

## IN THE COURTS

**Bombay high court directs man to be present for discharge of his wife from Thane Mental Hospital, says it is tragic that patient who is healthy is held back because person who had admitted her is absent | P 16**

**Tribunal awards ₹1.1cr to 11-yr-old who lost her mother in a trailer accident in 2015. Factors in mom's salary and job prospects as school and tuition teacher | P 16**

**Spl MCOCA court denies temporary bail to 44-yr-old murder convict to have 2nd child with wife, says he has no fundamental right to procreation, parenthood**

## C'garh dynamite factory blast kills 1

One person died and six were injured in a massive blast at Chhattisgarh's biggest explosives factory in Bemetara district Saturday morning. Rescuers suspect many victims are buried in the factory rubble and the toll may rise. **P 12**

## Man changes voice, rapes MP tribal girls

A 30-year-old man used a voice-changing app to pose as a woman teacher offering scholarship and assaulted at least seven tribal girls in MP's Sidhi district. A 9-member SIT has been set up to probe the crime. **P 11**

## Kerala cops to probe bar bribery charge

Kerala Police special team will probe allegations of bar bribery after a WhatsApp audio leak about hotel owners allegedly being asked to "pool money" for a favourable liquor policy in the Left-governed state. **P 12**

# Hit by heat? City turnout falls to 10-yr low

**Overall Figure 58.7%, N-E Delhi Tops With 60.8%**

Team TOI

New Delhi: Intense heat, extended weekend and general indifference seem to have caused a drop of close to 2 percentage points in voter turnout in the capital for the parliamentary elections on Saturday. The city was electing seven members of the Lok Sabha after intense campaigning by BJP, AAP and Congress, the latter two having struck an alliance.

According to Delhi electoral office's press release at 11pm, 58.7% of over 1.5 crore eligible voters cast their votes in the capital. In 2019, the turnout had been recorded at 60.6% and in 2014, it was 65.1%, indicating a sharp drop in voter engagement despite strenuous efforts by EC, civil society groups and RWAs to encourage people to exercise their franchise.

EC officials, however, added that the turnout figures were still undergoing revision and the final number would emerge later.

North East Delhi constituency, which has witnessed an interesting electoral battle between BJP's sitting MP Manoj Tiwari and Congress' Kanhaiya Kumar, recorded the highest voting percentage of about 60.8% in the capital as of 10pm. The lowest voter turnout of 52% was recorded in New Delhi constituency, which is home to politicians, bureaucrats and judges, has many upscale residential pockets and also houses many govt employees.

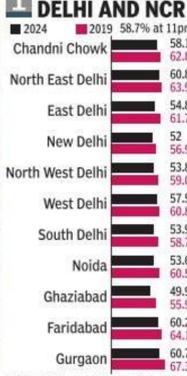
►Temp rises, P 5

## AT 60.7%, GURGAON DROPS, BUT BEST IN NCR



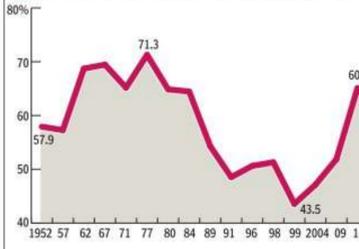
UNDERCOVER OP: Voters shelter under a mattress in Faridabad

### 1 TURNOUT IN DELHI AND NCR

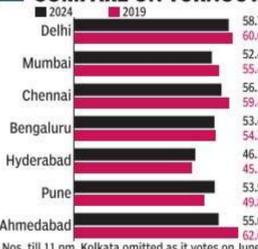


Noida & Gzb voted on Apr 26; Delhi seat-wise figures updated till 10pm; NCR figures updated till 9pm

