceeding on call for bandh in the state of Maharashtra on August 24 or any other subsequent date. At this juncture, we may also notice that the division bench of this court in the case of B G Deshmukh, decided in July 2004, had issued various directions in view of challenges caused by calls given for bandh. The bench had declared that enforcement of bandh would amount to an unconstitutional act," a division bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Amit Borkar noted.

It directed state government authorities, including the Chief Secretary, Home department, police and district administrations to strictly enforce all directions given in July 2004 in the B G Deshmukh case. "The consequences which may be borne by the citizens in general, which include school-going children, daily wagers, office-going persons, businessmen, factory workers, persons employed with service sector and government servants, shopkeepers, etc., on account of the call of bandh tomorrow, may lead to crippling the life of Maharashtra," it noted.

The court cited past Supreme Court verdict in AIADMK v Government of Tamil Nadu case and Kerala High Court judgment in Bharat Kumar case and opined that in case the bandh was not



Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray during a press conference, Friday. Pradip Das

MVA CALLS OFF STIR AFTER COURT ORDER

Mumbai: The opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance, which had called for a statewide bandh to protest against the sexual assault on two four-year-old girls in a school in Badlapur, has decided to call it off after the Bombay HC on Friday restrained political parties and individuals from supporting or participating in the bandh.

"In the wake of the Badlapur incident, a statewide public shutdown was called for tomorrow... This was a bid to draw the government's attention to this matter," NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar posted on X. "However, the Bombay HC has ruled that the bandh is unconstitutional. Due to time constraints, it is not possible to appeal in the SC against the HC order (on bandh). The Indian judiciary is a constitutional body and in respect of the order given, the bandh call should be withdrawn." ENS

restrained, "huge loss of economy and business" along with hindrance for provision of essential services and health amenities would occur and the same needed to be prevented.

The HC prima facie held that the call for bandh on August 24 meant a "call for cessation of all kinds of activities which will result in the life of the state coming to halt". The HC heard two PILs, including one by lawyers Jaishri Patil and Gunratn Sadavarte, and another by one Nandabai Sarjekar Misal argued through advocates Subhash Jha and Hare Krishna Mishra seeking direction to declare the bandh illegal.

Man who 'set up fake NCC camp, raped minor girl' dies by suicide

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, AUGUST 23

SIVARAMAN, THE main accused in the fake National Cadet Corps (NCC) camp rape that allegedly took place in a school in Tamil Nadu's Krishnagiri, died early Friday at the Government Mohan Kumaramangalam Medical College Hospital, Salem. His death followed a suicide bid made before his arrest, police said.

Sivaraman, 30, was arrested on August 19 for allegedly raping a 13-year-old girl and sexually harassing several other girls during a fake NCC camp set up at a private school. The unauthorised camp, held from August 5 to 9, involved 41 students, including 17 girls. It was later confirmed that the camp had no approval from the official NCC authorities.

Earlier, police had claimed that Sivaraman suffered two se-

vere fractures — on his leg and hand — after the arrest, due to a fall. He was admitted to the Government Krishnagiri Medical College Hospital.

"After his arrest and medical examination, it was revealed that he had consumed rat poison on August 16 and 19, fearing arrest. After his condition deteriorated, he was shifted to the Salem hospital, where he was placed on dialysis and later on ventilator support. He succumbed to the effects of the poison early Friday morning," said an investigator, requesting anonymity.

Police sources claimed he had made a similar suicide attempt earlier too, before he initiated the unauthorised camp in the first week of August, owing to family problems. "He was admitted in hospital for a few days after that suicide attempt," the officer said.

Sivaraman's father, aged 61, meanwhile, died in a road acci-

dent on Thursday night. Police said he was allegedly riding his moped in an inebriated state.

On Wednesday, a second Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) case was filed against Sivaraman after the parents of a 14-year-old girl alleged that he had sexually assaulted her in January at another private school. Sivaraman was also implicated in a cheating case involving a land dispute, with accusations of defrauding Rs 36.20 lakh.

The fake NCC camp case came to light after the parents of one of the girls informed police. What followed was the arrest of eight people, including the school principal. A multi-disciplinary team has also been established to prevent future incidents of child abuse and provide recommendations to the state government.

Sivaraman's body was handed over to his family after a post-mortem examination on Friday.

JUSTICE HEMA COMMITTEE REPORT

Malayalam actors' body defends film industry, but cracks emerge

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
AUGUST 23

ACTOR SIDDIQUE, the general secretary of the Association of Malayalam Movie Artistes (AMMA), on Friday said the entire Malayalam film industry should not be blamed for "stray incidents" of harassment that came out with the release of the Justice Hema Committee report on the issues faced by women working in the field.

However, AMMA vice president Jagadish said violence against women in the film industry should not be trivialised by referring to them as "stray incidents".

Giving AMMA's official reaction to the report, released earlier this week, Siddique said the

actors' body welcomed it. But he also said there was no power group controlling the industry as suggested by the report. "In my film career, I have not heard about such a power group. There is no mafia either. The report is not against the association, and we welcome the report. The committee had not found fault with AMMA. Actors Mammooty and Mohanlal had deposed before the committee three or four times. We were told that the committee mainly spoke to them about remuneration," he said.

Jomol, a member of the association's executive committee, said that she had not faced any instances, such as drunk men knocking on the doors of hotel rooms where women professionals stayed, that were mentioned in the Hema Committee report.

On the demand that cases should be registered on the basis of witness statements given to the Hema panel, Siddique said AMMA would take a stand on it after deliberations.

However, Jagadish called for strong action on the basis of the report. He also raised questions over why the report was published only after the names of those against whom the witnesses deposed were removed.

Saying that violence against women in the film industry should not be trivialised by dismissing them as stray incidents, Jagadish said: "Those who are in the dock should face a probe and the guilty should be punished. Their names should be brought out. The committee did not ask for the removal of the names of the perpetrators of crimes, only those of the victims."

ISRO: Chandrayaan-4 design final, samples from Moon by 2027

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

THE DESIGNS of India's next mission to the Moon, Chandrayaan-4 — which will bring rock and soil samples back to the Earth — has been finalised, and will most likely happen in 2027, said ISRO chairman S Somanath said on Friday on the occasion of National Space Day.

The Chandrayaan-4 spacecraft will have five separate modules, officials said. The Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft, which made a historic landing near the South Pole of the Moon, had three modules — the propulsion module (or the engine), a lander and a rover.

The Chandrayaan-4 sample return mission would be a complex mission involving several stages. After getting into lunar orbit, two of the modules will detach

from the main spacecraft and make a landing on the Moon. They will help each other in collecting samples from the lunar surface. One of the modules will launch itself from the Moon's surface and travel back to the main spacecraft in the lunar orbit. The samples will be transferred, and then flown back to an Earth re-entry vehicle that will be launched separately from the ground. The samples will be transferred again, and it is this re-entry vehicle that will bring them back to the Earth.

Somanath said designs for this mission have been finalised, and the project was awaiting the final government approval. ISRO has also finalised designs for the next Moon mission, Chandrayaan-5, but did not specify the objective or timeline of the mission, he said.

Chandrayaan-4 would involve docking of space modules twice during the Mission — when the



President Droupadi Murmu with ISRO Chairman S Somanath at the National Space Day event, Friday. ANI

modules fly back from the Moon to unite with the main spacecraft, and when the samples are transferred to the re-entry vehicle. ISRO has never docked spacecraft earlier. This capability will be demonstrated for the first time later this year, with the Spadex mission. Docking is a process where two

'WILL ENSURE DEBRIS-FREE SPACE BY 2030'

New Delhi: On the occasion of National Space Day on Friday, President Droupadi Murmu appreciated India for its commitment to conduct debris-free space missions by 2030.

Speaking at the celebration of the maiden National Space Day celebrations to mark the first anniversary of the landing of India's Chandrayaan-3 project, Murmu said that research

conducted to solve issues during space exploration accelerates the development of Science and improves human life, with sectors like health, transportation, security, energy, environment and information technology — all benefiting from it.

"I'm happy that India is moving forward to make all its space missions debris free by 2030," Murmu said. ENS

spacecraft moving at extremely high speeds are aligned in a precise orbit and joined together.

According to senior ISRO scientists, two key capabilities required for the Chandrayaan-4 success had been demonstrated during the Chandrayaan-3 mission. "The hop experiment that

was performed on the last day of Chandrayaan-3 mission (lander of Chandrayaan-3 was made to jump about 40 cm from the lunar surface and land 30-40 cm away) was done to understand whether we can lift off from the lunar soil. There were concerns about the legs of the lander getting deep in-

side the lunar surface, which would have made the 'hop' difficult to execute. But Chandrayaan-3 did that exceedingly well. There were no problems, and the results were according to our expectations," one of the scientists said.

"The other capability was to get the spacecraft from the orbit of the Moon to the Earth's. The Chandrayaan-3 propulsion module, which had carried the lander-rover to the Moon, was brought back to the Earth's orbit to demonstrate this," the scientist added.

While instruments from the Chandrayaan-3 studied soil and rock on the Moon's surface, bringing back samples will allow scientists to study the samples with more complex and sensitive instruments. The senior scientist further said that all the samples brought back by the mission will be shared across different scientific laboratories in the country.

12 EXPRESS NETWORK

Siddaramaiah under fire, Cong talks offence, defence, a contingency plan

Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi with Manipur CM Biren Singh in Imphal, Friday

Army Chief in Manipur to review security

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE IMPHAL, AUGUST 23

CHIEF OF Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi visited strife-torn Manipur to review the state's situation.

The Army Chief landed at the Imphal Airport around 10 am and was directly flown to the General Headquarters of the Inspector General of Assam Rifles (IGAR-south) in Imphal. Later in the evening, he called on Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh at his official residence.

"I deeply appreciate General Dwivedi's visit to Manipur. Deliberated on critical issues concerning the current situation of our state. We reaffirmed the cooperation between the state government and the security forces in effectively responding to the challenges we face, maintain peace and harmony in the state," the CM posted on X.

Sources said General Dwivedi will visit Churachandpur, Kangpokpi and Moreh on Saturday to take stock of the situation. This is his maiden visit to the state since taking over as the 30th COAS on June 2024.

Police prepare to thwart BJP rally in Jharkhand

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE RANCHI, AUGUST 23

AS THE Jharkhand BJP on Friday geared up for a massive protest rally against the JMM-led government in the state, police barricaded the venue for the protests - the Morabadi ground in Ranchi - and did not allow protesters to march to the Chief Minister's residence.

In response to this, the state's Opposition party has decided to burn effigies of the state government in front of police stations and SP offices in all 24 districts of Jharkhand. Leader of Opposition Amar Bauri said Friday's rally was to protest the government's broken promises, especially regarding 5 lakh jobs to youth, unemployment allowance, and exam rigging, among others.

In action against the protesters on Friday, police had resorted to firing teargas and water cannons. "In a democratic country, it is the job of a conscious Opposition to bring before the public the failures of the government through agitation and demonstration... Workers coming from all the districts of the state, including Pakur, Sahebganj, Godda, Deoghar, Palamu, Giridih, Singhbhum, were stopped on the way..." Bauri said.

"A siege was made around Morabadi ground with barbed wire. This would never have been seen before in Jharkhand during any peaceful demonstration by unarmed people..." he said.

ASAD REHMAN NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

REITERATING THAT the case and prosecution sanction against Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is part of a "political vendetta", the Congress's top leadership on Friday held discussions to devise its strategy if things "take a turn for the worse".

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal, and Karnataka in-charge Randeep Surjewala met Siddaramaiah and Deputy CMD K Shivakumar at the party headquarters in New Delhi.

During the meeting, it was decided the Congress would back the CM and discussions were held on the party's next steps to counter the narrative of the BJP and Janata Dal (Secular), sources said. "We discussed what the party will do in case the criminal proceedings against the CM take a turn for the worse. We have also

devised the party's strategy to counter the narrative of corruption against the CM," said a senior Congress leader, adding, "We will also be starting a campaign to expose the hypocrisy of the Governor granting prosecution sanction against the CM."

The meeting came amid a controversy over land allotments to



CM Siddaramaiah, Dy CM DK Shivakumar with Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge and party leaders Rahul Gandhi, KC Venugopal and Randeep Singh Surjewala in New Delhi. ANI

Siddaramaiah's wife Parvathi under the Mysore Urban Development Authority. On August 16, Karnataka Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot granted the sanction to three activists to file a police complaint against the CM and others. Siddaramaiah has challenged the order in the Karnataka High Court, which has

adjourned the hearing on the matter till August 29 and directed special courts not to conduct further proceedings in private complaints seeking FIRs against the CM.

Addressing the media after the meeting, Surjewala said the sanction against the CM was "an attack on the people of Karnataka".

"The CM and Deputy CM

TELANGANA CM MEETS KHARGE, RAHUL

New Delhi: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and LoP Rahul Gandhi held a meeting with Telangana CM A Revanth Reddy and Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu on Friday. Sources said organisational changes in the state were discussed in the meeting.

The Congress's Telangana unit is likely to get a new state president, with a few names doing the rounds. Sources said an official announcement is likely soon. ENS

briefed the Congress president and Leader of Opposition Rahul ji on how a systematic and designed assault has been unleashed through the office of a puppet Governor by the BJP and JD(S) as part of their sinister designs to destabilise an elected government," Surjewala said. "But, in truth, this is a sinister design to attack the five Congress guarantees by which we are transferring over Rs 53,000 crore every year in the bank accounts of over four crore Kannadiga brothers."

Surjewala alleged the BJP had been attacking the "guarantees" as they benefit weaker sections of society. "The BJP and JD(S) are scared of the guarantees... This is also an attack on the Backward Class CM, who is now the seniormost CM in the country. We will follow all legal remedies and we will take this battle to the court of the people," he said. Surjewala also questioned the Governor's previous decision to refuse a prosecution sanction against former CMs B S Yediyurappa of BJP and H D Kumaraswamy of the JD(S).

BJP hits out at Cong pact with NC, frames it against nationalism pitch

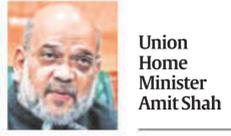
VIKAS PATHAK NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

THE BJP launched a sharp attack on the Congress on Friday over its alliance with the National Conference (NC) in poll-bound Jammu and Kashmir, cornering the grand old party on the NC's manifesto promises over issues such as reservations and reinstatement of Articles 370 and 35 A.

The framing of what appears to be the BJP's poll narrative for J&K, placing Congress politics against the national backdrop, came after the party's core Kashmir group began its meeting at the residence of Union Minister Amit Shah on Friday.

Shah laid out the BJP's attack on the Congress in a set of 10 questions for it on its alliance with the NC, and former Union minister Smriti Irani raised the same at a party press conference later. Two days earlier, the BJP appointed old Kashmir hand Ram Madhav and Union minister G Kishan Reddy as election in-charges for the state.

The meeting held at Shah's residence also discussed ticket distribution before an expected meeting of the BJP Central Election Committee on J&K and Haryana. In his post on X, Shah sought to know whether Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi sup-



Union Home Minister Amit Shah

ported the NC's poll promise to abolish recently offered reservations to Dalits, Gujjars, Bakerwals and Pahadis in the state, as well as to pass a resolution in the Assembly for restoration of Article 370 if voted to power.

The NC manifesto talks of "reviewing" the reservation policy, and says "any injustice and imbalance will be corrected"; it does not mention any specific group.

"The Modi govt ended years of discrimination against Dalits, tribes, Pahadis, and backward communities by granting them reservations after the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A. Does Rahul Gandhi support the JKNC manifesto, which calls for abolishing reservations for Dalits, Gujjars, Bakerwals, and Pahadis? After allying with the National Conference, he should now clarify the Congress Party's stand on reservation policy," Shah said.

The Congress has been leading the Opposition attack against the Modi government on the reservation issue, claiming that it wanted to do away with quota for SCs, STs and OBCs. Earlier this

CANDIDATES FILE THEIR PAPERS

Srinagar: Several candidates on Friday filed their nomination papers for various Assembly seats going to polls in the first phase of the J&K Assembly elections on September 18. Those who filed their papers included senior NC leader Sakina Ito (Damhal Hanjipora seat); former PDP MP Mehboob Beig (Anantnag); Apni Party leader Altaf Mir (Pampore); PDP's Intiaz Ahmed Shan (Banihal) and Sutesh Kumar (Ramban). ENS

week, the Modi government withdrew within days an advertisement seeking applications for lateral entry in senior bureaucratic posts, after the Congress and others accused it of circumventing reservations with this move.

Shah added that the Congress-NC alliance again showed that the Congress was ready to "risk the nation's unity and security to satiate its greed for power".

Significantly, the NC has been an ally of the BJP in the past, and was part of the NDA when Atal Bihari Vajpayee was sworn in as Prime Minister in September-October, 1999.

BJP respects backward communities, Opp only makes claims: Chouhan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

UNION MINISTER Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Friday praised the Narendra Modi government for its efforts to uplift the backward classes and accused the Congress-led opposition of merely offering "lip service" to the cause.

"Our opponents just make tall claims. They have never respected the backward castes. If anyone has actually respected the backward castes, it is the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Modi ji gave constitutional status to the OBC Commission... Be it the Kendriya Vidyalayas or other institutions, it is the Modi government that took steps to ensure that backward children study there," said the senior BJP leader

who belongs to the OBC Kirar caste.

Chouhan's remarks come at a time when the BJP is facing pointed attacks from the Congress and the social justice parties of north India over the matter of reservation for backward classes. The minister was addressing a BJP backward caste morchha event in Patna, organised in the memory of freedom fighter Ramphal Mandal, a Dhanuk from Sitamarhi, who was executed for killing four officials during the Quit India Movement.

Chouhan is a popular OBC face of the BJP whose address is being seen as a signal to the OBCs and EBCs, who, but for the Yadavs, were with the BJP in a significant manner over the last few years, but seem to have got electorally scattered in the recent LS polls.

Cong, BJP spar as MP govt directs Janmashtami in schools, colleges

ANAND MOHAN J BHOPAL, AUGUST 23

THE BJP government's directive to schools and colleges in Madhya Pradesh to celebrate Janmashtami has led to a war of words between the party and the Congress.

Congress MLA Anif Masood asserted that centres of learning should remain "only for studies", and asked "why this government is engaged in ruining educational institutions".

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav

dismissed the objection, declaring that the state had been blessed by Lord Krishna and emphasising the historical and cultural significance of the festival.

MLA Masood had told the media, "I am unable to understand why this government is engaged in ruining educational institutions. Educational institutions are only for studies and for a good atmosphere. There is a holiday for religious events, which Hindus and Muslims celebrate in whatever way they want. Recently, we celebrated Rakhi, and we also at-

tend many events of Janmashtami, but you make it (Janmashtami celebrations) compulsory for educational institutions and on the other hand you point fingers at Madrasas. What do you want?"

Issued on Wednesday, the state government's order directs district officials to ensure temples dedicated to Krishna are cleaned, and "cultural programmes" are hosted. It adds that lectures through scholars on various topics based on Lord Krishna's education, friendship and philosophy as

well as cultural programs should be organised in government, non-government schools and colleges.

The CM said, "Lord Krishna highlighted the importance of education 5,000 years ago. He came to Ujjain from Mathura to receive education. What could be a more auspicious time to celebrate his teachings?"

He also pointed to popular tourist sites in Madhya Pradesh, including Narayan, Amjhera, and Janapav Dham, that are associated with Lord Krishna, and announced plans to develop these

areas as pilgrimage destinations.

He also pointed out that other cities associated with Krishna also celebrate the day, and asked, "If we do not remember places associated with Lord Krishna on Janmashtami, then why remember Mathura? If Janmashtami is celebrated in Mathura, will Congress stop visiting?"

"This is nothing but disrespectful and nonsensical talk," he said.

BJP state president VD Sharma said, "Will the Congress party not celebrate Janmashtami? Let them declare." -WITHPTIINPUTS



The collapsed balcony of the private school in Barabanki on Friday. The school was sealed after it was found that students were admitted for classes 9, 10, 11, 12 without permission. PTI

UP: 28 students injured as school balcony collapses

FIR against principal, school administration

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BARABANKI, AUGUST 23

AT LEAST 28 students were injured after a portion of the first-floor balcony of their school collapsed in the Jahangirabad area of Uttar Pradesh's Barabanki district on Friday, police said.

Based on the preliminary inquiry, an FIR was registered against the principal and the administration of Awadh Academy School for flouting norms since the institution was found to be admitting students for classes 9 to 12 without permission, officials said.

Also, the school has been sealed and a recommendation was sent to cancel its recognition for classes 1 to 8 as well, it is learnt. The injured students are undergoing treatment at hospitals. The condition of at least five students is stated to be critical, Barabanki Superintendent of Police (SP) Dinesh Kumar Singh said. Several students were pulled out from under the debris of the collapsed balcony and the were being treated for injuries to their face, neck, hands and legs, the officials said.

District Inspector of Schools OP Tripathi, who conducted the initial inquiry, said, "We got a case registered against the school administration and the principal for flouting the norms. The school is recognised for classes 1 to 8 only. But they were admitting students till class 12."

While most students were being treated at the Barabanki district hospital, one was referred to the King George's Medical University (KGMU) Trauma Centre, Lucknow, he added.

Since the school was sealed, its students will be admitted at nearby Government Junior High School, the officials said.

A complaint was received against the school in December last year but during an inspection by the local authorities it was found to have students till class 8 only, sources said.

SP Dinesh Singh said Friday's incident took place when a large number of children gathered on the first-floor balcony while going down to attend the morning assembly.

"About 400 students study there. After the morning prayers, the balcony, which was not of good quality, fell as students stepped on it in one go," he said. Barabanki District Magistrate Satyendra Kumar, who also reached the spot, said, "We have formed a committee under the District Inspector of Schools and a Joint Magistrate to look into the incident. Action would be taken on the basis of the report," said Kumar.

The injured children were first rushed to a nearby primary health centre where they were given first aid, and then referred to the district hospital, the police said.

-PTIINPUTS

Two IPS officers face action for 'election interference', Odisha issues notices to them

SUJIT BISOYI BHUBANESWAR, AUGUST 23

TWO MONTHS after it swept to power, Odisha's Mohan Majhi government has initiated action against two senior IPS officers for allegedly "unduly interfering" in the election process.

The Odisha home department's action was initiated against 1997-batch IPS officer DS Kutey, a former special secretary Chief Minister's Office, and 2004-batch officer Ashish Singh, who was serving as Inspector General (CM's security), with the sanction of the Election Commission of India.

The two officers were believed to be close to former chief minister Naveen Patnaik's private secretary V K Pandian.

Both have been posted as officers on special duty (OSD) in the home department.

In its charges, the state government claims that Kutey, whom the EC had suspended in May over alleged "election interference", had directed the Khurda district collector to arrest a candidate -- BJP's Prasanta Jagadev -- on the day of polling on May 25.

The statement also accuses him of making calls to the additional chief election officer and chairman of the Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC) over a political advertisement from a party. "On late evening of May 24, Kutey made repeated calls to

the Additional CEO and Chairman of the MCMC, expressing his displeasure over approval of the advertisement. He also asked the Additional CEO to withdraw the approval immediately, so that the advertisement could not get published in newspapers on May 25 (poll day)," the charges read.

This type of interference in the election machinery "violates Rule-5 (4) of the All-India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968 as well as the Model Code of Conduct issued for smooth conduct of election in a free and fair manner," it states.

"Such action is unbecoming of a member of the All-India Service of his rank and seniority. Therefore, the aforementioned conduct of Kutey constitutes gross misconduct which violates Rule-3 and Rule-5 (4) of the All-India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968," it states.

Singh, who had served in key positions during Patnaik's rule, too came under the ECI scanner for going on "medical leave" from May 4, even though a medical board from the AIIMS, Bhubaneswar, had eventually declared him "mentally and physically fit".

Based on this, the poll panel had found that it was a case of "misrepresentation of facts", the charges against him state. The state government has given both officers 30 days to submit their response, asking them to specifically "admit" or "deny" each charge.

Pass quota law of face more protests: SC, ST bodies to Govt

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

THE SCHEDULED Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) bodies which organised the Bharat Bandh on August 21, have demanded that the central government enact a special law for protection of reservations for the SCs and STs and include it in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution so that it cannot be challenged in the courts.

