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SUNDAY **STORY** 



#### Galle-Force

What made the overthrow of the Sri Lanka government possible, and what happens next

**THE WORLD** 



**RUSSIAN MISSILES** HIT UKRAINE PORT, **GRAIN DEAL AT RISK** 

I AM THE UNDERDOG, **SAYS UK PM CANDIDATE SUNAK** 

**THE CITY** 

**WOMAN RAPED IN** RAILWAY STATION, **4 EMPLOYEES HELD** 

L-G SEEKS REPORT **AGAINST EXCISE DEPT OFFICIALS** 

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# **Fertiliser imports** from Russia up, make up 20% of total in Apr-June

Tightrope walk, trade diplomacy brings savings of about 10% on global prices

**HARIKISHAN SHARMA** NEW DELHI, JULY 23

IN A development that holds diplomatic significance and brings fiscal savings, Russia has emerged as the largest supplier of fertilisers to India during April-Iune (O1, FY23) this year. India imported 7.74 lakh metric tonnes of fertilisers from Russia in the first quarter and this is more than a fifth of the total 36.4 lakh metric tonnes imported from across the globe, according to data

shared by Chemicals and

Fertilisers Minister Mansukh

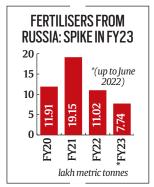
Mandaviya in a written reply to

a question in Lok Sabha on Friday. The imports from Russia in iust the first three months of FY23 is equal to almost 70 per cent of 11.02 lakh MTs of fertilisers imported from Russia in the whole of financial year 2021-22 (FY22). In recent years, China has been the biggest source for India, with fertiliser imports from the south Asian neighbour accounting for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Savings through diplomacy

INDIA has tried to walk the diplomatic tightrope by buying more crude oil and fertilisers from Russia even as the latter faces sanctions from the West. This is also likely to bring savings amid the fall in the rupee and higher crude oil prices.





Cash seized from the house of Arpita Mukherjee, a close associate of Partha Chatterjee, in Kolkata on Saturday. Partha Paul

#### SCHOOL RECRUITMENT SCAM INVESTIGATION

# Bengal minister, aide held day after Rs 21-cr seizure

Chatterjee sent to ED custody; action only if guilty: TMC

SWEETY KUMARI& **RAVIK BHATTACHARYA** KOLKATA, JULY 23

WEST BENGAL Industry and Commerce Minister Partha Chatterjee, who is also secretary general of the Trinamool Congress, was arrested by the **Enforcement Directorate Satur**day in connection with its investigation into the alleged school

Chatterjee, who was state Education Minister when the alleged scam took place, was arrested after being questioned for

**Industry and** Commerce Minister Partha Chatteriee

**INSIDE** 

**INVESTIGATE TMC TOP BRASS: BJP** 

**CHATTERJEE: IN EYE** OF SSC SCAM STORM nearly 24 hours.

His close associate Arpita Mukherjee was detained for questioning and later arrested. Two others detained were being auestioned.

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During searches Friday, the ED claimed to have recovered Rs 21.20 crore unaccounted cash in bundles, foreign currency, ornaments and property papers from Mukherjee's apartment in Diamond City South, Haridevpur.

The bundles of cash are suspected to be proceeds of the alleged scam. On Saturday, trunks were brought to the apartment **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

**PROTESTS SHOULD** 

BE 'GANDHIAN' PAGE 6

# Six kanwariyas mowed down by dumper truck in UP, driver arrested

Top position in butters

MALAVIKA PRASAD HATHRAS, JULY 23

SIX KANWARIYAS were killed after being hit by a dumper truck near Sadabad in Hathras district of Uttar Pradesh in the early hours of Saturday, police said, adding that a seventh person was injured but in a stable condition.

The driver of the dumper truck fled from the spot, but was later arrested, police said. According to preliminary investigations, the driver lost control of the vehicle and crashed into the pilgrims, said a senior police

**OVER 35 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE NATION** 

Ranveer (30), Jawar Singh (26), Naresh (45), Manoj (38), Rameshpal (52) and Vikas (28) all residents of Bahangi Khurd village in Gwalior district of Madhya Pradesh. They were walking back from Haridwar, as part of the kanwar yatra, when the incident took place.

Five of the men died at the spot while a sixth succumbed to injuries at Sarojini Naidu Medical College in Agra.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**RELATED REPORT** 



The spot at the Agra-Aligarh highway in UP's Hathras district where the six pilgrims died Saturday. Praveen Khanna

# Kangaroo courts by media, agenda-driven debates weakening democracy, says CJI

'Urge electronic and social media in particular to behave responsibly

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** RANCHI, JULY 23

EXPRESSING CONCERN over "media running kangaroo courts", Chief Justice of India NV Ramana said on Saturday that "ill-informed and agenda-driven debates" and "biased views" are weakening democracy. "I urge upon the media, particularly the electronic and social media, to behave responsibly," he said.

The CII was delivering the inaugural lecture instituted in the memory of Justice Satva Brata Sinha in Ranchi. Speaking on the "life of a judge", he said: "Doing justice is not an easy responsibility. It is becoming increasingly challenging with each passing day. At times, there are also concerted campaigns in media, particularly on social media against judges. Another aspect which affects the fair functioning and independence of judiciary is the rising number of media trials. New media tools have enor-



in Ranchi on Saturday. PTI

mous amplifying ability but appear to be incapable of distinguishing between the right and the wrong, the good and the bad, and the real and the fake. Media trials cannot be a guiding factor in deciding cases.

"Of late, we see the media running kangaroo courts, at times on issues even experienced judges find difficult to decide. Illinformed and agenda-driven

CJI N V Ramana with Jharkhand HC CJ Ravi Ranjan

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

# ED: Amnesty UK routed Rs 51 cr to India arm for 'anti-national' work

For State to prove any involvement in wrongdoing: Aakar

**DEEPTIMANTIWARY** NEW DELHI, JULY 23

FLAGGING INTERNATIONAL NGO Amnesty's projects 'Kashmir: Access to Justice' and 'Justice for 1984 Sikh Massacre', the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has told a special court in New Delhi that Amnesty International UK routed over Rs 51 crore to an Indian arm in violation of laws to fund anti-national activities in the guise of export of services".

On July 9, the ED filed a prosecution complaint (equivalent to a chargesheet) against Amnesty

International India Pvt Ltd (AIIPL), Indians for Amnesty International Trust (IAIT), and former AIIPI CEOs G Ananthapadmanabhan and Aakar Patel for alleged money laundering.

According to the ED chargesheet, Amnesty International, to further its activities in India, set up Amnesty International India Foundation Trust (AIIFT) in 1999. In 2011-12, when the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) came into effect, the NGO was granted prior permission by the government for receipt of foreign funds. But this was soon revoked following "adverse inputs" by government agencies.

The ED said Amnesty International then set up IAIT, a nonprofit organisation, in 2012, and AIIPL(then known as Social Sector Research Consultancy & Support Services (India) Pvt Ltd), a forprofit commercial entity, in 2013.

The IAIT was supposed to be domestically-funded and carry out human rights related activities in India using these funds. The AIIPL, the ED said, was supposed to carry out the same work by charging a fee in the form of export of services via CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

THE WORLD Health Organisation Saturday sounded its highest level

The threat level, however, is

moderate for all regions across the world — barring Europe, where it is assessed to be high.

national travellers, coordinate with agencies such as the immigration departments at international ports and airports to streamline the health screening processes besides ensuring

WHAT IS MONKEYPOX?

# WHO sounds highest alarm level for monkeypox as cases climb

#### **ANONNA DUTT** NEW DELHI, JULY 23

of alarm for monkeypox, declaring it a 'Public Health Emergency of International Concern'. The same declaration was used for Covid-19 in January 2020.

More than 16,000 monkey-

pox cases have been reported from 75 countries. India has reported three cases of the viral illness from Kerala, with the Union Health Ministry issuing guidelines for surveillance of the infection. Earlier this week, it instructed port authorities to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

PAGE 8

# Kochi girl who topped Class XII in CBSE disabled category is also a YouTuber, singer and speaker

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

**ALIFIYAKHAN** PUNE, JULY 23

SHE IS a YouTuber, a singer, a motivational speaker, and, since Friday, a CBSE Class XII topper. Kochi resident Hannah Alice Simon, who has microphthalmia, a condition resulting in blindness for her, topped the category of students with disabili-

ties – scoring 496 out of 500. For the 19-year-old humanities student, who has always

studied in a "regular" school, negotiating life is a challenge she had been prepared for from a young age at home. "Generally, when a child is

born with a disability, parents treat them with kid gloves. But in my house, I got the same responsibility and treatment as my vounger brothers. They even enrolled in a regular school, not blind school," Hannah told The Indian Express.

In microphthalmia, the eyeballs don't fully develop or develop at all. Because of this, she was often made to feel conscious of "looking different" from other people.



Hannah Alice Simon has

in blindness

microphthalmia, resulting

disability. Till Class IV. I was in another school and I faced some bullying there. They would call me names, called me a ghost and a devil, they said I scared them. I changed my school in Class V," says Hannah, who studies in Rajagiri Christu Jayanthi Public School in Kakkanad. As she grew older, bullying

"When they would treat me

differently in school, it hurt, be-

cause I was made aware of my

was no more a significant problem. "Students wouldn't bully but wouldn't interact much. teachers would try to cushion me like saving me a seat at events, asking me not to run,

even the excessive care felt oppressive. I was always different for most people," she says. In terms of academics as

well, there were many challenges for the student who scored a full 100 in psychology, sociology and economics, 99 in politics, and 97 in English. "Initially I didn't have access

to pdf format textbooks. Later, when I received them, there were errors and mistakes. My main problem was studying maths, especially geometry since there were no tactile devices to understand shapes. Teachers usually do sums on the board and CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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LOVE ACTUALLY'S **HEART-RENDING BIT** 

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#### RESEARCH



WHY CLASS-BASED **REGIMENTS SURVIVED Experts, Army officials** 

note the context in which the system arose

# **EXPRESS @ AUDIO**

#### India's chances at CWG 2022, and some memorable tales

**NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY** 

Host Mihir Vasavda joins The Indian Express' Shivani Naik to discuss India's prospects at the upcoming games, and the events you should look forward to.

#### Gehlot braces for firefighting as BJP rakes up immolation

**HAMZAKHAN** JAIPUR, JULY 23

THE DEATH of a Bharatpur seer who immolated himself is set to increase troubles for the Ashok Gehlot-led Congress government in Rajasthan, which has already been beset by various crises.

On Saturday, three days after he set himself ablaze in Bharatpur's Pasopa village protesting against mining activities in the revered hills of Aadibadri and Kankanchal there, seer Vijay Das passed away while undergoing treatment in Delhi. Das and some other sadhus had been holding their protest there for nearly 15 months.

CM Gehlot had met a delegation of the protesting sadhus in April 2021, and had assured them of necessary action, following which the sadhus suspended their agitation. Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi had intervened in the matter, which resulted in ex-Congress MLA from Mathura, Pradeep Mathur, as well as Radhakant Shastri, the head of the Braj Parvat Sanrakshan Samiti, which has been seeking conservation of the hills, also at-

tending the April meeting. However, in August 2021, Shastri was forced to write an open letter to Gehlot, warning of widespread anger among the protesting sadhus and stating that they have even decided to "commit suicide". However, it seems the protesters' grievances were still not redressed.

The episode has also brought the politician-bureaucrat conflict into focus. With the BIP already accusing the Congress of playing "appeasement politics". the self-immolation of an antimining seer protester would give the saffron party a major issue against the Gehlot government in the coming days.

#### Village pradhan's husband booked for forcing family out of house in UP

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** LUCKNOW, JULY 23

AN FIR was lodged against the husband of a village pradhan for allegedly forcibly occupying the house of a Dalit family on Friday in Mehrauli village in Moradabad district's Kundarki

area, police said. "While the accused. Mohammed Abdullah, claims to have bought the house from its owners, the current occupants said they had been living in the house for several years and the latter was trying to lay claim on the property by showing forged

documents," police said. According to the police, Naresh – who lives in the house with his family – alleged that on Thursday Abdullah and his aides reached his house and started throwing out their belongings. Naresh and his family were not present in the house at the time. "After vacating the house, Abdullah started construction on the land. Meanwhile, local residents alerted the police who reached the spot and stopped the construction." police said.

"During preliminary inquiry, we learned that the house was built several years ago and the owner of the house had allowed Naresh to stay in it with his fam-

ily," they added. Circle Officer (Kundarki) Ganesh Kumar said, "We have sought land records of the property from the district administration. Abdullah claims to have purchased the land from its owners, who live in Delhi.'

# **FROM PAGE ONE**

#### Bengal minister

to take away the seized cash and items. As she was led away from her home, Mukherjee said, "It's a big conspiracy... I haven't done anything unethical."

At a press conference, TMC state general secretary Kunal Ghosh said, "The money recovered from the house of one woman has no connection with the TMC. The woman is not a TMC member. The TMC has no connection with this incident. As far as Partha Chatterjee is concerned, the matter is in the court now. We have full faith in the judiciary. If anyone is found guilty or allegations against him are proven, only then action will be initiated against him by the party and the government."

Following his arrest, Chatterjee was taken to the ESI Hospital in Joka for medical examination and then produced before the Bankshall court which sent him to ED custody for two days.

According to ED sources, Chatterjee will be produced in court again Monday.

Chatterjee was later admitted to the SSKM Hospital after he complained of chest pain. "Partha Chatterjee isn't feeling well. He has developed heartache. We demanded before court that if ED custody is granted, then proper medical facilities should be given to him," said his lawyer Somnath Mukherjee.

The agency, which is probing the money trail aspect of the alleged school recruitment scam being investigated by the CBI, will press charges under the Money Prevention of Laundering Act, 2002.

As he left the hospital, Chatterjee was asked by reporters whether he tried to contact Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. "I tried but could not get through." he said.

In April and May this year, the CBI had questioned Chatterjee. On the direction of the Calcutta High Court, the CBI is investigating alleged irregularities in the recruitment of Group C & D staff and teachers in government and aided schools on the recommendations of the West Bengal School Service Commission.

The ED is investigating the money laundering aspect of the alleged recruitment scam -crores of rupees allegedly changed hands for the appointment of teachers recruited through the SSC.

The notification for appointment of teachers in state-run schools through SLST (State Level Selection Test) for teachers was published in 2014 and the recruitment process started in

A series of petitions were later filed in the Calcutta High Court alleging anomalies in the recruitment process. The petitioners said many examinees who obtained low marks ranked high in the merit list. There were also allegations that some applicants, who were not even in the merit list, received appointment

In the second case, the state government had issued a notification in 2016 to the School Service Commission (SSC) for recruitment of 13,000 employees for state-run/aided schools. In 2019, the term of the panel making the appointments ran out. Petitioners claimed that at least 25 people were appointed through SSC after the term of the panel expired. Later, petitioners put the number of appointments at over 500.

#### Monkeypox

suitable linkages with hospital facilities earmarked to each port

WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebrevesus. in a press conference Saturday, said: "WHO's assessment is that the risk of monkeypox is moderate globally and in all regions, except in the European region where we assess the risk as high. There is also a clear risk of further international spread, although the risk of interference with international traffic remains low for the moment. So in short, we have an outbreak that has spread around the world rapidly, through new modes of transmission, about which we understand too little, and which meets the criteria in the International Health Regulations."

He added: "For all of these reasons, I have decided that the global monkeypox outbreak represents a public health emergency of international concern." Last month, 3,040 cases had

been reported from 47 countries. The Emergency Committee under International Health Regulations, which met Thursday to revew the new numbers, did not, however, reach a consensus on announc-

ing a public health emergency. Yet, WHO made the declaration based on cases being reported from several countries, the meeting of the three criteria for such a declaration (a situation that is serious, sudden, unusual, or unexpected; carries public health implication beyond the border of affected state, and may require immediate international action), and the risk to human health, international spread, and the potential for interference with international traffic.

Five people have died of the infection so far.

This is the seventh time the highest alarm level is being used since 2009. These are the earlier instances: H1N1 pandemic (2009), increasing polio cases (2014). Ebola outbreak in Western Africa (2014), Zika virus epidemic (2015-16). Kivu Ebola epidemic in Democratic Republic of Congo (2018-20), and Covid-19.

Monkeypox is a viral infection that is mainly transmitted from animals to humans, previously with limited transmission among humans as the smallpox vaccine used for the eradication of the disease also protected against monkeypox. The first human case was reported in 1970 in Democratic Republic of the Congo and subsequently became endemic to several West and Central African countries.

debates on issues involving justice delivery are proving to be detrimental to the health of democracy. Biased views being propagated by media are affecting the people, weakening democracy, and harming the system. In this process, justice delivery gets adversely affected. By overstepping and breaching your responsibility, you are taking our democracy two steps backwards," said the CJI.

"Print media still has certain degree of accountability. Whereas, electronic media has zero accountability as what it shows vanishes into thin air. Still

worse is social media." he said. Saying that there is a growing demand for stricter media regulations and accountability, he advised the media to "self-regulate and measure their words". "You should not overstep and invite interference, either from the government or from the courts. Judges may not react immediately. Please don't mistake it to be a weakness or helplessness. When liberties are exercised responsibly, within their domains, there will be no necessity of placing reasonable or proportionate external restrictions. I urge upon the media, particularly the electronic and social media, to be-

have responsibly," he said. The CJI also emphasised the need to strengthen the judiciary and empower judges, saying an increasing number of physical attacks on judges are being witnessed. "Can you imagine, a

# Fertiliser imports from Russia up

IMPORTS FROM OTHERS

24 per cent in FY22. Historically, Russia has not been among the top fertiliser suppliers to India; in FY22, India's imports from Russia were just 6 per cent of its total fertiliser imports.

According to sources, imports from Russia were "10 per cent cheaper" than the prevailing prices in the international market. "India could secure diammonium phosphate (DAP) at \$920 a tonne when global prices were hovering above \$1,000 a tonne," a source said.

The spurt in imports of fertilisers and crude oil from Russia has come at a time when western countries have imposed sanctions against Moscow following its invasion of Ukraine. This issue may also figure durtalks with USAID Administrator Samantha Power, who is scheduled to travel to India during July 25-27. She will be in India to meet a cross section of stakeholders including climate experts, civil society, and government officials to discuss the global food security crisis, and the US-India development partnership.

India has so far maintained a tightrope walk between the US-led west and Russia on the Ukraine crisis, but has moved in to buy cheap oil and fertilisers to meet its energy and food security needs. High Russian imports have been a point of India's conversation with several western interlocutors in the past few

of the Indian Constitution."

into legislative and executive are-

nas. But this ignores the

Constitutional responsibilities that

is placed on the judiciary," he said.

challenges before the judiciary

at present is prioritising the mat-

ters for adjudication as judges

cannot turn a blind eye to social

realities. "I shall not fail to place

on record my worries about the

future of judiciary in this coun-

try... The burden on an already

fragile judicial infrastructure is

increasing by the day. There

have been a few knee-jerk reac-

tions in augmenting infrastruc-

ture in a few places. However, I

haven't heard of any concrete

plan to equip the judiciary to

meet the challenges of the fore-

seeable future, leave alone, a

long-term vision for the century

The need of the hour, he said,

is to initiate a multi-disciplinary

study, where scientific methods

can be used to equip the judici-

A senior police officer identi-

fied the accused driver as

Pravesh, who is in his late 30s and

based transporter. "He was car-

and ahead." he said.

ary for the future.

Kanwariyas

The CJI said one of the biggest

Countries 2019-20 2020-21 2021-22 \*2022-23 Saudi-Arabia 24.39 19.9 26.59 27.57 21.45 15.88 41.75 44.06 44.82 \*(up to June 2022)

months.

Of the 7.74 lakh MT fertiliser imports from Russia, urea comprised 47,000 MT, DAP 1.32 lakh MTs and NPK (a complex fertiliser containing nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium) 5.95

To meet its domestic demand, India imports a significant quantity of fertilisers. In FY22, urea consumption stood at 341.73 lakh MTs, of which 250.72 lakh MTs was met through indigenous production and 91.36 lakh MTs through imports; mainly from China (25.91 lakh MTs), Oman (15.88 lakh MTs) and UAE (7.95 lakh MTs), according to government data.

Similarly, to meet its DAP consumption of 92.64 lakh MTs in 2021-22, India imported 54.62 lakh MTs, of which the maximum 18.59 lakh MTs came from Saudi Arabia followed by China (18.15 lakh MTs) and Morocco (11.60 lakh MTs). India's domestic production of DAP was 42.22 lakh MTs in

For muriate of potash (MoP), India is completely dependent on imports. În 2021-22, India imported 24.60 lakh MTs of MoP with the two major sources being Israel (5.22 lakh MTs) and Lithuania (5.21 lakh MTs).

In recent years, India has imported mainly NPK from Russia. To partly meet its 121.37 lakh MTs demand for NPK, India imported 11.70 lakh MTs, of which more than half 5.72 lakh MTs came from Russia, shows government data. In the wake of Russia's inva-

sion of Ukraine, fertiliser supply has taken a hit globally, causing an uptick in prices of the nutrients in recent months. Observing that the Department of Fertilisers has been "continuously monitoring" the supply situation, Mandaviya told the House, "In the aftermath of the Russia-Ukraine war, the focus is to facilitate long term tie ups and short-term supplies of P&K fer-

tilisers from alternative sources.' "Further, India has entered a long-term agreement to offtake

10 lakh MTs urea annually from Oman on FOB basis through OQ trading for a period of three years. Shipment under the longterm agreement has commenced during February, 2022," Mandaviya said in the written

Mandaviya himself has travelled to several countries to secure supply of fertilisers. "I have come back from Jordan after signing a long-term agreement for supply of 30 lakh metric tonnes of rock phosphate of the best grade. Besides, an agreement has also been signed for 2.75 lakh MTs MoP and 2.5 lakh MTs of DAP... The agreement is for five years," he had told reporters on May 17.

Mandaviya said there would be "no shortage" of fertilisers during the kharif season 2022.

For kharif 2022, the Centre has pegged the total fertiliser requirement at 354.34 lakh MTs, of which urea accounts for 179 lakh MTs, DAP 58.82 lakh MTs, MoP 19.81 lakh MTs, NPK 63.71 lakh MT, and SSP 33 lakh MT.

As per the government data, the opening stock of fertilisers available for the kharif season stood at 125.5 lakh MTs, or 35 per cent of the requirement as on April, 19, 2022. Among individual fertilisers, the urea stock is 34.62 per cent of the total requirement, DAP 41.65 per cent, MoP 30.29 per cent, NPK 25.33 per cent, and SSP 51.52 per cent.

### Kochi girl

India," it said.

I find it difficult to follow. But they can't give me special attention. But they really tried hard to make me comfortable, like in social sciences, instead of a mapbased question they would give me something else and several such instances," she says.

Intelligence agencies, the same ac-

tivities are being run in the guise

of commercial activities. This is

highly suspicious when national

interest is concerned. The money

is routed from the M/s Amnesty

International United Kingdom to

M/s Amnesty International India

Pvt Ltd in India to fund anti-na-

tional activities in the guise of ex-

port of services, which is nothing

but the supply of report if any and

doing campaigning, mass gather-

ings etc.," the ED stated in its com-

jected the allegations. In a

Twitter post, it said, "We reiter-

ate that the allegations of

@dir\_ed, a financial investigation

agency under @FinMinIndia,

that Amnesty International India

was involved in 'money launder-

inforced by the selective leak of

information to certain media

channels without giving the or-

ganisation access to any such in-

bank accounts of Amnesty

International India remain

frozen with no means to pay full

dues to ex-employees or for the

services of lawyers engaged to

fight the multiple court cases

initiated by the Government of

'Since September 2020, the

This violation is further re-

ing', are patently untrue."

formation," it said.

On July 9, Amnesty India re-

plaint to the court.

Though difficult at first, she says her parents' decision to enrol her in a regular school was the best one for her.

Her father, Simon, a manager in a private firm, explains why. "When we enquired about blind schools, we realised she could study there only till Class X. But we didn't want her to drop out later. My wife, Lija, learnt Braille herself and taught Hannah," he said.

Hannah's teachers and principal call her exceptionally talented. "My own child is hearing impaired and studied here. As far as Hannah goes, she is not just good at academics. She is a gifted singer, great orator, writes wonderfully and has in fact released a book. She is extremely composed and confident for someone her age," says Saii Varghese, principal, Rajagiri Christu Jayanthi Public School.

A student of music, Hannah has completed her Grade 8 from Trinity College London in western classical and rock and pop. "In Class VI, during a competition, I composed a few original songs. It was then, on my father's suggestion, that I wrote my first song, 'Jesus by my Side', and my parents created a YouTube channel for me," she recalled.

Since then, Hannah has written eight songs, garnered 20,000 subscribers for her YouTube channel, published a book of short stories recently — and is a speaker at schools and colleges to boot.

"I started by sharing my experiences in the Church, someone found it inspiring and asked me to come and share elsewhere. Now schools and colleges call me, I just go and share my experiences – they call it motivational speeches," said Hannah, who now wants to major in psychology besides study-

her parents for the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, US, where she has been offered a full scholarship.

treat me like any other regular, normal student. I know the first few months will be challenging but I want to prove that I can survive on my own in a foreign country just like any other student."

judge who has served on the in a dumper truck from Gwalior bench for decades, putting hardto Sikandra Rau near Hathras, on ened criminals behind the bar, the Agra-Aligarh highway. The kanwariyas were walking along once he retires, loses all the prothe same road and were on their tection that came with the tenure? Judges have to live in the way to Gwalior after completing same society as the people that the rituals at Haridwar. Initial inthey have convicted, without vestigations have revealed that any security or assurance of between 1.30 am and 2 am, a vesafety. Politicians, bureaucrats, hicle came in front of the acpolice officers and other public cused's truck, and, in order to representatives are often proavoid it, he swerved to the left and lost control, crashing into the vided with security even after their retirement owing to the seven pilgrims. He then fled the sensitiveness of their jobs. spot but was eventually caught," said the officer. "He was arrested Ironically, judges are not extended similar protection," he on the road between Agra and Gwalior, and the dumper truck

Describing the judiciary as was also recovered." he said. "the organ which breathes life The bodies were sent to the into the Constitution", the CJI district hospital in Hathras for said "judicial review of legislative post-mortem, and later handed and executive actions is an inteover to their families, who took gral part of the Constitutional them to Gwalior on Saturday morning. "The seventh pilgrim, scheme... it is the heart and soul Abhishek (27), fractured his leg "One gets to hear that judges, and is stable. His family also took being unelected, should not get him back to Gwalior on Saturday

morning," said the officer. The men were part of a group of 21, all residents of Bahangi Khurd village, who had left for Haridwar on July 15.

At the accident site, 19-yearold Akash, who works at a roadside dhaba, recalled waking up to a loud, screeching noise. "I got up and saw a large truck leave the spot, while five-six men were lying on the side of the road with blood all over them," he said, adding that the police arrived shortly after and took the men away. An FIR under IPC Sections

279 (rash driving or riding on a public way), 337 (causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others), 338 (causing grievous hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others) and 304A (causing death by negligence) has been registered against the accused and further investigation is un-

derway, police said. In a tweet, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said he had received the "heartbreaking news" of the incident, and prayed for the families of those killed.

works for a Madhya Pradesh-The official handle of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi rying road construction material Adityanath tweeted that he "has

expressed deep grief over the loss of lives due to road accident in Hathras district" and "expressed his condolences to the bereaved families".

reports, organising campaigns etc. The two entities, the ED said, had a similar set of office bearers, operated out of the same building, and throughout its existence, the AIIPL had just one client: Amnesty International UK

Once the two entities were established, the IAIT bought 99.8% stake in AIIPL with the rest being held by IAIT trustees, the ED said.

International UK invested Rs 10 crore by way of FDI into AIIPL. According to the ED, the AIIPL put Rs 9 crore in a fixed deposit. Against this FD, IAIT availed overdraft facility of over Rs 14 crore from a bank to fund its

NGO activities. Over the years, AIIPLitself got Rs 36 crore (including Rs 10 crore FDI) from Amnesty International UK against "export of services" related to preparing of human rights reports on various issues, organising campaigns and some

technical services, the ED said.

This set-up, the agency

claimed, was nothing but a way to circumvent FCRA and carry out NGO work in the name of commercial activities. The ED has called the entire money received by AIIPL and IAIT as proceeds of crime Amnesty officials, however,

told ED in their statements that NGOs in many countries follow the model of setting up two entities – one for-profit and another not-for-profit -- to carry out their activities and this was

done after legal vetting. Aakar Patel told The Sunday Express, "It's for the state to prove that we have been involved in any wrongdoing. I don't know what is their idea of anti-national. I don't know of any law that stops us from doing what we were doing. There is nothing wrong in us floating a private limited company and Amnesty investing Rs 10 crore when the transaction has gone

through RBI.'

The contracts that AIIPL took up from Amnesty International during this period included 12 related to 'Technical Services', six 'Kashmir related

activities/Access to Iustice' contracts, two '1984 Sikh Massacre related activities' contracts, six 'Corporate Accountability in Coal Sector' contracts, three 'Women related matters' contracts, two contracts on 'Issues related to Migrants rights', eight contracts on 'Public Awareness on Human Rights', four on 'Undertrial related issues', and three on 'Ready to Report' (a campaign to report cases of sexual abuse).

The ED has picked two projects - 'Justice for the 1984 Sikh Massacre' and 'Access to justice in J&K' -- for receiving significant foreign funds. While the former received GBP 2.5 lakh, the latter got GBP 5.95 lakh, the ED said. It alleged that through these

projects, AIIPL was supposed to

generate public outrage through media pressure, public mobilisation through RTI, mobilisation of cadre support to build pressure on political parties, campaign through media, TV, radio etc., apart from ensuring that the 1984 Sikh massacre remains a key issue in the 2017 Punjab election manifesto. On Kashmir, the ED said that apart from public campaign and

advocacy, one of the contracts stated that "Groups like Human Rights Watch have said that courts-martial in India are highly biased and subject to corruption. The Supplier i.e. M/s AI-IPL will seek to obtain details of court-martial proceedings, and analyze them to determine if they are transparent, independent, and impartial, aligned with international standards for fair trial proceedings, and constitute an effective remedy for victims

of rights violations. The ED claimed that it appeared from the terms of services of the contracts that all services were NGO activities for which foreign funding needed an FCRA licence from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

"When the FCRA License was earlier cancelled during the year 2011-12 by Govt, of India due to the adverse inputs received from ing creative writing and music. On August 9, she leaves with

"All I want is for the world to

# Woman raped inside railway station, four employees held

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, JULY 23

A 30-YEAR-OLD woman was allegedly raped inside the electrical maintenance staff room at a railway station in Delhi late Thursday night by two railway employees. Police said four men, including two who allegedly stood guard outside the room, have been arrested.

DCP (Railways) Harendra Singh said the accused have been identified as Satish Kumar (35), Vinod Kumar (38), Mangal Chand Meena (33) and Jagdish Chand (37) - all railway employees in the electrical department. All four were arrested within two hours of the FIR beA Northern Railway spokesman said they have taken disciplinary action against the accused staff under rule 14(2) of service conduct rules

ing registered. They were produced before a Delhi court, which sent them to 14-day judicial custody, he added.

"We received a call at 3.27 am on July 22 wherein a woman alleged that she had been raped by two men inside a room at a railway station. During investigation, we found that the incident

hut," he said.

Singh said the woman informed police that she separated from her husband around a year ago and divorce proceedings are underway. "Around two years ago, she met one of the accused, Satish, through a common friend. He told her he is a railway employee and can arrange a job for her too. They started talking over the phone. On July 21, he invited her to his house for a party to celebrate his son's birthday and the purchase

of a new house," he said. According to Singh, the accused picked her up from a Metro station around 10.30 pm and took her to the railway

leged she was asked to sit in the train lighting hut, which is for the electrical maintenance staff. "A few minutes later, the accused along with a friend came inside the room and bolted it from the inside. They sexually assaulted her while two others facilitated the assault by guarding the room

Based on the woman's complaint, an FIR was registered under IPC sections 376D (gangrape) and 342 (wrongful confinement).

from the outside," he said.

A Northern Railway spokesman said: "While police are investigating the matter, we have taken disciplinary action against the accused staff under rule 14(2) of service conduct rules."

### NE Delhi riots: Court rejects Sharjeel's interim bail plea

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Saturday rejected the interim bail application of JNU student Sharjeel Imam in a UAPA case lodged in connection with

Imam's lawyer, Ibrahim, had sought interim bail considering the fact that the Supreme Court ordered that all pending trials in sedition cases be kept in abeyance till its constitutional validity

He argued that Imam's previous bail was rejected because of limitations in granting bail in a sedition case, however, in light of the Supreme Court directions, the hindrances raised in the previous bail order where obviated.

Special Public Prosecutor Amit Prasad opposed his bail plea by stating that there is no direction of the Supreme Court that all persons accused of the offence under sedition should be released on interim bail pending disposal of constitutional challenges to the section.

Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat, while dismissing Imam's plea, observed that there can only be one bail order on the merits of the case and it "cannot again pass an order on the merits that too in an interim bail application".

'Otherwise, by this logic, there can be two bail orders on merits of the case at the same time passed by this court. The merits of the case cannot be agitated again in an interim bail application in view of the disposal of the previous bail application and orders on charge both dated 24.01.2022," the court said. It also said the defence counsel's plea that Section 13 of UAPA is not made out in the present case is a completely misplaced argument. ENS



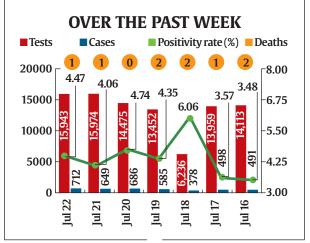
# **ONCE AGAIN** THE CBSE TOPPERS **ARE FROM AMITY**

We are privileged to educate brilliant students like Yuvakshi Vig and Mayank Yadav who have topped Class XII and **Class X 2022 CBSE Board Exams** with 500/500 marks

Our deep gratitude to all our teachers and school leaders who passionately work for the success of each of our children

#### AMITY-WHERE MODERNITY BLENDS WITH TRADITION

# After slight dip, Covid cases on the rise again in Delhi



**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, JULY 23

AFTER REPORTING a decline in Covid-19 cases through the second week and most of the third week of July, the numbers have started slightly increasing again, with the number of active cases remaining over 2,000 during the previous five days. The number of hospitalisations due to the infection has also remained over 100 across city hospitals over the last six days after dipping below the 100-mark in the five days

On Saturday, Delhi recorded 738 fresh cases of Covid-19, which is the highest since the beginning of the month, according to the daily health bulletin released by the government.

There has also been an increase in the positivity rate. On Saturday, the national capital recorded a positivity rate of 5.04%. The average positivity rate over the previous seven days also stood at 4.47%, increasing from 3.31% the previous week. The positivity rate during the first

week of July was 4.20%. The spread of the infection is generally thought to be under control if the positivity rate remains at 5% or less over two weeks. A positivity rate of over 6% was seen just four days ago, albeit on a day when very few

tests had been conducted. Meanwhile, the number of deaths from the infection seems to have gone down. There have been 38 Covid-related deaths in the month of July so far compared to 50 deaths recorded in June. As many as 35 deaths were recorded in May, according to

Cases from home-based

testing kits

STATES and Union territories were asked to increase awareness about reporting cases after a person tests positive using home-based testing kits. The kits became prevalent in India after the third Omicron-driven wave in Ianuary. With these cases not getting reported, unlike the cases detected by RT-PCR tests and facility-based rapid antigen tests, it creates a hindrance in estimating the number of cases

With nine states - not including Delhi – still reporting an increase in Covid-19 cases and positivity rate, the Centre directed all states to increase the number of tests and the proportion of the more accurate RT-PCR test, strictly monitor patients in home isolation, implement Covid-19 appropriate behaviour, and accelerate the administration of the vaccine now that the precaution dose has been made free of cost for all adults.

Previously, the Centre had also asked states to organise special vaccination drives along routes of yatras such as the Kanwar Yatra that is currently underway. In order to increase the coverage of the booster dose, the Centre has decided to provide it free of cost to all adults for the next 75 days.

MAHINDRA LUMINARE	M3M GOLF ESTATE	TATA GATEWAY
Sec-59, Gurugram	[Sky Suites]	Penthouse
3 BHK + S	Triplex Penthouse	Sec-113, Dwarka
Apartments	Sec-65 Ggn 11500sqft	Expressway, Ggn
PYRAMID	WHITELAND	GRAND Central 114
S.C.O.	(Urban Cube 71)	S.C.O Plot
Sector-73, Gurugram	S.C.O - Sec-71, Ggn	Sec-114, Gurugram
TULIP MONSELLA Sec-53, Gurugram 3/4/5 BHK	M3M SCO Sec-114, Gurugram	DLF SCO Sec-84, Gurugram
3 HORIZONS PVT H-RERA REG. NO	. LID.	0-12345

कार्यालय नगर विकास प्रन्यास, उदयपुर (राज.) No.:F-2(01)Acct/Contract/2022-23/145-147 Date: 21-07-2022 " संशोधन सूचना'

न्यास द्वारा जारी EOI सूचना संख्याः No.: F-14( )Engg/E.E.-IV/2022-23/120-122 Date:24-06-2022 (Develop Bungee Jumping and Sky Cycling at Rajiv Gandhi Smriti Udhyan, Rani Road near Fatehsagar Lake, Udaipur on PPP mode.) की तिथियों में अपरिहार्य कारणों से निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया गया है, ऑनलाईन निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड/अपलोड एंव EMD, Tender Fee & Processing Fee Online दिनांकः 02-08-2022 को सांयः 6.00 बजे तक जमा की जा सकेगें एंव दिनांकः 03-08-2022 को प्रातः 11.00 बजे तकनिकी बिड़ खोली जावेगी।

> (Nirmal Suthar) Executive Engineer-IV Urban Improvement Trust, Udaipur

#### To clear gambling dues, man stabs himself, stages robbery Gurgaon: A 29-year-old man has

been booked for allegedly stabbing himself and concocting a false robbery story to steal cash and iewellery from his uncle's house to clear his gambling dues.