### 2 DELHI LOK SABHA ELECTIONS TURNOUT FROM 1952 ONWARDS



### 3 HOW METROS COMPARE ON TURNOUT



## Badshahpur MLA dies of heart attack

Rakesh Daultabad, Independent MLA from Badshapur assembly constituency, died of a heart attack on Saturday morning as Haryana voted in the sixth phase. The 45-year-old had returned to his farmhouse in Palam Vihar after casting his vote when he felt unwell. **P 6**

## Too young to vote, under-18s volunteer

An eye catcher at several polling booths were Delhi's schoolchildren, who are too young to vote but old enough to help others who need a hand. The student volunteers pushed wheelchairs, escorted the elderly and took care of mobile phones and purses while the adults voted. **P 7**

## Employment chief issue for 1st-timers

First-time voters showed excitement, curiosity and enthusiasm. And, of course, there were some selfies and restless souls. Chief among their concerns were better employment opportunities and job security. Some youngsters prioritised problems in their localities. **P 5**

## 90% done: Ph 6 turnout at 61.2%, against 64.7% in 2019

**54.3%: J&K Seat Logs Highest Turnout In 35 Yrs**

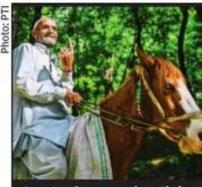
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Around 61.2% of the electorate turned up to vote in the sixth and penultimate round of polling Saturday — marking completion of polling in 90% of Lok Sabha seats. Only one phase remains now, for 57 seats on June 1, before counting on June 4.

The turnout for these seats in 2019, barring the delimited seat of Anantnag-Rajouri, was 64.7%.

►Modi: People know vote for oppn futile, P 24

►High turnouts in WB, P 24



A voter leaves a booth in Nandimarg, south Kashmir

**HIGHEST TURNOUTS (%)**  
W Bengal (8 seats) **79.5** (84.4 in 2019)  
Odisha (6) **69.6** (71.4 in 2019)

**LOWEST TURNOUTS (%)**  
UP (14) **54.0** (54.4 in 2019)  
J&K (1 seat) **54.3** (Seat delimited)

Details Of All States | P 24

Source: EC's turnout app, turnout figures updated as of 11.45pm

Anantnag-Rajouri, from where PDP chief and former J&K chief minister Mehbooba Mufti is in the fray, recorded a turnout of 54.3%, the highest in 35 years, and was "completely peaceful", an EC spokesperson said. The erstwhile Anantnag parliamentary constituency, before it was delimited, had recorded the lowest turnout of barely 9% in 2019. The encouraging turnout this time is in keeping with the trend of highest polling in Srinagar (38.5%) and Baramulla (59.1%) in many decades.

## Payal Kapadia's film wins Grand Prix at Cannes

Cannes: Filmmaker Payal Kapadia Saturday scripted history as her drama "All We Imagine as Light" won the Grand Prix award at the 2024 Cannes. The film bagged the award, which is the second-most prestigious prize of the festival after Palme d'Or, during the closing ceremony. Kapadia's feature directorial debut already became the first Indian film in 30 years & first by an Indian female director to be showcased in the main competition. **P 11**

►ATM: Filmmaker found her on FB, P 23

►Standing ovation, P 17

## Anasuya first Indian to win Best Actress at Cannes

Kolkata: Kolkata-born Anasuya Sengupta has made history by winning the Best Actress award at the Cannes Film Festival. The honour

has come in the Un Certain Regard section for Sengupta's role in Bulgarian director Konstantin Bojanov's 'The Shameless'. **P 24**

## INDIA bloc can do 'mujra' for vote bank: Modi

PM Modi attacked Congress and RJD in Bihar Saturday over corruption and "Muslim appeasement", saying, "If the INDI Alliance wants to perform mujra for vote bank, it hardly bothers me. I will continue fighting for the quota of OBCs, SCs and STs." Modi also said the countdown had begun for RJD chief Lalu Prasad and his son, Tejashwi, to go to jail after the elections. **Priyanka Gandhi Vadra slammed the PM's "mujra" remark, saying he should "maintain decorum". P 19**