The leaders of these organisations have made it clear that if their demands are not met by the Winter Session of Parliament, they will launch an even bigger agitation.

The Bharat Bandh call was given by the National Confederation of Dalit and Adivasi

Organisations (NACDAOR), an umbrella organisation of various SC and ST bodies from across the country, to protest against the Supreme Court's recent judgment allowing states to sub-classify the SCs/STs to ensure "quota within quota" to more backward castes in these groups.

The Bandh, which was supported by several political parties including the BSP, Samajwadi Party (SP) and Aazad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram) or ASPKR among others, had significant impact in states such as Jharkhand and Bihar, which will be heading to the Assembly polls this year-end and in 2025, respectively.

"We want the government to bring a law through Parliament in the Winter Session and nullify this Supreme Court order. If our demands are not met, we will have a



Activists from SC, ST and OBC communities stage a protest during 'Bharat Bandh', in Bhopal, Wednesday. PTI File

bigger agitation. This (Bharat Bandh) was just to give a message to the government," NACDAOR chairman Ashok Bharti told The Indian Express.

Bharti has been associated with the NACDAOR since its in-

ception in 2001. He had also served as a member of the National Advisory Council (NAC)'s Working Group on Dalits during the previous Congress-led UPA government. The NAC was headed by the then Congress

president Sonia Gandhi.

According to Bharti, the NAC-DAOR wants such a legal protection to reservations that courts are unable to alter them. "Currently, every time the courts sneeze, the reservations come under a cloud. We have already made a demand that reservations must be put in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution so that courts cannot tinker with it," Bharti said.

With the apex court verdict drawing criticism from various quarters, Bharti has targeted the ruling BJP.

"The BJP has shown its real teeth. It keeps talking about the marginalised sections of society, but what has it done for them? Has it identified the weakest of the lot and given them jobs? It is one thing to make speeches. But the society understands - it will not



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY
RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

KAMALA HARRIS



SUDHEENDRA KULKARNI

Death of a reform

Lateral entry scheme, now withdrawn, prioritises a governance that is necessary to uplift the disadvantaged

With her personal story and arc, Democratic presidential nominee has enthused party. She needs to reach out, and across

IT'S A DISTINCTLY American story." Maya Harris's words captured a multi-generational journey that culminated on August 22 with her sister becoming only the second woman presidential candidate in the US, and the first person of Indian origin to rise to that level. As she accepted the nomination and spoke on the final day of the Democratic National Convention (DNC) in Chicago, Kamala Harris spoke of her mother Shyamala Gopalan Harris, of how, as a 19-year-old Indian student, she came to America, married Kamala's Jamaican father and instilled in her daughter the values that have marked an incredibly successful — and for many, inspirational — career in public life. Through her story, Vice President Harris framed that elusive notion that draws so many to the US — the American dream. She sought to frame her background and her identity in a way that reflects a diverse nation. Her achievement is certainly a milestone for the Indian diaspora — when Harris was coming of age, a half-Indian woman president would have been difficult to imagine. She spoke of choosing unity over divisiveness and sought to reach out to the White working middle-class — a chunk of this vote is now thought to be rallying behind Donald Trump: "I want you to know, I promise to be a president for all Americans. You can always trust me to put country above party and self."

There is little doubt that Harris has enthused the Democratic party, and energised its base, more deeply perhaps than at any time since Barack Obama's presidential campaigns. Only five weeks ago, when President Joe Biden was the presumptive nominee, it seemed that the Democrats were flailing as they tried to present an ageing incumbent as a serious challenger to Trump. Opinion polls now have Harris and Trump neck-and-neck, with some giving a slight edge to the VP. Harris's attacks on Trump at the DNC, however, undercut her attempts to reach across the aisle. The well-rehearsed demonising of Trump with familiar rhetoric was predictably well-received among Democrats. But for those who voted for him and those who still support him, there was little that was persuasive, with one exception: On reproductive rights, Harris was clear about the dangers posed to women — physical, emotional and mental — by the overturning of Roe v Wade. It is an issue that affects voters across class divides, race and even politics. The Republicans' and US Supreme Court's curbing of women's bodily autonomy is widely seen as one of the major reasons for the Republicans' poor performance in the mid-terms.

Kamala Harris has a little over two months to convince "undecided" Americans. Her campaign will now enter what her running mate Tim Walz — a former American football high school coach and public school teacher — called the "fourth quarter... with the ball in our hand on offence". Harris's Indian-Jamaican-American story will compete with Trump's, whose pitch has been protectionist globally and revanchist in terms of diversity and immigration. But Trump, too, appeals to those who feel left behind. Walz, in his speech, sought to reach out to a larger audience by framing freedom as standing together as citizens, even with those you disagree with. Going forward, Harris will need to build on his theme.

RATIONALISE THE RATES

Gross GST revenues have been growing, rate structure has stabilised. This is the moment for a reset

MOST STATES DON'T seem to be in favour of changes to the existing five main goods and services tax (GST) rate slabs: 0, 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent. The general argument being advanced is that since gross GST revenues have been growing — from a monthly average of Rs 94,734 crore in 2020-21 to Rs 1,23,608 crore in 2021-22, Rs 1,50,640 crore in 2022-23, Rs 1,68,187 crore in 2023-24 and Rs 1,84,724 crore in April-July 2024-25 — and the rate structure has "stabilised", why disturb it? It should actually be the other way round. When GST collections are robust, thanks to improved compliance and plugging leakages through measures such as making e-invoicing mandatory for firms with turnover exceeding Rs 5 crore and use of artificial intelligence and machine learning, that is precisely the time for embarking on rate rationalisation. That includes both reducing the number of slabs from five to not more than three, and also reviewing the list of items under each slab.

The incongruity and, probably unfairness, of the GST rates applicable on several items are well known. Why should GST on cement, a basic construction material, be 28 per cent? The same goes for the 18 per cent GST payable on medical and life insurance policy premium, which, in Union Minister Nitin Gadkari's own words, amounts to taxing individuals seeking to purchase cover against "life's uncertainties". There's similarly no logic to milk not attracting any GST, but skimmed milk powder being taxed at 5 per cent and butter and ghee at 12 per cent. So while dairies pay no tax on milk procured from farmers, they have to shell out GST on both powder and fat used for reconstitution into milk. A 12 per cent GST on milk fat is also an anomaly when vegetable fat (edible oil) is taxed at 5 per cent. Multiple slabs are clearly a recipe for confusion, adding to the complexity of doing business.

Most states may be averse to rate rationalisation, fearing loss of revenue. But a simplification of the current slabs will also promote economic activity, particularly consumption, that would ultimately lead to higher tax revenues. States should, moreover, explore raising more non-tax revenues through revision of user charges on water, electricity and other utility services, besides resetting stamp duty rates and registration fees along with guidance values on property for better compliance. The Indian economy today needs a fiscal stimulus, in the form of lower indirect taxes, rather than higher government spending.

THE DAY SPHEN DIED

Death of Sydney's beloved gentoo penguin offers lessons in loss — and how to deal with it

IN THE YEAR of Magical Thinking' (2005), Joan Didion writes of the year loss came home to her with the deaths of her husband and daughter: "Grief turns out to be a place none of us know until we reach it." In the gut wrench of bereavement, she tells herself how wild things do not suffer such heartbreaks and seeks comfort in that. Only, it turns out, that they do. At Sydney's Sea Life Aquarium, when Sphen, the gentoo penguin known for his devotion to his same-sex partner, died last week, grief became a song. When Magic, Sphen's younger partner, with whom he had raised two chicks, was brought to say his final goodbye, he broke out in what could only be described as a dirge.

Sphen and Magic had spent six years together but grief seems to be an emotion that transcends sentence. Elephants have been known to grieve the loss of their partners, parents and cubs; bald eagles and black vultures mate for life; dogs remain emblematic of a rare kind of fealty to their owners — for nine years until his own death, Hachiko, a Japanese Akita dog, waited at a railway station every evening for his master to return from work. He had never gotten over the loss of his owner, an academic at Tokyo Imperial University. But if grief is pervasive across species, there are also lessons in resilience from the animal kingdom.

Dealing with the shock of the untimely death of her father, writer and naturalist Helen McDonald channels her anger and hurt into becoming a falconer. In *H is for Hawk* (2014), she writes of the lesson that the fierce and unyielding goshawk teaches her that grief would not allow her to see: "You see that life will become a thing made of holes. Absences. Losses. Things that were there and are no longer. And you realise, too, that you have to grow around and between the gaps, though you can put your hand out to where things were and feel that tense, shining dullness of the space where the memories are."

A CONFUSED BJP that lacks a majority in Parliament, a weakened Prime Minister who lacks the courage of conviction, and a Congress-led Opposition that lacks a long-term plan for India's inclusive development but only seeks short-term electoral gains have combined to kill a key administrative reform. The lateral entry scheme meant to revitalise a moribund *babudom* is dead. It will be long before a strong and visionary PM arrives on the scene with a resolve to infuse life into it.

Privately, many forward-looking leaders across party lines admit that the country's administrative machinery needs radical reforms, and that the lateral entry scheme is one of them. They will also tell you that to be meaningful, the scheme should be free from the provision of quotas. But the election-winning priorities of parties are so heavily influenced by the warped debate on "social justice" that there are hardly any prominent voices defending a scheme the Modi government introduced only to withdraw it at lightning speed.

The sorry predicament of Modi 3.0 is obvious even before it has completed 100 days. The feeblest dissent from coalition partners is enough for it to reverse its steps. The Congress's hypocrisy is also out in the open. In its eagerness to embrace caste politics and a caste-based development model, and a hurried bid to recover lost support base, especially in north India, it is trying to outdo even Kanshi Ram and Chandrashekhar Azad (Raavan). See how stiffly it opposed the lateral entry scheme. Rahul Gandhi slammed it by calling it "privatisation of IAS", forgetting that his own father, grandmother and great-grandfather also invited external non-IAS, non-quota talent into their governments. Bizarrely, his party supported the Bharat Bandh on August 21, which denounced the recent Supreme Court verdict on sub-categorisation of SC/ST quotas. His colleague Siddaramaiah, Karnataka chief minister, has welcomed the verdict as "historic".

Why does India need a certain number of external professionals to join the administration, especially at the middle and senior levels? And why is it necessary to exempt such lateral entry from the provision of reservation? The answer is obvious to all who know the glaring shortcomings in our system of governance at the Centre and in states and municipal corporations. For India to overcome the gigantic challenges in development and

meet the rising aspirations of its 1.45 billion people, especially those belonging to poor and neglected communities, nothing is more crucial than efficient, responsive and results-oriented governance. Which caste or religion public servants belong to is immaterial. What should matter is whether they are competent, pro-people and can deliver outcomes that benefit the nation as a whole and, particularly, the disadvantaged citizenry.

For example, officers in education, health-care or any of the employment-promoting departments, regardless of their caste or community identity, will contribute more to the cause of social and economic justice if they are highly competent and dedicated. Competence and commitment, which are caste-agnostic, are also imperative in other fields of governance — from justice delivery to scientific research, from rural development to women's empowerment — since everything cumulatively promotes or hinders the holistic development of society, especially those left behind.

There is also a second compelling reason. Challenges in development and governance are becoming highly complex in the modern world. Therefore, higher echelons of administration require professionals with deep domain knowledge and expertise, rather than generalists like most job-secure IAS officers who hop from one domain to another in relatively short stints with little people-monitored accountability. The traditional public service system does not produce enough of such specialists. Why should public service remain a monopoly of IAS or IFS officers, who, quite often, become an elite 'caste' unto themselves and fiercely resist the entry of external talent?

Some may argue: Let there be lateral entry, but with strict adherence to reservations for SCs, STs and OBCs. This defeats the very *raison d'être* of the reform. Rahul Gandhi recently posed the wrong question in Parliament by wanting to know how many officers from quota categories were among secretaries to the Government of India. The question to be

debated is different. What contributes more to social and economic justice for SCs, STs, OBCs and other marginalised communities? Is it a small number of elite quota beneficiaries in the higher levels of government service or competent, efficient, accountable and high-quality governance that can benefit millions of people from the very same communities? Sadly, the debate on the lateral entry scheme has been hijacked by quota "Brahmins" at the expense of multitudes who remain victims of poor governance. Their opposition to the creamy-layer concept also shows their exclusionary touch-me-not mindset.

Another question: Should India remain blind to international experience? All rich countries, and many developing countries, offer public service opportunities to highly competent and interested professionals. In the US and China, it is routine for specialists in universities and private sector companies to be called upon to work in government departments, including in foreign service.

No sane person who is wedded to social justice, economic democracy and other constitutional values can be indifferent to the need to ensure a fair reflection of diversity in India's governance structure. But indifference bordering on disrespect for competence and commitment in public service is detrimental to the realisation of these very lofty values.

How can we make lateral entry socially representative without mandatory quotas? We must accelerate efforts to build needed competencies in professionals from less represented sections of society. This requires major and long-neglected reforms in government-run universities, whose low standards are hurting the poor among SCs, STs, OBCs and all other communities. Private sector companies too must come forward to provide ample growth opportunities to talented human resources in these communities.

Above all, government service demands a paramount virtue from all who wish to enter its portals through regular or lateral channels. At work, they must "annihilate" their own caste and religious identities, and embrace only one "jaati" — of public servants — and only one *dharma* (duty): Service of India and all Indians without any discrimination.

The writer was a close aide to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee

WHERE TO TAX A COMPANY

UN framework will find it difficult to resolve issues of cross-border taxation



SURANJALI TANDON

THE INEXPLICABLY LOW rates of tax paid by multinationals stirred a row after the global financial crisis. In response, the G20 mobilised the OECD's technical wherewithal to address some of the concerns. The last decade was dedicated to the cause and the OECD anchored the work of creating a profit-shifting programme. Fifteen action points to ensure transparency in cross-border income reporting and anti-avoidance measures were recommended. The organisation opened its gates to low-income countries to participate on an "equal footing" with its developed peers at the Inclusive Framework (IF). The seat at the table was made available not only because the world was changing and markets mattered, but also because tax competition among developed countries had intensified. They competed to offer low tax hubs while bilaterally negotiating treaties with preferential terms with developing countries.

The bonhomie lasted until countries ran into a messier terrain of redistribution of taxing rights. Questions were raised about where large tech companies should be paying taxes — the country of residence (predominantly US) or markets such as India? To forge consensus, the OECD kept going back to the drawing board to only come up with more complex solutions. More efforts were made to live up to the ideal of inclusivity, officials from developing countries such as Jamaica co-chaired the

IF and many, including from India, voiced their concerns. Yet, this anonymised process of consensus building began to tire members. Disillusioned countries and regional groups demanded a shift. They proposed it was time for an intergovernmental tax body at the UN.

In a momentous move, 125 countries, including India, voted in favour of a UN global tax convention in 2023. However, 48 countries, including the UK and US, rejected the proposal. Despite resistance from developed countries, the UN proceeded to work on the terms of reference. The final version, released on August 15, was rejected by only eight countries but still included the US and UK. EU countries that initially opposed and remained divided on the agenda, abstained from voting on the final draft of terms of reference.

There is no doubt that the UN is poised to assume prominence in international tax negotiations. However, two aspects will determine its fate. First, time and money have been invested in building institutional frameworks at the OECD that have ensured exchange of information, quick adoption of anti-abuse measures in treaties and cross-country information sharing. Would it be wise to duplicate this work unless the current system is riddled with flaws — an issue that EU countries have raised? The convention also acknowledges this overlap and recommends that the committee consider synergies. It remains to be seen how this

is managed. Second, economic interests between and within groups of countries will continue to diverge. Forging consensus on cross-border matters can be difficult, especially if the sovereignty of countries in tax policy-making is to be preserved. The iterative revisions to the UN tax convention are material for scope. For example, the language was revised in specific aspects — a shift of focus to tax avoidance and evasion by high-net-worth individuals. It also emphasises sovereignty, while committing to fair allocation of taxing rights and meeting SDGs. The recognition of fair allocation of taxing rights is a shift in international tax thinking, although the concept of fairness remains undefined.

The UN breaks away from the practice at IF by establishing formal processes including that of election of members of the negotiating committee on an equitable basis. Public information on country votes also lends transparency. It allows experts and civil society to identify and engage with the naysayers. A pragmatic approach will include cross border services including digital services and illicit financial flows. The challenge will be to get acceptance from countries such as the US and UK. It is doubtful that they would adopt the protocols especially since countries will have the flexibility to sign.

The writer is associate professor, NIPFP

AUGUST 24, 1984, FORTY YEARS AGO

PROVINCIAL COUNCILS

THE GOVERNMENT WAS willing to consider provincial councils as units of devolution for the entire country, Sri Lankan President Jayewardene said. The district councils in existence will remain intact, but soon, provincial councils will be conceived. The President saw the formation of provincial councils as an organic part of the second chamber concept spelt out by him to the all-party conference called to consider the problem of Sri Lanka Tamils.

CONG POLL PLANNING

ABOUT HALF A dozen cabinet ministers of

Bihar will be told to quit for taking up organisational work as part of the Congress (I) high command's plans to strengthen the party before the forthcoming elections. This became obvious after Bihar Chief Minister Chandra Shekhar Singh and his predecessor, Jagannath Mishra, had talks with the central leaders.

ANTULAY'S BAIL PLEA

THE PROSECUTION APPLICATION for cancellation of the former Maharashtra chief minister, AR Antulay's bail was rejected by Justice S N Khatri at the Bombay High Court. Giving his ruling, Justice Khatri said it could not be conclusively said that the accused had in-

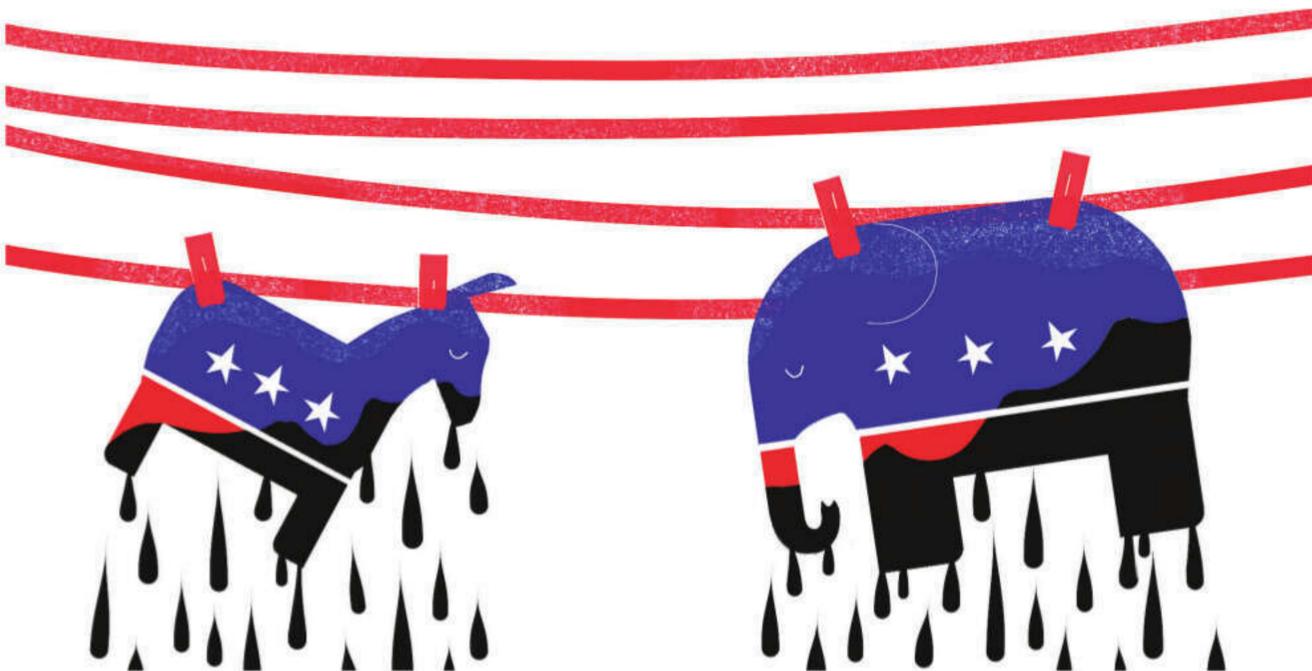
dulged in tampering with the government files relating to cement transactions during his tenure as chief minister.

NTR'S DISILLUSIONMENT

THE BATTLE OF Andhra Pradesh must be won before any further talks of opposition party unity at the national level. N T Rama Rao, the Telugu Desam party leader told ENS just before emplaning for Hyderabad. Rama Rao's health seems to have improved much since his arrival in Delhi. He, however, appeared to be disillusioned about the Centre and did not expect either the recall of the Governor or the dismissal of the Bhaskara Rao Ministry.



15 THE IDEAS PAGE



CR Sasikumar

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"A minority of voters will always demand more draconian measures against foreign arrivals. But a quieter majority is amenable to the argument that fair rules, properly enforced, can also operate in a spirit of openness to the outside world and compassion for people fleeing conflict and persecution." — THE GUARDIAN

The Gupkar stranglehold

J&K needs a new beginning. Assembly elections could end the domination of scions



RAM RAJYA
BY RAM MADHAV

IT IS GOING to be a *battle royale* in Jammu and Kashmir. The Union Territory, carved out from the erstwhile state of J&K in 2019, will be holding its first-ever elections in September. The Election Commission has announced polling in three phases to the 90 assembly segments of the UT legislature.

After the abrogation of Article 370 and the creation of J&K as a UT, certain administrative measures were to be completed before starting the electoral process. While the J&K region in the erstwhile state had 83 assembly segments, that number has been increased to 90 under the reorganisation act, thus necessitating a delimitation exercise. The delimitation commission was established in March 2020 under Justice Ranjana Desai, a former Supreme Court judge. The Commission completed the process by the middle of 2022, despite regional political parties like the National Conference, PDP and People's Conference coming together to form a short-lived alliance, the "Gupkar Alliance", and challenging the exercise in courts.

The main players in the elections will be national parties like the BJP and Congress and regional parties like the NC and PDP. There will be several other smaller parties that have emerged in the Kashmir Valley, like the People's Conference led by Sajjad Lone and JK Apni Party led by Altaf Bukhari. A new surprise in the Valley politics is the rise of a pro-separatist outfit called the Awami Ittehad Party (AIP), led by a mercurial separatist leader Sheikh Abdul Rashid, popularly known as Engineer Rashid. Rashid shocked observers of J&K politics earlier this year by winning the North Kashmir Lok Sabha seat of Baramulla, defeating Omar Abdullah, the NC strongman and a towering leader in the Valley's politics. Since then, speculation is rife that Rashid's party would emerge as a strong force in the Valley politics through the legislative elections, not good news for the region and the nation.

The BJP, with its stronghold over the Jammu region, will continue to be a formidable force. It has a strong organisational and political presence in almost all the 43 assembly segments in the Jammu region, including Muslim-dominated areas like the Pir Panjal and Chenab Valley. Several prominent Muslim leaders have joined the party in the last few months enhancing its winning chances in 10-odd seats in the region, even in areas where the Muslim votes matter.

The NC is hoping to make a comeback by winning a majority of the seats in the Kashmir Valley. But the party's ambition was dampened by the defeat of its leader Omar Abdullah in the Lok Sabha elections from a

constituency that sends 16 legislators to the assembly. In a desperate bid, the Abdullahs decided to join hands with the Congress, hoping that the INDI Alliance would help them stem the BJP's surge in Jammu. However, after the departure of Ghulam Nabi Azad in August 2022, the Congress Party has been a lacklustre force in the region. Several of its other leaders have migrated to parties like the BJP.

Far from benefiting by joining hands with the NC, the Congress will have to face the wrath of the people of Jammu and the nationalist elements in Kashmir, besides the people of the country, for this opportunistic alliance. Just a few days before the election, the NC came out with its election manifesto which categorically stated that the party's first demand would be for the restoration of Articles 370 and 35 A in the Indian Constitution. "The first order of business of the elected assembly should be to make it known not just to the rest of India but to the world at large that the people of J&K don't agree with what happened to us on August 5, 2019. Then we start undoing what was done to us", Omar Abdullah said a week ago.