According to police, the complainant said he was alone at home on Wednesday when a man claiming to be a WiFi technician arrived and sought to inspect the router due to a technical fault in the area. The complainant alleged two more men barged in and attacked him with a knife before they robbed cash and jewellery at gunpoint and fled. Gurgaon police spokesperson Subhash Boken said. "The sequence of events seemed suspicious and the complainant was questioned again. Investigation found that he had concocted a fake story of robbery and inflicted the injury on himself. He said he was involved in gambling and had lost money. He planned to steal cash and jewellery, amounting to several lakhs, from his uncle's house, where he has been staying, to recoup his

INDIAN COUNCIL OF WORLD AFFAIRS Sapru House, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi

### **REQUIRES** SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOWS **RESEARCH FELLOWS**

Applications are invited for the appointment of Senior Research Fellows and Research Fellows with requisite experience & qualifications for undertaking research, on a contract of two years at fixed gross monthly lumpsum remuneration. Vacancy for Senior Research Fellows is available in the specialization of Indo Pacific/Americas. Vacancies for Research Fellows are available for the following specializations: North-East Asia, Africa, Europe, and Multilateralism/International Economy. Applications in sealed covers addressed to Deputy Director General, ICWA must be received at ICWA, Sapru House by 6th August, 2022. Intimation of application may be emailed to ddgoffice@icwa.in with copy to gbgc@icwa.in. Application forms, terms & conditions, qualifications etc. are available at: www.icwa.in.

कार्यालय राज्य पर्यावरण, संरक्षण एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन निदेशालय गौरादेवी पर्यावरण भवन, 46-बी, आई0टी० पार्क, सहस्त्रधारा रोड, देहरादून, उत्तराखण्ड ई-मेल-dir.secccduk@gmail.com

#### आवश्यक सूचना / नोटिस

मा० उच्च न्यायालय, नैनीताल द्वारा रिट पिटीशन (पी०आई०एल०) ९३ / २०२२ में दिनांक 07 जुलाई, 2022 को यह आदेश पारित किये गये हैं कि :--

"we also direct that those producers, importers & brand owners, who do not register with the Uttarakhand State Pollution Control Board within the next 15 days, shall not be permitted to either producer or import into the state of Uttarakhand & the state shall ensure that all such products, which are contained in plastic sheets or pouches or packaging, are not permitted to enter the boundary of the state or sold, in any manner what so ever."

भारत सरकार द्वारा अधिसूचित प्लास्टिक वेस्ट मैनेजमेन्ट रूल, 2016 (यथासंशोधित 2018 एवं 2021) के रूल 13 में प्रड्यूसर व ब्रान्ड ओनर, रिसाइक्लर एवं मैन्यूफैक्चरर को राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड में पंजीकरण किया जाना अधिसूचित है।

अतः मा० उच्च न्यायालय, नैनीताल के उक्त आदेश के क्रम में राज्य में क्रय-विक्रय, आयात व उत्पादन में लिप्त समस्त प्रड्यूसर व ब्रान्ड ओनर, इम्पोर्टर एवं मैन्यूफैक्चर्र को इस नोटिस के माध्यम से निर्देशित किया जाता है कि प्लास्टिक वेस्ट मैनेजमेन्ट रूल के अन्तर्गत निर्धारित समय सीमा के अन्तर्गत पंजीकरण कराना सुनिश्चित करें।

समयान्तर्गत पंजीकरण न करने की स्थिति में मा० उच्च न्यायालय के आदेश के क्रम में राज्य स्तर पर कार्यवाही किये जाने पर उसके लिए सम्बन्धित प्रड्यूसर व ब्रान्ड ओनर, इम्पोर्टर एवं मैन्युफैक्चरर ही उत्तरदायी होंगे।

निदेशक



#### **OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER**

CENTRAL GOODS & SERVICES TAX, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA BLOCK 'C' & 'D', NEW C.G.O. COMPLEX, NH-IV, NIT, FARIDABAD (HR)

#### "PENSION ADALAT"

Central GST Commissionerate Faridabad, Government of India will hold 'Pension Adalat" on 26.07.2022 (Tuesday) at 03:30 PM for redressal of grievances of Pensioners of erstwhile Central Excise & Service Tax Commissionerate, Faridabad - I & II (Now Central GST Commissionerate,

Venue: Conference Hall, O/o Commissioner CGST Commissionerate Faridabad, Block - 'D' New CGO Complex, NH-IV, NIT, Faridabad. All visitors are requested to please provide co-operation to ensure

compliance of the Covid-19 related guidelines COMMISSIONER

रजिस्ट्री सं० डी० एल० - 33004/99 REGD.NO.D.L.-33004/99 **HITA का राजपत्र** The Gazette of India सी.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.-15072022-237301 CG-DL-E-15072022-237301 **EXTRAORDINARY** भाग II-खण्ड 3-उप-खण्ड (ii) PART II - Section 3 - Sub-Section (ii) प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

नई दिल्ली, बृहस्पतिवार, जुलाई 14, 2022/आषाढ़ 23, 1944 NEW DELHI, THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2022/ASHADHA 23, 1944 MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

NOTIFICATION

In the Schedule to the said notification:

New Delhi, the 14th July, 2022 **S.O. 3192(E).**—In exercise of the powers conferred by Sub-Section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956), the Central Government, in the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, number S.O. 4537(E) dated 01.11.2021, published in the Gazette of the India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) on dated 01.11.2021, hereby makes the following amendments, namely:

Title Scriedu	ie to ti ie sai	u Holincalion.				
SI. No.	Survey	In Ga	zette	For Correction		
(According to Gazette Notification dated 01.11.2021)	140.	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Type of Land	Nature of Land	
Village Name: Abheypur, Tehsil Name: Sohna, District: Gurugram						
1	1738	Common	Rasta	Common	G.M. Rasta	
Village Nan	ne: Daula,	Tehsil Na	me: Sohna,	District: 0	Gurugram	
4	38//17/2/1	Private	Agriculture	Government	G.M. Canal	
5	38//17/2/2	Private	Gair Mumkin Road	Private	Agriculture	
Village Nan	ne: Lohatk	i, Tehsil N	lame: Sohna	, District:	Gurugram	
9	27	Common	Rasta	Common	G.M. Harwadi	
Village Nan	ne: Sancho	oli, Tehsil	Name: Sohn	a, Distric	t: Gurugram	
13	78	Government	Gair Mumkin Road	Government	G.M. Rasta	
	41 1					

Note: The corrections should be read against the above errors. [F. No. NHAI/CMU/MTR/BM/DELHI-VADODARA/2018/D-47741/3A1 Corr."

Date: 23.07.2022

#### पंजाब नैशनल बैंक punjab national bank

Circle Office- Ara, 2nd floor, Regal Complex, Near Ramna Maidan, Ara, Bhojpur, Bihar,coarasamd@pnb.co.in ( A Govt. of India Undertaking)

CIRCLE SASTRA ARRAH, 1st Floor, Mahuli Kothi, Near Peer Baba More, Arrah- 802301, cs8187@pnb.co.in

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement o

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/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical/symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank/ Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on the date as mentioned in the table herein below for recovery of its dues due to the Bank/ Secured Creditor from the respective borrower (s) and guarantor (s). The reserve price and the earnes

mon	money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.					
	Name of the Account, Borrower/Guarantors Name, Name of the Branch		A) Dt. Of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFESI ACT 2002 B) Outstanding Amount C) Possession Date u/s 13(4) of SARFESI ACT 2002 D) Nature of Possession Symbolic/ Physical/Constructive	Price B)EMD C) last date of deposit of EMD D)Bid Increase Amount	Date/Time of E-Auction	Details of the Encumbranc es known to the secured creditors
1.	M/S Anpurna Mini Rice Mill Proprietor Sh. Ravi Kant Chaturvedi S/o Sh. Indrajeet Chaubey. A/C No- 3863008700001336 & 386300CF00000117 Bo: Bhabua (386300)	Land Situated at: Sale deed no 10900 dated 12.12.2008 Mauza-Dadwa, Ward No 3, PS & Anchal- Mohania, District- Kaimur, Thana No 535, Halka No 9, Khata No 23, Plot No 267, Area 26 Decimal <b>Boundary:</b> N- Jaleshwari Singh, S- Jaleshwari Singh E- Rest of the plot no 267, W- Road Mohania- Ramgarh <b>Mortgagor:</b> Sh. Ravi Kant Chaturvedi and Sh. ShashiKant Chaturvedi Both S/o Indrajeet Chaubey	A) 30.06.2021 B) Rs 43,36,557.63 + Intt. W.e.f 01.04.2021 and other Charges. C) 21.01.2022 D) Symbolic	A) Rs.65.71 Lakh B) Rs. 6.57 Lakh, C) 24.08.2022 D) Rs. 10,000/-	25/08/2022 10:30 AM to 4:30 PM	Not Known
2.	M/S Laxmi Jee Traders Proprietor Smt. Prem Lata Kumari W/o Sh. Ravi Kant Chaturvedi and Prem Lata Kumari A/C No- 3863008700001646, 386300CF00000287 & 386300NC20062070 Bo: Bhabua (386300)	Land Situated at: Mauza- Dadwa, Ward No 3, Thana and Sub-Registry Office-Mohania, District- Kaimur, Thana No 535, Khata No 144, Plot No 233, Area 22.5 Decimal, Sale deed no 1222 dated 11.03.2015 <b>Boundary:</b> N- Late Deomuni Chaubey Heirs, S- Late Raj Kumar Chaubey's Heirs and Baha, E- Kailash Singh, W- Dhanajay Singh <b>Mortgagor</b> : Smt. Prem Lata Kumari W/o Ravi Kant Chaturvedi	B) Rs 30,28,635.80 + Intt. W.e.f 01.04.2021 and other Charges. C) 21.01.2022 D) Symbolic	A) Rs.40.28 Lakh B) Rs. 4.03 Lakh, C) 24.08.2022 D) Rs. 10,000/-	25/08/2022 10:30 AM to 4:30 PM	Not Known
3.	M/S R.J. MALL Proprietor: Shr. Mukesh Kumar S/O Sh Suresh Prasad A/C No- 6002008700000610 & 6002001C00000013 Bo: Bihiya (600200)	Land Situated at: - Regd. Sale Deed No. 6583 Dated 18.06.2014, Mauza- Karisath, Thana No. 327, P.S. & Anchal-Udwantnagar, Dist. Bhojpur, Khata No. 254, Plot No. 4191, Area- 31.25 Decimal (10 Katha). Boundary: North- Paine, South- Jeev Bahal Ray (After Acquisition Of Land For Ara-Buxar Road The Southern Side Of The Boundary Will Be Ara-Buxar Road), East- Kapuri Singh, West-Awadhesh Prasad Singh Mortgagor: Smt. Anjani Devi W/O Sh. Suresh Prasad	A) 22.06.2021 B) Rs 70,09,304.12 + Intt. W.e.f 01.05.2021 and other Charges. C) 05.10.2021 D) Symbolic	A) Rs.62.50 Lakh B) Rs. 6.25 Lakh, C) 24.08.2022 D) Rs. 10,000/-	25/08/2022 10:30 AM to 4:30 PM	Not Known

1)The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest /Fi

2) The properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS"

3) The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Office out the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.

4) The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website https://www.mstcecommerce.com on 25.08.2022 @ 10:30 AM. 5) For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer www.ibapi.in, www.tenders.gov.in, www.mstcecommerce.com https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app

New Delhi

**Authorized Officer Punjab National Bank Secured Creditor** 

#### **BRIEFLY** —

#### Man killed, body stuffed inside fridge: 2 arrested

New Delhi: A day after the body of a 54-year-old man was found stuffed inside the refrigerator at his Northeast Delhi home, police have arrested two men, including the brother of the victim, on charges of murder. Police said the deceased has been identified as Zakirs. The accused have been as Abid Hussain (55), Zakir's brother, and his friend, Jahid (25). Police said Zakir was allegedly killed with a hammer and a large amount of jewellery and cash was stolen from his home.

#### **Greater Noida** authority clears illegal constructions

Greater Noida: The Greater Noida Industrial **Development Authority** carried out an anti-encroachment drive against illegal constructions in Greater Noida's Sunpura village Friday on land worth Rs 40 crore, officials said. According to officials, the drive was carried out based on information that some people were found building illegal colonies, boundary walls and oneand two-room houses made with bricks and cement on an area of about 20,000 sqm.

#### Crime in schools: Heads meet DCP

New Delhi: Principals and representatives of 10 major government schools falling within the jurisdiction of Sultanpuri police station in Outer District met DCP Sameer Sharma to discuss ways to ensure safety and security of students, police said. Police said they were made aware of criminal activities that school students might be prone to, and said role in helping them to be good citizens. ENS

#### Two gang members held for online blackmailing

New Delhi:Two alleged members of a Mewatbased gang were arrested for allegedly extorting an advocate in Delhi after trapping him online, police said on Saturday. The modus operandi was to lure persons in Delhi-NCR by sending them friend requests through social media platforms and then chat with them by posing as women, a senior police official said. The duo were wanted in a case of online extortion, blackmailing and criminal intimidation through social media platforms, police said. PTI

# Seeing 10% of city's deliveries, Safdarjung hospital burdened by rush of unregistered pregnant women

**ANONNA DUTT** NEW DELHI, JULY 23

AN INCREASE in patient load and infrastructure that has struggled to keep pace is back in focus after a 20-year-old woman delivered her baby on the road inside the Safdarjung hospital compound, a few steps away from a dustbin, earlier this week.

The woman's family had alleged she was forced to deliver outside as the hospital kept postponing her admission and did not act in time. The hospital, however, said the woman was offered admission on Monday but did not show up. Five doctors from the obstetrics and gynaecology department of the hospital were debarred from duty after the incident by the Union Health Ministry, which runs the

With one of the busiest obstetrics and gynaecology departments, the hospital sees around 100 deliveries each day, accounting for nearly 10% of the total births in the national capital. Of the total deliveries, around 20-30 are done surgically through a caesarean section.

The biggest problem, however, remains that of unregistered patients turning up at the emergency department. Around 50% to 60% of the deliveries that we see at Safdarjung hospital aren't booked. By that, I mean, the women haven't undergone their ante-natal checkups and treatments at the hospital. They just come in directly to the emergency department at the time of delivery. And most of them are complicated cases that have been referred from small



With one of the busiest obstetrics and gynaecology departments, the hospital sees around 100 deliveries each day. Gajendra Yadav

secondary care hospitals from Delhi as well as from neighbouring states of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana," said a doctor from the hospital, on condition of anonymity.

The hospital has nearly 300 beds, including ICU and high dependence unit beds, under the obstetrics and gynaecology department. The beds are utilised not only by pregnant women, but women with other gynaecological issues such as cancer or anaemia. It is a common sight to see three to four women sharing beds at Safdarjung hospital.

"We do not have a one bed, one patient policy like say AIIMS. We also never refuse a patient admission. This is the reason several patients can be seen receiving treatment on the same bed across departments. But beds are not the only thing; for

doctors and nurses to treat so many patients also becomes difficult. This is the reason we need to have a better referral policy. Only complicated cases should be referred to Safdarjung from smaller hospitals or other states. Why should patients of, say, fever, stomach ache or even a routine delivery be asked to come here," said another doctor

from the hospital, wishing to re-

main anonymous.

The labour room at the hospital is a sight of intense activity - nearly 50 women in active labour pain are inside the room meant for perhaps 20 people. "The room has to hold as many people as there are. What can we do? The women are asked to sit four or five to a bed in a room attached to the one with the labour tables. There are around 10 labour tables, so only when the woman is fully dilated and ready to deliver the baby, we take her to the table," said the second doctor.

On the pressures they face, the doctor added, "Doctors in the labour room — there are about six in a shift — have to check all 50 or so patients every half an hour to see progress and ensure they receive any necessary medical intervention. Along with this, they help deliver the baby, make certificates for the newborn, and check on patients who are in the observation room for two hours after delivery."

The department has 80 to 100 doctors — residents, consultants, and professors – yet they remain short-staffed because of the sheer number of patients.

"We are able to manage so many cases only because our doctors are very hardworking.

They mostly work more than the requisite 48 hours a week, In fact, sometimes they work more than 24 hours consecutively," said the second doctor.

The hospital has two emergency operation theatres that run round the clock and are used for C-section cases. One nonemergency operation theatre is used for other cancer removal, womb removal, or tubectomy for family planning.

The first doctor said, "The infrastructure for obstetrics and gynaecology hasn't changed much in the last 30 or 40 years but the number of deliveries in the hospital — and all hospitals across Delhi – have shot up with the government's intervention to ensure institutional delivery. In the last seven to eight years itself, the number of deliveries in the hospital has gone up 30%."

To keep up with the demand, a new mother and child block has been planned in place of the building that previously housed the hospital's emergency department. This was part of the second phase of the hospital's redevelopment plan that was to start in 2020, but was delayed due to the pandemic.

The new building will have 500 beds for the obstetrics and gynaecology department and another 500 for paediatrics. "This will, however, not be enough. The estimates are from seven or eight years ago when it was first proposed. We need at least 1,000 beds to be comfortable now. And any new building should account for the increase that will happen over the next 20 vears or so," the first doctor said.

The hospital did not respond

#### **UNDER PHASE 1**

# Spoken English course to train 1 lakh youth at 50 centres

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, JULY 23

THE DELHI government will start a free spoken English course for the youth, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced Saturday, adding that 1 lakh youth will be trained in the first phase of the programme.

'We have seen how children of the poor, lower middle class and middle class sometimes suffer as they are not good at speaking English. They get left behind in life because of this, they face problems when seeking employment, their communication skills also become weak," Kejriwal said at a press conference.

'We don't want our children to lag behind other children who have access to certain facilities. For children who are weak in English and who have poor communication skills, the Delhi government is starting a spoken English course. It will be offered by the Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University," he said.

Those who have completed class 12 and have basic knowledge of English — meaning they have studied English till at least class 8 will be eligible for the course. "In the next year, in phase one, we will train 1 lakh students in spoken English at 50 centres. This will be expanded subsequently. It's an international standard course. We have tied up with Macmillan and Wordsworth, and Cambridge University will be in charge of assessment," said Kejriwal.



Skill and Entrepreneurship University, said CM Kejriwal

"Youth in the age group of 18-35 years are eligible for admission, and the course will be of 3-4 months, with 120-140 hours of study," he added.

Kejriwal said since many of those who enrol will probably be working or enrolled in part-time courses, there will also be provision for evening and weekend courses. "Although it's a free course, at the beginning Rs 950 will be charged as security, as we don't want people to enrol and then not take the course seriously. As I said, there will be only 1 lakh students and there will be many who want to learn English, so we anticipate a huge demand for the course. We don't want somebody to enrol for two days and then disappear, thereby wasting a seat. If you complete the course and have the required attendance, the money will be returned," he said.

"Our dream is that all children, rich or poor, should get the best quality education... I hope this course will benefit our youth, both in terms of seeking jobs and personality development," he said.

#### INUNDATED

Parts of the city recorded light rainfall early on Saturday, after a rainy day on Friday. The maximum temperature recorded was 34.9 degrees Celsius. Praveen Khanna

### DU 'centenary chance': For 70-yr-old ex-CBI man, age no bar to finish LLM

**SUKRITA BARUAH** NEW DELHI, JULY 23

SIX YEARS ago, Rakesh Kumar Rawat's advisory assignment at the CBI ended and he stepped into a life of retirement after a career spanning four decades. Now, aged 70, he is excited about writing his dissertation and finally completing his long-

abandoned LLM degree.

Rawat is among those former Delhi University students who did not complete their degrees and who have signed up for a 'Centenary Chance' by the University in its hundredth year.

Rawat completed his LLB from Lucknow University in 1972 and joined CBI in 1974. He said he had



Rakesh Kumar Rawat

wanted to do an LLM but gave up that effort because of the frequent transfers that his job entailed.

"When I got transferred to  $Delhi, I \, sought \, admission \, in \, the \, 3$ years LLM course at DU and was enrolled in 1979. I studied and completed most of my papers but when I had two papers and my dissertation remaining, I was transferred out of Delhi," he said.

He said the desire to complete his degree remained with him through the year. "I often tried to find out if there was any system of transfer of credits, any possibilities of horizontal transfer but it didn't work out. Then a month back, some of my well-wishers informed me that this chance is being provided. It had been such a long time, I was in a dilemma over whether I would even be permitted to apply for it," he said.

A few days back, Rawat settled on the topic of his dissertation: The object, scope and limit of sanction for prosecution under prevention of corruption. "Of course, I will have to study! I feel enthusiastic about being a student again, completing a degree with people in 20s. When something is incomplete in life, there is a big gap and you want that. Age doesn't matter much," he said.

# L-G doubles down, wants report against excise dept officials

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, JULY 23

A DAY after recommending a CBI probe into the Delhi Excise Policy, Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena Saturday directed Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar to submit a report detailing "role of legal formulation, amendments and implementation".

The Lt-Governor's move on Friday had followed a report submitted by Kumar on the matter on July 8, accusing Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia of providing undue benefits to liquor vend licensees in lieu of "kickbacks" and "commissions" and the money being used in the recent Puniab elections.

Sources said the excise department officials are under scanner for allegedly not keeping the Chief Secretary and L-G in the loop on the developments about the new policy. "With the records available so far, it is more than evident that not only did certain officers, posted on certain positions, ignored and facilitated decisions that were in complete violation of the GNCTD, Act, 1991, Transaction of Business Rules, 1993, Delhi Excise Act, 2009, and Delhi Excise Rules, 2010, but prima facie acted as proactive conduits in formulating and implementing illegal orders at Sisodia's behest," officials in the L-G's office claimed Saturday.

"The L-G has sought inter-alia, a comprehensive report of activities, dealings and scrutiny of files thereof and details of the role played by officers, if any, thereto. Appropriate action as per law will be taken against such officers once the report is submitted and examined," they said. The AAP and its chief Arvind

under fire from Union Minister Anurag Thakur, who said on Saturday: "Kejriwal has not kept any portfolio under him but he has given his ministers a free rein to indulge in corruption by allocating them important portfolios. The way Sisodia... has been accused of corruption and the way liquor vendors were given free hand to operate in the national capital, it suggests the Keiriwal government is knee-deep in corruption. Those who used to give sermons on corruption are today themselves indulging in it."

Kejriwal had hit back on Friday, saying the Lt-Governor was making "false allegations" and leaders of the AAP were "not afraid of jail". "The Centre has adopted a new strategy to frame a person. First, it selects a person, tries to find something against them, and when it fails, it frames a false case and allegations to send the minister to jail," he said.

Sisodia, in a tweet, had said: "Modi ji is very afraid of Kejriwal ji.As AAP's influence grows across the country, there will be many more false cases..."

# 150 fake cases against our leaders since AAP came to power: Atishi

**GAYATHRI MANI** 

WITH THE L-G recommending a CBI probe into the Excise Policy, implementation of the revised policy for 2022-23 is expected to be delayed and the government may extend the existing one till September 31, said sources.

According to sources, the cabinet has approved the Revised Excise Policy 2022-23 and the new proposals by the excise department and the group of ministers, but final approval for amendments and implementation on the ground has to be done by the L-G.

Under the revised policy, the Delhi government is planning to allow restaurants, bars and clubs to stay open till 3 am, home delivery of liquor, permit liquor stores to give unlimited discounts on MRP prices among others, "Home delivery of liquor and opening of bars, restaurants need proper terms and conditions. The excise department is working on rules for the policy. It's almost done and will be sent to the Delhi government for approval. After that, the government will forward it to the L-G for final approval and amend-

"We are expecting that the current policy will be ex-Licensees can review their licence on a pro rata basis and can run the shops," said another source.

The current policy expired in March. It has been extended twice — in April and June, Now, it may be extended from August 1 to September 31. Sources further said more zonal licensees are expected to withdraw their licences due to revenue loss.

Meanwhile, AAP MLA Atishi said the party is used to facing fake cases. "CBI, ED, and IT department raids and cases being registered, and arrests by the Delhi Police is not a new thing for AAP. Ever since AAP came to power in 2015, over 150 cases have been registered against AAP leaders, MLAs and ministers. Between 2015 and 2020, 52 cases were registered against our MLAs. For six months, over 400 files belonging to Delhi government were investigated by a Scheduled Committee formed by the Centre through unconstitutional means. All investigation agencies failed to find even a single proof of corruption against any AAP leader," she said.

#### AT DAG FROM MONDAY

# 18th Century paintings of Tipu Sultan, Anglo-Mysore wars to go on display

**VANDANA KALRA** NEW DELHI, JULY 23

IN THE 18th Century, as the Anglo-Mysore Wars played out between the British East India Company and the Kingdom of Mysore, a curious British audience was keeping track of the development miles away. While channels of communication provided information, Giles Tillotson, Senior VP (Exhibitions and Publications), DAG, notes how artists fed a public appetite for images relating to Mysore ruler Tipu Sultan on a scale that was unsurpassed by any other comparable figure. In the book, Tipu Sultan: Image & Distance, Tillotson writes, "Whatever else can be said about Tipu Sultan, he had an unrivalled career as a subject of British history painting."

In an eponymous exhibition that opens at DAG, The Claridges on July 25, Tillotson has put together several famed paintings of the time alongside maps depicting war positions and the Mysore cityscape sketched and painted during the period. Coming from the DAG collection, the showcase presents depictions of war as well as the times, presenting how the battle was interpreted by foreign as well as local artists.

Among the highlights is Henry Singleton's The Last Effort and Fall of Tippoo Sultan. The 1802 canvas depicts Tipu Sultan's inability to fight the British despite his might, and a British officer beside him plunging a dagger into Tipu as he falls. Tillotson notes, "All of this is entirely imaginary: no one on the British side saw the moment when Tipu fell in battle... he was more likely killed by a distant shot than a close en-

According to Tillotson, Robert Ker Porter's depiction of the war in the 1800 work Finding the Body of Tippoo Sultan was closer to the narratives offered at the time. One



of the best-known depictions of the fall of Srirangapatna, meanwhile, he writes, was Robert Ker Porter's triptych The Last Effort of Tippoo Sultan in Defence of the Fortresses of Seringapatam — The Storming of Seringapatam—The Glorious Conquest of Seringapatam. The exhibition features an engraved print of the painting by John Vendramini. "Tipu Sultan is shown on the ramparts on the left; while General Baird commands the assault on the breach, in the

The Storming of Seringapatam remains the best known depiction of the city's fall

centre," writes Tillotson. There are also accounts by

evewitnesses. The exhibition includes Robert Homes' views of Mysore. The official artist of the Third Mysore War, he accompanied the armies under Lord Cornwallis at the sieges of Bangalore and Srirangapatna and the surrender of Tipu Sultan's sons as hostages in 1792. Also on view are three editions of the English newspaper The Northampton Mercury, carrying reports and descriptions of the war.

Speaking about the curation and the collection, Tillotson notes, "As much through engraved versions as the originals,

New Delhi

they have been surveyed and illustrated before - but not always. I think, in ways that are alert to details of the development of history painting in England and France in the period. I locate them between a previously established type, which aimed to illustrate episodes exemplifying heroic virtue, and a newly emerging type of war painting. More importantly, the works and the attitudes that they are shown to embody, originally directed towards a British public are here presented for scrutiny for the first time specifically to audiences in India.'

these works are well known and





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# 6 GOVT & POLITICS

# Cong attacks Irani over Goa bar; she hits back, dares Rahul



**Union minister** Smriti Irani addresses a press conference at her residence in New Delhi on

procured in June (2022). In the

name of that person, Smriti Irani's

Narayan M Gad had issued a

show-cause notice to Silly Souls

Café and Bar on July 21 based on

a complaint filed by lawyer Aires

Rodrigues, who alleged that the

eatery's liquor licence was re-

newed in the name of one

Anthony Dgama – his death cer-

tificate, issued by Brihanmumbai

Municipal Corporation, was an-

nexed to Rodrigues's complaint.

the restaurant in seven days.

Gad had sought a reply from

In Panaji, state Congress chief

Amit Patkar addressed the media

and showed a clip of a purported

show in which Irani's daughter

was interviewed as a "young en-

trepreneur", and Silly Souls intro-

Nagra said that Irani's daugh-

ter "has no control or oversight into

the management and affairs of the

eatery and her limited interaction

at the facility was only while do-

ing an internship program with

In Delhi, İrani said, "An 18-

year-old child, a college student,

her character today was assassi-

nated by Congressmen.... They

claim that the mutilations

stemmed from a show cause no-

tice. I want to ask that

Congressperson where is the

name of my daughter in the pa-

the directions, as was obviously

stated by Pawan Khera, of the

Congress leadership, namely the

Gandhi family, because I had the

audacity to hold a press confer-

ence to question Sonia Gandhi

and Rahul Gandhi for the (Rs)

5.000 crore loot of the Indian

treasury [in the National herald

case]....So the gentlemen who

sat there, giggled as they assassi-

nated my daughter's character, I

will see you in the court of law

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** 

**DEPUTY CHIEF Minister and BJP** 

leader Devendra Fadnavis on

Saturday clarified that Eknath

Shinde is the leader of the Shiv

Sena-BIPalliance in Maharashtra.

The remark came soon after state

party president Chandrakant Patil

said that BJP had made Shinde the

ecutive at Panvel in Navi

Mumbai, Patil, in the inaugural

speech, said: "It was with a heavy

heart that BJP made Eknath

Shinde the CM. It was sad... But

we digested the decision and

happily agreed to move ahead."

to convey right message... For this

The decision had to be taken

Addressing the BJP state ex-

CM with a "heavy heart".

MUMBAI, JULY 23

She also said: "It is done at

pers that he flashed?'

the chef of Silly Souls Café."

duced as "her restaurant".

Goa Excise Commissioner

daughter took the licence."

#### Cong: Her daughter got 'fraud' licence; lawyer says no link, she was an intern

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** PANAJI, NEW DELHI, JULY 23

ACCUSING HER daughter of running a restaurant-bar in Goa "illegally", with the licence procured "fraudulently" in the name of a deceased person, the Congress Saturday demanded resignation of Union minister Smriti Irani. Calling it a "malicious" accusation, Irani hit back, saying that her daughter was the target only because "her mother does press conferences against Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi".

"The allegation that my daughter runs an illegal bar is malicious with the intent not only to assassinate her character but also to politically malign me," Irani said.

She added: "And to the Gandhi family, which directed that this press conference [by Congress] be held against my child, I tell you this, send Rahul Gandhi back to fight the Lok Sabha election in 2024 from Amethi and he will lose again. That is my promise as a BJP worker and as a mother to that 18-year-old. I will see them in the court of law."

In a statement, her daughter's lawyer, Kirat Nagra, said his client was neither an owner nor operating the restaurant in question, Silly Souls Café and Bar in North Goa's Assagao.

These remarks came after Congress leaders showed a showcause notice issued to the bar and alleged that the Excise Department official who issued the notice is reportedly being transferred under pressure. Nagra stated that his client had not received any show-cause notice from any authority whatsoever.

Addressing the media in Delhi, Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera said: "In Goa, a restaurant run by her daughter, it has a bar...it is accused of procuring a licence fraudulently. The liwho died in May 2021 and...was

#### Tourism ministry revamps its **Swadesh Darshan** scheme, aims for sustainable infra

NEW DELHI, JULY 23

THE MINISTRY of Tourism has revamped its Swadesh Darshan scheme as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0) with an aim to develop sustainable and responsible infrastructure at destinations, said Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy. Giving a written reply in Rajya Sabha to a question by DMK MP M Mohamed Abdulla, Reddy added that the guidelines for SD2.0 have been circulated to the stakeholders.

The Ministry of Tourism, under its schemes of Swadesh Darshan and PRASAD (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive), provides financial assistance to states and Union Territories for the development of tourism infrastructure. The projects under this scheme are sanctioned subject to availability of funds, submission of detailed project reports, adherence to scheme guidelines and utilisation of funds released previously, the minister stated in his reply.

The government had launched the Swadesh Darshan Scheme in 2014-15 for integrated development of theme-based tourist circuits — Buddhist Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Desert Circuit, Eco Circuit, Heritage Circuit, Northeast Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Sufi Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Ramayana Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Tirthankar Circuit, Wildlife Circuit and Tribal Circuit. As of March 2022, 76 projects have been sanctioned across 15 circuits under this scheme at a cost of Rs 5,445 crore.



President Ram Nath Kovind with Vice President Venkaiah Naidu, PM Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and others at Parliament House Complex on Saturday. Prem Nath Pandey

# **Kovind's farewell address:** Protest in 'Gandhian mould', rise above partisan politics

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, JULY 23

PRESIDENT RAM Nath Kovind, who will demit office on Monday, called for protests to always be conducted in the "Gandhian mould" and urged political parties to rise above partisan politics.

Delivering his farewell address to members from both Houses of Parliament, Kovind said, "Citizens and political parties have many constitutional avenues open to them, including protests. After all, the father of our nation employed the weapon of satyagraha for that purpose. But he was equally concerned about the other side. Citizens have a right to protest and to press for their demands, but it should always be in the peaceful Gandhian mould."

tary system to a big family with the President being an integral part of it, Kovind said, "As with any family, there are bound to be differences within this parliamentary family, too. There would be diverging views about how to proceed further. But we remain a family, and the interest of the nation remains our top priority. Political processes operate through the mechanism of party organisations, but the parties must rise above a partisan approach and consider what is good, what is essential for the common man and woman, with the spirit of 'nation first'.'

**Both Houses of Parliament** have witnessed uproarious scenes and repeated adjournments during the current Monsoon session. In the audience during Kovind's farewell speech at the

Om Birla, as well as ministers and several other MPs. Leader of the Congress party in Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, was also present. However, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge was absent as he had a pre-scheduled programme and was not in Delhi. Neither Congres president Sonia Gandhi nor the party's Lok Sabha MP Rahul Gandhi were present at the event. Kovind congratulated his successor, President-elect Droupadi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi,

Vice-President M Venkaiah

Naidu and Lok Sabha Speaker

Murmu, and said the country would benefit from her guidance. Murmu will be sworn in as President on Monday.

Kovind is expected to address the nation at 7 pm on Sunday.

### Tricolour can now stay hoisted day & night

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, JULY 23

THE NATIONAL flag can now remain hoisted through the night if it is in the open and hoisted by a member of the public. As government launches Har Ghar Firanga campaign from August 13, the Ministry of Home Affairs on Wednesday I the Flag Code of **– INPUTS FROM PTI, DELHI** India, 2002, to allow for the na-

Patil says BJP made Shinde CM with

heavy heart; Fadnavis plays it down

BIP's Maharashtra unit

is laudable," he added.

president Chandrakant Patil

Fadnavis, who was the claimant

of the CM post, sacrificed, which

the statement went viral on social

media, creating a flutter. The BJP

went into damage control mode

by withdrawing the video from all

platforms and also ordering an in-

ternal probe on how it was leaked.

Underplaying Patil's remarks,

Soon, the video of Patil making

tional flag to be flown even during the night. Earlier, flag could be hoisted only between sunrise and sunset.

In recently released FAOs on Flag Code, the MHA has said it amended the code on July 20 where clause XI of Paragraph 2.2 of the Flag Code has been replaced by the following clause: "Where the flag is displayed in the open or displayed on the

Fadnavis, while concluding the

day-long conclave, said: "In any

government, there is always only

one CM who is the leader.

Accordingly, Eknath Shinde is the

CM and the leader of the newly

formed Shiv Sena-BJP alliance."

nounced for the CM's post, it had

shocked BJP workers. Patil was

conveying the initial sentiments of

the BJP workers. It was not meant

to demean Shinde," he added.

Fadnavis also said. "When Shinde.

along with Sena rebels, walked

out of MVA, nothing was certain.

He took a giant step to preserve

Bal Thackeray's ideology. And the

50 MLAs who followed him, left

the government to join the

Opposition. Therefore, we rightly

decided to honour Shinde with

leadership and the CM's post."

"When Shinde's name was an-

Clause XI earlier read: "Where the flag is displayed in the open, it should, as far as possible, be flown from sunrise to sunset, irrespective of weather conditions".

Earlier, the government had amended the Flag Code to allow for machine-made and polyester flags to be used.

The 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign has been launched to encourage the citizens to hoist the August 13 to 15.

#### Prove majority to stake claim for Shiv Sena, EC tells Thackeray, Shinde

New Delhi: The Election Commission of India (EC) has asked both Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and his predecessor, Uddhav Thackeray, to submit documentary evidence to prove that they have the majority members in the Shiv

Sena to stake claim to the party. Sources said the poll panel has asked both leaders to submit evidence to prove majority and respond by August 8.

The two sides are learnt to have been asked to submit documents, including letters of support from the legislative and organisational wings of the party and written statements of rival factions.

On July 20, Shinde had approached the EC in a bid to stake claim over the Sena in whole. ENS

#### **WEST BENGAL MINISTER'S ARREST**

# TMC's top leadership should be investigated for corruption: BJP

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, JULY 23

ON A day when senior TMC leader Partha Chatterjee was arrested in an alleged teacher recruitment scam, the BJP sought questioning of the top leadership of the party saying West Bengal's ruling party had accumulated huge amounts of money over the years through corruption.

The saffron party took exception to TMC leader and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's campaign against the central investigative agencies and said it has been a case of "chor machaye shor (thief making noise)". "A raid by the ED has unearthed Rs 21 crore cash from a close associate of a minister. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had appreciated the minister for his good work and today we came to know of the good work she was referring to," Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar said at a press conference.

He said over Rs 1 lakh crore illegal assets have been brought back into the mainstream by the ED and other investigative agencies. "We want to expose the hypocrisy of the leaders who do their very best to intimidate investigative agencies and derail the process of the investigation," Chandrasekhar said.

Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur also hit out at the Trinamool Congress, saying the party is "the mountain of corruption". "Trinamool Congress — TMC — stands for The Mountain of Corruption," Thakur said in a statement in Delhi. He accused West Bengal CM of remaining a "silent spectator" to scams unravelling under her rule.

Former West Bengal BJP chief Dilip Ghosh alleged that TMC leaders have accumulated huge wealth over the years, adding that nobody will believe that party's "high command" was not aware of this. "Based on the evidence unearthed so far, the top leadership should be questioned," Ghosh said without naming anyone.