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Photo: Piyal Bhattacharjee, Sanjeev Rastogi, PTI



Voters use free drop service after casting their votes at Chhatpur



Vishwas Nagar

District Election Office District Shabdara



Farmers from Yamuna Khadar on their way to a polling station

# 'Missing' Symbol Of Broom Or Hand Ties Supporters In Knots

## Confusion May Hamper Transfer Of Votes, But AAP and Cong Exude Confidence

TEAM TOI

New Delhi: The AAP-Cong alliance in the capital, a marriage of convenience to avoid a split in votes and hand over victory to BJP on a platter, had an interesting fallout during polling. In the run-up to D-Day, both parties had claimed that their senior functionaries as well as workers at the grassroots level were working in complete harmony and that transfer of votes won't pose a problem at all.

However, on Saturday, at quite a few polling booths, supporters of both parties were looking for either the broom or the hand symbol and appeared bewildered. Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal and Rahul Gandhi had been announcing at their rallies that because of the alliance, their supporters will have to vote for the other party wherever the constituency had been allocated to them on basis of a seat-sharing arrangement.

That message seemed to have gone unheard by many people, causing a lot of confusion. At a polling station in Shakur Basti, some voters were enquiring about the absence of the broom (symbol of AAP) on EVM. "I had to explain to at least five people that there was no broom symbol on the ballot unit and they needed to press the hand symbol of Congress. But they didn't look convinced. I don't know if they voted or not," said



Arvind Kejriwal casts his vote with his family at Civil Lines; Rahul Gandhi, accompanied by Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and her children, at Lodhi Road



id a Delhi Police personnel who was on election duty. Polling officers were also providing guidance to the voters to prevent mistakes.

A similar situation occurred at West Delhi's Madipur. Praveen Kumar, a booth level agent, said several people had approached him to ask why Congress's hand symbol was missing. "I had to explain to them that Congress and AAP were together this time. I told them if they wanted to vote for Congress, they would have to press the broom button," said Kumar.

This could pose a big handicap in transfer of votes between the two parties and has also exposed lack of coordination. In North West Delhi, Rajat Ku-

mar (name changed), an assistant sanitary inspector with MCD, said that he had travelled a long distance to cast his vote. "While I was explaining to my family and friends that they need to double check the button they were pressing, voters outside the polling booth wanted the staff to tell them why only the Congress candidate was contesting," he said.

A senior Congress functionary accepted that they had received several complaints from people who were not aware that either AAP or Congress was not in the fray and they were perplexed. "In areas where AAP workers were not helping us, we found it difficult to get such votes for our candidates. AAP

might have faced the same problem," he said.

Meanwhile, AAP claimed in a statement that the INDIA bloc would sweep all seven seats.

"Notwithstanding the heat, people of Delhi have turned out in good numbers to thwart the dictatorship," the party said in a statement. "They have made it clear once again that they value good education, healthcare, 24x7 electricity and water and free bus rides over 'jumbas' (empty promise)," it added.

AAP alleged that BJP had disrespected the people of Delhi by arresting Kejriwal in a "fake" case. The hardworking people of Delhi have repeatedly rejected the negative politics of BJP, said the party.

"This arrest has enraged the people of Delhi," it said.

Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee president Deven-der Yadav also appreciated the "large voter turnout" under searing heat. "This is a clear indication that there was a strong anti-incumbency against the BJP MPs, who let down the people of Delhi in the past 10 years and took no initiative for the development of Delhi and welfare of people," said Yadav.

"The voting trend indicates that people have voted for change and Congress and INDIA bloc are all set to sweep the seven seats giving a big boost to Rahul Gandhi's relentless campaign against authoritarianism of the Modi gov't," he added.