The party's manifesto smacks of a soft separatist mindset, Kashmiri domination and scant respect for the people of Jammu, especially the SCs and STs. Sheikh Abdullah, its founder, was the champion of the idea of "autonomy" of Kashmir, a dangerous slogan that forced Jawaharlal Nehru to send him to jail in 1953. Again, it was Farooq Abdullah's government in J&K, that brought the infamous "autonomy resolution" in 2000, trying to stoke separatism in the state.

The Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led NDA government in Delhi had snubbed Farooq Abdullah by rejecting the resolution in Parliament. It is saddening that after two decades the NC manifesto once again talks about autonomy and Article 370. The manifesto also talks about releasing prisoners who were jailed for pro-terrorist and anti-national activities and refers to the famous Shankaracharya Hill in Srinagar as Takht-i-Sulaiman and the adjoining Hari Parvat Fort as Koh-e-Maran.

The Modi government has introduced Scheduled Tribe reservation in the state to provide social justice to Gujjars, Pahadis and other tribes. The NC manifesto wants to "review" all the reservation in the state. It betrays NC's anti-Jammu streak and throws a challenge at the marginalised sections of the Jammu society like Hindu SCs and Pahadis and Muslim Gujjars and Bakarwals. The Congress Party leadership has to answer if it shares the NC's soft-separatist and anti-SC/ST political agenda.

The elections will continue Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of freeing the people from family politics and ushering in true democracy through free and fair elections. It was this vision that resulted in the Kashmir Valley sending a Sunni, a Shia and a Gujjar to Parliament for the first time from its three seats, truly representing the rich diversity of the Valley and rejecting the politics of scions. With the BJP continuing to be a strong force in the UT, this election will witness historic results and free people from the stranglehold of Gupkaris.

The writer, president, India Foundation, is with the BJP. Views are personal

Reaching out, pointing a finger

At the Democratic National Convention, Kamala Harris did both. She will need to find the language to address even those who voted for Donald Trump and still support him



VAMSEE JULURI

KAMALA HARRIS'S SELECTION as the Democratic candidate for US President has brought joy to a part of America that deserves it. For four long years, many Americans have lived through the self-contradictory strain of saying things are great under President Joe Biden while also saying things are not great at all because former President Trump is still around. They waited patiently for President Biden to rise to the occasion again, but then decided finally that it would be better to thank him for his service and confront their fearsome nemesis with a new arsenal instead.

And what spectacular energy has ensued from that arsenal since the Democratic National Convention (DNC) began!

Harris has been consistently described as an amazingly competent and compassionate human being by colleagues, family, and friends for the past few days. Personal testimonies have poured forth from people who knew her from the beginnings of her public life as San Francisco District Attorney, California Attorney General, Senator, and recently, as the US Vice President. It would not be out of place to describe the mood at the DNC as one of religious fervour, and of course, faith, in a much-needed saviour.

Texas Representative Jasmine Crockett's speech summed up this mood perfectly. When she met VP Harris, she was very emotional, she said, and then, "the most powerful woman in

the world wiped my tears and listened to me." Confronted with tales of such empathy, what else can human beings do but believe?

Even the hip cartoonists at the *New Yorker* couldn't resist representing the metaphysics of hope emanating from Chicago. One cartoon shows passengers in a plane shaking in their seats while the captain warns them of "moderate turbulence" from the "energy field pulsing up from the Democratic National Convention."

Naturally, this mystical energy field has pulsed its way all the way up to an ecstatic climax with the breathlessly awaited appearance of the final speaker at the DNC — Harris herself. To start with, her speech was consistent with the description of her as someone capable of wiping away tears from the face of suffering Americans. She called for an end to bitterness and divisiveness. She noted that people with all political views were watching, and promised to be a leader for all Americans — "country over party," as the saying goes. That was a much-needed gesture. Whatever the differences in positions and proposed policies of the two parties, the fact that she did so when no one expected her opponent to make generous "reaching across the aisle" moves was indeed welcome. But then, that promise was ephemeral.

Her attention then turned promptly to Donald Trump, whom she called an "unserious man". She turned to issue grave warnings about what his return might do to America. It was an unexpected grasp at a gratuitous rhetorical crutch after all the lofty presidential image-building exercises at the convention. The "bogeyman" trope about Trump was perhaps par for the course when other speakers used it ("vindictive, vile, villain" was one of the more colourful phrases), but a step backwards when heard from someone working diligently towards greater gravitas in a darkly cacophonous time of po-

litical history. When you demonise an opponent who is still incredibly popular with many Americans, you run the risk of being seen as demonising those Americans you just promised to be a President for as well. On that count, despite all his obvious communication tics, tick-offs, and tactics (including his latest physical gag of mocking his advisers who tell him to talk about policies and avoid personal attacks on opponents), Trump still has some references to a familiar everyday American reality in his rhetorical arsenal that the Democratic campaign has failed to offer a persuasive alternative to.

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The Democrats may chant "USA!" like Trump fans, but then the sight of American flags and monuments being desecrated in protests and riots these past few years under Democrats — slogans such as White Supremacy and Palestine — will not be forgotten by many people, across race, religion, and cultures, for whom "country" still symbolises an honourable form of association and identity. More importantly, it is quite apparent that the Democrats are also attempting to turn some of the unignorable social concerns highlighted by Trump such as crime and safety, and prices, into wins for them by highlighting Harris's prosecutorial record, and the Republicans' proximity to wealth, respectively. There are empty spaces in both houses.

The convention has come to an end, and so has an incredible experience in the meaning of politics to some in this, supposedly post-religious, age. "After the ecstasy", as the title of a famous book goes, is the laundry. That it will get dirty is obvious. But much more than we know will be at stake if we are unable to avert our eyes from the spin and see it all for what it is.

The writer is professor of Media Studies, University of San Francisco



RAJESWARI SENGUPTA AND BHARGAVI ZAVERI SHAH

Don't control the rupee

Changing rules of the game can have damaging effects on costs of doing business

THE INDIAN RUPEE follows a managed floating exchange rate regime. This means that the central bank intervenes in the foreign exchange market to buy or sell dollars in order to stabilise the value of the rupee. In recent times, however, the RBI seems to be using its regulatory powers to gain greater control over the rupee. We argue that currency management must not entail the use of regulations. The purpose of regulations is to address market failures. Currency volatility is not a market failure — it is the fluctuation of the currency in response to demand and supply forces. The use of regulatory powers for currency management introduces uncertainty in the central bank's currency policy, and also increases the cost of doing business in RBI-regulated sectors. We discuss three such regulatory measures and the problems associated with them.

First, prohibiting speculative trades on exchanges. This exacerbates the difficulties of taking rupee exposure in India. In 2008, the RBI allowed Indian exchanges to launch a currency derivatives segment. At that time, the RBI's guidelines on currency Futures and Options allowed Indian residents to participate in this market "to hedge an exposure to foreign exchange rate risk or otherwise". While the RBI continued to prescribe the product design, position limits, and trading hours, the general trend was towards opening up this market. The idea was that as India became more globally integrated, the demand for such instruments and for liquidity

in the derivatives market would increase. At some point, the 2008 guidelines were overtaken by several circulars, with the last version issued in 2016 having been amended at least 11 times. These regulations explicitly allowed taking positions in rupee-linked currency derivatives up to \$100 million across all exchanges, "without having to establish existence of underlying exposure".

Earlier this year, however, the RBI explicitly mandated exchanges to inform users that they "should be in a position to establish the existence of a valid underlying contracted exposure, if required". This warning compelled the bulk of retail traders to wind up their positions as a result of which trading volumes collapsed by about 80 per cent across all exchanges. This regulatory measure essentially restricts speculators from trading in the onshore rupee market. It overlooks the fact that a liquid market requires all kinds of traders, including speculators, who act as de facto market makers. This move is an irreversible blow to a reasonably liquid market, which allowed hedgers to take positions on the rupee at low costs. It is likely to drive away volumes to the offshore currency derivatives market.

Second, regulating offshore trading platforms. The RBI proposed to regulate offshore electronic trading platforms (ETPs), which facilitate rupee-linked derivative transactions. Published on its website in April 2024, this proposal seeks to empower the RBI to oversee the offshore currency forwards market, commonly called the non-deliverable for-

wards (NDF) market. The NDF market allows people to trade in the rupee without undertaking any physical delivery of the currency, thereby reducing the cost of trading. In the last few years, the rupee NDF market has grown substantially in size, and is now reported to be almost thrice as large as the onshore market. This has led to concerns in the RBI that the offshore market, over which it has no direct oversight or control, could be playing a significant role in determining the rupee's value. The recent regulatory proposal requires ETPs to register themselves with the RBI, and confers fairly extensive powers on the central bank, such as the power to refuse registration, seek information, specify "eligible instruments" that Indian residents may trade in, and impose additional terms and conditions.

Legally, the RBI can restrict Indian entities' rights to deal with non-residents or to transact in foreign currencies, but it is a jurisdictional leap to regulate offshore platforms on which Indian residents trade. This is akin to Sebi asking the New York Stock Exchange to register with itself, simply because Indian residents trade at these venues. Instead of expanding its regulatory powers, the RBI must make it easier for people to trade the rupee in India. This will help bring back rupee linked trading volumes and allied businesses onshore.

Third, the RBI's instructions to banks. Earlier this month, when the rupee-dollar exchange rate depreciated close to the 84 mark in the spot market, the RBI is reported to have orally instructed some large commercial

banks to not add to their existing trading positions against the rupee. This step seems to have been taken to stem further rupee depreciation. On August 16, the RBI similarly instructed banks that handle trade with the United Arab Emirates to partially settle their trade payments using rupee instead of the dollar. This means that banks should directly convert rupees into dirhams and vice versa without first converting them into dollars. One objective of this move seems to be to reduce dollar dependence in international trade. But settling trade in rupee also helps insulate the currency from the impact of dollar outflows, that is, lower the extent of rupee depreciation against the dollar. In other words, this is yet another regulatory measure that helps to manage the currency.

Notwithstanding the debate on the costs and benefits of a "managed" currency for an emerging economy like India, the RBI must not seek to manage the rupee's volatility through an indiscriminate expansion of its regulatory powers. Regulations are the rules of the game. Unlike market operations that involve central banks buying or selling the currency in the foreign exchange markets, changes to the rules of the game can have a more permanent, damaging effect on the incentives and the costs of doing business in the country.

Sengupta is associate professor of Economics, IGDR and Shah is a doctoral researcher at the National University of Singapore

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SAFETY, IN REAL TIME

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Fighting the water' (IE, August 23). Flash floods, landslides, cloudbursts have been causing loss of life and extensive damage to property in Himachal, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Assam, etc. The state administration is caught unprepared except in Odisha. All states must devise effective plans with the help of experts to issue timely warnings, carry out evacuation and provide shelter to the displaced people. Water management is the key to efficiently mitigating the effects of the fury of the weather. It is not difficult if suitable steps are initiated well in advance.

Subhash Vaid, New Delhi

TELECOM CONCERNS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Market facts and fears' (IE, August 23). Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal raised valid concern over "predatory pricing" by e-commerce platforms and emphasised the value of a level playing field. This is important for healthy competition. Goyal should also pay attention to other sectors. Predatory pricing in the telecom sector has been flagged previously. After the introduction of Reliance Jio in 2016, there has been a significant shrink from 11 to three key market players. This is concerning and deserves attention.

Prashant Kumar, via email

COLLATERAL DAMAGE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Bringing in talent, not loyalists' (IE, August 23). The Centre's decision to cancel lateral entry recruitments in bureaucracy is a demonstration of how good policies become collateral damage in political battles. Lateral entry is a means for the government to recruit people with domain expertise and proven leadership and managerial skills who would otherwise not have considered joining the government. It is concerning that the Opposition sought to define the issue through the prism of reservation.

SS Paul, Nadia

RETHINK ON RUSSIA

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'When Modi meets Zelenskyy' (IE, August 23). Ukraine became an eyesore for Russia due to its proximity to the US and NATO. Two years after the war began, the world needs to adjust its sails. Russia has an impact on world economics owing to its oil and gas production. Considering its mammoth scale, sanctions have not been an effective strategy. Dialogue has to be initiated. India, which followed the policy of non-alignment during the Cold War, is trying to play a proactive role. With growing bilateral trade with Ukraine and age-old ties with Russia, new venues of cooperation need to be explored.

Ramanpreet, via email

THREE DAY-VISIT

BIDEN TO DISPATCH NSA SULLIVAN TO CHINA

President Joe Biden will dispatch his national security adviser Jake Sullivan to China next week. Sullivan's three-day visit, set to begin Tuesday, is expected to raise US concerns about China's support for Russia as Moscow's war in Ukraine grinds on, Chinese military assertiveness in the SC

TOP OF THE WORLD



Officers in the town of Surovikino. Reuters

RUSSIA

Prison siege ends as snipers kill Islamist hostage-takers

Moscow: Russia's security services shot dead four inmates Friday who had taken hostages at a penal colony, fatally stabbing four of its staff and posted on-line videos describing themselves as Islamic State militants, officials said. "Snipers of the special forces of the Russian National Guard in the Volgograd region, with four precise shots, neutralised four prisoners who had taken prison employees hostage. The hostages have been released," news agency RIA quoted the National Guard as saying. The federal prisons service said all four attackers had been "liquidated". It said four of its staff had died of stab wounds, and others had been treated in hospital. A total of eight prison employees and four convicts had been held hostage, it said. REUTERS

UKRAINE

Kyiv says it has retaken some land in Kharkiv

Kyiv: Ukraine's military says it used high-precision glide bombs provided by the United States to carry out strikes in Russia's Kursk region while also claiming to have recaptured some territory in the eastern region of Kharkiv, where Russia launched an offensive in the spring. Ukraine's Air Force Commander Lt Gen. Mykola Oleschuk issued a video Thursday night purporting to show a Russian platoon base being hit in the Kursk region. He said the attack with GBU-39 bombs resulted in Russian casualties and the destruction of equipment. AP

FRANCE

Macron holds talks in bid to form new govt

Paris: After the excitement of the Paris Olympics, now French President Emmanuel Macron has to figure out how to make his country governable again. Faced with a hung parliament, social tensions and ballooning debt, Macron kicked off talks Friday with key political players in a bid to choose a new prime minister who would form a government. AP

SHE PROMISES TO BACK UKRAINE, accuses Trump of bowing down to dictators

A TIGHTROPE WALK ON GAZA: Pledges to secure Israel, bats for ceasefire

Chance for new way forward: Harris accepts nomination



Kamala Harris on the stage on the final night of the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, Thursday. Reuters

Warns people of consequences of putting Trump back in White House

REUTERS & PTI CHICAGO, AUGUST 23

US VICE President Kamala Harris sealed the Democratic presidential nomination with a muscular speech, laying down broad foreign policy principles and sharp contrasts with Republican rival Donald Trump with 11 weeks left in the race for the White House. On the final night of the four-day Democratic National Convention, Harris, 59, promised to be a "realistic," "practical" president for all Americans, as she battles Trump, 78, in a razor-close campaign. Harris outlined her plans for a "new way forward" if she's elected the 47th president. "In the enduring struggle between democracy and tyranny, I know where I stand and I know where the US belongs," she said, accusing Trump of bowing down to dictators. She promised to back NATO, Ukraine and "stand up to Putin's aggression". Harris delivered a pledge to secure Israel, bring the hostages

home from Gaza and end the war in the Palestinian enclave. "Now is the time to get a hostage deal and a ceasefire deal done," she said. "And let me be clear, I will always stand up for Israel's right to defend itself and I will always ensure Israel has the ability to defend itself." She said she wanted to end the war in a way that provides for the Palestinian people to realise their right to self-determination. Harris said she would take whatever action was necessary to defend US interests against Iran and said tyrants and dictators including North Korea's Kim Jong Un, "are roosting for Trump". Harris accused Trump of not fighting for the middle class, planning to enact a tax hike, and having set in motion the end of a constitutional right to abortion with his picks for the US Supreme Court. Harris noted the Supreme Court's recent ruling about presidential immunity and the risks that would pose if Trump gained power again. "Just imagine Trump with no guard rails," she said.

COUNTER POINT

In many ways, Donald Trump is an unserious man. When he failed (in the election), he sent an armed mob to the US Capitol where they assaulted law enforcement officers. When politicians in his own party begged him to call off the mob and send help, he did the opposite. He fanned the flames

KAMALA HARRIS US VICE-PRESIDENT

She (Kamala Harris) stands for Incompetence and Weakness - Our Country is being laughed at all over the World! She will never be respected by the Tyrants of the World

DONALD TRUMP FORMER US PRESIDENT

Speech fails to win over critics in Democrats' biggest rift - Gaza

REUTERS CHICAGO, AUGUST 23

DISAPPOINTED PRO-PALESTINIAN activists said Kamala Harris' speech to close the Democratic convention in Chicago failed to demonstrate any break from the status quo, after a week in which the most divisive issue facing the party was mostly ignored. Under pressure to respond to critics of US support for Israel's war in Gaza, the vice president used her Thursday night speech to repeat earlier calls for a ceasefire and a hostages deal. Abbas Alawieh, co-founder of the Uncommitted National Movement that mobilised more than 750,000 voters to protest US policy on Israel, said Harris missed an opportunity to win over those people, many of whom live in battleground states



A protest in support of Palestinians in Gaza in Chicago. Reuters

such as Michigan, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Arizona. Rima Mohammad, an Uncommitted delegate from Michigan, said the speech added to disappointment over the DNC's refusal to let a Palestinian speak, and offered nothing to assuage the concerns of her progressive, diverse community in Ann Arbor. "I'm actually more concerned now," said.



People at flood-hit Chhagalnaiya in Feni, Friday. Reuters

Bangladesh floods kill 15, leave over 45 lakh marooned

ANISUR RAHMAN DHAKA, AUG 23

MONSOON RAINFALL-TRIGGERED floods in deltaic Bangladesh and upstream Indian regions killed at least 15 people and affected over four million others in this country, posing a huge administrative challenge to the newly installed interim government amid a political transition. Several rivers are flowing above the danger mark, particularly in north-eastern, eastern and south-eastern Bangladesh inundating many cities and towns apart from several hun-

dred villages killing people, damaging the infrastructures and disrupting communication lines. "At least 15 people have been killed and 4.8 million people in as many as 11 districts have been affected by floods triggered by heavy rains in Bangladesh," state-run news agency Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) said quoting Md Kamrul Hasan, secretary of the Disaster Management Ministry. Rescue operations in the flood-affected areas are being carried out by the army, navy, coast guard, Border Guards, Bangladesh, fire services, police as well as students, Hasan said.

Shakib-Al-Hasan faces murder case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

STAR BANGLADESH all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan has been named as one of the accused in connection with an alleged murder that took place during the recent protests and violence in Bangladesh which left hundreds dead. The 37-year-old ex-Bangladesh captain, a former lawmaker in the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League regime, was among 147 people against whom charges have been filed for an alleged murder during the protests in early August, according to ESPNcricinfo. Sheikh Hasina was forced to resign and flee the country with Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus taking over as chief adviser of Bangladesh's interim government.



The cricketer was outside country when the murder took place on August 7

Shakib, who is either the 27th or 28th accused in the first information report (FIR), was not in Bangladesh on August 5, or at any time during the protests. The former skipper was playing for Bangla Tigers Mississauga at the Global T20 Canada league in Brampton from July 26 to August 9.

Hasina's diplomatic passport revoked

Bangladesh's interim government has revoked ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina's diplomatic passport along with all members of the former Cabinet, over two weeks after she resigned and fled to India following a student-led uprising against her government.

Lanka's main Tamil party divided ahead of polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA COLOMBO, AUGUST 23

THE TAMIL National Alliance (TNA), Sri Lanka's main Tamil party, has suffered a blow with its chair S Sritharan's decision to endorse P Ariyanethran who is contesting the island nation's presidential election as the Tamil minority's common candidate. Sritharan on Thursday publicly backed Ariyanethran who had been asked to show cause by the TNA for submitting his nomi-

nation to contest the September 21 presidential election. Sritharan had presided over the Politburo meeting of the TNA last week which had decided to take disciplinary action against Ariyanethran. Sritharan was elected as the TNA's main group lankai Tamil Arasu Katchi leader in January but his appointment was challenged in court by another section of the party over alleged irregularities. The TNA is yet to make its stand official on which of the main candidates they would support.

I miss her: Harris recalls her Indian mother

KATIE ROGERS CHICAGO, AUGUST 23

IN 1958, a young graduate student moved to the United States from her native India because she wanted to find a cure for breast cancer. She fell in love, got married and had two daughters. She named her eldest Kamala. Shyamala Gopalan Harris, who died of colon cancer in 2009, never got to see that daughter, Kamala Harris, win a close election to become attorney general of California, and go on to become



Harris with her great-nieces, Amara and Leela, after her speech in Chicago. Reuters

a senator. She did not watch as Harris was chosen to run with Joe Biden, eventually becoming the vice president of the US. But at the 2024 Democratic convention, Harris will credit the woman who raised her as her life's animating force. "My mother, Shyamala Harris, had one of her own. I miss her every day - especially now. And I know she's looking down tonight and smiling," Harris said. "My mother was a five-foot-tall, brown woman with an accent," Harris said. "I saw how the world would sometimes treat her, but my mother never lost her

cool," Harris said. "She taught us to never complain about injustice but to do something about it," Harris said to cheers. "And she also told us to never do something 'half-assed'," Harris said. Her parents separated when she was 5 years old, but her earliest memories of her mother and father, a Jamaican economics professor named Donald Harris, were peppered with visits to civil rights demonstrations. "They fell in love in the most American way - while marching for justice in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s," Harris said in 2020. NYT

Real test for Harris begins

THE PARTY in Chicago is done. But the real question as Democrats woke up on Friday was whether they could channel the sheer intoxication into a sustained, 74-day sprint to Election Day. Harris has rejuvenated a demoralised party and given a jolt of optimism to Democrats who now see victory in reach. The buzzkill reality is that victory is anything but assured.

EX-PRESIDENT JOSÉ MUJICA AND LUCÍA TOPOLANSKY HAVE LONG BEEN MARRIED TO ONE ANOTHER, AND THEIR LEFTIST POLITICAL CAUSE

Love story of armed rebels who led Uruguay: From bank robbers to top post

JACK NICAS MONTEVIDEO, AUGUST 23

HE LED a band of armed rebels. She was an expert in forging documents. They robbed banks, they staged prison breaks and they were in love. It was the early 1970s, and José Mujica and Lucía Topolansky were members of a violent leftist guerrilla group, the Tupamaros. To them, their crimes were justified: They were fighting a repressive government that had taken over Uruguay. He was 37 and she was 27 when, during a clandestine oper-

ation, they first came together. "It was like a flash of lightning in the night," Mujica, now 89, recalled many years later of their first night together, hiding out on a mountainside. Amid war, they found love. But weeks later, they were thrown in prison, where they were subjected to torture and abuse. Over 13 years, they managed to exchange only a letter. The guards confiscated the rest. In 1985, Uruguay's dictatorship ended. They were released on the same day, and they quickly found one another. It was a critical moment in their extraordinary love story.

After more than a decade apart, their love was still alive - and so was the shared cause that had first united them. "The next day we started looking for a place to gather our companions. We had to start the political fight," Topolansky, 79, said. Over the following decades, Mujica and Topolansky became two of their nation's most significant political figures, helping transform Uruguay into one of the world's healthiest democracies, regularly lauded for the strength of its institutions and the civility of its politics. They were both elected to Uruguay's Congress,



José Mujica and Lucía Topolansky belonged to a leftist guerrilla group, Tupamaros, when they met in the 1970s. NYT

and would drive to work together on the same moped. In 2009, Mujica, known widely as Pepe, was elected president, capping a remarkable political journey. At his inauguration, as per tradition, he received the presidential sash from the senator who had received the most votes: Topolansky. She gave him a kiss, too. In 2017, Topolansky was named Uruguay's vice president in a different leftist administration. At various moments, she was the country's acting president. At the same time, away from the spotlight, they built a quiet life on a small chrysanthemum farm

outside Uruguay's capital, Montevideo. Together they tended to their flowers and sold them at markets. They have said prison robbed them of their chance to have children. Instead, they have cared for countless dogs. They are not always romantics. In 2005, they had been living together for 20 years but were still unmarried. One night, Mujica did an interview on a national TV show. "He told the journalist that we were going to get married. I was watching the show and that's how I found out," Topolansky recalled last week, laughing. "At this age, I just caved in."