Partha Chatterjee at a Kolkata court on Saturday. Partha Paul

### Petitions and protests helped flag 'irregularities'

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** KOLKATA. JULY 23

THE ARREST of West Bengal minister Partha Chatterjee in connection with the School Service Commission (SSC) recruitment scam on Saturday is the latest development in an issue that surfaced in 2014 and, more recently, has seen nearly 500 days of sustained protests from candidates who claim that they have not got iobs despite having cleared the relevant examinations.

Apart from the Primary Teacher Eligibility Test (TET), allegations of irregularities have been made regarding recruitment of schoolteachers, even in Group C and Group Demployee categories. It was in 2014 that a notifica-

tion for appointment of teachers in state-run schools in West Bengal through SLST (State Level Selection Test) for teachers was published and the recruitment rocess started in 2016. However, a series of petitions

were filed in the Calcutta High Court alleging "anomalies" in the recruitment process. The petitioners alleged that many candidates who got low marks ranked high in the merit list. There were also allegations that some applicants received appointment letters. In 2016, the state government

issued a notification to the School Service Commission (SSC) to recruit 13,000 Group-Demployees for state-run/aided schools.

In 2019, the tenure of the panel making the appointments expired. However, petitioners in the Calcutta High Court alleged that despite this, at least 25 persons were appointed by the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education through the SSC. Later, petitioners claimed that over 500 such appointments were made.

Similarly, cases were filed against the West Bengal primary education board for allegedly recruiting teachers "illegally."

Some of the petitioners alleged that some persons had been appointed though they had not qualified in TET, 2014. For getting a job in a primary school as a teacher, a candidate must have passed the TET. The petitioners have alleged that around 23 lakh candidates appeared in TET, 2014 and a panel was published for giving appointment of nearly 42.000 candidates as primary teachers. The petitioners expressed serious suspicion about the "legality and correctness" of publication of such a panel.

# Mamata's trusted lieutenant in eye of teacher recruitment scam storm

**SANTANU CHOWDHURY** KOLKATA, JULY 23

WESTBENGAL commerce and industry minister and senior Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader, Partha Chatterjee, who was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) Saturday for his alleged involvement in the teacher recruitment scam in the state School Service Commission (SSC), has been one of the most trusted lieutenants of Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Baneriee.

Apart from being a heavyweight minister handling various key portfolios, Chatterjee is also the TMC secretary general — the most important party role after the position of party chief Mamata Banerjee and her nephew and party national gen-

ral secretary Abhishek Banerjee. One of the most prominent TMC faces in Kolkata, the five-time MLA from the city's Behala Paschim Assembly constituency,

Chatteriee, 69, has been Mamata's "go to" leader when it comes to dealing with the Bengal organisational affairs. From the constitution of the TMC district committees to working out election strategies, Chatterjee plays an important role in the entire spectrum of organisational matters.

Chatterjee had worked as an HR professional with Andrew Yule before foraying into politics several decades ago. After Mamata quit the Congress and formed the TMC in 1998, he ioined her party. On the TMC ticket he was elected as an MLA for the first time in 2001 from Behala Paschim and has been con-

Minister's aide, a model, actor, face of

tinuously winning from the seat since then. He was the Leader of the Opposition in the Bengal Assembly from 2006 to 2011 during the tenure of the erstwhile CPM-led Left Front government.

When the TMC ousted the Left dispensation from power in Bengal in 2011 and formed its government. Chatteriee was inducted into her Cabinet by Mamata.

In 2014, Chatterjee was appointed as the minister-in-charge of higher education and school education — the portfolio at the heart of the SSC scam, which he held till 2021. After Mamata took over as the CM for the third consecutive time after the TMC's triumph in 2021 Assembly polls, she again allocated the portfolios of commerce and industry, information technology and electronics to Chatterjee.

# Free to go wherever you expect more respect: SP writes to Shivpal and Rajbhar

**LALMANI VERMA** LUCKNOW, JULY 23

DAYS AFTER the Samajwadi Party (SP)'s ally leaders Shivpal Singh Yadav and Om Prakash Rajbhar cross-voted in support of the NDA nominee Droupadi Murmu in the Presidential polls that she went on to win, the SP on Saturday said they are both free to go wherever they expect to get more respect. This takes the SP alliance towards a formal split.

While Shivpal did not disclose his next move, Rajbhar said, "Bahujan Samaj Party zindabad!" adding that he would

The party issued separate let-





Shivpal Singh Yadav; OmPrakash Rajbhar

ters to Rajbhar and Shivpal and shared these on its official Twitter handle. In the letter, the SP accused Rajbhar of having a "nexus" with the BJP. The party claimed that the Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) was "working to strengthen the saffron party." "If you feel that you will get more free to go there," the party said. In its letter to Shivpal — SP MLA from Jaswant Nagar — the

party said, "Mananaiya Shivpal Singh Yadav ji, agar aapko lagta hai, kahin jyada samman milega to wahan jaane ke liye aap swatantra hain (If you think that you will get more respect elsewhere, you are free to go there)".

Shivpal Yadav Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia), which he had formed in 2018 after parting ways with the SP. In the recent Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls, the party had an alliance with the SP but got only one seat to contest. Shivpal had himself contested under the SP

symbol and won. Shivpal had recently questioned SP president Akhilesh Yadav's decision to support the Opposition candidate in the Presidential polls. Shivpal has often questioned the leadership of his nephew Akhilesh.

On Friday, Rajbhar received Ycategory security cover from the BJP government. His SBSP had contested the Assembly polls earlier this year in alliance with the SP, but the relationship between the two sides has been strained since the loss in the elections. SBSP MLAs were missing from the meeting SP had called in Lucknow on July 7 for Opposition's joint candidate for presidential elections Yashwant Sinha who had arrived in Lucknow for campaigning.

#### his Durga Puja committee campaigns **ATRIMITRA** KOLKATA, JULY 23 A DAY after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) carried out raids

across West Bengal in connection with its probe into the state's School Service Commission (SSC) teacher recruitment scam and recovered Rs 20 crore from the house of Arpita Mukherjee, a close associate of senior minister and TMC leader Partha Chatterjee, the agency arrested Chatterjee while detaining Mukherjee

According to the ED, besides the hoarded cash running into nearly Rs 20 crore, its personnel seized from Mukherjee's flat in Tollygunge in south Kolkata more than 50 lakh in foreign currency, 20 mobile phones and a cache of incriminating documents.



Arpita Mukherjee

In a statement about its raids on her residence and seizure, the ED described Mukherjee as a 'close associate" of Chatterjee. A model and actor, Mukherjee has done some minor roles in a few Bengali, Odia and Tamil films. Sources said she met Chatterjee nearly a decade ago through his Durga Puja committee called the Naktala Udayan Sangha.

Arpita has been the face of the

years. Her image has featured extensively in the advertisements of Chatterjee's committee during Durga Puja. Sources said Mukherjee has several flats in Kolkata and its suburbs. Her mother Minati Mukheriee, who stays in their ancestral house at Belgharia in north Kolkata, said: 'She (Arpita) has not been staying here for many years. But very often she used to come here. Last week too, she came but did not stay for more than an hour.'

promotional campaigns of the

Naktala Udayan Sangha in recent

A senior TMC leader close to Chatterjee recalled that "a few vears ago, when Chatteriee held the education portfolio, he went to a school at Baruipur for inspection on the occasion of Saraswati Puja. Arpita had accompanied him on that visit."

#### 3 OTHERS HAVE DIED, LABOURERS TELL AUTHORITIES

# 'Wandering' in woods for days, 8 of 19 missing men found fortnight after they left BRO project

**TORA AGARWALA** GUWAHATI, JULY 23

SEVENTEEN days after they fled a Border Roads Organisation (BRO) construction project in Arunachal Pradesh's Kurung Kumey district, eight of 19 labourers were located between Friday and Saturday.

On Friday, four were found near the road construction project, after "wandering in the dense forests for days", officials said.

Late Friday night, three more workers were rescued by SDRF and police. The eighth labourer was rescued on Saturday evening.

The Sarli-Huri road construction project, now nearing completion, is about 90 km from the India-China border.

Ten workers are still "missing", despite IAF-requisitioned aircraft making two search rounds on Friday — the labourers rescued have, meanwhile, said that three of their colleagues died over the last fortnight. "They said

#### Telangana Governor attends to sick IPS officer onboard flight

Amaravati: Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan discharged her duties as a doctor and saved the life of an Additional Director General of Police-rank IPS officer onboard an Indigo flight from Delhi to Hyderabad on

Kripanand Tripathi Ujela, a 1994-batch officer, is now undergoing treatment in a hospital in Hyderabad after being diagnosed with dengue fever.

The Governor, who is a doctor by profession, attended to the IPS officer after he complained of uneasiness during the flight.

"Madam Governor saved my life. She helped me like a mother. Otherwise, I could not have made it to the hospital," Ujela told PTI.

Ujela, who belongs to the Andhra Pradesh cadre, is currently posted as Additional DGP.

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** 

Yasin Malik went on a hunger

strike in Tihar jail on Friday, alleg-

ing that his case is not being inves-

Malik, sentenced by a special

National Investigation Agency

(NIA) court in Delhi this year, is

serving two life sentences and

varying jail terms, all running

concurrently, under the

Unlawful Activities (Prevention)

Act (UAPA) and the Indian Penal

Indian Express that Malik refused

to eat on Friday and has declared

an indefinite hunger strike. "The

jail officials met with him and

asked him about his demand. He

told them that his case is not be-

ing investigated properly and the

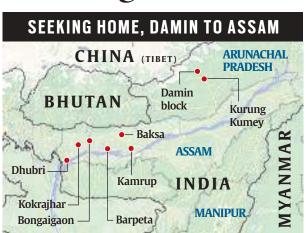
jail officials tried to convince him

Senior jail officials told The

NEW DELHI, JULY 23

tigated properly

Code (IPC).



■ The labourers rescued said that three of their colleagues died over the last fortnight.

that two of them fell into the river, and one person died while resting on a stone," Kurung Kumey Deputy Commissioner, Nighee Bengia, said.

CLAIMS CASE NOT BEING PROBED PROPERLY GUTKHA SCAM

Yasin Malik

it had opened in 2017. In its FIR,

the NIA said Kashmiri separatists

were receiving funds from

Pakistan, including Hafiz Saeed

of the Lashkar-e-Taiba and Syed

Salahuddin of the Hizb-ul-

Mujahideen, to foment trouble

in the Valley through stone-pelt-

ing, burning down of schools, and

organising strikes and protests.

The NIA arrested over a dozen

separatists in the case, including

Malik, Asiya Andrabi of the

Dukhtaran-e-Millat, and Shabir

Shah of the Jammu and Kashmir

Chandrashekhar, too, went on a

A few months ago, alleged

Democratic Freedom Party.

Yasin Malik goes on

"The road runs through

According to police, labourers said they lost their way after a "wrong turn".

mountains, and is close to thick forests - in one part, BRO workers were blasting it. Four labourers, guided by the sound, found their way," Abhimanyu Poswal, SP, Kurung Kumey, said.

The Seizure After The Arrest

hunger strike in Tihar AIADMK ex-ministers, DGPs

**ARUNJANARDHANAN** 

granted permission to the CBI to

prosecute two former state minis-

ters from the AIADMK, two retired

DGPs and eight other officers in

the gutkha scam of 2017, which

had unearthed under the previ-

Tuesday granted permission to

CBI's Anti-Corruption (III) Unit to

prosecute CVijayabaskar, the then

Tamil Nadu Health minister, and

B V Ramana, who handled the

commercial taxes portfolio, as

well as the state's former top po-

lice officers T K Rajendran and S

their alleged role in the scam dur-

ing their tenure as Chennai city

police commissioner.

Both officers were indicted for

Other suspects are officers

The state government on

ous AIADMK government.

(TSPC) leader Pratap Ganju in Jharkhand's Latehar district on Saturday. PTI

Superintendent of Police Anjani Anjan and CRPF officials show the weapons and ammunition seized after arresting Maoist



more than two weeks, the eight who have been found are in a "critical condition and very weak", the SP said.

As per their initial statements, the labourers lost their way after taking a "wrong turn". Poswal said the police have been unable to record their state-

ments in entirety. The labourers, who were hired by a private contractor, independent of the BRO, had left the con-

CBI gets TN nod to prosecute 2

Gutkha and paan masala have

The case started with seizure

remained banned in Tamil Nadu

of a red ledger during an Income

Tax raid at a godown in Chennai

suburbs in July 2016. While the

raid was linked to illegal sale of

gutkha in Chennai and its suburbs,

the red diary had details of

monthly payments allegedly

made by gutkha mafia to people

at power centres. The payments,

as per the diary, were allegedly

The series of raids at three

godowns also led to seizure of

tonnes of gutkha. An investigator

who was part of the probe had told

The Indian Express in June 2017

that the ledger had a page each de-

voted to record monthly pay-

"A detailed probe into the case

revealed that a monthly bribe of

Rs 15 lakh was being paid to city

police commissioners; assistant

ments allegedly made to VIPs.

made between 2015 and 2016.

not clear why they left, initial reports suggested that the men left after being denied leave. Some families claim they were being threatened to stay.

The families of the rescued have been informed, officials said.

In Assam's Kamrup district, Iovnal Abedin, whose son Inamul Hasan is among those located, said he received a call early in the morning from a state legislator. "He shared some photos with me and asked whether my son was among them. I cannot explain how I felt when I saw his photo," Abedin, an imam at a mosque in his village, said.

Only two of seven men who had gone to work at the site from Kokrajhar's Malgaon have been found. "We have mixed feelings. Of course, the two families are relieved, but the rest are very upset," said Jaharul Islam, a local village leader.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

# In Punjab govt's free power promise, a shock for SC, BC consumers

200 units free

**EARLIER** 

**POWER ARITHMETIC** 

How SC, BC, BPL will be affected

■ But no free power for certain sections if consumption

exceeds 300 units (general category rule)

NOW

300 units free

pensioners getting over Rs

corporations, MLAs/MPs etc

Income tax payees,

10,000 a month,

chairpersons of

**KANCHAN VASDEV** CHANDIGARH, JULY 23

TWENTY-THREE days after the AAP government announced 300 units of free power in the state, a notification by Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) on Saturday set forth some conditions for the Scheduled Caste (SC), Backward Caste (BC), non-SCBPL and BCBPL category of consumers

to fill up a self-declaration form. The move sparked criticism, with Congress and SAD accusing the government of cheating and betraying people in the name of free power

and made it mandatory for them

Earlier, consumers from SC, BC, non-SC BPL and BC BPL categories were to get 300 units of power free, regardless of their consumption. But, the notification says, they will now be considered at par with the general category consumer — who has to pay the entire bill if his consumption exceeds 300 units - if they are income tax payees, government employees (except class IV), pensioners with a monthly pension of over Rs 10,000, chairpersons of corporations, elected representatives(current or former) or in a political post.

They will also be treated at par with general category consumers if they or their family members are doctor, engineer, advocate, chartered accountant or architect.

The notification stated that all consumers from SC, BC, and BPL categories would have to now give an undertaking that they do not fall in these categories if they want to avail of the 300 units of free

those covered under above categories, will have to pay energy

power regardless of consumption.

The notification said all other

domestic consumers, except charges for their entire consumption as per applicable tariff issued by Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission (PSERC) from time to time, along with fixed charges, meter rentals and government levies/taxes, in case their consumption is more than 600 units bimonthly / 300 units monthly.

Consumers who have a load of up to 7 KW would get a subsidy of Rs 3 per unit as was introduced by former Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi.

As per guidelines issued by PSPCL, families from SC, BC, non-SCBPLand non-BCBPLcategories will not have to pay anything for using up to 300 units every month. If they consume 301 units

and above, they will have to pay for only for those units. People from other categories would have to pay the entire amount.

In case of PSPCL employees, they are eligible for the concession if they have bimonthly consumption up to 600 units/monthly consumption up to 300 units.

Free power was among guarantees promised by the AAP.

Punjab Congress chief Amrinder Singh Raja Warring said many conditions have been imposed in the latest notification. The conditions for getting free power are such that not many households will be eligible for 600 units of free power," he said.

The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) said the notification has "exposed another fraud" of the Bhagwant Mann government. The party said that conditions laid down make it clear that more than 80 per cent people will be deprived of this.



Parents and Congress workers at the school on Thursday. Express

#### In Bengaluru, two engineers suspended as road caves in after PM visit

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** BENGALURU, JULY 23

BRUHAT Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) on Friday suspended two engineers over a part of a newly asphalted road caving in just a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's June 20 visit to Bengaluru.

Assistant Executive Engineer H I Ravi, who was due to retire in August, and Assistant Engineer I K Vishwas were the two officials suspended.

The Jnana Bharathi Main Road in southern Bengaluru was asphalted at a cost of Rs 6.05 crore. The municipal body covered a 3.6 km stretch in the area that falls under the Bengaluru university campus. Modi took the road to travel to Dr B R Ambedkar School of Economics University. Aday later, following moderate rain, a portion of the road caved in just a few metres away from BASE gate.

A probe was initiated after Karnataka Chief Minister Basavarai Bommai took the officials to task and demanded a response. The Prime Minister's Office too had sought a report.

A BBMP source said kerosene was used in place of emulsion, to cut down on expenses, while bitumen, which needs to be poured at temperatures between 110 and 140 degrees Celsius, was allegedly laid at temperatures below 90 degrees Celsius.

# Karnataka: 40 students fall sick after eating midday meal in school

**SANATHPRASAD** BENGALURU, JULY 23

FORTY STUDENTS of a government school in Karnataka's Chitradurga district fell sick and 26 of them had to be hospitalised after eating the midday meal served at the school on Thursday.

Doddappa MC, headmaster of the school, said, "On Thursday afternoon I received calls from villagers and teachers who complained that students are falling unconscious and are vomiting. By the time I reached the school, some students had been admitted to the hospital. However, all students are okay."

He said food samples have been sent to the lab to ascertain it was a case of food poisoning. According to Doddappa, the

school consists of 149 students from class 1-7. While many students go home during lunch time. some have the midday meals prepared in the school.

"The village authorities appointed three women to cook lunch for the school. They served rice and vegetable sambar on Thursday. Even they are clueless about the unfortunate situation, and offered to resign, but after consulting with authorities we have decided to stop midday

meals for sometime," he said. Kumaraswamy, daughter fell sick from the midday meal, complained about the school's infrastructure.

"About 26 students were sent to hospital. Food poisoning case in the school is not new. Students have been complaining about the quality of food but authorities didn't take action," he said.

#### hunger strike twice, demanding from the police, Chennai city corto end his strike, but he refused," police commissioners got Rs 2 lakh that he be allowed to see his wife poration, food safety and comto Rs 3 lakh," the investigator said. a senior official said. Malik, the head of the Jammu Leena Maria Paul. who is also mercial taxes departments. They "There were also fixed bribe rates and Kashmir Liberation Front lodged at Tihar jail, more often. are accused of taking bribes for joint commissioners, deputy (JKLF), was arrested by the NIA in Chandrashekhar was on intraamounting to Rs 39.91 crore to commissioners, police inspectors in local stations, police intelligence 2019 in connection with an overvenous fluid or glucose, but later help sell banned gutkha products arching terror-funding case that he ended his hunger strike. officers, central excise officers and in Chennai city area.

# Behind Bihar govt temple fencing push, Nitish tightrope between secular image, BJP Hindutva

**SANTOSH SINGH** PATNA, JULY 23

THE NITISH Kumar-led Bihar government recently decided to make the registration of all public temples, mutts, dharamshalas and their trusts in the state with the Bihar State Religious Trust Council (BSRTC) mandatory under the provisions of the Bihar Hindu Religious Trust Act, 1950, with state law minister Pramod Kumar saving that Bihar has become the first state to have done it.

To expand its existing move to fence temples – on the lines of fencing of cemeteries - to prevent encroachments and confrontations. Bihar government also decided to conduct a survey of all registered temples with a sizeable number of devotees.

There are 2,499 registered temples and mutts with a total of 18,456 acres of land across the state. The government has been surveying them to determine, among other things, how many of them need to be fenced depending on public turnout and apprehensions of any trouble or dispute.

So far, the government's BSRTC has fenced 205 temples while 94 more are being fenced. This has been done as part of Chief Minister and Ianata Dal (United) supremo Nitish's bid to "respond to his senior ally BJP's Hindutva posturings while maintaining his secular credentials", said sources.

In a veiled attack on Nitish, Bihar BJP president Sanjay Jaiswal recently expressed concerns over "rising terror threats" in the state. Significantly, Nitish also holds the

BSRTC member and JD(U) MLC Neeraj Kumar told The Indian Express: "Our government has always worked for social cohesion and camaraderie. There has been no major communal incident under the Nitish Kumar-led NDA government since November 2005," adding that "Just as our government had fenced about 8,000 cemeteries

ment or confrontation" The BSRTC said it had identified 355 temples from across 26 of Bihar's 38 districts for fencing so far, adding that "maximum fencing requests" had come from districts like Gopalganj, Nalanda,

over last decade or so, we have

also been fencing temples as

well to prevent any encroach-

Jehanabad, Rohtas, Gaya and Madhepura. "We have already fenced 205 temples and the fencing of 96 more temples has been underway....To take it further, the trust will survey more temples. As CM Nitish Kumar also made it clear that temples where there are notable gatherings and prayers are offered, fencing would be considered there," Neeraj said.

The Nitish government has also taken another initiative to prevent illegal possession of lands belonging to temples or mutts by their individual trustees. "The BSRTC has recently written to all DMs that no temple or mutt land should be registered in any individual's name but only in the names of their trusts... It is being done to avoid illegal transfer of

such temple or mutt land to any

individual," he said.

November 2017.

There are 2,512 unregistered public temples and mutts with altogether 4,321 acres of land across the state, which need to be registered mandatorily now, following which a survey will determine their fencing requirement on the basis of same parameters being followed in the cases of the registered temples and mutts.

even health and food safety in-

spectors to facilitate the gutkha

The case also created trouble

in the then government. When BR

Balakrishnan, then principal direc-

tor of I-T Department, wrote in

August 2016 to then Tamil Nadu

Chief Secretary and DGP about

purported evidence against minis-

ters and senior officers in the scam,

then DGP Ashok Kumar had initi-

ated a parallel probe on the mat-

reply to the I-T Department's let-

ter, DGP Kumar's independent re-

port on the allegations, it was said.

did not go down well with the then

CM office. At a time when govern-

ment operations were in a crisis

due to the worsening health of

then chief minister, I Javalalithaa,

Kumar's attempt to take the issue

to Javalalithaa was seen as having

backfired. He was ousted from the

in the case, subsequently became

DGP. The confidential reports con-

nected to the case were later found

at Veda Nilayam, late Jayalalithaa's

residence, during an I-T raid in

Rajendran, one of the accused

When the government did not

products in the city region."

The Nitish Kumar dispensation came up with the temple fencing proposal during his third CM term (2015-2020) to counterbalance its previous decision to ensure fencing of cemeteries. It has decided to scale up for two reasons — to "prevent encroachment of temple and mutt lands' and to "give a response to BIF over charges of Muslim appeasement", sources said.

#### REQUIREMENT OF RETIRED DEFENCE PERSONNEL **FOR ESM CANTEEN KOSLI**

1. Applications are invited for the post of Manager for employment in ESM Canteen Kosli

d	Appt.	Vac	Eligibility	Age	Place of employment	Consolidated pay Scale
_	Manager	01	(a) Retired Officer (Maj/Lt	Below	ESM Canteen	Rs. 40000.00/-
S	(On Contractual		Col/Col and equivalent of	60 yrs	Kosli	per monts
-	basis for 11		Navy and Air Force)	of		
g	months		(b) Must have adequate	age		
e	renewal subject		knowledge of CSD Mgt &	as on		
e	to performance)		Acct Procedures	01 Aug.		
g	,		(c) Not involved in any	2022		
-			` legal/Court Case			
			(f) Should be Medically fit			

2. Selection will be based on candidate's performance in the interview/computer test and past

3. Application alongwith Record of Service (Format can be taken from ESM Canteen, Kosli), Medical cert. Character Cert and Police Verification to be submitted in sealed envelope to Manager ESM Canteen, Kosli or 634 SATA Bty. PIN-926634. do 56 APO by 06 Aug 2022 either by hand/by registered post/via email at canteenkosh@gmail.com & ht634hm@gmail.com

4. Interview will be held on 17 & 18 Aug 2022 at 1000hrs at Alwar No TA/DA is admissible

Clarification if any, can be sought at tele No 9419157396 (from 0900h to 1600h) on working days

#### **6 KANWARIYAS MOWED DOWN BY TRUCK**



At Chaupal village in Bahangi Khurd, Gwalior, where the

### Gwalior village mourns its dead, 3 belonged to one extended family

**PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA** GWALIOR, JULY 23

"MAATAM KA mahaul hai gaaon mein [the village is in mournsays Rakesh Singh, sitting on a charpoy at Chaupal village in Bahangi Khurd, Gwalior, as sounds of women wailing in a nearby house drown the noise.

Singh is just back after attending the cremation of six men in the village, including his nephew, Jawar Singh (26), a labourer. Jawar was among the six kanwariyas who were killed after being hit by a dumper truck near Sadabad in Hathras district of Uttar Pradesh when they were returning from Haridwar early Saturday.

"He (Jawar) has a 1-year-old daughter. It was only the second time in his life he had gone for kanwar yatra. Every house here is in mourning. It is a terrible tragedy," says Singh.

In each lane of the dimly lit village, which has over 150 houses, people sat on tarpaulins and charpoys on Saturday night, trying to make sense of the tragedy.

"A group of over 20 people from our village had gone for the pilgrimage (yatra) to Haridwar last week. People here have been going for kanwar yatra for decades, but such an incident has never occurred. For two years due to the pandemic, the yatra could not take place. People had been looking forward to completing the pilgrimage this year and were in high spirits," says Mohan Swaroop Sharma.

Naresh Pal (45) one of the victims worked as a labourer,

Name of Work with

Completion period

Approx Cost of Work (₹)

Similar work proposed

submission of tender

available on website at www.ireps.gov.in.

Date & Time for

echsite-totp.//www.ireps.goxin-

SN Tender No.

01 072210010

03 04221150

04 01225123

05 01221124

Corrigendum

06 12221185 Bearing

01 14/ET/2022-23

03 17/ET/2022-23

location

of work

earning a daily wage of Rs 300. Naresh's brother, Rana Jit Pal, said, "We do not own any land. My brother did beldaari (daily wage work). We can barely make ends meet. We hope that the government gives some com-

pensation to us." Pal said Naresh was survived by his wife and three children. "He was the only earning member in the family," he said.

Naresh's nephew, Manoj Kumar (38) also worked as a labourer in Gwalior market. He is survived by his wife and four children – two daughters and two sons, said his relatives. His wife Rama was concerned about the future. "Who will take care of my children now? How will I marry my daughters?," she wailed as relatives tried to console her. Her mother, Munni Devi, said, "He (Manoj) was a devout person and had been wanting to go for the pilgrimage for the past two years.'

Naresh's cousin, Ramesh Pal (52), was also killed in the incident. Ramesh's brother, Suresh, who had accompanied him to Haridwar, said that he had reached Agra when he heard that his brother and six others have been mowed down by a dumper.

"Our group was walking ahead. My brother was among the group that had stopped for refreshment and rest near Hathras. He did some farming and daily wage work. Three men in our extended family have died. Its an irreparable loss," said Suresh.

Villagers also demanded stringent punishment for the accused truck driver.

P. Way Track linking transportation of

P. way material leading out of ballast, AT

welding and other ancillary works in

connection with new Achnera Chord Line

connecting Parkham-Chiksana section.

Up to 15.00 Hrs on 12.08.2022

Dy. Cheif Mechanical Engineer/ Bogie & Wheel

Qty. Due Date

132 MT 17.08.2022

17.08.2022

22.08.2022

34370 MTR 22.08.2022

15145 Nos 30,08.2022

2784 Nos

700 Nos

3077 Nos.

Due date may be Modified Value may be read as 19.08.2022 read as 19723 Nos instead instead of 19.07.2022 Existing Value of 8007 Nos

Due date may be Modified Value may be read as 23.08.2022 read as 377 Nos instead instead of 22.07.2022 Existing Value of 256 Nos

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

E-Tender Notice No. CEN00AGC0922 Dated 21.07.2022

Deputy Chief Engineer (Construction)/NCR Agra Cantt for and on beha

08 months

₹ 2,14,06,407/-

P. Way work

The detailed terms and conditions and tender documents are

ral railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in 💹 @CPRONCR 🚮 @northo

Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli

Open tender based on Single packet system Tender Notice No.-M-100 MCF/ RBL

Machining of bogic components/ 2022-23 / C631 Data 19/07/2022 is invited by Dy

Chief Mechanical EngineenBogle & Wheel, MCF/RBL through IREPS porta www.ineps.gov.in for and on behalf of president of India for the following work:

Description of work Machining of Bogie Component from outside agency and its

transportation as per scope of work Approx. Value (f) 44,84,054.93 Cost of

Tender document(t)- Zero fild security 789,700,00 ( ₹ Eighty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred) Only Quantity of work- As annexed in Bill of Quantities Chapte

no. VI. Completion period of work- 12 months or earlier. • Date & time of

closing of Tender-11.08.2022 up to 15.00 hrs. • Detailed Tender Notice, Eligibility

citeria, Terma & conditions are available at IREPS website: www.ireps.gov.in

On behalf of the President of India, Dy. Chief. Mechanical EngineenFur. Moder

Coach Factory, Raebareli is inviting open e-tender ( No.-M-200/ MCF/RBU/FUR ACTIVITIES/VP/2022-23/F24, Date -18.07.2022) based on single packet system

online through Indian Railway portal www.ireps.gov.in for following work

Description of Work Works contract for interior Mechanical Furnishings & Fittings

n VP/Parcel Van LHB type Coaches with FIAT Bogles as per Scope of work fo

nancial year 2022-23 Approx. Value Rs. 25,29,072.00 Bid Security (Rs) Rs

50,600.00 Quantity of work- 50 VP/Parcel Van Coaches, Work completion period- 08 Months or earlier. • E-Tender submitted through online up to 15:00 hrs

on 12.08.2022. Manual offer will not be considered, ♦ E-Tender shall be opened o

2.08.2022 after 15.00 hrs. through online on http://www.reps.gov.in . Details

fender E-Notice and Terms & conditions are available at Incian Railway IREPS

e-Advertised Tender Notice No 24/ET/2022-23 Dated: 21.07.2022

Short Description

Aluminium Windows With Sliding Glass and Louver Shutters for LHB NON AC

mergency Window ASSY. With Stiding

Failure Indication Cum Brake Application

Standard tred Brake Disc for LHB Coache

Nebsita Address: www.ireps.gov.in & www.mcf.indianrailways.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

14/ET/2022-23 Tender No Due date may be Modified Vidue may be Dated 01.06.2022 12221113 read as 02.01.2023 read as 8927 Nos instead

Liquified Petroleum Gas Bulk

PIPE 42x2 in Length of 6000 MM.

Shutara (BUS Type Window)

FIBA) Device

Dated 04.07.2022 12221097

the President of India, Invites, E-tenders on the prescribed forms for the

# Fraud in selection can create

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** BENGALURU, JULY 23

THE SELECTION of candidates through manipulation of the examination process, as seen in the police sub-inspectors (PSI) recruitment exam in Karnataka. "creates anarchy in the society" and no proper services can be expected from candidates selected through such a system, the Karnataka High Court has stated while rejecting bail petitions of seven accused in the

Justice H P Sandesh of HC, who began monitoring the probe by Karnataka Police CID into the case during bail hearings over the past month, said in an

Lulu namaz row: Another accused held, two still on

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** LUCKNOW, JULY 23

the run, say cops

LUCKNOW POLICE arrested a 28-year-old businessman for allegedly offering namaz at the newly opened Lulu Mall without any authorisation on Saturday morning, taking the number of arrests made in the case to five. Police said the accused, Mohammed Adil, was among those spotted in the viral video, which had triggered allegations of religious bias against the mall's establishment.

Saturday's arrest comes days after police arrested four others – Mohammad Rehan, Atif Khan, Mohammad Lokman and, his brother Mohammad Noman - on Tuesday in connection with the case. All accused are in jail. Lucknow police commissioner DK Thakur said, "Two more accused are still on the run. Their identity has been ascertained."

Built with an investment of Rs 2,000 crore, the Lulu Mall opened to the public on July 11, a day after its inauguration by UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. A day after the mall opened, a video of a group of unidentified people offering na-

maz inside the premises went viral. After an inquiry, Lulu Mall's Public Relations Manager Sibtain Hussain lodged a case against unidentified persons at the Sushant Golf City police station on July 14.

#### **NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY**

TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of President of India, Principal Chief Engineer, Head Quarters Office, North Western Railway near Jawahar Circle, Jagatpura, Jaipur-302017 (Rajasthan), invites e-tender on www.ireps.gov.in website for following. 1. Tender No.: TM225015 Description of work: HYDRAULIC RAIL TENSOR (NON INFRINGING TYPE) 70 TON CAP AS PER RDSO SPECIFICATION NO TM/SM/32 (REV.01/2020) Tender Value: Rs. 5,13,300/- Earnest money: NIL 2. Tender No.: TM225003 Description of work supply of GPS Based Oscillation Monitoring System with laptop as per RDSO specification no. TM/SM/420 dated 15.02.21 Tender Value: Rs. 6,30,000/-Earnest money: NIL 3. Tender No.: TM25030 Description of work is Supply of RDSO specification No. TM/SSM/325 March, 2021 Tender Value: Rs. 3,20,000/- Earnest money: NIL 4. Tender No.: TM225028 Description of work is WELD TRIMMER POWER VERSION FOR AT WELDING AS PER RDSO SPECIFICATION NO. TM/SM/9d. 16.08.1991) Second Revision, 2022 Tender Value: Rs. 5,52,240/- Earnest money: NIL 5. Tender No.: TM225019 Description of work: Supply of Rail drill machine RDSO Specification no. TM/SM/3d. 1.9.11.1992) First Revision, 2020 Tender Value: Rs. 6,04,018/-Earnest money: NIL Date & time of Tender Closing: 16,08.2022 (15.30 hrs.) Note: The details of tender & conditions may be seen on Railway website TENDER NOTICE on behalf of President Note: The details of tender & conditions may be seen on Railway website 'www.ireps.gov.in''. 557-CQ/22

#### Follow us on : f 💆 🗖 /NWRailways 📵 NWRailways\_ **SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**

1<sup>ST</sup> CORRIGENDUM 1) No. CEC/BSP/ER/T/MISC/22-23 1, Date: 07/07/2022 (Open Tender) Name of Work : "Conducting Final Location Survey, including collection of field details for geotechnica investigation, preparation of GADs & Survey report & estimate etc. for the work of New B.G. line between

Following modification against the subject Tenders have been done which may please be noted:-

SI. No. : (1). Description : Financia ity criteria. As stipulated in NIT/Tender document : The tendered must have minimum average annual contractual turnover of <u>**1.5 V/N</u> Crore. <u><b>To be reas as** :</u> The</u> tendered must have minimum average annual contractual turnover of **'V/N'** or <u>'V'</u>whichever is less. Where V = Advertised value of the tender in Crores of Rupees. N = Number of years prescribed for completion of work for which bids have been invited

'<u>www.ireps.gov.in</u>' SI. No.: (2). Description: Closing date and time of tender. As stipulated in NIT/Tender document: At 15:00 Hours on 01/08/2022. <u>**To be reas as**</u>

At 15:00 Hours on 08/08/20 All other conditions will remain

Dy. Chief Engineer (Con.) CPR/10/139 S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur. f South East Central Railway 🕒 @secrail

conditions depending upon the continuation/discontinuation of these trains o

POLICE SUB-INSPECTOR RECRUITMENT EXAM SCAM

anarchy, says Karnataka HC

will impact society at large and make people lose faith in the sys-

> The court rejected the bails, claimed on grounds of lack of evidence and offences in the recruitment scam not being punishable with death imprisonment for life. On the contention that the

offences are not punishable with death or imprisonment, and bail is a rule and jail an exception, the court said that cannot be accepted "for the reason that in a case of murder, the life of a person and his family are affected, but in a case of a crime like this, the whole society will be affected", the court observed. "It will be an impact on the society, very system which creates anarchy in the society," it said. Justice Sandesh also pointed

to forensic evidence, which prima facie indicates that candidates seeking bail had their answer-sheets manipulated after the exam to gain selection as PSI. 'The material placed before the court in respect of the petitioners, who are the candidates in the PSI examination, it is seen that their papers are manipulated," the court said. "It is the main contention of the prosecution also that, though the candidates answered only a minimum number of questions, the RFSL [Regional Forensic Science Laboratory] report placed before the court discloses that names of wherein, their OMR [Optical Mark Recognition] sheets have been manipulated.'

"Hence, the petitioners are not entitled to bail during the crime stage, since it is a big scam and these petitioners have indulged in the process of selection of PSI, which is nothing but an act of terror to the society."

In his order, Justice Sandesh stated that the real victims in the exam scam are the candidates who "suffered injustice at the hands of persons who indulged in the manipulation of OMR sheets and also tampering the same which were kept in the Secret Guard Room, in the custody of persons in the helm of affairs of the selection process".

# Mining tourism gets a leg-up in Jharkhand govt's new policy

**DIVYAA** 

NEW DELHI, JULY 23

THERE IS a need to change the mindset towards the state of Iharkhand – from extraction to attraction, said Chief Minister Hemant Soren, while unveiling the state's new tourism policy in Delhi on Saturday. 'Jharkhand Tourism Policy 2021', launched in collaboration with FICCI, aims to revive and revamp the state's tourism sector, said Soren.

"Tourism is one sector that will spur economic activities in rural areas and generate employment. The day is not far when not the sound of bullets but the laughter of tourists will be heard in its picturesque plains," the CM said.



CM Hemant Soren unveils the new tourism policy in Delhi.

Amitabh Kaushal, state Tourism Secretary, said, "For any tourist destination-the three most important attributes comprise loJharkhand is a bridge between north India and eastern India, as also between north India and central India. The rail network has been effective since the British time as it is a traditionally mineral-rich state."