# BJP: People have voted for development under Modi

TEAM TOI

New Delhi: As the polling for the seven Lok Sabha seats in the national capital concluded on Saturday, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva claimed that the huge turnout despite the blistering heat proved that Delhiites had enthusiastically voted for the continuation of the development of the city under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's gov't.

"Delhi has voted for a strong gov't, expressing faith in PM Modi. It has voted on road infrastructure development, construction of rapid rail, expansion of metro, FAME electric buses, and construction of an international-standard convention centre," he said.

Sachdeva claimed, "The unoccupied polling booth tables of both AAP and Congress candidates in Delhi's all constituencies showed that the wind was blowing in BJP's favour."

For the past three months, BJP kept hearing about INDIA bloc, but Congress' Rahul Gandhi and AAP's Arvind Kejriwal did not share the dais in any campaign meeting, he pointed out, claiming, "AAP and Congress workers did not work together to bring out voters."

Thanking party workers and supporters for their hard work during the campaign, the Delhi BJP chief said it would help in completing BJP's hat-trick in Delhi.

The party's Chandni Chowk candidate, Praveen Khandelwal, who came to cast his vote with his family members at Sitarang Bazaar in Old Delhi, said, "There is no doubt that we are winning all seven seats in Delhi, and the co-



Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva with his wife at Mayur Vihar-1

untry has elected BJP at the Center for the third time under the leadership of PM Modi, keeping in mind the interest of nation building."

The BJP candidate from North East Delhi, Manoj Tiwari, said the people had decided to form a strong gov't and once again chosen BJP. "Despite the scorching heat, people have performed their democratic duty in national interest." He claimed that the enthusiasm of the workers and voters indicated that with over 400 seats, Modi would become Prime Minister for the third time with a huge majority.

The BJP candidate from South Delhi, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, said it was actually the people of his constituency who were fighting the election. "I had not done anything as it was the people who were fighting the poll. Narendra Modi remains in the heart of the people, so it was the people who had taken the respon-

sibility of Modi's victory."

Expressing her gratitude to PM Modi and senior members of BJP, West Delhi candidate Kamaljeet Sehrawat also thanked party workers who stood firmly by her. "I am grateful to all of you for the immense love and support you provided. In the future, too, we will continue to move ahead together with the motto of *sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka prayasand sabka vishwas*."

New Delhi candidate Bansuri Swaraj thanked voters for enthusiastically participating in the "great festival of democracy". "Thanks to officers, employees, police and security forces who conducted the voting smoothly. Also, heartfelt gratitude to all friends, respected workers and the people of New Delhi who worked tirelessly for the landslide victory of Bharatiya Janata Party in this election," Swaraj said.



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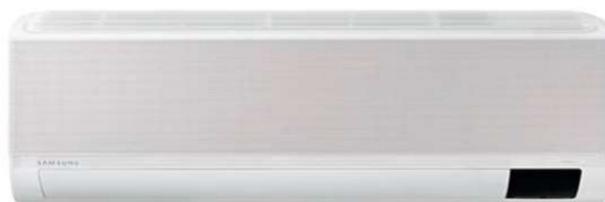
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# Young Guns Aplenty And Did They Fire! First-Timers Fill Booths With Enthusiasm

**BETTER JOBS, BRIGHTER FUTURE:** Poll Concerns Of Curious Youngsters Span A Wide Spectrum

**TEAM TOI**  
New Delhi: In Delhi, first-time voters aged 18-19 years braved long queues and sweltering heat on Saturday as they made their debut at polling booths. Unlike those who had cast their vote many times, newbies showed excitement, curiosity about how the process worked and enthusiasm about finally getting their say. And, of course,

there were some selfies and restless souls who wanted their turn to come faster. Their concerns spanned a wide spectrum, though chief among them were better employment opportunities and job security. Some youngsters took care to think about the problems of their localities before deciding on who would get their vote. "Our housing societies are due for redevelopment

for years. We still face electricity, water crisis, security and want such issues to be addressed," said Vansh Mittal (21), a resident of Mayur Vihar. Shashank Rana (19), a resident of Vasant Kunj's Sector B who came to vote along with his grandmother, parents, and sister, feels he has a responsibility towards the country. "I have read the manifestos of all major parties. The issues that concern me are the farmers' protest and Jat reservation," said Rana, a B.Tech first-year student.

