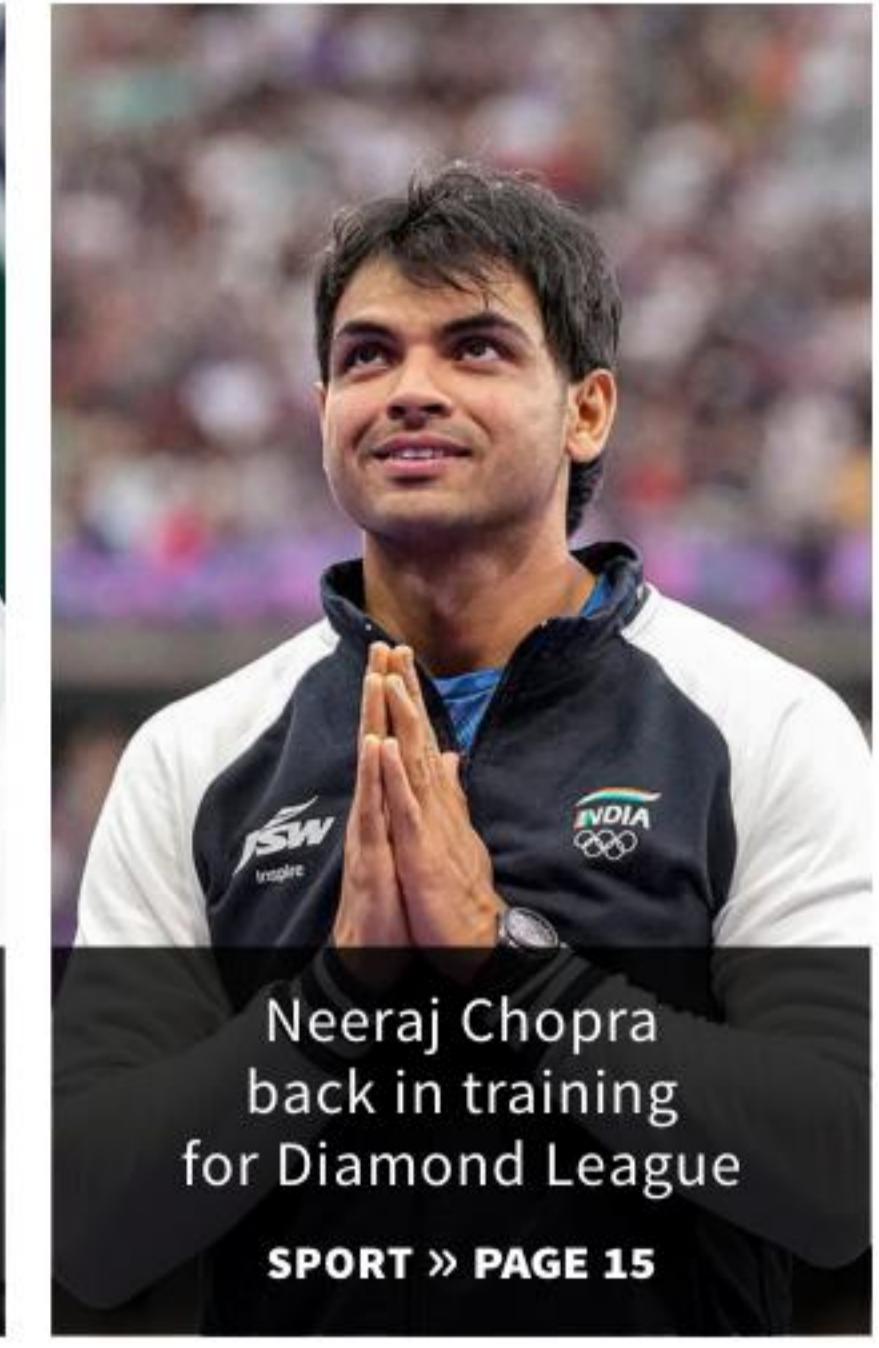
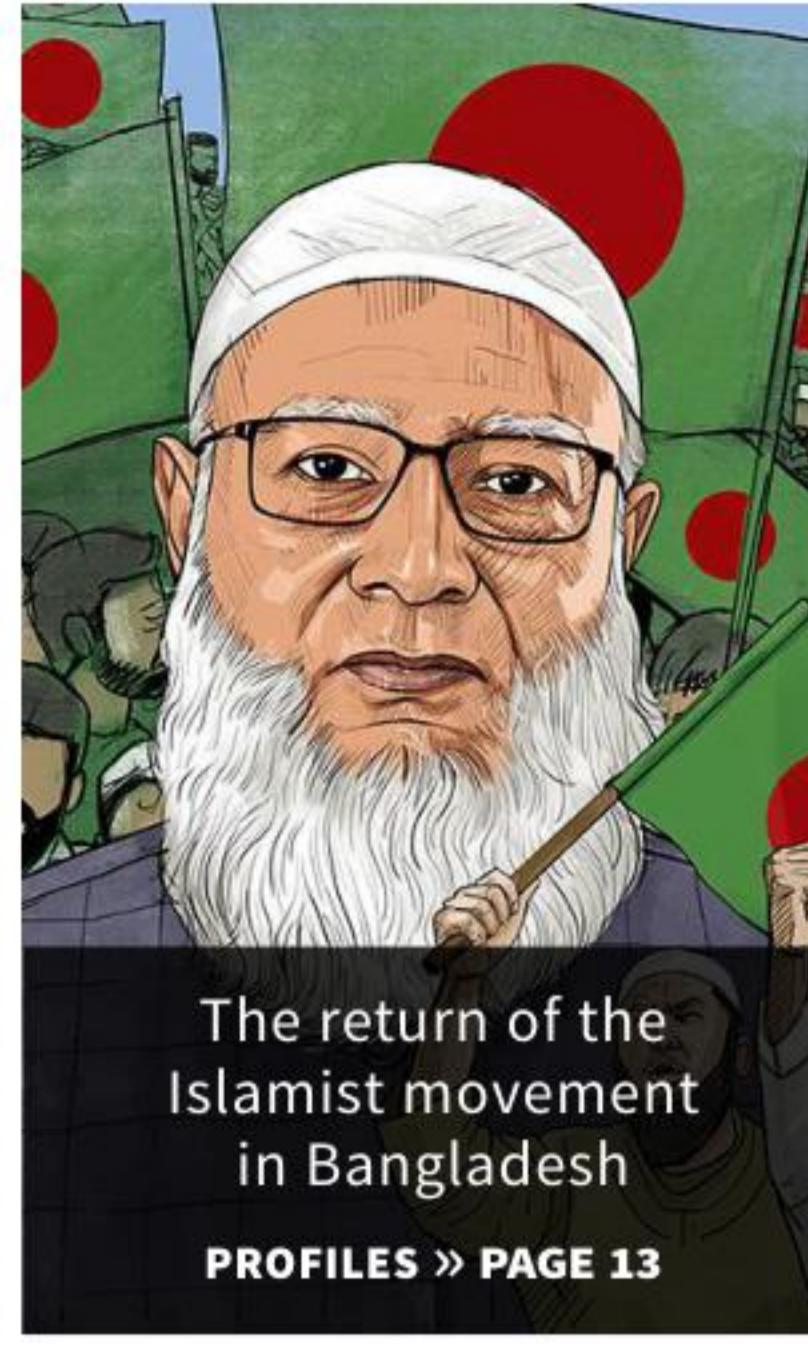
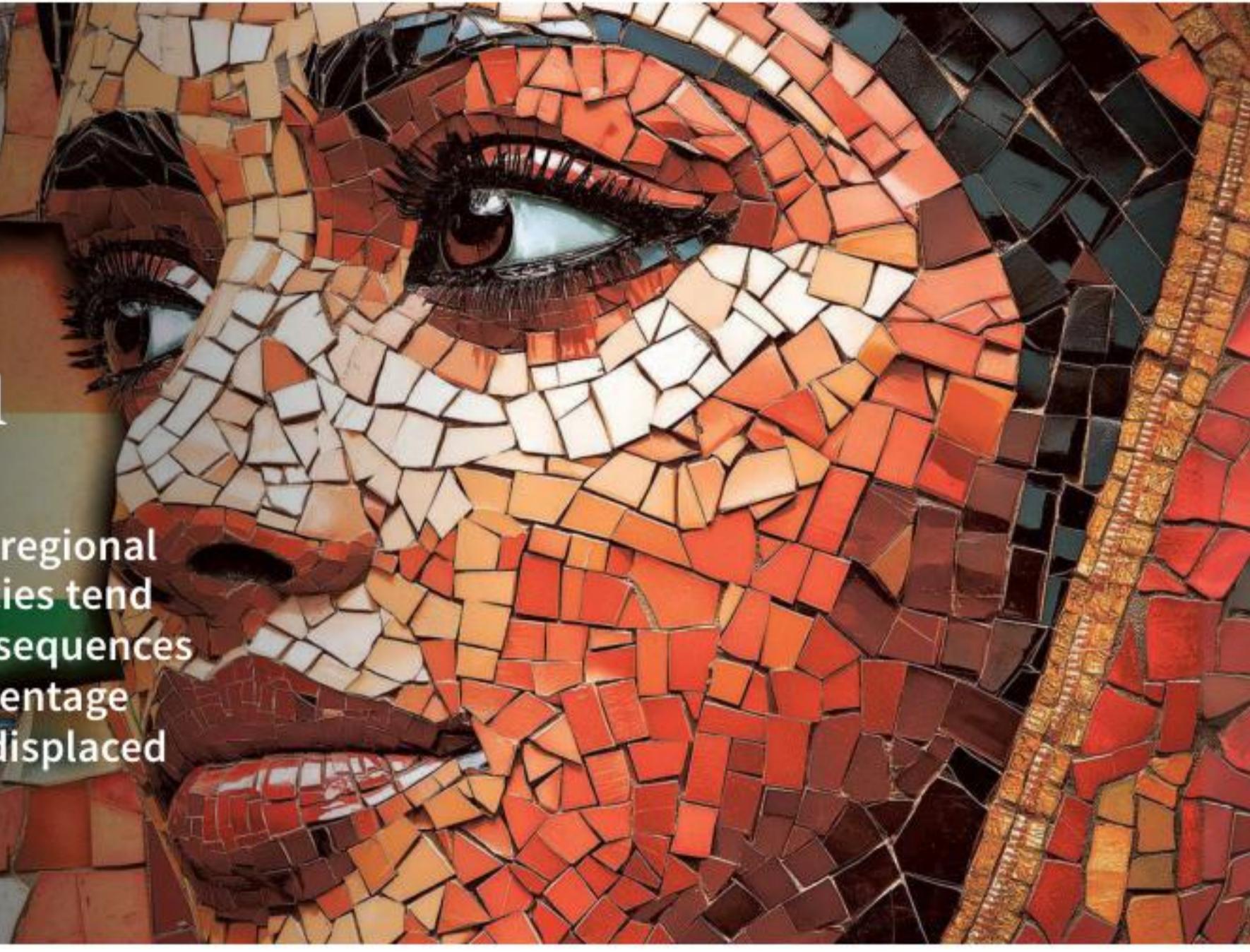


THE IDENTITY QUESTION

India's mosaic children

In a country with strong regional identities, domicile policies tend to have far-reaching consequences for those with mixed parentage or for migrants and the displaced

MAGAZINE » PAGE 1



The return of the
Islamist movement
in Bangladesh

PROFILES » PAGE 13

PM bats for just and
inclusive global
governance

NEWS » PAGE 7

Neeraj Chopra
back in training
for Diamond League

SPORT » PAGE 15

IN BRIEF



**Maharashtra govt.
launches Ladki
Bahi Yojana**

MUMBAI
The Mahayuti government
formally launched its
Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki
Bahi Yojana for eligible
women on Saturday. » Page 4

**More quit JJP
as poll process
commences**

GURUGRAM
A day after the announcement
of the schedule for the
Haryana Assembly poll, four
MLAs of the JJP, including two
former Ministers, relinquished
all party posts citing personal
reasons. » Page 4

MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES
CLASSIFIEDS » PAGE 5

Governor gives approval for Karnataka CM's prosecution

Emergency meet of State Cabinet says it is 'illegal, unconstitutional, against spirit of democracy'; Siddaramaiah rules out resignation; Gehlot seeks 'neutral, objective, and non-partisan' probe

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU



Taking on: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D.K. Shivakumar addressing the media on Saturday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Karnataka Governor Thaawar-chand Gehlot on Saturday sanctioned the investigation and prosecution of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in a case of alleged corruption in the allotment of land to his wife by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA).

The sanction has been given based on petitions submitted by two Bengaluru-based social activists Pradeep Kumar S.P. and T.J. Abraham, and Mysuru-based Snehamayi Krishna.

A six-page communication to Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh by the Governor's Secretariat on Saturday said that sanction has been given under Section 17A [for investigation]

of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, and Section 218 [for prosecution] of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, "for the commission of the alleged offences mentioned in the petitions".

Later on Saturday, Mr. Siddaramaiah chaired an emergency meeting of the State Cabinet, which unanimously condemned Mr. Gehlot's decision, terming

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 7

BJP demands Siddaramaiah's resignation

NEW DELHI
The Bharatiya Janata Party on Saturday sought the resignation of Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to ensure an "impartial and independent" probe into his alleged role in the MUDA site allotment scam. » PAGE 8

The legality of the Governor's move against CM

The law relating to a Governor granting sanction for a serving CM's prosecution is governed not by statutory provisions alone, but also by a string of court judgments. » PAGE 8

Strike affects patients; IMA weighs Centre's plan for safety of doctors

Bindu Shajan Perappadan

NEW DELHI

The Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry on Saturday requested agitating doctors to resume their duties "in the larger public interest", and assured them that a committee would be formed to "suggest all possible measures" for ensuring the safety of healthcare professionals.

Doctors across the country participated in a 24-hour strike called by the Indian Medical Association (IMA), which began at 6 a.m. on Saturday, to protest against the rape and murder of a resident doctor at R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital, Kolkata.

Doctors have been staging protests over the incident since August 12. The strike caused hardship to patients, with outpatient departments and elective surgeries being cancelled, and several groups, including nursing associations, extending support for the strike. Hospital services in



Up in arms: Doctors and health workers stage a protest in Kochi, Kerala, on Saturday. THULASI KAKKAT

most States including Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and those in the Northeast, were adversely hit.

IMA president R.V. Asokan said it was studying the Ministry's statement. He recalled an "office memorandum issued by the Ministry" in 2017, promising a Central law. "The association will respond after careful consideration of all aspects," he said.

The IMA has written to Prime Minister Narendra

Modi that doctors, especially women, are vulnerable to violence because of the nature of the profession. "It is for the authorities to provide for the safety of doctors inside hospitals and campuses," the association said while listing out demands including assured security, restricted duty hours, speedy justice in the current case, and compensation for bereaved families.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 7

Hero's welcome



Wrestler Vinesh Phogat arrives at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi on Saturday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP (REPORT ON PAGE 15)

UPSC advertises 45 lateral entry posts in Central Ministries; Oppn. cries foul

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Union Service Public Commission (UPSC) on Saturday issued an advertisement to recruit 45 Joint Secretaries, Directors, and Deputy Secretaries across 24 Central Ministries through lateral entry on contract basis or deputation. The ad triggered allegations from Opposition leaders that the Centre was trying to bypass reservation policies.

The advertisement is for the posts of 10 Joint Secretaries and 35 Directors/Deputy Secretaries. The posts are required to be

filled by September 17.

Responding to the development, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge accused the BJP, which had "ripped apart the Constitution", of launching a "double attack on reservation". He asked if there was any reservation for the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs) or the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) in these lateral entry posts.

"As part of a well-planned conspiracy, the BJP is deliberately making such recruitments in jobs so that SC, ST, OBC categories can be kept away from

reservation. Secondly, the reservation scam in the appointment of 69,000 assistant teachers in U.P. has now been exposed by the High Court decision," Mr. Kharge said in a post on X. He added that in March 2024, Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi had written to the Prime Minister on the U.P. issue.

"It is necessary to fully implement the provisions of economic, social, and political justice enshrined in the Constitution of India. That is why the Congress party is demanding caste census for social justice," Mr. Kharge said.

Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav also slammed the Centre over the move, terming it a "cruel joke" on the country's reservation system and the Constitution.

'Denying rightful share'
"If these 45 posts were filled through the traditional civil services examination, nearly half of them (22-23) would be reserved for SC, ST, and OBC candidates. By opting for lateral entry system, the government is effectively denying these communities their rightful share in governance in a very systematic, planned and clever move," he said in a post on X.

Rise in militancy in J&K casts shadow on border tourism

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

The growing militant footprint in the upper reaches of Jammu and Kashmir has cast a shadow on the border tourism that had picked up two years ago against the backdrop of a renewed ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan. The process to get passes for areas closer to the Line of Control (LoC) has now been made stringent again, and many areas in north Kashmir are now listed as no-go zones, official sources said.

Several visitors and off-roaders heading for Keran – named among 12 off-beat

tourist destinations to be promoted by the J&K government – failed to get permission to travel there this month, official sources said. The security forces suspected movement of militants after three infiltrators were killed on July 14 close to the LoC in the Keran Sector of Kupwara.

The Lieutenant-Governor's administration had planned to promote Keran as a border tourist village as hundreds of tourists have showed interest in the destination since 2022. The high-altitude circuit has also been closed for local off-roaders this year.

The administration's move to issue on-spot per-

mission at the Kralpora police station in Kupwara has also been stopped. "Only online permission seven days prior to visit can be applied [for]. It may or may not be granted," a local off-roader said.

The process of police verifications of local tourists has also been made a must to visit the border areas of Kupwara.

Vigil stepped up
This year, the upper reaches of the Jammu region have seen increased activity by highly trained militants. Eight to 12 groups of infiltrators are believed to be active in the Pir Panjal Valley and the Chenab Valley. Of late, official sources said, security forces have stepped up their vigil in north Kashmir, especially in Kupwara district, following reports of movement of armed men in the forests.

The Pakistan Army has

also hardened its approach on the LoC. Sources said the Pakistan Army has been using the public address systems of mosques on its side of the border to object to tourists coming close to the Neelum river in the Keran and Teetwal area. The river divides Kashmir from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

Areas close to the LoC in north Kashmir had remained out of bounds for outsiders for more than 30 years.

However, as the guns and cannons fell silent after a fresh ceasefire agreement in February 2021, tourists had started exploring these areas for the first time.

The fresh wave of militancy, however, may reverse such signs of progress in the area.

House of boy accused of stabbing classmate demolished in Udaipur

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

A day after Rajasthan's Udaipur city witnessed communal tension over the stabbing of a 15-year-old Class X student, the BJP government on Saturday demolished the house of a minor Muslim boy who was detained in connection with the incident.

The Forest Department had sent an eviction notice to the boy's family in the morning declaring that their house had been constructed illegally on the department's land, and razed it afternoon.

Udaipur Collector Arvind Poswal said a team of three specialist doctors from Jaipur had arrived at Maharana Bhupal Government Hospital, where the injured boy has been admitted, for monitoring his treatment in the intensive care unit. The boy's condition is said to be stable.

News of the stabbing fol-

cutive slogans outside mosques and dargahs. On Saturday, the city returned to normalcy as local markets opened and no untoward incident was reported.

Schools closed

All government and private schools in Udaipur re-

mained closed and the sus-

pension of mobile Internet services was extended by 24 hours as the administra-

tion found it difficult to control the spread of mis-

information on social media platforms.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 7



Keran, which is near the LoC, had attracted tourists for its scenery and riverside views. FILE PHOTO

must reverse such signs of progress in the area.

IN BRIEF



JNUSU strike enters sixth day, protesters' health 'declines'

The indefinite strike by the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) entered its sixth day on Saturday, with the health of several protesters "deteriorating", the student body said. The students have been protesting since August 11 over several demands, including the reinstatement of the gender sensitisation committee against sexual harassment and the revocation of the chief proctor's office manual that penalises protests on the university campus with fines up to ₹20,000. The All India Students' Association said JNUSU president Dhananjay has developed pre-jaundice symptoms while signs of typhoid were detected in some other protesters.

Develop app to help penalise illegally parked vehicles: L-G

Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena has asked the Delhi traffic police, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, and the New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) to develop a mobile application on which pictures of vehicles parked illegally could be uploaded from a phone so that action against offenders could be taken in real time. The directions came after the L-G chaired a meeting on Friday to address parking problems in the city. In a note released on Saturday, Raj Niwas said Mr. Saxena has suggested a pilot test, as part of which gardeners in the NDMC area will be authorised to take pictures and upload them on the app. "Ways to incentivise the gardeners for this work are to be explored," read the note.

Drowning deaths: court order on basement owners' bail applications likely on August 23

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court is likely to pronounce its order on August 23 on bail applications filed by four owners of a coaching centre basement in Old Rajinder Nagar where three Civil Services

aspirants drowned last month after rainwater flooded it, according to court sources.

The court reserved the order on Saturday after hearing arguments from the Central Bureau of Investigation and the four accused — Parvinder Singh,

Tajinder Singh, Harvinder Singh, and Sarbjit Singh. The counsel representing the accused told the court that the incident was an "act of god" and that it could have been averted had the civic agencies performed their duties well. He said the basement of Rau's IAS Study Circle was not a library, as reported, but a waiting area for students. He said the Delhi Fire Services had inspected the spot a few days before the incident on July 27, and, as per its report, the basement was being used for storage purposes.

Water Minister Atishi on Saturday wrote to Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar instructing him to take "immediate steps" to solve the issue of sewage overflow in the Capital, and termed his "failure" to address the issue "gross negligence".

"Oversee and resolve

Atishi raps Chief Secy. over overflowing drains

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

any problem related to sewage overflow across Delhi, and take strict action against those officials whose negligence has caused this crisis," the letter read.

The Minister said she had received several complaints from areas including Patparganj, Shashi Garden, Khichripur, Subhash Park, Raj Nagar, Satya Ni-

ketan, R.K. Puram, Ranjeet Nagar, Faridpuri, Budh Nagar, Pandav Nagar, Karol Bagh, and Kotla.

"These complaints are serious in nature and could become a serious public health crisis if not attended to immediately," she said. The Minister added that the issue was also responsible for the contamination of drinking water.

Ms. Atishi said that as the head of the bureaucracy, Mr. Kumar is responsible for settling issues between departments.

Despite repeated instructions, the Chief Secretary's failure to take necessary action to resolve the crisis is a gross negligence; this will not be tolerated in the [Arvind] Kejriwal government," she said.

City

Private hospitals join strike against Kolkata incident as doctors' stir enters sixth day

OPDs, IPDs, and elective surgeries halted at Sir Ganga Ram, PSRI, Apollo, and Fortis hospitals; 90% reduction in OPD, OT services at AIIMS; pass law for our protection through Ordinance: doctors

Ashna Butani
NEW DELHI

As the doctors' protest in Delhi against the Kolkata incident entered its sixth day on Saturday, several major private hospitals, including Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Fortis Hospitals, Apollo Hospitals, and PSRI Hospital, joined the strike and shut down their outpatient departments (OPDs), inpatient departments (IPDs), and elective surgeries at operation theatres (OTs).

Elective medical services at various hospitals in the national capital have been impacted since resident doctors' associations (RDAs) of AIIMS, RML Hospital, and Safdarjung Hospital, among others, announced a strike on August 12 against the rape and murder of a trainee doctor in Kolkata.

On Friday, hundreds of doctors staged a sit-in outside the Union Health Ministry's office in Nirman Bhawan while another group of doctors marched from Sardarjung Hospital to India Gate before being stopped by the police near the INA flyover.



Loud and clear: Doctors at a march near Lady Hardinge Medical College on Saturday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

The protesting doctors have been demanding immediate implementation of the Central Act to safeguard medical practitioners, besides seeking swift punishment for the accused in the Kolkata rape-and-murder case.

Expedite the probe
Dr. Ajay Swaroop, chairman of the board of management at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, said, "We have declared a complete shutdown of OPDs, elective OTs and IPD work. Unfortunately, I believe that protests and discontinuation of duties have now be-

tween care is not compromised."

Sources at Apollo Hospitals said they were providing only emergency services.

According to a status report by AIIMS, there was a 90% reduction in the hospital's OPD services and OTs. However, services at the Intensive Care Units and the emergency ward were offered as usual, stated the report.

'Concrete steps'

Talking about their meeting with Health Ministry officials earlier in the day, Dr. Ayush Raj, general secretary of the Safdarjung Hospital RDA, said, "We have decided to continue our strike until we get something concrete from the Ministry. We understand that it might take time for them to pass a Bill. So, we are asking for an Ordinance to be passed now."

Fortis Hospitals, in a statement, said, "We respect the sentiments of our doctors and will support those who wish to participate in the nationwide shutdown. Essential services will continue to be provided to ensure that pa-

Delhi election: AAP starts autorickshaw drive across the city

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Saturday announced the launch of an 'Auto Samvad Abhiyan' at autorickshaw stands across the city. Announcing the drive, AAP's Delhi convener Gopal Rai said autorickshaw drivers will spread the word of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal among the public and "expose the BJP's conspiracy" to stop the development works in the Capital.

Attacking the ruling party, the BJP said, "Whenever elections draw near, AAP leaders remember autorickshaw drivers, including stopping the black-marketing of autorickshaw permits, building new stands, providing health facilities for the drivers and better education for their children. "However, all these promises remain unfulfilled dreams to this day," he said.