They were married at a simple ceremony at home. That night, they went to a political rally. Now they say they have entered one of their most difficult moments. In April, Mujica was diagnosed with a tumor in his esophagus. Radiation therapy has left him weak. Last week, he sat in front a wood stove in the home they have shared for almost four decades, as Topolansky helped him put on an extra layer as the sun set. "Love has ages. When you're young, it's a bonfire. When you are an old man, it's a sweet habit," he said. "I'm alive because of her."

17 ECONOMY

SENSEX: 81,086.21 ▲ 33.02 (0.04%) NIFTY: 24,823.15 ▲ 11.65 (0.05%) NIKKEI: 38,364.27 ▲ 153.26 HANG SENG: 17,612.10 ▼ 28.90 FTSE: 8,315.46 ▲ 27.46 DAX: 18,598.82 ▲ 105.43

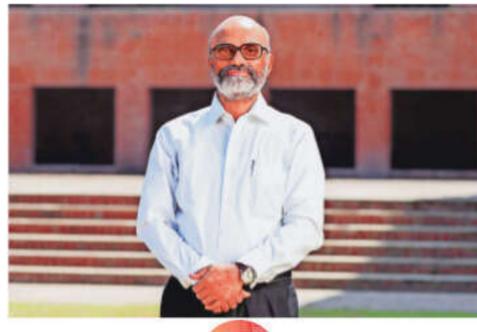
GOLD	USD RATE	OIL	SILVER
₹73,800	₹83.90	\$76.12	₹87,000

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) per barrel as of August 22

International market data till 1900 IST

'Inflation will gradually glide towards 4% target, but this would take several quarters'

JAYANTH R VARMA, one of the three external members of the Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), believes that inflation will gradually move towards the 4 per cent target, but it would take several quarters.



sanct. I am confident that inflation will gradually glide towards the 4 per cent target, but this process would take several quarters.

THE EXPRESS INTERVIEW
WITH **JAYANTH R VARMA**
MEMBER, MONETARY POLICY COMMITTEE, RBI

rate is needed within a short span of time. When do you think this should happen?
I voted for a cut of 25 basis points in the August meeting itself. The subsequent cut would be based on the inflation and growth outcomes over the next couple of months.

There is a view that the US Federal Reserve may cut interest rate in September. Will it have a bearing on MPC's decision on reducing the repo rate?

I think India has sufficient monetary autonomy to formulate its monetary policy based on domestic macroeconomic considerations. India's current account deficit is quite modest, and can be readily financed even if lower interest rates lead to lower capital inflows into our debt markets.

You have mentioned about the unacceptable growth sacrifice induced by a monetary policy that is excessively restrictive. Do you see GDP growth for FY25 to be lower than the projected 7.2 per cent? ICRA has projected growth to fall to 6 per cent in Q1 from 7.8 per cent projected earlier...

It is difficult to forecast growth rates to a decimal point of accuracy. My view is that growth in 2024-25 and 2025-26 would be in the ballpark range of around 7 per cent and this is well below the potential

growth rate of the economy.

What are the three key factors that can help India in achieving the potential growth rate of at least 8 per cent?

First, multiple policy measures during the last few years including digitalisation, tax reforms, and a step up in infrastructure investment are key enablers of rapid growth. Second, the demographic transition that is under way is bringing a large number of new workers into the labour force, and this also creates the conditions for non-inflationary growth. Third, a reduction in real interest rates can accelerate private sector capital investment and spur growth.

India witnessed a transient lull in the investment activity, especially govt capex, in Q1 FY2025. What are the reasons for private capital investment not picking up?

A major reason is probably demand uncertainty. Restrictive monetary policy controls inflation by suppressing demand, and until companies see robust demand growth, they may be reluctant to invest despite reasonably high capacity utilisation.

Remain hopeful that private capital investment will revive, but a reduction in the current excessive real interest rate would help.

JACKSON HOLE CONFERENCE

'Time has come for US Fed to cut rates'

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, AUGUST 23



Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell. Reuters

FEDERAL RESERVE Chair Jerome Powell on Friday offered an explicit endorsement of interest rate cuts, saying further cooling in the job market would be unwelcome and expressing confidence that inflation was within reach of the US central bank's 2 per cent target.

"The upside risks to inflation have diminished. And the downside risks to employment have increased," Powell said in a highly anticipated speech to the Kansas City Fed's annual economic conference in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. "The time has come for policy to adjust. The direction of travel is clear, and the timing and pace of rate cuts will depend on incoming data, the evolving outlook, and the balance of risks."

Referencing the two goals that the Fed is tasked by Congress to achieve, Powell said his "confidence has grown that inflation is on a sustainable path back to 2 per cent," after rising to about 7 per cent during the Covid-19 pandemic, while unemployment is increasing.

While Powell said the jump of nearly a percentage point in the unemployment rate over the past year was due largely to rising labor supply and slowed hiring, not increased layoffs, he also was emphatic that the Fed wanted to pre-

vent any further erosion - his prior talk of labor market "pain" as necessary to control inflation now a thing of the past. The current unemployment rate of 4.3 per cent is roughly at the level Fed officials feel is consistent with stable inflation over the longer run. "We do not seek or welcome further cooling in labor market conditions," Powell said. "We will do everything we can to support a strong labor market as we make further progress toward price stability. With an appropriate dialing back of policy restraint, there is good reason to think that the economy will get back to 2 per cent inflation while maintaining a strong labor market."

Traders on Friday continued to bet on a quarter-percentage-point rate cut at the Fed's September 17-18 meeting, but after Powell's remarks priced in about a one-in-three chance of a bigger half-percentage-point cut, up from a little more than a one-in-four probability earlier. "Powell was clear about the first rate cut, but not so much about the next ones, so I don't think he'll be exploding out of the blocks with a 50-basis-point cut," said Sam Stovall, chief investment strategist at CFRA Research. "I think slow and steady is how the Fed wants to pace this early part of the easing."

Markets are betting the rate cuts will be ongoing, with futures pricing in a Fed policy rate in the 3.00 per cent-3.25 per cent range by the end of 2025, down from the current 5.25 per cent-5.50 per cent range.

Powell's comments are as close as he is likely to come to declaring victory over the outbreak of inflation that rattled the economy at the start of the pandemic.

Retail inflation has fallen to 3.5 per cent in July. Do you expect inflation to be benign in the coming months? Is the 4 per cent level sacrosanct?

I expect inflation to trend down in coming quarters, with transient spikes in growth, primarily due to food inflation. As far as the MPC is concerned, the 4 per cent target is a statutory mandate and therefore sacro-

What is your opinion on the proposal in the Economic Survey for exclusion of food inflation from CPI inflation?

I do not wish to comment on this as an MPC member. The MPC has a statutory mandate set by the government, and our task is to conform to that target. It is up to the government to change the target if it considers it desirable to do so. It would not be appropriate for the MPC to suggest changing the goal post when high food inflation is

estimated, too much precision with regard to a target is unproductive. What is your view on this?

The tolerance band of 2 per cent on either side of the target takes care of these measurement errors as well as the well-known difficulties in forecasting future inflation and the uncertain lags in the effect of monetary policy.

You said a reduction of over 50 basis points in the repo

BRIEFLY

Foxconn infuses ₹1,200 crore in Karnataka unit

New Delhi: Foxconn has infused about Rs 1,200 crore -- approximately USD 144 million -- into its Karnataka-based Foxconn Hon Hai Technology India Mega Development Pvt Ltd, the company said in a recent regulatory filing. The iPhone contract manufacturer's Singapore-based arm Foxconn Singapore Pte has bought over 120.35 crore stocks of Foxconn Hon Hai Technology India Mega Development Pvt Ltd at Rs 10 per share on August 21. PTI

MoSPI to enhance interaction with states

New Delhi: The statistics ministry will enhance interaction with states for compiling data on gross state domestic product and district-wise gross domestic product, said secretary Saurabh Garg. The need to interact more with states is to ensure that data, which is collected is accurate and clear, so that policy-making is better. FE

Sebi asks CAs to be 'extra careful' while auditing SMEs

New Delhi: Sebi's whole-time member Ashwani Bhatia on Friday asked chartered accountants to be more diligent while auditing companies listed on the SME exchange platforms. Addressing an industry event of CAs, Bhatia said it is important to look at the listed SMEs in a more careful way because the same companies will grow to be a part of the main board in the future. PTI

Cognizant sues software rival Infosys

Bengaluru: Cognizant TriZetto sued Infosys in Texas federal court on Friday, accusing Infosys of stealing trade secrets related to its healthcare insurance software. Cognizant said in the lawsuit that Infosys unlawfully extracted data from its databases and used it to build and market competing software. REUTERS

Govt invites proposals for setting up e-comm export hubs

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

AFTER FINANCE Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech announced the establishment of e-commerce export hubs, modelled on similar initiatives in several Southeast Asian countries, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has invited proposals to finalise the operational modalities of these hubs.

Based on these proposals, further details, including software requirements for e-commerce

EXPLAINED
E Growth in e-commerce exports

EXPORTS FROM the e-commerce exports segment have the potential to grow at a faster pace than IT exports did in the early 2000s, as per think tank GTRI.

export hubs (ECEH) to facilitate seamless and expeditious export

clearances, will be finalised, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) stated in a trade notice. "In this regard, detailed proposal(s) for setting up ECEH may be submitted to this Directorate for examination, support, and guidance," the DGFT said.

Initially, there are plans to set up 10-15 hubs across the country. These hubs would be designated areas, serving as centres with favourable business infrastructure and facilities for cross-border e-commerce activities.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Cement cos plan ₹1.25 lakh crore capex till FY27: Crisil Ratings

AGNEYA VEER DHINGRA
MUMBAI, AUGUST 23

CEMENT COMPANIES are planning to invest around Rs 1.25 lakh crore as capital expenditure during financial years 2024-25 (FY25), FY26 and FY27, according to a Crisil Ratings study. The investment comes against the backdrop of good expectations about future demand for cement.

The projected spending is significantly higher than what has been observed in previous years, Crisil said. This is 1.8 times the total capital expenditure over the past three financial years put together, it said. The capex plan fol-

lows a spate of acquisitions by leading players like the Aditya Birla group and the Adani Group in the cement sector.

"A healthy 10 per cent annualised increase in cement demand in the past three fiscals outpaced growth in capacity addition, pushing utilisation level to a decadal high of 70 per cent in fiscal 2024 and prompting manufacturers to press the capex pedal," it said.

Cement demand outlook remains healthy with a compound annual growth rate of 7 per cent over fiscals 2025-2029, the report said.

"The surge in capex over the next three fiscals will primarily cater to this growing demand as

well as to the aspirations of the cement makers to improve their national presence," said Manish Gupta, Senior Director and Public Data Office aggregators (PDOAs) for supplying Internet-leased lines for bandwidth and other fibre resources needed to deploy public Wi-Fi hotspots, industry executives said. The same when compared to broadband for personal use comes at rates starting at as low as Rs 300-400 a month. This, even as the public Wi-Fi hotspot project is crucial for Internet penetration.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Trai proposes reduction in high internet costs by telcos, ISPs under PM Wani

JATIN GROVER
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

THE TELECOM Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) on Friday proposed reduction in broadband connection rates charged by telcos and Internet service providers (ISPs) from public data offices (PDOAs) under the Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM Wani) programme.

PDOAs are local shops/retailers, kiranawalas, storekeepers, etc that deploy public Wi-Fi hotspots and connect the last mile under the PM Wani programme.

The proposal by Trai, as part of the draft telecommunication tariff (70th Amendment) Order, 2024, aims at reviving the PM Wani programme. The pro-



The proposal by Trai aims at reviving the PM Wani programme.

gramme was launched in 2020 to democratise content distribution and broadband access at affordable rates through public WiFi hotspots. The project, however, did not take off as expected owing to the extremely

high cost of connectivity through Internet leased lines charged by TSPs and ISPs from PDOAs. Simply put, telcos and ISPs have been charging up to Rs 8 lakh a year from PDOAs and public data office aggregators (PDOAs) for supplying Internet-leased lines for bandwidth and other fibre resources needed to deploy public Wi-Fi hotspots, industry executives said. The same when compared to broadband for personal use comes at rates starting at as low as Rs 300-400 a month. This, even as the public Wi-Fi hotspot project is crucial for Internet penetration.

A high bandwidth cost for PDOAs does not make a viable business owing to higher costs and less revenue. Data sachets under PM Wani are being provided at Rs 5-10 per day.

LAPSE IN PILOT ROSTERING

DGCA slaps fines totalling ₹99 lakh on Air India

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

APILOT rostering lapse has cost Air India dear with the aviation safety regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) slapping the airline and two of its directors with fines totalling Rs 99 lakh.

"M/s Air India Limited operated a flight commanded by a non-trainer line captain paired with a non-line-released first officer which has been viewed by the regulator as a serious scheduling incident having significant safety ramifications," the DGCA said Friday. The incident came to the notice of the regulator through a voluntary report submitted by Air India in July.

The incident pertains to a Mumbai-Riyadh flight in July that was to be operated by a training captain with a trainee pilot. A rostering change had to be made as the training captain scheduled to operate the flight took ill. However, instead of another training captain, a regular pilot was deployed.

According to norms, trainee pilots are required to be paired with training captains when operating a flight. They cannot be paired with a pilot who is not a designated training captain.

According to sources in the know, both pilots operating the flight realised the scheduling goof-

up during the flight, following which they filed a report with the airline, which then reported the incident to the DGCA.

"Taking cognizance of this incident, the regulator undertook comprehensive investigations into M/s Air India Limited operations including examination of documentations and spot check of M/s Air India Limited Scheduling Facility. Based on investigation, it was prima facie revealed that there are deficiencies and multiple violations to the regulatory provisions by several post holders and staff, which could significantly affect safety," the regulator said. The DGCA had issued show cause notices to a few of Air India's senior officials on July 22, but the replies failed to provide "satisfactory justification" of the incident, resulting in enforcement action by the regulator.

"The national civil aviation regulator (DGCA) has imposed a financial penalty of Ninety Lakh rupees on M/s Air India. In addition, penalty of Rupees Six Lakhs and Rupees Three Lakhs respectively is imposed on the Director Operations and Director Training of M/s Air India. Further, the concerned pilot has been warned to exercise caution to prevent such occurrences in future," the DGCA said.

The airline did not comment till press time on this action by the DGCA.

CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
6th, 7th, & 8th Floor, Tower-B, World Trade Centre, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi-110029

Petition No. 168/TL/2024 Dated: 21.8.2024

NOTICE UNDER CLAUSE (a) OF SUB-SECTION (5) OF SECTION 15 OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT, 2003

An application under Section 14 of the Electricity Act, 2003 (the Act) has been made by POWERGRID KPS2 Transmission System Limited, B-9, Qutab Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi-110016 for the grant of a separate transmission licence for the implementation of transmission system for 'Inter connection of RE developer's DTL at Bay no: 416 of KPS-2 (400kV Bus Section -1)' through 'Regulated Tariff Mechanism' (RTM) mode (hereinafter referred to as the 'transmission scheme/project'). The scope of the project for which a transmission licence has been sought is as under:

Sl. No.	Scope of the Transmission Scheme	Item Description	Implementation Time Frame
1.	Implementation of additional line bay equipment including other miscellaneous works required for physical interconnection of Dedicated Transmission Line of RE Developer at bay no. 416 of KPS-2 (400kV Bus Section-1)	As required for completion of scope of the scheme.	28.03.2025 (refer note no. a)

Note: a) Implementing agency shall match the Implementation Time frame of the subject transmission scheme with the commissioning schedule of Khavada Phase-II transmission system, which is presently expected by 28.3.2025.

- The Central Transmission Utility of India Limited vide its letter dated 17.4.2024 has recommended for the grant of a transmission licence to the applicant to establish the proposed transmission system.
- Based on the material available on the record, the Commission vide order dated 20.8.2024 in Petition No. 168/TL/2024, has proposed to issue a transmission licence to the applicant for establishment of the transmission scheme as noted in para 1 above.
- A copy of the application, along with its annexures and enclosures, made by the applicant for the grant of an inter-State transmission licence to POWERGRID KPS2 Transmission System Limited before the Commission can be accessed at the www.powergrid.in/subsidiaries or inspected by any person in the Commission's office by following the laid down procedure.
- Notice is hereby given in pursuance of clause (a) of sub-section (5) of Section 15 of the Act that suggestions or objections, if any, to the Commission's proposal to grant a transmission licence to the applicant, as aforesaid, be sent to the undersigned by 3.9.2024 at the above noted address. The suggestions or objections received after the specified date shall not be considered.
- The application shall be taken up for the further hearing by the Commission on 5.9.2024. Any person who files suggestions or objections may in his/her discretion attend the hearing, for which no TA/DA shall be paid by the Commission.

Sd/-
(Harpreet Singh Pruthi)
Secretary

TUSCO LIMITED
(A JV of THDCIL & UPNEDA)
4th Floor, UPNEDA Bhawan, Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow, U.P. 226010
Website: www.tuscoindia.co.in, Contact No. +91522-3515962

Tender No.: 01/TUSCO/Jhansi Solar Project /RFS /2024 dated 21.08.2024
Tender ID: 2024_THDC_822311_1

e-Tender Notice

TUSCO Ltd. invites online bids for Selection of SPDs for Setting Up 600 MW Grid Connected Solar PV Power Projects on Build Own Operate Basis in Jhansi Solar Park. The Bid document shall be available at CPP portal from 22.08.2024. Interested bidders may view, download the Bid document, seek clarification and submit their Bid through CPP portal upto date & time mentioned in the table below:

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Tender Title	Publish Date	Pre-Bid Meeting	Last Date	Link
1.	01/TUSCO/Jhansi Solar Project / RFS /2024	Selection of SPDs for Setting Up 600 MW Grid Connected Solar PV Power Projects on Build Own Operate Basis in Jhansi Solar Park	22-Aug-2024 09:00 AM	04-Sep-2024 02:30 PM	17-Sep-2024 03:00 PM	https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app

The details of tender can be seen or downloaded from "<https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>" of CPP portal. CEO, TUSCO Ltd. reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

CEO, TUSCO Ltd.

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I,UMA SHANKAR GARG s/o RAJPAL GARG r/o A-727, Shastri Nagar, Delhi declares that my father correct, exact and complete name is RAJPAL GARG instead of R.P. GARG . 0050248905-1

I,UMA SHANKAR GARG s/o RAJPAL GARG r/o A-727, Shastri Nagar, Delhi declares that my father correct, exact and complete name is UMA SHANKAR GARG instead of UMA SHANKAR 0050248904-1

IT'S FOR GENERAL INFORMATION, THAT, I,OJJASV KUMAR, S/O,DINESH KUMAR, 113, GUJRATILANE, MOOLCHAND-COLONY ADARSHNAGAR, DELHI-33, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO OJJASV SINGH, PERMANENTLY. 0040745327-6

I,parveen kumar,s/o-Shri Vishwa nath yadav, R/o,house number-12, E-block,quater-vihar, goyla dairy phase-1,goyla khurd,south-west Delhi-110071, have changed my name parvinder Kumar, for all purpose. 0040745400-8

I,Vishal S/o Ishwar Singh R/o Village and Post Officer, Surhera, New Delhi-110043, have changed my name to Vishal Singh. 0040745404-4

I,Vasudev,S/o Suresh Sharma,R/o F-1, Gali.No.-14,Jagatpur,Parwana-Road, Krishna-Nagar,East Delhi,Delhi-110051,have changed my name from Vasudev to Vasudev Sharma,for all,future purposes. 0040745400-1

I,Vaishali D/O Ram Lal Khanna,R/O KH.No-8/24 Jain-Park Uttam-Nagar D K Mohan Garden New-Delhi-110059, Have Changed my Name Vaishali Khanna. 0040745327-1

I,Vaibhav Bhanot,S/o-Vijay Kumar Bhanot,R/o C-4/99/1, Safdarjung Development Area,New Delhi-110016, have changed my name,from Vaibhav Bhanot to Vaibhhav Banot,for all purposes. 0040745402-2

I,VINOD KUMAR MISRA, S/o Shyam Dhar Misra, R/o 21, Empire Estate, Sultan Pur, Delhi-110030, have changed my name to VINOD SHYAMDHAR MISRA, for all future purposes. 0040745402-1

I,Reena Diwan W/o Narendra Kumar Duggal R/o RZ-C-9,Mahavir Enclave Part-1,New Delhi, have changed my name to Reena Duggal. 0040745389-2

I,Surander Pal Sharma,S/o-Vishambhar Sharma,R/o,F-1,Gali.No.-14,Jagatpur, Parwana-Road,Krishna-Nagar,East-Delhi, Delhi-110051, have changed my name from Surander Pal Sharma to Surrender Sharma,for all,future purposes. 0040745400-2

I,Sana Zabeen Mohammed Isad Firdoshi W/o Lalit Dalal,R/O H-2053,11th Avenue Gaur City-02,(Near Gaur Chowk),Noida Ext.,Noida Gautam Budh Nagar,UP-201301, have Changed my name to Sana Zabeen Firdoshi for all future purposes. 0040745329-1

I,SUSHILA DEVI,wife Of,jai Ram Yadav Presently,residing At,Jagat Gaon Chaturbhuj put post-Office Shahar Amethi(UP)pin Code- 227405, have Changed my Name,From SUSHILA DEVI to SHUSHEELA,wife-Affidavit Date-19.08.2024. 0040745400-11

I,Ramesh Chandra Bhatt S/o Mathura Dutt Bhatt R/o 117-B,Lal Qtrs,Punjabi Bagh West Delhi-110026,have changed my name to Ramesh Bhatt Permanently. 0040745386-2

I,Rakesh Sharma,S/o-Shree Radhey Shyam Sharma, R/o,H.No.1-387,Rishi-Nagar, Saraswati-Vihar, North West-Delhi -110034, have changed my name to Rakesh Kumar,for all Purposes. 0040745402-5

I,RAJEWANTI DEVI W/o Jagbir Singh R/o V.P.O. Pipili Khera(5) Sonipat Haryana-131039, have changed my name to Rajbala also my D.O.B. wrongly, written 01.07.1963 in my,Various documents but my correct D.O.B is 01.01.1958 0040745386-3

I,RAJENDER SINGH,S/O KIRPAL SINGH,R/O H.No.157,GALI.No.3,RAO CHATURBUJ MARG, KAPASHERA, DIST- SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110037,INFORM THAT RAJENDER SINGH & RAJINDER SINGH,BOTH NAMES ARE SAME PERSON. 0040745402-8

I, Manish Goyal S/o Shri Sada Sukh Goyal R/o Casa Paradiso, 7-2-1669/, Eden-A/313, Opp.Sanathnagar, Bus Stop Sanathnagar, Balanagar, Moosapet, K.V. Rangareddy, Telangana - 500018, have changed my minor son's name from Nish Goyal Aged 7 years to Nirved Goyal forever 0070920279-1

I,Prameela D/o Ramdiya, W/o Arvind Singh, R/o V.P.O. 66,Pipli Khera Distt. Sonipat Haryana-131039 have changed my name to Parmila Devi 0040745386-4

I,PARAMJIT SINGH S/O SURENDER SINGH,R/O A-91,BLOCK-A UDAY VIHAR NILOTHI EXTN NANGLOI, Delhi-110041, have changed my name to PARAMJEET SINGH. 0040745402-3

I,No-9108506W,L/Hav Mushtaq Ahmad Khoja,S/O- Bashir Ahmad Khoja, R/O- Marhama, Tehsil-Trehgaon, District- Kupwara.In my service record names of my mother and children's have been wrongly mentioned mother as Begum Shaid instead of Sayeeda Begum,Son as Rizwan Ahmed instead of Rizwan Ahmad Khoja and daughter as Somaiya Bano instead of Sumiya Bano.It needs correction. Objections be filled to Concerned authorities. 0020480437-1

I,Narender Kumar,S/O Rajender Krishn R/O RT-C-9, Mahavir Enclave Part-1,New Delhi,have changed my name to Narender Kumar Duggal. 0040745389-1