Deepshika, a 22-year-old medical student from Gokulpuri, hopes to elect an MP who will build a multi-specialty hospital in her area, ensure access to clean drinking water and improve women's safety. "There's so much chatter around democracy being under threat. As

youth, it is our duty to vote and hold our political leaders accountable," said Deepshika at a booth in Johripur in north-east. Swastika Ghosh, a computer application student from Dwarka, was relieved it went smoothly and quickly. "I was nervous as there was no one to guide me. I went to an MCD school Bagdola at 8:30 in the morning to avoid the rush. I wasn't aware there were

different queues, so I stood in a random one. Then my father came, and I found out I had to vote at a specific booth. I am voting for a government that will bring opportunities for the youth in artificial intelligence and ensure social harmony." Alvina, 19, a 12th-grade student from Jafraabad, was clear about who she was voting for. "We want Kejriwal again because education has improved. Mohalla clinics are working well in our areas, and hospital facilities have improved."

# Multi-layered safety net for city, drones pressed into service

Police kept tight vigil with a soft, caring touch



ON THE JOB: Police kept tight vigil with a soft, caring touch

**TEAM TOI**  
New Delhi: As Delhiites queued up to vote on Saturday, the city saw strict security arrangements and the polling proceeded smoothly without any untoward event. At the polling locations, the voters had to pass through several layers of security checks. Outside the gates, armed paramilitary personnel stood guard, while Home Guards kept a close watch on the voters' queues. Each booth was assigned to two police personnel who frisked everybody meticulously and examined their voting cards.

A police source said that until 6pm, the police control room (PCR) had received more than 170 calls on a variety of issues related to the election. "A caller reported being coerced by a group to vote for a specific party," police said. A PCR vehicle was promptly sent to the location, but no evidence of the alleged incident was found, said a police officer.

In another case, a party worker alleged that members of another party were placing additional tables and chairs on the road. A patrolling van was sent to the spot and the matter was resolved peacefully. Complaints were also received regarding a power cut at a polling station and the malfunctioning of electronic voting machines.

Police used drones to monitor sensitive areas across the city. "The use of these unmanned aerial vehicles is part of an effort to deter any potential disturbance," an officer said. Foot patrolling was also arranged in several neighbourhoods throughout the national capital. These measures were taken to maintain public safety, an officer said.

Going beyond their prime duty of ensuring a safe voting process, police personnel extended a warm welcome to the first voter at every booth by greeting them with flowers as a token of gratitude in a few districts. They also assisted elderly citizens at the polling stations, ensuring comfort and convenience for them. They provided wheelchair assistance to help senior citizens reach the voting counter effortlessly. In a heartwarming instance at a polling booth in Shahdara, a few police personnel even physically carried an elderly voter.

The national capital witnessed the deployment of over 60,000 personnel from Delhi Police, paramilitary and reserve forces, who were strategically stationed at 13,637 polling stations spread across 2,627 locations, with the crucial booths in focus. Police had identified approximately 429 polling stations as "critical". The fire department also deployed fire tenders at eight places to avert any untoward incident. In addition to posting security personnel, police had implemented measures like extensive CCTV camera coverage to ensure the security of booths. The cameras were also installed at all entry points to the city, and joint teams of Delhi and Haryana police conducted thorough checks of vehicles entering the capital.