In response, an AAP leader said the Delhi government had done a lot of work for the autorickshaw drivers over the past five years, which includes transferring ₹10,000 to each driver during the pandemic and reducing the permit fee from ₹1,000 to ₹500.

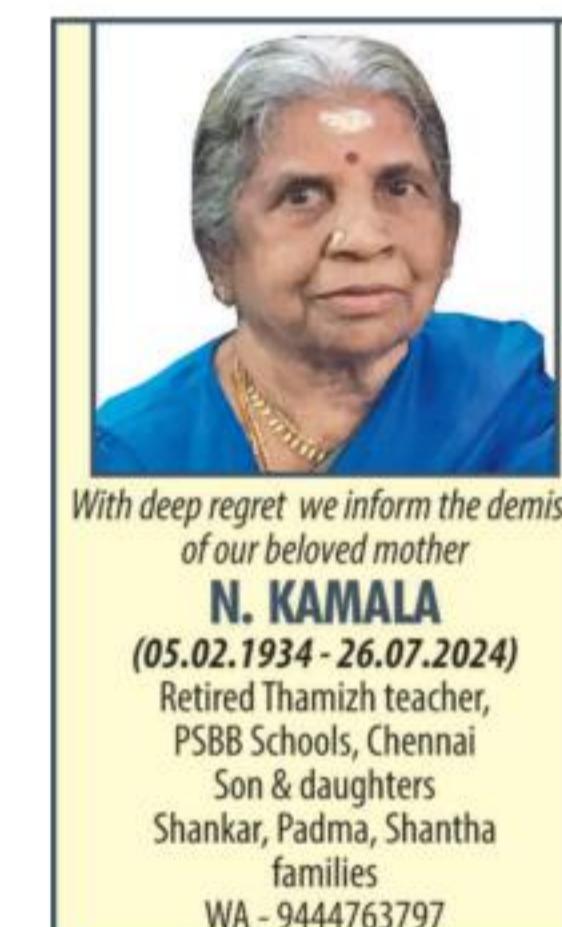
The Delhi Assembly election is scheduled for early next year.



An autorickshaw with AAP poster. FILE PHOTO

OBITUARY &
REMEMBRANCE

DEATH



With deep regret we inform the demise of our beloved mother
N. KAMALA
(05.02.1934 - 26.07.2024)
Retired Thamizh teacher,
PSBB Schools, Chennai
Son & daughter:
Shankar, Padma, Shantha
families
WA - 9444763797

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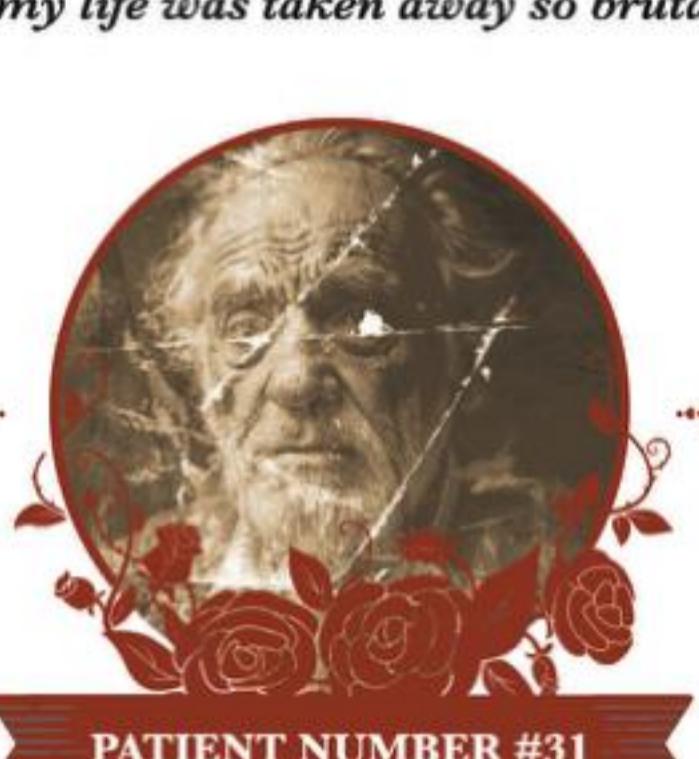
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DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

~ REST IN PEACE ~

"How can I find peace
when my life was taken away so brutally?"



Birth: 1860 Death: 1922

Place of Death: Mukti Kothri, Uttarakhand

*"He was a doctor. Doctor Morris.
He told me he'll take care of me.
But then he told me when I would die.
The exact date and time.
And on that day
he did such terrible things to me,
that I wanted to die sooner.
He lied to me. And a hundred others.
And when you meet him,
in MTV Dark Scroll,
he'll lie to you too."*



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Levi's Reebok

GURUGRAM 306, City Center, Sector 29 (Near Hotel Pilazio)
• PUNCHKUAN ROAD, Garwal Bhawan, (Near Jhandewalan, Gole Chak.)
• WAZIRPUR A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh)
• JANAKPUR B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543
• NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
• LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

Himachal Pradesh
Rural Development Department

NOTICE INVITING RE-TENDER

On line item rate bids are invited by the Executive Engineer RDD MANDI HP on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from contractors/ firms of appropriate class registered with HPPWD through e-tendering mode:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost. (Rs)	Earnest Money	Cost of tender form	Time.
1.	CONSTRUCTION OF GRAM PANCHAYAT COMMUNITY CENTRE PANCHAYAT GHAR AT DROBER DEVELOPMENT BLOCK SADAR BILASPUR DISTT BILASPUR HIMACHAL PRADESH Sub Head Civil work Water supply and Sanitary Installation etc	49,99,875-00	1,00,000-00	2000-00	Nine Month
2.	Construction / Completion residential accommodation for Distt. Panchayat Office & Staff quarters at Bilaspur, Development Block Bilaspur, Distt. Bilaspur (H.P.) SH-Additional & alterations in Basement floor, ground floor, first floor and second floor including Water supply & Sanitary Installations etc.	58,63,644-00	1,17,500-00	2000-00	Nine Month
3.	CONSTRUCTION OF GAUSADAN IN THE CAMPUS OF VETERINARY HOSPITAL TAKOLI ON KH.No.552/3 AT MOHAL - KOTADHAR,GRAM PANCHAYAT KOTADHAR TEH-AUT, DEV BLOCK - BALICHOWKI DISTT. MANDI (H.P.) S.H (Sh: Construction of One No.Fodder Store, Water Storage Tank, Rain Water Harvesting Tank, Boundary wall and Bore Well)	34,13,376-00	68,300-00	1500-00	Nine Month
4.	CONSTRUCTION OF GRAM PANCHAYAT COMMUNITY CENTRE PANCHAYAT GHAR AT SHALAG DEVELOPMENT BLOCK CHURAG DISTT MANDI HIMACHAL PRADESH Sub Head Civil work Water supply and Sanitary Installation etc	49,99,875-00	1,00,000-00	2000-00	Nine Month

- Last date of filling/uploading the tender is 23-08-2024 upto 5 PM
- Tender document and other detailed instructions can be downloaded or viewed online from the portal <https://htenders.gov.in> by the firm/individual.

Executive Engineer,
Rural Development Department,
Mandi Zone District Mandi H.P.

HP / 1494/24-25

HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.08 of Year 2024-25

"Sealed Open tenders are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (S&T), North Eastern Railway, Itzatagar for and on behalf of the President of India for the following works:-

Sl. No.-1, Description of works: Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of Deltron make UFSBI for 3 Years in MRT-BRT (33 sets), BPR-TPU (09 sets), PBE-SZN (04 Sets), KSJ-BMY (09 sets), BPZ-KGM (04 sets) CHRU-RMU (01 Set), PBE-SG (02 Set) in Itzatagar Division. Approx. Value (Rs.): ₹ 2,11,83,019.20, Earnest Money (Rs.): ₹ 2,55,900/-, Completion Period: 36 Months.

Sl. No.-2, Description of works: Signalling work in connection with replacement of defective cables in the section of SSE-SIG/LKU & PBE and Signalling work in connection with Rake handling siding at BNSA Station of Itzatagar Division. Approx. Value (Rs.): ₹ 1,04,20,960/-, Earnest Money (Rs.): ₹ 2,02,100/-, Completion Period: 09 Months.

Date & time of closing of e-tender 09-09-2024 at 11:00 Hrs.

The tender can be viewed at website <http://www.iireps.gov.in>. All relevant papers must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-tendering.

Sr. Divl. Signal & Telecom., Engineer, CPRO/Signal-26, Itzatagar

Never travel on roof and foot boards.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

OPEN TENDER

BATCH No. 20/24 Dated: 16.08.2024

E-Tender Notice for supply of materials - "Participation in through" web portal of IREPS - www.iireps.gov.in offers are invited for supply of the following materials: The closing time for all tenders is at 14.00 hr.

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Quantity	Published on	Closing on
1	04244833	Non Asbestos Based "K" Type			

Part of bridge over Ganga collapses in Bihar

Press Trust of India
BHAGALPUR/KHAGARIA/
PATNA

A portion of an under-construction bridge in Bihar, which was being "dismantled", crashed into the river Ganga on Saturday, officials said. The administration said there were no casualties.

Video footage of a slab of the bridge, connecting Bhagalpur and Khagaria, has gone viral in which locals, watching it from a distance, can be heard screaming "the structure has collapsed once again". Portions of the bridge, which would be 3.16-km long once complete, had collapsed earlier in 2022 and again, a year later.

Timings
DELHI
SUNDAY, AUG. 18
RISE 05:53 SET 18:58
RISE 18:15 SET 03:50
MONDAY, AUG. 19
RISE 05:53 SET 18:57
RISE 18:57 SET 05:01
TUESDAY, AUG. 20
RISE 05:54 SET 18:56
RISE 19:35 SET 06:11

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 35 27
Safdarjung 35 27
Palam 34 27

Delhi Palam Today
36°C Day will be very warm and uneasy with cloudy sky. Night will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower at few places.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
35°C The weather will be warm and uneasy with cloudy sky. Short spell of light rain and thundershower may occur at few places.

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More quit JJP as poll process commences

Four MLAs relinquish all party posts within hours of announcement of the date for Assembly election; six of JJP's 10 MLAs have now left

Ashok Kumar
GURUGRAM

Within 24 hours of the announcement of the schedule for the Assembly election in Haryana, four MLAs of the Janayak Janta Party (JJP), including two former Ministers, formally relinquished all party posts and responsibilities citing personal reasons. The development comes three months after the party had written to the Speaker seeking disqualification of two other party MLAs.

With the recent spate of resignations, six of the JJP's 10 MLAs have now quit the beleaguered party leaving behind only four legislators, including Uchana Kalan MLA Dushyant Chautala and his mother Naina Chautala.

The resignations coincided with cryptic social media post by Mr. Chautala, the State's Deputy Chief Minister until the JJP and ruling BJP parted ways in March this year, on Friday saying "I am learning from the elderly, my mistakes, and from difficulties".

Former Uklana MLA and Minister of State for Labour (Independent Charge) Anoop Dhanak, considered a loyalist of Mr. Chautala, was the first to resign on Friday hours after the announcement about the election on October 1. "I resign from all posts and responsibilities of Janayak Janta Party for personal reasons," read his



Left behind: Now there are only four JJP legislators, including Dushyant Chautala and his mother Naina Chautala. FILE PHOTO

resignation letter, addressed to the party's national president Ajay Singh Chautala.

It was followed by similarly worded resignation letters by Tohana MLA and former Panchayati Raj Minister Devender Babli, Shahbad MLA Ram Karan and Gulha MLA Ishwar Singh, who is also Chairman, Education and Health Services Committee of the Haryana Assembly.

'Anti-party' activities

Party State secretary Randhir Singh said these MLAs had come to the JJP from other parties before the 2019 Assembly poll and now that the process for constitution of the next Assembly has commenced, they had quit. He said the JJP had already given them notices for anti-party activities and sought disqualifi-

cation of Narwana MLA Ram Niwas Surjakhera and Barwala MLA Jogi Ram Singh in May for seeking votes for the BJP during the Lok Sabha election.

A JJP source said that the sons of Mr. Ram Karan and Mr. Singh had already joined the Congress and Mr. Babli too had extended support to the party during the Lok Sabha poll. On Mr. Dhanak, two-time MLA, also quitting, the source said the party leadership was not keen on fielding him this time round in view of his deteriorating health and "poor track record" as Minister, and had made it clear to him in meetings recently.

The JJP was the coalition partner of the BJP in Haryana government for more than four years before calling off the alliance in March this year.

Gurugram mall evacuated after bomb threat, nothing suspicious found: police

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Ambience Mall in Gurugram was evacuated on Saturday after it received an email stating that a bomb had been planted on its premises, prompting the police to launch an intensive search operation.

The bomb threat was later found to be hoax.

However, the police also evacuated the mall's Delhi branch in Vasant Kunj for security and safety reasons.

The Gurugram police



Safety first: Staff outside the Ambience Mall after it was evacuated in Gurugram on Saturday. PTI

said they thoroughly checked Ambience Mall with the assistance of dog squads and bomb disposal teams.

"Police teams didn't re-

cover anything suspicious from anywhere," the police said urging people not to panic.

Mock drill at Noida mall

Meanwhile, the Uttar Pradesh police carried out a mock security drill at DLF Mall of India in Sector 18 of Noida.

DCP Ram Badan Singh said, "We had received several such calls recently, so it was important to conduct the mock drill to check our preparedness."

He said bomb disposal teams and dog squads were used in the exercise.

Kerala delays release of Hema panel report on working conditions in film industry

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The release of the K. Hema Committee report on issues of sexual harassment and gender inequality in the Malayalam film industry is set to be delayed further with the Kerala government on Saturday deciding to postpone the release until the High Court takes a decision on actor Ranjini's petition.

The actor had on Friday approached the court contending that the disclosure would violate her fundamental right to privacy and breach the confidentiality promised to witnesses who had deposed before the panel.

Speaking to mediapersons, the actor said she had a legal right to know



The Hema Committee report being submitted to Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan by the panel members on December 31, 2019. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

how her statements had been recorded in the report and that she was not acting at anyone's behest. The court will consider her plea on Monday.

Minister for Cultural Affairs Saji Cherian said the government did not pre-

vent the release of the report. The State Public Information Officer has been authorised by the court to release the redacted version of the report. The officer will do this within the stipulated time.

Meanwhile, P. Satheede-

vi, chairperson of the Kerala Women's Commission, said there are no hurdles in the publication of the report. It has been in favour of making the report public. More than four years after the report was submitted to Kerala government, the State Information Commission had on July 6 ordered the Department of Culture to release the report in the public domain before July 25.

The committee, headed by jurist K. Hema, constituted in the aftermath of a case of sexual assault on an actor in 2017, had submitted the report to the Chief Minister on December 31, 2019. Despite repeated demands from various stakeholders the report remained shrouded in secrecy.

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IN BRIEF



Will create 3,000 more posts for anganwadi workers: Mann

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Saturday said his government will create 3,000 new posts for anganwadi workers in the State. Addressing a gathering in Barnala during a function to mark Raksha Bandhan, Mr. Mann said the government has already started the process for this and soon recruitment for these posts will begin. "This is a step forward towards empowering women by opening new avenues of employment for them," he said, adding that the government is also actively considering the demands of ASHA workers in line with the "concerted efforts" being made for the welfare of all girls and women in Punjab. PTI

Actor Victor Banerjee hospitalised in Mussoorie

Film actor Victor Banerjee has been hospitalised in Uttarakhand's Mussoorie, where he currently resides, after complaining of severe discomfort in his chest, family sources said on Saturday. The 78-year-old actor was admitted to a hospital on August 14 and kept in the ICU for a couple of days. "He experienced a stroke-like condition. His condition has improved in the last couple of days and he has been shifted to the general ward," a family friend said. Mr. Banerjee is known for his role in Satyajit Ray's *Shatranj ke Khiladi* and performances in movies such as *Dui Prithibi*, *Ghare-Baire*, *Akrosh*, and *Lathi*. He also worked in 1984 Hollywood movie *A Passage to India* directed by David Lean. PTI

M.P. govt. to act against madrasas giving religious teachings without consent

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh government has directed officials to conduct a survey on students enrolled in State-aided madrasas and take strict action if they, irrespective of their religion, are being given Islamic religious teachings without consent from their parents or guardians.

The action by the BJP government comes after repeated recommendations from the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR).

In a letter issued on Friday, the School Education Department asked officials

Survey to be conducted to identify irregularities; State funds to offending madrasas to be cut

to physically inspect madrasas that receive financial grant from the government to check for consent.

"If children studying in madrasas affiliated to the State government or aided by State funds are being imparted religious education contrary to their religion without their consent, or forced to receive any kind of religious education or attend worship proceedings, then all government

grants to such Madrasas should be stopped and action should be taken to cancel their affiliations," the letter read, citing the Article 28(3) of the Constitution.

The letter, issued by Commissioner (*Lok Shikshan* or Public Instructions) Shilpa Gupta, also directed officials to check if children were registered fraudulently to get more grants.

NCPCR chairperson Priyank Kanoongo welcomed the move, and said that the Commission had been making similar recommendations to the State since 2021. "Hindu children should be taken out of madrasas, they have nothing

to do there. Second, there are many madrasas of which the government has no record. Our demand is that they should be surveyed and the children studying there should be brought into the school education spectrum," Mr. Kanoongo told *The Hindu*.

School Education Minister Uday Pratap Singh said the department had also received several complaints about violations at madrasas, and the order was issued to weed out any irregularities. The State has recently taken action against more than 1,500 madrasas, including revoking the recognition of 61 in Ratlam and Sheopur.

The Hindu Bureau
RAIPUR

The Chhattisgarh police on Saturday arrested a Congress MLA in connection with the June 10 violence in Balodabazar city, in which the office of the Superintendent of Police was burnt by a mob comprising Satnamis, a prominent Scheduled Caste group in the State.

Devendra Yadav, a two-time MLA from Bhilai Nagar, was arrested on Saturday evening for his alleged role in the violent protest over an alleged desecration incident at a site revered by the Satnamis. The arrest happened amid

protests by a large gathering of Mr. Yadav's supporters outside his residence.

Balodabazar Superintendent of Police Vijay Agrawal confirmed the arrest and said the MLA was being taken to Balodabazar for further action. Earlier, Mr. Yadav was summoned at least three times to record his statement but he did not turn up, prompting the latest action, said the police.

Previously, in mid-May, unidentified persons had vandalised a 'jaithkam' or 'victory pillar', a sacred symbol worshipped by the Satnamis community, near the Amar Gufa in the Balodabazar-Bhatpara dis-

Fourth FIR filed over remarks against Prophet

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

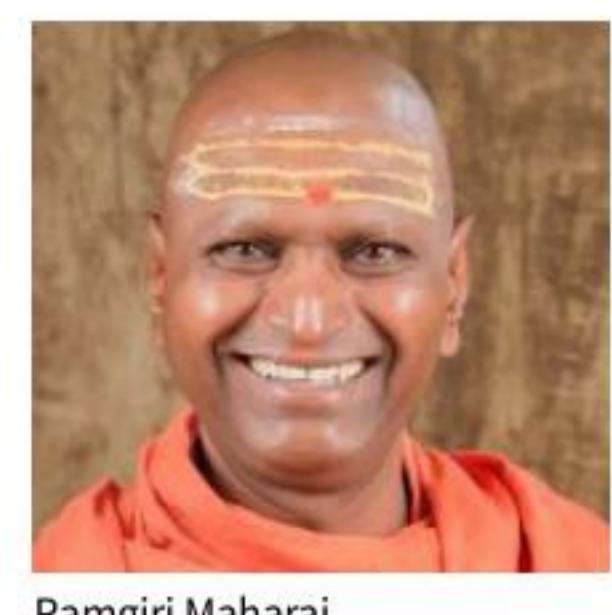
The Mumbra police in Maharashtra's Thane district on Saturday registered an FIR against Ramgiri Maharaj, a prominent religious leader from Ahmednagar district, over his alleged objectionable remarks against Prophet Mohammad and Islam.

A clip of Mr. Maharaj making the alleged remarks during a religious event at Shah Panchale village in Sinnar taluka of Nashik district had gone viral, sparking outrage. It led to the filing of multiple FIRs against him in Nashik, Pune, and Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar districts.

The fourth FIR against the chief of the Sadguru Gangagiri Maharaj Sanshan was registered based on a complaint by Maulana Sajid Ul Rehman, a resident of Mumbra.

He has been booked under sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita dealing with uttering words with intent to wound religious feelings, and promoting enmity between groups on the grounds of religion, a police officer said.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Maharaj claimed that his remarks, which were made on August 12 during



Ramgiri Maharaj

a seven-day religious event that ended on Saturday, were taken out of context.

"A portion of a 1.5-hour programme was trimmed and made viral to sensationalise the issue. I was speaking in the context of the duty of an emperor and what he should do for the welfare of his people. I was talking about stories from the Mahabharata and the topic of Bangladesh came up. I raised my concern over the atrocities Hindus are facing in the country. I said if we are not careful, then a similar incident can occur in India. I will consult with my lawyer and respond to the FIRs in the court of law," he said.

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde had shared the stage with Mr. Maharaj during the event on Friday and called him a "saint". Minister Girish Mahajan and BJP MP Sujay Vikash Patil were also seen touching his feet and seeking blessings.

In the sugarcane fields of Uttar Pradesh's Bareilly, a serial killer preys on lone women

SPOTLIGHT

Alisha Dutta

In a matchbox-like tailoring shop in Uttar Pradesh's Shahi village, the rhythmic sound of the sewing machines suddenly halts as a Hindi news channel's anchor announces the *sansanikhet khabar* (sensational news) of the day. In a fraction of a second the volume of the audio goes up and passersby stop to hear what the local news channel has to say about the man who had allegedly killed six women in the village.

"Loitering in the sugarcane fields, this man would target women in the age group of 45 to 55. These were women working or walking all alone," blares the news channel. People voyeuristically crowd the entrance of the shop that stands 300 metres away from the local police station, itching to steal a glance of the alleged serial killer.

For the residents of Sha-



The son of a woman who was killed in the sugarcane fields at Bujhiya Jagir village, Uttar Pradesh. R.V. MOORTHY

hi, a village dotted by sugarcane fields and mango orchards, the fear of a killer on the loose has been growing over the past 14 months. According to Uttar Pradesh police's records, nine women were found dead in a 10-kilometre radius around Shahi and its adjacent village Seesgarh in U.P.'s Bareilly district. When walking back home or working in the fields all by themselves, the middle-aged women were strangled with their own sari pallu or dupatta, the knot always on the left. All their bodies had bruises indicative of sexual assault.

Despite their similarities, the killings, eight of which took place between June and December 2023, were treated as separate incidents. Four persons were also arrested.

On July 1, after nearly seven months, a ninth murderer took place. A 46-year-old woman of Hauspur village was strangled and her body left in a sugarcane field in Bujhiya Jagir village.

A month later, on Au-

gust 3, the police released three sketches: one of a

Kuldeep to understand his alleged motivations. Medical experts and a psychologist were present. "I spoke to him like I would to a child and assured him that if he took us to the places of the murders, I would find him a *meherbaan* (wife) and get him married. His face lit up with childlike joy while explaining how he had killed six women," another officer says.

The police also claim that unlike many serial killers, Kuldeep would not stalk the women, but would target them while loitering in the sugarcane fields in search of intoxicants when he found them alone. "He called these women his *shikaar* (prey) and believed that they were not 'good' women," adds the officer.

According to the officer, Kuldeep told the police during interrogation that he never intended to force himself on the women. "He would directly ask them to sexually engage with him, and when they would refuse, he would lose his cool and attack

them," he says. The psychologist who was part of the team that interrogated Kuldeep diagnosed him with a clinical psychological condition, says SSP Arya.

Lingeringsuspicions While the police claim their investigation pieced everything together, locals feel Kuldeep has been framed in a bid to solve the case quickly.

For Rajeev (surname withheld to protect identity), whose mother's body was found in a sugarcane field on July 3, the Uttar Pradesh police's investigation was not satisfactory.

He says the family had informed the police about a few people they suspected who might have killed his mother, but the police want to club her killing with the rest, just to close the case.

The 23-year-old's mother's body, however, bore the signatures: sari pallu used to strangulate, a knot on the left side, dishevelled clothes. "The post-mortem report says she died of as-

The Hindu Bureau

VIZIANAGARAM

The bodies of two teachers were recovered from a stream in Parvatipuram Manyam district of Andhra Pradesh on Saturday, officials said. The teachers, Mahesh and Aarathi, both hailing from Haryana, had been employed at Eklavya School at Kotikipeta village in Vizianagaram district just two weeks ago.

Villagers said they warned the pair against crossing the stream on Friday, but as neither understood Telugu, both, upon entering the stream on their bike, were washed away.

The Hindu Bureau

VIZIANAGARAM

angry with anyone, let alone being violent with a woman," says Raj. Residents have taken to social media platforms like X (formerly Twitter) to point out how the police sketch perfectly matches the clothes Kuldeep was wearing – a chequered shirt – on the day he was produced before the media, suggesting that the police had arrested him much before they shared the sketches. A photograph with creases and shadows in certain places seemed oddly similar to the sketch.