I,Mohit S/o-Vinod Sharma,R/o D-40/2B,Gali No.-7,D-Block,Vijay Colony,Delhi-110053,have changed my name to Mohit Sharma. 0040745400-7

I,Manoj Arya,S/o Puran Prakash Adrrs-flat no-8053,ground-floor,pocket-D-8, Vasant Kunj-110070,changed my name to Manoj Kumar Arya permanently 0040745400-4

I,Mam Chand S/o,Late Madan Lal Mittal R/O,Gali.No.-2, Near R.K.Builder, I.P.Colony Part-1,Burari, Delhi-110084, have changed my name to Mam Chand Mittal. 0040745404-2

I,MANMEET SINGH,S/O BALBIR SINGH,R/O A-70 VIKAS VIHAR CHANDER-VIHAR NILOTHI-EXTN NANGLOI,Delhi-110041, have changed my name to MANMEET SODHI. 0040745402-4

I,Kaushalya Devi Sachdeva W/o Surinder Sachdeva R/o Flat-No.223, GH-14, Paschim-Vihar, New Delhi-110087, have changed my name to Kaushalya Devi. 0040745404-3

I,Karan,S/o jayanti Ial Bhatia,Addr-A-114, amar colony,lajpat nagar-110024, changed my name to karan Bhatia Permanently. 0040745400-5

I,Jyoti W/o Bharat Chaudhary,House no-16/420 I,Gali no-5,bapa nagar,Karol bagh, Delhi,changed my name to Jyoti Chaudhary Permanently 0040745400-6

I,Jagbir Singh Malik S/o Mojiram R/o V.P.O. Pipili Khera(5) Sonipat Haryana-131039,I,have changed my name to Jagbir Singh also my D.O.B. wrongly written 01.07.1958 in my Various documents but my correct D.O.B is 01.01.1960 0040745386-6

I,Bijaya Lakshmi Patra W/o Prakash Kumar Patra R/o WZ-372, Basal-Darapur, New Delhi-110015, have changed my minor son's name Biren Kumar Patra to Sanchit Kumar Patra. D.O.B.-19.10.2010. 0040745404-5

I,Banti Dhindwal D/o Attar Singh, W/o Mukesh Kumar R/o H.No.9,Badrai Bhiwani Haryana-127308,have changed my name to Banti 0040745386-5

I,Anushree W/o Rahul Roy R/O-H.No.98, Second-Floor,BJ-Block Shalimar Bagh,West Delhi-110088 have changed my name to Anushree Haldar 0040745386-1

I,Agarwala Lalitha(DOB 21-12-1974), D/o Chotmal,W/O-Rajiv Kumar, R/o-H-4/7 2nd Floor, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Lalita Aggarwal, for all purposes. 0040745402-6

I,Aditi D/o Shyam Sunder Sharma,R/o RZS 120,New Rohanpur NaJafgarh,New Delhi-110043, have changed my name to Aditi Sharma. 0040745400-3

I,AMARDEEP KAUR KHATTAR W/O ASHISH ANEJA R/O-FLAT NO-7 MAYA APARTMENTS F-BLOCK VIKAS PURI DELHI-110018,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO AMARDEEP ANEJA. 0040745402-7

I,Vivek kumar tyagi S/o,Vasu dev tyagi R/O-VB-132,Gali-No.5, Virender Nagar, Delhi-110058, have changed my name to Vivek Tyagi 0040745319-2

I,Manish Bhatia S/o Shri Dev Kishan Bhatia, R/o flat 1305, Tower A, Saya Zenith Apartment, Ghinsa Khand 2, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, 201014 have changed my wife's name from vandna Bhatia to Vandana Bhatia for all future Purpose. 0040745212-1

I, Vivan Lakshmi W/o Satish Arora R/O-173F, flat-No.304, Ward-No.3, Mehrauli, Delhi, have changed my name to Vijay Arora 0040745319-1

I, Manish Bhatia S/o Shri Dev Kishan Bhatia, R/o flat 1305, Tower A, Saya Zenith Apartment, Ghinsa Khand 2, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, 201014 have changed my wife's name from vandna Bhatia to Vandana Bhatia for all future Purpose. 0040745212-1

I, Trilok Singh Gahla S/o Late Gurdav Singh R/O F-210, Third Floor, Mansarovar Garden, New Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Trilok Singh. 0040745328-1

I, Sushil Kumar Puri S/o Diwan Puri Residence 491/1, Sector-1, Vaishali, Ghaziabad-201019. I, have changed my name from Sushil Kumar Puri to Sushil Puri for all future purposes. 0040745337-1

I,Sharvani Tamuli D/O Anup Kumar Tamuli, R/O 141, Uday Park 2nd Floor, Wing Commander Mohinder Kumar Jain Marg, Andrewsganj, South Delhi-110049, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Sharvani K Taamuli 0070920224-1

I, Shakeel Ahmed S/o Lal Mohammad R/O/69, Sanjhak-1, Tawli, Muzaffarnagar, have changed my name to Shakeel Ahmed. 0040745327-2

I, Shabnam D/O Mohd Hashim, R/O E-52, Azad Apartments, Ip Extn, Patparganj, Extension, East Delhi, Delhi-110092, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Shabnam Shuaib Bari 0070920202-1

I, Pragya, W/O Akhilesh Pratap Singh R/O GH-14/1158, Paschim Vihar, West Delhi-110087, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Pragya Singh 0070920245-1

I, Sangita Kumari W/O Dheeraaj Rawat R/O Flat No.-02025, Tower-Pine Mahagun Mywoods, Greater Noida West, UP-201318 have changed by name to SANGITA RAWAT for all purposes. 0070920274-1

I, Rachna Sangha Mehta, W/o Mr. Ishan Mehta, residing at 199,Jor Bagh, New Delhi-110003, have changed the name of my minor daughter Naila Mehta aged 8 years and she shall hereafter be known and called as Nailia Mehta. 0060118695-1

I, Rachna Sangha Mehta, W/o Mr. Ishan Mehta, residing at 199,Jor Bagh, New Delhi-110003, have changed the name of my minor daughter Naila Mehta aged 8 years and she shall hereafter be known and called as Naailia Mehta. 0060118695-1

I,Parasuraman Girija w/o V.Nagarajan (alias Vembu Nagarajan), R/o H.No.762, G.F, Pocket 6/1, Sector-2, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Parasurama Girija. 0040745328-3

I,NITIKA,W/O PARDEEP KUMAR,H.No.8600(179), STREET.No.5,NEAR SITA RAM MANDIR,ASHOK-VIHAR PHASE-1, GURUGRAM, HARYANA-122001, changed my name to NITIKA KAUSHIK 0040745404-1

I, Mohd Shah Nawaz S/o Abdul Kadir R/O 347, Ward-4, Gokulpuri, Kharkhauza, Meerut have changed my name to Mohd Shahanawaz. 0040745327-5

I,Parasuraman Girija w/o V.Nagarajan (alias Vembu Nagarajan), R/o H.No.762, G.F, Pocket 6/1, Sector-2, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Parasurama Girija. 0040745328-3

I,NITIKA,W/O PARDEEP KUMAR,H.No.8600(179), STREET.No.5,NEAR SITA RAM MANDIR,ASHOK-VIHAR PHASE-1, GURUGRAM, HARYANA-122001, changed my name to NITIKA KAUSHIK 0040745404-1

I, Mohd Shah Nawaz S/o Abdul Kadir R/O 347, Ward-4, Gokulpuri, Kharkhauza, Meerut have changed my name to Mohd Shahanawaz. 0040745327-5

I, Mohammed Imran S/o Lal Mohammed, R/O 102, Mulla Talai, Raza Colony, Girwa, Udaipur, Rajasthan- 313001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Imran Rayan. 0130044590-1

I,Mamta Bhandari W/o Ravi Mehra R/o Flat no-G-4013 Deluxe, Tower no-17 4th floor, River Heights Noor Nagar, Ghaziabad U.P.-201017 have changed my name to Mamta Mehra for all future purposes 0040745320-1

I, KARAMVIR SINGH S/O-BHIM SINGH SINGH R/O- JAHANGIRPUR (265), JHAJJAR, HARYANA-124105 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO KARAMVIR 0040745327-3

I, JEETPAL, S/O HARBANS LALL, R/O-132A GARHWALI MOHALLA LAXMI-NAGAR DELHI-110092, HAVE CHANGED MY MINOR DAUGHTER'S NAME FROM TISHA TO MUSKAN. 0040745404-8

I,Harshit Mendiratta S/O Sandeep Mendiratta R/O A-10 E Flat No-201 Vasant Kunj Enclave Malikpur Kohi Delhi-110070 have changed My Name to Harshit 0130044577-1

I, Ghanshyam khatri S/o Asulad Pdmajji khatri,R/O-162, 2nd-floor SBI Colony,Paschim-Vihar, Delhi, have changed my name to Ghanshyam Das Khatri 0040745319-3

I, Fateh Singh Nagar S/o Budh Singh R/O Sadullapur, Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P.-203207 have changed my name to Fateh Singh for all future purposes 0070920267-1

I, Ruchi W/O Dinesh Kumar Bhardwaj R/O C-407, Vikaspuri, New Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Ruchi Bhardwaj. 0040745404-9

I, Devi Lal S/o Duli Chand R/O DA-64, Third Floor, DDA MIG Flats, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-110088, have changed my minor daughter's name from Dimple aged 13 years to Dimple Pachar forever 0070920264-1

I, Bishan Kaur Gahla w/o Trilok Singh Gahla, R/O F-210, Third Floor, Mansarovar Garden, New Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Bishan Kaur. 0040745328-2

I Tanu Adlakha alias Tanu Balasubramanian D/o Gulshan Kumar Adlakha W/O R Balasubramanian R/O Flat No.B-501, Spring Valley Apartment, Plot No.3C, Sector-11, Dwarka Sec-1, Dwarka Delhi Cantonment, South West Delhi, Delhi-110075 have changed my name to Adlakha Tanoo for all purposes. 0040745317-2

I Rohit S/o Sh.Vrander Sharma R/O C-31, Gali No.1, Johipur, Kardam Farm, Gokal Pur, North East Delhi, Delhi-110094 have changed the name of my minor son from Pratyaksh to Parth Sharma for all purposes. 0040745317-4

I Rajender S/O Veer Bhan Narang R/O B 522 Sudherhan Park Moti Nagar, Ramesh Nagar P O Ramesh Nagar West Delhi 110015 has changed name to Rajender Kumar Narang 0070920245-1

I Pawan Sharma alias Arvind Sharma S/o Sh.Nathu Ram Sharma R/O J-43A, Laxmi Nagar, Shakar Pur Baramad, East Delhi, Delhi-110092 have changed my name to Arvind Sharma for all purposes. 0040745317-3

I Nipun Bansal S/o Kuldeep Kumar Bansal R/O S/5/45, Patel Gali, Vishwas Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-32 have changed my Name from Nipuna Bansal to Nipun Bansal for all purposes in future. 0040745364-1

I Chennamma P D/O Niranjan and W/o Boya Srinivas R/o H.No.2/82, Rachabanda, Nagarkunool Mandal, VTC-Peddamundnur, PO-Muddunurkalan, DIST-Nagarkunool, Telangana - 509412, have changed my name to Boya LXngmi 0070920281-1

I Amit Kumar S/o Sh.Rajbir Singh R/O H.No.D-7/77, Sector-6, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Amit Kumar Rana for all purposes. 0040745317-1

Affirmed VK JAIN in conveyance deed dated 09-March-2007, A03/2 Pilots Court-Gurgaon and membership-298 in Pilot society is same as Vinod Kumar Jain, s/o Shri Manabir Pershad Jain. 0040745400-12

I,PREETI TYAGI,W/O RAJEEV TYAGI,R/O H/8/58 CHIRANJEEV-VIHAR, KAVI-NAGAR GHAZIABAD U.P.201002.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PRITI TYAGI, FOR ALL,FUTURE PURPOSES. 0040745327-4

I,HARSH VARDHAN S/O-RAJEEV TYAGI,R/O H/8/58 CHIRANJEEV-VIHAR,KAVI-NAGAR GHAZIABAD U.P.201002.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO HARSHVARDHAN TYAGI, FOR ALL,FUTURE PURPOSES 0040745327-5

Shruti D/o Nemi Chand Jethwani, R/O,H.No.1383,3rd Floor,Gali no 40 DDA Flats Madangir,Dr Ambedkar Nagar,Pushpa Bhawan,South Delhi, Delhi-110062,Changed my Name as Shruti Jethwani. 0130044590-1

Original Buyer agreement of Rajbala Singh for office-130 of BPTP Park Central is missing, if found to somebody, please send to BPTP office, Next Door, Sect-77, Faridabad 0040745320-1

LOST & FOUND Krishna Kr Sharma Advocate E-mail- advkrishna141@gmail.com, Mob:- 91-9315165656 C-87, LGF, Lajpat Nagar-1, Delhi-110024

LOST & FOUND Krishna Kr Sharma Advocate E-mail- advkrishna141@gmail.com, Mob:- 91-9315165656 C-87, LGF, Lajpat Nagar-1, Delhi-110024

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PUBLIC NOTICE The Public in general is hereby informed that Mr. Suresh Kumar Singh S/o Late Mr. Mirans Singh & Ms. Suman Goel R/o No. Surendra Kumar Singh have entered into an Agreement to Sell & Purchase with Mrs. Kamlesh Kumar W/o Mr. J.K. Jain, Mr. Mohd. Anwar Khan S/o Mr. J.K. Jain and Ms. Anita Jain W/o Mr. Mohit Kumar Jain, all residents of 171, New Penn Road, Railway Road, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh 200002, India in respect of Apartment No. 1901, Tower G, Super Area (Approx. 3650 Sq. Ft.) in 'Laxmi 3007' located at Plot Number GH- 01/A (Beta), Sector 107, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh 201301, India who claims to be the owner of the said property. Any person having any rights, title, claim or interest in the said property, by way of sale, inheritance, possession, succession, mortgage, lien, lease, gift or otherwise whatsoever in respect of same, shall intimate the objection in writing to undersigned with supporting documents thereof within 15 days from the date of this notice or else any such claims by anyone shall not be considered and shall deemed to have been waived and abandoned. And Mr. Surendra Kumar Singh & Ms. Suman Goel shall proceed to conclude the purchase of said property shall be entertained thereafter. Sd/- Dipesh Sharma (Advocate) Enrl. No. DR30/2008 C-203, 1st Floor, Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024

PUBLIC NOTICE Be it known to all concern that my client Rajan Malhotra S/o Vasdev Malhotra and Asha W/o Rajan Malhotra both R/O Ch. No. 23, Block Kothi, Gaur City, Phase-1, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-63, have severed all the relations with their son namely Rajesh Kumar, his wife Manisha and their children from all movable and immovable properties of my clients including Gas Agency Sec- 7, Rohini, situated anywhere in India. Anybody who deals with them, present, past and future in any manner whatsoever shall be doing at their own risk, cost and consequences and my clients shall not be responsible for their acts of omission and commission. RAJIT DRAILL, Advocate Chamber: X-36/A, Civil Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE This is to inform General Public that my client Sh. Rakish Kumar Goel S/o Sh. H.S. Goel R/O H.No. 173, New Rajdhani enclave, Sree International School, Vikas Marg, East Delhi-92 here by Disown & Disinherit the wife Sunita Goel & her son Gaurav Goel, Daughter -in Law Swati Goel, from all his properties including but not limited to moveable & immovable properties because of their bad behaviour with immediate effect. If any person deals with them, shall be responsible at his/her own risk in future. My client shall not be responsible in any manner whatsoever! Himanshu Gupta (ADVOCATE) 5/113-A Subhash Gali, main 60 ft Rd, Vishwas Nagar, Delhi-110032

Public Notice Public is hereby informed that my client Sanjeev Puri S/o Late Sh. Kishori Lal Puri has entered into Agreement of sell of Property no C-143 (Ground Floor) Mansarovar Garden New Delhi -15 area measuring 200 sq. yards to Satish Kumar and Dhan Singh. The original Sale Deeds pertaining to the aforementioned property vide documents no.14266 dated 16/06/2008 and 26952 dated 16/12/2008 were missing from the original documents an FIR (LR no. 588233/2018) was lodged. Therefore the public is hereby informed that my client has sole ownership of the said property and any persons find the above said documents will return to my client. Anybody will be used/misused the above said documents will be illegal and he/she will be doing so at his/her own risk and cost and my client will not be responsible for the same. Gurjeet Singh (Advocate)

Public Notice This is to inform General Public that my client Sh. Mukesh Kumar Goel S/o Sh. H.S. Goel R/O H.No. 173, New Rajdhani enclave, Sree International School, Vikas Marg, East Delhi-92 here by Disown & Disinherit the wife Bhatia Goel & his son Saurabh Goel, Daughter -in Law Anshu Gupta, & daughter Mehak Gupta from all his properties including but not limited to moveable & immovable properties because of their bad behaviour with immediate effect. If any person deals with them, shall be responsible at his/her own risk in future. My client shall not be responsible in any manner whatsoever! Himanshu Gupta (ADVOCATE) 5/113-A Subhash Gali, main 60 ft Rd, Vishwas Nagar, Delhi-110032

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EXPLAINED ENVIRONMENT

HEAVY RAIN IN TRIPURA, BUT NO ROLE OF DAM IN BANGLA FLOOD

DEBRAJ DEB
AGARTALA, AUGUST 23

THE MINISTRY of External Affairs on Thursday clarified that the floods that have hit several districts in eastern Bangladesh were not triggered by release of water from Dumbur dam in Tripura, as has been claimed by some social media accounts.

Nearly 18 lakh people belonging to 1.9 lakh families were marooned in 43 upazilas of the districts of Comilla, Feni, Chattogram, Khagrachhari, Noakhali, and Moulvibazar, according to the Department of Disaster Management and Relief of Bangladesh, *The Daily Star* reported. Five of these districts share borders with Tripura.



reiterated New Delhi's commitment to work with Dhaka.

Rivers and the dam

Rivers like Manu in Dhalai district; Deo at Kumarghat; Kakri and Juri in North Tripura; Feni, which is spanned by the Indo-Bangla Maitri Setu in South Tripura; Muhuri, Lawgang, and Khowai; Gomati in Udaipur of Gomati district; Howrah in Agartala, all rose unnaturally following heavy rain earlier this week. The Gomati continues to flow above the danger mark.

The Gomti project, which was commissioned in 1976 and has an installed capacity of 15 MW, is the only hydro-electric power project in the state. The river on which the Dumbur dam stands is formed at the confluence of the smaller Raima and Sarma rivers, and is Tripura's most significant river. After flowing into Bangladesh, the river merges with the Meghna.

Rainfall in Tripura

On August 19, South Tripura district received 288.8 mm of rain in a single day. The capital, Agartala city, recorded 233 mm of rainfall in the 24 hours from Wednesday morning to Thursday morning. The heavy rain, among the highest the state has ever received, has had the worst impact in Khowai, West Tripura, Sepahijala, Gomati, and South Tripura.

At least 24 people are feared dead in the rain and floods. Some 1.28 lakh people have been sheltered in 558 relief camps since August 19.

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EXPLAINED ECONOMICS

Signals from US Fed chief

At the annual Jackson Hole symposium, Jerome Powell said the 'time has come' to lower interest rates. While he did not furnish further details, the impacts of Powell's observations will be felt the world over

UDIT MISRA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

JEROME POWELL, the head of the US central bank, on Friday said that "the time has come for [monetary] policy to adjust", setting the stage for interest rate cuts in the near future.

In his keynote address at the annual Economic Policy Symposium in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, Powell said "the direction of travel is clear...timing and pace of rate cuts will depend on incoming data, the evolving outlook, and the balance of risks". The Federal Reserve does not "seek or welcome further cooling in labour market conditions", he said.

Despite Powell not furnishing further details, these are significant observations. Almost immediately, bond yields of all tenures — 2-year, 10-year and 30 year — fell sharply, even as the US dollar weakened and stock market indices — S&P 500, Nasdaq 100, Russell 2000 — registered sharp gains.

The impacts of Powell's observation will not be limited to the US alone, and it can be expected that stock markets around the world will jump when they open next.

What is the Jackson Hole symposium?

Every year since 1978, the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City has sponsored a symposium to discuss a particular issue faced by the US and world economies.

Central bankers, finance ministers, academics, and financial market participants from around the world participate in the symposium to discuss the economic issues, implications, and policy options pertaining to the theme of that year. Symposium proceedings include papers, commentary, and discussions.

Since 1982, the symposium has been hosted at the Jackson Lake Lodge at Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming.

Why does the symposium matter?

The symposium, and especially the comment by the head of the Federal Reserve, are watched by policymakers and market participants globally because they provide clues to what is happening in the world economy, and where things may go.

For instance, in 2007, just before the world plunged into the Global Financial Crisis after the US housing market unravelled, the theme at Jackson Hole was "Housing, Housing Finance, and Monetary Policy". In 2021, as the world had started to make sense of the effects of the global pandemic that had literally shut down all economies, the theme was "Macroeconomic Policy in an Uneven Economy".

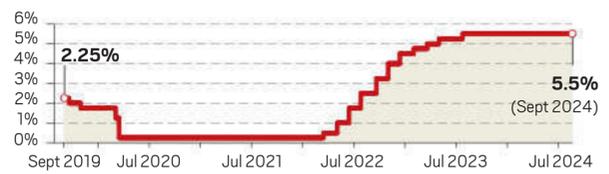
This year's theme is "Reassessing the Effectiveness and Transmission of Monetary Policy". According to the official website: "This year's theme will explore lessons learned from the response of monetary policy to both the pandemic and the subsequent surge in inflation."

US INFLATION RATE DATA



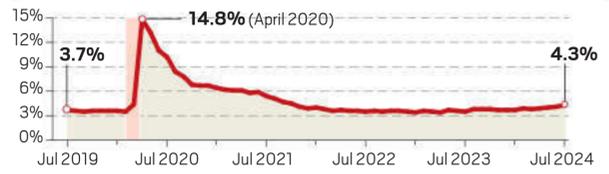
*Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: All Items in US. City Average, Percent Change from Year Ago, Monthly, Seasonally Adjusted Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

US FEDERAL FUNDS RATE*



Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System Note: *Federal Funds Target Range - Upper Limit, Percent, Daily, Not Seasonally Adjusted

US UNEMPLOYMENT DATA



*Unemployment Rate, Percent, Monthly, Seasonally Adjusted Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

What does monetary policy refer to? Why is it important?

At the heart of the discussions in Jackson Hole is monetary policy, which is essentially about tweaking the availability of money for loans and the price at which these loans are given in any economy (the 'interest rate').

Typically, the main responsibility of all central banks is to maintain price stability in the economy. This means ensuring that money maintains its value over time — or the same quantity of money buys roughly the same amount of goods and services tomorrow as it does today.

Often, like in the US, there is a dual mandate — the central bank has to ensure price stability while maintaining low levels of unemployment.

The key challenge before a central bank is inflation, or the rate at which prices rise from one year to another. When inflation rises, central banks raise interest rates so as to depress economic activity, and thus bring down prices of goods and services. But as soon as they succeed in this goal, they are faced with the problem of slower growth and rising unemployment as a result of economic activity faltering.

A central bank is judged for the timing of its policy actions — both in containing rising inflation as well as preventing a sharp rise in unemployment or a sharp fall in economic growth. Timing of monetary policy action is a tricky subject because it often takes time for the monetary policy decisions of the central bank to affect the economy. This is the "transmission" that this year's theme refers to.

The theme also refers to "effectiveness" i.e., whether or how far monetary policy has been successful in containing inflation. If inflation has spiked purely because of sudden supply constraints — for instance, lower levels of food items being produced because of deficient rainfall — then higher interest rates may not be effective in bringing down prices.

Over the past five years, central banks have been buffeted by macroeconomic shocks that have pulled policy in different directions. The pandemic lockdowns de-

stroyed economic activity and led to a sharp rise in unemployment. In response, all central banks resorted to easy monetary policy — even as the governments resorted to expansive fiscal policies (pumping money into the economy). The net result of these two factors as well as supply disruptions was a rise in inflation. This happened all over the world but more so in the US. The Russia-Ukraine war made matters worse, and sent inflation rates skyrocketing to historic highs.

As things stand now, most developed economies have lost momentum as a result of the "tight" monetary policies of central banks. There are perpetual worries about recession.