The new policy focuses on the promotion of mining tourism - a concept which is gaining traction nationally and internationally, especially in countries like Australia, Estonia and Finland, Since coal iron and uranium mining is extensively done in the state, it wants to leverage the unique feature to its advantage to boost experiential tourism. The policy also talks about the formation of a Tourist Security Force, along with 24hour helpline and a central con-

#### **GOLD-SMUGGLING CASE ACCUSED IN HC**

# **'CPM-backed MLA** asked UAE govt to ban Malayalam daily'

**SHAJU FILIP** 

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JULY 23

THE GOLD-SMUGGLING scandal accused Swapna Suresh alleged that former minister and CPI(M)backed legislator KT Jaleel had written to the UAE government seeking ban on Malayalam daily Madhyamam in that country.

Jaleel admitted that he had written such a letter, but only demanded appropriate action gainst the daily.

Suresh levelled the allegation against Jaleel through an affidavit filed in the Kerala High Court on Friday in connection with her petition seeking quashing of a criminal case registered against her. The case was registered against Suresh last month after she alleged that the family of the chief minister had sent bags loaded with currency notes to the UAE.

In her affidavit in the high court, Suresh alleged that Jaleel had written to UAE government in June 2020 that Madhyamam daily should be banned after the newspaper published reports about Covid-19 deaths of expatriates in that country. He (Jaleel) wanted strong action against the newspaper as the report in the daily had brought disgrace to the rulers of the UAE, she said.

Suresh alleged that after writing to the UAE government against Madhvamam, Ialeel had been in touch with her as well as the UAE Consul General (in Thiruvananthapuram). "He had sent mails to the Consul General and sent its details to me through WhatsApp reminding us about his letter. After the smuggling case emerged (July 2020), he couldn't do any follow up on the demand. Jaleel wanted

to get into the good books of the UAE government." said Suresh.

Reacting to the allegation, Jaleel said he had written to the UAE rulers against the newspaper. "What I demanded was only appropriate action against the daily. had sent the mail from my personal ID. I don't find any protocol violation in the issue," he said.

The Left legislator's demand seeking action against the media has embarrassed the CPI(M), which claims to stand for freedom of expression and speech. Besides, Jaleel's admission that he did write to the UAE government gave credibility to the Suresh's allegations. When she raised serious allegations against the political leadership of the government, CPI(M) had tried to wriggle out of the issue saying that Suresh has no credibility.

What apparently irked Jaleel was a report in Madhyamam, alleging the lukewarm approach of the state and Centre in bringing back expatriates during the pandemic days. The newspaper, published from Kerala, has editions in the Middle East.

Madhyamam is promoted by lamaat-e-Islami, Kerala, which had stood with the Left till Lok Sabha elections in 2019. Earlier this year, when the Union government banned Jamaat-e-Islami backed news channel, Media One TV, citing security reasons, CPI(M) had vehemently flayed the Centre, saying that the action reflected the intolerance of the Sangh Parivar towards the media. The issue is pending in the Supreme Court, which, in an interim order, had lifted the ban.

CPI(M) state secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan told the media that the demand for banning the newspaper is not the policy of the party.

Murmu's win

a historic feat:

**Amit Shah** 

GANDHINAGAR, JULY 23

TERMING "HISTORIC" Droupadi

Murmu's election as the coun-

try's next President, Union Home

Minister Amit Shah said the BJP

has taken an untrodden path

while selecting Presidential can-

didates, including scientist API

Abdul Kalam or a Scheduled

**AVINASH NAIR** 

#### **YOUTH MAHAPANCHAYAT**

# Bhopal to have Azad's statue using soil from his village: Chouhan

**NORTHERN RAILWAY** 

**NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION** 

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/Freight, Delhi Division, Northern Railway, ir

erms of Railway Board letter no. 2022/TC(FM)/10/04 dated 13.06.2022, invites bids hrough e-Auction (www.ireps.gov.in) for leasing of parcel space of SLR

compartments in following trains originating from Delhi division for a period of two

12280 (F-1), 12350 (F-1), 12524 (F-1) & 14041 (F-1) - 01.08.2022 at 11:30 am.

12284 (F-1), 12986 (F-1), 22401 (F-1) & 22414 (F-1) - 04.08.2022 at 11:30 am.

12584 (F-1), 14152 (F-1), 14553 (F-1& R-1) - 05.08.2022 at 11:30 am.

12428 (F-1), 13484 (F-1), 22418 (F-2 & R-1) - 10.08.2022 at 11:30 am

12438 (F-1), 12302 (F-1), 20840 (F-1), 22824 (F-1)- 12.08.2022 at 11:30 am

12015 (F-1), 12497 (F-1), 14212 (F-1) & 22210 (F-1) - 16.08.2022 at 11:30 am

12958 (F-1), 20504 (F-1), 20506 (F-1) & 22868 (F-1) - 17,08,2022 at 11:30 am.

12013 (F-1), 12031 (F-1), 12459 (F-1) & 14681 (F-1) - 18.08.2022 at 11:30 am.

12036 (F-1), 12066 (F-1), 20452 (F-1), 22986 (F-1) - 29.08.2022 at 11:30 am

19338 (F-1), 20946 (F-1), 22654 (F-1), 22950 (F-1) - 05.09.2022 at 11:30 am

For more information, requirement and various aspects regarding these e-Auctions

interested bidders are advised to visit https://www.ireps.gov.in/html/helpdesk

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

Railway Administration reserves the full and absolute rights to short terminate

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

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

12191 (F-1), 14316 (F-1, F-2 & R-1) - 27.07.2022 at 11:30 am

12582 (F-1), 15035(F-1, F-2 & R-1) - 28.07.2022 at 11:30 am.

12644 (F-1, F-2 & R-1), 22634 (F-1)- 02.08.2022 at 11:30 am.

14521 (F-1, F-2 & R-1), 22429 (F-1) - 03.08.2022 at 11:30 am

14014 (F-1), 12265 (F-1, F-2 & R-1) - 08.08.2022 at 11:30 am

12060 (F-1), 14164 (F-1, F-2 & R-1) - 22.08.2022 at 11:30 am

15116 (F-1& F-2), 20938 (F-1& R-1) - 23.08.2022 at 11:30 am.

22463 (F-1), 22472 (F-1, F-2 & R-1) - 24.08.2022 at 11:30 am.

14507 (F-1, F-2 & R-1), 22485 (F-1) - 25.08.2022 at 11:30 am.

22168 (F-1, F-2 & R-1), 22479 (F-1) - 26.08.2022 at 11:30 am

14731 (F-1& R-1), 20473 (F-1 & R-1) - 30.08.2022 at 11:30 am.

12754 (F-1), 20914 (F-1, F-2 & R-1) - 01.09.2022 at 11:30 am

12457 (F-1, F-2 & R-1), 12963 (F-1) - 02.09.2022 at 11:30 am

14011 (F-1 & R-1), 15060 (F-1 & R-1) - 06.09, 2022 at 11:30 am.

14812 (F-1), 22421 (F-1, F-2 & R-1) - 07.09.2022 at 11:30 am

12038 (F-1), 12481 (F-1, F-2 & R-1) - 09.09.2022 at 11:30 am

learning\_centre.html. (e-Auction leasing section).

mportant notes:

as Security Deposit.

12017 (F-1). 12808 (F-1) & 12874 (F-1) - 29.07.2022 at 11:30 am

**IRAM SIDDIQUE** BHOPAL, JULY 23

USING SOIL from Alirappur, the birthplace of Chandrashekar

Azad, Madhya Pradesh government will install the freedomfighter's statue in Bhopal, Chief Minister Shivrai Singh Chouhan said while inaugurating the state's first youth mahapanchayat at Rabindrabhayan convention hall in Bhopal on Saturday. Six youth each from 52 districts in the state joined the two-day mahapanchayat virtually.

Speaking at the event, Chouhan said, "Efforts are being made to involve youth in the process of policy making through youth mahapanchayat. Our aim is that this mahapanchayat should become a platform to connect the youth with

ears as per schedule given below:-

the government and society. I believe that the youth is not the citizen of yesterday but the citizen of today."

A Yuva panchayat will also be held each year and the winners from each district will be sent to international borders to instill in them a sense of patriotism under the state government's 'Maa Tujhe Pranam Scheme', Chouhan said.

Apart from the mahapanchayat, the state government is also formulating a new youth employment policy by incorporating the suggestions of the youth, which is likely to be implemented from January 12 on the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekanand. The government will also be announcing Yuva Puruskar each month and a state youth advisory council will be set up to encourage creativity among the youth.

#### Monkeypox: What you need to know two to four weeks.



The monkeypox virus is endemic in parts of Central and West Africa. It is similar to smallpox, but less severe

#### **Symptoms**

Fever, headache, muscle aches, back pain, low energy, and swollen lymph nodes. It typically appear in six to 13 days. but can take three weeks to show, and can last for

#### How infectious is it

■ The virus spreads mainly through body fluids, skin contact and respiratory droplets.

■ Some experts suggest it could occasionally be airborne

■ Newborn infants, children and people with underlying immune deficiencies may be at risk of more serious symptoms

HOW DOES IT SPREAD The likelihood of the

virus being spread during sexual contact is high

IS IT FATAL Yes, but in a small percentage of cases.

#### CASES SO FAR INDIA

3 cases. all in Kerala

**GLOBALLY** Over 16.000 cases in 75 countries

**DEATHS** Five, all in

### Single-phase panchayat polls in Sept: Haryana election panel

Election Commissioner Dhanpat Singh on Saturday said the Panchavat elections will be held in a single phase in September, nearly one and a half years after the term of the last Panchayati Raj Institution bodies came to an end.

'The election of Panches will be done by ballot paper while that of Zilla Parishad members, Panchayat Samiti members and Sarpanches will be done through

Chandigarh: Haryana State EVMs," Singh said at a meeting with the Deputy Commissioners and other officials in Rewari. Singh said the Commission is

> determined to conduct fair and transparent elections. Tight security arrangements should be ensured at sensitive and very sensitive booths, he said, while directing to make arrangements in time for the election material, which is to be purchased at the

#### Caste leader Ram Nath Kovind. ...for Murmu to attain the ost of the President and to become Her Excellency Droupadi Murmu, it is nothing but a historic event in the last 75 years," said Shah while addressing an event organised by the Gujarat Police at

Gandhinagar Saturday. "For the first time after independence, a woman from the Santhal community—among the most backward of tribes-became the country's first citizen. It is a big victory for democracy," Shah said at the event where Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and top officials of the state po-

lice were present.

Talking about how the BIP has focused on selecting Presidential candidates from weaker sections of the society, the Home Minister said, "In selecting people for the post of President, the BJP has always attempted to take an untrodden path and PMNarendra Modi has taken this forward. When Atalji (former PM AB Vajpayee) was there, missile man Abdul Kalam was made the President. Everyone was surprised at how the BIP can make Abdul Kalam the President, But the person who secured the country and carved a place in science, will only enhance the country's image".

# Curb inflation, lower prices but don't hurt farmers: RSS leader

#### **DEEPTIMAN TIWARY** NEW DELHI, JULY 23

AS FOOD prices remain high, RSS

general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale on Saturday called for reining in inflation and also cautioned the government that lowering of prices must not hurt farmers and must get a guaranteed price. Hosabale's statement assumes significance as the annual inflation rate in India stood at 7.01 per cent in June, according to government data.

Speaking at an RSS event — "International Conference on

1858/22

Harnessing Indian Agriculture for Domestic and Global Prosperity" — in Delhi, Hosabale said: "The link between inflation and food prices needs to be pondered over. Prices of industrial products rise... but people feel food and clothes must come at lower prices. It is among basic needs and should be affordable.'

He said, "The objective of agriculture is to produce sufficient nutritious food for all. Everyone must get nutritious food, so its prices must not increase. Otherwise some people will not get it. So government cooperatives have to play a role in this. The gaps need

farmer must benefit from dou-

to be filled," RSS said.

bling the farmer scheme. He does not always get a guaranteed income; we must think about the social respect he gets." Flagging concern about a rap-

Hosabale also said, "The

idly urbanising India, he said, "India is urbanising fast — more than 52 per cent population lives in cities today. If India's villages start disappearing, the civilisation and culture that we speak of with such great pride will be impacted. So we have to ensure people live in villages; we have to strengthen agriculture and allied industries.'

At the President's official residence the day after it was vacated by Gotabaya and stormed by crowds. The military refused to intervene, advised him to leave. AP

# Galle-Force

The images of crowds taking over the President's house were undeniable: change was here. SHUBHAJIT ROY walks the Colombo streets and power corridors to find out the tensions between the Rajapaksas, the missteps, the protests and the chary military which made that moment possible, and what happens next

TSABOUT noon, July 21, at the passport office in Colombo's Battaramulla area, and the queues are serpentine, seeking that one document to leave the country. A few kilometres away, President Ranil Wickremesinghe has just been sworn in, a week after predecessor Gotabaya Rajapaksa flew out to Maldives to escape a public which took over his official residence, incensed over the country's economic collapse.

Zaki, 29, is among those in the line. A plumber, he has spent a valuable Rs 15,000 for a visa, and hopes to go to Kuwait. The queue includes teachers, IT professionals, engineers, many of them with families. "I have been coming for two days, but haven't been able to even get into the office," says Piyumi, a 25-year-old teacher, here with her father.

But queues are ubiquitous in Colombo, some lasting days, for almost all essentials. Power cuts are rampant, and malls, cinema halls nearly empty. Schools continue to be closed due to lack of power fuel for buses.

The anger may have ebbed, and government buildings such as the President's house and Prime Minister's office vacated by crowds, but questions remain: how did one of South Asia's better economies come to this.

#### Mahinda & Sons, and China

Flashback to 2009, and the end of the war with the LTTE. The resolution of the once intractable situation made the Rajapaksas — particularly President Mahinda and brother and Defence Secretary Gotabaya — heroes in the eyes of the country's Sinhala majority. Few questions were raised when, in a brazen display of power, the Rajapaksas ensured that after the 2019 elections, the family reigned supreme — Gotabaya, 73, as President; Mahinda, 76, as PM; another brother Basil, 71, as key strategist; eldest Chamal, 79, as minister; and other Rajapaksas in junior roles.

According to leaders in their party Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna, trouble began soon after, as Gotabaya asserted himself, and found himself ranged against Mahinda and Basil. A former Lt Col, Gotabaya has never been much of a politician unlike the other two, especially the veteran Mahinda. The all-powerful President post came to him as Mahinda was ineligible after two terms, while Basil is a US citizen.

The first discord was over appointments to key positions. Mahinda wanted his favourites, Gotabaya his friends from the military and other hardliners, more accommodating of his tactics in the final run against the LTTE.

Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu, a leading Colombo-based political analyst, says: "The relationship between Gotabaya and Mahinda soon became an uneasy one."

China was another bone of contention. Under Mahinda as President, Colombo had grown increasingly close to Beijing, handing over major projects — Colombo Port city project, Hambantota Port, Mattala airport, Lotus Tower to name a few — to Chinese firms. India wasn't the only one discomfited, as whispers grew of money changing hands, and into the pockets of Mahinda's sons Namal and Yoshitha. While Yoshitha, 34, was Mahinda's Chief of Staff, Namal, 36, was a minister.

Rohana Hettiarachchi, Executive Director of an advocacy group for cleaner politics, says, "There was no decision-making process, and they (the Rajapaksas) took decisions without informing the Cabinet."

Concerns that the Chinese projects were overvalued were overlooked. Hettiarachchi says the projects were a way to earn "commissions" by Rajapaksa family members; some estimate overvaluation of 30%-50%.

As President, Gotabaya is believed to have expressed qualms over this. Sources said one

reason was his view that Mahinda's sons were too entitled.

According to Indian officials, as a military person, Gotabaya was also more receptive to Delhi's strategic concerns vis-a-vis China. NSA Ajit Doval is learnt to have developed a rapport with him, and Colombo was one of the few places Doval visited during the pandemic.

Change was also visible on the ground under Gotabaya. Having lost out on the strategic Eastern Container Terminal project to China in February 2021, India got the deal for Western Container Terminal in September 2021, after Gotabaya leaned in favour of Delhi's interests.

#### A Run in the Family

A senior political leader from the ruling establishment says that initially, the family always found a way to rally together. "Matters would come to a head every two months, but they would all meet at Chamal's house for a long meal and sort out differences."

But then, the communication within the family started getting strained. Insiders say things came to such a pass that the brothers would not talk for weeks, using go-betweens to convey concerns.

This left Gotabaya without a shrewd political and strategic mind like Basil just when he needed one the most. It's a moot point now whether the government would have gone ahead with ill-informed decisions such as tax cuts and the overnight switch to organic farming had Gotabaya been better advised.

George Cooke, a former diplomat and historian, says: "Gotabaya had the wrong team around him." One of those aides was central bank governor Ajith Nivard Cabraal, now out.

Political analyst Saravanamuttu says the hasty decision on organic farming was Gotabaya's idea, to which Mahinda had reservations, being in favour of a step-by-step process. The ostensible reason was to cut imports of fertilisers, with foreign exchange running low. The result was large-scale failure of the paddy crop, adding to Lanka's problems.

Former Sri Lankan High Commissioner to India Austin Fernando says Gotabaya saw himself as a demigod — a belief born out of the LTTE win. "He started believing in his own myth that God cannot do anything wrong. So, nobody could object."

But Lalithasiri Gunaruwan, professor of economics at Colombo University, says it's facile to blame the crisis on just Gotabaya alone, and that it was the result of "poor economic policies for the last several decades". "It's like a family needs Rs 1,500 for food, but has only Rs 1,000. So, it borrows Rs 500, and keeps borrowing every day. The debt piles up. When the income falls, the gap keeps widening."

One sign of Sri Lanka's poor fiscal management is that it has approached the IMF 16 times for a bailout.

Asenior official at the President's office told The Sunday Express about an incident from early this year. "Gotabaya lost his temper with Mahinda in front of others, blaming him for the crisis. That was unprecedented."

As early as March, when protesters attacked his family home, Gotabaya asked Mahinda to resign. "Mahinda said that it was not his fault. Then in May, when the protesters again made a move, he resigned, followed by Basil," an insider says.

#### United colours of Aragalya

It's the wee hours of July 13. The breeze at Colombo's seafront Galle Face, the epicentre of 'Janatha Aragalaya' or people's struggle, is cool and calm. On the lawns of the adjacent President's office, the crowd is anything but. Slogans of "Aragalayata jayawewa (victory to the struggle)" rent the air, amid a carnival-like



Mahinda (extreme right), at swearing-in of President Wickremesinghe. AP

#### 3 MONTHS, 13 DAYS

APRIL 1: Gotabaya declares temporary emergency, with sweeping powers to detain, after a spate of protests

APRIL 3: Cabinet resigns, Gotabaya and Mahinda isolated; the governor of the central bank quits a day later

**APRIL 5:** President loses majority, lifts the state of emergency

APRIL 12: Govt announces default on foreign debt of \$51bn after running out of foreign exchange for essentials

MAY 9: Government loyalists attack

APRIL 19: Police kill a protester, the

protesters outside the president's

**Credit Facility for essential items:** 

seafront office in Colombo; 9 people killed, homes of politicians set afire; Mahinda resigns as PM, is rescued as protesters storm his residence. He is replaced by Ranil Wickremesinghe

MAY 10: Shoot-to-kill orders, protesters defy government curfew, it is rolled back

JUNE 27: Government says nearly out of fuel, halts all petrol sales except for essential services

JULY 9: President's house stormed, Gotabaya flees. Wickremesinghe's residence set on fire

JULY 13: Gotabaya leaves country, Wickremesinghe is acting President

#### - DELHI DELIVERS

ASSISTANCE SINCE JANUARY 2022:

US\$1billion

first casualty

Line of Credit for fuel: US\$ 500 million

Line of Credit for fertilisers:

US\$ 55 million

Currency Swap by RBI:

US\$ 400 million

of Colombo joined in, the Janatha Aragalaya

grew into a once-unthinkable rainbow coali-

tion - erasing the sectarian differences be-

tween the majority Sinhalas and the country's

Christian, Muslim and Tamil minorities.

This wasn't a minor development.

Father Jevantha Peiris, 45, one of the visi-

ble Christian faces of the Aragalava, talks about

the Easter Sunday terror attacks in April 2019

that left 269 dead, and Christians scarred. "The

Rajapaksas promised action... but nothing hap-

Archbishop of Colombo Malcolm Ranjith,

One Identity: 'Sri Lankan'

pened," he says.

For context: Between 1947 & 2021, India contributed US\$ 2.17 billion to the UN

atmosphere as realisation sets in about the end

of the Rajapaksa reign.

The Aragalaya may have burst into world attention now, with the remarkable pictures from inside a President's home run over by crowds on July 9, but its seeds were sown long back. While Colombo initially remained indifferent, in the countryside, anger had been brewing among a public hit by disappearing essentials and rising prices.

But if the outpouring of protesters was, to a large extent, organic, political affiliation helped. The Left parties, including radical groups, lent a hand, particularly Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna, the ultra-Left Frontline Socialist Party and the Inter University Students' Federation. They fanned out and helped organise small-scale protests across the country, beyond the Galle Face greens.

Regarding July 9, officials say messages went out to people to hit the streets for "just one day". Security officials claim that some protesters came armed. Donations poured in from different quarters. Allegations of foreign funding are now being investigated.

As middle classes and upper middle classes

who also joined the protests, wrote several letters to President Gotabaya. The Christian cause got Ranjith a rare audience with the Pope at the Vatican. The reason for the Christian anger was the

faith that, having crushed the LTTE, the Rajapaksas would similarly defeat Islamic extremism, blamed for the Easter attacks. While all eight of the suicide bombers died in the attacks — on three five-star hotels and three churches — the trial of 25 alleged planners has

been on since November 2021.

While the Rajapaksa regime did little to comfort the Christians (about 8% of the population), the Muslims (10%) felt persecuted.

Bhavani Fonseka, a lawyer working for minority rights, says: "The Muslims had to bear the brunt (of the attacks)."

A decision to ban the burqa in the wake of the attacks, in the name of security, caused outrage. A minister in the Rajapaksa government said at the time that the veil "directly affects our national security".

Then came a ban on burial of bodies during the Covid-19 pandemic to check possibility of "contamination of groundwater" — a misguided, even if perhaps well-intentioned, move which was seen as a confirmation of the government's anti-Muslim bias.

Danish Ali, 31, who studied in Australia and is among the protesters at the *Aragalaya*, says: "They called us terrorists."

The *Aragalaya* leaders have been wearing their pan-Sri Lankan unity on their sleeve. Almost every press conference has had people from different communities present.

Sanka Jayasekere, 28, a wealth plan manager at an insurance firm, calls the change in fortunes of the Rajapaksas "karma". "It's ironic that the leader who divided us became the biggest unifier of communities... If the Sinhalas, Tamils, Muslims, Buddhists, Christians were split, we could have never achieved this goal."

Ali says that he has more Sinhala friends than Muslim. "We hope we have started a change... They can't divide us by invoking Sinhala pride... It is all about Sri Lankan pride."

#### Military holds its fire

To many, the most remarkable feature of the overthrow of Gotabaya was how the military, once fiercely loyal to him, kept away.

But to those on the ground, it is simple: the economic rut is such that families of military personnel too are affected, and it could not close its eyes. Even the most elite in the Lankan power structure, for example, cannot get fuel easily now, unless they work directly for the President or Prime Minister and ministers, or top-ranking military officers.

A senior officer of Gotabaya's former military regiment, Gajaba, says while uniformed personnel may not have joined the protests (though some policemen did), he couldn't be sure about officers on leave. He talks of the July 9 incidents: "The military fired in the air, just to intimidate the crowds. but not at them."

There is another reason. In February 2020, the US imposed an entry bar on then Lankan Army Chief, Lt Gen Shavendra Silva, for alleged war crimes in the operations against the LTTE. He is now Chief of Defence Staff General, and extremely careful about his reputation, insiders say; some add he has political ambitions.

"In the war, the military was accused of human rights violations. It did not want to fire on own people," says Iqbal Athas, a top journalist who covered the war and is now political editor at the Sri Lankan daily *The Sunday Times*.

Other senior officers too, including Defence Secretary Kamal Gunaratne, face calls for sanctions. A senior Rajapaksa regime official says at least two ex-officers nominated by the Gotabaya government for diplomatic positions were turned down unofficially.

The official says that the military brass didn't want to do anything that could invite them further sanctions, or affect their children (the offspring of most of Lanka's elite head abroad).

According to a senior official in Gotabaya's office, "The President wanted the crowd (gathering at the presidential residence) to be dispersed using tear gas and water cannons, but the military did not want that. They advised him to retreat and take refuge."

Athas, who wrote a detailed account of Gotabaya's final hours in the presidential house on July 9, told *The Sunday Express* that he eventually listened. "He just walked across to the adjacent Sri Lankan Navy headquarters."

From there, he would head to a Navy ship take a hush-hush flight to the Maldives, and onwards to Singapore. He is believed to still be looking for a more secure destination. Analysts say he may return, if his brothers who have stayed behind can manage security for him.

#### The New Man in the House

A veteran politician, former five-time PM, and sitting PM since Mahinda stepped down, Ranil Wickremesinghe was voted President on July 20, seven days after Gotabaya left. While his ambition is undoubted, this is a lottery even Wickremesinghe perhaps didn't expect to win, with his United National Party holding just one seat in Parliament and virtually decimated.

The general belief is that the Rajapaksas have the 73-year-old's back, and he, theirs – another in this saga of political twists, given Mahinda and Wickremesinghe's old rivalry. Wickremesinghe has been at pains to emphasise that he is no friend of the Rajapaksas.

For Wickremesinghe, the temptations of power apart, the post offers a shot at political revival. Having lost a large chunk of his party to Sajith Premadasa (who backed out of the presidential race), he sees an opportunity to woo back supporters before the next elections.

For Mahinda and Basil, who unlike Gotabaya are in Sri Lanka, a President under their influence is their best insurance.

As for Premadasa, 55, analysts say, it made more sense to stay out of a difficult situation. In 2019, he lost to Gotabaya narrowly, and believes getting the next national mandate is his best chance. And that could be as early as six months from now. As per the Sri Lankan Constitution, the earliest a Parliament can be dissolved is two-and-a-half years after being voted in, which falls in March 2023. Premadasa is expected to seek elections then. Incidentally, in Harsha de Silva, he has one of the best economic minds in the country in his team.

Society, who has lived in Sri Lanka for more than two decades, says, "This is Sri Lanka's 1991 moment (referring to India's liberalisation)."

Kishore Reddy, head of the India-Sri Lanka

#### India watches From India's per

From India's perspective too, Premadasa could be good news as he is said to be well-disposed towards Delhi. On the eve of the July 20 Presidential election, he reached out to parties in India in a tweet, tagging Prime Minister Narendra Modi, asking them to "keep helping mother Lanka and its people".

Wickremesinghe, on the other hand, has his cards close to his chest. While friendly towards India, he is using the China card of late.

India has gone all out to lend help to Colombo in the current crisis, extending financial assistance to the tune of almost USD 4 billion in just six months of this year. Delhi will hope that this, plus historical links, will help it claw back the space lost to Beijing.

Indian High Commissioner Gopal Baglay says Delhi would like to "bring more investment into Sri Lanka because that will help it go beyond short-term solutions".

Fernando, a former Lankan envoy to India, believes there will be a tradeoff: "India will help, but it will ask Sri Lanka to return the favour, especially in the Indian Ocean region."

For now, even at the height of the crisis, when tickets are going for Sri Lankan Rs 400-600 (i.e. Indian Rs 1,800 to Rs 2,700), one of the films showing at Colombo's Scope Cinemas is the Tamil movie *The Warrior*, releasing simultaneously as in India.



PCHIDAMBARAM Website: pchidambaram.in

Twitter@Pchidambaram IN

Why are the accused denied bail? Pre-charge evidence, framing of charges, trial and arguments will - not may, it is will — take many years. Should the accused be in jail until the trial is over? Is pre-trial incarceration a substitute for trial, proof, conviction and punishment? Is that the law of the country? If that is indeed the law of the country, should not the law be re-stated or should not the law be amended?

# 'Process is the Punishment'

"IN OUR criminal justice system, the process is the punishment. From hasty, indiscriminate arrests to difficulty in obtaining bail, the process leading to the prolonged incarceration of under trials needs urgent attention... It is a grave issue that 80 per cent of the 6,10,000 prisoners across the country are undertrials... time has come to question the procedures which result in such prolonged incarceration without trial" — Chief Justice of India, Mr N V Ramana.

Wiser words have not been spoken, certainly not in recent times by the top judge of the country. Mr Justice Ramana had practised law for 17 years and has been a judge for 22 years. He is not a stranger to what goes on in the courts in the name of 'dispensing criminal justice'. He must have also interacted with families of accused, lawyers, civil society activists, journalists and concerned citizens and heard hundreds of tragic stories. The purpose of this essay is to share some stories with you.

### In Prison without Trial

In current times, there is no story more shocking than the story of the 16 accused in what is known as the **Bhima Koregaon** case. On January 1, 2018 — as on that day every year — there was a gathering (consisting of members of Dalit organisations) at Bhima Koregaon

lives of over 1.4 billion people, one can ex-

pect that her protocol position will help

Îndia gain favourable influence in the ar-

eas impacting indigenous people worldwide. The last time an indigenous person

headed a country was Bolivia's socialist

leader, Evo Morales. The differences be-

tween ideologies and the career trajectory

of Murmu and Morales are vast. However,

with symbolism being their favourite pas-

time, the BJP-RSS might as well do it right.

tunate tragedies. Having lost her intimate

family - husband, two children, brother,

and mother - she has become a lone war-

rior, with only her daughter by her side.

took over as the 14th President of India,

the RSS sent a message to the public that

it was sensitive to caste issues and that

Dalit subordinates of the RSS still had a

chance. While President Kovind was

lauded as the Dalit President of India, his

tenure was shy of anything to do with

Dalits. It is akin to any Dalit official who

refutes the image that might make them

appear sensitive towards the society's

vulnerable section. It is the burden of

choosing between purist morality over

strategic responsibility. President Kovind

did not exercise the executive power

constituency. One of the first issues he

raised was hiring more judges and ex-

panding the diversity in India's courts.

He asked to "select, nurture and promote

the right talent from the lowest to the

higher levels". President Kovind's order

for judicial reforms boldly declared that

nepotism had no way in the judicial sys-

tem. At the same time, the President re-

mained mum at the gruesome rape and

murder of a Dalit girl in Hathras in his

RSS by giving two prominent quotas — the

SCs and STs — symbolic representation.

While at the same time the condition of

the marginalised groups in India is wors-

ening. Earlier this week, Dinesh Khatik, a

Dalit minister in the Uttar Pradesh cabi-

net, rebelled alleging discrimination and

Hope the fate of President Kovind is

Suraj Yengde, author of Caste Matters,

curates the fortnightly 'Dalitality' column

mistreatment in the Bisht government.

not repeated on President Murmu where

their token face is substantiated with

Brahminism as a benevolent hope.

The BJP is perhaps trying to trump the

But he indirectly tried to speak to his

vested in him.

home state.

When President Ram Nath Kovind

Murmu's life has been hit with unfor-

Battle of Bhima Koregaon. There was violence and stone-pelting on the gathering by a crowd, allegedly instigated by right-wing groups. One person died and five were injured. The investigation by the state government (BJP) took a curious turn. On June 6, 2018, five persons, all sympathetic to the Dalit and left-wing causes, were arrested by the state police. More arrests were made in the following months. Among the arrested were a lawyer, a poet, a priest, writers, professors and human rights activists. After the elections in 2019, a coalition government (non-BJP) took office. Responding to allegations of biased investigation, the state government decided to constitute an SIT to re-visit the case. Within two days, the Central government (BJP) intervened and transferred the case to the NIA! Despite multiple petitions, the accused were denied bail. Father Stan Swamy, an 84-year-old Jesuit priest, died

to mark the 200th anniversary of the

September 22, 2021.

Sharjeel Imam, a PhD student of JNU, was arrested for two speeches he delivered at Jamia Millia Islamia and AMU in December 2019 during the anti-CAA agitation. Besides the case in Delhi, he faces charges in Assam, UP, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh. He has been in jail since January 28, 2020, and denied bail.

Umar Khalid, a former student of JNU

in jail on July 5, 2021. Only Mr Varavara

Rao, the 82-year old renowned poet, is

out on interim medical bail since

and activist, was arrested on September 14, 2020, in connection with the riots in February 2020. He has been denied bail. **Siddique Kappan**, a well-known journalist from Kerala, was arrested when he was on his way to investigate and report on the Hathras (U.P.) rape case. He has been in jail since October 5, 2020, and denied bail.

#### WHAT IS THE LAW?

The point of this essay is not whether the charges are false or true. The point is, why are the accused denied bail? During investigation, the accused are pre-undertrials; when charges are framed by the Court, they become undertrials. Pre-charge evidence, framing of charges, trial and arguments will not may, it is will — take many years. Should the accused be in jail until the trial is over? Is pre-trial incarceration a substitute for trial, proof, conviction and punishment? Is that the law of the country? If that is indeed the law of the country, should not the law be re-stated or should not the law be amended?

These are the questions that are behind the anguished statement of Mr Justice Ramana. The answers can be found in the law laid down by the Supreme Court. Over 40 years ago, in *Gurbaksh Singh Sibbia's* case (1980), a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court articulated the law: "the principle to be deduced from the various sections in

the Criminal Procedure Code was that grant of bail is the rule and refusal is the exception." In 2014, in Arnesh Kumar's case, the Court noted that the power of arrest is "largely considered as a tool of harassment, oppression and surely not considered a friend of public". On January 29, 2020, another Constitution Bench in Sushila Aggarwal's case cleared the cobwebs that had descended on Gurbaksh Singh Sibbia and Arnesh Kumar and re-affirmed the power and the duty of the courts to uphold the right to liberty: "it would be useful to remind oneself that the rights which the citizens cherish deeply are fundamental — it is not the restrictions that are fundamental."

#### A DARK BLOT

Yet, the power of arrest is being grossly abused. Alarmed, the Supreme Court has delivered a series of judgments curtailing the power to arrest, culminating in a definitive statement of law in Satender Kumar Antil's case on July 11, 2022 and a thumping order in Mohammed Zubair's case on July 20, 2022.

It is a sad commentary on the criminal justice system that despite these pronouncements, the accused in the Bhima Koregoan case, Sharjeel Imam, Umar Khalid, Siddique Kappan and thousands of others continue to be in prison without being convicted. That is why, I believe, Mr Justice Ramana spoke.

# The new President: Beyond the tokenism



DRAUPADI MURMU has become the 15th President of the Republic of India. The Constitutional framework of India is parliamentary, that is led by the elected representative and overseen by the first person of the country, the President of India. India inherited the presidential position equivalent to the Crown of England. However, unlike India, the United Kingdom does not have a written Constitution.

Murmu is the first Adivasi who has been elected to the apex position in India's history. No person of Adivasi background has been elevated to such a stature. Born to a Santhal tribe of Odisha, Murmu has undoubtedly inspired and made a name for herself. The Santhal people are a defiant warrior clan resisting any form of coercion and colonisation. These native Indians strongly positioned their force against Brahminical-Aryan assault. They were among the first groups to take on foreign attackers.

While the list of Presidents of India has been impressively diverse, it was missing an important Adivasi voice. It took the nation 75 years to find a suitable Adivasi leader for the post.

The status of Adivasi representation in important fields remains grossly low. Adivasi students and scholars are nowhere to be found in important positions, and neither are scientists and thought leaders given their desired responsibility. Adivasi land is sold to business people, and they are displaced from their natural habitat.

Now that Murmu is in the top spot, another form of tokenism might percolate. How the country and civil society make use of this opportunity is up to them. Expecting Murmu to be the frontrunner of Adivasi justice will be a misplaced judgment. Instead, the country should demand accountability from the party that has fielded her.

has fielded her.
When a person is elevated to the position of President, one cannot expect them to stick to one agenda. With India's first citizen's calendar preoccupied with the



# Access to abortion: Where women still don't have a say

WHEN THE US Supreme Court overturned Roev Wade last month, many sighed in relief that they were in India where abortion has not been 'criminalised'. While one hopes that was the case, the truth is that there is no "right" to abortion in India, Abortion ("causing miscarriage") continues to be an offence under the Indian Penal Code, 1860. The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971, was only enacted as an exception to the IPC provision. The MTP Act is centered around abortion service providers or registered medical practitioners and seeks to protect them from criminal liability for abortions performed on permissible grounds, and not women whose bodies are regulated.

India's Supreme Court and High Courts routinely engage with the question of abortion, as women who have been denied or can't access abortion under the MTP Act approach them for permission to terminate their pregnancies, though India has not had a case similar to Roe v. Wade.

In 2009, the Supreme Court in Suchita Srivastava v. Chandigarh Administration, while deciding whether a woman with intellectual disability has the autonomy to continue her pregnancy, placed the right to reproductive choice of women within the framework of Article 21 of the Constitution.

Although the Court cited *Roe v. Wade* and spoke of women'ss "right to make reproductive choices", it found the provisions of the MTP Act to be "reasonable restrictions" on the exercise of this choice.

Last week, the Supreme Court reiterated the fundamental right to reproductive choice, bodily integrity and autonomy of women, as it allowed a 25-year-old, unmarried woman to terminate her pregnancy of 23 weeks.

The woman had earlier approached the Delhi High Court, where she was denied permission to access abortion as she was unmarried and her pregnancy arose out of a consensual relationship. The decision was based on the Court's interpretation of the amended provisions of the MTP Act and Rules that came into effect last year.

As the High Court correctly noted, the MTP Act allows termination of "certain pregnancies by registered medical practitioners". Section 312 of the IPC continues to criminalise abortion (or "causing miscarriage") except when performed to save the life of the pregnant woman. A woman "who causes herself to miscarry" can also be held liable under this provision.

ble under this provision. The Statement of Objects and Reasons



**Pro-abortion protests in the US.** File

of the 2021 amendment took note of advancements in the medical field which have made it possible to increase the upper gestational limit for abortion, in particular for "vulnerable women" and cases involving substantial foetal anomalies detected much later in the pregnancy. With these amendments, all women, irrespective of their marital status, can seek termination of pregnancy on account of failure of contraception. Further, certain categories of vulnerable women, can seek abortion up to 24 weeks of gestation. These include, survivors of sexual assault; minors; women with physical disabilities, and mental illness; women in humanitarian settings, disaster or declared emergency; and when there is a "change in a [woman's] marital status during the ongoing pregnancy (widowhood and divorce)".