Countering the doubts over the arrest, the platform also saw strategic video leaks by the police, where Kuldeep was seen recreating the crime scene with a dummy, with a gleeful smile on his face.

Kuldeep is at present in police remand, and has been booked under sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita dealing with murder and sexual assault.

LINK TO FULL STORY

» <https://bit.ly/4doaFhQ>

Classifieds

LIFE MADE SIMPLE

Matrimonial

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

INDEX OF MATRIMONIAL

BRIDEGRoOMS WANTED

BRIDES WANTED

BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED

Classification Common for Brides, Bridegrooms, Brides & Grooms

ASSAMESE

AWADHI

BENGALI

BHOJPURI

BIHARI

CHHATTISGARHI

ENGLISH

GUJARATI

HARYANI

HINDI

KANNADA

KASHMIRI

KONKANI

MALAYALAM

MANIPURI

MARATHI

MARWARI

NEPALI

ORIYA

PARSI

PUNJABI

SAURASHTRA

SINDHI

TAMIL

TELUGU

TULU

URDU

ADVOCATE

BUSINESS

DEFENCE

DOCTOR

ENGINEER

FINANCE/ BANKING

GOVERNMENT/ QUASI-GOVERNMENT

IAS/ ALLIED SERVICES

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

MBA/ CA/ ICWA

NRI

COSMOPOLITAN

DIVORCEE

PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED

MARRIAGE BUREAUS

WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS

BRIDEGRoOMS WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

WANTED GROOM

Parents of 27-year CSI girl, Mudaliar lineage seek proposals. Chennai based well settled family, groom preferred. Girl, a foreign trained Pastry Chef. Own Business. Father Gulf based NRI. Mother Doctor. Family well placed financially with sound values. God fearing boys of inter faith parentage also welcome.

Responses to:
juniuskanthim@yahoo.com

NAIDU DIVORCEE Issueless 48, MBA, ACS Working. Seeks unmarried, Issueless Divorcee Groom, CNB. 9360167989

DIVORCEE

SEEKNG QUAL well sttd US boy for USA, Calif., tall, fair, slim, blu, 172cms, 32 yrs, divorcee, no issues, MS, H1B, wking as SWE at Meta, Bay Area, Bhawja, Krittika, Msh. Mob: +91 9791043680

FAIR EMPLOYED divorced agamudayar girl 32 from chennai. seeks a suitable groom call 9884700458

DOCTOR

HINDU REDDY 33Y, 165cms Doctor MBBS, MS. Suitable Never Married Groom From Chennai CNB Call: 98256

HINDU NADAR, 30Y, 165cm, very fair, Doctor, recently graduated from Cardiology fellowship in USA, hailing from highly affluent business family, looking for an equally well-educated groom, preferably a doctor working in USA. Contact: vsajsr@gmail.com, +919791994449.

HINDU/ CNB/ 24/ MBBS /Alyam/ Cevvai/ Chennai / Looking for Suitable Doctor OR Engineer Groom.(Age 25-28) Ct: 967199925

DOCTOR

GROOM WANTED Rich Mudaliyar, 29yrs, MBBS, MD, Elite business family in Chennai Ct: 971009399/ 9710091999

DOCTOR GIRL 30/156 MBBS MD General Medicine, seeks Doctors/ suitable grooms 944749304, 9497168001

BRIDEGRoOM WANTED

MD Anesthesiology Doctor Girl Age 35, 165cm, fair, beautiful, cultured, hailing from an affluent family of doctors.

Working in Private Hospital, Chennai. Only Daughter, Father Surgeon. Kerala Nair, Mother Tamil CSI. Doctor or Engineer groom from respectable family preferred.

98400 50381 / 98409 85383

ENGLISH

ANGLO INDIAN 50 yrs 5 feet 7 inches Roman Catholic girl can professional looking for affluent groom from same community. Pls reply with pic to sydsmithe@ hotmail.com

R.C CHRISTIAN Anglo Indian, Age 30, Height 165 cm, Fair, Working in a Reputed MNC in Cochin. Seeks a suitable Groom. Contact: 8137983459

✓ HINDU TAMIL girl 28/165 Rohini star BE MBA (IIT) working MNC Blore seeks groom well settled (abroad), Blore, Pune, Mumbai. Caste no bar. WA: 9371392775.

NRI

DOCTOR MPH (USA) & M.D (USA) Internal Medicine Resident Physician 31/163 Very Fair Girl Kamma Naidu CNB (Doctor/ Engineer in USA) 944641004

TAMIL

TAMIL MUSLIM UK parents looking for a Doctor/Dentist groom in England for their daughter/24yr/160cm/ MBChB,BMedSci/London F2 Academic Doctor. 0044742907588 sheikhia @ yahoo.com

CSI CHRISTIAN 31, fair well educated legal professional from most elite, cosmopolitan family, settled in Chennai seeks suitable well educated Groom with similar background. Ph: 9445171111/ 824-885323

✓ MUSLIM GIRL 37 fair slim B.E. seeks employed, never married, qualified. Tamil muslim Groom. 944235779

CSI NADAR 27/165cm, MA, Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom Ct: 9380791999/ 9841329471

LOOKING FOR Christian Bridegroom for the girl working in USA start-up aged 25. End time message: 8939250457

CHRISTIAN 34 years Engineering Graduate working in MNC Chennai wanted an Engineering Graduate Groom from a decent literate CHRISTIAN family 9444325317

BORN AGAIN Christian, 44yrs/154, MBBS, MD, government doctor, seeks Christian groom, CT-9500188067

TAMIL NADAR Protestant Fair, 30/163/ 65kg/ MBA/ US well settled family in Chennai, seeks Dr./ Engg/ Business, India/ Abroad. Mb: 9840784555

CHRISTIAN, 33yrs, M.Sc, working as Data Engineer in USA. Income 1 crore. Ph: 91678900470

HINDU NADAR girl, BC, Tamilnadu, ME, agp 30, DOB 4/8/1994, Ht 167 cms, wt 63 kg, Thiruvathirai, mithunam, doing 1st year PhD in IIT Kharagpur, West Bengal, Calcutta seems any BC, well qualified and settled IT professor or IIT PhD student in North India. Ct: 96265 1551

HINDU NADAR girl, BE(Mech), age 25, DOB 12/1998, Ht 166 cms, Wt 60 kg, Fair, Poosam, Kadagam, MNC in Chennai, Upper middle class seeks well qualified and settled groom in Chennai. Ct: 945208545

DEVAR MARAVAR Age 25/158cm Catering Technology Own Business at Chennai. Seeks Groom in the same caste with Any Deg & Good Habit : 7550208545

HINDU MARAVAR 29/155, MBBS MD PursuingThiruvanom, lives in Chennai. Seeks Suitable Groom. Ct: 945231765

GROOM WANTED CNB 32yrs M.Arch Running Own Business in Chennai Rich Affluent Family 971009399/ 9710091999

HINDU NADAR 26/164cm, Meenam, B.E.M.S, Data Engineer, Sydne, Foreign/India Ct:9422 73841

HASTHAM, FAIR 36, MCA Well Settled in Chennai. Seeks Mudaliar/Pillai Profile. Qual working Groom

THULUVLA VELALAR Agamudayar Arcot Mudaliar 32 V.Fair Elite Doctor. Doctor: Ct: 9486531194/ 8637481104

SC AD 26/B.Tech. [IT] Sr. Engr. [L&T] 75,000p.m. Settled family. Seeks Bride Groom. Ct: 944993417/ 7397674481

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TAMIL

HINDU MUDALIAR BE / 34/157cm. Working in IT. Pure vegetarian family. Seeks Bridegroom from well educated family. Contact: 9952099600

GROOM WANTED Elite Mudaliyar 30yrs Divorcee B.Tech. Affluent Family. Chennai 971009399/ 9710091999

CN, 39YRS, MBA, Working in US, Divorce, Elite Family. Seeks Suitable Groom Cont: 9962791888

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THULUVLA VELALAR Agamudayar Arcot Mudaliar 32 V



Public Health Engineering Department
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National Competitive bidding
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1	Designation and Address of Advertiser	Executive Engineer, Public Health Division, Purnea, Near Ford Company Chowk, Purnea -854301, Bihar								
2	Date of issue of Tender Notice	12.08.2024								
3	Period of sale (downloading) of tender Bid Document	19.08.2024 to 01.09.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. through www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in								
4	Date, Time & Place of pre-bid meeting	27.08.2024 at 11:30 hrs. hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer of P.H. Division, Purnea								
5	Last date and time of receipt (uploading) of tender	02.09.2024 up to 16:00 Hrs on www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in								
6	Last date and time of submission of hard copy of EMD (in original).	03.09.2024 up to 16:00 hrs in the Office of A. Executive Engineer of P.H. Division, Purnea. B. Superintending Engineer of P.H. Circle, Purnea. C. Zonal chief Engineer of P.H. Circle, Purnea.								
7	Date and time of opening of technical bid	03.09.2024 at 17:00Hrs on www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in								
8	Date and time of Opening of financial bid	To be informed later after the approval of technical bid.								
9	Details of Works	Design, Construction, Supply, Testing and Commissioning of Piped Water Supply Schemes for habitations left out under "Har Ghar rnal Ka Jal" nischayojna in areas having ground water quality issues; with Electric Driven Pumps and Iron (Strike off irrelevant impurity) Removal Treatment Plant having Technology (Adsorption/ Ion exchange/ Membrane/ Nano Technology/ etc.) certified by CSIR or any other Instituted national repute. In the District of Purnea Bihar on turn -key basis with 06 months Trial Run Period and Comprehensive Operation and Maintenance of 60 months under Mukhyamantri Grameen Peyajal Nishchay Yojna (Quality Affected) Under P.H. Division, Purnea.								
Location of Work										
Group No	Block	Panchayat	Habitation	Ward No.	Nos. of Schemes in a Group.	Estimated Cost (in Lakh)	Amount of Earnest Money (in lakh)	Cost of Tender Document (non-refundable) in Rs.	BSED Bid Processing Fee (in Rs.)	Completion Period (in months)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8			9
Baisa	Baisa	Asiyani	Arjun Bhita, Harijan Tola, Sukaria, Banganwar, Dhabanaya	1A, 5C, 7A, 10A, 11A						
		Malopara	Malopara, Dumaria, Kabaiya, Hama, Falesari	3A, 5A, 7A, 13A, 15A						
		Nandaniya	Kapalbhutta, Santhal Tola, Tilsil Mana, Sonamani	6A, 8A, 10A, 12C						
		Raiber	Berhan, Bardhias, Mojbari, Aambari, Aambari West Tola, Emdadpur, Emdadpur	1A, 3A, 9C, 11A, 13A, 14A						
		Rauta	Karballa Tola, Sharif ganj, Rahika Tola, Santhal Tola	4A, 6, 9A, 14C						
	Baisa	Shishabari	Shishabari, Para Purnea, malahana, Dohmani, Dohamni Millik Tola, Khas Tola	1C, 3A, 4A, 6A, 9&10, 14A						
		Baluagostra	Sabbuddin Chowk, Bijwar, Kolha West Tola, Bochagar, Birpur, Birpur	8A, 13A, 5A, 7A, 9A, 12C						
		Chandwar	Mahnaro, Kamaldaha Sahariya, Chandrel, Tetaliya, Jayram Pur	1A, 2C, 3A, 7A, 10C						
		Dhusmal	Mirchan Tola, West Tola	5A, 9A						
		Kanfaliya	Soni Tola, Hat Tola, Sila Raghunathpur	2A, 3C, 9C						
Amour	Amour	Kanjiya	Angarh, Angarh, Aluai, Pirkachi, Kinhar	1A, 2A, 6A, 7A, 8A						
		Khapra	School, Khapra	2&3, 14A						
		Majhok	Lahsingan, Rasulganj, Majhok, Fullbari, Balsarma, Runki Tola	5A, 6A, 7A, 8A, 10A, 12A						
		Mungra	Koch Ghar, Khagawra Tola, Budhigar, Kabrat Tola	4A, 5A, 8A, 12						
		Siri	Rja Nagar Hippi	1A						
	Amour	Aamgachi	Aamgachi, Jamurija Tola	1A, 4C						
		Adhang	Adhang, Adhang	7A, 12C						
		BakniyBara illi	Jamudara, Hatgachi	12A, 16						
		Barbatta	Barbatta, Rasaili	7C, 4A						
		Bengrameh dipur	Sahu Tola	1B						
Kasba	Kasba	Dahubbari	Dahubbari	14A, 4C						
		Dalmalpur	Masjid Tola, Rahika Tola, Krishnanagar, Dalmalpur, Krishna Nagar	6A, 7A, 7B, 9A, 11A						
		Jhowari	Bechha Tola, Jodhpur Tola, Sikh	5A, 6C, 12A						
		Dhurpali	Bindiya Nagar, Dhurpali, Dhurpali, Dhurpali, Basna bara	4A, 5C, 7A, 12A, 16C						
		Machatta	Machatta, Pasrahi, Machatta	2A, 8A, 14A						
	Kasba	Maghuwa Hat	B Hotari, Hibla, Kamar Tola	6A, 8C, 10A						
		Bishanpur	Maitra, Chhatarbhog,	2A, 13A						
		Tiyapara	Nakhrare, Bishwas Tola	4C, 5C						
		Bada Idgah	Bada Idgah, Bada Idgah	4A, 11A						
		Bhawanipur	Pokhar Tola, Harjan Tola	3A, 4A, 7A, 11A						
Kasba	Kasba	Dahubbari	Aadiwashi Tola, Bindiya Nagar, Dhubbari, Dhubbari	3A, 5A, 9C, 13A						
		Gayandhop	Badalpur Tola, Yadav Tola, Karma Kar Tola, Karma Kar Tola, Baglana	2A, 4A, 6A, 6B, 8C						
		Haripur	Kaji Tola, Noori Tola Haripur, Faktoli,	1A, 4C, 7A						
		Kharaiya	Kharaiya	7A						
		Kharimahin Gowm	Sharma Toli, Sharma Toli, Rahika Tola,	7A, 8A, 11A						
	Kasba	Nitendar	Aadiwashi Tola, Nitender, Chamor Tola, Makhanpur	1A, 1B, 3A, 5C						
		Rangraiyal tolli	badalai Tola, Mastan, Rahikatkar Tola, Rangrayalalotoli	5A, 8A, 9A, 13C						
		Talbari	Talbari, Talbari, Talbari	4A, 6A, 7A, 11C						
		Tiyapara	zammasjid	7A						
		Banali	Nawada Tola, Baneli Tola, Kaini Tola	2A, 5A, 7A						
Kasba	Kasba	Sadhubeli	Sarra Bathana Tola, Seej Tola, Devan Tola	1A, 4A, 5A						
		Mohani	Mohni Colony, Mohani Tola	5A, 6A						
		Bochgoan	Lachanpur Tola, KundaleLachanpur, Pokhariya	2A, 3A, 9A						
		Lakhana	Dumrani Tola	3C						
		Malhariva	Ratan Sothi Tola	11A						
	Kasba	Bharmalaga n	kulla Tola	9A						
		sabdalpur	Mushari Tola	7A						
		Sanjheli	Kadu Tola, Nahar Tola, Kusha Tola, Kothi Tola, Nahar Tola	3A, 5&6&7, 8A, 10A, 12A						
		Ghoudrau	Dalit Tola, Garbaneli, Thakur Tola	2A, 6A, 11A						
		Chak	Pankhwa, Naya Tola, Gumti Tola, Baisa Tola	7A, 8A, 10C, 11A						
Jalgarh	Jalgarh	Dimiya	Barhaiya Tola, Kulis Tola, Bakali Tola	10A, 11A, 15A						
		Hasibegamp ur	Hasi Tola, Begampur, Dansar Rihika, Hasibegampur Tola, Jenuharia Tola	2A, 2B, 7A, 9A, 11A						
		Ramdei	Member Tola, Member Tola	7A, 10A						
		Jalalgarh	HarishchandarPur, Gorhi Tola, Chauhan Tola, Mahadil Tola	1C, 5A, 13A, 14C, 15C						
		Southa	Ratbali Tola, Dhusar Tola, Dhusmal Tola	1A, 4A, 5A						
	Jalgarh	Nizgehua	Naya Tola, Mahiyarpur Tola, Mahiyarpur Tola, Bathana Tola	2A, 4A, 4B, 7A						
		Sarsouni	Bijulya Tola, Bhagmati Tola	3A, 12A						
		AasjaMobia ya	Janta Hat, Bairdhaj	9A, 14A						
		Khutuya	Suri Gaon, Mushari Tola, Rahika Tola	4A, 10A, 11A						
		Bahbnni	Santhal Tola, Rupauli Tola	6A, 12A						
Dagarua	Dagarua	Dariapur	Dansar, Mahadilat Tola	5A, 13A						
		Kohila	Ladwa	11A						
		Makelei	Chopra, Chopra	4A, 5A						
		Chapni	Damka Tola, Star Khan, Canpi Tola	8A, 9A, 13A						
		Majgama	Dumka, Kachara, Majgama, Achhetpur	1A, 2A, 8A, 10A						
	Dagarua	Dagarua	Dagarua	2&3						
		Dubeli	Dubeli, Dubeli	2A, 5A						
		Echalo	Karivat Tola	7A						
		Rampur	Rampur Tola, Gitabari Tola, Talania Tola, Adiwasi Tola	1A, 2A, 11A, 12A						
		Teghra</								

From Page One

Governor gives nod to prosecute Siddaramaiah

In his communication, the Governor cited a 2004 ruling by a five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court related to Madhya Pradesh. He said that the top court had held that if Governors did not use their discretion based on facts and circumstances, it would lead to a "complete breakdown of rule of law inasmuch as it would then be open for governments to refuse sanction in spite of overwhelming material showing that a *prima facie* case is made out".

"Upon perusal of the petition along with the materials in support of the allegations in the petitions and subsequent reply of Sri Siddaramaiah and the advice of the State Cabinet along with the legal opinion, it seems to me that there are two versions in relation to the same set of facts," the Governor said. "It is very necessary that a neutral, objective and non-partisan investigation should be conducted. I am *prima facie* satisfied that the allegations and the supporting materials disclose commission of offences... I am satisfied that sanction can be accorded against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on the allegations," he added.

State Ministers and other Congress leaders accused the Governor of acting at the behest of the BJP leadership, accusing the BJP of misusing the Raj Bhavan to destabilise the Congress government in Karnataka. The Opposition BJP and Janata Dal(S) hailed the Governor's decision, and reiterated their demand for Mr. Siddaramaiah to step down.

How events panned out

The Governor had issued a show-cause notice to Mr. Siddaramaiah on July 26, hours after the complaint was filed, asking why prosecution should not be permitted in the case of alleged irregularities in the distribution of sites in MUDA. On August 3, the Chief Minister replied, denying the allegations.

In the intervening period, on August 1, the State Cabinet "strongly advised" Mr. Gehlot to reject the petition and withdraw the show-cause notice. The Chief Minister had recused himself from the Cabinet meeting and authorised his deputy D.K. Shivakumar to chair the meeting of the Council of Ministers. The Deputy CM accused the Union government of attempting to destabilise a democratically elected government in Karnataka.

The Governor rejected this advice. "Since the sanction is sought against the Chief Minister himself, the surrounding circumstances of placing the show-cause notice dated 26.07.2024 before the Cabinet, and the decision of the Cabinet advising me to withdraw the notice would not inspire confidence to act on such advice of the Cabinet," he said. "...the materials *prima facie* support the allegations, therefore, the decisions taken by the council of ministers are irrational".

CM's claims

Mr. Siddaramaiah has been claiming that the MUDA had legally allotted 14 alternative residential sites to his wife Parvathi, in lieu of "illegally" taking over her land without any acquisition process. "Accepting the mistake," a MUDA committee allotted the alternative sites in 2021, at a time when the BJP was in power in Karnataka. The CM denied any role in the allotment of sites.

The combined Opposition of the BJP and JD(S) recently launched a *padayatra* from Bengaluru to Mysuru seeking the resignation of the Chief Minister for his alleged role in scams related to the MUDA, and the Karnataka Maharsi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation. The Congress had also organised a *janandolan* on the same route to counter these allegations.

IMA weighs Centre's plan for doctor safety

"We appeal to you for your intervention. This will give confidence to not only women doctors but also to every woman in the workplace. 60% of Indian doctors are women. This percentage is as high as 68% in the dental profession, 75% in physiotherapy and 85% in nursing. All healthcare professionals deserve peaceful ambience, safety, and security at the workplace," the IMA said.

Earlier, the Ministry announced that "a committee will be formed to suggest all possible measures for ensuring the safety of healthcare professionals. Representatives of all stakeholders, including State governments, will be invited to share their suggestions with the committee".

Representatives of the Federation of Resident Doctors Association (FORDA), IMA, and resident doctors' associations of governmental medical colleges and hospitals of Delhi met Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda in the aftermath of the incident and put forth their demands regarding the safety and security of healthcare workers.

House demolished

Members of the Udaipur Bar Association formed a 'human chain' outside the district courts complex to protest against the incident.

The Muslim student who allegedly stabbed his classmate with a knife in his thigh has since been detained under the Juvenile Justice Act and his father arrested. The specific charges against the boy's father remain unclear.

The boy's house was vacated and its electricity connection was cut after the notice was served on the family. Though the notice gave three days to vacate the house, the demolition began by noon.

Speak as one on global governance, Modi tells developing world, seeks UN reform

PM takes note of concerns over prevailing 'tensions and conflict' in the world, speaks of need for developed countries to take steps to bridge the gap between the Global North and Global South, while speaking at the virtual Voice of the Global South Summit hosted by India on Saturday

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Calling for developing countries to speak in a united voice at next month's special summit at the United Nations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that "just and inclusive" global governance is needed.

Speaking at the third Voice of the Global South Summit (VOGS) hosted by India in virtual format on Saturday, Mr. Modi also announced plans to fund a new "Global Development Compact" focusing on trade, capacity building and technology sharing, as well as trade negotiation training for developing countries, for which India will provide a total of \$3.5 million (₹29 crore).

While India had hosted two VOGS summits in 2023, with a view to bolstering the G-20 summit with the general consensus among developing countries, this summit is timed ahead of the UN's "Summit of the Future" being held in New York on September

22-23, which Mr. Modi is expected to attend, officials said.

Key concerns

Addressing about 20 leaders who attended the inaugural session, Mr. Modi took note of their concerns over prevailing "tensions and conflicts" in the world. According to External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who briefed the media about the conference, "quite a few" participants raised concerns over the continuing conflict in Gaza and growing civilian casualties. More than 40,000 people have been killed over nearly a year of Israeli bombing.

Solutions to these concerns depend on just and inclusive global governance, such institutions whose priorities give preference to the Global South, where developed countries also fulfil their responsibilities and commitments, take steps to reduce the gap between the Global North and the Global South," Prime Minister Modi said, in a reference to India's consistent demand



S. Jaishankar chairs the first Foreign Ministers' Session on the theme 'Charting a unique paradigm for the Global South' under the third Voice Of Global South Summit in New Delhi on Saturday. ANI

for a seat in an expanded UN Security Council.

"The Summit of the Future at the UN next month could be an important milestone for all of this," he added, listing "terrorism, extremism and separatism" as well as "technology divides" as serious challenges for the world.

Among the 20 leaders who attended the session was the new interim leader

of Bangladesh, Muhammad Yunus, in his first such appearance nearly two weeks after protesting mobs forced former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to flee Bangladesh and travel to India. Mr. Yunus, a microfinance expert who won the Nobel Peace Prize, made no reference to the political situation, focusing instead on the need for equitable financing, partic-

ularly social and environmental projects.

The participants included leaders of Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Mauritius, as well as Global South countries further afield such as Vietnam, Lao PDR, Timor-Leste, Chile, El Salvador, Mongolia, Oman and Belarus. When asked, Mr. Jaishankar confirmed that neither China nor Pakistan had been invited to

Sabarmati Express train derails in Uttar Pradesh; no casualties, injuries

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

As many as 20 coaches of the Sabarmati Express (train no. 19168) from Varanasi to Ahmedabad derailed between the Kanpur and Bhimsen stations in Uttar Pradesh early on Saturday morning after its engine struck an object on the tracks. No casualties or injuries have been reported.

According to the Railways, the loco pilot believed that some boulder hit the cattle guard of the engine, badly damaging it.

After the derailment, the Railways cancelled seven trains and diverted three others. The passengers of Sabarmati Express were put on another train to Ahmedabad.



Restoration work under way after the derailment of the Sabarmati Express in Kanpur on Saturday. ANI

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said that evidence was being protected with teams of the Uttar Pradesh Police and Intelligence Bureau (IB) working on it. "The engine of Sabarmati Express (Varanasi to Ahmedabad) hit an object placed on the track and derailed near Kanpur at

02:35 am today. Sharp hit marks are observed. Evidence is protected. IB and U.P. police are also working on it. No injuries to passengers or staff. Train arranged for passengers for onward journey to Ahmedabad," he wrote on X.

Railways and law enforcement agencies were

looking into the involvement of anti-social elements in the incident as a Patna-Indore train had crossed the tracks uninterrupted an hour before the Sabarmati Express.