**Ankit Paras | 19**  
Teaching subjects focused on skill development will help reduce unemployment and push students towards innovation. I would like to see the elected govt candidate to work towards this



**Bhavya Rawat | 21**  
What we need is job security, education and skill development. Another important issue is addressing religious sentiments in the country. My vote goes to the govt that has a progressive view on both these matters



**Sadaf | 22**  
Basic needs like women's safety and safe drinking water are still lacking. The trauma of the 2020 Delhi riots remains for my parents. My highly qualified cousins are struggling to find jobs. I voted out of desperation to bring change



**Srishti | 24**  
Till five years ago, I wasn't interested in politics. However, I understood over time that it is important. I am sure that I would definitely not regret voting this time



**Shahista | 19**  
I was excited to get myself enrolled, and as soon as I turned 19, I got my voter card issued. To make sure I make the right choice, I took help from my parents to get in-depth details of issues in our area

# Voting loses steam as temp rises

Continued from P1

At 10pm, the voter turnout in West Delhi was recorded at 57.8%; in Chandni Chowk 58.1%; in East Delhi 54.8%; in South Delhi 53.9%; and in North West Delhi 53.8%. Though 162 candidates are in the fray, the fight is largely between BJP, which is looking at a hat-trick with a clean sweep, and the AAP-Congress combine, which fought its first election together after making a pre-poll seat-sharing arrangement. A senior official at the office of chief electoral officer of Delhi said voting was continuing in a few polling booths in North East Delhi and North West Delhi till 7.30pm, much beyond the cut-off time of 6pm. "We should wait till the time the final voter turnout is known to make an analysis," said an official from the office of the chief electoral officer of Delhi. "Getting the data from some polling stations takes time and this does not include postal ballots," the official added. Polling had started at a brisk speed in the morning with the sun yet to glare down at the capital. There were queues at several polling booths across the city. But as the day progressed to noon and then late afternoon, the crowds dwindled. Queues began to form again in the evening before the closing time of 6pm, with people stepping out after the intense summer heat subsided a little bit, but it seems that was not enough to make up for the lost hours. The weather department had sounded a yellow alert on Saturday, warning about high day temperatures. Arrangements like creating shaded areas, installing coolers, deploying para medical staff, making drinking

water and juices available and having enough ambulances on standby had been made by the poll body to deal with any health emergencies due to the hot weather. While there were some reports of EVM and VVPAT machines developing snags in some booths, officials claimed these were minor hiccups. "If the fault was due to external fittings, it was rectified immediately. The polling staff replaced the EVM or VVPAT with those in the reserve wherever the glitch could not be rectified and polling was resumed immediately," said an official. CPI (M) functionary Brinda Karat, however, alleged she had to wait for almost an hour to cast her vote as the battery of the EVM control unit at her polling booth at St Columba's School in the New Delhi constituency "drained out". Poll officials, however, said it was immediately replaced. Delhi ministers Atishi and Saurabh Bharadwaj also complained about alleged irregularities. Atishi alleged in a social media post that irregularities were committed by presiding officers in Janakpuri and Kalkaji. An official at Delhi CEO's office said poll personnel have been asked to check these complaints. Both BJP and AAP-Congress alliance have a lot at

stake in this election. While BJP is looking at asserting its political dominance by winning all seven Delhi seats, as it has done in the two Lok Sabha elections in the immediate past, Congress, with the help of AAP, is trying to reclaim a foothold in the city politics. AAP is looking to have a larger say in national politics by sending its functionaries to Lok Sabha. Under the seat-sharing arrangement, AAP has fielded candidates on four seats - New Delhi, South Delhi, West Delhi and East Delhi - while Congress is contesting three - North East Delhi, Chandni Chowk and North West Delhi.