Why is Powell's statement significant?

For some time now, stock markets and global investors have been waiting for a clear signal about the Fed's policy cycle. Powell saying that "the time has come for policy to adjust" essentially means that the Fed is now more bothered about containing the unemployment rate than the inflation rate. Put differently, it means there will be no more hikes of interest rates — in fact, signals are that a rate-cutting cycle is about to start.

Lower interest rates imply a boost to economic activity because it will become cheaper to borrow money, whether it is to buy a car or invest in building a new factory. That is why stock markets are rising — market participants see a period of economic activity sustained by progressively lower interest rates.

Does the statement find an echo in RBI?

There are several points of divergence between the US Fed and RBI. First, the target inflation rate is 2% for the US and 4% for India. Second, in the last few years, the quantum of increase in the policy interest rate in the US has been almost double that of India, partly because US interest rates were close to zero before the rate cycle. Third, in terms of percentage points, inflation has fallen more in the US than in India.

Powell's signal towards the start of the interest rate-cutting cycle is something that finds resonance in many countries. The European Central Bank has already cut its deposit rate once (by 25 basis points) in June.

The RBI hasn't cut rates yet but as the minutes of the latest Monetary Policy Committee show, there is a growing sense among members that interest rates may be too high. At least two out of the six members of the MPC voted for a cut. The dominant RBI view, however, is still to be watchful of inflation.

RBI's reluctance to cut also has to do with the fact that, unlike the US (where recession fears abound), India is clocking world-beating GDP growth rates at the moment. As such, there is less pressure on RBI to cut rates and more pressure to ensure inflation doesn't resurface again.

Assessing Ukraine's deep incursion in Russia: why, what happens now

ALIND CHAUHAN
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

PRESIDENT VOLODYMYR Zelenskyy on Thursday said Ukrainian troops continue to capture territory and Russian soldiers in Russia's Kursk Oblast since the launch of Ukraine's surprise incursion into the region more than two weeks ago.

Russia on its part said that it had foiled a Ukrainian attempt to seize land in the neighbouring Bryansk Oblast, about 240 km away from the site of the incursion into Kursk.

Ukraine's attack in Kursk, which began early on August 6, came after months of steady gains by Russia on the battlefield. Many experts see the incursion as a major moment in the war that is now in its third year — a success that has helped Kyiv change the narrative that had taken root following its losses and setbacks suffered elsewhere.

The Ukrainian objective

President Zelenskyy and the commander-in-chief of Ukrainian forces Col Gen Oleksandr Syrskyi have not explained their reasons for going deep inside Russia. However, observers have listed three probable objectives of the incursion.

A BARGAINING CHIP: Ukraine wants to use the captured territory as a bargaining chip for any future negotiation with Russia. If Donald Trump returns to the White House early next year, he could force Kyiv to negotiate by withdrawing American military-technical assistance.

"The Ukrainian government wants to make sure that if it has to enter that process, it has things that Russia wants to trade for concessions," Jack Watling, a senior research fellow for Land Warfare at the Royal United Services Institute, London, wrote in *The Guardian*.

TO BOOST MORALE: It has been suggested that Ukraine wanted to boost the morale of its people and troops after failing to stop the



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

Russian advance in the east. The operation was intended to signal that even with its dwindling resources, the Ukrainian military can carry out a successful offensive. Ukraine also wanted to display to the West that helping it with arms and funds is not yet a lost cause.

BATTLEFIELD TACTIC: The incursion could be a tactic to force Russia to divert its forces from the hottest battlefields in eastern Ukraine, where they are coming close to fulfilling their goal of capturing all of the Donetsk region.

Michael Kofman, a senior fellow in the Russia and Eurasia Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, told *Foreign Policy*, "Ukraine likely holds that, at a bare minimum, this operation will force the Russian military to deploy a much larger force to counter their offensive, thereby sapping their operations in Donetsk."

Status of the incursion

The attack, which has resulted in one of the biggest exchanges of territory since the first month of the war in 2022, caught President Vladimir Putin off-guard. On August 20, Col Gen Syrskyi claimed that Ukraine has taken control of almost 1,300 sq km of Russian territory. If accurate, this would mean Ukraine has already captured more land since the begin-

ning of the attack on August 6 than Russia has captured in Ukraine over the last eight months.

The operation has forced Russia to evacuate nearly 200,000 people from the region. Ukraine has reportedly captured hundreds of Russian conscripts, and has destroyed several bridges over the Seym river, cutting off a key Russian logistics base in Glushkovo from the frontline forces.

Lt Gen Ben Hodges, who led US troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, told Britain's *Times Radio* that Ukraine's ability to "neutralise Russian drones by creating...some sort of a counter-drone bubble" had helped.

What happens now

It is too early to predict if Ukraine will be able to hold on its gains. The Ukrainian army is suffering from a shortage of manpower, and it pulled reserve troops from other battlefronts such as in Donetsk and Kharkiv to commit them to the new axis. In the coming weeks, its troops in Kursk could find themselves overextended, and be forced to retreat.

Also, Russia has not so far diverted its forces from the Donetsk region. On August 19, the Russian forces captured nearly all of the town of Niu-York, entered nearby Toretsk, and encroached on the logistics hub of Pokrovsk, according to a report by the *Financial Times*.

Konrad Muzyka, director of Rochar Consulting, a Poland-based group that tracks the war, told the *Financial Times* that with most of its reserve forces committed to Kursk, Ukraine would struggle to fill defensive gaps and counter various Russian threats.

An Indian strategic affairs expert on Russia told *The Indian Express* that Ukraine may have made a mistake in going deep into Kursk. If Russia does not come to the negotiation table soon, and if Western allies fail to supply more arms and ammunition to Ukraine, the incursion could turn out to be "military suicide", the expert said.

What is 'Rail Force One', the train PM Modi took from Poland to Ukraine?

RISHIKA SINGH
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi arrived in Ukraine's capital Kyiv from neighbouring Poland by train on Friday, an unusual mode of transport for a head of government, but one that has been used earlier by other global leaders as well.

Foreign dignitaries visiting Kyiv have been taking the train ever since Ukraine's airspace was closed following the Russian invasion of February 2022. After Joe Biden rolled into Kyiv last year instead of flying in on Air Force One, the US President's iconic Boeing 747 aircraft, the train was dubbed "Rail Force One".

The train to Kyiv

The train, which is run by the state-owned Ukrainian Railways or Ukrzaliznytsia, is painted blue and yellow, the colours of Ukraine's flag.

The train has several luxury compartments, one of which was likely built just before Russia annexed Crimea in 2014, and was previously used to ferry wealthy tourists to the peninsula on the Black Sea, according to a report by the US government-funded *Radio Free Europe*.

Pictures from trips taken by foreign dignitaries show wooden panels, cream and blue curtains, leather sofas, king-size beds, wall-mounted flatscreen TVs and other modern amenities on the train.

The train's 10-hour, 700-odd-km journey begins at Przemysl Główny station in Poland, located around 400 km southeast of Warsaw, close to the country's border with Ukraine, and ends at Kyiv.

Famous passengers

The first foreign dignitaries to travel to Kyiv by the train were the prime ministers of Poland, Slovenia, and the Czech Republic, who visited in 2022.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Kyiv Central Railway Station on Friday. ANI



Thereafter, the train was used by the former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, French President Emmanuel Macron, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada, besides Biden and now Modi.

Kyiv's 'iron diplomacy'

Alexander Kamyshin, Ukraine's Strategic Industries Minister who is in charge of Ukrzaliznytsia, has often used the hashtag #IronDiplomacy to refer to the world leaders' train trips.

In 2023, Kamyshin posted on X about President Biden's 20 hours on the train and just four in Kyiv, and apologised to the public when Biden's travel led to some other trains on the network being delayed.

"We had to delay some of our trains to give a way to #RailForceOne. It was painful for me and my team, but I had to do that. So only 90% of our trains arrived on time yesterday. I apologize," he wrote.

Crucial for Ukraine

This train, and other trains in the Ukrainian railway network, have played an important role in the war effort, including helping transport aid across the country, and Kamyshin has spoken repeatedly about the importance of the railways to his country.

As the war broke out, many Ukrainians rushed to train stations in an attempt to escape to safer places, or to leave the country. Ukraine's widespread railway network has always been popular, and domestic travellers often favour trains over planes. Ukrzaliznytsia is the sixth-largest railway passenger transporter in the world, and seventh for freight, according to a CNN report.

20 REVIEWS CINEMA & MUSIC



SHUBHRA GUPTA

Kitnay aadmi thay? Sirf do.
The unsmiling hero whose arsenal included, over and above everything else, a simmering rage and an uber violent, no-holds-barred response to oppression, was the creation of two men who co-wrote some of Hindi cinema's most iconic blockbusters. Such a seismic event was *Zanjeer* (1973) written by Salim-Javed (never Salim and Javed, or Salim & Javed) and its hero Vijay whose anger singed and burned everything before it, becoming mythologised even as the film played in theatres, that Hindi cinema was never the same again.

Then came *Deewaar* and *Sholay* (1975), and that was it. It cemented the era of the Angry Young Man, personified by Amitabh Bachchan. And alongside, the era of Salim Khan and Javed Akhtar, whose stories and screenplays and dialogues laid out a palimpsest for meaningful mainstream Hindi cinema, where everything flowed from the writing.

Produced by Salman Khan Films, Excel Media and Tiger Baby, and directed by Namrata Rao, the three-part documentary *Angry Young Men* coasts on full-blown nostalgia and interesting trivia, as it takes us back to that time when these two writers demanded, and got their due, from traditionally mean-fisted producers.

It was a huge win, both financial and creative: writers were considered so low on the totem pole that they weren't credited at all, or if they were, it was almost like an afterthought. When, for *Dostana*, Salim-Javed got more than the male lead played by Bachchan, it became industry lore that people still recount with the right degree of awe.

The three 45-50-minute parts have a dizzying array of stars, the film unit's enviable access clearly the result of having most

Scripting Success

ANGRY YOUNG MEN ★★★

Director: Namrata Rao Cast: Salim Khan, Javed Akhtar, and others Streaming on: Prime Video

of the principals as producers. There are Salman, Arbaaz, Helen; Farhan, Zoya, Shabana. There are Amitabh Bachchan and Jaya Bachchan nee Bhaduri, who was, when she agreed to do *Zanjeer*, a bigger star than her then boyfriend. While you are trying to track who spoke what, which is, expectedly, pretty much a litany of praise, the few who stand out do so because they spill some spiky truths about the duo.

No one actually uses the phrase 'too big for their boots', but Honey Irani, Javed's ex-wife and still very much part of the extended family from all accounts, comes closest. As does Jaya Bachchan, who smilingly labels them 'brats', but stops there. Honey, who met Javed on the sets of the rollicking *Seeta Aur Geeta* (1972), has the right mix of residual affection and bracing honesty, as she speaks about their relationship.

This is the highpoint of the series for me. It instantly takes the subjects and humanises them, with all their affectations and vulnerabilities, while most of the others — including the lens of trade analysts and film critics — fall into fulsome appreciation. I also enjoyed the segment where screenwriter Anjum Rajabali gets in a contrarian point about how the women written by Salim-Javed weren't exactly the epitome of agency and independence.

And this is really what I missed more of, even though you can hear Rao getting in some plucky questions: both a clear-eyed

assessment divested of reverence, as well as more of what the series does in passing, an account of the before — the candyfloss '60s which Karan Johar comments on — and the after. The issue of plagiarism is brought up (good for Rao), only to be dismissed airily and summarily. Yes, they may have borrowed some stuff, but in those days, who knew, and yes, if it was today, he would be much more careful, says Akhtar.

These two are very much at the centre of the series, but they occupy the space very differently, and come across as very different individuals, even if Farhan Akhtar says that they made 'perfect partners', very much in sync when working in top gear. Salim is clearly older (88), his family fusses around him much more; early in the series, we see son Arbaaz wipe his cheek tenderly. Salim is clearly also the more reticent, and speaks only when required, seeing him as we do surrounded by his family, at the dining table, in the living room.

In contrast, the 79-year-old Javed is much more voluble, and comes across as a charmer who wants you to immediately fall in his thrall. At one point, we catch him trying to impress the crew with his erudition, amidst his collection of books. He has no difficulty in harking back to his past except where he falters, admitting to guilt in the way his first marriage fell apart. And one of the most felt parts of the docu is him recalling, moist-eyed, memories of the days

when he had nothing to eat, and slept where he could, the quintessential life of a 'struggler'.

In the absence of any concrete explanation of their writing process (22 out of their 24 films turned into smash hits) except the very bare bones, you wonder just how they pulled it off. Perhaps their unbeatable script sense — the texture, the sense of place, the perfectly-timed dialogues — came not from similarity but disparity, one person picking up, smoothly and intuitively, from where the other left off, filling in the required gaps. Like lovers finishing each other's lines.

It comes as no surprise that neither of them were as successful when they parted ways in their individual writing pursuits, though Javed Akhtar went to pen some of the most striking lyrics in later years. But what did their absence come to mean, and how did that impact the '80s, a decade in which Hindi cinema rolled over into B-grade territory, succumbing to the lure of home entertainment via the advent of VHS and colour TV?

Much of what is in the series is already in public domain, though there are some never-seen-before stills, and their own moving accounts of their early struggle, before they came together to become the most formidable writing partners in Hindi cinema. The series also gives us a few of their unforgettable movie moments: *phenke huye paise; mere pass maa*

hai; aaj khush toh bahut hogey... yes, yes, gimme more.

But the question that has plagued film lovers all these decades is still left unanswered: what made them go their separate ways? And also, the attempt to connect the creation of the Angry Young Man to the anger of the duo feels like a retrofit, and coming in so late, leaves you dangling; this contention definitely needed more unpacking.

The ascent of Salim-Javed was marked by the years that led up to an India on the boil, and the imposition of the Emergency. The writers picked on the roiling public discontent and channelled it all in their hero, who went up single-handedly against the goons in and out of the system. For the Hindi film audience, drowned in chocolate-box handsomeness of the Rajendra Kumars and Rajesh Khannas (even though S-J wrote the child-friendly *Haathi Mere Saathi* for the latter), the scowling-snarling Amitabh Bachchan was a shocker: the way he was embraced made the older heroes feel redundant. It was time for the first Indian hero who was, in the truest sense, an anti-hero, a rebel with many causes, whom we fell in love with.

I promise that you will get a lot of warm fuzzies watching the series, and there's enough and more in here for a generation unaware of these goings-on, but for those who lived through those movies, or grew up watching them, it will remain a nostalgic ride.

Currently, Bollywood is going through one of its worst phases, as it casts about for a way out of empty halls and diminishing returns. The only way to get it back is to go back to the fount: you only get good movies if you have put in good writing. What goes in, comes out. If they do make a comeback, in true Bollywood style, will Salim-Javed, now mellow old men, bring back the era when writers were truly kings?

STREAMING WATCH LIST

BY ALAKA SAHANI



FORTY SHADES OF BLUE

MUBI
ACCLAIMED DIRECTOR Ira Sachs' early short, *Forty Shades of Blue*, tells the story of Laura, a Russian woman living in Memphis with a much older rock-and-roll legend Alan James, and the personal awakening she experiences in the wake of her affair with Alan's estranged son. It won the Grand Jury Prize at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival.



KALKI 2989 AD

PRIME VIDEO & NETFLIX
THE ACTION-adventure directed by Nag Ashwin is now available on two platforms. Prime Video is streaming *Kalki 2989 AD* in its original language, Telugu, with dubbed versions in Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam. Its Hindi version is available on Netflix. Set in a post-apocalyptic world in 2898 AD, where nature has vanished and darkness prevails, this movie marks the first installment in the Kalki cinematic universe.



SECRET LIVES OF ORANGUTANS

NETFLIX
NARRATED BY David Attenborough, this film, produced and directed by Huw Cordey, follows a group of orangutans in the pristine jungles of Sumatra. At the centre of the story is eight-year-old Eden. We also meet other characters, including Rakus, a Sumatran orangutan, who featured in global news headlines recently for being the first wild animal to be seen treating a wound with a medicinal herb.

Almost There

BLINK TWICE

★★★★

Director: Zoë Kravitz
Cast: Channing Tatum, Naomi Ackie, Alia Shawkat, Christian Slater, Adria Arjona, Haley Joel Osment, Geena Davis, Kyle MacLachlan



SHALINI LANGER

DIDN'T WE just have a film and a show, or two, about a crazy rich person who gathers beautiful people around him on an island before things start going very wrong?

Of course, we did. What makes *Blink Twice* special is that it is actor Zoë Kravitz's directorial debut, and she shows a sure — and striking — confidence in staging this thriller.

A lot of it is courtesy the powerful performances by the two actors playing the leads, Kravitz's real-life boyfriend Tatum and Ackie. Tatum plays a tech mogul, Slater King, who has had to step down from his business after a misdemeanour whose true nature is only hinted at. He is now in semi-retirement, which he spends on a private island, "growing chickens" and staying away from all electronic equipment.

Slater emerges from that island only to hold an annual gala, as part of the philanthropic efforts he has taken up after his public shaming. Frida (Ackie) is taken up by his story, consumed in social media bytes, and can't stay away when she gets a chance to work as a waiter at the Slater gala. She is there with friend Jess (Shawkat).

Slater is surprisingly taken in by Frida as well, and soon the two women are made an offer they are in no mood to refuse: to fly off with Slater and his friends on his private jet to his private island.

So far, so good. Kravitz, who also co-wrote

There is Kill, then Overkill

SHALINI LANGER

ROMULUS MAY have founded Rome but, as they say, Rome wasn't built in a day. The *Alien* franchise, too, has almost sweated its way here, nearly 50 years after Sigourney Weaver's Ellen Ripley first encountered extraterrestrial form in the iconic 1979 film. There have been ups and downs, but those messy, hungry, hunting aliens have not shown any loss of appetite.

It all comes down to our appetite then, for similar mayhem. With Ridley Scott, the OG director of the OG film, in the producer's chair, *Alien: Romulus* certainly grabs our attention. Director Alvarez, who is also the co-writer and is a surprise choice for this big-ticket reboot that has names like Scott and James Cameron associated with it, preps the setting nicely. There is a conscious call to move away from the mid-career protagonists of the earlier films to boys and girls in their 20s this time, with child-like Spaeny leading the pack.

However, *Alien: Romulus* succumbs eventually to that commonest of crimes: where a bark will do, it bites; where teeth will do, it snarls; where one big monster is enough, it has thousands; and where one scene of a creature crawling its way out of a human conveys the point, it has two.

There is kill, and then there is overkill.



ALIEN: ROMULUS ★★★

Director: Fede Alvarez

Cast: Cailee Spaeny, David Jonsson, Archie Renaux, Isabela Merced, Spike Fearn, Aileen Wu

Still, when it begins, *Alien: Romulus* has promise. Rain (Spaeny) and the android whom she considers her brother, Andy (Jonsson), inhabit a dreary, dusty, dark planet called Jackson where the corporates who run the show are working them to death. Humans are assigned bunk-like quarters, provided assembly-line food and warned against diseases, before being thrown into their assignments to fulfill their required work hours. When anyone meets those hours, the company simply changes the rules.

Rain, who dreams of returning to a

planet where she can at least see the sun, realises this even as she is still mourning her parents who died of diseases caught working in mines, and looking after Andy who doesn't have the social skills needed to survive such a place.

The desolation of Jackson is striking, its dingy market milling with worn, weary crowds reminiscent of *Blade Runner*.

But, soon enough — with surprisingly no one in the ever-watchful company noticing — Rain and Andy have taken off into space with her group of friends to try and dock onto a decommissioned space-

ship they have discovered is floating overhead. The idea is to use the spaceship to travel to a planet where the sun shines — and much more, one presumes.

If you have seen any of the previous eight *Alien* films — including sequels, prequels and mid-sequels — you will know what likely awaits humankind on a mysteriously deserted spaceship.

Again, Alvarez takes his sweet time getting there, and it is a welcome suspense. You may wonder how the youths engaged in jobs like farming and mining on their planet are so well-versed in the whereabouts of a spaceship, but who knows? Maybe it is one of the bonuses of living on a distant planet in the distant future.

Both the vessel on which Rain and the others take off and the spaceship where they dock are rundown, rusted, barely lit vehicles, carrying the whiff of Jackson with them. They are also a maze. Somehow, the group has no difficulty with that, and it also keeps the audience off-kilter, wondering what to expect next.

But then the aliens come, and then they keep coming and coming, grabbing faces, slobbering acid, wandering corridors. Spaeny has too slender a shoulders to carry the film on her own, though she is not bad, while there is only so much Jonsson can do when expected to act robot-like or dumb (he is no Michael Fassbender to pull off *Alice: Prometheus* or *Covenant*). The others are mostly mere fodder, which is fairly obvious from the start.

The most stomach-curdling aspect of the film does not even involve aliens, of any kind, including those born from the combined DNA of humans and them. It is the film's decision to resurrect an actor from the first *Alien*. Not only is the actor now deceased, the film uses him in a manner that is, suffice to say, less than elegant.

21 BIG PICTURE

WHAT GOES INTO THE CONSERVATION OF HAMPI

Keeping an empire alive

When a temple pavilion in Hampi collapsed in the rains, questions were raised about the alleged neglect of one of India's largest World Heritage Sites.

ADRIJA ROYCHOWDHURY travels to Hampi, the once-vibrant city that was at the heart of the Vijayanagara empire, to know what it takes to keep it standing

MONUMENTS ARE everywhere in Hampi. Some stand tall and elegant against the backdrop of giant granite boulders, others lie low and truncated. There are sculptures of elephants with missing trunks, court musicians with an amputated limb or nose – reminding the visitor of the devastation caused by a 16th century war to this once thriving metropolis that was at the centre of the Vijayanagara Empire. Then there are the other monuments – those that peek out from behind thick foliage and debris, waiting to be rescued through the exploration and conservation efforts that have been on since the 18th century.

Earlier this year, when the *saalu mantapa*, a pavilion at the Virupaksha temple in Hampi, collapsed in torrential rainfall, questions were raised about the alleged neglect of the World Heritage Site.

The conservation of Hampi is an exercise with few parallels, at least among India's heritage sites. A variegated list of around 1,600 monuments, spread across an area of 250 square kilometres, makes Hampi one of the largest such sites in India to receive a UNESCO World Heritage tag. Apart from the monuments, there are about 30 villages and their people whose lives and livelihoods are intimately tied to the medieval ruins.

Though the entire area is regulated by the World Heritage tag – given to Hampi in 1986 – these 30 villages are spread across two separate districts, Vijayanagara and Koppal, and are governed by their respective administrations too. But it is the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) and the Karnataka government's Department of Archaeology that has the painstaking task of keeping the monuments alive through a rigorous conservation process.

Despite these ground realities and multiple stakeholders, what makes Hampi fascinating is that the site is still being 'discovered', a process that has been on for decades. As archaeologists supervising the site would tell you, "a lot more remains to be known".

The story of Hampi – and its rediscovery

Known to be the last great Hindu medieval kingdom, the Vijayanagara empire was established in 1336 by brothers Harihara-I and Bukka Raya-I of the Sangama dynasty. At its peak, the empire is known to have extended across almost all of southern India.

The spectacular city of Vijayanagara – or what we today know as Hampi – was the empire's capital. Its magnificence was noted by several foreign travellers visiting the region, among them Portuguese Domingo Paes, who visited Vijayanagara in 1520 and wrote about the city that was "as large and beautiful as Rome". The city, on the banks of the Tungabhadra, has also been the subject of numerous books, including Salman Rushdie's latest *Victory City*, a fictionalised reinterpretation of the rise and fall of the Vijayanagara empire.

The glorious days of Vijayanagara, though, came to an end in 1565 when the combined armies of the Deccan Sultanates are said to have ransacked the capital after defeating Rama Raya, the de facto ruler of the empire then.

"It is said that the city burned for six months after the battle," says Muhammad Ali, an ASI official at Hampi.

Although historians say that the nature and scale of destruction carried out at Hampi after the Battle of Talikota is debatable, everyone agrees that the site was practically untouched and largely forgotten till the end of the 18th century when the British first began exploring it. The British antiquarian Colin Mackenzie, who went on to become the first surveyor-general of India, made the first map of Hampi in 1799. He also produced a number of watercolour paintings of the monuments in the city.