Helpline list

The Railways also issued the following helpline numbers: Prayagraj: 0532-2408128, 0532-2407353; Tundla: 7392959702; Ahmedabad: 07922113977; Banaras City: 8303994411; Gorakhpur: 0551-2208088; Virangana Lakshimbai Jhansi Jn. 0510-2440787 and 0510-2440790; Kanpur: 0512-2323018, 0512-2323015; Mirzapur: 054422200097; Etawah: 7525001249; Orai: 05162-252206; Banda: 05192-227543; and Lalitpur Jn: 07897992404.

₹65,279 crore seized, 174 persons held in bank fraud cases: ED

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has so far taken up 1,160 money-laundering cases linked to bank loan frauds, arrested 174 of the accused, and impounded proceeds of crime amounting to about ₹65,279 crore over the past few years.

The properties belonging to the borrowers who cheated various lending banks and other financial institutions were either attached, seized, or frozen through 473 provisional orders. Based on the findings, the ED has till now filed 314 prosecution complaints (chargesheets), including 70 supplementary prosecution complaints, before the court set up for cases under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

According to government records, trials in some cases have concluded, resulting in the conviction of eight accused, and confiscation of proceeds of crime amounting to about ₹15,295 crore. A significant development is that almost ₹15,185 crore have already been returned to the lending banks in question.

Twelve accused have been declared by special courts as proclaimed offenders for not joining the investigation.

This apart, about ₹725 crore has been confiscated under the relevant provisions of the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, and eight accused declared fugitive economic offenders by the courts, based on the submissions made by the ED.

The action initiated by the ED not only results in initiation of criminal action on fraudsters but also helps in the recovery of assets held by them. The ED has been investigating money trails involving multiple layers and web of entities that are analysed to identify the ultimate beneficiaries of bank funds. Many investigations have resulted in tracing the assets held by offenders with different shell companies op-



The agency has taken up over a thousand bank fraud cases in the past few years.

erated by dummy directors," a government official in the know of the findings said.

In some instances, assets were held directly in the names of relatives and friends of the masterminds, whereas in a majority of the cases, the properties were held secretly through several beneficially owned but unconnected entities to evade detection and recovery of the loan amounts.

"The strict conditions imposed by the PMLA do not allow the arrested persons to get bail easily. This helps in reducing non-performing assets of the banks through deterrence of criminal action and confiscation of assets," the official said.

Explaining the various *modus operandi* employed for committing fraud, the official said that in such cases, bank loans were taken through manipulation of books of accounts and forgery, after which the funds were diverted and siphoned off. The promoters of several companies have been found to be involved.

Some of the major cases being probed by the ED are against Bhushan Steel allegedly involving ₹56,000 crore; against ABG Shipyard Limited allegedly amounting to ₹22,842 crore; and one linked to the Amtek Group in connection with a ₹20,000-crore bank fraud case.

According to the Reserve Bank of India's annual report, 36,075 bank frauds were reported in 2023-24, and the figure was close to 166% higher than the 13,564 frauds reported in 2022-23.

Panel on SC status for Dalit converts racing against time as deadline nears

Abhinav Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The Commission of Inquiry set up by the Centre to look into the possibility of granting Scheduled Caste (SC) status to Dalit Christians and Muslims is racing against time to submit its report as its two-year term is about to expire in October 2024.

The panel is likely to seek a "short extension" from the government to complete its task.

The commission was unable to start its field visits – a crucial aspect of its work – until August this year as the required staff had not been made available to the panel, multiple sources aware of its functioning told *The Hindu*.

"The commission is trying its best to meet the deadline. If possible, a short extension may be sought to finish the work," one of them said. "It would ideally require an extension to complete the assigned task and submit a report," another source said. Ho-

wever, the Centre has not yet received a formal request for an extension from the commission.

The three-member Commission of Inquiry, headed by former Chief Justice of India K.G. Balakrishnan, was set up in October 2022, to examine the possibility of granting SC status to Dalits who have converted to any religion other than the ones mentioned in the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950. Currently, only Dalits of Hindu, Sikh, and Buddhist faiths are entitled to be categorised as SCs.

Field visits under way
The commission is now in the middle of field visits, where it is holding public consultations with interest groups. It has already been to Kerala, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh for public hearings. However, it has yet to visit Bihar, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu, where similar public hearings have been scheduled. The commission was

Former CJI-led commission is likely to seek a short extension to complete the task

constituted and notified just as the Supreme Court was about to resume hearing a batch of pleas that sought SC status for Dalit Christians and Muslims. The issue has been pending in the top court for 20 years now.

In the field visits conducted so far, the panel has largely met with associations of SC communities as well as members of the Dalit Christian and Muslim communities in those States. A large section among these associations is opposed to the inclusion of Christians and Muslims in the SC list.

The National Council of Dalit Christians, one of the largest bodies to mobilise around the demand for SC status to Dalit Christians and Muslims, has presented its case before the panel.

in Gujarat and Kerala.

However, former MP Ali Anwar – head of the Bihar-based All India Pasmanda Muslim Mahaz – told *The Hindu*, "We have not yet been approached by the panel. And I doubt any member of our community trusts that this panel is working fairly. Because of this, we do not want to take our case to them. We would be more than willing to give our input if they seek it."

The commission has also written to various States and Union Territory administrations about their view on the issue. It has also sought detailed information on the socio-economic indicators of Dalit converts and is analysing this dataset. The Centre has also made a presentation outlining the material available with it and its position on the matter.

The Modi government

has told the top court on multiple occasions that it was justified to exclude Dalit Christians and Muslims from the SC list.

The commission was

When Governors moved against Chief Ministers in the recent past

NEWS ANALYSIS

K. Venkataraman

Law and politics yield a complex mix. The issues arising out of the Karnataka Governor, Thaawarchand Gehlot, granting sanction to prosecute Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for alleged irregularities in the allotment of plots by the Mysore Urban Development Authority are a good example.

The law relating to a Governor granting sanction for a serving CM's prosecution is governed not by statutory provisions alone, but also a string of court judgments. In the current political atmosphere, in which incumbents in the Raj Bhavan are seen as serving the political interests of the ruling party at the Centre, it is difficult to consider gubernatorial acts of far-reaching import as decisions completely free from political bias.

Yet, their acts, in a legal context, may be justified on the basis of fact and judicial precedent. The question whether a Governor can accord sanction to prosecute a Chief Minister on his own discretion, rather than the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers, has been addressed only in a few cases. The question concerning the prosecution of former Maharashtra Chief Minister A.R. Antulay resulted in a judgment by a two-member Supreme Court Bench in 1982 that held in favour of the Governor's discretion. "...when there is to be a prosecution of the Chief Minister, the Governor would ... as a matter of propriety, necessarily act in his own discretion and not on the advice of the Council of Ministers." However, the order was based on a concession by the State government before the court. The Supreme Court refused to allow any resiling from the concession.



Ongoing row: Siddaramaiah and Thaawarchand Gehlot. FILE PHOTO

Prima facie case is made out," it said. It cautioned that if sanction to prosecute "high functionaries" in such cases is refused or withheld, "democracy itself will be at stake".

Past decisions

The earliest decision to prosecute a serving Chief Minister concerned Tamil Nadu Governor Marri Channa Reddy and Chief Minister Jayalalithaa in 1995. Subramanian Swamy, then heading the Janata Party, obtained Governor Reddy's sanction to

prosecute Jayalalithaa on March 25, 1995, on two corruption charges. A Division Bench of the Madras High Court rejected her challenge to the sanction order, citing the Governor's immunity under Article 361 that protected him from being answerable to any court regarding his functions. Unfortunately, the crucial question of law that Jayalalithaa raised before the Supreme Court was never adjudicated. The question was whether when sanction was sought to prosecute a CM, the Governor

should act in his own discretion, or on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers excluding the Chief Minister. The matter was referred to a Constitution Bench, but Jayalalithaa withdrew her challenge in 2002, as she had by then been acquitted in both the TANSI land deal case and the coal import case, the two charges on which prosecution had been allowed by the Governor.

Bihar Governor A.R. Kidwai allowing the CBI to prosecute Lalu Prasad, and H.R. Bharadwaj according sanction to private complainants to prosecute B.S. Yediyurappa are the two well-known instances of Governors passing adverse orders against Chief Ministers in office. The 2011 sanction order against Mr. Yediyurappa was quashed by the Karnataka High Court in November 2015 on the ground that it contained no discussion on why sanction was being gi-

ven. In that instance, too, the Chief Minister had drawn the Governor's attention to a resolution of the Council of Ministers not to grant sanction. The common thread in the matters concerning the Madhya Pradesh Ministers, Mr. Yediyurappa and Mr. Siddaramaiah is that the Council of Ministers were against grant of sanction, while the Governors favoured it.

The Karnataka High Court had then observed that "great care, caution and proper application was necessary" because the complaint was private in nature. It also took note of the "uneasy relationship" between the CM and the Governor. If the request had come after an investigation, the Governor would have had materials in hand for applying his mind. "With respect, the caution that ought to have been exercised is absent in this case." The Supreme Court disposed of the ap-

peal against the High Court's order as the Governor, who had been asked to reconsider the sanction order, subsequently refused to give sanction.

In Mr. Siddaramaiah's case, the complainants and political parties backing his prosecution may rely on the Supreme Court judgment in the Madhya Pradesh case that effectively gave the Governor a veto over the Council of Ministers if material evidence was ignored for the sake of blocking a legitimate prosecution. The Governor himself has not only cited the M.P. precedent, but also declared in the order that he had independently examined the petitions and the supporting documents. On the other hand, Mr. Siddaramaiah, who has refused to resign, is likely to take the view that the sanction order was actuated by political motive and gave undue credence to private persons' views without any investigation.

Karnataka CM must resign for impartial probe in case: BJP

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday sought the resignation of Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to ensure an "impartial and independent" investigation into his alleged role in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) site allotment "scam".

Welcoming Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot's sanction for Mr. Siddaramaiah's prosecution in the case, BJP MP Sambit Patra said at a press conference that as per media reports the "scam" involved funds ranging from ₹3,000 crore to ₹4,000 crore.

Rejecting the Congress allegation that the Governor's decision was politically motivated, Mr. Patra took a swipe at party president Mallikarjun Kharge for his visit to Bengaluru,

saying that it was to "protect" corruption.

He wondered when Mr. Kharge would go to Kolkata where protests were being held demanding justice for the rape-murder victim.

Probe commissions

BJP MP Tejasvi Surya said the Karnataka government had itself acknowledged irregularities in the MUDA site allotments, in which Mr. Siddaramaiah's wife was the purported beneficiary.

He said the State government had instituted two commissions to look into the corruption charge.

Explaining the said scam, Mr. Surya alleged that the Chief Minister's wife had been allocated 14 alternative upmarket sites in Mysuru in exchange for an acquired rural land that was initially purchased by her brother in 2004 and then gifted to her.

BJP to start membership drive from September 1, sets target of 10 crore

Election of new party president is usually done after the drive; at a meeting held to set a timetable for exercise, Amit Shah urges leaders to include all sections of society; Narendra Modi will be the first in the party to renew his membership

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Saturday announced that it would launch the first phase of its membership drive on September 1, a move that usually precedes the election of the national president of the party. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the first in the party to renew his membership under this exercise, sources said.

The dates and timetable for the organisational exercise were decided at a meeting presided over by BJP president J.P. Nadda and attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, State unit presidents, national office bearers and leaders in charge of States.

"This meeting was to set



Fixing a schedule: Amit Shah and J.P. Nadda at the BJP's national office-bearers' meeting held in New Delhi on Saturday. ANI

the timetable for our membership drive and the ways and means of going about it. The membership drive will begin from September 1, and our target is having at least 10 crore members," said BJP MP Sambit Patra after the meeting. The 10-crore target, smaller than

the last-known count of BJP members, has been set as there will be no membership drives in poll-bound Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Haryana and Maharashtra.

"We will be adding new members via a missed call for which a phone number

will be provided... (there will be) a QR code and members can enroll even through the NaMo app," Mr. Patra said.

The BJP usually starts the election process for a new party president through a membership drive after which mandal, district and State presidents are elected. Only when 50% of the States complete this exercise, the election for a national president is held. Usually, one candidate approved by the leadership is fielded for that election, and currently, there is speculation that a working president will be announced, who will be elected the next president after November.

Sources said leaders who attended the meeting were given assignments. National secretary Rituraj

Sinha has been given charge of this drive in Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat; Ghaziabad MP Atul Garg will look at Uttarakhand and Bihar; general secretary Vinod Tawde will take care of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli; D. Purandareswari will take care of Kerala, Puducherry, and Tamil Nadu, and so on.

Sources said the first phase of the membership drive will be from September 1-25, the second from October 1-15 and the third from October 16-31.

Active and primary membership registers will be prepared from November 1 to 10. Mr. Shah, in his address at the meet, urged leaders to include all sections of society in the drive, Mr. Patra said.

Bach can't continue as SEBI chief, says Congress

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday cited a media report which flagged alleged conflicts of interest against SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Buch, and said her continuance in the post was "untenable".

It said Ms. Buch must resign and a full JPC probe must be conducted into the Adani "mega scam".

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh cited an article by a media portal which raises issues of Ms. Buch's alleged conflicts of interest.

The report raises questions such as whether or not Ms. Buch had recused herself from all matters involving companies that private equity firm Blackstone had a stake in and how many Blackstone companies find a place on that recusal list. Only a JPC can unravel the full dimensions of the scam, he said.

'Harsher laws alone don't deter crimes against women'

Krishnadas Rajagopal NEW DELHI

Stringent laws and punishments against rape may not be enough to fight rising crimes against women, the Supreme Court had warned the government in 2017. The court was confirming the death penalty of four men, accused of the gruesome gang-rape of a 23-year-old paramedic in a moving bus here in 2012.

The government of the day had reacted by constituting the Justice J.S. Verma Committee to make the law more stern and effective in future. The suggestions of the panel led to the enactment of Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 which brought in substantive as well as procedural reforms in the core areas of rape law.

In her separate opinion in the 2017 order, Justice R. Banumathi (now retired), said governments, employers and institutions "must take steps" to create awareness with regard to gender sensitisation.

Attitudinal change and change in the mindset is needed to ensure gender justice, she pointed out.

Protests continue across West Bengal, CBI steps up action in rape-murder case

The Hindu Bureau KOLKATA



Call for justice: Doctors staging a protest against the rape and murder of a trainee doctor, in Kolkata on Saturday. ANI

of the principal have been raised from several quarters including by the Calcutta High Court which had sent him on leave.

The parents of the 31-year-old doctor on Saturday once again expressed their outrage against the hospital authorities, and said that they believe the crime could not have been committed by one person.

The CBI also visited the residence of the family of the accused in the Bhawanipore area. A team of experts from the Central Forensic Science Laboratory had visited Kolkata and will conduct psychological evaluation of the accused.

The CBI also interrogated Sandip Kumar Ghosh, former Principal of R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital, for the second consecutive day.

Questions about the role

Trinamool harassing those seeking justice: BJP

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday reiterated its demand for the resignation of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, accusing the Trinamool Congress government of harassing those seeking justice for the rape and murder of a trainee doctor in Kolkata, and attempting to protect the perpetrators.

BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla said the "dictatorial" Trinamool has engaged in a blame game and "dharna drama" and has tried to give a communal angle through the "Ram-Bam" remark.

Mr. Poonawalla said the State administration had issued orders for the transfer of 42 professors and doctors who were part of the ongoing protest in Kolkata. The transfers were meant to penalise them as they stood up for the victim, he said. The Bengal government revoked the order on Saturday.

He alleged that the attack on protesters at R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital was orchestrated to deter the protesters.

KALOJI NARAYANA RAO UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES TELANGANA

MDS ADMISSIONS UNDER MANAGEMENT QUOTA FOR 2024-25
Applications through online are invited from NEET-MDS-2024 qualified candidates for admission into MDS courses under Management Quota in colleges affiliated to KNRUHS from 18/08/2024 to 23/08/2024.

For detailed notification and Prospectus refer to <http://knruhs.telangana.gov.in>
Date: 17.08.2024
DIPR R.O. No.: 340/PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25
Sd/-
REGISTRAR

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS ORIGINAL JURISDICTION In the matter of the Companies Act, 1956 In the matter of M/s. Achievers Agri India Private Limited (in Provisional Liquidation) Company Application No.226 & 230 of 2024 in Company Petition No.54 of 2015 SALE NOTICE

In pursuance of the orders of the Hon'ble High Court, Madras dated 01.08.2024 & 14.08.2024 made in C.A.No.236 & 230 of 2024 in C.P.No.54/2015, sealed tenders are invited from the intending purchasers by the undersigned for purchase of below scheduled properties belonging to M/s. Achievers Agri India Private Limited (in Provisional Liquidation) situated at the places more fully described in the schedule hereunder on "As is Where is and Whatever there is condition".

Lot I - SCHEDULE - DETAILS OF THE PROPERTY

S.NO	Description of the property	Location of the property	Extent of Land	Upset price fixed in Rs.	EMD (10% of the Upset Price)
1.	Vacant Land (admeasuring an extent of 0.85 Acres i.e.85 Cents) including 3 H.P. Electricity Service Connection with one Bore Well	Survey No.532/2, Mugalur Village, Hosur Taluk, Thenkanikatti Sub-Registration District, Krishnagiri District.	0.85 Acres i.e.85 Cents	21,25,000/-	2,12,500/-

Land comprising of various plots i.e. Layout formed in the name of "Sri Vishwa City" as Block A, B, C & D and Building & other civil structures at "Achievers 99 Acres" Thinnanur Village, Trichy District - 621 006

S.NO	Lot	Description of the Property	Land extent in Acres	Upset price fixed in Rs.	EMD (10% of the Upset Price)
1.	Lot-A	Block - A	424/1A,1C,2,3A,4A,5A,8A,426/1A,3A,429/3,430/4A,4B,431/1,2,3,4A,5A,6A,432/2,3,4,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13	11.54	5,16,72,000/-
2.	Lot-B	Block - B	433/2,3,4,5,7,10,12,435/2,7,8,11,436/1,2,3,4,5,6,7,11,12,13,14,15,16 & 438/3,4A,4C,4D,4F	13.75	5,90,30,000/-
3.	Lot-C	Block - C	80/2,3,4,5,5A,5B,81/1,2A,2B,4,5,6,7,8A,8B,9,10,12,13,82/1 & 87/2,5A,5B,5C,5D,6,7,8,10	15.15	4,97,79,000/-
4.	Lot-D	Block - D	82/2,4,5,6,7,8,10,11,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29,30,31,32,33,34,35,36,37,38/1,1A,1B,1C,2 & 87/38,11	3.65	1,28,10,000/-

IN BRIEF



Cancer medicines trigger radioactive alarm at airport

The Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport in Lucknow on Saturday afternoon faced a brief scare and panic after a radioactive alarm went off in the cargo area of Terminal 3. The airport authorities called the National Disaster Response Force and the State Disaster Response Force teams, and an area of roughly one kilometre radius was evacuated as a precautionary measure. Later, the shipment in question, which contained cancer medicines, was declared safe. The incident did not impact flight operations. "There were no casualties, and operations continued without disruption," said a statement from the Lucknow airport.

Air India cabin crew member assaulted at London hotel

An Air India cabin crew member was sexually assaulted at London on Thursday night after an intruder entered her hotel room. Air India sources said that the incident happened at Radisson Red Hotel in Heathrow, London, and added that the crew had on many occasions raised the issue of inadequate safety and being stalked on the premises. The survivor was taken to the hospital and is now on her way back to Mumbai, said airline sources. "We are providing all possible support to our colleague, including professional counselling," the airline said. The matter is also being pursued with the local police and the hotel management.

Pawar questions PM's idea of 'one nation, one election'

National Congress Party (SP) chief Sharad Pawar on Saturday took a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his Independence Day speech in which he had stressed the importance of "one nation, one election". "Elections for Jammu & Kashmir and Haryana were announced, but not the elections for Jharkhand and Maharashtra. I wonder what the reason could be. PM Modi is talking about simultaneous elections, in such a situation, not announcing elections for Maharashtra and Jharkhand is a contradictory thing to do. There is no truth in whatever PM Modi says during his speeches," Mr. Pawar told reporters in Nagpur.

VHP plans nationwide Dharm Sammelans in SC/ST clusters

In an attempt to strengthen its outreach to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities and to counter the Opposition's claims that the BJP wants to make changes to the Constitution, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) is set to organise 'Dharm Sammelans' (religious conferences) in SC/ST clusters and villages across the country. Many seers will visit and eat at Dalit homes as part of the campaign which is scheduled to start a month before Deepavali. A senior VHP leader told *The Hindu* that heads of various religious sects have been urged to visit slum areas. The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh will also join the campaign at several places.

SUDOKU



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Nadda monitors India's monkeypox preparedness

While there have been no reported cases of monkeypox in the country, the World Health Organization has declared the disease a Public Health Emergency of International Concern

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

With the World Health Organization (WHO) declaring monkeypox a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), a detailed review of developments related to monkeypox and preparedness for it was taken up by the Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda in a meeting with senior officials on Saturday.

"There are no reported cases of monkeypox in India as of date," the Ministry said.

Precautionary steps

"In the meeting chaired by the Union Health Minister, it was decided that as a matter of abundant caution, certain measures including sensitising the health units at all the airports, seaports, and ground crossings, readying the testing laboratories (32 in number), gearing up health facilities for detect-



At a meeting chaired by the Health Minister, it was decided to put in place precautionary measures immediately. ANI

ing, isolating and managing any case, etc., be immediately put in place," the Ministry said in a press release.

The Health Ministry said that monkeypox infections are usually self-limiting, lasting two to four weeks, and patients generally recover with supportive management. The transmission requires prolonged close contact with an infected person, and is

generally through the sexual route, direct contact with body/lesion fluid, or contaminated clothing and linen.

The WHO had declared monkeypox as a PHEIC in July 2022, and subsequently revoked it in May 2023. Globally, since 2022, the WHO has reported 99,76 cases and 208 deaths due to monkeypox from 116 countries. Since the 2022 declaration by the WHO, a

total of 30 monkeypox cases have been detected in India, with the last case reported in March 2024.

A joint monitoring group meeting helmed by the Director-General of Health Services, with experts from various fields, was held on Friday. The meeting was attended by experts, including from the National Centre for Disease Control, WHO, Indian Council of Medical Research, National Centre for Vector Borne Disease Control Programme, Directorate General of Health Services, Central government hospitals, and the All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

"Although the possibility of a few imported cases being detected in the coming weeks is not entirely ruled out, it was assessed that the risk of a large outbreak with sustained transmission is presently low for India. The situation is being monitored closely by the Ministry," the Health Ministry stated.

Opposition targets U.P. govt. on teacher recruitment 'scam'

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Akhilesh Yadav. "We will keep a constant watch on the new list and will stand shoulder to shoulder with the candidates to ensure that no injustice is done to any candidate," he added.

Bahujan Samaj Party chief and former Chief Minister Mayawati said the High Court's decision signifies that the BJP government has not done its work "honestly".

The court set aside the selection lists issued on June 1, 2020, and January 5, 2022, and directed the State government to prepare a new list within three months in accordance with the rules.

"Ultimately, the 69,000-teacher recruitment also proved to be a victim of BJP's scam, fraud and corruption. It was our demand that a new fair list be made, so that transparent and fair appointments can be possible and the education system in the State, which was disrupted during the BJP era, can come back on track," said Samajwadi Party (SP) president

The High Court's decision to cancel the selection list of 69,000 teacher candidates selected in 2019 in U.P. and order to prepare a new list within three months proves that the government has not done its work fairly and honestly. In this case, the victims, especially those from the reservation category, should get justice," Ms. Mayawati wrote on X.

A High Court Bench of Justice A.R. Asmoodi and Justice Brijraj Singh delivered the judgment while hearing 90 special appeals filed by candidates, challenging the decision of a single-judge Bench dated March 13, 2023.

Lok Sabha Speaker constitutes six new parliamentary panels

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla constituted six new parliamentary committees, including the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), which keeps a close eye on government expenditure, to be headed by senior Congress leader K.C. Venugopal.

The PAC, one of the three key financial committees tasked with keeping a watch on the government's accounts, is usually headed by a senior Lok Sabha member of the principal Opposition party. Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury headed the PAC for five years. Before him, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge headed the PAC.

Two other financial committees – the Estimates Committee and the Public Undertakings Committee – will be chaired by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders.

In a bulletin issued on Friday, Sanjay Jaiswal was appointed Chairperson of the Committee on Estimates, and Baijayant Pan-

da made Chairperson of the Committee on Public Undertakings.

The Speaker has appointed Ganesh Singh Chairperson of the Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes, the bulletin said.

Faggan Singh Kulaste has been appointed Chairperson of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

One-year tenure
All the above formed committees have a tenure of one year, and have members from both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

The Lok Sabha Speaker is yet to constitute the 24 departmentally related Standing Committees, covering under their jurisdiction all the Ministries and Departments of the Government of India.

Unlike the previous Lok Sabha, the committees in the 18th Lok Sabha, formed after the General Election in June 2024, have taken shape mostly through consensus instead of election.

Flash floods drown Himachal in a torrent of water-supply problems

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

Even as torrential rain followed by flash floods has been causing havoc in the hill State of Himachal Pradesh, the erratic rainfall pattern is seen as a reason for depleting natural water sources, especially springs, that have been going dry over the years in the State.