Heatwave, faulty machines at some places put best poll efforts to shade

# Heatwave, faulty machines at some places put best poll efforts to shade

TEAM TOI

New Delhi: It was sweltering hot on Saturday when voters queued up at polling stations across the city. Their discomfort was worsened by what they claimed were inadequate arrangements at voting centres, including lack of shade, malfunctioning machines and inefficient management of the crowds. Monalisa Sarkar, a resident of CR Park, said, "There should have been a separate queue for senior citizens. Generally, we have seen people chatting and catching up. But this time you can see that everyone is in a hurry to leave due to the poor arrangements." The harsh sun bore down on the voters, with even umbrellas giving little respite. One polling booth agent said the conditions were so severe that one person fainted outside the polling booth. At a polling station in Mehrauli, the situation was exacerbated by a malfunctioning cooler, which unstable electricity arrangement at Gita Bal Bharti Public School in Sultanpuri left the people fuming in the sun while the polling process slowed down. "The queue hasn't moved for over an hour now," grumbled Amit Kumar. "We came despite the extreme heat, and now this delay."



Voters queue up outside polling booths in harsh temperatures

urs before I reach the EVM. I lost my day's wage of Rs 700," said an irate Lal. The VVPAT machine at the MCD School in Subhash Park in northeast Delhi also stalled and delayed the voting. "I reached the polling centre at 7.30am and found a long queue at the booth. We asked the staff on duty what had happened and they informed us that the VVPAT machine wasn't functioning properly," said Ritika Sharma. "We had a long wait of 45 minutes before the line started moving."

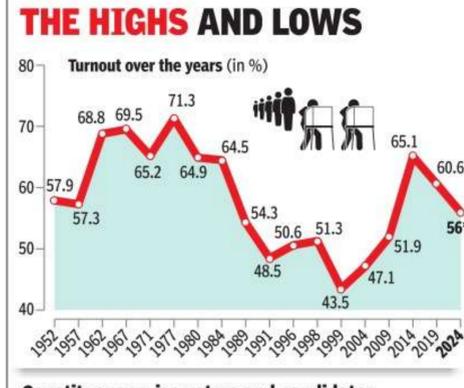
There were grouses also about other well-publicised arrangements. In Model Town II, 85-year-old Shushila Jain was shocked to find there were no wheelchairs around. It took her 30 minutes to walk from her car to the polling booth despite claims about special facilities for senior citizens. With police not permitting cars to drive close to the voting centres, she had to walk to the booth "with the help of my grandchild". She said, "The experience was really disappointing."

The pick-and-drop facility for citizens above 85 years and those with disabilities, saw little use, perhaps for lack of awareness. At Rajouri Garden's SKV Vidyalaya, e-ricks-

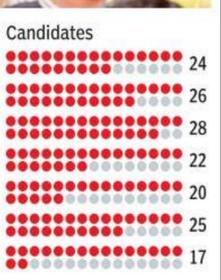
haw driver Sanjeev Saigal said, "I was here at 6.30am and will be around till 6pm. But till now (7pm), I have given rides to just 4-5 people. I've been told that I'll be paid Rs 850 for the service." Another driver, Ashok, at a polling booth in Navada, had a similar report: "Till now (11am), I have done just 2-3 one-way trips."

Crowd management did not cheer many either. At the booth, a model one at that, at MBS School in Sector 11 Dwarka, there were exasperated people complaining of the slow polling forcing them to linger on in humid corridors amid sweaty crowds. "I have been waiting for my turn for over one and a half hours. It is extremely uncomfortable in this corridor. In fact, I told my parents not to come here because the conditions are pathetic," said Surendra Kumar.

It was tough for some poll officials too. Polling personnel at Nigam Pratibha Vidyalaya in Chhatrapur, muttered angrily about no medical kit being available and also claimed that they hadn't received lunch packets and drinking water, forcing them to arrange food on their own.