In the years that followed, there was a steady increase in British explorers and photographers at Hampi. Among them was Alexander Greenlaw, who is known to have taken some of the earliest photographs of the Hampi ruins in the 1860s, much before any of the clearing or excavation work took place.

Apart from documenting the site, the British also engaged in some amount of early restoration. "For instance, in the Virupaksha temple's gopuram, one can see a steel rod from 1856 with the mark 'Made in England' on it," says ASI's Ali. "It was put there by the British to support the gateway that would have otherwise crumbled."

He points towards fragments of sculpted pillars that can be found sticking out from the ceiling tiles – examples of repair work, which, he says, was done by the British back in the 19th century.

It is only in the 1970s, though, that the first concentrated effort to excavate and conserve Hampi began under the directions of Saiyid Nurul Hasan, then Union minister of state of education, social welfare and culture. What followed was the Hampi National Project in 1976, which threw up some of the most ex-



The Virupaksha temple in Hampi. Earlier this year, a mantapa here collapsed

traordinary remnants of the 14th century metropolis that had hitherto been hidden under thick piles of debris and vegetation.

The white granite pavilions on either side of the street, stretching out from the Vitthala temple, for instance, were submerged under approximately 1.3 metres of debris, before they were excavated in the 1970s. Inscriptional evidence suggested that this was a flourishing marketplace for horse and elephant traders.

"Most of the core zone of Hampi – which includes all the administrative blocks, palaces and residential blocks of the ministers – came to light only after 1975," explains Nikhil Das, ASI's Hampi Circle Superintending Archaeologist.

Interestingly, it is only the granite base of these structures that survive today. Records suggest that the wooden structures they once supported were burned down in the course of the destruction of the empire.

George Michell, architectural historian and founder of the Deccan Heritage Foundation who spent more than two decades documenting Hampi since the early 1980s, says he was present when "much of the royal centre was dug out of earth". The Pushkarini, the five-tiered stepped tank in the royal centre, was, however, not discovered when Michell first started documenting Hampi and therefore, does not feature in his first map of the city. It was sometime in the 1980s that the tank was dug out by the ASI.

The most recent addition to the excavations is the *paan-supari* bazaar, a kilometre-long



One of the mantapas, now in ruins, at the Hampi bazaar. Adrija Roychowdhury

market in front of the Hazara Rama temple, a portion of which was first excavated in 1985.

Das, the Superintending Archaeologist, resumed excavation of the market in 2022, following which another portion of the *paan-supari* bazaar was exposed. Das explains that inscriptional evidence suggests that this was the most lavish of the five bazaars of Hampi, attracting traders from across the world. Standing among the ruins of the *paan-supari* bazaar today, one can clearly see that much of it is still hidden under vegetation.

Despite the large-scale discoveries made at Hampi over the last few decades, experts believe the excavations at the site have been



haphazard. Historian Vasundhara Fillozot, who has been studying Hampi since the 1960s, says that "instead of systematic excavation and documentation, the archaeologists were finding one place here and another there. So we still don't have a proper idea about the whole city".

ASI's Das too agrees that the excavations at Hampi did not have a "problem-oriented approach". "In Hampi, we would be excavating one thing and accidentally something else would be discovered and then we would go after that," he says.

The ASI has, however, put excavations on hold for now. "We have concluded that

constitute the heritage site saw opportunities for themselves. The economy and infrastructure of the region improved as visitors streamed into the site, bedazzled by the monuments. Last year, Hampi attracted more than 83,000 Indian tourists and over 20,000 foreigners. "At present, there are 175 tourist guides approved by the Department of Tourism in Hampi and about 300 autorickshaws that run in the World Heritage area," says Das.

But in 1999, Hampi had a scare when UNESCO put the site on the 'World Heritage in Danger List'. The whip had followed the Karnataka government's attempt to construct a bridge across the Tungabhadra, a violation of UNESCO's policies for a protected archaeological area. Consequently, the government halted work on the bridge and set up an overarching body, the Hampi World Heritage Area Management Authority (HWHAMA), tasked with providing an integrated solution to the protection of Hampi.

The presence of this body was to change Hampi's nature.

In 2007, HWHAMA established a masterplan for Hampi as part of which the entire area was divided into three parts – a 40-sqkm core zone that has all the major monuments, a 90-sqkm buffer zone, and the remaining peripheral zone. Each of these zones were brought under specific regulations and laws regarding construction activities and use of commercial and residential properties.

"Immediately, everybody living and working in Hampi became illegal, because as a World Heritage site, Hampi's status is of a group of monuments, not a cultural landscape. This approach has not been inclusive of communities living within the larger site," says Shama Pawar, convenor of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage, (INTACH), Hampi chapter.

Pawar cites the example of the Hampi market that stretched out in front of the Virupaksha temple, which, she says, "had its own living reality". Historical evidence suggests that at the peak of the Vijayanagara empire, the market would be bustling with activity. People lived and sold temple products here, while some of the mantapas served as resthouses for the travellers.

In its modern avatar, too, the market was the throbbing heart of Hampi, its shops selling trinkets and souvenirs to tourists. However, with the HWHAMA rules coming into effect, the shops were declared illegal encroachments and in 2011, a stringent evacuation drive cleared the entire stretch of the people and their livelihoods.

RShanmugan, 72, who has been in Hampi since 1958, says that in 1992, he extended his home in Hampi village, adjacent to the Virupaksha temple, to build a guesthouse for tourists. However, when the HWHAMA rules came into effect, his guesthouse was declared illegal. "They allowed us to live here, but declared all commercial activities to be illegal, including something as simple as selling coconut water. How do we live here without earning a living," he asks.

Krishna Devaraya, a resident of Anegundi who claims to be a descendant of the 16th century monarch of the Vijayanagara empire, says the World Heritage tag has been both a blessing and a problem for Hampi. "It is because of the UNESCO tag that what ever is left till now is still intact. However, it has also affected our culture and traditions. The priests in the temples must be allowed to live there for daily worship and the markets in front of them must be kept alive with strict rules and

regulations," he argues. Nongjai Mohd Ali Akram Shah, commissioner of HWHAMA, however, says that those who were moved out of the heritage site were eventually rehabilitated in villages away from the site. "People had occupied the pavilions and pillars at the temple site. They have now been given concrete homes and amenities as well as a separate site for commercial activities."

INTACH's Pawar believes that the conservation of Hampi needs to be more organic, one which involves active local engagement. "The collapse of a mantapa or a pillar can always be fixed. The bigger concerns are environmental degradation and the lack of consideration of community engagement in planning. Hampi needs better sanitation, green mobility plans and architectural guidelines. The pillars of Hampi are, after all, its people and this ancient and rich landscape they inhabit," she states.

Walking along the once thriving bazaar in front of the Virupaksha temple on a warm afternoon, one cannot help but notice the silence that surrounds this once-vibrant metropolis that was at the heart of one of the greatest Indian empires. Scattered on both sides are the stones and pillars of the empty mantapas. The stringent conservation efforts have cleaned up the mediaeval ruins and the marketplace, making the stretch a perfect spectacle for the visitor to Hampi.

The monuments are everywhere in Hampi – except, they stand in their splendid isolation.

AN EMPIRE LOST – AND FOUND

1336 CE

Vijayanagara empire is established by Harihara-I and Bukka Raya-I of the Sangama dynasty

1509 CE

The beginning of the reign of Krishna-devaraya, under whom the empire reached its peak, spreading across almost all of southern India. His reign ended in 1529 CE

1565 CE

Battle of Talikota, in which the Vijayanagara empire is defeated by the alliance of the Deccan Sultanates. Marks the beginning of the end of the empire that's now in ruins

1646 CE

After successive defeats in battles with the Bijapur Sultanate, the Vijayanagara empire ends

1799 CE

British surveyor-general Colin Mackenzie makes the first map of Hampi

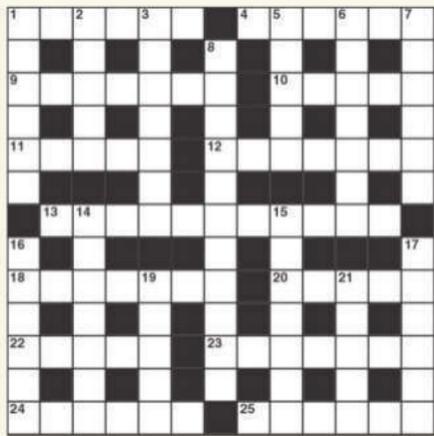
1860s CE

British explorer and photographer Alexander Greenlaw takes some of the earliest photographs of Hampi

1976

Centre sets up Hampi National Project, the first concentrated effort to excavate and conserve Hampi

CROSSWORD 5451



ACROSS

- Concerned with drama still being contested on court (2,4)
- Hit a Pacific island badly (6)
- City makes Joe rich (7)
- Look about a ship of the line (5)
- Manage while at home to have a quarrel (3-2)
- We're yet in the process of growing (3,4)
- Their constructors must meet very high costs (11)
- Tact as well as art may be needed to draw (7)
- House deposit? (5)
- Colour uniformly worn (5)
- Offensive rumour about a retired doctor (7)
- Insurrection is seen in the arena (6)
- Make clear it may be caused by overworking (6)

DOWN

- Legally empanelled for damage? (6)
- Prone to upset Evita perhaps (5)
- One dollar in more than one manner of speaking (7)
- Admit everything with a cry of pain (5)
- He helps those wishing to take cover (7)
- Subjected to decreasing pressure? (6)
- Advertising agent's work seems unoriginal (11)
- Unusually big task carried out by servicemen (7)
- Handy consultant (7)
- One you count on to keep your money? (6)
- Parts always on board (6)
- A new line for a foreigner (5)
- Many wander with the herd (5)

Solutions Crossword 5450 Across: 1 Rebound, 5 Tudor, 8 Funny business, 9 Tools, 10 Utensil, 11 Averse, 12 Ladder, 15 Red flag, 19 In the finish, 20 Totes, 21 Shellac
Down: 1 Refit, 2 Bank overdraft, 3 Ulysses, 4 Drum up, 5 Twine, 6 Dressed to kill, 7 Rustler, 11 Airlift, 13 Airline, 14 Agrees, 16 Lotus, 18 Ethic

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

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

Hide not your talents, they for use were made. What's a ___ in the ___?
- Benjamin Franklin (7,5)

DGAAE BDELNU
MSSIA EINDDDH

SOLUTION: ADVICE, AMISS, BUNDLE, HIDDEN
Answer: Hide not your talents, they for use were made.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL 5s

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

DIFFICULTY LEVEL

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

SUDOKU 5662

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

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5661

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5661

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

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr. P. C.
Whereas a complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Jyoti W/o Kalish Chand R/o B-132, Mangolpuri Delhi** have committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under **FIR No. 140/21 U/s 498/354/354A IPC.**, has been registered at **P.S. Sultanpuri Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said, **Jyoti** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said, **Jyoti** has absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of the said warrant).
Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused, **Jyoti** under **FIR No. 140/21 U/s 498/354/354A IPC.**, registered at **PS. Sultanpuri Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **28.09.2024**.
By Order
Ms. Preeti Rajoriya, MM, Mahila Court No.02, Room No.18 Rohini Court, Delhi
DP/11135/OD/2024

Bank of India
Head Office: Star House 2, Risk Management Department, Information Security Cell, 7th Floor, C-5 - G Block, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai 400 051.
Email: security.information@bankofindia.co.in
Tender Notice
Bank of India invites Request for Proposal (RFP) for selection of qualified service providers for Procurement of "Perpetual Licenses for Trend Micro Deep Security Solution for 3 years".
Last date for submission of Request for Proposal: 13.09.2024 by 3.00 pm.
Full details are available on GeM Portal and on Bank's Corporate Website: www.bankofindia.co.in under "Tender" Section.
Amendments / Corrigendum, if any, will be kept on GeM & Bank's website only.

VINYL WRAPPING CONTRACT FOR DISPLAY ADVERTISEMENT OVER RANGIYA DIVISION
E-auction for awarding Vinyl Wrapping contract for display of Commercial advertisement on the exterior surface of the trains for a period of 3 (three) years. Auction Catalogue No.: ADVT-RNY-24-7. Category: Advertising - Train Exterior (Full Face). Lot Auction Start (All Lots): 11:30 hrs. on 05-09-2024; Rate Unit: Annual Licensing Fee; Days : 1095.
Sl.No. Lot No. Description
AA1 ADVT-EFF-130512-22-2 Vinyl Wrapping contract for display of Commercial advertisement on the exterior surface of the train No. 05894/15895/15896/05893.
AA2 ADVT-EFF-89540 Vinyl wrapping contract for display of advertisement on the exterior surface of train no.05801/05802
AA3 ADVT-EFF-122492-22-1 Vinyl wrapping contract for display of advertisement outside the surface of passenger train No.05819/05820/05821/05822
AA4 ADVT-EFF-135981-22-1 Vinyl Wrapping contract for display of Commercial advertisement on the exterior surface of the train No. 05823/05824/05881/05882/15813/15814/15815/15816
Auction closing Date: At 12:30 hrs. on 05-09-2024. Initial Cooling off period is 30 minutes. Note: Prospective bidders are requested to visit e-Auction module of IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in for more details.
DRM (C), Rangiya
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

कार्यालय संयुक्त संचालक एवं अधीक्षक
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निविदा सूचना
मेडिकल गैस पांचवी निविदा 2024-25

निविदा कार्य का नाम	सिम्म चिकित्सालय बिलासपुर हेतु वित्तिय वर्ष 2024-25 में मेडिकल गैस (ऑक्सीजन, नाइट्रस ऑक्साइड एवं कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड) कचर किये जाने हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित किया जाता है।
निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य	रु 1000.00 (एक हजार मात्र) का Demand Draft वापसी योग्य नहीं। जो की संयुक्त संचालक एवं अधीक्षक (Joint Director and Superintendent, CIMS Hospital Bilaspur CC) सिम्म चिकित्सालय बिलासपुर (छ.ग.) के पक्ष में देय हो।
धरोहर राशि Bank Draft/Banker's cheque	1,50,000.00 (एक लाख पचास हजार रुपये) वापसी योग्य का डिमांड ड्राफ्ट/बैंकर्स चेक
निविदा प्रपत्र प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि	दिनांक 30/08/2024 को कार्यालयीन दिवस एवं अवधि तक संबंधित शाखा सिम्म, चिकित्सालय बिलासपुर (निविदा प्रपत्र प्राप्त करने हेतु स्वयं के लेटर हेड पर लिखित आवेदन प्रस्तुत करना अनिवार्य होगा)
निविदा प्रपत्र जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि	दिनांक 05/09/2024 को दोपहर 03:00 बजे तक। शासकीय पंजीकृत डाक अथवा स्पीड पोस्ट के माध्यम से ही।
निविदा खोलने की तिथि तथा स्थान:	दिनांक 05/09/2024 को सायं 4:00 बजे कार्यालय संयुक्त संचालक सह अधीक्षक कक्ष, सिम्म चिकित्सालय बिलासपुर में।

उपरोक्तानुसार इच्छुक निविदाकारों से निविदा आमंत्रित किया जाता है।
संयुक्त संचालक एवं अधीक्षक
सिम्म चिकित्सालय, बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)
Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused person **Sushil S/o Suresh Chand R/o Village Panchi Jattan, P.S Gannor, District Sonapat, Haryana**, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No. 535/2016 U/S 392/397/411/482/34 IPC & 25 ARMS ACT, P.S. Paschim Vihar, Delhi** and it has been returned to warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused person **Sushil** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Sushil** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that **Sushil** in **FIR No. 535/2016 U/S 392/397/411/482/34 IPC & 25 ARMS ACT, P.S. Paschim Vihar, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **26.09.2024**.
By order
Shri. Vijay Shankar
Additional Sessions Judge
Room no. 202
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi
DP/11127/OD/2024

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)
Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused person **Saeed Alam S/o Basir Khan R/o E-49/I-55, Gali No.8, E-Block, Janta Colony, Welcome, Delhi**, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No. 586/2015 U/S 324/452/506/34 IPC, P.S. Welcome, Delhi** and it has been returned to warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused person **Saeed Alam** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Saeed Alam** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that **Saeed Alam** in **FIR No. 586/2015 U/S 324/452/506/34 IPC, P.S. Welcome, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **29.10.2024**.
By order
Ms. Deepakshi Rana
Metropolitan Magistrate-03
Room no. 19, 1st Floor
Karkardooma Court, Delhi
DP/11159/NE/2024

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 (2) (ii) CrPC
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Namely: Vikas Raj, R/o: C-16, Gali No. 2, Chander Vihar, Mandawali, Delhi-92** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in a case vide **CT Cases No. 644/2023 U/s 12 DV ACT** registered at **P.S Kalyanpuri, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued stating that the said **Vikas Raj**, could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the accused **Vikas Raj** absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Vikas Raj**, is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before **25.09.2024**.
By Order
Shazadi Halima Sadiya
MM-Mahila Court No. 2 East,
Karkardooma Court, Delhi
DP/11180/ED/2024

DAY TODAY by PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
Anything that happens now in the way of travel or overseas contacts will have major consequences for you or your loved ones over the coming months. If you understand that the most important planetary cycle is a very long-term one, it'll help.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
Relationships dominate your thinking. If this is true, then your stars at the present are absolutely superb, and you should press ahead with radical changes at work or at home. Do realise, though, that everything depends on how other people react. Play your cards carefully.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
You can't bottle your feelings up for ever. Share all your thoughts and feelings today, and take any short journeys that are necessary. Very soon, perhaps over the next few days, a major family or domestic improvement will be moving up in priorities.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
You may be pulled in two directions, but then that gives you the chance to have your cake and eat it, doesn't it? Actually twenty-five hours per day will probably not be enough to accomplish all that is required at home or at work. Could your expectations be too high?

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
It's a splendid day to shell out some cash, but the stars are making no distinction between minor purchases and major investments, like a new house or two. There is no way you will be able to cut costs for a little while longer, but at least you can avoid needless waste.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)
Money and financial transactions are the most important item of the day, but longer-term transits indicate that legal issues, foreign connections and educational aspirations are absolutely central. In matters of the heart it's friendship that you want. Passion can wait until later.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
You are in an excellent position to take the initiative, and should do so as soon as possible. Your lunar alignments put you in an almost unassailable position, and you should make sure that work is combined with pleasure. Hopefully authorities will like your gifts.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
Home, property and domestic concerns are crucial to your happiness. You may have your own ideas, but you may allow other people to take the lead; a close partner will protect your interests. Give social engagements a very high priority.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
A series of brilliant planetary aspects is setting you up for a very special period. Begin this phase today by making various discreet enquiries and keeping certain feelings to yourself. You should also take practical matters into your own hands, lest others make mistakes.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
One very major and historic planetary alignment is now in the past, but another, which is much more specific, is imminent and, whatever your wishes, whatever your ambitions, you should spare no effort over the next three days. There is no time to waste.

VIRO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
Partners may be making extra demands. You may continue to take the line of least resistance and give as much sympathy and support as you can. Don't fret, for any apparent retreat will be an advance in disguise. It's important that you lift your morale by letting your hair down socially.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
You appear to be trying to avoid the important issues, but there is nothing unusual in this. There is everything to be said for enjoying yourself today, for who knows what tomorrow brings? Besides, there's absolutely no point in walking around with a long face.

Ayhika Mukherjee got the better of world No 13 and three-time Olympian Bernadette Szocs as Puneri Paltan began their campaign in the Ultimate Table Tennis with a commanding 10-5 win over Ahmedabad SG Pipers on Friday. **PTI**

BRIEFLY

India 'A' bowlers fight back vs Aus 'A'

Gold Coast: India A bowlers led a spirited fightback but Australia A tightened grip on the unofficial one-off women's Test, with the hosts' overall lead surging to 192 runs here on the second day on Friday. India A skipper Minnu Mani completed her match haul of 10 wickets but Kate Peterson returned an impactful 12-5-16-5 to hand Australia a slender 28-run lead in the first innings, as the visitors were bowled out for 184 in reply to the host's 212.

BRIEF SCORES: Australia A 212 and 164 for 7 (Emma de Broughe 58, Manddy Darke 54 not out; Minnu Mani 5/47) lead India A 184 (Shweta Sehrawart 40, Tejal Hasabnis 32; Kate Peterson 5/16) by 192 runs

Gukesh, Pragm draw at Sinquefield Cup

Saint Louis: World Championship challenger D Gukesh enjoyed an advantageous position against tournament co-leader Alireza Firouzja of France but eventually settled for a draw in the fourth round of the Sinquefield Cup, here. Gukesh, who is set to play the World championship match against Ding Liren of China next November, proved that he is made of sterner mettle as he made Firouzja's life tough. Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa also drew his game against Anish Giri of Holland and almost at the half way stage in this 10-player round-robin tournament, the Indians stand at a level fifty percent score.

Mohun Bagan enter semis of Durand Cup

Jamshedpur: Defending champions Mohun Bagan edged past Punjab FC 6-5 in tie-breaker to enter the semifinals of the Durand Cup after both sides were locked at 3-3 after regulation time in a thrilling quarter-final here on Friday. While Luca Majcen gave Punjab FC lead in the 17th minute courtesy a spot-kick, Suhail Bhat (44th) and Manvir Singh (48th) put the green and maroon brigade ahead at the start of the second half. Punjab were 3-2 up by the 71st minute with Filip Mrzljak (63rd) and Norberto Ezequiel Vidal (71st) finding the back of the net. However, Aussie star Jason Cummings restored parity in the 79th minute to take the game into the extra time. Bagan went on to win the match via sudden death in shootouts.

Sheoran claims maiden golf title

Chennai: Gurugram's Dhruv Sheoran produced a solid three-under 69 in the final round of the Rs 50 lakh Chennai Pro Championship to secure his maiden title on the PGTI tour here on Friday. Dhruv, a two-time winner on the PGTI Feeder Tour in 2018, totaled 16-under 272 for the week to win with a comfortable three-stroke margin at the TNGF Cosmo Golf Course. Dhruv (69-67-67-69) bagged a winning cheque worth Rs 7.5 lakh on Friday that propelled him from 23rd to 14th position in a card of 72 in round four to finish runner-up for the second week in succession.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



It was a tough start, but the comeback was really nice and I enjoyed the fighting spirit I showed. Competing at this high level, it's important to stay mentally tough and fight through.

NEERAJ CHOPRA, ON HIS PERFORMANCE IN LAUSANNE

Saving the best for the last

On another frustrating night, Neeraj fights back with 89.49m in his sixth and final throw to finish 2nd at Lausanne Diamond League

VINAYAKK MOHANARANGAN
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

NEERAJ CHOPRA is no stranger to firsts. But on Thursday night in Lausanne, it was a strange sort of first for him. He was competing at an event for the first time as the "former" Olympic champion. Just two weeks after he was pipped to the title by Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem, Neeraj was back at work. He wasn't pleased with his efforts at the Stade de France, but since he hadn't exacerbated the groin niggle that has followed him along for a few years now, he decided to enter the Diamond League meet.

The feeling of newness didn't end there. Once the men's javelin event at the Athletissima got underway, Neeraj was near uncharted territory once again. This time, it was to keep up his run of top-three finishes that extends back to September 2018 in Ostrava. Not since that day has Neeraj finished fourth or lower in any international event.

With his sixth and final attempt, however, Neeraj found that one big effort as he came up with yet another Season Best throw, and finished second on the night with the mark of 89.49m, behind only Anderson Peters' sensational 90.61m. That's now thrice this month alone that Neeraj has managed to register a new lifetime second-best throw. It was 89.34m at Paris in qualification, then 89.45 at the Olympics final, and he pushed that up by 4cms in Lausanne. All behind only that 89.94m that stays atop his list, for now.

"The feeling wasn't great at first, but I'm happy with my throw, especially the second-best throw on my last attempt," Neeraj said after the event.

"It was a tough start, but the comeback was really nice and I enjoyed the fighting spirit I showed. Even though my early throws were around 80-83 meters, I pushed hard in the last two attempts finishing strong. Competing at this high level, it's important to stay mentally tough and fight through."