Himachal Pradesh has seen a steep rise in flash floods during the past few years, especially in the monsoon. These flash floods have killed hundreds of people, damaged critical infrastructure, and raised concerns about the ecologically fragile Himalayan region, besides adversely impacting the traditional water sources across the State.

Government data show that there have been 51 flash floods in the State from the start of the monsoon on June 27 to August 16 this year – the tally could rise further as the season is yet to end.

In Himachal Pradesh, the rainy season extends from June-end to mid-September. Last year, the State saw 72 flash flood occur-



A view of a flood-like situation after the water level of the Beas river rose following heavy rain in Mandi recently. ANI

rences. In 2022, there were 75 and in 2021, 16. There were 10 such incidents during the 2020 monsoon, show data from the State's Disaster Management Authority.

Pointing out that the traditional sources of water, which include springs and ponds, play a significant role in supplementing the water requirements of rural and urban areas, the Principal Scientific Officer at the Himachal Pradesh Council for Science, Technology and Environment told *The Hindu*, "According to a survey conducted by the council a few years ago, there were only 30.41% traditional water sources which were in good working condition in Himachal

and were recharging properly throughout the year, but the rest 69.59% sources were not in proper working condition. Based on the secondary data, this survey revealed that there were 10,512 traditional sources of water in the State for rural habitations. But their number is reducing fast amid multiple reasons."

"The mountain springs are drying and it is a cause of concern. Flash flood, a highly localised and sudden phenomenon, is normally a result of runoff from a torrential downpour, and this among other reasons, is a key reason behind water springs and other natural sources going defunct. Climate

Bring back Netaji's mortal remains: Anita

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's daughter Anita Bose Pfaff has joined other members of the Netaji family demanding that the mortal remains of the national hero be brought to the country.

Ms. Bose Pfaff, in a statement shared during the 77th anniversary of the country's independence, stated that it was time that the remains of one of India's greatest heroes of the freedom struggle can be welcomed home by them.

The Hindu made several efforts to reach out to the BJP State leadership, including State Ministers and official spokespersons, but they were unavailable for a comment. An NMDC official from Bastar declined to comment.

Referring to the past

and countrywomen remember him even today, not only with gratitude, but also affectionately," the statement by Netaji's daughter said.

Ms. Bose Pfaff pointed out that on August 18, 1945, Netaji left us forever, following a plane crash in Taipei, without being able to return to his beloved home country.

Letter to PM
A few weeks ago, Netaji's grandnephew Chandra Kumar Bose wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging that the remains of Netaji be brought to Kolkata. While the members of the family believe that Netaji passed away in the air crash in Taipei on August 18, 1945, there are a few who believe otherwise.

BJP planning to sell NMDC plant in Bastar, reneging on its promise, says Congress

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

The Congress on Saturday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government at the Centre of going back on its promise of not privatising the National Mineral Development Corporation-operated Nagarnar plant in Chhattisgarh's Bastar.

The party's general secretary in-charge (communications) Jairam Ramesh shared two news articles on X – a recent piece claiming that the Union Ministry of Finance was likely to invite financial bids for the plant in the next two months and an older one in which Union Home Minister Amit Shah was quoted as saying that the plant would not be privatised.



Jairam Ramesh

The second clip is a report that was published during the run-up to the Assembly elections last year when the issue had been raised by the Congress, then ruling the State under Bhupesh Baghel. Mr. Baghel had opposed the strategic sale citing the "sentiments of the people of Bastar".

"*Kya hua tera waada, woh kasam woh irada!* [What happened to your promise and resolve!] It appears that NMDC Steel in Bastar will now definitely be privatised before the end of FY25," a part of Mr. Ramesh's post read.

"On October 3, 2023, the non-biological PM inaugurated the Steel Plant and promised that the Nagarnar Steel Plant is the property of the people of Bastar and will remain with them," Mr. Ramesh said in a post on X. In the same post, he added: "On October 19, 2023, Swayambhu Chanakya reiterated the PM's promise that the NMDC's Bastar Steel Plant won't be privatised."

Referring to the past

and countrywomen remember him even today, not only with gratitude, but also affectionately," the statement by Netaji's daughter said.

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A NO-NDE

IN BRIEF



JSW Cement files papers with SEBI for ₹4,000-crore IPO

JSW Cement Ltd. has filed Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with SEBI for its initial public offering (IPO) worth up to ₹4,000 crore. The IPO, with a face value of ₹10 each share, is a mix of fresh issue of shares of up to ₹2,000 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of up to ₹2000 crore by selling shareholders. Out of the net proceeds of the fresh issue, JSW plans to deploy ₹800 crore to part-finance the cost of establishing a new integrated cement unit in Rajasthan.

Alcon, Aravind Eye unveil Global Centre of Excellence

Global leader in eye care Alcon International in association with Aravind Eye Care System unveiled 'India's first Global Centre of Excellence for Cataract Surgery Training' in Chennai. "It is the first dedicated centre to give comprehensive training in advanced cataract surgery procedure to ophthalmology residents," Alcon International President Rajkumar Narayanan told *The Hindu*. Going forward, Alcon is contemplating setting up such centres in South Africa and Latin America.

'Majority blue-collar jobs pay less than ₹20,000 per month'

Majority of blue-collar jobs in India pay within the salary range of ₹20,000 or less per month, suggesting a substantial portion of the workforce is grappling with financial strain, struggling to meet essential needs such as housing, healthcare and education, as per a report. More than 57.63% of blue-collar jobs fall within the salary range of ₹20,000 or less per month, indicating many workers earn close to the minimum wage, blue-collar recruitment platform WorkIndia said. PTI

With more graduates in workforce, Tamil Nadu struggles with skills gap

JOB SCENARIO

Sanjay Vijayakumar
Sangeetha Kandavel
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu fares better than most States on employment metrics, but more must be done to tackle underemployment and gaps between skills and education, as the State produces the highest number of graduates in India.

While there is no accurate data to measure India's employment scenario, the periodic labour force survey (PLFS) conducted by the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation offers some insights.

The annual PLFS from July 2022-June 2023 measured different aspects of employment across States and nationwide. Among the sample population, it considered the activity in which a person spent relatively long time during 365 days preceding the date of survey as the principal activity status, while the economic activity performed for 30 days or more, adding to the principal status was considered the subsidiary economic status.

Put together the principal and subsidiary economic status, that is, Tamil Nadu's (TN) labour force participation rate (LFPR), which is the percentage of persons in the labour force - those working, or seeking, or available to work - was 46%, compared with 42.4% nationally.

Under the principal plus subsidiary status, the percentage of employed persons, or Worker Population Ratio (WPR) in TN was 44%, compared with 41.1% nationally. The female



Graduate factory: Tamil Nadu's enrollment in higher education is almost double national average, according to a policy note. REUTERS

WPR was 31.6%, higher than the 27% nationally.

In TN, 31.6% earned a regular wage, compared with 20.9% nationally.

The unemployment rate among the educated, that is, those who have attained secondary level education, was 9.4% in TN, compared with 7.3% nationally.

The unemployment rate among graduates was 16.3% in the State, higher than 13.4% at the all-India level, and the youth unemployment rate (15-29 age group) was 17.5% for TN, significantly more than the nationwide 10%.

TN has the highest number of factories in India. More than 40% of factory employment was in Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, and Maharashtra combined, according to the Economic Survey 2023-24. But the highest employment growth between FY18 and FY22 was seen in states with a higher share of young population, which included Chhattisgarh, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, according to the Survey.

The DMK government has said it has attracted investments of more than ₹10 lakh crore and created about 31 lakh jobs in the

and women, with women in regular jobs earning ₹12,969 against ₹17,476 for men in 2020-21.

Mr. Kalaiyaran also said TN must incentivise employment generation over capital investments.

'Incentivise labour' Srivats Ram, Chairman, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), TN State Council said historically, industrial promotion schemes incentivised based on the amount of capital or investment being deployed. But now, this is shifting toward attracting labour-intensive sectors like electronics, non-leather footwear, etc., he said.

Mr. Ram also warned of the skill gap among recent graduates, making them hard to be placed at jobs immediately pointing to the need for more training. "Sometimes it is easy to train for necessary skills with one or two programmes. But, it becomes challenging in segments where technology is changing rapidly," he added.

During the IT boom it was easy to get hired after graduation. But the industry had matured and net job additions had been coming down, amid a slowdown in the industry, lately. While the number of global capability centres had grown, their requirement for specific skills made skilling initiatives essential, Mr. Ram observed.

The CII was also working with Anna University to update its curriculum.

The TN government's *Naan Mudhalvan* scheme was a good initiative for entry level job creation, he said adding its scope could be expanded with involvement of more firms and by incorporating internships.

India needs to lift job growth via reforms: IMF's Gopinath

Economist moots a wide range of reforms to boost employment, bats for women's safety noting that country can't become a developed economy without adding more women in the workforce

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India needs to improve the depth and quality of its education system to create an employable workforce, nurture effective institutions, including an efficient judiciary, to support development, and pursue reforms in its land and labour markets, in order to actualise its quest to become a developed country, International Monetary Fund (IMF) deputy managing director Gita Gopinath emphasised on Saturday.

Ms. Gopinath, who was in conversation with Fifteenth Finance Commission chief N.K. Singh at the Delhi School of Economics' diamond jubilee conference, also stressed that no country could aspire to attain 'high-income' status without lifting its women's labour force participation rate, which hovers at 35% in India, adding that ensuring women's safety was critical for this.

'Cut tariffs' Noting that India's import tariff rates were higher than its peer economies, Ms. Gopinath said that being open to trade was important, even if trade integration was being questioned in the current global environment. Lowering tariffs was a requisite if India wanted to be an important player on the world stage and in global



Fund's recipe

IMF's Gita Gopinath says India needs to improve depth, quality of its education system to create an employable workforce

- 'Reforms in land, labour markets essential to become a developed country'
- Economist urges implementing

reforms proposed in Labour Codes

- India needs to create 60 million to 148 million additional jobs between now and 2030: Gopinath

supply chains, the fund's senior official asserted.

While India's GDP growth had averaged 6.6% since the 2010s till the pandemic, its employment growth had been under 2% through this period, Ms. Gopinath pointed out. "So it is indeed the case... compared to other G20 emerging market economies, growth in India has been much less in terms of employment-driven, [and] much more intensive in terms of capital," she said.

Between now and 2030, India would have to create anywhere between 60 million and 148 million additional jobs cumulatively over this period, she reckoned, calling for policies that do not penalise firms for hiring workers, and implementing reforms proposed in the Labour Codes cleared a few years ago by Parliament, through incentives for States.

On the general quality of the workforce and skill levels in India, Ms. Gopinath said the skill mismatch in the workforce "is now a longstanding problem" that warrants urgent investments in revamping education and making sure that people have more years of, and better quality of education.

match in the workforce "is now a longstanding problem" that warrants urgent investments in revamping education and making sure that people have more years of, and better quality of education.

"It will not deliver results instantly. It will take time, but that absolutely needs fixing now. Otherwise, we are perennially stuck in the situation of a workforce that's not sufficiently skilled," she said, adding that "general corporate investment and private investment" also needed to rise.

'Corporate investment' "Public investment has been going strong. If you look at private investment, by households in real estate, that's going strong. But if you look at corporate investment, that is not doing as well as it should be for an economy that's growing at 7%," the erstwhile IMF chief economist remarked.

With the advent of auto-

mation and Artificial Intelligence (AI) spurring worries about the future of work opportunities, the IMF official cited a study by the multilateral lender that looked at four indicators to assess 170 countries' preparedness for adapting with AI.

"India is at about an intermediate level of preparedness, somewhat slightly above the average for emerging markets and developing economies. But again, if you look within those indicators, the indicator on education and skilling levels of the workforce, that's the area where a lot more work is required for it to be able to adapt," she said.

Policies must "not inadvertently" tilt the playing field in favour of automation, and countries need to have social security nets and the ability to reskill, so that workers who have to shift jobs, can go through some kind of unemployment insurance till they find a job.

"Singapore [rated as the most prepared for AI], has this program where it provides grants for lifelong learning, which may be something that is needed in this world where you constantly have new technologies and new kinds of things that machines can do. So you want to make sure that your skills are complementing what automation brings along," Ms. Gopinath averred.

Urgently need to plug \$4 tn financing gap to hasten pace on SDGs'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

tion of many SDGs in developing economies was stagnating, with some indicators even regressing.

Citing a World Bank report, she noted that one in four developing countries was set to be poorer by the end of this year than they were before the pandemic.

"Growth thus remains insufficient to drive progress in development and poverty reduction. To accelerate progress on SDGs, there is an urgent need to address this \$4 trillion annual financing gap."

Addressing a Voice of Global South summit, Ms. Sitharaman said reports revealed that the implemen-

tation of many SDGs in developing economies was stagnating, with some indicators even regressing.

Citing a World Bank report, she noted that one in four developing countries was set to be poorer by the end of this year than they were before the pandemic.

"Growth thus remains insufficient to drive progress in development and poverty reduction. To accelerate progress on SDGs, there is an urgent need to address this \$4 trillion annual financing gap."

Nissan India to treble export, sales by FY26'

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU



Nissan Motor has embarked upon a comprehensive market-expansion plan to treble local sales as well as exports from India by FY26, according to a top company official.

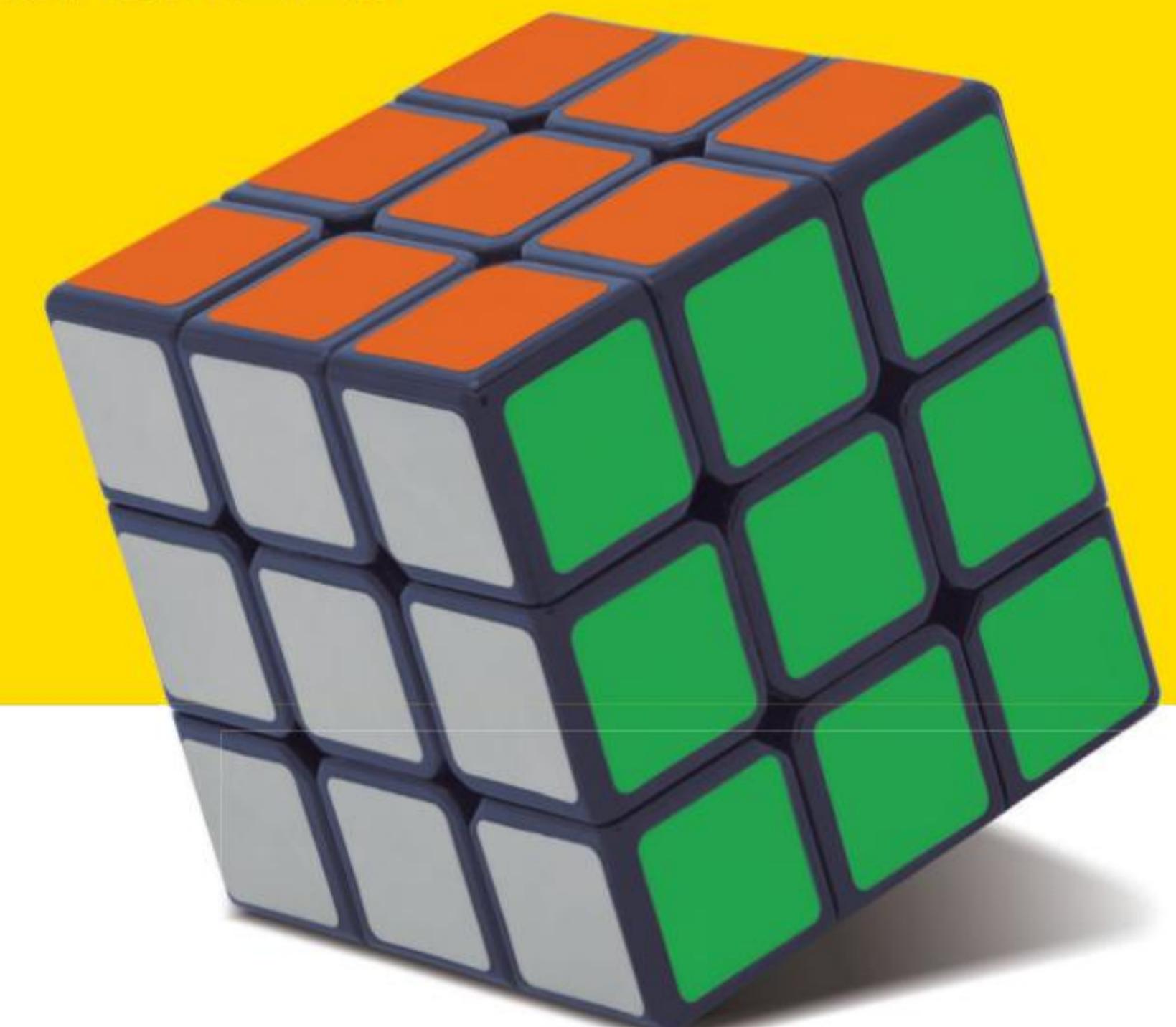
The Japanese auto major has also decided to scale up product portfolio for India, growing from a single car to two cars and five cars by FY 2026.

The line-up would include an 'affordable' electric SUV, he added.

"Our goal is to boost domestic sales to 1,00,000 units annually and increase exports to 1,00,000 units by FY26, that's a 3X growth," Saurabh Vatsa, MD, Nissan Motor India, told *The Hindu*. "Since FY20, we've sold over 1,05,000 units of the Magnite in the local market and exported about 35,000 units from Chennai."

According to Mr. Vatsa, this plan is backed by Nissan's upcoming products, including two new C-SUVs, an electric SUV and a refreshed version of the compact SUV Magnite.

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SCIENCE

'Subclinical TB is the reason for slow drop in TB incidence'

The focus has been on improving case detection and diagnosis of people who come with TB symptoms and in treating them. This has helped in reducing the mortality but where things have not changed is in the incidence

INTERVIEW

Dr. Soumya Swaminathan

R. Prasad

TB infection is not a binary – latent TB and active TB. People can have TB disease and yet not display any of the characteristic symptoms associated with TB, such as cough. This is called subclinical TB. The national TB prevalence survey (2019-2021) found 42.6 % of the TB cases detected were subclinical and would have been missed if a chest X-ray was not included. Recently, the Tamil Nadu TB prevalence survey found 39% subclinical TB cases. Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, Principal Adviser at the Health Ministry for the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP), talks about the various challenges in detecting subclinical TB cases and ensuring that such people begin and complete the treatment. Edited excerpts:

Considering that both the national and the Tamil Nadu TB prevalence surveys have found the prevalence of subclinical TB to be high, can it be assumed that subclinical TB prevalence will be high in all high-burden States in India?

Yes. TB prevalence surveys done in high-burden countries in Asia and Africa have found a substantial proportion of subclinical TB, with the median being about 50%. Depending on how you define it and what symptom complex is used to define subclinical TB, the percentage varies from 30% to 80%. The high 80% is if you define subclinical TB as not having a persistent cough for more than two weeks. What we are learning now from the meta-analysis of prevalence surveys done across high-burden countries is that there is a significant burden of subclinical TB in the community. In India, if you take the national TB prevalence survey, the TB prevalence of bacteriologically positive TB was estimated at about 300 per 100,000. But if you see the notification rates, the median for India is just 100 per 100,000. It means that for every patient who is notified of the programme, there are two others in the community who have culture-positive TB and are not being detected, and who could be transmitting the infection.

Subclinical TB could be the reason why the incidence of TB has been coming down so slowly, despite improving case notification and finding as many symptomatic patients as possible. The focus has been on improving the detection and diagnosis of TB in people who come with symptoms and treating them. This has helped in reducing



For every notified patient, two others in the community have culture-positive TB and are not being detected

Can people with subclinical TB infect others?

It is a very high likelihood that people with subclinical TB can be infectious. In some of these prevalence surveys, some of these people who did not have symptoms had smear positive disease. And some of them had a high bacillary burden. Therefore, if they are smear positive it means that they do have bacteria which you know are coming out of their breath, and even if they don't have a cough, they can still be transmitting it. And that could actually explain why the incidence is not coming down even in countries which are running good TB programmes.

Can a person with subclinical TB remain as such without progressing to TB disease or can the person even self-cure?

Yes, that is what is now being proposed. What you have is this continuum from no infection to infection which is latent then becomes incipient subclinical and clinical, and then the arrows go both ways. So, we know that in the pre-chemotherapy era about a third of patients used to get self-cured. Even those who were sick enough to be admitted to the sanatorium, one-third would get cured. So self-cure in TB has been known historically. So, it is very likely that subclinical TB also has a significant proportion that gets cured. But do we know what proportion that is – how many progress to active TB and how many get cured – and what are the risk factors? Secondly, if they are infectious during that time. We know SARS-CoV-2 can be spread not only through cough but also from just talking, breathing, singing, shouting, and laughing. So, people with subclinical TB will be posing a significant risk in the community. From a public health point of view, they will continue to fuel the epidemic, though from a personal point of view, all of them may not actually become sick and some of them could self-cure.

How close is the Central TB Division in recommending the use of AI-based chest X-rays for TB screening?

There were multiple companies that had applied to the ICMR for validation of their AI algorithms. The ICMR committee that screens for innovations had actually approved two companies and the health technology assessment was also done.

(To read the full interview: bit.ly/subclinicalTB)

Zoopharmacognosy – how animals self-medicate



D. Balasubramanian

In the May 2, 2024, issue of the journal *Nature*, an article titled: 'Active self-treatment of a facial wound with a biologically active plant by a male Sumatran orangutan', Laumer et al. report on how this primate in Indonesia treats a wound on its face by making a paste of the local plant *Fibraurea tinctoria*, and applied it to the wound. A 2012 publication by Matt Kaplan in *Nature*, titled: 'Neanderthals ate their greens', analysed the dental plaque of some Neanderthals from Northern Spain, and found that

they used plants such as yarrow and chamomile, to rid themselves of infections and for their general health.

Several such plants have been used by people in traditional medicine, to overcome infections and for general health. The comprehensive review by R Raman and S Kandula in (*Resonance*, 245-253, March 2008) points out that the ecologist D H Janzen from the University of Pennsylvania coined the term 'zoopharmacognosy', and was the first one to compile a list of animals that self-medicate by ingesting or topically applying specific plants, soil, and insects. Besides offering essential molecules for metabolism and growth, these also offer disease treatment and protection from parasites. ('zoo-



Sumatran orangutan named Rakus seen two months after wound self-treatment using a medicinal plant, in Indonesia. REUTERS

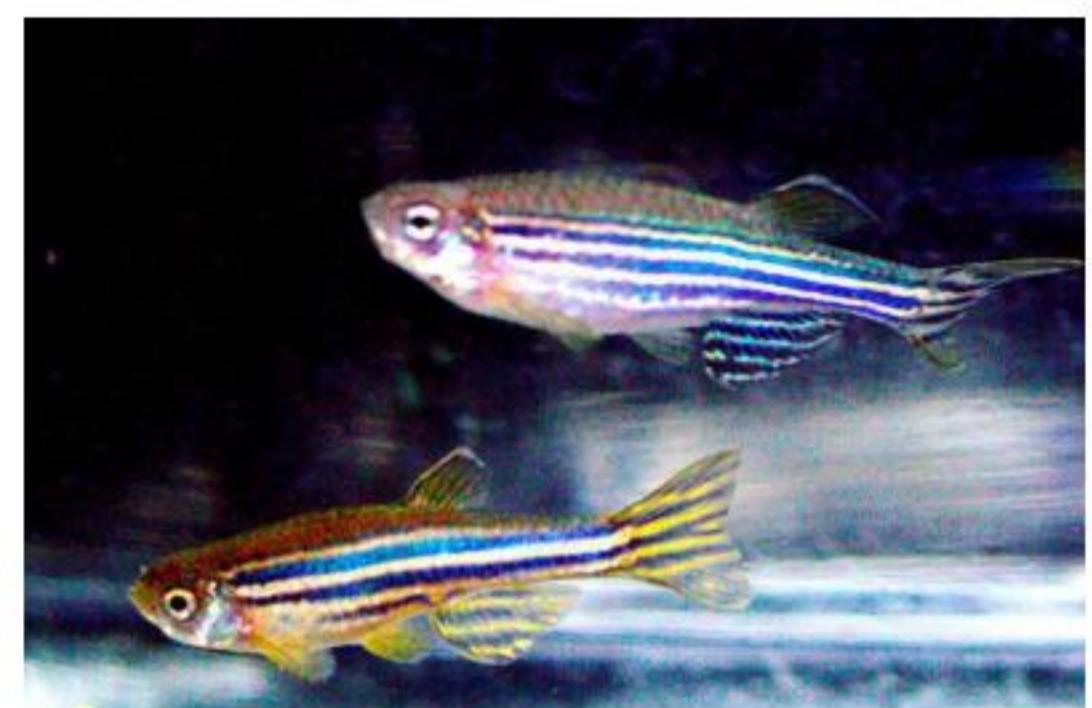
refers to animals, and pharmacognosy to the study of drugs and tonics for health). Dr. E M Costa-Neto of Bahia, Brazil, in "Environmental Science, Biology" in 2012 titled: 'Zoopharmacognosy: the self-medication behaviour of animals, as also Joel Shurkin from Baltimore, in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences has listed several plants and their roots, leaves, and

fruits that apes, monkeys, reindeer, bears and some birds (starlings) eat to stay healthy. Dogs medicate themselves by chewing grass and vomiting it to get rid of infections in the stomach. Pregnant lemurs nibble on tamarind leaves to aid milk production, and pregnant elephants in Kenya eat the leaves of some plants of the Boraginaceae family to induce delivery. The Roman natural histori-

ian Pliny pointed out 2,000 years ago that many animals had made medical discoveries from certain plants that they eat. Many of these medicinal plants have been known for over 3,000 years in Africa, Egypt, the Middle East, India, and China, and are still used today.