The Delhi High Court ruled that this woman, who was unmarried and carrying a pregnancy arising out of a consensual relationship, was "clearly not covered" under these categories. A few days later, a threejudge Bench of the Supreme Court took exception to this "unduly restrictive view" taken by the High Court, and said that the clause relating to "change in marital status" needs to be given a purposive interpretation. Stating that Parliament's intent could not have been to deny the benefits of MTP provisions to unmarried women, it said that the words "widowhood and divorce" do not exhaustively define the scope of the clause. It would extend to an unmarried woman no longer in a relationship with her partner.

In my fieldwork, that culminated in a report on 'Legal Barriers to Accessing Safe Abortion Services in India', the phrase "illegal pregnancy" — a pregnancy arising out of a wedlock — was heard frequently from different stakeholders (doctors, nurses, government officials, women). A government staff member in Mumbai posed a seemingly rhetorical question, "unmarried [pregnancy] is illegal, right?". When asked if it indeed was, he said that in all "illegal cases", they first filed an "emergency police report" and proceeded with abortion only after obtaining requisite approvals from police or the Court. The fear of criminal processes was writ large.

In its decision, the Supreme Court has said that MTPAct recognises the "reproductive choice of woman and her bodily integrity and autonomy", and that "choice must be inherent in a woman whether or not to bear a child". It is a landmark decision.

The Delhi HC's observations, that termination of pregnancy would be "akin to killing the child", adds to the notion of criminality that follows abortion. For outcomes to change, the Supreme Court's decision would have to reach those who believe pregnancy in unmarried women is "illegal".

As I began reading the judgment of the Delhi High Court, I was struck by how the petition made a case for termination of this woman's pregnancy. There is a mention of her marital status, breakdown of her relationship with her partner, her educational background and current employment status, financial background, future prospects of marriage, social ostracization and stigma around having a child out of wedlock. Would she have to state all of this before the gatekeepers of abortion services if she was well within the limits of the MTP Act?

The Indian law on abortion is indeed progressive when compared to the US, yet it continues to place restrictions on women's access to abortion. The continued criminalisation of abortion creates an aura of illegality around it, and put together with fear of the criminal justice system, makes women fight their way through medical and judicial institutions to seek abortion.

Unless the law is amended to guarantee an affirmative right to reproductive choice, women's access to abortion will continue to depend on her chances of encountering a willing doctor, or judge who can apply an approach to statutory interpretation that lets her decide what she wishes to do with her body.

The writer teaches at the National Law School of India University, Bengaluru National Editor Shalini Langer curates the 'She Said' column

# Fifth COLUMN TAVLEEN SINGH Twitter@tavleen\_singh

# **Defaming** dissidents

There is a new weapon against dissidence in 'new India' that could make 'old' India rise higher still in the rankings of unfreedom. This weapon has just been used against Mohammed Zubair. He walked out of Tihar Jail last week after the Supreme Court intervened, observing correctly that he was being subjected to a vicious cycle of charges that ensured he would continue being denied bail. He spent three weeks in jail ostensibly because he caused communal tension by tweeting a shot from an old Hindi movie in which Honeymoon Hotel was changed to Hanuman Hotel. The film came out ages ago in that long-forgotten time before Hindutva. Nobody's sentiments were hurt. Nobody noticed.

There was of course more to Zubair's arrest than his tweet from five years ago. Soon he was dragged from one court to another in Uttar Pradesh and charged with 'offences' so flimsy that they will probably all be thrown out of court. What may have damaged him irreparably is the malevolent campaign to assassinate his character that has been launched on social media by the BJP's army of trolls.

This legion of vile creatures showed that they could plunge to depths of vileness that are hard to reach for normal people. While Zubair was incarcerated, these creatures were deployed to tell the world that he was no journalist, that he seemed to be the agent of some foreign power, that he was paid to tweet, that he had deliberately tweeted Nupur Sharma's comments on the Prophet to create communal disharmony. So, although he is now a free man, is it possible that Zubair's career as a fact-checker could be impaired for good? When he returns to using his website Alt News to refute lies, fake news and hate speech, will he still be credible?

The list of people who have been harmed by this new weapon is long, but here are a few names. Umar Khalid has been in jail for more than a year during which time he has been charged with causing the Delhi riots. Siddique Kappan has been in jail for around the same time, because he tried to go to Hathras to report on the brutal rape and sordid cremation of a Dalit teenager. The Uttar Pradesh police says he was with operatives of the Popular Front of India. Since this jihadist outfit is not banned, he committed no crime. Last year Shah Rukh Khan's son, Arvan, was pulled off a cruise ship and locked up for a month, during which time the BJP's social media army made him out to be a cog in the network of international drug cartels. There are more names than I can list of people who have seen their lives ruined not by charges made in a court of law but on social media.

When BJP spokespersons are asked why these things are happening, they usually respond, with fixed smiles on their smug faces, that if someone has a complaint, they should go to court and seek justice. They say this as if it is the easiest thing to do. Allow me a small personal note here. When a senior BJP spokesman tweeted that my son was "a paid ISI agent", it implied that I had bred and nurtured a Pakistani spy. I wanted to take the BIP's star spokesman to court but my efforts were stymied at the first hurdle when I discovered that it would cost me more than I could afford, to hire even an ordinary, unknown lawyer,

Zubair was luckier than most in that he could get as far as the Supreme Court. Others who run digital news platforms that are critical of the government can simply not afford the cost of Indian justice. Some instead of being maligned on social media are subjected to tax raids. These raids achieve the same result. which is to silence dissidence. What the bosses of the BIP seem not to have noticed yet is that their new weapon of destroying people's character on social media is a two-edged sword. It harms the Prime Minister as much as it harms the person who is targeted. And it is not as if the Modi government does not care about international opinion. It cares a lot because the Prime Minister cherishes the image that his devotees believe he already has of being a 'Vishvaguru'.

This will never happen if the man who leads the world's largest democracy allows his minions to invent new methods daily to crush dissent. When international watchdogs of democracy and freedom lower India's rankings in their lists, there is much noise and fury from Modi's ministers. They invent international conspiracy theories which make India look like a chippy little country instead of the mighty superpower we seek to become.

Modi himself likes to boast that India is the mother of democracy. But seems not to know that democracy is about more than winning elections. It is after elections are won that the real challenges of democracy begin. One of the biggest of these challenges is dealing with dissidents. It is in the way they are dealt with that the real test of democracy comes. If every dissident voice is crushed, it confirms to those who cherish the freedoms that democracy allows, that India is slowly but surely slipping towards illiberalism. What happened to Zubair proves that those who say India is increasingly becoming an illiberal democracy are right.

# On the LOOSE LEHER KALA leherkala@gmail.com

AFTER A long hiatus from Hindi films, gutsy actor Mallika Sherawat will be seen in RK/RKay, a nostalgic take on Bollywood movies from the 1960s. To jog dormant memories. Sherawat made a splashy debut in 2003 with Khwaish that stirred up plenty of righteous indignation for its 17 passionate kisses onscreen. Admiringly referred to by The New York Times as Bollywood's Brigitte Bardot, Sherawat's next film Murder was her piece de resistance, an enjoyable thriller far ahead of its time in its portrayal of a sexually aggressive woman. The fact that it was a huge hit should have been enough to catapult Sherawat to A-list status. Instead, she was ridiculed by the media and her contem-

# Risque, risk-taking, and being Mallika

poraries for playing a free spirit who takes charge of her own destiny.

Reflecting on the unwarranted vitriol she faced that sidetracked her career, Sherawat matter-of-factly told journalists while promoting RK/Rkay, "What Deepika Padukone did in Gehraiyaan, I did 15 years ago but people were too narrow minded to appreciate it." (Gehraiyaan revolves around an illicit affair and has many steamy scenes featuring Padukone.) Now that we are exposed to a gazillion OTT shows that unapologetically push the boundaries of what is permissible, on a rewatch of Murder, Sherawat's so-called torrid scenes feel vaguely tepid. For anyone worried that it often feels that India is regressing back into the dark ages, at least the designated "fast girl" of yesteryears, of which Sherawat was deemed a torch-

bearer, has been laid to rest. One can only

ponder the randomness of fate, that a pathbreaking, female-centric role could so negatively brand a woman brave enough to break with conformity — while cementing another's position as numero uno in a similar act, less than two decades later.

similar act, less than two decades later.

That's life. Success owes a lot to timing and luck, especially in a chaotic country where the disruptive forces of society wield significant power. Ask directors Anurag Kashyap and Sanjay Leela Bhansali, who have had harrowing experiences with the Hindu fringe, who, at the slightest provocation, threaten to pelt stones at movie goers on opening Fridays. Then, there's the equally deadly threat of skewed social media narratives that can destroy reputations: for example, Rhea Chakraborty faces an uphill task salvaging her career after being implicated in the death of her boyfriend. As an act of self-preservation, I rarely log on to

Twitter having figured out that whether people praise or berate me, it has no bearing on my life. Recently I had to and saw the shocking level of venom directed towards all women professionals, be it lawyers, journalists or academics.

journalists or academics.

It makes one wonder whether a little bit of censorship is necessarily a bad thing; maybe a time will come when companies will hold employees responsible for posting misogynistic and racist opinions in the public domain, the same way people have been sacked in France for holding anti-Semitic views. Undoubtedly, the dice is far heavily stacked against women in showbiz. Amid the barrage of opinion, it's easy to miss that actors like Sherawat have been trailblazing risk-takers. It must have been hard being the butt of lurid jokes or reading articles where women from established film families would superciliously say they would never

act in a *Murder*. As though anybody working in the Hindi film industry would choose artistic greatness over commercial success.

Ultimately, Sherawat's instincts were right to take on an unconventionally bold role — the best chance any of us have at success is to seize opportunities available to us at a given time. Over a long career, we also have to philosophically accept that some of our decisions will go awry. For some reason, failure lingers a lot longer in our heads than success. Murder subjected Sherawat to scathing attack; but doors opened up for her in Hollywood, she became famous but most importantly, she became rich. The website www.caknowledge.com lists Sherawat's net worth at Rs 113 crore. Pretty damn good for an outsider, vilified for the fictional role of a cheating wife. Truly, success is the best revenge.

The writer is director, Hutkay Films

#### MIXED WEEK FOR OIL BENCHMARKS

Houston: US WTI closed lower for the third straight week, at \$94.70, as data showed that gasoline demand in the US had fallen nearly 8% from a year ago. Brent, meanwhile, settled higher for the first time in six weeks at \$103.20, amid demand in Asia. **REUTERS** 

#### FOREIGN PORTFOLIO INVESTORS POUR ₹870 CRORE INTO DOMESTIC MARKETS

# FPIs ease sell-off, net buyers in July so far

After pulling out over ₹2.55 lakh crore of investments for seven straight months since December 2021

**GEORGE MATHEW** 

MUMBAI, JULY 23

THE SEVEN-MONTH-long selloff by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) in Indian markets seems to be abating. After pulling out over Rs 2.55 lakh crore since December 2021, FPIs have turned net buyers in India in July so far, bringing some relief to the bear-hit stock markets.

FPIs have invested Rs 870 crore in domestic markets so far this month, after withdrawing Rs 51,422 crore in June and Rs 36,518 crore in May this year.

According to NSDL data, in July, FPI net investment in equity was Rs 1,099 crore and Rs 792 crore in debt, but they took out Rs 926 crore from debt-VRR (voluntary retention route).

Analysts said there is a clear change in FPI action in the market. "The relentless selling by FPIs which started from October 2021 appears to be over. They have significantly slowed down selling in July and have even turned buyers for 5 days in July, **FPI INVESTMENT IN 2022** (in ₹ crore)

	Equity	Debt	Debt-VRR	Hybrid	Total	
January	-33,303	+5,194	-2,114	+1,697	-28,526	
February	-35,592	-3,073	+487	+110	-38,068	
March	-41,123	-5,632	-3,244	-68	-50,068	
April	-17,144	-4,439	-1,175	+69	-22,688	
May	-39,993	-5,506	+9,043	-62	-36,518	
June	-50,203	-1,414	+87	+108	-51,422	
July**	+1,099	+792	-926	-95	+870	
Total 2022	-2,16,259	-14,078	+2,158	+1,759	-2,26,420	
** Un to July 22: Source: NSDI						

particularly during the last few days when they continuously bought," said VK Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist at Geojit Financial Services. The dollar index, which had moved above 109, was down at 106.55 on Friday. This is one of the factors to have contributed to the change in FPI strategy, he added.

The FPI sell-off is being attributed to the tightening of the monetary policy by the US on a rate hiking spree to control inflation. Other central banks, including in the UK and Eurozone, are following suit. An analyst said. "Relatively high valuations in India, rising bond yields in the US, an appreciating dollar and concerns regarding the possibility of a recession in the US triggered by aggressive tightening

are factors behind FPI pullout." When the global economy took a hit, central banks across the world slashed interest rates

and announced liberal monetary policies. While this helped the economies to recover and led to higher consumption, the surplus liquidity in the financial system led to a big worry: inflation.

With inflation rising to new

levels in major economies like the US and Eurozone, central banks have started tightening the monetary policies and hiking interest rates. In India, inflation surged to an eight-year high of 7.79 per cent in April, prompt-

ing the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to hike repo rate by 90 basis points to 4.90 per cent. Retail inflation was at 7.01 per cent in June, much above the RBI's upper tolerance limit of 6 per cent. In fact, inflation has risen to multi-decade highs across several economies. Holding of FPIs (in value

terms) in companies listed on NSE stood at Rs 51.99 lakh crore as on March 31, 2022, a fall of 3.36 per cent from Rs 53.80 lakh crore as on December 31, 2021, due to the sustained sell-off since October 2021. FPIs hold sizeable stakes in private banks. tech companies and big caps like Reliance Industries. The US accounts for a major chunk of FPI investments at Rs 17.57 lakh crore as of May 2022, followed by Mauritius (Rs 5.24 lakh crore), Singapore (Rs 4.25 lakh crore) and Luxembourg (Rs 3.58 lakh crore), according to data available from NSDL.

The recent Sebi decision to allow FPIs in commodities derivatives market is expected to boost inflows. "As India grows and aspires to become a \$5-trillion economy, opening the gates for foreign investors and allowing FPIs to participate in the exchange traded commodity derivatives will not only aide in integrating Indian commodity markets at par with the global markets but also facilitate in managing pricing gaps and enhance liquidity in the markets," said Manoj Purohit, partner & leader-financial services tax,

He said the Sebi has struck the right chord at a time when the FPIs were steadily pulling out cash triggered by many global, economic, political and marketdriven factors. "This announcement will act as a positive breather amidst the global turmoil capital markets are facing.'

With the rupee remaining under pressure, India's foreign exchange reserves fell by another \$7.54 billion to \$572.71 billion during the week ended July 15, amid appreciation of the dollar and capital outflows from India triggered by the rise in inflation and rate hikes by the US.

JUNE QUARTER NET PROFIT AT ₹6,905 CRORE

# ICICI Bank Q1 net rises 50%; NPAs, provisions decline

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU** MUMBAI, JULY 23

ICICI BANK on Saturday reported a 49.58 per cent jump in net profit at Rs 6,905 crore for the Ĵune quarter of FY23, as against Rs 4,616 crore in the same period of last year. Its total income rose to Rs 28,330 crore in Q1 from Rs 24,379 crore a year ago.

Gross non-performing assets (NPAs) of the country's second largest private bank declined to Rs 33,163 crore (3.41 per cent of advances) by June 2022 as against Rs 43,148 crore (5.15 per cent) a year ago.

Net interest income (NII) increased by 21 per cent year-onyear (y-o-y) to Rs 13,210 crore in during Q1 from Rs 10,936 crore last year. The net interest margin was 4.01 per cent in the latest quarter as against 3.89 per cent a year ago and 4.00 per cent in the quarter ended March 2022.

Provisions (excluding provision for tax) declined by 60 per cent y-o-y to Rs 1,144 crore in Q1 from Rs 2,852 crore a year ago. Provisions for Q1 include contingency provision of Rs 1,050 crore made on a prudent basis.

The gross NPA additions

Net profit up 26.1% for Kotak

Bank on Saturday posted a crore in the June quarter of FY2023, which is around

The bank's net interest

were Rs 5,825 crore as compared

#### POLICY WATCH AVIATION

# Specially-abled passengers: What DGCA's new rules mean for airlines

**PRANAV MUKUL** NEW DELHI, JULY 23

THE DIRECTORATE General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Friday amended its rules on carriage of specially-abled passengers to say that airlines cannot deny boarding to such flyers without seeking medical opinion of a doctor at the airport on a passenger's fitness to fly.

What do the new DGCA

The regulator said it has amended its regulations to improve accessibility of boarding and flying for the specially-abled. In its new Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR),

the DGCA has said

that if an airline decides to deny boarding after getting medical opinion, it will have to immediately inform the passenger in writing and mention the reasons.

The clause added to the CAR on "carriage by air – persons with disability and/or persons with reduced mobility" states: "Airline shall not refuse carriage of any person on the basis of disability. However, in case, an airline perceives that the health of such a passenger may deteriorate in-flight, the said passenger will have to be examined by a doctor, who shall categorically state the medical condition and whether the passenger is fit to fly or not. After obtaining the medical opinion, the airline shall take the appropriate call."

What were the old rules? As per the earlier rules,

TechM lab

airlines could deny boarding

BRIEFLY —

The move, proposed on June 3, came in the aftermath of an incident at Ranchi **Airport in May** 

to any person on the basis of a disability if it opined that "transportation of such persons would or might be inimical to the safety of flight". The airlines, however, were bound to specify in writing

Why were the rules amended?

Friday's move, which was originally proposed on June 3, was made in the aftermath of the Ranchi Airport incident in May.

when low-cost airline IndiGo disallowed a specially-abled child from boarding its Hyderabad-bound flight citing potential threat to air safety. Following this incident, the aviation safety watchdog conducted an investigation into it and imposed a fine of Rs 5 lakh on the airline.

At the time of penalising IndiGo, the DGCA had noted that the airline's ground staff could have avoided the situation with a "more compassionate handling", and ended up "exacerbating" the situation. Notably, IndiGo, which stood by its ground staff's decision to deny boarding saying it was done in the interest of flight safety, later said it planned to conduct an internal case study on how to better serve passengers with disabilities, especially when they are feeling distressed.

#### 'Fresh supply of office space rises 96% across six cities'

New supply of office space nearly doubled in January-June to 23.7 million square feet across six cities on lower base effect and rise in demand, as per a Colliers India report

#### 12.1 mn sq ft Supply of new office space during

Jan-June 2021 across six cities -Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Pune, Mumbai and Delhi-NCR

>2.5X Growth in gross leasing of office space across the six cities during January-June 2022, amid high demand — at 27.5 mn sq ft, rising from 10.3 mn sq ft in the corresponding period of the previous year

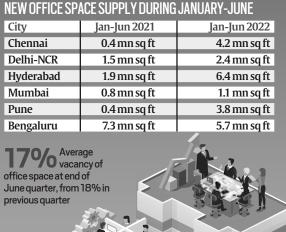
**CORPORATE OCCUPIERS** are now going ahead with major expansion plans, having shrugged

off major uncertainties they had witnessed over the last two years on account of the pandemic

**DIP IN VACANCY SEEN FOR** THE FIRST TIME AFTER 10 **OUARTERS AMID** Surging demand ■ Limited new supply

**DEVELOPERS** have been grappling with the after-effects of soaring inflation, resulting in higher cost of construction of projects amidst global supply chain disruptions in timely procurement of materials

Source: Colliers India/PT





10-15% of the planned projects may be pushed ahead as developers are exploring innovative ways to tide through the aforementioned challenges, the report said

### Volkswagen **CEO Diess** to step down



Herbert Diess Reuters file

Vienna: Herbert Diess, the Volkswagen chief executive officer whose image had been tarnished in the fallout from the automaker's emissions-cheating scandal, is stepping down.

In a surprise announcement Friday, the Wolfsburg, Germanybased company said Diess will depart September 1 "by mutual consent" with the board. No reason was given for his departure. Oliver Blume, CEO of VW brand Porsche, will succeed Diess.

Diess took over as chief executive in 2018 and his contract was set to expire in 2025. AP

राजस्थान स्कूल शिक्षा परिषद्

सर्वपल्ली डॉ. राधाकृष्णन शिक्षा संकुल, जवाहर लाल नेहरू मार्ग, जयपुर फोन: 0141-2700366, E-mail: rajssa\_acctt@yahoo.co.in क्रमांक-संस्कुशिप/ICT/25:75 Computer Lab./2022-23/3247 दिनांक- 19.07.2022 बोली आमंत्रण सूचना 13/2022-23

इच्छुक बोलीदाताओं से राजस्थान के शासकीय माध्यमिक/उच्च माध्यमिक विद्यालयों में कम्प्यूटर सिस्टम, यूपीएस आदि की आपूर्ति एवं नेटवर्किंग और विद्युतीकरण कार्य के लिए दर अनुबन्ध हेतु दिनांक 16.08.2022 को समय 6:00 P.M. बजे तक ई-बोली आमंत्रित की जाती है। बोली के अन्य विवरण स्टेट पब्लिक प्रोक्योरमेंट www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, www.rajsmsa.nic.in पर देखे जा सकते है। UBN: RSE2223GLRC00923, Est. Amount: 3245.00 Lakh

राज.संवाद/सी/5402/2022-2023

# RailTel

bidders for "Supply of Permanently Lubricated hDPE Telecom duct to use as underground optical fibre cable conduits size 40/33 mm with accessories as per TEC Spec No. TEC/GR/FA/CDS-008/04/ALIG-19 with late amendment." Estimated Cost: Rs. 4,62,83,054/Tender opening date : 17-08-2022 on GeM
portal. (GEM Bid No. GEM/2022/B/2369956) Note: NIT, Tender Document are available of

RailTel website www.railtelindia.com and Addendum/ corrigendum if any will be uploaded

Date: - 15-07-2022

#### Office of the Executive Engineer Water **Resources Division, Udaipur**

No.EE/Acc./2022/3190

DIPR/C/9574/2022

E-NIT No. 02/2022-23

NIB No.-WRD2223A0232

Bids for the works mentioned below are invited from interested bidders from Dated 22.07.2022 to dated 10.08.2022 till 6.00 PM. Name of Work

Tender Tender Tender Bid Time Period No. Amount Fees processing Fees Security 6 12 Months including Restoration Work of Jhadol Minor Irrigation Project Village Jhadol, Tehsi Jhadol, District Udaipur 2.0% = 4.92 rainy season & Can Regulation Period. UBN No.- WRD2223WSOB00914 109.06 0.5% = 0.55 | 12 Months including Repairing of Kanthariya Dam and Canal Tehsil Jhadol. District Udaipur 2.0% = 2.19 rainy season & Cana Regulation Period. UBN No. - WRD2223WSOB00915

Other particulars of bid may be visited on the Procurement portal http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in. http://sppp.raj.nic.in, www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in & www.water.rajasthan.gov.in/wrd

> **Executive Engineer Water Resources Division**

राजस्थान सरकार

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग-वत सीकर ( डाक बंगला कैम्पस सीकर 332001; email : piu\_sikar1@rediffmail.com, seskr.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in) क्रमांक:- एस.ई/सीकर/2022/डी.-1009

ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या : 10/2022-2023

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से निम्न विवरण के अनुसार कार्यों के लिए उपयुक्त श्रेणी मे सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान मे उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत संवेदको एवं गुज्य सरकार/केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनो/केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/रेल्वे इत्यादि में उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के 'एए' 'ए' एवं 'बी' श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से कार्यो हेतु ई –टेण्डरिंग के माध्यम से निर्धारित प्रपत्र मे निविदाएं प्राप्त की जावेंगी।

					•		
क्र.सं.	खण्ड का नाम	कार्य/पैकेज का नाम	टेन्डर लागत	कार्य पूर्ण करने	ई ग्रास पर चालान बनाने	ऑनलाईन निविदा	
			(लाखो में)	की अवधि	हेतु कार्यालय का नाम	खोलने का स्थान	
1	I-SIKAR	RJ-29-13/DLB/BA/SKR/2022-23	206.00	05 Month	DnI SIKAR	Circle Sikar	
2	I-SIKAR	RJ-29-14/DLB/BA/SKR/2022-23	213.00	05 Month	DnI SIKAR	Circle Sikar	
3	I-SIKAR	RJ-29-15/DLB/BA/SKR/2022-23	185.45	05 Month	DnI SIKAR	Circle Sikar	
4	I-SIKAR	Strengthening and Widening of	147.00	05 Month	DnI SIKAR	Circle Sikar	
		Shobhawati to Shakambari					
		Mata Ji Road Ditstt-Sikar					
		Width 31 Road Ditsti Sikai					
<del></del>							

NIB NO. PWD2223A1103 UBNNO.PWD2223WSOB03947,PWD2223WSOB03949, PWD2223WSOB03950 PWD2223WSOB03951 DIPR/C/9538/2022

(सायर मल मीणा) अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सा.नि.वि. वृत सीकर

### **Mahindra Bank** Mumbai: Kotak Mahindra

net profit of Rs 2,071.10 26.10 per cent higher from its net profit of Rs 1,641.90 crore a year ago.

income in the June 2022 quarter has also surged around 19.20 per cent as it shot from Rs 3,941.70 crore in Q1FY22 to Rs 4,697 crore in the June 2022 quarter. Total income was at Rs 8,582 crore against Rs 7,831 crore in Q1FY22. ENS

to Rs 4,204 crore in Q4 of last fiscal. Recoveries and upgrades of NPAs, excluding write-offs and sale, were Rs 5,443 crore as compared to Rs 4,693 crore in Q4FY22. The gross NPAs writtenoff in Q1FY23 were Rs 1,126 crore. The provisioning coverage ratio on NPAs was 79.6 as of June.

# Yes Bank profit up 54%

Mumbai: Yes Bank on Saturday reported a 54.17 per cent growth in consolidated net profit at Rs 314.14 crore for the quarter ended June 2022, driven by core income growth and a fall in pro-The private sector lender re-

ported a net profit of Rs 310.63 crore on a standalone basis as against Rs 206.84 crore in the year-ago period and Rs 367.46 crore in the preceding March quarter. On a consolidated basis, its

core net interest income grew 32 per cent to Rs 1,850 crore in April-June 2022-23 on the back of 14 per cent increase in advances and 0.30 per cent expansion in the net interest margin to 2.4 per cent. Non-interest income de-

clined 10.1 per cent to Rs 781 crore, largely due to the reverses in the treasury operations and the bank management said excluding the impact of the treasury impact, the other income was up 35 per cent.

Lower slippages of Rs 1,072 crore as against Rs 2,233 crore in the year-ago period helped contain the provisions, which were down 62 per cent to Rs 175 crore and aided the bottomline. PTI

#### Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR

में ई–प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं:				
कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत (रु.)	निविदा सूचना संख्या		
Construction of B.Sc. Nursing College and Hostels at Jalore.  UBN: RRC2223WLOB00432	1346.31 Lakh	ई−185/22−23		
Various Works at MDM Hospital, Jodhpur. UBN: RRC2223WSOB00434	340.50 Lakh	अल्पकालीन ई-186/22-23		
$\label{lem:additional} Additional\ Road\ Safety\ Works\ on\ Udaipur-Salumber\ Road\ and\ Salumber\ Bye-pass\ .$ $\ UBN:\ RRC2223WSOB00424$	213.26 Lakh	ई−189/22−23		
निर्विचा में सम्बन्धित प्रथम में निर्विचा सुन्क, भरोहर राशि, डाउनलोड करने व खोलने को तारीख सहित समूर्ण विचरण एवं संशोधन वेचसाइट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in. http://sppp.rajasthan.nic.in वच्च http://roads.rajasthan.gov.in/tsredr पर बच्चा वा सकती है। प्रचुक सरिवकों को अपने विहित्यह तसावस के साम्यम वे सेक्साई http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर रॉसरट के स्वाचा				

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Centre for training and research in Sudhdhowala, Chakrata Road, Dehradun 2480

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

(Consulting Services-Firm Selection)
he Government of Uttarakhand is being financed from the World Bank toward the cost of Public inancial Management Strengthening Project in Uttarakhand and intends to apply part of the roceeds for following consultancy service: Consultancy Services 10th August 2022 by 17:00 Hrs IST Consultancy Services for Hinng of IT Consultants for Customization, Development, Deployment, Integration and Maintenance of Municipal Account Software's for Urban Local Bodies (ULB) in Itterakbard. mail id given above (in rson, by post or by e-mail)

The term of reference (TOR)/Request for proposal for these assignments can be found at Audi Department website <a href="https://uttarakhandaudit.uk.gov.in">https://uttarakhandaudit.uk.gov.in</a>. Consultancy firm will be selected in accordance with QCBS method. Further information can be obtained during office hours from 1:0:00-17:00/brs IST. All documents must be signed, stamped and certified by the authorised person of the firm.

PROJECT DIRECTOR

#### Mahi Project, Banswara No.- EE/B&RC/Mahi/2022/372 Date- 15/07/2022 : Notice Inviting Bid No 03/2022-23

Office of the Executive Engineer, B&RC Division,

Bids for 1) Renovation & Restoration work of Makanpura Minor Irrigation

Project Tehil Ghatol District Banswara and 2) Restoration of Daylab Talab and its Canal, Tehil Banswara, District Banswara are invited from interested bidders from 21.07.22 to 16.08.22 upto 6.00 pm and Bid opened on dated 17.08.22 at 03.00 pm. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement porta (https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) of the state and <a href="www.water.rajasthan.gov.in/wrd">www.water.rajasthan.gov.in/wrd</a> departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 177.14 Lacs and 299.95 Lacs (Total Rs. 477.09)

NIB No. WRD2223A0231 Item No 1 UBN No. WRD2223WSOB00912 Item No 2 UBN No. WRD2223WSOB00913

Sd/- Executive Engine B&RC Division DIPR/C/9648/2022 Mahi Project, Banswara

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत चूरू अल्पकालिन-ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या: 03/2022-23 वृत चूरू

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से जिला चूरू के अधीनस्थ क्षेत्र तहसील राजगढें में सड़व निर्माण कार्य हेतु उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान एवं राज्य सरकार के अन्य विभागों तथा केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/ केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/रेल्वे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के ''ए'' एवं "एए" श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से कार्यों हेतु ई-टेण्डरिंग के माध्यम से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में प्राप्त की जावेगी। निविदा से संबंधित विवरण वेबसाईट साईट www.dipronline.org व http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in एवं www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा ज

NIB No:-PWD2223A1218 UBN No. PWD2223WSOB04371 DIPR/C/9625/2022

(शिशपाल सिंह) अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सानिवि.वृत चूरू

हस्ता/-

New Delhi

# lengthy engagement on this

#### and development in quantum computing, explainable AI and Metaverse. Karnataka Bank New Delhi: Karnataka Bank saw a near 8% growth in net

profit for Q1FY23 at ₹114

crore, on rise in core income

and fall in bad loans. PTI

New Delhi: Tech Mahindra

and Mahindra University

inked a pact to set up a new

'Makers Lab' for research

### Google fires engineer who claimed chatbot is sentient

Bengaluru: Alphabet Inc's Google said on Friday it has dismissed a senior software engineer who claimed the company's artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot LaMDA

was a self-aware person. Google, which placed software engineer Blake Lemoine on leave last month, said he had violated company policies and that it found his claims on LaMDA to be "wholly unfounded."

"It's regrettable that despite

topic, Blake still chose to persistently violate clear employment and data security policies that include the need to safeguard product information," a Google spokesperson said in an email to Reuters

Last year, Google said that LaMDA – Language Model for Dialogue Applications - was built on the company's research showing Transformer-based language models trained on dialogue could learn to talk about essentially anything. **REUTERS** 

# 12 THE WORLD



#### BIDEN HAS HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS STRAIN President Joe Biden likely contracted a highly contagious variant of the Covid-19

spreading rapidly through the US, according to an update from his doctor The variant, BA.5, is an offshoot of the Omicron strain that emerged late last year, and it's believed to be responsible for the vast majority of coronavirus cases in the country.

TOPOFTHE WORLD



Prayuth Chan-ocha

#### **THAILAND PM** sails through last no-confidence

Bangkok: Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chanocha sailed through his fourth and final no-confidence vote in Parliament on Saturday ahead of a general election next year. The vote came after four days of debate targeting Prayuth and 10 of his Cabinet members for economic mismanagement and their failure to prevent corruption. All 10 ministers also survived the vote. Prayuth won 256 confidence votes, with 206 against and nine Cholanan abstaining. Srikaew, head of the main opposition Pheu Thai Party, said the vote result was disappointing as it didn't reflect public sentiment. "We know we cannot win in the Parliament, but we will not lose in the general election," he said.

4 KALIBR CRUISE MISSILES FIRED BY RUSSIA; U.S., UN, CONDEMN ATTACK

# Russian missiles hit Odesa port, putting landmark grain deal at risk

Moscow cannot be trusted to implement deal, says Zelenskyy

**AGENCIES** KYIV, JULY 23

RUSSIAN MISSILES hit Ukraine's Black Sea port of Odesa just hours after Moscow and Kyiv signed deals to allow grain exports to resume from there. Ûkraine's Foreign Ministry denounced Saturday's airstrikes as 'spit in the face" of Turkey and the United Nations, which bro-

kered the agreements. Two Russian Kalibr cruise missiles hit the port's infrastructure and Ukrainian air defences brought down two others, the Ukrainian military's Southern Command said. Command spokeswoman Nataliya Humenyuk said no grain storage facilities were hit and she said there were no reports of injuries.

"It took less than 24 hours for Russia to launch a missile attack on Odesa's port, breaking its promises and undermining its commitments before the UN and Turkey under the Istanbul agree-



The site of a Russian missile strike in a sea port of Odesa, Ukraine, on Saturday. Reuters

ment," Ukrainian Foreign Ministry spokesman Oleg Nikolenko said. "In case of non-fulfillment, Russia will bear full responsibility for a global food crisis.'

Nikolenko described the missile strike on the 150th day of Russia's war in Ukraine as Russian President Vladimir Putin's "spit in the face of UN Secretary-General Antonio

Guterres and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who made great efforts to reach agreement." Guterres' office said the UN chief "unequivocally condemns" the strikes.

Ukrainian Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the strike showed Moscow could not be trusted to implement the deal. However, public broadcaster Suspilne quoted a government minister said preparations continued to restart grain exports from the country's Black Sea ports.

violate the

agreement?

IT WAS unclear what the

strikes were targeting

and whether any grain

infrastructure was hit.

promise to avoid attack-

ing parts of the Ukrainian

ports that are not directly

used for grain exports. If

there were military tar-

gets nearby, Russia may

have been trying to ex-

ploit a loophole. Yet even

if the strikes did not vio-

agreement, it seems clear

that they went against

the spirit of it.

late the letter of the

Also, Russia did not

US Ambassador to Ukraine, Bridget Brink, denounced the Russian strikeas "outrageous." "The Kremlin continues to weaponise food," she tweeted. "Russia must be held to account."

Orban urges new EU strategy on Ukraine, says sanctions failed

**REUTERS** BUDAPEST, JULY 23

THE EUROPEAN Union needs a new strategy on the war in Ukraine as sanctions against Moscow have not worked, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban said on Saturday.

"A new strategy is needed which should focus peace talks and drafting a good peace proposal...instead of winning the war," Orban said in Romania.

He said in his speech that the Western strategy on Ukraine has been built on four pillars - that Ukraine can win a war against Russia with NATO weapons, that sanctions would weaken Russia and destabilise its leadership, that sanctions would hurt Russia more than Europe, and that the world would line up in support of Europe. Orban said this strategy has failed as governments in Europe are collapsing "like dominoes", energy prices have surged and a strategy was needed now.

**'I AM THE UNDERDOG'** 

# Sunak pledges to put UK on crisis footing if elected

GRANTHAM, ENGLAND, JULY 23

FORMER BRITISH finance minister Rishi Sunak, one of two remaining candidates to become Britain's next prime minister, on Saturday described himself as the underdog in the contest.

Sunak's resignation helped trigger a revolt that saw Prime Minister Boris Johnson agree to step down after a series of scandals. Members of the ruling Conservative Party will vote for a successor over the summer, with an announcement due on Sept. 5.

Sunak led all rounds of the voting among Conservative Party lawmakers to reduce the field to two candidates.

But it is foreign secretary Liz Truss who seems to have gained the advantage so far among the 200,000 members of the governing party who will ultimately choose the winner. Truss held a 24-point lead over Sunak in a YouGov poll of Conservative Party members published on Thursday.

"Be in no doubt, I am the underdog," Sunak said in a speech in Grantham, central England, the birthplace of former prime minister Margaret Thatcher.

Truss would be only Britain's



voting among Conservative Party lawmakers. Reuters

third female PM after Thatcher and Theresa May.

"The forces that be want this to be a coronation for the other candidate but I think members want a choice and they are prepared to listen," he said.

In his speech Sunak, laid out his Thatcherite credentials. promising careful management of the economy before tax cuts.

In an interview for Saturday's Times newspaper, Sunak said he would put the government on a

#### USA

#### Two children diagnosed with monkeypox

New York: Two children have been diagnosed with monkeypox in the US, health officials said on Friday. One is a toddler in California and the other an infant who is not a US resident, but was tested while in Washington, DC, CDC said. The children were described as being in good health and receiving treatment. How they caught the disease is being investigated, but officials think it was through household transmission. Other details weren't immediately disclosed. AP

**SAUDI ARABIA** 

#### Man who helped Israeli sneak into Mecca arrested

Riyadh: Police in Mecca say they have arrested a Saudi man who helped an Israeli-Jewish reporter sneak into Islam's holiest city, defying a rule that only Muslims can enter the area. The outcry appears to have prompted Saudi police late Friday to announce the arrest of the Saudi man, who they say facilitated the entry of the journalist into Mecca in explicit violation of regulations prohibiting the entry of non-Muslims. The Saudi male national, whose identity was not revealed, was referred to prosecution and remains under arrest.