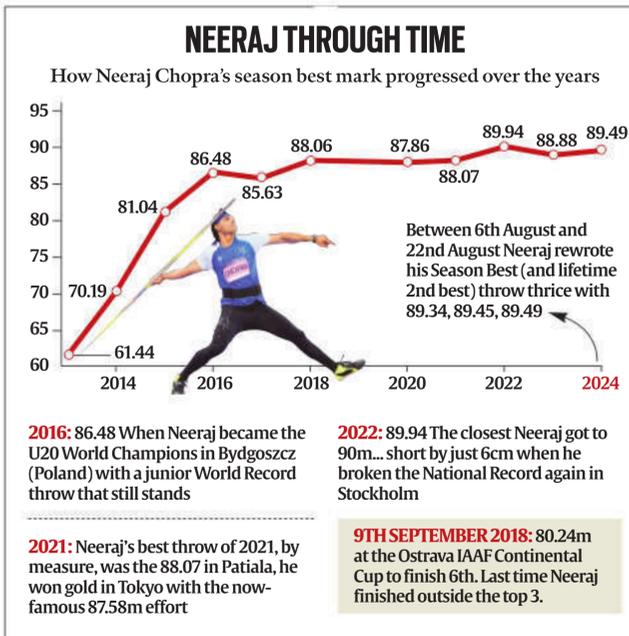
Fight through, indeed. In Lausanne, an admittedly semi-fit Neeraj was on the brink of ending a fine streak that has summed up his consistency over the years. In a physically demanding sport like javelin, to finish top three for six years is no joke. Even Neeraj's colleagues on the night would attest to that, each of them having their own battles to overcome. But after four rounds of throws had been completed, Neeraj found himself fourth. Anderson Peters, leading the way. Julian Weber, consistently just behind the Paris bronze medallist.

But Neeraj was first pushed out of the top three by Japan's Genki Dean. And then by Ukraine's Artur Felner, who came into the event with a Personal Best of 84.32m.

Neeraj, however, dug deep. After not managing to cross 84m with any of his first four throws, he had to first come up with a decent fifth one. That landed at 85.58m... not great by his standards, but crucially, it pushed him into the top three and guaranteed him at least one more throw (in the Diamond League meets, only the top three get the sixth throws).



Neeraj Chopra was outside the top three until he turned it around with his last two throws. His sixth attempt was a season best 89.49m. Reuters



Now, he earned himself one last chance to go big but he had to watch on as Peters reentered the 90m club with a stunning 90.61m with his sixth attempt. The Grenadian threw his arms in the air after letting out a roar, no one had been close to him

all night and the top spot seemed destined to be his.

Next, Weber didn't improve his 87.08m from earlier but he would have thought, given how Neeraj's night had been going till then, that at least second place was his.

Up stepped Neeraj to the start of the runway, with Weber and Peters also clapping him on along with the crowd in a sight that is common in field events. In Paris, Neeraj spoke in great detail about the runway affecting him, and that he found it hard to grip on the fast Mondo track. He tried to speed up his approach and ended up fouling five out of his six throws. But here, Neeraj had been more conscious of his blocking, and despite the marks not being that great, he came into his final throw knowing he had registered five clean attempts before that.

Cry of agony

As he released the javelin this time, Neeraj fell away to his left to keep himself within the white line. As he roared, stood up, and put one arm up in the air, it felt like the first time in a while that he was happy with the effort had managed. When the mark came up, though, Neeraj put his head in his hands and let out a cry of agony. It was so close, to not just Peters' 90.61 on the night, but also that elusive 90 or 91+ he has been gunning.

Peters, with a beaming smile on his face, was the first to approach Neeraj for an embrace, followed by Weber, once more at the receiving end of a big throw from one of his competitors. Neeraj stole a glance towards the stands where his team was, tongue out with a cheeky smile that was more frustration than joy. There were no words exchanged at that moment, but while Neeraj continues to search for the extra meter or three that he knows he is capable of, he left us speechless once more for showing a ridiculously high level of consistency simply not seen in Indian athletics before.



Emmanuel Wanyonyi clocked 1 minute, 41.11 seconds. Reuters

Oly champ Wanyonyi runs 4th fastest 800m

Lausanne: Olympic champion Emmanuel Wanyonyi ran the fourth-fastest 800 meters time in history Thursday at the first major track meet after the Paris Games. Wanyonyi clocked 1 minute, 41.11 seconds — 0.08 faster than his winning time in Paris two weeks ago — to tie Wilson Kipketer's mark in 1997 that was a world record then. Only Wanyonyi's fellow Kenyan David Rudisha has run the 800 faster.

Jakob Ingebrigtsen regained his authority in the men's 1,500 to beat Olympic champion Cole Hocker by more than two seconds. In the men's 200, Olympic champion Letsile Tebogo kept his form despite a return trip home to Botswana to win in 19.64 seconds easing into the line. **AP**

'IT'S STILL A BRONZE WHEN GOLD WAS IN REACH'

Why hockey forward Abhishek is disappointed with Olympics outing



Abhishek scored crucial goals against Belgium and Australia in the pool stage.

NAMIT KUMAR
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

RECEPTIONS HELD by the prime minister and president of the country, felicitations in their hometowns and massive celebrations, the welcome back to the Indian hockey team after winning historic bronze in Paris — the first time in 52 years that the team has won back-to-back medals at the Olympics — has been grand.

Yet many in the playing group, especially those whose rise has coincided with the re-rise of Indian hockey, are not too keen to sit on their laurels. 25-year-old forward Abhishek is a case in point.

"This is big for us, it's an Olympic medal, but it's still a bronze when gold was in reach," Abhishek told The Indian Express after returning from Paris. "In my view, there are areas in which we all can improve. We need more consistency, were playing well on one day, making too many mistakes on another. We need to start scoring early, not just attacking well when we concede. There are a lot of smaller things."

Abhishek is among the younger crop of players in this team, alongside the likes of Hardik Singh and Raj Kumar Pal, who have risen

through the ranks in the past few years as India have notched up successes. His Paris bronze adds to a collection of Commonwealth silver and Asian Games gold during his short career.

His critical appraisal of the team's results — often a sign of developing the winning edge — clearly indicates how the standards have been raised among India's next generation of hockey stars under the seemingly positive philosophy of coach Craig Fulton.

He is equally harsh on himself. "I don't think I had a good tournament," the Haryana-based forward said. "I gave my best, everything, but I was not at 100% performance. I scored two goals, important goals, but really, I should have scored more."

Goals from open play were an issue throughout the team. 10 out of the 15 goals came from set pieces, each from skipper Harmanpreet Singh.

The two goals Abhishek speaks of — the first in the solid performance against Belgium, which, despite losing, is seen as the match in which India turned their tournament around; the second being the opener in their blowaway win against Australia — were similar, hit on a marauding half-turn after he received the ball with his back to goal.

This was a result of a concerted effort

10 out of the 15 goals came from set pieces, each from skipper Harmanpreet Singh

from Fulton, during India's pre-Games preparation, to improve outcomes in the D with a focus among the forwards to develop an edge with their back to goal.

"I have been practicing this (finishing on the half turn) a lot. Some myself, some with the coach," Abhishek said. "At this level, international defenders give you no space. The D is almost always crowded when you're in attack, so making the space for yourself is the most important thing. That's the focus from the coach."

Some may remember the now well-reported story of how a life-threatening accident — in which he got his hand caught in a barbed-wire fence, splintering a nerve and nearly losing a fatal dose of blood — turned around Abhishek's life. But few would know his immediate reaction.

"He woke up after the accident, and the first thing he asked his mother was: 'Please don't stop me from playing hockey now,'"

Shamsher Singh, Abhishek's childhood coach-cum-Hindi teacher, recalls.

Abhishek got his start at the CZR Sr. Secondary School in Sonipat in his formative years, under the tutelage of an unconventional coach in Singh, who remembers being particularly harsh on him after recognising his talents.

"When he was younger, he was disciplined and talented, but he didn't always understand that he must make the most of it," Singh, who Abhishek still affectionately refers to as 'Masterji', says. "I've coached players at his level, sometimes even better, that did not get chances because of their circumstances. The special thing about him is that once he got the chance, there was no looking back."

That may explain, according to Singh, why Abhishek is self-critical. He constantly thinks he can improve. "I remember seeing him sulk in the first few matches on TV. I messaged him asking what was wrong and he replied saying he was disappointed he had not yet scored any goals. I tried to explain to him that he is contributing in other ways, playing well with the team, but he was not having it. He accepts nothing less than what he expects from himself," the coach says.

Part of what makes him one of the more dangerous forwards in the team is his versatility. This is why Singh, having witnessed his sporting upbringing from start to finish, calls him a "coach's dream".

"Today's hockey is about scoring goals with touches and rebounds and setpieces, crowding the circle. That's not how Abhishek used to play," he says. "In his younger days, he was a great dribbler (drawing comparisons with Pakistan great Shahbaz Ahmed) and got past people. He could dodge and had ball control. Unlike other kids, he never panicked in the D. Now, he has adapted his style. He is the perfect mix of the old and new generation."

So, it comes as no surprise that Fulton wished to build his attack around Abhishek's skills, along with the draggling expertise of Harmanpreet and the crucial midfield interventions of Manpreet Singh. He, or his successor, would presumably also like for the upcoming generation of players to share traits of Abhishek's mentality.

"When I came home (in Sonipat), it hit me that this achievement was big. Family and friends gathered to welcome me, celebrate. I met Masterji, he was also a bit emotional," Abhishek says. "But I need to get better if I want to do better for the team."

Verstappen fifth in first practice at home Grand Prix



Max Verstappen has been winless in the last four races. Reuters

ALAN BALDWIN
ZANDVOORT, AUGUST 23

MERCEDES AND McLaren led the way in Dutch Grand Prix practice on Friday as Red Bull's once-dominant Formula One championship leader Max Verstappen was only fifth fastest in front of his home crowd.

Mercedes' George Russell topped the timesheets with a best time of one minute 10.702 seconds in the second session, run in dry conditions after earlier wind and rain at the seaside Zandvoort circuit.

McLaren's Lando Norris was fastest in the opening session in 1:12.322.

His Australian team mate Oscar Piastri was second in the late afternoon, 0.061 slower than Russell, with Mercedes' seven-times world champion Lewis Hamilton third and Norris fourth. Triple world champion Verstappen has won every race at Zandvoort from pole position since the track returned to the calendar in 2021 but is on a four-race losing streak and expected to have a tougher time on Sunday. His time was 0.284 slower than Russell's best, with Mexican teammate Sergio Perez down in 12th, but only 0.025 off Norris's time. McLaren are starting the second half of the season with an upgraded car but resurgent Mercedes have won three of the last four races and are looking strong.

Verstappen leads Norris by 78 points in the standings after 14 of 24 races, with Sunday's race his 200th start in Formula One. The conditions in the first session meant only three drivers had posted timed laps by the halfway mark but the track got busier as the weather improved.

Norris is 'champion material'

Lando Norris is Formula One world champion material and McLaren are to blame for some of his mistakes, team boss Andrea Stella said on Friday in response to the driver's self-criticism.

Stella said Norris was measuring himself against perfection and tended to see the half-empty part of the glass, but it was normal even for champions to have races where they could have done better.

"In reality, I think he definitely has the potential of a world champion and he's performing at world championship level," said the Italian, who worked previously at Ferrari with greats Michael Schumacher and Fernando Alonso.

"Lando is definitely world championship material. He performs already at levels that are seen in the past in some of the great champions I have the luck to work with."

REUTERS

TOP 5 DRIVERS STANDINGS

Pos.	Driver	Team	Pts
1	M Verstappen	Red Bull	277
2	L Norris	McLaren	199
3	C Leclerc	Ferrari	177
4	O Piastri	McLaren	167
5	C Sainz	Ferrari	162

Shah's path to hot seat

Why 35-year-old is frontrunner for ICC's top job and what it means for his role as BCCI's secretary

VENKATA KRISHNA B
AUGUST 23

EARLIER THIS week, the International Cricket Council (ICC) set the ball rolling for the election of its new Chair after the incumbent Greg Barclay decided against seeking a third term. In the ICC corridors, there are strong indications that the current BCCI secretary Jay Shah will replace Barclay, which will make the Indian administrator youngest ever to hold the office.

Why is Jay Shah being considered for the position of ICC's new chair?

Being the secretary of the world's richest cricket board that contributes 70 per cent of the ICC revenue certainly helps. He also happens to be the head of ICC's powerful Finance & Commercial Affairs (F&CA) committee. Other BCCI officials to head ICC were N Srinivasan, Shashank Manohar, Sharad Pawar and Jagmohan Dalmiya. Shah, 35, has a chance to be ICC's youngest Chair. Barclay, who was appointed as the Independent ICC Chair in November 2020 before being re-elected in 2022, will see out his current tenure that finishes at the end of November. The term of the new Chair will officially commence on December 1.

When is the ICC election expected?

It is unlikely that there will be any election for the post. Each director is supposed to file their nominations by August 27 and as things stand, in case Shah files for the post, he is expected to be elected unopposed. In case there are multiple nominations for the post, then there will be an election. Even in the case of that eventuality, Shah's chances of winning are high as he has the numbers on his side. Cricket Australia, England Cricket Board, Cricket South Africa are expected to back him.

With 17 total votes - 12 full member nations, 3 Associates, 1 women director and chair - the candidate that gets 9 votes wins.

What is the expected tenure of the ICC Chair?

According to the existing constitution, the ICC Chair can be at the helm for six years - three terms of two years. However, ICC is mulling over revising its constitution. There are talks that for the sake of continuity, the tenure stipulation can change to two terms of three years.

Can Shah wear two hats - be the BCCI secretary and also the ICC Chair?

No. Since 2016, the ICC Chair has become



If elected, Jay Shah (bottom right) will have to deal with the disquiet over International Cricket Council's decision to conduct part of the recently-concluded T20 World Cup in the United States. Reuters

an independent post, which means that an elected candidate cannot hold two offices. So in case Shah does get elected at the ICC meeting in November, he has to resign as BCCI secretary with immediate effect.

That would also mean that he won't be able to complete his tenure which ends only in September 2025.

Although Manohar - who was ICC's first Independent Chair - stepped down as BCCI president even before the elections, there is no compulsion to do so. So Shah can continue being the BCCI secretary till his ICC tenure begins in November this year - subject to him getting the top cricket post.

Can he return to BCCI after his ICC stint?

As per the BCCI constitution, once Shah's term as secretary ends next year, he has to enter a mandatory cooling-off period for three years. But in case Shah is elected as ICC Chair, he can finish his stint and return to BCCI again without taking a break from be-



ing a top influential cricket administrator.

In case Shah gets the top ICC job, who becomes the BCCI secretary?

The coming weeks will decide that. At present, there are no clear-cut favourites to replace Shah in the BCCI. Most of the old guards of the BCCI are ineligible to make a comeback because of their age or their term is already over. Former BCCI presidents Anurag Thakur and Sourav Ganguly don't fit the bill because according to Rule 14 (7) of

the BCCI constitution: "...a former president of the BCCI shall not be entitled to be elected or nominated to the Apex Council in any capacity except for a second and final term as President." BCCI's treasurer Ashish Shelar and joint secretary Devajit Saikia are eligible to contest for secretary.

What challenges could Shah face?

There has been lot of disquiet in the ICC over their decision to conduct the recently concluded T20 World Cup in the USA. In the recent ICC meeting in Colombo, several member nations raised questions over the operational budget overshooting the initial estimation by \$20 million. And on top of that Star, which signed a broadcasting deal at around \$3 billion in 2022 for telecasting events in India from 2024-27, wants to renegotiate it and reduce the sum. While Star had plans to license the television rights with Zee, that deal didn't go through.

All of this has put ICC in a troubled spot as it also has ambitious plans to introduce a common fund pool to preserve the health of Test cricket.



Messi to return to Miami before season's end

REUTERS
AUGUST 23

SUPERSTAR LIONEL Messi will return to Inter Miami CF before the end of the season, head coach Tata Martino told reporters Friday.

Messi, 37, has been away from the team since he suffered a high-ankle injury on July 14 playing for Argentina against Colombia in the Copa America final.

Martino said he did not know when Messi would be back, but assured the Argentinian would play in at least one of the club's nine remaining regular-season matches.

"I wouldn't be able to give an approximate number of days that he returns to training but it is not a situation that is too far away," Martino said, per ESPN.

"There is a part of the injuries that have to do with the physical and there is a part of the injuries that has to do with the mental, so we have to overcome them both ways and I think that he is going through that process."

"He is feeling better and better. He has been working in the field for three or four days now."

"We cannot give time because we do not know and it would be speculating about something that may not be possible to do, but it is close."

Inter Miami (16-4-5, 53 points) hold a five-point lead over FC Cincinnati in the MLS Eastern Conference standings, despite Messi not playing since June 1. In 12 regular-season matches (11 starts), he has 12 goals and 13 assists.

Inter Miami will face FC Cincinnati at home on Saturday and can clinch a post-season berth. The regular season ends October 19 in a match against the New England Revolution.



Lionel Messi, 37, was injured during the Copa America final last month and is yet to be declared fully fit. Reuters

B'desh batsmen fight back against Pak

REUTERS
AUGUST 23

FOUR OF Bangladesh's top seven batters hit defiant fifties in a spirited fightback to help the visitors to 316-5 in reply to Pakistan's 448-6 declared in the opening test in Rawalpindi on Friday.

After Shadman Islam (93) and Mominul Haq (50) steadied the innings, Mushfiqur Rahim and Litton Das forged an unbroken 98-run stand for the sixth wicket to keep Bangladesh in the contest.

Bangladesh finished day three 132 behind but will expect Mushfiqur (55) and Litton (52) to help erase the deficit when they resume on Saturday.

Resuming on 27 for no loss, the Bangladesh openers founds runs were not easy to come by as the Pakistan fast bowlers,



Mushfiqur Rahim is unbeaten on 55. AP

particularly Naseem Shah, bowled with great discipline.

Naseem was finally rewarded when wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan flew to his left to take a stunning one-handed catch after Zakir Hasan (12) had slashed hard at the ball.

Khurram Shahzad squeezed one through

the bat-pad gap of Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto (16) to reduce the visitors to 53-2. Shadman combined with Mominul in a 94-run stand to dispel fears of any collapse but his second test hundred did not materialise.

After Khurram removed Mominul, Mohammad Ali ended Shadman's 183-ball vigil by bowling him through the gate. The opener hit 12 fours.

All-rounder Shakib Al Hasan made a quick 15 runs before hitting a delivery from Saim Ayub straight to Pakistan captain Shan Masood at extra cover.

Mushfiqur and Litton, however, looked comfortable on a pitch where bowlers from both sides have had to toil for success.

BRIEF SCORES: Pakistan 448/6d (Rizwan 171, Shakeel 141; Mahmud 2/70) lead Bangladesh 316/5 in 92 overs (Islam 93, Rahim 55*; Shahzad 2/47) by 132 runs.

England close in on victory over Lanka in first Test

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MANCHESTER, AUGUST 23

ENGLAND WAS closing in on victory against Sri Lanka in the first test Friday after reducing the tourists to 107-4 in their second innings.

The Sri Lankans still trailed England by 15 runs and might only have five wickets left, with Dinesh Chandimal taken to the hospital after being forced to retire hurt following a blow to his right thumb off a quick delivery by Mark Wood. England took a 122-run lead after the first innings thanks to a maiden test century by wicketkeeper Jamie Smith, whose 111 helped the hosts post 358 all out after resuming Day 3 on 259-6. Sri Lanka slumped to 6-3 in its first innings and didn't start its

second innings any better after being 2-1 following the departures of Nishan Madushka and Kusal Mendis for ducks before lunch.

Dimuth Karunaratne was the first to go in the second session when he was outdone by the pace of Wood - off his very first ball - and nicked an inside edge onto his body and up to Harry Brook at second slip for 27.

Chandimal looked in pain after his thumb was snapped back by Wood's sharp delivery and, after some treatment, went to the hospital for an X-ray. He could yet miss the rest of the series in what would be another blow to the Sri Lankans.

BRIEF SCORES: England 358 all out (Smith 111, Brook 56; Fernando 4-103) lead Sri Lanka 236 all out (de Silva 74, Rathnayake 72; Chris Woakes 3-32) & 107/4 in 30 overs (Mathews 48, Mendis 6) by 15 runs.

INTERVIEW: ABHAY SINGH

'Between 18-22, players need right support for squash to develop in India'

VINAYAKK MOHANARANGAN
AUGUST 23

ABHAY SINGH still fondly remembers men's squash team's gold medal match against Pakistan, a spicy, often feisty clash at the Hangzhou Asian Games last year. But the days after the win weren't easy. The bronze in mixed doubles with teenage prodigy Anahat Singh felt like a gold lost. And the intensity of playing 10 matches in 13 days took its toll. But working with a new team and tweaking his routine, Abhay claimed his second National title this month in Mumbai. In an interview with *The Indian Express*, the 26-year-old from Chennai let out a wry chuckle as he said "You guys only think about us when the Asian games come through otherwise only a handful of people care about squash in India." That could well be about to change as it becomes part of the Olympic cycle.

Excerpts:

Post Paris, has Los Angeles already become part of your planning?

Maybe a few years ago, I used to plan very long term, but now I am a periodic planner. The PSA events go on and we have to qualify

for the Olympics via world ranking presumably, so just taking that event by event. But the main focus is doing well at the Asian games first. I have had success at the Asian level in doubles, but yet to win an individual gold medal, so that's going to be my priority.

You said after your national title in Mumbai that you have started working with a new team.

I went through a big physical and mental lapse after the Asian games. I picked up a few injuries, it was one of the most brutal outtings - I played 13 matches in 10 days. Squash takes a huge toll on your body. While you are in that moment and you are chasing a medal, you kind of numb all those things out. There was a lot of physio work and a lot of painkillers involved, quite a few painful nights of sleep. I had to listen to my body and mind a bit better. So I reached out to a few new people, I started working with a new trainer very closely in Chennai which honestly changed my life around. Two new physios, a new mental coach, new nutritionist, like it's just been a whole revamp... and I am in a very good place now.

What does your training routine look like nowadays?

I have two training bases essentially, my squash coaches are in England. I have also started working with Harry (Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu) a little bit in Chennai whenever I am here. My fitness trainer is in Chennai, and there is physio Dimple who I believe is a god-send. My body has devel-



Abhay Singh claimed his second national title this month. SRFI/HCLforSports

oped quite a bit since the Asian Games. In England, I get on the court with James Willstrop, a former world number one, and another coach David Campion.

You have played a fair bit with Anahat Singh. And we now also have a junior

World Championships bronze medallist in Shaurya Bawa. Things looking bright for Indian squash's future?

Between 18 and 22, a squash player needs to get the right support. I had zero support in that period. I had to do it all by myself. If someone like Anahat doesn't get the right backing at that age, other players in the world maybe not as talented as he would go past her. Squash is pocket-heavy, it takes a huge monetary investment to make a star player from India simply because there are not enough good squash players around you. That is why I spend most of my time in England now, where I wake up, go to training and I have 6 players ranked top 50 in the world just training there.

What are some learnings from your personal experience in that regard?

I am potentially the best squash player in India as of today and I don't get paid regularly, except for my performances at events where I win a medal for my country. So why would anyone want to do this in their sane mind? I never shy away from the fact that I come from a family that has been fortunate enough to support me financially but some kids can't, and that really needs to change. If my dad didn't have the money to fund all of

Short-term goals going forward?

I think top 50 in the world ranking is the first goal still, some good performances on the PSA world tour should get me there. I am still new; I have only had two proper seasons. A few matches last year didn't go my way, that could have changed my rankings, but I am still learning. I know my game is there, now it is just about putting it together consistently. I am very happy with the team I have around me right now.

this I wouldn't be sitting in front of you today. Maybe the fact that I didn't get that support pushed me harder to prove myself. But that needn't be the case. Shaurya has also shown he's got what it takes mentally to do well at the highest level, he came back from a matchball down in the quarterfinals at the Worlds. That's the kind of talent that needs to be backed. There are even kids who are 12-13 right now at the squash academy in Chennai who can go much further than probably I have if given the right backing. People keep saying we don't have the next Saurav (Ghosal), we have a lot of guys who can potentially be that good but are they being given the right infrastructure and the right guidance to you know fulfill their potential?