The medicinal plant *Fibraurea tinctoria* that the Sumatran orangutan used for wound healing contains the anti-inflammatory molecule berberine. Called 'Akar Kunyi' locally, the plant is used in the traditional medical system there. And in the southern subtropical regions, its equivalent is called Oleander and is used as a curative for jaundice. The shrub aloe vera, which is found in India (where it is called 'gwar patta' in Hindi and

SNAPSHOTS



Zebrafish use surprising strategy to regrow spinal cord

Zebrafish are capable of fully healing a severed spinal cord. A new study maps out a detailed atlas of all the cells involved – and how they work together – in regenerating the zebrafish spinal cord. The researchers showed that survival and adaptability of the severed neurons themselves is required for full spinal cord regeneration. Stem cells capable of forming new neurons – and typically thought of as central to regeneration – only play a complementary role but do not lead the process.



Scottish, Irish rocks record a rare 'snowball Earth'

A rock formation spanning Ireland and Scotland may be the world's most complete record of 'snowball Earth', a moment in planetary history when the globe was covered in ice. The Port Askaig Formation, composed of layers of rock up to 1.1 km thick, was likely laid down between 662 and 720 million years ago during the Sturtian glaciation – the first of two global freezes thought to have triggered the development of complex, multicellular life. Other rocks that formed at a similar time are missing this transition.



Blind cavefish have taste buds on the head, chin

Over thousands of years, cavefish evolved and lost their vision, earning the moniker "the blind cavefish," but some cavefish also developed a number of taste buds on the head and chin. Researchers have determined when the taste buds start to appear. The number of taste buds is similar to the surface fish from birth through five months of age. They start to increase in number and appear on the head and chin in smatterings, well into adulthood, at nearly 18 months.



Question Corner

Differently affected

Do heat waves affect urban trees more than their rural counterparts?

A recent study details how trees in New York City, Boston and Baltimore, Maryland are more negatively impacted by heat waves and drought than trees of the same species in nearby rural forests. The urban trees in the three cities experienced greater negative impacts from heat waves and drought compared to rural trees. Also, the growth rates and carbon storage capabilities of urban trees are significantly reduced during extreme weather conditions. The growth of oak trees, but not red

maple trees, in the urban sites of Boston and New York City, were more adversely impacted by heat stress than their rural counterparts. But such urban-rural differences in the growth of oak trees was not seen in Maryland. The finding highlights the challenges urban trees face in the context of climate change and, underscores the importance of tailored urban forestry management as a tool for protecting tree species and reducing urban heat islands.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

FAQ

Why is mpox a global health emergency?

What has the World Health Organization said? What are the symptoms? Is there a vaccine?

Priyali Prakash

The story so far:

In August 14, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the mpox outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and other African countries as a "global health emergency". WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus made the declaration on the advice of an International Health Regulations (IHR) emergency committee. The WHO had regraded the mpox outbreak to an "acute" grade 3 emergency, according to a report published on August 12. The outbreak, which first started in 2022, has continued unabated with a recent surge in cases reported from around the world.

What is mpox?

Mpox, or monkeypox, is a rare zoonotic disease (disease that spreads from animals to humans) caused by the monkeypox virus which belongs to the Orthopoxvirus genus in the Poxviridae family. Other diseases caused by viruses from this family include smallpox, cowpox, and more. The mpox virus is transmitted to humans through physical contact with someone infectious – it can happen through direct contact with infected blood, fluids, or skin or mucus lesions (damaged or broken areas). Mpox can also spread through contact with contaminated materials, or infected animals'

Mpox infections have been found closer home, with Pakistan detecting three patients with the virus

Currently, two clades or genetic groups of mpox exist: clade I which is mostly found in central and east Africa, and clade II which is linked to more cases in west Africa. The exact source of mpox remains unknown, but small mammals like squirrels and monkeys are believed to be carriers.

What are the symptoms?

The mpox virus in humans mostly presents as rashes, which can develop into blisters filled with liquid which may be itchy or painful. Other symptoms include fever, sore throat, headache, muscle aches, back pain, low energy, and swollen lymph nodes. Infectious people can pass the disease on to others until all sores have healed and a new layer of skin has formed.

Symptoms of mpox usually begin within a week of infection, but can start 1-21 days after exposure as well. Symptoms typically last 2-4 weeks. Most people have less severe symptoms, but some may develop more serious illness and need care in a medical facility. Children, pregnant women, and immunocompromised people are at a greater risk of getting the virus.

What is the line of treatment?

Currently, there is no specific treatment for mpox. WHO recommends supportive care, such as medication for pain or fever for people who need it, but symptoms usually go away on their own. People suffering from mpox are advised to stay hydrated, eat well, get enough sleep, avoid scratching their skin, take care of their rash by cleaning their hands before and after touching lesions, and keep their skin dry and uncovered.

An antiviral developed to treat smallpox (tecovirimat) was approved in January 2022 by the European Medicines Agency for the treatment of mpox under exceptional circumstances, but experience with such therapeutics is limited.

Three vaccines – MVA-BN, LC16 and OrthopoxVac – developed against smallpox are also approved for prevention of mpox. However, only people who are at risk are considered for vaccination. WHO does not recommend mass vaccination against mpox.

What about the current outbreak?

Mpox infections have been found closer home – Pakistan detected three patients with the virus, the health department of the northern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province said on August 16. On Thursday, Sweden announced the first mpox case outside Africa of the clade I variant of mpox. According to the WHO, more than 15,600 cases and 537 deaths have been reported this year. The outbreak has affected 116 countries, and is the worst in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and neighbouring countries. Out of the cases reported in June 2024, Americas accounted for 19% of those, while 11% were reported in Europe.

The WHO has regraded the global mpox outbreak to an acute grade 3 emergency in accordance with the WHO Emergency Response Framework, which is the highest on the list. A grade 3 emergency requires a major to maximal response from the WHO. A public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) is an extraordinary event that relates to the international spread of a disease and which would potentially require a global, coordinated response. The purpose of the PHEIC, the highest level of alarm by the WHO, is to coordinate immediate international action before the event becomes bigger and turns into a pandemic.

Why is SEBI's credibility under a cloud?

What are the charges levelled against the Securities and Exchange Board of India's Chairperson by Hindenburg Research? What are the market regulator's code of conduct guidelines? Do Madhavi Puri Buch's actions constitute a potential conflict of interest? What lies ahead?

Vikas Dhoot

The story so far:

Over a year and a half after U.S.-based Hindenburg Research alleged corporate malfeasance, stock price manipulation and breach of minimum public shareholding norms against the Adani Group of companies, the firm issued another report late last Saturday. It argued that India's stock market regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), is reluctant to follow the trail on its charges about the use of offshore funds linked to "the Adani money siphoning scandal" because its own chairperson had a conflict of interest, having jointly invested in the same fund with her spouse.

How has SEBI responded to the charges?
SEBI Chairperson Madhavi Puri Buch and her husband, Dhaval Buch, in a statement last Sunday, said their investment in the fund flagged by Hindenburg was made during their stint as "private citizens" in Singapore, and almost two years before she joined as a SEBI member in 2017. This investment was spurred by Mr. Buch's proximity to the fund's Chief Investment Officer, Anil Ahuja, who was a "childhood friend", and was redeemed in 2018 when Mr. Ahuja moved on from the role. They also cited a confirmation from Mr. Ahuja that the fund in question did not invest in any bond, equity or derivative of any Adani Group firm at any time. Mr. Ahuja was also a director of Adani Enterprises till 2017. On the U.S. firm's charges that the SEBI chief owned two consulting firms, in Singapore and India, and transferred 100% of the Singapore outfit's shares to her spouse in March 2022, the Buchs said these firms "became immediately dormant"

'A whole-time member, including the chairman, shall not hold any other office of profit'

on her appointment with SEBI. The transfer of the Singapore entity to Mr. Buch, who was said to have used both the entities since 2019 for his "own consultancy practice" with "prominent clients in the Indian industry", was disclosed to SEBI as well as tax authorities in India.

In a separate statement, SEBI said that relevant disclosures required in terms of holdings of securities and their transfers have been made by Ms. Buch from time to time, and she has "also recused herself in matters involving potential conflicts of interest", ostensibly referring to charges that the SEBI chief oversaw changes to regulations for Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) while her husband was an adviser to Blackstone with interests in the asset class.

SEBI also said it has completed 23 of the 24 investigations it had undertaken against the Adani Group, under the top court's scrutiny, and the final one is close to completion.

What about the other entities?

The Adani Group reiterated that its "overseas holding structure is fully transparent, with all relevant details disclosed regularly in numerous public documents", and noted that Mr. Ahuja was a nominee director of 3i investment fund in Adani Power (2007-08) and, later, a director of its flagship, Adani Enterprises, until 2017. 360 One, a wealth management firm formerly known as IIFL Wealth, which managed the fund IPE Plus Fund-I, named by Hindenburg, said Ms. Buch and Mr. Buch's holdings in the fund were less than 1.5% of its total inflows, and it had made zero investments in any shares of the Adani Group either directly or indirectly through any fund.

Have fresh questions arisen since last Sunday's set of clarifications?

Yes. Hindenburg Research said the Buchs' statement contains important 'admissions' regarding the SEBI chief's investment in an obscure fund structure run by a person who was an Adani director at the time, confirms a "massive conflict of interest" when it comes to SEBI's probe into funds related to the Adani Group, and raises fresh questions. On the consulting firms owned by Ms. Buch, Hindenburg pointed out that Ms. Buch only transferred her stake in Singapore-based Agora Partners Singapore to her husband "two weeks after her appointment as SEBI chairperson", and continued to hold 99% of the Indian firm that reported revenues of about \$3,12,000 over three years till this March, while she was the SEBI chief. It asked if some of Mr. Buch's consultancy clients in these were entities that SEBI is tasked

with regulating, and whether they will release a full list of such clients and details of their engagements with both the consulting firms. "Finally, will the SEBI chairperson commit to a full, transparent and public investigation into these issues?" it asked.

There has been no response yet from SEBI or the Buchs on these issues yet, while the Finance Ministry has maintained a stoic silence on the matter. While Opposition parties have continued to question the government over these allegations, fresh reports this week suggest that more sunlight may be necessary to quell any lingering doubts about any capriciousness in the administration of India's booming securities markets. On Friday, Reuters reported that revenues accruing to Ms. Buch from the consultancy firms during her stint in SEBI, could constitute a potential breach of a SEBI policy in place since 2008. The 'Code on Conflict of Interests for Members of Board' says a SEBI member shall take all steps necessary to ensure that "any conflict of interest to which he may be subject to does not affect any decision of the Board". Moreover, a member shall disclose interests which may conflict with their duties, and a whole-time member (including the chairman) shall not hold any other office of profit, nor engage in any other professional activity, which entails receipt of salary or fees.

A separate report by *The Morning Context* suggested that Ms. Buch did not recuse herself from a case pertaining to a firm called Essel Propack, in which a Blackstone subsidiary had acquired a 75% stake in 2019.

What may one look out for next?

Eight months ago, the Supreme Court had exuded "confidence" in SEBI's investigation into the allegations against the Adani Group, brought to the fore by Hindenburg early last year. While noting its power to transfer an investigation from the "authorised agency" to the CBI or constitute a Special Investigation Team, the court had said this was a rare power, to be used only if there was strong evidence on record that the investigation was *prima facie* tainted or biased and its continuation would lead to a "failure of justice". One of the grounds the court had highlighted for transferring an investigation was when accusations were levelled against the "top officials of the investigating agency thereby allowing them to influence the investigation".

Ms. Buch, the first private sector executive to lead the market watchdog, has a three-year tenure that ends next March, and is eligible for a fresh term. While more clarity on the allegations around SEBI's administration would help clear the air, expediting the sole pending investigation into the Adani Group, and swiftly following the closure of the 24 probes with enforcement proceedings culminating in "speaking orders" put in the public domain, could be the best way forward for the market watchdog.

With inputs from T. Ashokamithran.



Question of trust: Chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Madhavi Puri Buch speaks at an event in Mumbai on April 2. PTI

Do doctors need a Central protection Act?

Why are healthcare workers protesting across India? What happened at the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata? What are the working conditions of junior doctors, interns and nurses? What are the key demands of the protesters?

Bindu Shajan Perappadan

The story so far:

Resident doctors across India are on strike demanding laws that ensure their safety while on duty. This follows the rape and murder of a young doctor at R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata on August 9. The protests started after the discovery of the doctor's body in the seminar room of the emergency building where she had been working. Doctors point out that while the hospital administration and State government attempted to underreport the incident, there is no Central law that protects healthcare workers.

What is the ground reality?

As per constitutional provisions, health and law and order are State subjects, and, therefore, it is the primary responsibility of the State government or Union Territory administration to take note of events and eventualities, and do what is necessary to prevent violence. The Union government has admitted that details of the number of fatalities of medical professionals due to attacks by families of patients are not maintained centrally.

Violence against healthcare workers at the workplace is not new in India. In 1973, Aruna

'Healthcare centres should be declared safe zones with mandatory security measures in place'

Ramchandra Shanbaug working as a junior nurse at King Edward Memorial Hospital, Mumbai, was sexually assaulted by a hospital sweeper. She died in 2015 after spending over 41 years in a vegetative state following the attack. Years later, doctors and other healthcare workers continue to demand specific and basic safety measures at hospitals including improved lighting, increased security, and installation of properly monitored security cameras.

Those protesting in Delhi point out that medical colleges often have ill-lit corridors, poorly secured wards, and long distances between departments. "There is an urgent need to improve working and living conditions by ensuring proper lighting, security guards, cameras, and manned walk-throughs between departments, operation theatres, and emergency areas. These simple measures could make a real difference," explain doctors. "We have repeatedly requested a safe work environment. This incident is a wake-up call. Doctors, particularly junior doctors working night shifts, and nurses – whether female or male – are increasingly under threat, not just physically but mentally as well. There is growing concern about their safety, lives, and mental health," said Dr. Praveen Gupta, principal director and chief of neurology, Fortis Hospital.

Demanding immediate systemic reforms to prevent such tragedies from happening again, Archana Dhawan Bajaj, gynaecologist, Nurture Clinic, added that a Central protection Act for doctors is crucial. "There is a need to improve the working conditions of junior doctors nationwide," she added. "Violence against healthcare workers is a global issue, but several countries have implemented effective measures to protect their medical professionals, setting examples that India could follow. The U.K.'s NHS enforces a zero-tolerance policy on violence, supported by a dedicated security team and a comprehensive reporting system. In the U.S., some States classify assaults on healthcare workers as felonies, acting as a strong deterrent. Australian hospitals have introduced safety measures like security personnel, panic buttons, and mandatory de-escalation training. India must urgently introduce a Central protection Act

and adopt similar measures to take stringent actions to ensure a safer environment for its healthcare workers," said Dr. Sunita Kapoor, director, City X Ray & Scan Clinic.

What are the doctors demanding?

The Indian Medical Association (IMA), a national level association of allopathic doctors, maintained that at a policy level, the reluctance to acknowledge the violence on doctors at healthcare centres has to change. In a list of demands submitted to the Union government, it has sought hospital security protocols that are no less than those at an airport and that healthcare centres should be declared safe zones with mandatory security entitlements including CCTVs and deployment of security personnel. "The victim was on a 36-hour duty shift, and had no safe space to rest. The working and living conditions of resident doctors need a complete overhaul," the IMA said. IMA national president R.V. Asokan said doctors are also seeking a meticulous and professional investigation of the crime within a timeframe and also justice. "We want proper identification of the hooligans of vandalism and they should be awarded exemplary punishment. Appropriate and dignified compensation should be given to the bereaved family."

What are provisions brought in by Centre?

On August 16, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare issued an order that "in the event of any violence against any health care worker while on duty, the head of the institution shall be responsible for filing an institutional FIR within a maximum of six hours of the incident".

The order was issued in view of the fact that violence has become common against doctors and other healthcare staff in government hospitals. "A number of health workers suffer physical violence during the course of their duty... most of this violence is done by either [the] patient or patient's attendants," it said. Meanwhile, earlier this week, the National Medical Commission (NMC) directed all medical colleges to develop a policy for a safe work environment within the college and hospital campus for all staff members. It also said any incident of violence against medical students should be promptly investigated by the college management and an FIR should be lodged. "A detailed action taken report on any incident of violence should invariably be sent to the NMC within 48 hours of the incident," said the order.



Not safe: Members of the IMA stage a protest on Saturday against the rape and murder of a doctor at R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata. PTI

PROFILES

Return of the Islamists

Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh

The Islamist movement, whose leader was convicted of war crimes for helping the Pakistani military in the 1971 massacre and hanged, has made a political comeback in Bangladesh after the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government was toppled on August 5

Kalol Bhattacharjee

Chaitey gelaam odhikaar, hoye gelaam razakar!

In the tsunami of slogans that swept away the Sheikh Hasina government earlier this month, this particular one ("We asked for our rights but became razakars"), dripping with sarcasm, stood out as the summary of the political history of Bangladesh's independent existence. As her law and order machinery overplayed their hands, Ms. Hasina described the protesters as 'razakars', the anti-liberation forces of 1971 who opposed Bangladesh's freedom. But it turned out that Ms. Hasina, despite her best efforts, failed to contain the anti-liberation forces that were most effectively represented by the Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh.

During her 15-year prime ministerial tenure, one of the most dramatic moments came in the early morning of May 11, 2016 when Motiur Rahman Nizami, the leader of Jel Bangladesh, was hanged to death in the Dhaka central prison. That Nizami, once one of the most powerful figures in the country, could be hanged showed that the Jel had become weak after relentless attacks by the Hasina government.

The Jel's weakness was further proved when its footsoldiers failed to mobilise themselves in protest against Nizami's death. Nizami represented the might of the Jel in Bangladesh. On May 13, 1971, as the Pakistani military's 'Operation Searchlight' rolled on, attacking those who opposed the freedom movement of Bangladesh, a large contingent of the Pakistan Army reached Demra in the western part of the country and, with the help of the collaborators, killed a large number of civilians. A War Crimes Tribunal set up by the Hasina government conducted an inquiry and found that it was the Al Badr militia, led by Nizami, that supported the Pakistan military in carrying out the Demra massacre.

The Jel Bangladesh is an offshoot of the Jamaat-e-Islami, which was established on August 26, 1941 in Lahore. Soon after its emergence, the Jel opposed the Pakistan movement of Mohammed Ali Jinnah. However, after

the formation of the state of Pakistan, it reinvented itself by demanding an Islamic Constitution and Islamic regime. In East Pakistan, Ghulam Azam spearheaded the Islamic movement.

In 1954, Ghulam Azam joined the Jel and with his leadership the Jel became a strong movement in East Pakistan as well. It was during this time that the Jel founded its student wing (today Chhatra Shibir in Bangladesh). The Jel in East Pakistan faced the first crackdown under the government of President Ayub Khan, who banned the organisation under an order which remained in force until 1962. In 1963, the outfit revived itself as part of a campaign against the Muslim Family Laws Ordinance 1961, which was opposed by the anti-Ayub Khan parties. In the next election of 1965, Fatima Jinnah, sister of Mohammed Ali Jinnah, contested against Ayub Khan. This marked a dramatic turn in the history of the Jel as the outfit, including its chief ideologue Maulana Maududi, went against their fundamental tenets and supported a woman candidate in an election. This experiment with democracy would be an example that the outfit would subsequently replicate.

Mujib's opponent

It was after the defeat of Fatima Jinnah that the Jel's East Pakistan wing became more focused on the politics in Dhaka where it emerged as the chief opponent of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Sheikh Mujib wanted a federal system for East and West Pakistan which would include two separate currencies and separate forex reserves for the two wings. He also demanded a separate paramilitary for East Pakistan. The recasting of the Jel's political position against Mujib brought the movement closer to its former arch enemy, President Ayub Khan. As Pakistan moved towards the polls of December 7, 1970, the Jel contested the polls and won four seats in the National Assembly. As the movement for Bangladesh intensified, the Jel became part of the official move to preserve Pakistan in its undivided form.

After the defeat of the Pakistan military in the 1971 war, Ghulam Azam,

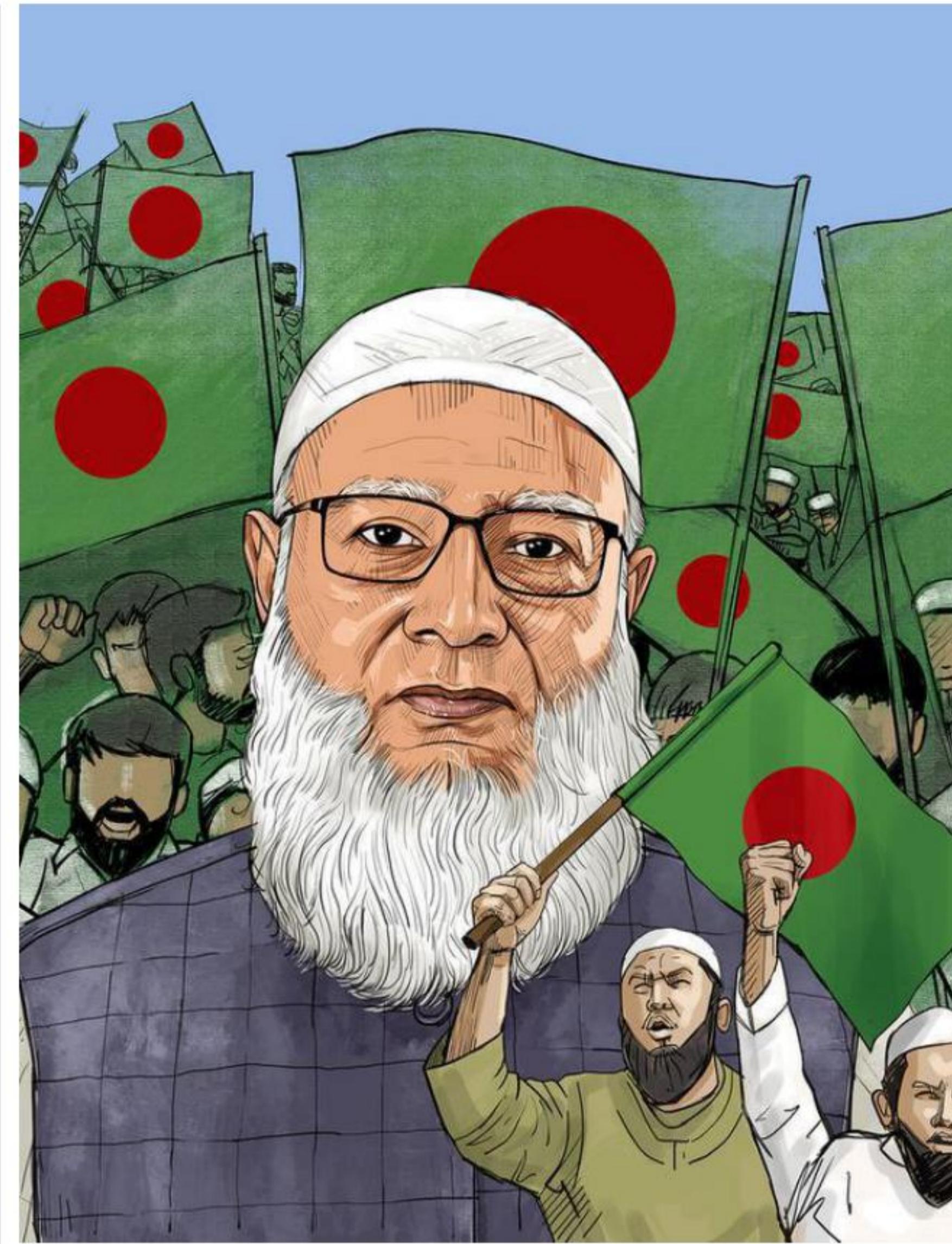


ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

that would hold the next election. The two parties, however, did not form a coalition during the election that brought Ms. Hasina as the Prime Minister for the first time. From the margins, the Jel came into the core of Bangladesh politics in 1998 when it reached an understanding with the BNP.

In 1999, the Jel joined a BNP-led four party alliance. With the Jel becoming a mainstream political player, Ghulam Azam withdrew from active politics and Motiur Rahman Nizami became the emir. In the 2001 election, the Jel won 18 seats and Nizami became a Minister, holding the portfolios of agriculture and industry. It was during this time that the outfit warmed its ties with the Jel Pakistan. As the Zia government became unpopular, the Jel Bangladesh also bore the brunt and its leaders were caught in the vortex as they repeatedly made derogatory remarks about the 1971 liberation war that infuriated the public and prompted Ms. Hasina to pledge that the Awami League would set up a war crimes tribunal if she returned to power. The opportunity to form this tribunal came in 2009 when the Jatiyo Sangsad passed the unanimous resolution setting up the war crimes tribunal.