# Pak, China welcome 'interested third nations' joining CPEC

**SAJJAD HUSSAIN** ISLAMABAD, JULY 23

ALL-WEATHER allies Pakistan and China have decided to welcome "interested" third countries joining the multi-billion dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), saying it was "an open and inclusive platform" for mutually beneficial cooperation.

The 3rd meeting of the CPEC Joint Working Group (JWG) on International Cooperation and Coordination (JWG-ICC) was held in virtual mode on Friday.

During the meeting, cochaired by Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood and China's Assistant Foreign Minister Wu Jianghao, both sides reviewed the implementation of CPEC and its expansion to the jointly agreed priority areas, according to a statement by the Foreign Office.

It was noted that as a flagship of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the CPEC had broken new ground in strengthening international and regional connectivity, especially in the context of its extension to Afghanistan.

'As an open and inclusive platform, both sides welcomed interested third parties to benefit from avenues for mutually beneficial cooperation opened up by CPEC," said Foreign Office.

During Friday's meeting, Pakistan and China also agreed that CPEC's development had reached a new point, with increasing emphasis on high-quality development of industry, agriculture, IT, and science and technology, while ensuring tangible socio-economic benefits for the people.



Hamza Shehbaz takes oath as Punjab CM in Pakistan. (Twitter@the\_nation)

#### Hamza Sharif takes oath as Punjab CM Lahore: Hamza Shehbaz, the son

of Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif, on Saturday took oath as the chief minister of Punjab province. Punjab Governor Balighur Rehman administered the oath to Hamza, 47. Pakistan's SC on Saturday allowed Hamza to remain as the "trustee" CM till hearing resumes on Monday, but barred him from using his powers for "political gains".

*Islamabad:* Pakistan's top military brass has discussed the ongoing peace talks with the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) outfit facilitated by the Army to prevent further terror attacks in the country, according to the Dawn report on Saturday. "Fastpaced developments in the realm of strategic and conventional policies, the importance of peace in Afghanistan for sustainable development and the operational preparedness of the armed forces" were discussed, the Pakistan Army said.

#### Military brass talk truce with TTP



### Wildfire Sends Alarm Bells Ringing In U.S.

A fast-moving wildfire near Yosemite National Park exploded in size on Saturday and prompted evacuations. The Oak Fire, which began Friday afternoon southwest of the park near Midpines in Mariposa County, California, grew to 10.2 square miles by Saturday morning. AP

# Ranil may expand Cabinet to include all parties

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA COLOMBO, JULY 23

SRI LANKA'S newly-elected President Ranil Wickremesinghe is likely to expand his Cabinet to accommodate all opposition parties in the government, according to a senior minister.

Wickremesinghe on Friday appointed an 18-member Cabinet that included Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena.

The President is likely to expand the Cabinet to make it representative of all parties in Parliament, Tourism Minister Harin Fernando said, echoing

#### OVER 1,000 ARTEFACTS MISSING FROM GOVT BUILDINGS

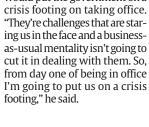
Colombo: More than 1,000 valuable artefacts, including items of vintage and antique value have reportedly gone missing from Sri Lanka's Presidential Palace and Prime Minister's official residence at Temple Trees after irate anti-government protesters occupied these premises, police said on Saturday. Special investigation teams have been formed to begin an investigation, it said. What is compounding the agony for the investigative officers is that the Sri Lankan Department of Archaeology does not have a detailed record of the antiques and different artefacts at the Presidential Palace, even though it has been gazetted as a place of archaeological importance, the report said. PTI

Wickremesinghe's thoughts to local media after taking the oath on Friday. However, he did not give any timeframe. Sri

Lanka's Cabinet met for the first time and discussed ways to normalise the situation in the economic-crisis hit country within a week by regularising functions of the government institutions a media report on Saturday.

The Cabinet also discussed the negotiations with the IMF which are underway to secure financial assistance. Meanwhile the Opposition requested PM Dinesh Gunawardena to summon the Parliament on July 25 to discuss attacks on peaceful protests at Galle Face on Friday.

Iternational human rights groups on Saturday also urged the president to immediately order security forces to cease use of force against protesters after troops and police cleared main camp following months of demonstrations.



#### Trump former adviser Bannon convicted of contempt of **US Congress**

REUTERS WASHINGTON, JULY 23



Steve

BANNON, a key associate former President Trump and an influential figure on the

American right, was con-

Friday of contempt of Congress for defying a subpoena from the committee probing last year's attack on the US Capitol, a verdict the panel called a "victory for the rule of law.

A jury found Bannon, 68, guilty of two misdemeanor counts for refusing to provide testimony or documents to the House of Representatives select committee as it scrutinises the Jan. 6. 2021, rampage by Trump supporters who tried to upend the results of the 2020 presidential election. Each count is punishable by 30 days to one year behind bars and a fine of \$100 to \$100,000. U.S. District Judge Carl Nichols set an Oct. 21 sentencing date.

Bannon was a key adviser to the Republican Trump's 2016 presidential campaign, then served as his chief White House strategist during 2017 before a falling out between them that was later patched up. Bannon also has played an instrumental role in right-wing media. "We lost a battle here today. We're at war," Bannon said.

Online Game Lets Players Shoot Virtual Soldiers While Raising Money For Real-life Resistance

# Opponents of coup in Myanmar fight regime with the help of a video game

RICHARD C. PADDOCK

SEIN LIN, a retired history teacher in Myanmar, had never played a video game in his life. But about a month ago, while scrolling through Facebook, he stumbled on War of Heroes - The PDF Game. He has been playing it

nearly nonstop ever since. For Sein Lin, 72, killing virtual Myanmar troops is a way of participating in real-life resistance to the country's ruthless military, which has killed thousands of citizens after seizing power in a

coup last year. Since its debut in March, War

of Heroes has been downloaded over 390,000 times. Many players say they are motivated by creators' pledge to donate proceeds to help finance resistance forces in Myanmar and aid those who have been displaced by the fighting.

Even though I can't kill soldiers who are killing civilians, killing in the game is satisfying. too," Sein Lin said. "One way or another, playing and clicking until I die will help the revolution." Myanmar's military, known

as the Tatmadaw, previously ruled the country for a half-century and has long been at war with its own citizens. Since oustng elected officials in the coup last year, the regime has attempted to crush dissent by arresting opposition leaders, gunning down unarmed protesters, bombing guerrilla encampments and burning thousands of homes.

Many regime opponents have fled to the jungle, where they have formed the People's Defense Force, or PDF, an army with more than 60,000 fighters under the leadership of the shadow National Unity Government. A similar number of fighters in urban areas have formed semi-autonomous guerrilla units, known as the local people's defense forces.

War of Heroes was created by three Myanmar-born developers who left the country be-



Members of the People's Defence Force in Myanmar showing War of Heroes on their cellphones. NYT

fore the generals seized power Feb. 1, 2021. One of them, Ko Toot, said they were motivated to create the game after the arrest and subsequent disappearance of tech industry colleagues in Myanmar who were involved, or whose family members were involved, in anti-coup protests. A paid version of the game

was released in mid-June, and within days it began landing regularly on lists of top 10 games at Apple's App Store in the US, and Singapore. "Myanmar people around the world are downloading it," Toot said. In the game, players go into battle and kill regime soldiers, moving up in rank as the game becomes harder. At higher levels, players can target civilian spies, turncoat celebrities who support the junta and coup leaders.

"We need you to join our resistance forces to protect innocent people From Evil Military Forces," says the game's App Store de-

New Delhi

scription. "Your duty is to join People's Defence Force and become the best freedom fighter."

The game's free version makes money when players watch ads. The paid version takes in revenue when players download it or buy ammunition. Gamers who play enough to make the equivalent of \$54 for the game receive a "certificate of achievement" for participating in the Spring Revolution, as the protests in Myanmar are known, and for donating money.

So far, the developers say they have donated \$90,000. About one-fifth of it has gone to help displaced people. The rest has been donated to more than two dozen local defense groups.

VPN to get around internet restrictions for access to the game. To avoid arrest at checkpoints, players uninstall the game from their phone before going out and download it again. The game has attracted some

Players in Myanmar need a

unlikely fans, among them a Buddhist monk and a member of the Tatmadaw. The game has become so popular that some soldiers are also playing. Since the coup, the number of defectors has grown. Those who stay in the military but are against the regime are known as "watermelons": army green on the outside and red, representing the pro-democracy movement, on the inside. NYT



# A Man of Many Parts

Back on the big screen after four years, Ranbir Kapoor has his heart set on his new avatars — his first double role, a mythological hero, a soon-to-be father

Alaka Sahani

FTER A four-year hiatus.  $Ranbir\,Kapoor\,returns\,to\,the$ limelight with a slew of releases. But months before these, the Bollywood "lover boy" threw a googly at unsuspecting audiences by tying the knot, at long last. Kapoor 2.0 is rejuvenated, responsible and is raring to go. He is picking diverse characters hoping to chart unexplored terrains. He has his eyes set on the mass market and, quite uncharacteristically for the private person that Kapoor is, it also seems to involve making regular appearances on our social media feeds. Routine media interactions on multi-city promotional tours aside, he is making reels with influencers, fun videos and engaging in banter with paparazzi trailing him.

In his latest film *Shamshera*, he plays a double role — father Shamshera and his son Balli — for the first time on screen. With this Yash Raj Films outing, an ambitious dacoitaction drama set in 18th-century British-colonised India and filmed extensively in the stunning Nubra Valley, the star creates a larger-than-life image.

As if to make up for the gap between his previous release, Sanju (2018) and Shamshera, which released on Friday, Kapoor has lined up three more big-budget releases in quick succession. "The audience memory is short. I'm trying to do more work now," says the actor. His next, Brahmastra Part One: Shiva, the first part of an Indian mythology fantasy adventure helmed by Avan Mukerii, will release on September 9. Next year, he will be seen in a yetuntitled Luv Ranjan-directed rom-com opposite Shraddha Kapoor. And in Sandeep Reddy Vanga's crime drama Animal, playing a character with "shades of extreme grey". Some of his projects have suffered owing to unplanned delays, but, he says, he's not the kind of actor who will "tell the producer or director that I have only 40 days, so let's finish the film. I'm ready to give 300-400 days to a film if the role demands it." Shamshera, with all its visual ef-

pleted while *Brahmastra* needed five.

A maverick with a propensity for off-beat potboilers, Kapoor is currently headlining multiple projects which are positioned as mass entertainers. For *Shamshera*, he underwent

fects, took two-and-a-half years to be com-



Being an industry insider, he is familiar with the roller-coaster life of a star and aware that all it takes is a Friday to upend stardom. "I've witnessed super-stardom as well as failure in my family. The movie always comes before the actor or star. The movies should be the superstars with actors essaying their characters in them. When Amitabh Bachchan or the Khans (Shah Rukh, Salman and Aamir) acted in movies, the intention was not to be a 'superstar' but to chase excellence," says Kapoor, who hopes he can continue the tradition of providing the audience good entertainment.

dience good entertainment. In his 15-year career, Kapoor's film choices have been unconventional for an A-lister, with even his father frowning at them. If his muchhyped debut Saawariya (2007) tanked, the hit Bachna Ae Haseeno (2008) saved the day. Undaunted, he followed his instincts. He threw his weight behind directors such as Anurag Basu in Barfi! (2012) and Jagga Jasoos (2017). His portrayal of different stages of Janardhan "Jordan" Jakhar's life in *Rockstar* (2011) remains breathtaking despite drawing criticism from some quarters. He took a deep dive into the '60s to essay the role of a hot-tempered street fighter in Anurag Kashyap's Bombay Velvet (2015), whose co-writer Vasan Bala says, "Ranbir has the dancing grace of Gene Kelly and the acting chops of (Marlon) Brando and

it's not an exaggeration."
In 2009, successes like Wake Up Sid, Ajab

Prem Ki Ghazab Kahani and Rocket Singh: Salesman of the Year shaped his dominant screen persona — boyish, charming, misfit and vulnerable. "The kind of roles I was getting earlier were that of young boys. Their conflicts are related to what the present generation goes through. In Wake Up Sid, Rockstar, Yeh Jawani Hai Deewani (2013) and Tamasha (2015), I played the characters I could relate to," says the 39-year-old actor. He's done more than one film for Basu, Mukerji and Imtiaz Ali, forging collaborations to escape run-of-the-mill fare. While

Ali calls him a "super actor", *Shamshera* director Karan Malhotra is impressed with his "childlike behaviour and curiosity".

His choices, however, came at a cost. Some of the risks Kapoor took have been rewarding, bringing in impressive box-office collections, such as Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani, Ae Dil Hai Mushkil (2016) and Raajneeti (2010) or accolades, such as Wake Up Sid and Barfi!. But he also

and *Barfi!*. But he also learnt to cope with setbacks early on in his career. "This journey is not easy. My debut film *Saawariya* was a huge disaster. Facing failure in your first film teaches you a lot. There's a lot of luck involved; barring the hard work you put in, you can't control anything," Kapoor had told this writer ahead of *Jagga Jasoos*' release.

After the film's dismal box-office performance, despite its grand vision and ingenious music, Kapoor chose to essay the role of a controversial, albeit popular, actor Sanjay Dutt in

his biopic *Sanju*. With a box-office earning of Rs 500-plus crore, it became his highest-grossing movie till date. Did that make the actor gravitate towards big-budget entertainers? "What does a *masala* entertainer mean?" Kapoor ruminates and then replies, "It means multi-genre; it has everything. To make such a movie is much harder than others. We have seen this with movies such as *Baahubali* (*The Beginning*, 2015 and *The Conclusion*, 2017), *RRR* (2022), *KGF* (*Chapter 1*, 2018 and *Chapter 2*,

2022) and Pushpa: The Rise (2021). However, I didn't follow a herd mentality while picking an entertaining movie like Shamshera. I instinctively made these choices." The actor, however, confesses that a movie like Besharam (2013) "probably came from a wrong intention". After doing a few slice-of life movies, he thought of adding "masala" to his filmography. "It doesn't work that way," he says.

Bala endorses the transition in Kapoor's career

trajectory. "It's not easy being a great artiste and a superstar with unreasonable expectations, to always make great artistic choices and also deliver blockbuster hits. Ranbir and Shah Rukh Khan broke in, all guns blazing, with daring choices. But superstardom will eventually demand only and only commercial exploits. That's the nature of the business we are in. They can't be too selfish and unabashed as just an artiste, the way they started. Ranbir is at that curve now shouldering mega-budget movies."

Not only is Kapoor reinventing himself to earn the status of a mass hero but is also aiming for a pan-Indian audience. "Some years ago, the measure of success was the Rs 100-crore club. Today, it's pan-India success," he quips. Shamshera and Brahmastra will also release in south Indian languages.

Kapoor's current crop of work reflects a significant departure from his earlier belief that "hero-ism doesn't come easily" to him. According to him, the evolution of his screen characters was determined by the "opportunities" that came his way and the "choices" he made. "The opportunity to act in Shamshera came at the right time. I found the story credible and the characters I play exciting," says Kanoor, who was the one to have orchestrated his first double role. "Initially, I was offered the son's role in Shamshera. Then, the greed of an actor took hold of me. I offered myself to the director (Malhotra) and producer (Aditya Chopra) for the father's role. We had to do looktests, of course," he says. Malhotra lets on that Kapoor had to step out of his comfort zone since his acting is not "loud". "He's worked hard in imbibing my sensibilities into his performance and given it his best," says the director.

Like his khaandaan, Kapoortakes a keen interest in the music of his films. "For every movie, I go for song recordings. Working with artistes such as Pritam, AR Rahman, Mohit Chauhan, Arijit Singh, Irshad Kamil and Amitabh Bhattacharya has been instrumental in my growth as a star. If you give me a song, it gives a tone and direction to the character," says Kapoor. Ji Huzoor (Shamshera) and Kesariya (Brahmastra) are raking in the views, over 43 million and 56 million on YouTube (at the time of going to press), respectively. Though the lat-

New Delhi

ter is garnering mixed-bag reactions. Pritam, who's given music to Kapoor's *Ajab Prem Ki Ghazab Kahani*, *Barfi!*, *Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani* and *Ae Dil Hai Mushki!*, says: "Ranbir emotes it perfectly, keeping in mind what the song needs. The way he dances with ease and makes the steps look easy...he owns the songs, be it in *Ae Dil...* or *Rockstar*. He enjoys every bit of it and that shows on the screen."

Coinciding with his blockbuster-oriented developments are new milestones in his personal life. His intimate April wedding with actor Alia Bhatt in his Bandra home's balcony, their "favourite" courtship spot, was followed by the recent announcement: "Our baby...coming soon". "Marriage," Kapoor says, "subconsciously changes things even though Alia and I were dating for four years. Two days after we got married, we were back at work. Then, she had to shoot in London for 45 days." When Bhatt returned home, after wrapping up the shoot for her debut American film, the spy thriller *Heart of Stone*, Kapoor was waiting outside the Mumbai airport to receive her. Social media-shy Kapoor is now more forthcoming

media-shy Kapoor is now more forthcoming. During the lockdown, Kapoor lost his father to cancer. Now, as he prepares for parenthood, he says, "Today, I understand that he (Rishi) has been a great father. My father has passed on great values to my sister and me. I would like to pass them on to my children. While growing up, we didn't see our father much. He was always working. We were brought up by our mother who sacrificed her professional life for us." He is proud and happy that his mother, who had quit acting after her marriage at the age of 21, is once again enjoying her work. He is categorical about not wanting Bhatt to "sacrifice her dreams" after having a baby.

Kapoor has always harboured the desire to turn director one day. "I definitely have a burning ambition to direct — that's something I always wanted to do," he says. His turn as a producer, however, went off far too disastrously for Kapoor to try his hand at it again. "I don't think I have the required skill set," he says, referring to the debacle that was Jagga Jasoos, which he had co-produced. There is one more role he wants to take up though: that of a writer. "During the pandemic, I have written a story that I would like to direct. I need to muster some confidence before I do that," he says. That, however, has to wait. Right now, the father-tobe is building a nursery for his first child.





In his latest film

Shamshera, Kapoor

plays a double role —

father Shamshera and

his son Balli—for the

first time on screen

# **DOWN IN JUNGLELAND**



Ranjit Lal Ranjit Lal is an author, environmentalist and

# Saviour or Sinner?

They have many benefits, but the cultivation of palm oil also has severe environmental fallouts

**ONDER:** IF there's one palm that stands head and shoulders above all others in terms of its usefulness, it has got to be the oil palm. This tree, which may soar to over 20 m in height, has two species: one native to West and north-west Africa, and the other to tropical Central and South America. The African variety has taken to life in Southeast Asia — especially in Indonesia and Malaysia and we are now offering it large tracts of suitable tropical habitat, too. There's no environmental altruism involved, there's just one word: oil.

The oil extracted from both the fruit and kernel of the  $oil\,palm\,(its\,yield\,is\,much\,higher\,than\,that\,of\,the\,other$ palms) is like manna from heaven for miscellaneous purposes. It's been in use for 5,000 years, and during the Industrial Revolution, the British used it to lubricate heavy machinery. Because it contains more saturated fats than other vegetable oils, it makes the perfect cooking medium for deep-frying. It contains no trans-fat and is great for baking and making pastry dough. It has been gleefully pounced upon by the manufacturers of commercial foods, from chips to cheese puffs. It is as stable as any wellgoverned democracy ought to be and maintains quality, flavour and consistency. It is estimated that each person on Earth consumed 7.7 kg of the stuff in the year 2015 and its demand is rising fast. In 2018-2019, world production of palm oil was 73.5 million metric tonnes.

All of this did not, of course, go down our gullets in some form or the other — we put it to other uses, too. Look closely at the labels of your shampoo, shaving cream, body lotions or detergents. Invariably, ingredients derived from palm oil will be among them. Hindustan Unilever's erstwhile product, Sunlight soap, has it. Then there's the tell-tale American brand Palmolive. It's believed that 70 per cent of such products have palm oil in one form or the other and that 50 per cent of all the products used by urban Indians have palm oil in them.

The other big use of palm oil is in the production of



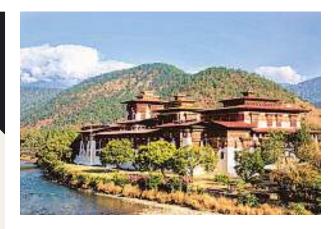
STANDING GUARD A palm-oil plantation in Malaysia

biodiesel. Ah, you might say, at last a renewable source of fuel for our motor vehicles and heavy machinery. Indonesia, in fact, aims to shift to 100 per cent palm-oil biodiesel and will need 15 million hectares of plantations to do so. The biggest biodiesel plant in the world is the Finnish Neste oil biodiesel plant based in Singapore, with a capacity of 800,000 tonnes per year. Half of all of Europe's palm-oil imports from Indonesia went into the production of biodiesel. In India, we import large amounts from Malaysia and Indonesia and when the Ukrainian crisis erupted, the prices sky-rocketed. We're now aiming to be atmanirbhar in its production!

The oil palm seems to be one of Mother Nature's magnanimous gifts to us, doesn't it? Not so fast..

**PLUNDER:** There are major issues with the use — and abuse — of palm oil. Apart from the fact that deep-fried food is bad for you, palm-oil biodiesel produces thrice the amount of carbon emission as conventional diesel. It may thus contribute to an increase in global warming. When I first saw aerial photographs of palm oil plantations, I had an uneasy feeling. Normally, when you see green canopies, your heart lifts. But these trees stood in endless rows like menacing storm-troopers, stiff and silent, the area around them clear-felled and lifeless. The vanquished - hundreds of thousands of hectares of speciesrich rainforest in Southeast Asia — has been ruthlessly bulldozed, changing entire ecosystems and upending the lives of locals. The critically endangered Sumatran orangutan, tiger and rhino will soon have nowhere to run or hide as forests fall around them. Tribal people have had their lives turned upside down as palm-oil companies have bulldozed their forests, forcing many to relocate. Some have got jobs, but there has been wholesale exploitation here too, aided and abetted by governments that would rather look the other way.

In India, we are now casting our covetous eyes on the biodiversity-rich rainforests of the Northeast and Andamans, chainsaws at the ready and Rs 11,000 crore waiting to be invested, even as environmentalists scream blue murder. There are three lakh hectares already under water-guzzling (each tree requires over 360 litres of water per day) palm-oil plantations and the government wants to increase this to 6.5 lakh hectares in the next five years. The recent declaration that henceforth plantations would come under green (or, God forbid, was it forest?) cover calculations makes clear the government's intentions. As always, we seem hell-bent on turning a saviour into a sinner.







A WALK IN THE CLOUDS (Clockwise from above, left) Punakha dzong; a snowy morning at Phobjika Valley; Tiger's Nest Monastery; a farmhouse in Phobjika; monks out on a stroll

# OF DRUK, DZONG AND DATSHI

A brush with beauty and mortality in the Land of the Thunder Dragon

Arefa Tehsin

EACE IS overrated. When our life flashes before our eyes in that penultimate moment, will we remember the calm or the torrents? The quiet or the adventure? One such life-flashing memory for me arrived in the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan, as close as you can get to the last Shangri-la. We were driving from Phobjika to Bumthang Valley. The dells and hills were ablaze with blinding snow. The freshly snowed-in mountain road was as treacherous as Judas with his kiss, making our car skid to the edge of the great fall with the slightest break. Our hearts were sinking like the Titanic as my partner, Aditya, drove us through not one, but four mountain passes before the roads were completely snowed in. And we lived to tell the tale.

Druk Yul — the Land of the Thunder Dragon — is a place at the edge of imagination. A song passed down centuries in a timeless rhyme. It is a land of fiercely guarded traditions, no traffic lights, pink-cheeked dzongs against brilliant blue skies and thasha — the ashes of ancestors — arranged by the hillsides and eternalised in clay. A land where every other ravine is associated with an ogress, where 70 per cent of the country is shrouded in primeval forests; where butter is not on toast but in tea and chilli is not an ingredient but the main dish!

Bhutan opened in the 1970s for the world and, today, tourists spend a mandated \$250 a day to witness its wonders. A marriage was arranged between the mystic and modern with the monarchy lifting the ban on television in 1999. The mobile-toting monks, men and women clad in *gho* and *kira*, prayer wheels swirling in mountain streams, and music bands playing guitar to the tune of Lamborghini in the night clubs of Paro are a proof of arranged marriages that last.

At the Indian border town Jaigaon, it took us more than 45 minutes to scramble through gruelling traffic and garbage dumps. As soon as we crossed the Bhutan Gate and went a few feet away from our motherland, we were profoundly embarrassed to see the orderliness. It was a place free of mayhem, plastic bags, tobacco and





men peeing on walls. One country striving towards vikaas and the other towards happiness. It posed before us a pertinent life question: If two aliens landed on earth, one on each side of the Bhutan Gate, would they think they were on two different planets? It is mandated in the Bhutanese constitution that the land-locked country will have 60 per cent forest cover for all times to come. "Bhaisa'ab, such total waste of land!" an Uncleji would shake his head and declare, "Good we don't have such bloody nuisance in our Constitution!" At least there are some things in which most Indians stand united.

As we drove across the kingdom, graz-

ing yaks, snow-fed rivers in deep gorges and forested hills stretching to the horizon remained our constant companions. The houses and buildings made of rammed earth, wattle and daub and intricate woodwork gave the pockets of civilisation the feel of medieval towns.

 $Who \, can \, forget \, the \, night life \, in \, Thimphu$ and the hulking dzong above a serpentine river blinking up at the sun in Paro? And, ah, the Tiger's Nest! A monastery perched on sheer granite cliffs. The tantric Guru Rinpoche supposedly flew there on a tiger's back, pinned a demon and meditated for three months. We raised a toast of red rice

beer to the unfortunate demon responsible for this miraculous monastery (giving us the pleasure of an exuberant hike) at the café, My Kind of Place. It came highly recommended by Sunil, who had planned our self-drive trip. We could sense why. The chef Karma from Haa valley, who spoke about momos like the raga of malhaar, made us see music in food.

We revelled in stories Bhutan is made of. The fairy tale-ish Dochu-la, pinned with icicles, waiting to house a fable. Mebar-tsho, the Burning Lake, of buried treasures and butter lamps. The 17th-century Punakha dzong at the chuzom - confluence of Mo Chhu (female) and Pho Chhu (male) rivers, flowing forever in a symphony. Chimi Lakhang, the temple of the giant phallus of the divine mad man, who would shoot an arrow from a mountain-top and make love to a woman in the village it landed. Yes, I know, the last story got your attention.

In this land of happiness, one factor that contributed significantly to ours was the low-priced, good quality spirits, be it Raven, the vodka, or Zimzun, the peach wine. We flitted across the realm like nectar-happy butterflies. At our lunches in farmhouses, there was always the home-brewed Ara to go with ema datshi, buckwheat and generous dollops of yak cheese and meats. This chewy drink is made of rice, eggs and fire, is served hot and looks like molten moonshine. Ara found us even in the blazingly beautiful, glacier-carved valley of Tang.

There was beauty everywhere, sure, but the one we lost our hearts utterly to was the sweeping valley of Phobjika. Luminescent, lyrical, and the winter home of the stoic black-necked cranes who famously eluded Salim Ali all his life. The valley has sunburst meadows dotted with charming little houses and farms. Pines shoulder the horizon, stars put the mountain sky on fire and bukhari warms the feet of winter nights.

Who says cold is frigid and aloof? It is opportunistic and tactile, wrapping its fingers around every little thing within reach. It can draw confessions out of cluttered hearts. And can tease with a glimpse of forever. Another memory that might flash before my eyes when all is forgotten is that of a cold, dark evening when we were out on a drive in the solitary Phobjika valley. The night had settled with her knees drawn. Her breath carried the perfume of slumbering pines. When just like that, the wintry illusionist sprinkled salt. We stopped the car and stepped out. Snowflakes melted on our warm skins. And we sensed, fleetingly, the cold lips of eternity pressed on our cheeks.

Arefa Tehsin is an author of fiction and non-fiction books and ex-honorary wildlife warden, Udaipur. Her latest book is Gupshup Goes to Prison

# A Moveable Feast On a food trail through the ancient silk route in Kyrgyzstan

Rinku Ghosh

THE LANTERN swings wildly as the muledrawn cart follows the distant light of the watch tower and nears the inn next to the bazaar. And what a bazaar it is! A colonnade of richly decorated shops, wrapped in velvet and satin, each pillar coated with copper and gilt; gigantic tiered lamps fed by butter, burning like the sun, and fairy lamps on the parapet etching their brilliance against the night sky. There's everything that you thought only belonged to bahisht — gold, silver, jewels, gems, silk, brocade, carpets, porcelain, spices, even the finest horses. The merchants are bedecked in the finest attire as are the Turkmen, their

beards waxed and curled. At the inn, the innkeeper refills the samovar, lines up fresh fruits from his orchard, keeps the lentil soup on the boil and stews the meat in its own juices. Meanwhile, the weary traveller sleeps to stories of how the tower was once the home of a warlord's daughter; how he confined her there to protect her from the prophecy that she would die of a spider bite at 16 and how he cried the day it came true. They say his grief shattered the tower.

Today, centuries later, we are at the same place, the tower still in a tumble, at Burana, which rests on the remains of the ancient city of Balasagun. Among the largest of medieval cities in Kyrgyzstan's Chui Valley, Balasagun was one of the capitals of the Turk Khanate

#### **ORIENTAL DELIGHTS**

(Clockwise from above) The tower at Burana; samsa, the precursor of the samosa; noodle soup or lagman

and a key town on the ancient Silk Road. This segment of the Chui Valley, situated between the Kyrgyz capital of Bishkek and Lake Issyk-Kul, was a crucial political, economic and military centre in Eurasia between the fifth and 12th centuries. Archaeological excavations revealed towns and monuments, reflecting the cultural and artistic traditions of many countries and peoples — from Byzantium to India and China. With its own sewage and irrigation systems and quarters for all religions, Balasagun was quite advanced for its time. Here, Mongols, Tartars, Persians and Chinese all left their footprints in the sands of time.

Our local host welcomes us into her yurt and serves kompot (compote), the way it was made in the days of wandering nomads - cold in summer, hot in winter. She had stewed berries, apricots, peaches, apples, rhubarb and plums in a cauldron of water with raisins and cinnamon.

If the desire for silk led to trade routes and a confluence of cultures in one of the earliest instances of globalisation, it was hunger that drove travellers to equip themselves with culinary skills, travellers sharing their food and the knowledge of making them. That's how the Silk Road became the site of the first experiments with global fusion food. And, given that

people were always on the move, the food pre-

pared had to have a long shelf life. At Pishhpek restaurant in Bishkek, we find the origin of our samosa, triangular pockets of flaky pastry with lamb meat cooked in its own fat with onions. Called samsa, this is interchangeable with cheese, cabbage and pumpkin stuffing, a flexibility which allowed Indian traders to take it back home. It gave energy on long journeys, where, at halts, there was feasting. The meat came from the grazing animals, sheep or horses, cooked over charcoal in cast-iron cauldrons with cabbage

Though Marco Polo was credited with bringing noodles from China, hand-pulled dough strips were used liberally along the Silk Road. A multicultural noodle soup or lagman, with farm vegetables and potatoes brought by Spanish and Portuguese traders, have now become native to these parts. Manti or steamed dumplings carry the aromatic whiffs of spices from Osh Bazaar, the Silk Road market that continues to thrive in Bishkek.

Could boorsok, shallow-fried dough pillows, to be had with



galloping motion of the horse churned it and separated the milk into curd. Drained, dried and lightly salted, it became portable food! Today, it is a roadside savoury, had with fermented mare milk or kumis, a probiotic for wanderers in the wilderness. Flatbreads or naans

honey, dates, jam,

raisins or butter, be the

precursor to our crispier

namkeens? Could the

cheese balls have been

derived from kurut acci-

are abundant, a legacy

of long-haul travellers, who carried them for satiety and carbohydrates. But the Silk Road had its own balance of "hot" and "cold" foods to avoid stomach aches on arduous journeys. Yogurt and garlic, pomegranates and walnuts, apricots and lamb, peaches and trout. The spice bazaars are still there as are the gold mines (Kyrgyz gold is high-grade). But it is the shared food that has become a cultural icon, a testament to a borderless world that was, and still can be, lived.

# ARTS et o

# 'Repression is what I've questioned'

Bangladeshi photographer Shahidul Alam on his first retrospective in Asia, his days in jail and what worries him

Vandana Kalra

Your exhibition 'Singed but not burnt' at Emami Art, Kolkata (till August 20), documents the shift from early photorealistic images to documentary work, like the *Crossfire* series (2010), on extra-judicial executions in Bangladesh. Can you talk about your work that straddles art and activism?

I have developed a visual vocabulary where politics cannot be disengaged from my art. Photography's ability to provide information was not what was needed in the case of *Crossfire*. The story was known. The need was to build resistance, to shake people, to get under their skin, and to challenge a repressive regime.

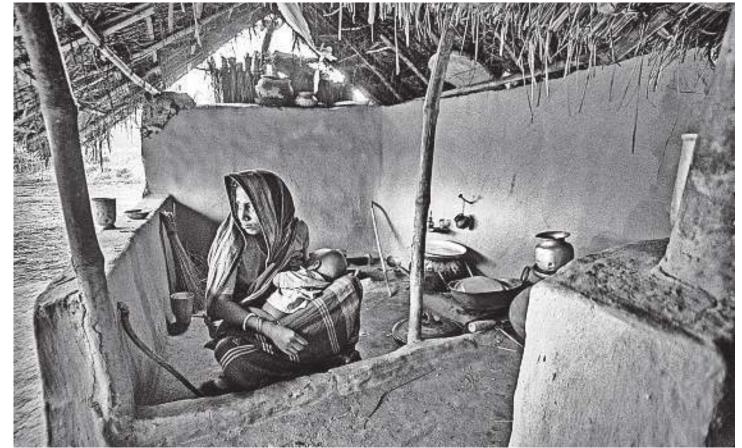
In the 1980s, you left London and moved to Dhaka to pursue photography. What led you to establish a conducive ecosystem through initiatives like Drik Picture Library, Pathshala (photography school), Chobi Mela (Asia's first international photography festival)?

If we want to serve local photographers, we need to be where they are, speak their language, and understand their concerns. As for Pathshala, you can't fight a war without warriors. One of Pathshala's tutors called the students photo militants fighting for justice. Chobi Mela served two purposes. It introduced our warriors to cutting-edge work and to practitioners from across the globe.

From capturing protests to the first election after military rule, how has it been to photograph democracy in Bangladesh?

We've never really had democratic practices in Bangladesh, so repression of one form or another is what I've always been faced with. That is what I've questioned and why I've always angered

the powerful elite. I first showed 'A Struggle for Democracy' during General Hussain Muhammad Ershad rule (1983-1990) in the 1980s. I sent an open letter of protest to the prime minister, against the muzzling of the media during BNP (Bangladesh Nationalist Party) rule in 1992. I showed *Crossfire*, the Kalpana Chakma trilogy, and reported on the attack on student protestors during the Awami League rule. Consequently, I've had a gun held to my head during the Ershad regime, received eight knife wounds during the BNP regime, and this government tortured me and put me in jail and still has a case



OURTESY EMAMI ART, KOLKATA

plots of land and invites me to PR exercises and paid junkets that I'll start worrying I'm doing something wrong.

hanging over me. That's the terrain I work in. It's when the government starts giving me

Can you tell us some of your sociopolitical concerns that you have captured in your work?

Some 3,500 bodies of young migrants, mostly men in their prime, return as corpses to Bangladesh every year. My work on migration is a story I've been working on for nearly 30 years. Sadly, while the work

(Migrant Soul) has received appreciation, it hasn't really changed the lives of migrant workers. Embracing the Other (2017) was produced to support a campaign for the Freedom of Religion or Belief, where I remain active.

Could you tell us about the series *Kalpana's Warriors*, which is not just the story of the indigenous rights activist (who was abducted at gunpoint in

RAHNUMA AHMED 1996 and has not been seen since), but also of Bangladeshi campaigners who were silenced?

The need to speak our own language was the central argument behind the liberation of Bangladesh in 1971. Yet, in our own land, we refuse others the right to speak theirs and subject them to military occupation. The abduction of Kalpana Chakma is a shameful act of state brutality. The inability to bring the perpetrators to justice leaves the darkest stain on our judiciary and our executive. Through the exhibits, I've tried to interrogate the silent witnesses at the scene of the crime, humanise a revolutionary that the state has tried to



HOME TRUTHS
(Top) Rural Kitchen
(1992, Bangladesh);

(1992, Bangladesh); Solidarnosc Movement (1981, the UK); Shahidul Alam (left) demonise, and celebrate the warriors who still campaign for her justice.

Through all these, how do you negotiate the interfaces with power?

I am part of a team and the biggest danger when you face repression is the situation of the most vulnerable. They risk a lot more than I do, and not all of them signed up for a life of activism. I am hugely grateful that they have stayed with us through these difficult times.

That China can order the closure of a show in Bangladesh (when the police disallowed Drik from opening the exhibition 'Into Exile: Tibet 1949 – 2009') that is critical of their regime should be a wake-up call to our citizens. It is a sign of how spineless our government has become. Mahasweta Devi, one of the most respected citizens of our region, being denied access to our gallery (to inaugurate *Crossfire* in 2010), is a sign of how our value system has been eroded.

So the Shilpakala Padak (in 2015) was a surprise, as these awards are generally reserved for party cronies. I constantly remind my students that producing bloody good work, consistently and relentlessly, is an artist's best defence.

In 2018, did you anticipate that you could be arrested for supporting the student's protest demanding road safety in Bangladesh? Also, what kept you occupied in jail?

I was also attacked the day before, August 4, 2018, when my equipment was smashed. So, the possibility of being picked up was always there. The support from my Indian friends and colleagues was incredible. Fellow prisoners sneaked in the letter Raghu Rai had written to our prime minister, and I read the letter Arundhati Roy wrote on my 100th day of incarceration. Amartya Sen and other Nobel Laureates joining the campaign for my release meant so much to all of us.