New tactics

After the execution of Nizami, the Jel, under the leadership of Shafiqur Rahman (in picture), has renovated its tactics and replaced its earlier anti-liberation rhetoric with sophisticated social media outreach. It also strengthened its presence in coaching centres and liberal universities where the heavy handed policies of the Hasina government had triggered a backlash. Ms. Hasina, in one last act of reprisal, banned the Jel. But she was too late.

The Jel has taken revenge for the execution of Nizami. Just like the 1990 movement against the military dictatorship, this time too the Jel participated in a pro-democracy movement. In 1990, the Jel joined hands with the Awami League and the BNP to overthrow the Ershad regime. In 2024, they joined hands with students to overthrow Ms. Hasina.

THE GIST

▼ The Jel Bangladesh is an offshoot of the Jamaat-e-Islami, which was established on August 26, 1941 in Lahore

▼ In East Pakistan, Jel emerged as the main adversary of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who had demanded a federal system with autonomy for the east

▼ In 1990, the Jel supported the pro-democracy movement led by the Awami League and the BNP and in 1996 it joined hands with the Awami League demanding a caretaker government. And in 1998, it came out of the margins and joined the political mainstream as an ally of the BNP

Man with lightning reflexes

P.R. Sreejesh

The former Indian hockey team goalkeeper, who has hung up his boots after an illustrious career, takes over as the junior men's team coach on October 1

Uthra Ganeshan

When P.R. Sreejesh announced, through a series of comic strips on social media, his decision to retire from international hockey after the Paris Olympics, the move made sense given how he had been talking about it for some time now, with broken bones and the stress of performance. The way he did it, though, was unprecedented in Indian sports, both for the clarity of thought and the planning that went into it.

It was also representative of the man himself – doing things not done before, knowing himself better than anyone else and, most importantly, getting his timing impeccable. His has been a journey backed by hard work and willpower over two decades of national duty that started with an Australia tour as a junior back in 2004.

Born on May 8, 1988 in Kizhakkambalam in Kerala, in the farming family of P.V. Raveendran and Usha Kumari, Sreejesh joined the GV Raja Sports School in Thiruvananthapuram – the first of many, established with the sole purpose of nurturing sporting talent in the State. Sreejesh was 12 then and this move was tough on him. Yet, it marked the start of his incredible sporting journey.



Spotted by State coach Jayakumar and rising up the ranks before being selected for the junior national camp, Sreejesh made his junior India debut against Australia in Perth in 2004. He played his first game for the national team at the 2006 SAF Games in Colombo and followed it up with the Junior Asia Cup title in 2008 as the 'Goalkeeper of the Tournament'. It was the first of many he would pick up, the last of them being crowned as the man with 'Lightning Reflexes' at the end of the 2023-24 season of FIH Pro League.

He also started for India at the 2010 World Cup in New Delhi despite being the junior goalkeeper. However, he was injured after a few games. In the maiden edition of the Asian Champions Trophy in 2011, when his heroics in the final against Pakistan helped India win, Sreejesh was in the spotlight.

He repeated the feat at

those situations myself, my words come from a place of experience. It is something I have always wanted to do," he had said back then.

As one of the most popular players in the team over the last 15 years and a crowd favourite, Sreejesh has been the star Indian hockey desperately wanted since the exit of Dhanraj Pillay. Sreejesh, in fact, has gone a step further – he has the charisma and the innate ability to attract the spotlight of Dhanraj without the mercurial temper of the latter. His demeanour has also made him a star back home in Kerala, a State not really enamoured by hockey. That the entire Paris Olympics campaign for the Indian team gradually grew around him is a testimony to his role as an important binding factor within the side.

His medal cabinet is full. The one missing is the World Cup, something he continues to regret. "But there will always be more tournaments and temptations to just try one more time. When do you stop? I am done," he had said before Paris.

Come October 1, he will get his wish, taking charge of the Indian junior men's team. Hopefully the clarity he brought to his entire career will be visible in his new role as well, along with the flamboyance, embodied in his farewell.

Ravi Reddy

What started as a small movement for the sub-categorisation of the Scheduled Castes in united Andhra Pradesh three decades ago in the village of Eedumudi has come to centre stage after the Supreme Court earlier this month gave a historic verdict that the SCs and the Scheduled Tribes can be divided into sub-groups for the purpose of reservations.

The man credited with this achievement is 59-year-old Manda Elijah, popularly known as Manda Krishna 'Madiga', founder of the Madiga Reservation Porata Samiti (MRPS), the movement that rocked A.P. for years.

Born to Manda Kommuраia and Manda Kommuраia on July 7, 1965 in Shayampet in Warangal district, Mr. Krishna was a rebel fighting for the cause of the downtrodden, particularly the Madigas among the SCs. His grouse was always against the dominant Malas among the SCs, who he claimed had cornered Government jobs and dominated the educational field by enjoying the quota for Dalits.

In his early 20s, Mr. Krishna was attracted to the outlawed People's War Group (PWG) and briefly worked for the underground party. He followed



ILLUSTRATIONS: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

another PWG leader K.G. Satyamurthy, who was expelled from the party. Mr. Krishna went to Prakasam district where Satyamurthy ran the Marxist Leninist Centre and started working there. During this time, he wanted the ML Centre to take up the Madiga cause.

Failing to get a positive response from the leadership, Mr. Krishna distanced himself from the activities of the group. He and his comrades founded the MRPS in 1994.

Madiga 'Dandora'

The MRPS, which began on a humble note, was popularly known as Madiga 'Dandora' – which refers to announcements made by Dalits by beating a drum in villages. The MRPS faced a stiff challenge from the rival 'Mala Mahanadu' movement, which was against categorisation of SCs.

Mr. Krishna proved his leadership qualities by organising the first meeting

Rebel with a cause

Manda Krishna

Decades-long activism of the Madiga leader paid off when the Supreme Court gave a historic verdict that the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes can be divided into sub-groups

the SCs quota into ABCD categories.

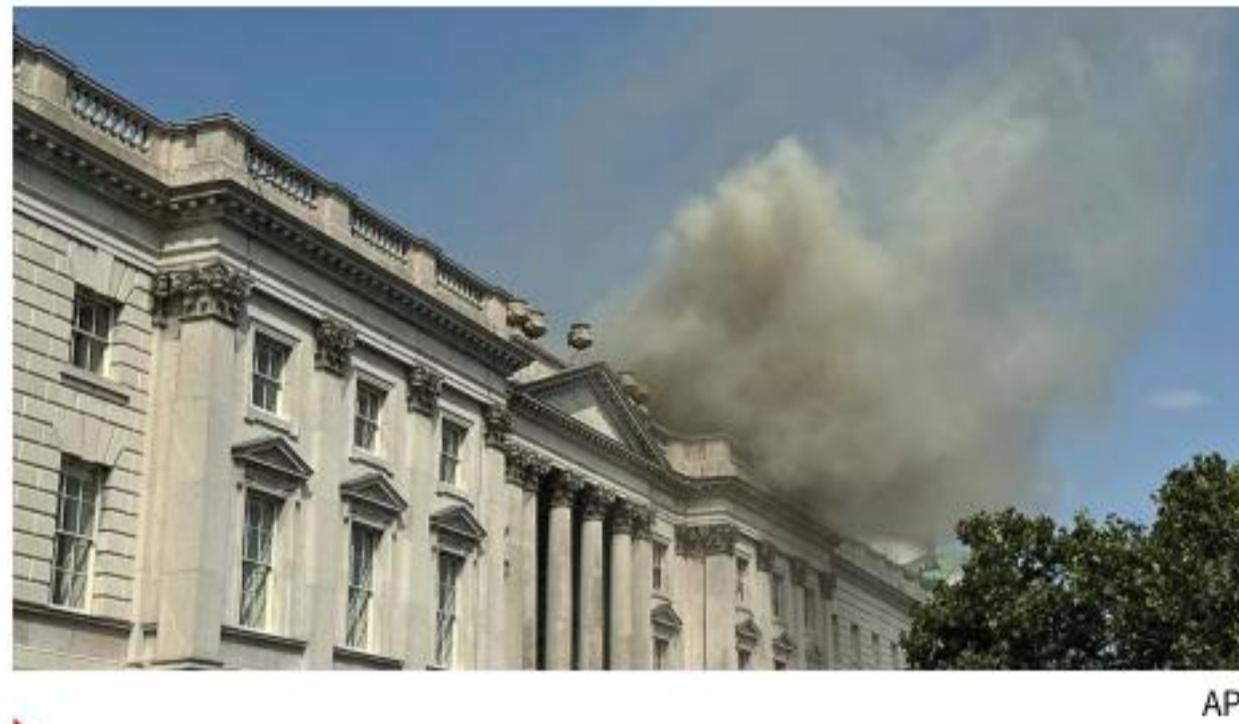
But the euphoria was short-lived as Mala Mahanadu leaders filed writ petition challenging the government order, and the High Court subsequently suspended the orders. The then A.P. Government in 1998 issued an ordinance on categorisation. Mala Mahanadu leaders again challenged the ordinance and the Supreme Court dismissed categorisation.

Mr. Krishna announced the formation of Mahajana Socialist Party in 2014. His political foray, however, was disastrous as his maiden attempt to get elected to the A.P. Assembly in 2004 as an independent candidate from Madhira constituency was unsuccessful. Similar bids from the same seat in 2009 and from Wardhanpet in 2014 too failed.

His coming in touch with BJP leaders ahead of the 2023 Assembly polls and PM Narendra Modi attending a meeting of the MRPS last year and calling Mr. Krishna his "younger brother" caught the imagination of many. His perseverance paid off after the Supreme Court delivered the historic verdict on categorisation. The massive turnout of people to welcome him on his return from New Delhi only established that Manda Krishna is a force to reckon with.

LONDON

Around 125 firefighters tackle blaze at historic London art centre



Around 125 firefighters tackled a large blaze at London's historic Somerset House cultural centre on Saturday, with flames leaping out from underneath its roof. The complex is home to the Courtauld Gallery, which houses priceless paintings, including Vincent van Gogh's "Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear." AFP

Israeli strike in south Lebanon kills 10, injures 5

Reuters
BEIRUT

Around 10 people were killed, including two children, and five were wounded by an Israeli strike on a residential building in the city of Naqabat al-Basha in south Lebanon, state news agency NNA said on Saturday.

The victims were all Syrian citizens, NNA said, adding that a final toll of the strike would be announced after DNA tests were conducted to determine the identity of the victims.

The Israeli military said the airstrike targeted a weapons depot used by Hezbollah militants.

The strike came after ceasefire talks between Palestinian Islamist group Hamas and Israel in Doha paused on Friday with negotiations due to meet again next week.

Tensions have soared in the region in recent weeks, after a rocket strike blamed on Hezbollah killed 12 children and teens in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. Israel responded with the killing of a top Hezbollah commander in the suburbs of Beirut.

18 members from Gaza family killed after Israeli air strike

The attack comes hours after mediators ended truce talks with a message of hope that a deal could be reached; the strike hit a house and an adjacent warehouse sheltering displaced people

Associated Press
DEIR AL-BALAH

As mediators expressed optimism for an imminent ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas, violence raged on Saturday in the Gaza Strip, where an Israeli air strike killed at least 18 persons, all from the same family.

The attack came days after the Health Ministry in Hamas-run Gaza announced the death toll surpassed 40,000 in the 10-month-old war, and hours after officials from the U.S., Egypt and Qatar ended two days of ceasefire talks with a message of hope that a deal could be reached.

A joint statement from the mediators said a proposal to bridge the gaps between Israel and Hamas was presented and they expected to work out the details of how to implement the possible deal next week in Cairo.

The mediation efforts are aimed not just at securing the release of scores of



Innocent lives: Palestinians grieve at the funeral for 18 persons killed in an Israeli strike in Deir al-Balah on Saturday. AP

Israeli hostages and stopping the fighting that has devastated Gaza, where aid and health workers fear a possible polio outbreak. They are also aimed at calming regional tensions that have threatened to explode into a broader war if Iran and Hezbollah militants in Lebanon attack Israel in retaliation for the recent killings of top militant leaders.

Saturday's air strike in Gaza hit a house and adjacent warehouse sheltering displaced people at the entrance to Zawaida town, according to the al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah, where casualties were taken.

Among those killed was Sami Jawad al-Ejlah, a wholesaler who coordinated with the Israeli military to bring meat and fish to Gaza. The dead also included his two wives, 11 of their children ages 2 to 22, the children's grandmother and three other relatives, according to a list provided by the hospital.

"He was a peaceful

man," said Abu Ahmed, a neighbour who was slightly wounded. More than 40 civilians were sheltering in the house and warehouse at the time, he said.

The Israeli military, which rarely comments on individual strikes, said it was checking the report. It said on Saturday it was continuing attacks on militants in central Gaza, including one seen launching rockets at troops.

Meanwhile, another mass evacuation was ordered for parts of central Gaza. In a post on X, Israeli military spokesperson Avi-

chay Adraee said Palestinians in areas in and around the urban Maghazi refugee camp should leave.

He said Israeli forces will operate in them in response to Palestinian rocket fire.

The vast majority of

Gaza's population has been displaced by the fighting, often multiple times, and around 84% of the territory

has been placed under

evacuation orders by the

Israeli military, according to the United Nations.

Nearly 650 killed in spate of violence in Bangladesh: UN

Press Trust of India
DHAKA/GENEVA

Nearly 650 people have been killed in the recent unrest in Bangladesh between July 16 and August 11, the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Office has said in a preliminary report – suggesting a thorough, impartial and transparent investigation into reports of extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests and detentions.

According to the 10-page report titled "Preliminary Analysis of Recent Protests and Unrest in Bangladesh", nearly 400

Those killed include protesters, bystanders, journalists and security troopers

16 and August 11, more than 600 people were killed due to the wave of violence following the Anti-Discriminatory Student demonstrations.

More numbers awaited The number of reported killings in revenge attacks since that time remains to be determined, the report that was released on Friday in Geneva stated.

"Those killed include protesters, bystanders, journalists and several security forces personnel", it said, adding that thousands of protesters and bystanders were injured.

The available public reports by the media and the protest movement itself claimed that between July

Chinese crew missing after collision off Taiwan island

Agence France-Presse
TAIPEI

Three crew members from a Chinese fishing boat were missing on Saturday after their ship collided with an unidentified vessel and sank off the coast of a Taiwanese island.

The latest incident occurred early on Saturday when the Chinese-flagged boat *Min Long Yu 60877* sank after crashing into an unidentified vessel about 6.5 nautical miles off the coast of the Kinmen islands.

More than 18,700 mpox cases detected in Africa since January: health agency

Agence France-Presse
NAIROBI

A total of 18,737 suspected or confirmed cases of mpox were reported in Africa since the beginning of the year, including 1,200 cases in one week alone, the African Union health agency said on Saturday.

The figure accounts for three strains of the virus, of which one is the new more deadly and more transmissible Clade Ib which prompted the World

Health Organization (WHO) on Wednesday to declare an international health emergency – the agency's highest alert.

To date, 3,101 confirmed and 15,636 suspected cases have been reported from 12 African Union member states, resulting in 541 deaths – a fatality rate of 2.89%, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said in a statement.

Neighboring Burundi reported 173 cases – 39 confirmed and 134 suspected – which marks a rise of 75% in one week.

The hardest hit country, the Democratic Republic of

Congo (DRC) where the new Clade Ib strain was first detected in September 2023, has reported 1,005 cases (222 confirmed, 783 suspected) and 24 deaths in one week.

All 26 provinces in the DRC, home to some 100 million people, have reported cases.

Mpox is a viral disease that can spread from animals to humans, but also human-to-human through sexual or close physical contact.

The disease was formerly known as monkeypox.

More cases have been

DHAKA

Another murder case filed against ousted Bangladesh PM Hasina



A murder case was filed against Bangladesh's former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina over the death of a college student during the quota reform protests in the country, the latest in the string of cases filed against her after her ouster. The case was filed against Hasina, and 32 others, including several Awami League leaders. PTI

ISLAMABAD

'Officials in Pakistan abducting influencers for criticising govt.'



Intelligence agencies in Pakistan continue to abduct social media activists for criticising the government and the military, their families have alleged and approached courts in Punjab province. Two social media activists of Imran Khan's PTI have allegedly been arrested by intelligence agencies in Pakistan's Punjab. PTI

BANGKOK

Thailand king pardons former PM Thaksin in birthday amnesty



Thailand's controversial former PM Thaksin Shinawatra has been granted a royal pardon, his lawyer said, a day after his daughter became the kingdom's new premier. The 75-year-old billionaire, held for graft, is one of thousands granted amnesty by King Maha Vajiralongkorn in a gesture of clemency to mark his birthday. AFP

Ukraine used U.S.-made rockets to destroy bridge in Kursk region: Russia

Reuters
MOSCOW

Russia's Foreign Ministry said Ukraine had used Western rockets, likely U.S.-made HIMARS, to destroy a bridge over the Seym river in the Kursk region, killing volunteers trying to evacuate civilians.

"For the first time, the Kursk region was hit by Western-made rocket launchers, probably American HIMARS," Maria Zakharova, spokeswoman for the Russian Foreign Ministry, said late on Friday on the Telegram messaging app.

"As a result of the attack on the bridge over the Seym River in the Glushkov district, it was completely destroyed, and volunteers who were assisting the evacuated civilian population were killed."

Russia has accused the West of supporting and encouraging Ukraine's first ground offensive on Russian territory and said Kyiv's "terrorist invasion" would not change the course of the war.



Smoke billows from a bridge over the Seym river in the Glushkov district, following a Ukrainian strike in the Kursk region on Friday. REUTERS

The United States, which has said it cannot allow Russian President Vladimir Putin to win the war he launched in February 2022, so far deems the surprise incursion a protective move that justifies the use of U.S. weaponry, officials in Washington said.

Russia kept up its assault on Ukraine on Saturday even as Ukrainian forces pushed into Russia's Kursk border region.

Kursk on the edge Meanwhile, fighting continued in Russia's Kursk region, where Ukrainian troops have been deployed since Aug. 6 in a bid to divert the Kremlin's military focus away from the front line in Ukraine.

Russian attack A Russian missile sparked a blaze in the city of Sumy that injured two persons and also damaged cars and

THE NATIONAL SMALL INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LIMITED
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PRE BID MEETING

RFP for selection of vendor for supply of Toolkits for Garland Maker, Basket Maker, Cobbler, Doll & Toy Maker, Barber, Washerman, Potter, Goldsmith and Blacksmith Trades under PMV Scheme.

NSIC invites intending Bidders to participate in the Pre Bid Meeting in reference to RFPs listed above, published on GeM Portal.
Time - 11:00 AM / Date - 20.08.2024

Venue – Conference Room, Business Park, NSIC, Okhla Industrial State, New Delhi

Note – Bidders who are unable to attend in the meeting may participate through Video Conferencing for which request may be sent by e-mail to procurement@nsic.co.in by 19.08.2024 before 05:30 pm.

Date : 17.08.2024

DGM(C&P)

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU ENERGY DEPARTMENT

The time limit for receipt of applications to the post of Chairperson, Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission is further extended upto 31.08.2024.

Further details are available at:
<https://www.tn.gov.in/department/7>

Additional Chief Secretary to Government (FAC)

DIPR/860/DISPLAY/2024

Government of Karnataka Forest Department
Karnataka Eco Restoration Society (KERS)
O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Development), Bangalore 56003 Phone No: 080-23342827 e-Mail Id: kshore2024@outlook.com Reference No: KERS/2024-25/SE002/CALL-2, dated: 14-08-2024

File No: KFD/DEV/B1A1/2023 Dated: 14-08-2024
Tender Notification

In FY 2024-25, the KERS is inviting RFP for DPR preparation and bid process support for the K-SHORE project. Last date for the submission 29.08.2024. Tender documents can be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. Sd/- Deputy Project Director (K-SHORE)

TAMILNADU INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
19-A, Rukmani Lakshmi Pathi Road, Egmore, Chennai – 600 008 CIN-U65993TN1965SSG005327
e-TENDER NOTICE

TIDCO invites bids from the eligible bidders through e-Tender for the work mentioned in the table below:

Name of Work	Approx. value of work	EMD
Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of MEP works (Electrical HT/LT, DG set, Lift, HVAC & ELV) of Fintech Tower at Fintech City in Nandambakkam Village, Alandur Taluk, Chennai District.	Rs.96.36 Crores (Including 18% GST)	Rs. 48,28,260/-

Tenders shall be uploaded through <https://Intenders.gov.in> on or before 18.09.2024 at 3.00 PM and the same will be opened on 19.09.2024 at 3.30 PM. For more details and participation in the e-Tender Please visit <https://Intenders.gov.in>

Sd/- Managing Director, KSMSCL, Bengaluru

KARNATAKA STATE MEDICAL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED
No.1, Dr. Siddappa Puranik Road, KHB Colony, Magadi Road, Bangalore - 560079 Phone: +91-80-29619801, Email: md.ksmc@gmail.com Website: lakshadweep.gov.in

F.No.LDC/Est./2024 17.08.2024

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Lakshadweep Development Corporation Ltd. is inviting applications from eligible candidates for the post of Financial Consultant on contract basis. Application with self attested copies of all certificates should reach the above address on or before 11.09.2024. The post will be preferred for islanders only, however, in case qualified islanders are not available, the post will be open. Please visit our Website: lakshadweep.gov.in for details.

Sd/- Managing Director

KARNATAKA STATE MEDICAL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED
No.1, Dr. Siddappa Puranik Road, KHB Colony, Magadi Road, Bangalore - 560079 Phone: +91-80-29619801, Email: md.ksmc@gmail.com Website: lakshadweep.gov.in

No. KSMSC/DRUGS/RETND(III)/2022-23 AI/8 DRUGS/17/2024-25 Date: 17/08/2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

1. Tender Notification No: KSMSC/DRUGS/RETND(III)/2022-23 AI/8 DRUGS/17/2024-25, Dated: 17.08.2024 (IND-0160).

Nationwide Tender is invited through e-Tendering system under KTPP Act 1999 and Rules 2000 for the following tender:

1. Re-Tender for the supply of 8 Drugs under Annual Indent 2022-23 (IND-0160).

Details regarding EMD, Terms and Conditions and other information are available in the Tender Document, which can be downloaded from the website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> from 17.08.2024. The eligible tenderers shall submit their e-tenders under e-procurement platform for above mentioned tenders. Further information if any may be obtained from this office.

Sd/- Managing Director, KSMSCL, Bengaluru

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A-NODE

SOARING HIGH

Seales's six-wicket-haul sets West Indies a target of 263



Fast bowler Jayden Seales took six wickets as South Africa was bowled out for 246 on Saturday, leaving West Indies a target of 263 runs to win in the second Test at Providence in Guyana.

The scores: SA 160 & 246 in 80.4 overs (Verreyne 59, Markram 51, Seales 6/61) vs WI 144 and 127/6 in 40 overs (**at tea**).

NO STOPPING

Milner carries on and on into his 23rd season



James Milner began his record 23rd season in the Premier League when he started for Brighton against Everton on Saturday. Milner is aged 38 — seven years older than the current Brighton manager, Fabian Hrzeler — and made his debut in England's top flight in 2002, when he was playing for Leeds.

SUPREME STRIKER

Mohamed Salah breaks opening game scoring record



Mohamed Salah broke a Premier League opening game scoring record in Liverpool's win over Ipswich. The Egyptian took his tally in the opening round of a Premier League season to nine. Salah previously shared the record of eight goals with Frank Lampard, Wayne Rooney and Alan Shearer.

TIED AT THE TOP

Bagnaia outpaces Martin to win Austrian MotoGP sprint race



Ducati rider Francesco Bagnaia raced clear to win the Austrian MotoGP sprint on Saturday and join Jorge Martin at the top of the championship standings. Spaniard Martin of Ducati-Pramac finished second, while compatriot Aleix Espargaro of Aprilia completed the podium. Bagnaia and Martin sit tied on 250 points.

Back to training, Neeraj eyes success in Diamond League to end season

With the lessons from the Tokyo Games learnt, the Indian double Olympic medallist says he will seek medical assistance next month for a persistent groin injury as he works himself back to full fitness and winning ways

ATHLETICS

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

Last time Neeraj Chopra won an Olympic medal, he spent months being felicitated and touring the country, resulting in a substantial weight gain that he admitted later took him a while to get rid off. This time around, the lessons post Tokyo and the desire to reclaim his top spot after silver at Paris has propelled him straight back to business.

The 26-year old is back to training at his base at Magglingen, Switzerland, with coach Klaus Bartońietz and physio Ishaan Marwaha and is hopeful of participating in the next three Diamond League events including the Finals in Brussels.

"After the last Olympics we realised that we should continue our season like everyone else and not return to India immediately. Other athletes do not stop training till the season ends," Neeraj said in a virtual interaction on Saturday facilitated by JSW Sports.

"We had earlier planned to participate in Zurich (September 5) and then Brussels (September 13-14) but luckily we took care to manage the groin injury at Paris and it did not aggravate."

"I am very thankful to Ishaan for being with me



Honest assessment: Neeraj said that he couldn't physically push himself in the final and that cost him. RITU RAJ KONWAR

all these years (since 2017) and helping me push through all the tough times, whether it was surgery or rehab or recovery or injury management, including Paris and after.