In jail, I read voraciously. I interviewed people I would normally not have had access to. I worked with fellow prisoners to paint murals across the jail. We set up a musical band, adult literacy classes and started a vegetable patch. I remain involved in prison welfare



# Bound for Glory

Colleagues recall singer-composer Bhupinder Singh as a giving 'elder brother', a man with a unique voice

Tanushree Ghosh

USIC COMPOSER Jaidev would often refer to Bhupinder Singh as "yeh mera sher hai (he's my lion)". But to singer Chhaya Ganguli, Singh was like an indulgent elder brother. When Jaidev died in 1987, Singh stepped in to compose ghazals for Ganguli's albums Taskeen (1989) and Ishq (1991, the latter with his singer-wife Mitalee Singh). Before the recordings, he took out time to rehearse with Ganguli, giving her tips to perform better. "Working with a knowledgeable artiste, you learn a lot," she says, "He understood a singer's voice and capacity, and composed in such a way that it would be comfortable for, and sound nice on, the singer."

Ganguli's long association with the singer-composer, who passed away last week, dates back to 1980. The two met on an All India Radio (AIR) programme. Along with Hariharan and Penaz Masani, they came together for a Jaidev special programme Aarohi, on Doordarshan. Ganguli sang her 1979 National Award-winning Aapki yaad aati rahi (Gaman, 1978) and Singh sang Phir teri yaad (Aayi Teri Yaad, 1980) and Zeher deta hai mujhe (Wohi Baat, 1977). "Bhupi's voice was unique, rich and soothing," she says. As a composer, he was "ingenious, inimitable and multifaceted. "He understood the lyrics, believed in not hurting the sentiments of poetry, and composed keeping that in mind," she adds.

As the programme executive, in 1983, at Vividh Bharati (AIR), Ganguli produced the show Sangeet Sarita. The 15-minute morning slot was presented by well-known artistes. For it, Singh did 12 programmes titled Baatein Ghazalon Ki, deliberating on the contributions of ghazal artistes, even as lyricist-poet Rajesh Johri threw questions at him. "Bhupi was a large-hearted man. When Akashvani Nagpur station director asked me to design a ghazal programme for them in 1984, and since AIR could only pay for Bhupi's flight tickets, Bhupi flew in his group of musicians at his own expense," she adds.

Singh was felicitated with the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (2016), she recalls. The last time the two came together was on August 5, 2018, for Jaidev's centenary year



YESTERDAY ONCE MORE

(Top) Bhupinder Singh; (from left) Jagjit Singh, Talat Aziz, Singh, Mitalee Singh, Chhaya Ganguli at a press event for HMV's Jashn-e-Ghazal in Mumbai in 1986

'We have always co-existed despite Partition'

YESTERDA
(Top) Bhupinder Singh; (In Singh, Mittalee Singh, Ch

Actor-artist Deepti Naval on her memoir, the stories that made her childhood, and living through war

Tanushree Ghosh

IF YOU think you are about to read about "Ms Chamko" (Chashme Buddoor, 1981), then this is where we must part. "My whole persona has been given this one face: simple and sweet girl next door (an image from her early films that has stuck on), though these girls are internally very strong (Saath Saath, 1982; Panchvati, 1986)," says Deepti Naval, 70. She divides her time between New York, Mumbai and Himachal Pradesh (Haripur studio).

Her father had adopted the surname Naval, meaning new, to avoid being just another Sharma. "There were so many in Amritsar," says Naval, who has a knack for storytelling. That's evinced by her recently released memoir, A Country Called Childhood (Aleph, Rs 999), which trains the lens on her growing up years in Amritsar (1952-70), before she left for the US with her parents, only to return later to the Bombay film industry. Acting first began while playing with her elder sister who would say, "choonchi bann iaa". The draw of Kashmir, the setting for most films, made Naval run away from home, with Rs 15 on her. Dance (Naval's a trained Kathak and ballet dancer), singing, drama, painting came to her from her mother. "I remember my childhood like cinematic visuals," she says. Her parents passed away during the two decades of the writing of the book, which is as much about girlhood as a chapter of a country's syncretic past. Edited excerpts:

# You grew up in a different country from what it is today. Your house Chandraavali brushed shoulders with the Khairuddin Mosque, and the *azaan* there and *havan* in your house peacefully co-existed.

From my terrace, I could see inside the mosque, a lane dividing us. At the time, the mosque was all white; now, it also has green paint. A havan was a quiet affair, just four-five family members sitting together; the azaan



was on the loudspeaker, but it was not a disturbance. For 10 years after Partition, the mosque was deserted, with only pigeons fluttering atop the dome. And, then, in 1957, the first *azaan* was heard. Over time, it became a part of our life.

#### Not fantasy or mythology, your childhood was full of stories of your family's history. Can you tell us about it.

My mythology was the stories of Burma that Mama told me about the exodus and how they came walking to Imphal from Burma, and further on to Mukerian. The Jalalabad (*Bauji*/her grandpa's Punjab village) chapter was never told to us when we were kids. In America, my father told me: '*Beta*, there's one very dark and sad chapter of

#### MEMORY KEEPER

Deepti Naval in New Delhi, after the launch of her book A Country Called Childhood Partition, and nobody talks about it, because there are no survivors to tell the tale.' (All the village Hindus were allegedly killed on the banks of Beas by Muslims.) I made several trips to Jalalabad. My book is not about bringing out these gory details but to tell that there was hope. There was also an old Muslim tangawallah who saved three Hindu girls, one of whom was Mama (ferrying them out of Lahore's riot-torn mohalla into the safety of a refugee camp).

#### As a child, you were excited when the India-Pakistan war (1965) unfolded at your doorstep, and then your father took you sisters to the Khemkaran border.

He must have seen how non-serious we were (*laughs*), so, he said, let me give them a

reality check. From my childhood, I've been hearing stories of the exodus from Burma, while us sisters' lives were so bland. I was addicted to drama (*laughs*). So, when the first bombardment started, we went crazy. We must have been scared, sirens would go off, we'd cover our windows during blackouts, but more than scared, we were excited that something's happening at last.

# Your Bauji and Bibiji (paternal grandpa and grandma) were on two ends of the political spectrum. How did that work?

He was affiliated to the RSS (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh), she would debate and fight for Congress. There could have been fights every day. In the city, people would quote their example and say, 'Dekho ji, Bauji toh kattar Jan Sanghi hai aur Bibiji staunch Congressi.' They would sit at the dining table, exchange views and be okay with it. 'Haan bhai tera hai, theek hai, main toh aise sochta hoon (Let's agree to disagree),' and that was the end.

#### Journalist Mohammed Zubair, who finally got bail, was arrested for his tweet of Honeymoon/Hanuman Hotel, a still from your film *Kissi Se Na Kehna* (1983). What did you make of the case?

Where is everybody's sense of humour? It was such an innocent thing. In the scene, it was used to hoodwink that the newlyweds aren't going on a honeymoon, but rather to listen to *bhajan*, so it was switched to Hanuman Hotel... it was meant as a fun thing. We need to stop arresting people. It's a pity.

#### You've lived through turbulent '60s, where do you see the country headed?

Kya bolein... dil dukhta hai, it hurts. There is no need... we have always co-existed despite Partition and the massacres. People need to pause and think: Where is this going to end up? It could be a disaster of a much greater kind. Co-existence is the best way, let's just all live and let live.

celebrations at Mumbai's National Centre for Performing Arts. "Despite not keeping well, Bhupi captivated us with his presence," she says.

"You hear his single Woh Jo Shair Tha: Poetry of Gulzar (1980), you'd be surprised: which Bhupinder is this?" says Uttam Singh, the once go-to arranger for ghazal artistes, speaking about the "innovative and creative musician-composer and humble, giving, kind-hearted man" whom he had known for nearly 55 years. It was Singh who prodded a hesitant Uttam to compose a ghazal, something the latter had never done. It gave him an understanding of what being a composer entailed. For composers Uttam-Jagdish, Singh first sang the free verse Tumse jo baat huyi (Clerk, 1989), in a single take.

Singer Suresh Wadkar remembers meeting him in more dramatic circumstances. Sometime in the early '80s, a distressed Singh had walked out of Mehboob Studio in Mumbai, handing the lyrics of a song to the next singer waiting to record. It was an Odia song. "He was flustered at not being able to grasp the language," says Wadkar.

During the making of their evergreen duet Huzoor iss kadar na itrake chaliye (Masoom, 1980), at the rehearsal sessions at RD Burman's house, Wadkar recalls how Singh "was much, much more ready" than he was. The two first worked together in music composer RD Burman's Sawan nahin, bhadon nahin (Kudrat, 1981). "Guitar in hand, a cigarette on his lips, this six-plus feet, handsome, jovial man, was a bindaas mast-ram (happygo-lucky man), but if something got on the wrong side of him, Punjabi *mein moti-moti gaaliyan* (swear words) would flow out. Dil unka saaf thha (he was purehearted)," he says. "In films, he got some phenomenal songs. Ghazalon ko unhone aayam diya, but equally beautifully he rendered bhajans, such as (Kabir bhajan) Moko kahan dhunde re bande. His zabardast, johari-wali bass voice fit like a glove," he says.

It was, however, this "hatke, yaadgaar" voice that "unfortunately, also became a problem, as it wouldn't suit many heroes of the time, save a handful, including Suresh Oberoi, Sanjeev Kumar, Dharmendra, Amol Palekar. Many came who could sing like Kishore Kumar and Mohammed Rafi but never has and never will come a voice like Manna Dey or Bhupinder Singh," says Uttam.

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0040623756-1

0040623805-1

0040623839-8

0070796024-1

0070796012-1

0040623762-1

0070795983-1

0070796028-1

I,Kamal Deep Singh,S/o

Deep Singh Bhatia

Gali.No-21A,Baljeet

I.KRISHN KUMAR.S/O-

RAMESHWAR SINGH, R/O-

BISHUNPUR GANGA URF

MUZAFFARPUR,BIHAR-

843111, HAVE CHANGED MY

NAME TOKRISHAN KUMAR.

I.Jaanvi W/o Parvez Alam.R/o-

R-1/14 Budh Vihar Phase-1

Delhi-110086, have changed

I,Isha Mittal,D/o Rajender

I,Isha Mittal,D/o Rajender

Prasad Mittal R/o-UU-202.

name Abhivirai Bansal to

First-Floor,Pitampura Delhi-

110034, changed my minor son

I,HASEEB UR RAHMAN S/O HAJI

ABDUL AZIZ KHAN.R/O 11/417.

NAGAR, DELHI-110092, HAVE

HASEEB UR RAHMAN KHAN.

I,Gulshan S/O Prem Kumar,R/O

Nagar, New Delhi-110059, Have

Changed my Name to Gulshan

CHOUDHARY,S/oSHIVENDRA KUMAR CHOUDHARY,

at,W4/501,Tejas Enclave,Air-

CHOUDHARY to GYANESHWAR

CHOUDHARY,vide-affidavit

Ahemad, R/o-340, Gali No.18,

110053, have changed my name

JATINDER JEET SINGH, R/o A-

Force Station-Sohna Road.

122001,have changed my name,from GYANESWAR

C-343-44, J.J. Colony, Hastsal

Road, Shani Bazar, Uttam

Kumar Phutela.

I,GYANESWAR

Presently,residing

Gurugram, Haryana-

dated-22-7-22

I,Farooq,S/o Sharif

Masjid,Jafrabad,Delhi-

I,DILMEET BABBAR,D/O

100, KH NO-9/9/2, SHIV

EXTN, NANGLOI, DELHI-

VIHAR, B-BLOCK, NILOTHI

110041, have changed my

name to DILMEET KAUR.

I,Chidila S Sangtam,W/O Jayant

Pant R/O.H-3/16,Top-Floor.No-

Enclave, Palam-Village, New-

Delhi-110045.Have Changed

my Name to Chidila Pant.

,BABLI DEVI W/O SUNDER

COLONY, MURTHAL

Ramakrishna

for all purposes.

Purposes.

NCT-DELHI.

Sharma

purposes.

SINGH R/O GALI NO.7,RAJIV

ROAD, SONIPAT-131001. HAVE

I,Amita Sharma W/o.Sh.Vinod

Kumar Sharma R/o.H.No-241,

Appartments, I.P. Extn., Delhi-

**I,Puneet** Arora D/o-JagatRam

Arora R/o:GG-2/61C,Vikaspuri,

New Delhi-18, Have Changed

My Name to Sonali, for all

I,AAKANSHA,D/O RAJESH

KUMAR,R/OSMQ.M-

56.CAMERO COMPLEX

SUBROTO-PARK, NEW DELHI-

110010, HAVE CHANGED MY

NAME, FROM AAKANSHA TO

AKANSHA VIDE-AFFIDAVIT.

DATED,23/07/2022,BEFORE

I, Vinod Sharma R/o E-4/23

110051 have changed my

minor child's name from

Shirron Sharma to Samrat

I, Sachin Kumar Srivastava S/o

Late Viiav Shankar Srivastava

NH-24, Ghaziabad-201002 have

Kumar Srivastava for all future

Kumar, R/o H.N. C-94A, Nanhey

Park, Uttam Nagar, West Delhi,

Delhi -110059, have changed

my name from Rinki to Rinki

Jha and both are one person.

for all purposes in future.

I, Ravinder Kumar S/o Raj Pal

Rohini Delhi-110089, have

Singh R/o-D-1/121 Sector-16,

changed my name to Ravinder

Kumar Nadar for all purposes.

Kumar Nagpal R/o 2363 Sector-

8 Faridabad have changed my

name from Rahul Nagpal to

Rahul Aditya Nagpal for all

purposes.

I, Rahul Nagpal S/o Narender

Now, my new name is Rinki Jha

R/o-E-1005 Luxuria Estate,

Aditya World City Bamheta,

changed my name from

I, Rinki Jha W/o Lt.Sujeet

Sachin Shankar to Sachin

Krishna Nagar east delhi Pin-

name to Samarpitha Sharmma

110092, have changed my

CHANGED MY NAME TO BABLI.

7,Bengali Colony,Mahavir-

Near Madina

to Mohd Faroog.

LALITA PARK,LAXMI

CHANGED MY NAME TO

110034,changed my name Isha Bansal to Isha Mittal.

Prasad Mittal R/o-UU-

my name to Zoya

Permanently.

202.First-Floor

Abhiviraj.

Pitampura, Delhi-

Kalpana Dash.

BAIKATPUR

Ravinder Pal Singh,R/o-150, 1st-Floor,Pocket-14,Sector-

24, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have

changed my name to Kamal

I.Kalpana W/o-Nitin Kumar

Dash R/o-T-2575/1, 4th-floor

Nagar,Patel,Nagar Delhi-110008,changed my,name to

I, RUBY D/o Sh Jai Parkash

residing at Vill Singhwa Khas(59), Teh Hansi, Distt

to RUBY J PARKASH for all

JC-769706M(SUB)ONKAR

Deep Singh Avenue,

SINGH, R/o.H.No. 241, Baba

Chheharta, Amritsar, Puniab

date of birth from 16.12.1978 to

143105, have corrected my

04.05.1980, vide affidavit: IN-

DL64396379233626U, dated-

23/07/2022, before Notary

Regd.No.-6536, New Delhi.

I, Mohsina Mir R/o H.No. 180.

Enclave, Part-1, Sector 34,

child's name from Mannat

**I,** Manisha Kumari D/o Umesh

Kumar Singh R/o House No.-

Ghaziabad (U.P) 201012 have

Singh for all purposes vide

affidavit dated 22.07.2022

I, Dharmendra Kumar S/o

Ghaziabad, UP-201003, have

Dharmendra Kasana for all

R.C.Choudhary R/o WZ-463

name as Deep Narayan

Choudhary permanently

Sahab Kaur W/o Sh. Vazir

Singh R/o H.No.114, Bazar

one and the same person.

I Sagar Bhavinkumar

Karanbhai S/o Sagar

Raiput Vas. Milk Dairy.

Karanbhai Bavalbhai R/o

Panna, Village Karala, North

West, Delhi is also known as

Hahab Kaur. Both names are of

Vansava, Vansva, Ahmedabad,

Gujarat-382150, have finally

changed my name to Sagar

I Jitender S/o Kirti Chand Suna

R/o Flat No-2204, Lodhi Road

Complex, Pocket-3, Delhi-

110003, have changed my

I Rajni Kapoor W/o Puneet

Nagar, Delhi-110009 have

changed my name to Jyoti

Kakkar permanently

Kakkar R/o-1190, Dr. Mukerjee

I Pankaj S/o-Ram Pal R/o-H-196,

Shakurpur, J.J.Colony, North

West Delhi-110034 declares

wrongly written as Rampal

Bairwa in 10th & 12th Class-

actual name is Ram Pal. Please

keep this name in future for all

I MANBAHADUR BIRKU SINGH

S/O LATE MANBAHADUR R/O

ACCOLADE, NEAR GD GOENKA

CHANGED MY NAME TO BIRKU

FLAT NO P1-503 FLDECO

UNIVERSITY, SECTOR-2,

HARYANA-122103 HAVE

SINGH FOR ALL FUTURE

I Inder Deep Singh S/o Late

Flat No.83, Kamakshi

6, Dwarka, South West

Delhi, Delhi-110075 have

changed the name of my

minor son from Vedaang

Saraswat to Vedaang Singh

Saraswat for all purposes.

I Divpreet Kaur Gulati W/o

Sandeep Singh R/o-14/47

Geeta Colony, Delhi-110031

Divpreet Kaur for all Purposes.

I.Sandeep S/o Jee Lal.R/o H-206

changed my name to Sandeep

Karampura Delhi have

I Kaushal Kumar Gupta S/o

Gulzari Lal R/o House No.15,

Ground Floor, Pocket-2, Jasola,

New Delhi-110025 have lost my

all original documents of my

freehold DDA Flat- Allotment-

Posession offer Letter & NOC

Original Conveyance Deed of

Pocket 5&6, Vasant Kunj, New

Delhi-110070. If anyone found

the same please send return

or contact at 9810098568,

seema\_84@hotmail.com

I, IQRA D/O MOHAMMAD

NAME IQRA ARSHAD.

ARSHAD R/O 5803 KUCHA

REHMAN NEAR EK BURJ WALI

MASJID BALLIMARAN DELHI-

110006, HAVE CHANGED MY

PROPERTY FOR SALE

Immediate sale DDA SFS MIG

room garage in GH12 Paschim

Flat road facing with store

Vihar Contact Owner

9810902754

Email-

my Flat No.4571, Sector-B,

**Electric and Water Connection** 

cum-Demand Letter & Flat

& Flat Posession letter

have changed my name to

Sardar Harcharan Singh R/o

Apartment, Plot No.28, Sector-

SOHNA, GURUGRAM,

Certificate & Educational-

Documents. My-Father's

purposes.

PURPOSES.

that my father name has been

name to Jitender Suna

Bhavanisinh Karanbhai

Ground Floor Rishi Nagar Rani

Bagh Delhi have changed my

Ishwar Singh R/o-76,

changed my name to

future Purposes.

I, Deep Narayan S/o

Aurangabad Ristal,

before Ghaziabad.

changed my name to Manisha

964 sector-1, Vasundhara,

have changed my minor

Kaur to Mannat Mir

First Floor, Front Side, Ashoka

Faridabad, Haryana - 121003

Advocate-Rajkumar,

purposes.

Hisar, Haryana - 125042 have

changed my name from RUBY

I, NIRMAL KAUR Spouse of No.

0070796026-1

0070796005-1

0070795998-1

0040623753-1

0070795990-1

0040623752-1

0040623749-1

0070795993-1

0070795996-1

0070796003-1

0040623792-1

0040623779-1

0040623749-2

0070795999-1

0040623821-2

0040623526-8

0040623527-2

0050200787-1

Classifieds

**PERSONAL** 

I,Zenab W/o Mohd Ramzan R/o

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0040623805-6

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0040623805-10

0040623839-9

0040623821-1

0040623835-5

0040623805-2

0040623821-5

0040623821-4

0040623795-1

0040623839-2

0040623805-7

0040623805-8

0040623839-4

0040623835-4

Masiid.Delhi-110006.Have

I,Zeeshan Ansari,S/o Yusuf

4/5,Near-Dilshad Masjid,Old

Mustafabad, Delhi-94. have

changed Name to Zeeshan

Ansari, R/o C-40, Gali.no-

2772 4th Floor,

Chooriwalan, Jama

Jainab, For Future.

Ahmad,S/o Yusuf

Ahmad.Permanently

I,Tarun,S/O-Shri Kishore

Block, Sonia Vihar, Delhi-

I,Sukhvinder Singh,S/O

Harbans Singh, R/OK-

Given-name and SINGH

I,Shakshi Rani,W/o-Anil R/o-H.No.192, Kh.No.43,Village

110040,declare that Sakshi,and Shakshi Rani,is

same and, one person, and

shall hereafter be known, as

Bankner, Narela, Delhi-

**I,Ramzan** S/o Mohamad

Abdullah R/o 257, Gali No

110094, Have Changed My

I,RADHA KRISHAN S/O SHRI

285E, F-BLOCK, RAJ NAGAR-

110077, HAVE CHANGED MY

NAME TO RADHA KRISHAN

I,Punam Kumari W/o Ravinder

**I,Paras** S/o Sanjeev Dang R/o E-

41A, Kirti Nagar, New Delhi-

name to Paras Dang for-all-

I,Pankaj S/o Paul Mistri,R/o E-

3/77, Ansar Nagar, Ramesh

name to PANKAJ MISTRI, for all

I,Nitin S/o Jata Dhari Dash R/o-

21A, Baljeet Nagar, Patel Nagar

my,name to Nitin kumar Dash.

T-2575/1, 4th-floor,Gali.No-

Delhi-110008, changed

I.Nisha D/o Nitin Kumar

Gali No-21A,Baljeet

Dash,R/o-T-2575/1,4th-floor

l 10008 changed my.name to

I, Narendra Naman S/o Hodil

Singh Rana R/o WZ-114, FF.

Meenakshi Garden,Delhi

110018, have changed my

name to Narendra Pratap

I,Urvashi Singhel,D/o-Late

5(Back Side),Siddharth

changed my name, from

Singhal, for all purposes

KUMAR TIWARI, D/O-

AAYUSH TIWARI.

Urvashi Singhel, to Urvashi

I,SONI TIWARI,W/O-MUKESH

SATYANAND SINGH,R/o WZ-

123/D-59.RAJNAGAR-2.PALAM

DELHI-110045, have changed

AAYUSH aged-14-vears and he

shall hereafter be known as

I,Om Prakash Yadav,S/o Babu

Lal Yadav R/o.RZ-122, Sayed-

Village.Paschim Vihar,Delhi-

110087, have changed my

minor son's name Subham

Yadav to Shubham Yadav.

I,Nirmala Mittal,alias Nirmala

Devi,W/o Chander Bhan

Bansal.R/o-58-59.Pocket

5, Sector-21, Rohini, Delhi-

110086, have changed my

name to Nirmala Bansal

I,Sanjeev Kumar S/o Late

Kirti Nagar, New Delhi-

110015, have changed my

I.NAME KAVITA.W/O OMBIR

YADAVR/O:136 SARAFABAD

SECTOR-73 NOIDA GAUTAM

**BUDDHA NAGAR UP-201301** 

I,Mohd Farooq,S/o Sharif

have changed my minor

**I,Khem** Chand,S/o Karan

Road.Zakhira West-

the Same Person.

Bahadur,R/o B.20R,Rama

Delhi.110015,That Khem Chand

And Khem Bahadur is One And

0040623835-1

daughter's name Akhsa to

Ahemad,R/o-340, Gali

No.18, Near Madina

changed my name to KAVITA

Masjid,Jafrabad,Delhi-110053

name to Sanjeev Dang.

Banarsi Lal Dang R/o E-41A,

the name of my minor-son

VILLAGE,PALAM-COLONY,NEW

Naresh Kumar Singhal, R/o.D-

Nagar, New Delhi-110014, have

Near Subhash Nagar Metro,

Nagar,Patel Nagar,Delhi-

Park.Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-

110092, have changed my

110015, have changed my

Prasad R/o D-11.Friends

Enclave, Mundka, Delhi-

110041, have changed my

name to Poonam Prasad

permanently.

purposes.

purposes.

2.GALLN-9.PALAM

COLONY, NEW DELHI-

BHAVANI DUTT JOSHI,R/O-RZ-

Name To Mohamad Ramzan.

9.Kardum Puri.Babarpur Delhi-

Nagar, New Delhi-

110084,Inform that Tarun and

Tarun Kumar is the same and

120,Krishna Park Extn.,Tilak

110018.inform that Sukhvinder

Chandra, R/O-H.No. B-

2325.Street no.35.B-

one person.

Surname.

Shakshi Rani

Changed My Name To

# PUBLIC NOTICE

#### Janak Puri New Delhi-110058 UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LTD. (A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking) ross Vijeta Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehra

**E-TENDER DATE EXTENSION NOTICE** E-tender Specification No. CCP-I/12 & 14/2022-2023 invited by this

Other terms & conditions will remain same as per original tender notice. For further details, please visit our website www.uktenders.gov.in. Superintending Engineer

No.: 289/EE(CM)/UPCL /A-2 Date: 23.07.2022 (Corporate (C&P-I)

# 1X660MW PANKI EXTENSION PROJECT, PANKI, KANPUR UTTAR PRADESH RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD.

GeM Bid as well as Total quantity of work, Tender Specifications Other terms & conditions available on our Web Site www.uprvunl.org/ GeM portal. Tendering authority reserves the right to cancel any or all e-bids without assigning any reason Corrigendum, Addendum, Extension if any, shall be uploaded or the GeM portal, Bidders are advised to visit the website regularly for updated information from time to time

1x660 MW, PTEP, Panki, Kanpur. Estimated Cost 27,22,913.00, Earnest Money: 54,458/-, OPENING DATE OF E-TENDER: 03.08.2022

website: www.uprvunl.org **EXECUTIVE ENGINEER** पत्रांक : 19/1x660मे0वा पनकी विस्तार/मु0अभि०/सी0पी0डी०/विज्ञापन दिनांक 23.07.2022

#### "SAVE ELECTRICITY FOR THE NATION SUPPLY OF STORES ITEMS

"THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT TENDERS"

Date: 21.07.2022 STORE DEPARTMENT

Near Jawahar circle, Malviya Nagar, Jaipur-302017 for and on behalf of the President

***************************************					
Sr.	Tender	Brief Description	Qty.	Unit	Due date
No.	No.				
1	30221047A	REAR COVER FOR AXLE BOX	4608	Nos	02.08.2022
2	82221263	Sitagliptin Phosphate 100mg Tab	580070	Nos	05.08.2022
3	30221584	Buffer plunger	1329	Nos	10.08.2022
4	30221603	Face plate	6136	Nos	10.08.2022
5	40225025	25 KV AC Copper Cadmium Catenary wire (19/2.10MM) 65 SQ.MM	169067.4	Kgs	10.08.2022
6	30221152B	BRAKE BEAM COMPLETE FOR BMBC COACHES	3161	Nos	16.08.2022
7	30222246	Rubber pad for primary suspension	3021	Nos	16.08.2022
8	50225317	Electric point machine 143mm stroke	40	Nos	16.08.2022
9	81221081	Non destructive testing set comprising	7375	Set	22.08.2022
10	70225012	CAST IRON STANDARD TEST WEIGHT OF 50Kgs	6086	Nos	30.08.2022
11	30221836	Rubber spring for draw gear of BG coaches	1037	Set	06.09.2022
12	30222138A	Doly rings	12202	NI.	00 00 0000

11	30221836	Rubber spring for draw gear of BG		1037	Set	06.09.2022	
		coaches					
12	30222138A	Poly rings		13293	Nos	06.09.2022	
	CORRIGENDUM						
No.	Tender	Brief Tender		Exist	ting	Amended	
	No.	Description	Notice No	Opening		Opening	
		-	Date		Date		
1	50215185B	50 PAIR/0.63MM AND	S/2022/19	9 30.08.	2022	10.08.2022	
		10 PAIR/0.63	Date :				
			14.07.202	2			
2	79220011	SINGLE TEXTURE WATER	S/2022/14	4 15.07.	2022	28.07.2022	
		PROOF RAN COAT	Date :				
		(Annexure A & B replace by	01.06.202	2			
		single Annexure for					
1	I	ir:	1	1		1	

Note:- (1) Interested tenderers may visit the website for Full details/description /Specification /EMD & tender cost etc. All tenderers are requested to obtain digital signatures and get them registered on above site and quote electronically only. (2) For rticipating in other tenders pelow Rs. 25 Lakh, limited tenders, special limited tenders and low value

# Railway website above.

Principal Chief Materials

Manager/Secunderabad

details and for downloading the

#### **HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE**

The Executive Engineer HP PWD KasauliDistt.Solan HP on behalf of Governor of HP invites the online bids on item rate in electronic tendering system, in 2 cover system for the under mentioned work from the eligible

and approved contractors. Firms registered with HPPWD Department.							
Job No.	Name of Work	Tentative Cost	Earnest Money	Time Allowed	Cost of Form		
1	C/o 19.75 mtrs Single lane span RCC T-Beam Bridge over KharotaKhad on link road to village Kharota at Rd.0/375. Under SCDP.	2,22,84,116/-	4,45,700/-	Eighteen Month	5000/-		

Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission:- The Bid document is available online and bid om the

Key dats.					
1	Date of Online Publication	23.07.2022			
2	Document Download Start Date	30.07.2022 11.00 AM			
3	Bid Submission Start and End Date	30.07.202211.00 AM to 11.08.2022 at 4.00 PM			
4	Physical Submission of receipt of EMD and cost of tender Document	12.08.2022 at 10.30 AM			
_	Data of Consider of Did	40.00.0000 -1.44.00.484			

3. TENDER DETAILS:

The tender Document shall be uploaded online in 2 cover: Cover1: shall contain Scanned copies of al

SUBMISSION OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS: Bidder have to submit the Original cost of bid document, Security/Earnest Money and other Technical Document, which are uploaded in technical bid in the O/o Executive Engineer HPPWD Kasauli HP as

Bid Opening Details:-The bid shall be opened on dated 12.08.2022 at 11.00 AM in the office Executive Engineer, HPPWD Division KasauliHP, by the authorised officer. In their interest the tenderer are advised

to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders. If the office happens to be losed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the ame time and venue

(I) The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 90/120 days after the deadline date for bid submission

(ii) Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

2703/HP

Kasauli Division, **HPPWD** Kasauli

On behalf of the Governor of HP.

(BAKSHI TAJESHWAR SINGH

said properties, in that eventuality

he/she will reply to the said notic to my clientess within 15 days.

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

**6** 

y client MRS. VIJAYANTI SHARMA
VIO LATE SHRI MOHINDER KUMAR.
VIO B1-78, MALKA GANJ, DELHI,
iave severed all her relations and ties
rom her son namely, MANISH
SHARMA who is residing separately,
lue to his dishonest, indecent and bad
pelavior towards my client, My client
rereby disown her abovesaid son from
the moveable and immovable
woperty properties. My client hereby
urther restrain MANISH SHARMA
rom visiting her at her residence/
roperty. My client shall not be held
esponsible for any acts, misdeeds and
hings done by said Manish Sharma.

DAVINDER KUMAR-ADVOCATE
Lawyer's Chamber K-56, Near Gate No.2.
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054,

PUBLIC NOTICE client Mr. Rajbir S/o Late Sh. Bhunde Ram R/o House No.271. Block-K. Dakshinpuri. Dr. House No.2/1, Block+, Daskshingur, Dr. Ambedkar Nagar, New Delhi-R2, has severed all his relations with his son namely Akash Kumar and his wife Soniya and their present children thereby grandson and granddaughter namely Bani & Abhishek & second son namely Divas Kumar. My client has disowned // debarred all his childrens their spouses and grandchildrens from all his moveable and immovable property accurred by my client in immovable property accurred by my client in

grandchildrens from all his moveable and immovable property acquired by my client in past, present and future. my client and his family members shall not be responsibility for any civil and criminal acts and deed done by them as they have become totally disobedient. If anybody deals with them, he / she shall deal Asgar Khan (Advocate

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Moreover, by virtue of remaining deeds, Mrs. Shahanaz Sazia is the absolute owner of the property in hand in all respects whatsoever.

PUBLIC NOTICE General public is hereby informed that my clients sh. Harendar singh s/lo Late Ram Pal. Singh & Smt Kiran Choudhary wife of Sh. Harendar Singh R/lo A -61. Sitapuri New Delhi -10046 hereby disown and disinherit the son namely Sh. Rohit Choudhary, Age 22 yrs from all types of movable and immovable properties, whether situated in Delhi or out if Delhi if anybody deals with him, will deal with their own risk and responsibility for which my clients will not be responsible for their such acts. It is further stated if any act done by Rohit Choudhary which is illegal and punishable in the eyes of law, for which my clients will not the responsible for his such acts. It is further stated if any act done by Rohit choudhary which is illegal and punishable in the eyes of law, for which my clients will not be responsible for his such acts. It is further stated that my clients have ended all kinds of relationships. Manish Kumar Advocate

Member Delhi High Court.

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE

I, SUNITA (D/O Late Sh. Mukand Lal) W/O Late Sh Rajender Singh (alias Rajinder Singh) R/O House No. 855, Sector-19, Old Faridabad, Haryana-121002 have lost some my original documents such as GPA, Agreement to Sell, Will and other relevant documents pertaining to my Flat No. C-40, on Ground Floor, measuring 453 sq. ft. approx., Devil Apartment, Khasra No. 637/1, Village Devil, New Delhi-110080 on 23.07. 2022, in the area of Sant Nagar, East of Kailash, New Delhi in this regard I have lodged a NCR/FIR with P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi, vide LR No. 621277/2022, dated 23.07.2022. Founder May Contact Mobile No. 9911064401

NOTICE Notice is hereby given the below mentioned securities of NGL FINE CHEM LTD registered office 301E Square Subash Road. Vile Parle (East) Mumbai-400057 have been lost by the holde Mukesh Atal 1610 Madarsa Road, Kashmere Gate, Delhi 110006. No. of Securities:

600, Distinctive Nos.: 2277601 to 2277700 2378601 to 2378700 2541701 to 2541800

2625501 to 2625600 2850301 to 2850400 2988301 to 2988400 Name of Holder: Mukesh tal, Address; 1610, Madarsa Road, Kashmere Gate

Mukesh Atal

Holder/Applicant

Place: Delhi

Date: 22.07.2022

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

Singh Mann permanent resident of 4315 Cedar Trac 1315 Cedar Tree Lane Burtonsville, MD 20866 USA Indian Passport # T1611538 Green Card: 096-345-157 DOE Green Card: 096-345-157 DOB: January 28, 1977: presently at New Delhi C/o A-246, First Floor, Defence Colony, New Delhi. The father of my clientess Shri Manmohan Singh Sawhney S/o Late Shri Hara Singh, have heavenly abode on 95.55 203.1 eavenly abode on 05.05.202 Smt. Prabhjeet Kaur Sawhney W/ Smt. Pratonjeet Kaur Sawnney Mr. Shri Manmohan Singh Sawhney predeceased him on 22.07.2013 leaving behind my clientess as we as Savleen Kaur Wo Shri Inderjee Singh, R/o House No. T-53 Second Floor, Rajouri Garden New Delbi 110.027 being their lears New Delhi 110027 being their lega heirs. My clientess is having 50° share/rights in the followin

. A-467. Ground Floor, measuri 17 sq. yds., Defence Colony, Nev elhi 110024 2.A-467, Third Floor with roo rights, measuring 217 sq. yds. Defence Colony, New Delh

10024. 3.House No. 9960, Nawab Gan Delhi 110006.

Jenii 170006. 4. Property No.2959 (Old) 5057 5059 (New), Ward No. VII, Baza Sirkiwalan, Prithvi Raj Market (land measuring 325 Square Yard) Bazar Sirkiwalan, Delhi 110006.

S.One godown: 5009, Baza Sirkiwalan, Hauz Kazi, Delh 110006. 7.Agricultural land: Village Baiarn 7. Agnicultural land: Village Bajarpu. Barara District, Ambala, Haryana.
8. Plot No.32, Sector-J, Ajit Gar Colony, Village Kurari, Mohal Punjab (Panchsheel Coop Society That my clientess is in physics

possession of property bearin No.A-467, Ground Floor along wit third floor with roof rights, are measuring 217 sq. yds., Defend Colony, New Delhi 110024. ientess is having 50% absolu share/rights in the above sa properties. My clientess will not b esponsible in any manne hatsoever with regard to cost ar whatsoever with regard to cost an consequences of any dispute/ar other act deed and thing bein committed by any other person wit egard to the above sai properties/share of my clientess. any person (s) claims any right, tit r interest in respect of the above

ADVOCAT C-18, Nizamuddin Easi New Delhi-11001

Pankaj singn and his daughter-in-law Smt Sakshi are neither residing with him nor they are in our clients' control. The behavior of Panka Singh & Smt. Sakshi is not good towards our Client and thus our Client has disowned their son Sh. Pankaj Singh and daughter-in-law Smt Sakshi from his moveable and immovable property and have sewered all relations, with them with immediate effect. Anyone dealing with them, shall be responsible, for their own area and responsible.

nder Singh Popli Adv C-184, Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018

TENDER NOTICE No.154/2022 Dt.22.07.2022 SUPPLY OF STORES ITEMS

EMD will be accepted only via on					
	system a	as available or			
	www.ireps.g	ov.in."			
	Tender No.	BRIEF DESC.			
	90.22.1156A	M.S.Flats steel size			
	82.22.1420	(PH NO 10013) Humar Insulin MIX. of 30/70			
	82.22.1450	(PH No.10064 SITAGLIPTIN			
	56.22.5140	Supply and commissioning			
	45.22.1126	Battery operated Led based Torch light			
	Note: Due da	tes of Tender Opening:			

SL No.01 on dt.08.08.2022, SL no.02 on dt.16.08.2022, SL No. 03 on dt.18.08.2022 SL No.4 & 5 dt.23.08.2022 CORRIGENDUM

Commissioning of Dual redundant May be read as 17.08.2022. SL No.2. Tender No. 56.22.5120 du on 03.08.2022, Brief Description Supply Installation & commissioning of

DT.01.07.2022 SL No.1 Tender No.56.22.5117 due on 02.08.2022

Brief Description Supply and

SL No.3 Tender No. 56.22.5051 due on 04.08.2022. Brief Descriptior Supply Installation & commissioning o SMPS based Integrated power May be

Tender Notice No.153/2022 dt 15 07 2022

Tender No.82.22.0033 DUE ON 01.08.2022 Brief Description Tablet/capsule of B-Complex containing minimum Vitamin B1 10MG May be read as 02.08.2022

Beside above mentioned tenders there are other tenders having value belov Rs.25 lakhs. For details, please visit

For further tender conditions /

Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or

obt

Technical Document/Eligibility information". iii) Cover 2: shall contain" BOQ/Financial Bid", where contractor will quote his offer for each item.

specified in Key well before 12.08.2022 on tender opening date, failing which the bid will be declared Non-

Executive Engineer,

"IMPORTANT

PUBLIC NOTICE t is for general information that I, JA SINGH RATHORE son of sh GIRDHARI SINGH, Permanent R/o 85 undar Nagar, Khatipura, Jaipu ajasthan-302012, currently residing a -358, Vijay Rattan Vihar, Sector-18 art-II, Gurugram, Haryana-12200 eclare that the name of mine has bee

nder the instructions of our Client Sher Singh S/o Sh. Sukh Ram, I hereb

inform the general public that his son Sh Pankaj Singh and his daughter-in-lav Smt Sakshi are neither residing with hin nor they are in our Clients' control. The

rongly written as J.S. RATHORE my minor daughter's namel
RAJSHREE RATHORE aged 13 year
in her School Record and Birt
Certificate. The actual name of mine i
JAI SINGH RATHORE, which may b

t is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

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S.C Railway can be seen on our
bsite: www.scr.indianrailways.go

e-Procurement Tender Notice he following tenders have been loated online. Tenderers are requested to visit the website www.ireps.gov.in and submit thei offers online. The Tender Description Qty, EMD, SD may be seen in website Offers submitted manually will not be accepted. Offers by post will not be entertained. Tender Closing time is 14.30 hrs of the Due date of the Tender "For all indigenous offers

EMD will be accepted only via online					
system a	as available or				
www.ireps.gov.in."					
Tender No.	BRIEF DESC.				
90.22.1156A	M.S.Flats steel size				
82.22.1420	(PH NO 10013) Humar Insulin MIX. of 30/70				
82.22.1450	(PH No.10064 SITAGLIPTIN				
56.22.5140	Supply and commissioning				
45.22.1126	Battery operated Led based Torch light				

Tender Notice No.151/2022

SMPS May be read as 23.08.2022

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12.08.2022 at 11.00 AM

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1	30221047A	REAR COVER FOR AXLE BOX	4608	Nos	02.08.2	
2	82221263	Sitagliptin Phosphate 100mg Tab	580070	Nos	05.08.2	
3	30221584	Buffer plunger	1329	Nos	10.08.2	
4	30221603	Face plate	6136	Nos	10.08.2	
5	40225025	25 KV AC Copper Cadmium Catenary wire (19/2.10MM) 65 SQ.MM	169067.4	Kgs	10.08.2	
3	30221152B	BRAKE BEAM COMPLETE FOR BMBC COACHES	3161	Nos	16.08.2	
7	30222246	Rubber pad for primary suspension	3021	Nos	16.08.2	
3	50225317	Electric point machine 143mm stroke	40	Nos	16.08.2	
9	81221081	Non destructive testing set comprising	7375	Set	22.08.2	
0	70225012	CAST IRON STANDARD TEST	6086	Nos	30.08.2	

A&B

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the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Sign						
ertificate (DSC) from one of the authorized certifying authorities (CA) Aspiring bidders who hav						
tained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD may obtain the same from						
ebsite :https://hptenders.gov.in. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bi						
ready possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.						
Key dats.						
Date of Online Publication	23.07.2022					

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office for Construction of 11 KV Line from proposed 33/11KV S/S Kempt to final Stage of Yamuna Valley Peyjal Yojana for giving 200 KVA S/C and Grid Connected Agricultural Pumps under component "C" of PM KUSUN Scheme respectively are hereby extended due to unavoidable reasons Bid documents will be purchased and submitted upto 17:00 hrs o 8.8.2022. Part-I of the e-tender shall be opened on 10.8.2022 at 13:00 hr

& 13:15 hrs

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**Gem BiD Notice** Bids are hereby invited for all mentioned GeM BiD. Details o

1. GeM BiD No. GEM/2022/B/2360960 Dt. 19.07.2022 Outsourcing of teaching staff for Vidyut Parishad Inter College

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY Tender Notice No. S/2022/20 Date : 21.07.2022 The Principal Chief Material Manager, North Western Railway, headquarter 4th floor,

will be closed at 14.25 hrs.						
Sr.		Brief Description	Qty.	Unit	Due da	
۷o.	No.					
1	30221047A	REAR COVER FOR AXLE BOX	4608	Nos	02.08.20	
2	82221263	Sitagliptin Phosphate 100mg Tab	580070	Nos	05.08.20	
3	30221584	Buffer plunger	1329	Nos	10.08.20	
4	30221603	Face plate	6136	Nos	10.08.20	
5	40225025	25 KV AC Copper Cadmium Catenary wire (19/2.10MM) 65 SQ.MM	169067.4	Kgs	10.08.20	
6	30221152B	BRAKE BEAM COMPLETE FOR BMBC COACHES	3161	Nos	16.08.20	
7	30222246	Rubber pad for primary suspension	3021	Nos	16.08.20	
8	50225317	Electric point machine 143mm stroke	40	Nos	16.08.20	
9	81221081	Non destructive testing set comprising	7375	Set	22.08.20	
10	70225012	CAST IRON STANDARD TEST WEIGHT OF 50Kgs	6086	Nos	30.08.20	
11	30221836	Rubber spring for draw gear of BG	1037	Set	06.09.20	

	CORRIGENDUM							
ο.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Tender Notice No	Existing Opening Date	Amend Openi Date			
1	50215185B	50 PAIR/0.63MM AND 10 PAIR/0.63	S/2022/19 Date : 14.07.2022	30.08.2022	10.08.2			
2	79220011	SINGLE TEXTURE WATER PROOF RAN COAT (Annexure A & B replace by single Annexure for	S/2022/14 Date: 01.06.2022	15.07.2022	28.07.2			

BIRMINGHAM 28 JULY-8 AUG

Commonwealth of emotions: Breaking stereotypes, a novice's dare, a desire to end poverty, a mother's struggle and curious origins.

# Haircut with a Waugh watching, seeing Sachin in a cafeteria line

Alastair Campbell and Aminul Islam share how starstruck cricketers were by other athletes at the games village in Kuala Lumpur

ABHISHEK PUROHIT

MUMBAI, JULY 23

AMINUL ISLAM, the former Bangladesh captain, remembers randomly going for a haircut along with Steve Waugh and Gavin Robertson, the former Australia off-spinner, at the hairdressing facility inside the 1998 Commonwealth Games Village in Kuala Lumpur. "They said, 'hey, let's go and have our hair cut.' So all three of us went."

Alistair Campbell, the former Zimbabwe captain, recalls queuing up at the "old-school" phone booths in the athletes' cafeteria to request his sponsors for replacement bats after he broke a couple. Former India batsman Amay Khurasiya would wait for refills to arrive as the limited vegetarian options in the round-the-clock cafeteria would

get polished off early. For cricketers used to operatof bilateral tours and the odd multi-team, but still single-sport,

from vastly different disciplines train and com-

at Birmingham 2022 since that maiden appearance in Kuala Lumpur 1998. While 16 men's teams competed in the one-day format in 1998, with South Africa taking gold, eight women's teams will play in the T20 version this time. Cricket was part of the 2010 and 2014 Asian Games as well but India did not take part in both, which leaves CWG 1998 as their only major multi-sport event till date. The Kuala Lumpur Village was a great leveller for the cricketers; among the biggest stars of the game, such as Sachin Tendulkar, the Waugh brothers and Curtly Ambrose, were "not that important here," as Aminul says. "The swimmers and athletes were a much bigger attraction."

#### Starstruck by sprinters

Campbell says he was starstruck initially.

"You saw the people who you had watched only on TV - the sprinters, the swimmers, so it was peculiar from that perspective," Campbell says. "You would walk past a big name and go, 'hey, that is so-and-so,' or 'isn't he the 400m record holder?' and so on.

"A lot of us in the Zimbabwe team were avid watchers of other sports. We knew the faces, knew what they did, particularly in athletics. And the ability to hop on to a bus and go anywhere, from aquatics to athletics to hockey, was a huge eye-opener. Any spare opportunity, we would grab a bus and go watch the heats and cheer on the few Zimbabweans who were also competing."

It wasn't that the cricketers would go absolutely unrecognised. "A South African swimmer was very excited that cricket was in the

Commonwealth Games and his heroes like (Shaun) Pollock, (Makhaya) Ntini, (Mark) Boucher, (Jacques) Kallis were all there, and they won gold also," says Aminul, who would make 145 against India in Bangladesh's maiden Test match two years

Still, cricket was a novelty for many at CWG

1998, and Campbell would end up explaining the basics to other athletes over dinner. "A lot of the guys there weren't sure about what this game was and how it is played. Some wanted explanations on the laws and what not," says

#### **Cuisines and conversations**

For Khurasiya and Khoda, the conversations over meals with the other athletes were memorable. "It was a world full of beautiful sports, beautiful athletes and beautiful people. People would start biking or training at 5 in the morning. The commitment levels were unbelievably high. It was something to sit with such people and have your meal," says Khurasiya.

Witnessing at close quarters what athletes in individual disciplines go through in their daily routines was a lesson for Campbell.

"As cricketers, even then, things were sorted out for you as a team. As an athlete, yes, you have your training or sparring partners, but otherwise it is a lonely existence in an individual sport. It was an eye-opener to see



Cricket returns to the Commonwealth Games for the first time since 1998. Players like Steve Waugh and Sachin Tendulkar were part of the event then.

these guys train and just how disciplined they were. Just the solitude they go through, especially athletics."

Standing in line with hundreds to fill their plates in the cafeteria buffet was another novel experience for the international cricketers used to laidback five-star hotel spreads and room

"There was no VIP treatment for anyone, everyone would stand in line. But it made no difference to Sachin Tendulkar, who was as modest then as he is now, and when Tendulkar is not complaining, nobody complains," says Khurasiya.

While the vegetarians obviously had fewer choices – and minus the Indian spices too – overall, the Malaysians hadn't held back with the variety of fare on offer. So the cafeteria was a ceaseless melting pot of cultures, in more ways than one.

"Those foods were very healthy, mostly

steamed, not much oil. I became a fan of steamed salmon after those days," says

"They had cuisines from all over the world. They really pushed hard. You could have Chinese, Thai, Vietnamese, typical English fare, they really did an outstanding job in catering for all the different cultures there. It was no mean feat, 24 hours a day,' says Campbell. "Some of the disciplines would finish really late, and they would want a midnight snack. So the cafeteria was a hive of activity all the time. It wasn't just starch and protein, there was something for everybody there.'

Campbell also recalls the sheer ease of getting around the Village and the metropolis beyond it. "It was like every sort of whim was taken care of. Even if you wanted to leave the Village to have food outside or go to a bar, the transport system was unbelievable. You just had to look out for the shuttle. It was like being on the London subway. It was clockwork 24 hours a day.'

#### Opening ceremony

Apart from life in the Village, the opening ceremony at a packed stadium was where the difference really hit some of the cricketers. For Bangladesh, the moment was even bigger as they had been on the rise as a cricket nation; they had won the ICC Trophy in 1997 to qualify for their maiden World Cup in 1999. Already, there were great expectations from the team.

"When you go for the opening ceremony, you are not just cricketers, you are part of the Bangladesh contingent. That is a completely different feeling," says Aminul.

"Our captain was Akram Khan, but I became captain after the Commonwealth Games. That was Akram's last as captain, and he was supposed to carry the flag, but at the last moment, I think one of our shooters did."

Campbell, meanwhile, had to wait, and wait, along with the rest of the Zimbabwe contingent, for their turn to come. "We were 'Z', and Malaysia is very hot and humid. But when we did go in eventually, it was marvellous. You see it on TV but to actually go through it was terrific," says Campbell.

In contrast, the cricket itself was largely uninspiring at the CWG. Played across six venues in Kuala Lumpur, the competition produced several low-scoring howlers; bronzemedallists New Zealand were bowled out for 58 in the semi-final against silver-medallists Australia; in the other semi-final, South Africa were 96 for 9 chasing Sri Lanka's 130 before scraping through.

Practice facilities were scarce, and the pitches had been hastily laid and were, understandably, under-prepared in a place that is still not known for its cricket. In fact, the ICC Trophy, also held in Kuala Lumpur a year earlier in 1997, had been played on synthetic pitches.

"The wickets were bad and nowhere near international standard. They were soggy and bouncing awkwardly," says Khoda. "But all of us would sit and eat together, so many people from across sports and countries coming together. And I loved that."

#### **BRIEFLY**

#### Harmanpreet excited to compete at CWG



Bengaluru: Indian women's cricket captain Harmanpreet Kaur has "grown watching multi-sporting events like the Commonwealth

Games and she is already getting goosebumps thinking about the walk she will take with the rest of the contingent at the opening ceremony on July 28. Women's cricket is making its debut at the Commonwealth Games. "This tournament is very important for us. This time we are playing for a medal. If I speak about myself, we have grown watching these kind of tournaments and we are glad that we are also getting an opportunity, we will be part of a big event. "I think in the future, if we keep getting these (kind of) opportunities, it will be great for us," Harmanpreet said at the pre-departure press conference

#### Manpreet trains focus on weather in UK



Bengaluru:Once acclimatised to the weather in the UK, the Indian men's hockey team will do "whatever it takes to win a medal" at the

Commonwealth Games, skipper Manpreet Singh said on Saturday. The team left for Birmingham on Saturday to take part in the multisport event, which is scheduled from July 28 to August 8. "We are quite excited about this event as we have been training for this competition for quite some time now, and we are looking forward to putting on our best show against some of the best teams in the world. "Having worked on our strengths and weaknesses in the last few months, we will do whatever it takes to win a medal here," Manpreet said before departure. India is placed in Pool B along with England, Canada, Wales, and Ghana.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

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SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

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planetary picture, would advise

you to compromise and bend to

circumstances. In short, please

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

and emotional Scorpios. Your

ever further from what they

good reason for your actions.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

The week begins

positioned in relation

sectors of your chart

associated with

relations, children and romance

seem bound to work out for the

best in the long run, even if you

with the Moon

powerfully

to your sign, so family affairs will

probably keep you on your toes.

that money lies at the root of all

increase your earnings, you will

As the days go by, you will see

important matters, is departing

have been in the past. But other

people will realise that you have

tendency to secrecy in

Many freedom-

loving Sagittarians

are now starting to

resemble obstinate

your belief in your own

be super-flexible.

infallibility. However, any

It may be more

difficult than usual

for you to imagine

that a close partner

Money matters can only increase in importance as the

week passes, but

#### BRIDGE

	WEST	WEST	NORTH	FAST	SOUTH	
	<b>★</b> 86 <b>❤</b> 9873		]♣	Pass	1♠	
	◆ KJ42 ◆963	Pass Pass Pass	3 <b>♣</b> 4 <b>♠</b>	Pass Pass	3♠ Pass	
South reaches 4S on a common auction. North opens TC and rebids 3C, an						

invitational bid, and South bids and rebids spades. South's 3S bid is forcing It is not a sign-off bid. This means that South may have a fairly good hand West has to lead against 4S. Here are the choices you have to select from mp. Hearts, one of the unbid suits. Diamonds, the other of the tw uits. Which of these suits appeals to you?

The North Hand: S-Q103H-AD-863C-AKQJ72 The South Hand: S-KJ9752H-K02 D-0107C-5

for declarer and you know that clubs are splitting too. You have to hope that you can take four tricks in a hurry before they can take ten or eleven. Do you agree that if your partner has the ace of diamonds it will give the defense a

It is obvious that if you lead a diamond and partner has the ace or the queer it will benefit you. It is also obvious that if you lead a 'safe' heart, nothing much will happen if your partner has just the ace and for sure nothing good

is a give-up lead on auctions like this one. A heart would be neutral and also painful to the defense. South would make eleven tricks after a boart load.

I wish I could prove in just one hand that leading from a king is not a bad idea if you are leading a suit that your partner bid or if you are leading an unbid

NORTH	WEST		
<b>★</b> 43	♠ AKJ10862		
<b>♥</b> Q6	<b>₩</b> A105		
◆ AK976	<b>♦</b> J83		
<b>♣</b> 8642	<b>♣</b>		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	3♣		
4♠	5♣	dbl	Pass
Pass	Pass		

South opens 3C and West combats this with a leap to 4S. This is not a weak bid at all. Jumps over their preempts show good hands. West expects to make 4S if East has a reasonable six or seven points.

North raises to 5C and East doubles it. You lead the king of spades and followed. low with the ace, East playing the spade nine at trick one and then the eight of hearts. What should West do next?

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

**AMWYPS** 

**IMNOVG** 

about other people's secret virtues - Bertrand Russel (7)

JUMBLED WORDS

the answer for the given quip

**HSTIO** 

**GUYSS** 

### SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2383

#### OUICK CLUES

- Old time classic movie \_\_\_ Kanya
- Camouflaged, cloaked or
- 10. Load (6) Not upto desired standards or level
- (5,3,4)Summon (esp. to army) (4,2)
- 15. Areas of water swirling in circular motion ?(6)
- Make a conspicuous mistake (4.1.7)21. Flatten or crush (6)
- 22. Illuminating(8)

#### 24. North American country (6)

- Carbonaceous material (8) Vouch(6) Card game (8)
- Monetary unit of Mongolia
- Raised road (8) Principles of game play
- Fencer's blade (4) Devalued, humbled or humiliated
- 14. Foretell(8)
- Giving as a grant
- Big toe (6)
- 18. Inducts or designs (6)19. What is left to one as inheritance?
- 20. Lateral leader (4)

#### CRYPTIC CLUES

- Clever people are quick on it (6) All the way like a spell of Alcatraz?
- (4,1,2,1)Resort on new lines in Italy (8) 10. Old apartment with key acquired
- 11. Distorted opinion the rooster has
- of life?(4-4,4) 13. Tiny Kelly had his expectant
- fancies (6)
- 18. Golf scores ? (5.7)
- covering(6)

#### recently (2,4)

- 15. Queue to see railway being
- repaired?(4,2)
- 22. What you steal in to wash

SUDOKU

23. To put it briefly (8) 24. King gives writing material to editor he's nutty (6)

wearing?(8)

#### **DOWN** Street hoodlum spins around the rink rail (8)

- Courage at last in masculine, small minded way (6)
- Officer getting on with wretched Ali in Empire style (8)
- Shout with pain, being inexperienced (6) 6. Asks to be given a hand
- 7. Leaves priest on duty saddened initially (6)

  8. One might have this sort of corn so
- as to make it (4) 12. She's uncommonly fertile as a top
- business women (5-3) 14. Fearsome gun and it may be
- moved round!(8) 16. Spinner spinning nine out, having
- restricted runs (8) 17. I bleed it so it becomes fit for eating 18. They're very fast, but may be shot

- 20. Defence organisation in Anatolia

#### Solutions to 2382

OUICKCLUES Across: 1 Decay. 4

# Slang, 13 Lobby, 15 Tot, 16 Ups, 17

Luckv.19 Meant.21 Duskv.23 Darns. 24 Sob. 25 Dia. 26 Moxie. 28 Since. 29 Estonia, 31 Aquaria, 33 Oversight 34 Elate. Down: 1 Dachshund, 2 Combats.3 Yon.4 Nasal.5 Goa.6 Truly,7 Arietta,8 Erect,12 Gully,14 Buyer,18 Codex,19 Mists,20 Tableware, 22 Startle, 24 Sangria, 25 Due to, 26 Monks, 27 Exalt, 30 Aug, 32 Use. CRYPTICCLUES Across: 1 Demon, 4 Moleskins,9 Cape Cod,10 Panoply, 11 Trees,13 Showy,15 E'er,16 Los,17 Idles, 19 Buses, 21 Norsk, 23 Pasty, 24

# If it's your Birthday

#### Sunday July 24

The odds are stacked in your favour, but as soon as you become too complacent you'll raise the chance of a temporary setback. In love you'll be flexible. At work, however, stand up for your rights.

#### Monday July 25

now in a month when your finances could begin to turn a very important and profoundly welcome corner.

Wednesday July 27 It's an ambitious moment, and you want to be recognised for your skills. But first

### Thursday July 28

Don't be too worried if someone has failed to reply to your blandishments. It's not what other people do that matters, but how you respond.

Your stars point both ways. You would like to stay close to home yet your mood is lively and adventurous. In addition, you'll find that travel, together with exposure to foreign cultures, will prove stimulating.

#### Saturday July 30

Little by little, your special long-range goals are becoming easier to achieve. You'll be ready to enjoy social and romantic encounters, free from commitment or concern about the future.

before long, leaving vou to stand on vour own two feet once

choices. Also, it may be time to abandon a commitment which has become rather burdensome.

connection with intense, passionate Pluto, and you could be heading for an intense confrontation. You will have to speak the truth. although please pick your words with care. Hopefully your

#### GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

scenes to change are reinforced by Venus' passage through complementary

# quarters of your chart.

and Mars is bound to awaken ideas of social adventure, you'll be on the look-out for new friends and anxious to put former associates in their place. Additional attention is required to all travel plans over the coming weeks, perhaps because you're showing a tendency to forget essential

#### LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

emotional challenges from Wednesday to Thursday, so these should be the perfect days to apply a little of your cheery Leonine medicine to a close partnership. Why don't you organise a break from domestic routine and plan something

#### VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

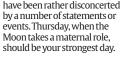


play in your life over the next three weeks.

#### AQUARIUS (Jan 21- Feb 19) developments in the

disagreements. If you can

solve many problems.



PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20) The stars are urging self-improvement. This is a special week

pursuing educational goals or working in the travel and communications industry. If there is any way to get other people to see that you really do mean business, then get on with it - do not delay. It's time to drop

for all of you

Answer: No one gossips about other people's secret virtues - Bertrand Russel SOLUTION: HOIST, GUSSY, SWAMPY, MOVING

#### Difficulty Level 3s Instructions

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9must 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 =

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

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4904 6 2 8 3 4 5 7 9 1 7 4 1 9 2 8 3 5 6 3 5 9 1 6 7 2 8 4 4 3 5 8 7 9 1 6 2 9 1 7 2 3 6 8 4 5 8 6 2 5 1 4 9 3 7 1 8 4 6 9 2 5 7 3 2 9 6 7 5 3 4 1 8 5 7 3 4 8 1 6 2 9

### YOUR WEEK AHEAD

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) The Sun moves on

again. You're entering a tricky financial phase and will have to face up to a number of awkward

#### TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Mercury, planet of ideas, renews its

#### sensitivity will be appreciated, and will help everyone move on.

Something may happen behind the vour plans and ideas. Whatever takes place will almost certainly involve your work or whatever other routine chores are pre-occupying you at the moment. Romantic hopes

#### CANCER (June 22 - July 23) The relationship between Mercury

#### The Moon issues



Is it possible that you have embroiled vourself in a bureaucratic muddle? If you stick to your guns and do what you know to be right, you won't go far wrong. And you might also win some additional respect from the people who matter.

your cool, laid-back approach

ing in their own cocooned world

event, Khurasiya feels the CWG Village atmosphere gave a "slight indication" of what an Olympics Village must feel like. Coming from a land where cricket remains "a religion", Gagan Khoda, the former India batsman and selector, remembers the sobering experience of watching hundreds of elite athletes

Cricket returns to the CWG for the first time

Dealer: North Vulnerable: East/Wes

West should take this position. The opponents have bid strongly. Usually, when they bid in confident fashion and if they find a good fit, they have enough tricks if allowed time to get to them. You know that spades are dividing well

You can take three diamond tricks and a later spade for down one. A spade

### daily consumption (6)

19 Tank that is built for a person's

RMO, 25 SOS, 26 Tazos, 28 Henry, 29 Reigate, 31 Lorelei, 33 Blinkered, 34 Butte. Down: 1 Decathlon, 2 Moppets, 3 NOC,4 Medes,5 Lap,6 Sandy,7 18 Lapaz, 19 Blyth, 20 Story-line, 22 Rossini, 24 Ringlet, 25 Shrub, 26 Track, 27 Solid, 30 Ear, 32 Rib.

8

#### In a year of potential prosperity, you are

Tuesday July 26

You're on the edge of a breakthrough. If

#### you can put in just a little more effort, you will see that all the trouble was worth it.

you need more experience in handling certain important responsibilities.

Friday July 29

5.10am, World Athletics C'ships, Live on Sony **FORMULA 1** 

6.25pm, French Grand Prix, Live on Star Sports

#### **BRIEFLY** —

#### Leclerc on pole at French GP with Verstappen alongside

Paris: Ferrari's Charles Leclerc received a boost from team mate Carlos Sainz that helped him beat Red Bull's championship leader Max Verstappen to pole position at the French Grand Prix on Saturday. Spaniard Sainz, who already knew he would be starting at the back on Sunday due to engine penalties, 'towed' Leclerc in his slipstream at Le Castellet's smooth-surfaced Circuit Paul Ricard. The extra speed made a difference. "It was a great lap. I've struggled all weekend to put a lap together and I managed to put it," said Leclerc, who is second overall. REUTERS

#### Women's Euros: Sweden beat Belgium

Leigh: Sweden broke down Belgium's dogged resistance with a goal in the second minute of stoppage time to win 1-0 on Friday and set up a semifinal against host nation England in the Women's European Championship. Linda Sembrant smashed home a loose ball from inside the six-yard box following a corner after Belgium goalkeeper Nicky Evrard produced one of many scrambling saves on a rainy night at Leigh Sports Village. AP

#### English cricketer hits 410 for highest score

Leicester: Sam Northeast entered an exclusive group of cricketers to pass 400 runs in a single innings after hitting 410 not out for Glamorgan in an English County Championship match on Saturday. He didn't get a chance to challenge Brian Lara's world-record individual score of 501 - set in 1994 while playing for Warwickshire, also in an English county match — because Glamorgan chose to declare on 795-5 against Leicestershire. PTI

# Limitless McLaughlin

American shatters her World Record by a whopping 0.73 seconds, winning 400m hurdles in 50.68 secs

**SCOTT CACCIOLA** 

JULY 23

THERE WAS a time, not so long ago, when Sydney McLaughlin was challenged whenever she planted herself in the starting blocks for the 400-meter hurdles. She knew she would face stiff competition from the likes of Dalilah Muhammad, a graceful runner with an impressive list of achievements.

For the past couple of years, however, McLaughlin has lifted herself to a different level. She has repeatedly smashed the world record to smithereens, rendering her rivals none of them slouches — into background noise as she pushes the boundaries of what seems possible in her profession.

Already the reigning Olympic gold medalist, McLaughlin on Friday night broke the world record for the fourth time in two years, demolishing a deep and decorated field in 50.68 seconds to win her first world championship.

Femke Bol of the Netherlands was second in 52.27 seconds, and Muhammad finished

For the indefinite future, McLaughlin's only real battle appears to be with the clock: When will she break the world record next?

Some context might help. Consider that McLaughlin would have defeated two of the women who advanced to Friday's 400-meter final — while clearing 10 hurdles. (Yes, you read that correctly.) Consider, too, that she trimmed 0.73 seconds from her previous world record, which she had set 27 days earlier at the U.S. championships.

Most absurd of all? McLaughlin sees room for improvement.

"Ithink we're all figuring out that, yes, there are 10 barriers, but we can run them a lot faster than people think," she said, adding: "I still think that wasn't even a super clean race."

Undefeated in the 400-meter hurdles since 2019, when she finished second to Muhammad at the world championships in Doha, Qatar, McLaughlin, 22, has emerged as one of track and field's most dominant athletes in a discipline that should be one of its most



Sydney McLaughlin broke the world record for the fourth time in two years. Reuters

competitive. Muhammad, who used to own the world record until McLaughlin came along, is an Olympic and world champion. And while injuries have interrupted her training, she is still a fearsome athlete at 32.

"I was kind of nervous, honestly, going into this meet, not knowing where my fitness level would be," Muhammad said. "So to get a medal shows my resilience as an athlete.

Bol, 22, who won bronze at the Tokyo Olympics behind McLaughlin and Muhammad, could be the contemporaneous rival who pushes McLaughlin through the 2024 Paris Olympics, and perhaps beyond. Bol owns the seventh-fastest time in history. (The six times ahead of her belong to McLaughlin and Muhammad.)

But there is still a gap between McLaughlin and Bol, one that was evident as early evening shadows fell across the track at Hayward Field and McLaughlin opened up an enormous lead by the halfway point. Her romp down the homestretch might as well have been a victory lap. No one was close to her. "I would definitely say it's a flow state,"

that you've done in practice into the race to the point where you're just letting your body do what it does.'

McLaughlin, who grew up in central New

Jersey and was a teenage prodigy at Union Catholic High School, is quite simply the fastest women's 400-meter hurdler in history. After breaking Muhammad's world record in 2021 at the U.S. Olympic trials, McLaughlin broke it again a few weeks later when she won gold at the Tokyo Olympics. Muhammad finished second in both races. Last month, McLaughlin seemed fairly im-

passive when she lowered the record again, running 51.41 seconds at the U.S. championships. Muhammad, who had an automatic bid to worlds as the defending champion, chose not to compete.

As for the future, McLaughlin said she would discuss her options with her coach Bobby Kersee, at the end of the season. She left open the possibility that she could compete in the 400 meters or the 100-meter hurdles — or some combination of events. "My coach thinks there's a lot more to be done," she said. **NEW YORK TIMES** 

#### **MCLAUGHLIN'S SUPERHUMAN EFFORT**

A prodigious high school talent once is now the greatest hurdler of this generation.

#### MILES AHEAD

McLaughlin's 50.68 is nine-tenths faster than the second-best hurdler in history Dalilah Muhammad's personal best of 51.58s. In terms of distance, that is 7m ahead.

#### PEERLESS TEEN PRODIGY

**THE 22-YEAR-OLD** American has the world best timings against her name from age of 14 to 19. No athlete has managed to clock within a second from McLaughlin's U-18 (54.18s) and U 20 (52.75s) world record timings so far.

**IMPERIOUS FORM:** Mclaughlin has been unbeaten in every 400m hurdles final she has taken part in since June 2021 with a 7-race win streak.

#### TOP COACH, TOP SHOW

She is training under top coach Bob Kersee, whose most successful ward is his wife Jackie Joyner-Kersee (6 Olympic medals, four-times World Champion), since 2020.

#### WHERE DO INDIANS STAND?

It's been 38 years since the 400m hurdles record stands in the name of the legendary PT Usha. She achieved the 55.42s mark at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. McLaughlin's 50.68 is faster than Hima Das's national record of 50.79 seconds in 400m flat.

### Chahal all praise for Siraj for defending 15 runs in last over

**RAHUL PANDEY** 

JULY 23

MOHAMMAD SIRAJ had 15 to defend in the final over. Barring 2021 IPL, he has always featured in the list of bowlers with the worst performances in the death overs. Still, India were confident, says Yuzvendra Chahal as he was landing his yorkers in the game. Siraj produced at least five of them in the final over to choke Romario Shepherd, who had the game, to pull off a heist. As he produced his final yorker of the evening to nutmeg Shepherd in the final ball of the game, he walked ever so coolly as if he had done it all his life.



Siraj's yorkers helped India beat West Indies in the final over, inching past the hosts on the final ball of the first ODI. Chasing 309, the hosts needed 15 in the

50th over but only managed to score 11 off Siraj. Having started off the final over giving just a leg bye off the first two, Siraj conceded eight off the next three legal deliveries, barring a wide. The momentum looked to have shifted towards the Windies with four needed off the final ball. The 28-year old did get the final delivery right, angling into Romario Shepherd, who missed out on the line and could only gather a bye.

"Jis hissab se Siraj yorker daal raha tha, hume poora belief tha ki 15 runs bach sakte hai (The way Siraj was bowling yorkers, we had full belief that we can defend 15 runs)," Chahal said in the post-match presser.

"In the couple of overs he had bowled before, he barely missed on that yorker once or twice," said Chahal.

"The pressure is of course there, the way they were batting, 15 runs needed in the final over, one hit could've changed the game. Especially when Sanju [Samson] made that stop on the wide, we got even more confident."

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# Wrist assured: Pant, Surya will ensure Virat and Rohit wouldn't be missed

**SANDEEP DWIVEDI** 

Once Imran Khan famously asked Abdul Qadir

to grow a goatee before a tour of England. If he had his way, he would have got him to wear a The 'Conjurer from the East' look was to

give his crafty leg-spinner - with those hypof mystery. By the end of the tour, the English couldn't stop talking about the sly spinner who had tricks hidden in every joint of his magical Till a week back, a bunch of Indian crick-

eters were touring England. Most wore stubbles. It wasn't a management decree, they weren't being characters in the script penned by their captain. This was the team's signature match-face, they couldn't have passed off for some exotic illusionist. Still a couple of them – Rishabh Pant and

Surya Kumar Yadav – managed to sweep the locals off their feet, casting a spell over them. The two elicited collective gasps of wonderment in the stands and in TV/podcast studios. Like in Qadir's case, there was talk about the magical wrists.

The effortlessness and innovation of the un-English batsmanship caught the attention of eyes more used to watching textbook strokes that were primarily about elbows and

When India was getting angry and angsty about Virat Kohli edging the ball behind the stumps, England, in a trance, were processing two soul-stirring centuries - Pant's 113-ball 125 in the Manchester ODI and Surva's 55-ball 114 in the Nottingham T20I.

They were heaping on them heavy praise, burdening the two new stars with back-breaking expectations. In the land known for lyrical cricket writers with poetic licence, they were making some fairly audacious comparisons.

The popular podcast The Analyst, presented by top cricket pundit and former firstclass player Simon Hughes and BBC's Simon Mann, made a leap of faith, the kind even Indians can't dare. Pant, they said, was better than MS Dhoni, with just a wee bit of reluc-

There was also discussion about Surya's 360-degree play and his talent to explore the less-patrolled unexplored areas of a cricket ground. His unconventional behind-square play still fresh in mind, Surya was called the 'Next AB de Villiers'.

Other most-listened-to talk shows around the English shores called Surya's knock the 'best T20 innings ever'. All post-match dissections of his stroke-play had the mention of the flexible wrists strengthened on the Mumbai

Hughes mentions left-hander Pant's unique way of dealing with James Anderson's



Popular podcasters touted Rishabh Pant as better than MS Dhoni. PTI

deadly round the wicket incoming balls that are pitched fractionally short of length. It's the English master pacer's favourite variation to test the best in business.

Darting in diagonally from the edge of the crease, the ball seams further towards the batsman, threatening to take the edge of his bat or knock over the stumps. It is a tight ball that restricts the movement of the batter's hands and even cramps their feet. Hughes says most times, the batters get tucked in and tend to inside-edge the ball onto their tight pads.

But Pant is different. He quickly skips on to the backfoot and clears his front leg. "This enables him to work the ball away to the legside with a wristy little flick," says Hughes. The wrists again.

It's these late delicate manoeuvres, achieved by some subtle wrist movement, that baffle even the keen observers of the game. A slog-sweep to cow corner, a screaming cover drive hit by a free-flowing bat, or even a straight drive are results of a full contact of the wood and lack mystery. They are beautiful to watch but self-explanatory. You see the forceful action of the bat and anticipate the subsequent reaction of the ball racing to the fence. You see force and expect acceleration - it's simple science. Wristy strokes follow a micro-science, their nuances are too intricate, they are unseen to the naked eye.

From beyond the boundary line, it is tough to fathom how a mere flick can send the ball to the parking lot outside the stadium. They trigger 'How did that happen?' curiosity. It also enhances interest, generates admiration. Anything unexplained and invisible gets wrapped in a cloak of enigma. It's also jaw-dropping.

These emotions were in abundance when Surya was playing a blinder at Trent Bridge. Despite the awe-inspiring sublime innings, India went on to lose the game but those at the ground were shaking their heads in disbelief. Surya exploited impossible angles by getting in so-far inconceivable

He would stretch his left-foot to the ball get inside the line of the delivery and lovingly flick over fine leg for six. For the same ball, he had other options. He would get into shape as if he was about to play a down-on-the-knees

But then, that would have been a very English shot. Surya, while on his haunches, would carve it over point for six. Again, it was all down to those famous flexible sub-continental wrists.

There are shades of ABD in him but he is still very different. The South African mostly guides the ball to fine leg by changing the angle of the bat. Surya puts in more work on the ball. He has the skills of a hockey drag-flicker. His engagement with the ball is deeper.

The two heroes of this England series were following a long-standing tradition that the great Ranji started while turning up for Sussex. He too bewildered the English with his new range of strokes.

Neville Cardus would be on hand to record the first major tweak to batsmanship. Cricket would get described as if it was the review of the Great Indian rope trick. Cardus would write of Ranji belonging to the land of "Hazlitt's Indian jugglers, where beauty is subtle and not plain and unambiguous". Something that Imran had in mind.

He would say how the Indian Prince from Nawanagar's cut was a "dazzling lance of batsmanship". His bat was like a "yielding cane making swift movements which circled round those incomparable wrists". The fascination about that specific part of the anatomy is centuries old and still continues.

For Pant and Surya, this was a coming-ofage tour. The bigger stars - Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma – weren't quite bringing the roof down at stadiums but their failure wasn't noticed.

No one missed Kohli's cover drive or Rohit's

pull. There were new stars, newer strokes to If transition had a picture, it was one of Surva walking back to a standing ovation from

the jam-packed Nottingham crowd and Vivek

Razdan from the commentary box belting out one of his instant couplets. "Buland iraadon se likhte hain taqdeer apni, hamari kismat haath ki lakiron ki mohtaaj nahi hai," he would say as if Surya's thought bubble. It's loosely translated as 'fate of those with lofty ambitions isn't dependent on palm lines'. He was right, in the case of Surya and Pant, it's

# PATANJALI

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