"So now I might participate at the Lausanne DL also (August 22). Only one month is left for the season to end so any final decision regarding surgery or otherwise will be taken after discussing with doctors post that only."

Not satisfied
While the country celebrates his winning a medal in successive Olympics, Neeraj himself is not satisfied with a silver.

Although he insisted he

was happy with any colour — "every win must be accepted gracefully" — the disappointment of missing the top spot was clearly evident.

"Gold is gold but medals cannot be compared because conditions and circumstances also matter a lot. But winning gold means you get to hear the national anthem, that I missed this time," he candidly admitted.

That hasn't reduced interest in his personal life but Neeraj has matured enough to understand it was part of the stardom.

"I have gradually got used to it over the years. Within limits, everything is ok but sometimes, when

things are blown out of proportion or rumours that are not true spread, then it gets a bit too much. But personally I try to stay focused on my training," he shrugged.

Asked about his next target, Neeraj was circumspect.

"Honestly, there was no doubt in my mind that Arshad's throw that day could be bettered. 3-4 metres in javelin is barely anything, it can happen any time."

"But physically, I could not push myself 100 percent, my leg work on the runway wasn't perfect.

"Also, the main point in the run-up is the cross step we take before throwing

and that's where the maximum impact is on the groin, so I wasn't able to put in too much effort. And my line of throw was also not right — it was going too much inwards instead of going straight."

No set target

"These are things we need to work on but for the distance, I have now left it to God and luck, whenever it happens. I thought Paris was the best place to do it but that didn't happen despite getting my 2nd and 3rd best throws there (in qualification and final). So now it's all about getting fitter and throwing further but there is no target set," Neeraj signed off.

WRESTLING

Ashok Kumar
GURUGRAM

With a large number of men and women from her village Balali and the neighbouring areas in Haryana

thronging the Indira Gandhi International Airport dancing to drum beats and raising slogans — "Dal Bhati Churma, Hamari Behan Surma" and "Jab Tak Suraj Chand Rahega, Vinesh Teera Naam Rahega" — an emotional looking wrestler Vinesh Phogat, who was disqualified from the Paris Olympics for being around 100gm overweight after reaching the 50kg final, returned to India on Saturday.

Vinesh had stayed back in Paris after her appeal to the CAS for a joint silver medal that was later dismissed.

Several Khap leaders, including Palam 360 Khap chief Surender Solanki from Delhi, and Congress' Rohtak MP Deepender

Hooda, along with wrestlers Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik welcomed her. The Haryana Khaps had earlier announced that they would welcome her like a gold medallist.

Travelling on top of a vehicle flanked by Hooda and Punia, the 29-year-old Vinesh could be seen sobbing and wiping off tears as she waved to the crowd.

She finally broke her silence to say that she was "grateful to the people of the country for the warm welcome".

With people dotting the airport road for her glimpse, Vinesh's cavalcade stopped several times before hitting the Delhi-Gurugram Expressway. The cavalcade was scheduled to halt at over half-a-dozen places on its way to her village in Charki Dadri, which is around three hours drive from the national capital.

Her brother Harvinder said that he was "overwhelmed" to see people turning up in such large numbers, adding that a

myriad of emotions of pain, zeal and a sense of pride were flowing through him.

Referring to her protests against the then Wrestling Federation of India president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, Harvinder said her journey from "road to podium" was there for everyone to see. "She is a champion and that's why she is being welcomed like a champion," quipped Harvinder, who had also stood by her during the Delhi protests.

Big day
Olympic bronze medallist Sakshi described her return as a "big day" saying that Vinesh had done a commendable job for the country and women. "It doesn't matter if she did not get the medal. She is a champion for us," remarked Sakshi.

Haryana Chief Minister Nayan Singh Saini has also announced prize money and facilities at par with a silver Olympic medallist for Vinesh.

Khajuria completes double century as J&K gains upper hand against Chhattisgarh



Mainstays: Shubham Khajuria (Jammu & Kashmir, 202), Sahil Lotra (Jammu & Kashmir, 107), Parush Mandal (Madhya Pradesh, 5/42), and Aniket Verma (Madhya Pradesh, 110). SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Premier League biggies Man United, Liverpool & Arsenal off to winning starts

EURO LEAGUES

Agencies
LONDON

Manchester United kicked off the Premier League season with a hard-fought 1-0 win over Fulham on Friday night, before Liverpool and Arsenal too racked up opening round victories over Ipswich and Wolves respectively on Saturday.

Joshua Zirkzee marked his debut for United by coming off the bench and scoring an 87th-minute goal. The striker poked out his left foot to guide home a cross by fellow substitute Alejandro Garnacho at Old Trafford.

Liverpool's new era under Arne Slot began with a 2-0 victory over promoted Ipswich, with Mohamed Salah and Diogo Jota getting on the scoresheet.

Salah poked home a finish from close range in the



Nodding home: Havertz, left, rises high to head in Arsenal's opener against Wolves. AP

65th minute. Five minutes earlier, Salah set up Jota for the first goal as Liverpool improved after a slow first half in its first competitive game under Slot, who replaced longtime manager Jürgen Klopp.

Later, Arsenal eased to a 2-0 win at home to Wolves with goals by Kai Havertz and Bukayo Saka getting their latest title challenge up and running. It was far from a fluent display in the

summer sunshine but Michel Arteta's side, once again regarded as the team most likely to halt Manchester City's domination, deserved the points.

Danny Welbeck scored one goal and set up another as Brighton eased to a 3-0 victory at 10-man Everton, a perfect start for the Premier League's youngest ever permanent manager.

Manager Fabian Hrzeler, 31, will be delighted

with a performance in which his side took its chances, in contrast to the hosts who were wasteful in front of goal.

The results: Premier League: West Ham 1 (Paqueta 37-pen) lost to Aston Villa 2 (Onana 4, Duran 79); Ipswich 0 lost to Liverpool 2 (Jota 60, Salah 65); Arsenal 2 (Havertz 25, Saka 74) bt Wolves 0; Everton 0 lost to Brighton 3 (Mitoma 25, Welbeck 56, Dingra 86); Newcastle 1 (Joelinton 45) bt Southampton 0; Nottingham Forest 1 (Wood 23) drew with Bournemouth 1 (Semenyo 86).

On Friday: Premier League: Manchester United 1 (Zirkzee 87) bt Fulham 0.

La Liga: Osasuna 1 (Sorianio 79-og) drew with Leganes 1 (Cruz 22), Celta Vigo 2 (Burgos 66, Aspas 84) bt Alaves 1 (Garcia 17); Las Palmas 2 (Nianzu 42-og, Ramirez 71) drew with Sevilla 2 (Alex Suarez 25-og, Juanlu Sanchez 61).

Serie A: Genoa 2 (Vogliacco 20, Messias 90+5) drew with Inter Milan 2 (Thuram 30, 84); Parma 1 (Man 22) drew with Fiorentina (Biraghi 75).

BUCHI BABU

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Opener Shubham Khajuria cracked 202 (368b, 17x4, 8x6) as Jammu & Kashmir declared its first innings on 587 for nine, for a 309-run lead against Chhattisgarh on day three of the Group-D match in the first round of the Buchi Babu

Memorial all-India invitational cricket.

Khajuria was involved in a 223-run fifth-wicket partnership with Sahil Lotra (107, 192b, 9x4, 2x6) at the N.P.R. College cricket ground in Natham on Saturday.

In Group-A, Aniket Verma's 110 (109b, 6x4, 7x6) helped Madhya Pradesh get to 238 in its second innings against Jharkhand at the ICL Sankar Nagar

ground in Tirunelveli.

Chasing 175, Jharkhand ended the day on 37 for one. Earlier, medium-pacer Parush Mandal finished with five for 42 as Jharkhand was bowled out for 289 for a 64-run first-innings lead.

At Salem: Indian Railways 570 & 135/5 decl. in 23 overs (Shivam Chaudhary 49) vs. Gujarat 227 in 70.3 overs (Manan Hingrajia 65, Het Patel 43) & 91/4 in 31 overs.
At Coimbatore: Haryana 191 vs. Mumbai 245 in 92 overs (Akhil Harwadkar 55) & 83/2 in 46 overs.
At Natham: Chhattisgarh 278 & 46/2 in 14 overs vs. Jammu & Kashmir 587/9 decl. in 156 overs (Shubham Khajuria 202, Abdul Samad 58, Paras Dogra 73, Sahil Lotra 107, Yudhvir Singh 45, Utkarsh Tiwari 4/186).

IN BRIEF

**Brazil striker Evanilson goes to Bournemouth from Porto**

Brazil striker Evanilson signed for Bournemouth from Porto on Friday in a deal worth a reported £40 million. Evanilson will replace Dominic Solanke, who joined Tottenham.

Neel Jani to be part of Indian Racing League

Former Toro Rosso Formula One team's third driver, Neel Jani, will be part of the Indian Racing League (IRL) that gets underway in Chennai next weekend. Jani, a Swiss driver of Indian heritage, is one of the most high-profile names that will take part in the IRL. Joining Jani will be Raoul Hyman, a successful British-South African driver who will be returning to IRL. Fabienne Wolwend and Gabriel Jilkova are two among six women racers who will compete this year. Akhil Rabindra leads the Indian contingent alongside Sohil Shah, Ruhaan Alva, Shahan Ali Mohsin and Rishon Rajeev.

Hoffenheim signs forward Hlozek from Leverkusen

Czech Republic striker Adam Hlozek has joined Bundesliga side Hoffenheim from Bayer Leverkusen, it was announced on Saturday. Hlozek, 22, signed a deal with Hoffenheim until 2029, with German champion Leverkusen receiving a reported fee of €20 million. Hoffenheim was on the lookout for a new forward after selling German Maximilian Beier to Borussia Dortmund in August.

Ankita Raina loses in semifinals to Charaeva

Alina Charaeva stopped the fine run of Ankita Raina with a 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 victory in three hours in the semifinals of the \$40,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Ourense, Spain, on Saturday.

The results: \$164,000 Challenger, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic: Semifinals: Sriram Balaji & Fernando Romboli (Bra) w.o. Andres Andrade (Ecu) & Liam Draxl (Can). \$40,000 ITF women, Ourense, Spain: Semifinals: Alina Charaeva bt Ankita Raina 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

LIVE TELECAST

Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 6.30 & 9.30 p.m.
Durand Cup: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 6.30 p.m.
West Indies vs South Africa: 2nd Test, day 4, FanCode, 7.30 p.m.
Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 10 p.m. & 12.15 a.m. (Monday)
LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 10.30 p.m. & 1 a.m. (Monday)

Norrie and Vondrousova withdraw from US Open**Agence France-Presse**
NEW YORK

Great Britain's Cameron Norrie and 2023 Wimbledon champion Marketa Vondrousova of the Czech Republic announced on Friday that they have withdrawn from the US Open.

Norrie, 47th in the ATP rankings, will miss the year's final Grand Slam, which starts here on August 26, due to a forearm injury.

Vondrousova, 18th in the WTA rankings, has not played since a first-round loss in defending her title at Wimbledon, skipping the Paris Olympics due to a hand injury.

Norrie has not played since mid-July in Bastad, where he lost to Rafael Nadal in the Spaniard's first event back from injury.

He reached the third round at last year's US Open. His best run in New York was to the fourth round in 2022 when he lost to Andre Rublev.

Vansh Bedi then smashed an unbeaten 19-ball 47 towards the end to push the scoreboard.

CM YK

Smooth sailing for the seeds in the first round

All 19 GMs begin with wins; Ganguly romps home past Krishay, Abhijeet checkmates Abheek while Sethuraman corners Venkatesh; Solomon holds 13th seed Gusain in an interesting game

NATIONAL CHESS**P.K. Ajith Kumar**

GURUGRAM

The seeds sailed smoothly on Saturday.

The opening round of the 61st National chess championship saw all the Grandmasters – 19 of them – post wins at the RPS International School.

That included top seed and six-time champion Surya Shekhar Ganguly, second-ranked Abhijeet Gupta and third seed and defending champion S.P. Sethuraman.

Ganguly, who employed the French Defence against Krishay Jain on the top board, romped home in 32 moves.

His job was made easier by a poor bishop manoeuvre by white on the 26th move, in a double-rook-and-bishop ending.

Checkmate

On the second board, Abhijeet, with white pieces, checkmated Abheek Bhatt on the 49th move with a pawn push.

In a much more interesting game, Richard Solomon held 13th seed Himal



Right move: Senthurman, right, who played Sicilian Defence against Venkatesh Das, cornered the white king with the queen and bishop. P.K. AJITH KUMAR

The black king had been driven far away from the safety zone, with Abhijeet doubling up his rooks on the back rank.

The third board too saw a checkmate. Sethuraman, who played Sicilian Defence against Venkatesh Das, cornered the white king with the queen and bishop.

In a much more interesting game, Richard Solomon held 13th seed Himal

Gusain. As many as 711 points separated the young Tamil Nadu lad from his rival, who is an International Master with a Grandmaster-like rating of 2511.

Important results (first round):

Krishay Jain (Ben) lost to Surya Shekhar Ganguly (PSPB); Abhijeet Gupta (PSPB) bt Abheek Bhatt (Mah); Venkatesh Das (Ben) lost to S.P. Sethuraman (PSPB); Richard Solomon (TN) drew with Himal Gusain (RSPB); M.R. Lalith Babu (AP) bt Oishik Mondal (Ben); Tamar Nilling (Aru) lost to Sayantan Das (RSPB).

Venkataraman (AP); P. Iniyani (TN) bt Divyanshu Singh (Bih); Albin Sajan (Ker) lost to Sankalp Gupta (Mah); Mitrabha Guha (Rly) bt Arghya Sen (Ben).

Yom Malhotra (Har) lost to Aronyak Ghosh (RSPB); N.R. Vignesh bt Krishika Garg (Del); Amlan Mahanta (Assam) lost to N.R. Visakh (RSPB); Deep Sengupta (PSPB) bt Debnath Kingshuk (Tri); Richard Solomon (TN) drew with Himal Gusain (RSPB); M.R. Lalith Babu (AP) bt Oishik Mondal (Ben); Tamar Nilling (Aru) lost to Sayantan Das (RSPB).

Touch Of Grey should score over his rivals in Nizam's Gold Cup

HYDERABAD: Trainer Satish Narredu's grey colt Touch Of Grey, who ran second to Jamari in his last start at Bangalore, should score over his rivals in the Nizam's Gold Cup, the feature event of Sunday's (Aug 18) races. There will be no rail rails.

1. GADWAL PLATE (Div. I), 4-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. II) – 1.55 p.m.: I. Just Incredible (9) I. Chisty 60, 2. Silver Lining (7) M. Mark 59, 3. Sucker Punch (8) G. Naresh 58, 4. Indian Temple (I) A.A. Vikrant 57.5, 5. American Flame (6) Akshay Kumar 53.5, 6. Nkalanzini (3) P. Ajeth K 53.5, 7. Noble Heart (4) L. Appu 53, 8. Master Touch (5) Surya Prakash 52.5 and 9. Eminence (2) Md. Ekram 50.5.

1. AMERICAN FLAME, 2. JUST INCREDIBLE, 3. NKLANZINI

2. DONCASTER PLATE (1,200m, 2 Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II) – 2.30: 1. Leo (7) A.A. Vikrant 56, 2. My Brother (6) Gaurav 56, 3. Pleasant Star (II) Akshay K 56, 4. Rolls Royce (5) R.S. Joshi 56, 5. Arion One (0) Sandesh 54.5, 6. Clara (3) I. Chisty 54.5, 7. Elegant Lady (10) Rafique Sk. 54.5, 8. Jungle Girl (9) Arjun 54.5, 9. N.R.I Gold (2) L. Appu 54.5, 10. N.R.I

Star (4) Kuldeep Sr. 54.5 and 11. Red Notice (8) Surya Prakash 54.5. 1. ARION ONE, 2. CLARA, 3. ROLLS ROYCE

3. TELANGANA AND ANDHRA SUB AREA CUP (1,600m, 3-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II) – 3.05: 1. Nightmare (7) P. Ajeth K 60, 2. Hurricane Bay (5) Afroz Khan 58.5, 3. Trishul 4 (Akshay K 58, 4. Barber (2) Arjun 57.5, 5. Alpine Girl (1) Kuldeep Jr. 55.5, 6. Red Snaper (6) L. Appu 55 and 7. Only My Way (3) Surya Prakash 53.

1. TRISHUL, 2. BARBET, 3. ALPINE GIRL

4. BROWN JACK PLATE (1,600m, 3-y-o and upward, rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II) – 3.40: 1. Shadow Of The Moon (4) A.A. Vikrant 61.5, 2. Painted Apache (11) Kuldeep Jr. 60.5, 3. Great Guns (12) P. Sal K 59.5, 4. Bais (2) Arjun 57.5, 5. Icicle (10) Rafique Sk. 56, 6. Lucky Zone (1) Ashad Asbar 56, 7. Miss Marvelous (5) Afroz Khan 54.5, 8. Alexandria (6) Santosh Raj 54, 9. Sun Dancer (7) L. Appu 54, 10. Blazing Gun (13) Mohit 53.5, 11. Yesterday (8) Surya Prakash 53, 12. Elpenor (3) Akshay K 52.5 and 13. Fly Tothe Stars (9) Neeraj 50.

1. ELPENOR, 2. BLAZING GUN, 3.

5. NIZAM'S GOLD CUP (Gr. 2, 2,000m) 4-y-o and upward – 4.15: 1. Touch Of Grey (4) Suraj Narredu 59, 2. Mysterious Angel (6) P. Ajeth K 52.5, 3. Hugh Capet (5) Kuldeep Sr. 52, 4. Ramiel (3) Antony Raj 52, 5. Chamomix (1) Umesh 51.5, 6. Geographique (2) Neeraj 50.5 and 7. West Brook (7) Akshay K 50.5.

1. TOUCH OF GREY, 2. WEST BROOK, 3. CHAMOMIX

6. GADWAL PLATE (Div. II, 1,400m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 4.50: 1. Clare (4) Kuldeep Sr. 60, 2. Pinabuto (6) A.A. Vikrant 58.5, 3. Ashwa Gajraj (9) Gaurav Singh 57.5, 4. Crown Witness (8) P. Sai K 57.5, 5. Jet Falcon (2) Surya Prakash 54, 6. Golden Inizio (1) I. Chisty 53.5, 7. Club Queen (7) R.S. Jodha 53, 8. Federer (5) Ashad Asbar 53 and 9. Wandering Star (3) Rafique Sk. 51.

1. CLARE, 2. GOLDEN INIZIO, 3. CROWN WITNESS

Day's Best: TOUCH OF GREY

Jackpot: 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6.

Mini Jackpot: 3, 4, 5 & 6.

Treble: (i) 1, 2 & 3, (ii) 4, 5 & 6.

Tanala: All races.

Pragg finishes last as Firouzja wins

Press Trust of India
SAINT LOUIS (USA)

Indian GM R. Praggnanandha produced an improved effort in the blitz section but it did not help him avoid a last-place finish in the Saint Louis Rapid and Blitz tournament.

Alireza Firouzja of France emerged the winner tallying 23 points. The result also gave Firouzja the leader's spot in the Grand Chess Tour ranking.

Pragg slipped to fifth with 17.25 points and needs a miracle for a podium finish in the last event – the Sinquefield Cup – that starts in two days' time.

He will be joined by World Championship challenger D. Gukesh.

their places in the last-eight stage as the two best second placed sides (each having seven points and superior goal difference). FC Goa also had seven points but was edged out by East Bengal which had a goal difference of plus four compared to the former's plus two.

According to the fixtures tentatively released by the organisers, the first set of quarterfinals will take place on August 21 where East Bengal will meet Shillong Lajong in Shillong while NEUFC will take on Indian Army FT at Kokrajhar.

The remaining two quarterfinals will be played on August 23 where Bagan will meet Punjab at Jamshedpur while Bengaluru will take on Kerala Blasters at Kolkata.

Derby abandoned due to security issue

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

"done," said a statement from the Durand Cup media committee.

A letter issued by the Durand Cup Organising Committee acknowledged the fact that the Bidhannagar Police was unable to provide security required to manage a 'derby' match, which usually sees a congregation of supporters in excess of 60,000.

This was attributed to the "prevailing situation", which is drawing away most of its personnel in managing the spate of citizens' protests happening every day in various parts of the city and its adjoining districts.

The teams will be awarded a point each as a result of the abandonment.

With both teams tied on six points from two wins each, the additional point will not change their current positions.

Bagan will take the top spot for having a better goal difference and move to the quarters.

Three-wicket win for SDS over Pant's PD6 in DPL opener

Sports Bureau

NEW DELHI

Rishabh Pant returned to action after the recent tour of Sri Lanka and ahead of the Duleep Trophy in the inaugural match of the newly-minted Delhi Premier League on Saturday, leading his side Purani Dilli 6 (PD6) against South Delhi Superstars (SDS) at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. It wasn't a winning start, though, with SDS registering a three-wicket win.

Having agreed to appear for the opening game before commencing his training for the upcoming red ball season, Pant scored a cautious 35 off 32 deliveries with four boundaries and a six. Put in to bat, PD6 made 197 for three with opener Arpit Rana top-scoring with 59, adding 80 with Pant for the second wicket before being dismissed by Badoni kept going.

In reply, SDS made a brisk start, Arya and Sarthak Ray adding 87 for the opening wicket before Shiva Sharma broke the partnership in the seventh over, sending back Sarthak for a well-made 26-ball 41. Arya then added 65 with Badoni before falling for a quickfire 57, studded with three fours and four sixes, but Badoni kept going.

It looked like the match would end quickly but two wickets in as many balls towards the end of 15th over put the brakes on the scor-

Jaden Pariat and Abhay Mohan take top honours in single-seater categories

MOTORSPORTS

CHENNAI

Teenagers Jaden Pariat and Abhay Mohan came up with fine performances to claim top honours in the MRF single-seater categories in the fourth and final round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Car Racing Championship 2024 here on Saturday.

The results (Provisional – all 8 laps unless mentioned): MRF F2000: Race-1: 1. Jaden

Rahman Pariat (12mins, 49.153secs); 2. Chetan Surineni (12:54.889); 3. Tarun Muthiah (13:19.928).

MRF F1600: Race-1: 1. Abhay

Mohan (14:00.541); 2. Zahan Commissariat (14:03.100); 3. Raaj Bakhru (14:03.978).

Indian Touring Cars: Race-1: 1. Biren Pithawalla (Team N



Perfect mix: A woman checks the consistency of *nunchai* at her home in Doodhpathri in Budgam district.



Refreshing drink: A tea-seller pours *nunchai* from a traditional samovar for a group of people at an afternoon picnic.



Homemade brew: *Nunchai* is brewed in a traditional clay oven inside a mud house at Doodhpathri in Budgam district.

The valley's brew

The *nunchai*, a salted pink-coloured tea, is a culturally significant part of Kashmiri life and its cuisine; it has managed to reach the menus of elite restaurants overseas too



Imran Nissar
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August in Srinagar is almost always pleasant during the day and slightly chilly at night. Residents choose to spend time outdoors when they get a chance. One beverage that is a signature of Kashmir is the *nunchai*, a salted pink-coloured tea, which is a culturally significant part of Kashmiri life and its unique cuisine.

Its distinctive taste, creamy texture and elaborate preparation in the copper utensil known as samovar sets it apart from other teas across the world.

Most people who consume *nunchai* like it pink, but there are also those who prefer to consume it without the addition of baking soda that gives it the pink colour. The salt in the tea provides electrolytes to its consumer and helps prevent dehydration at high altitudes.

Nunchai is traditionally made from green tea leaves, milk, salt and baking soda. The leaves are boiled for about an hour with baking soda until it turns burgundy, then ice or cold water is added to 'shock' it to stay in that colour. When milk is added, it combines with the burgundy to yield its

signature pink. It is then aerated by ladling out some of the tea and pouring it back into the pot to draw in tiny air bubbles, a process that yields a froth and that may take hours to do by hand. Green cardamom or star anise can be added for aroma and taste.

Nunchai has remained an integral part of Kashmir's hospitality and culture, representing a gesture of warmth and respect. This tea is traditionally served with locally made breads – *sheermal*, a mildly sweet bread, and sometimes with *makke ki roti* (flattened rotis made of corn flour), making it a memorable part of the Kashmir experience even for the visitors. Its soothing taste helps to wash down the breads.

With tourist descending on Kashmir, *nunchai* is ubiquitous: it is served in resorts across Kashmir Valley where the guests enjoy the beverage in the picture locales. The local people enjoy the tea during their picnics.

Nunchai has managed to reach the menus of elite restaurants and hotels outside the Valley, and overseas too, where the beverage is sold as a unique representative of Kashmir's identity.



Fine flavour: There are people who prefer *nunchai* without the addition of baking soda that gives it the pink colour.



Bread basket: A woman, who sells *nunchai* at a makeshift stall by the road, prepares *makke ki roti*.



Customers' choice: A samovar full of *nunchai* is ready for sale in a garden in Budgam district.



Warm assortment: A samovar of tea makes the ideal combination with *kandur tchot*, a flat bread served with butter. *Nunchai* is also served with baked corn and *sheermal*, a crisp and mildly sweet bread.



Fan favourite: A customer is served *nunchai* with *kandur tchot* at a cafe by the banks of the Jhelum.



Building relationships: The intricately designed copper samovar is a symbol of the region's hospitality.