Constituency	Voters	Candidates
West Delhi	25,87,977	24
North West (SC)	25,67,423	26
North East	24,63,159	28
South	1,52,01,936	22
East	22,91,764	20
Chandni Chowk	16,45,958	25
New Delhi	15,25,071	17



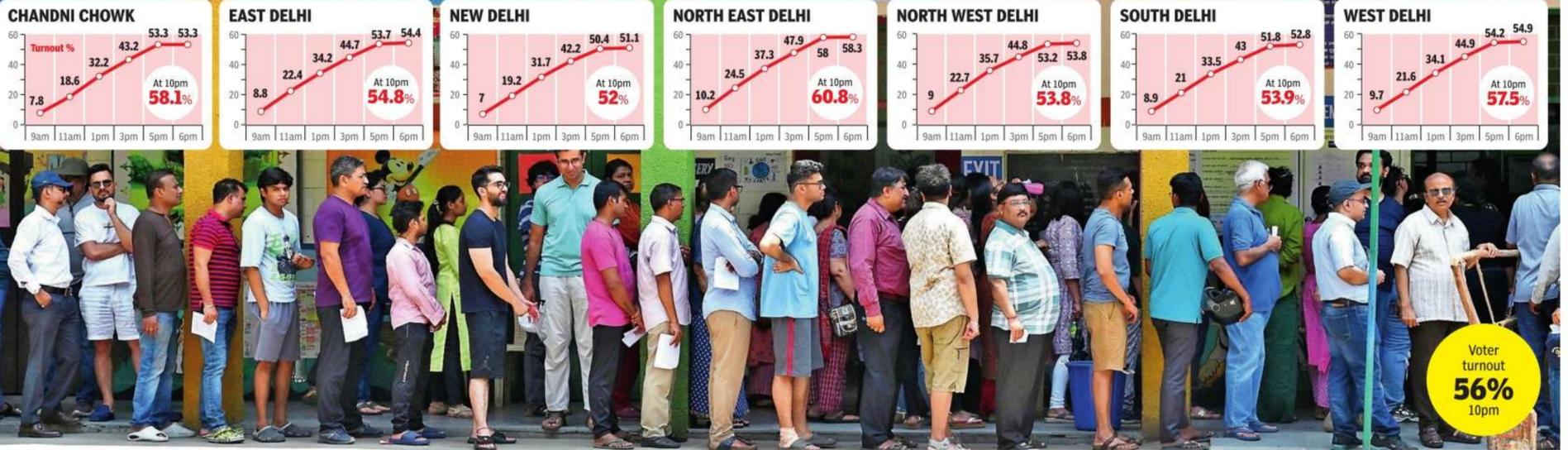
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**Don't say cheese?**

At Pushp Vihar polling station, you could have mistaken Nehar Ranjan, 67, for a mobile phone seller because of the numerous devices he held in his hands. "My family and neighbours have gone to vote and left their phones with me," he explained. "I consider this *desh ki sewa*." The irony was that many of them had carried phones along because they had been told of self points where they could commemorate their democratic act. But with police not permitting phones into the polling area, there were bemused looks rather than self-congratulatory poses at the selfie points.

**Capturing the booth**

At a polling booth in East of Kailash, however, selfie points showed policemen, who otherwise sternly asked voters not to carry phones inside, in good light. Some elderly people and some with disabilities were facing inconvenience in taking pictures at a selfie point featuring ECI's election icon.

Sachin Tendulkar. The men in khaki helpfully shifted the photo booth to a spot where it was easier for them to get clicked.

**When voting was child's play**

An election is serious business, but a polling booth at the School of Specialised Excellence in Madanpur Khadar showed it could be business with pleasure. When the parents eyed the long queues, they were relieved to find they could leave their fidgety kids at the small play area set up there. The children gleefully took to the musical instruments, dolls and toy cars while volunteers kept a watchful eye on them. The tots enjoyed themselves so much that a few of them were sore when their parents, their fingers inked, came to pick them up.

**Early bird gets a cert**

Foreign minister S Jaishankar was the first man in the early morning queue of voters at a polling booth in the New Delhi constituency. His achievement was duly certified by ECI. He posted a picture of himself on X holding up the certificate declaring him the first male voter at the booth with the comment: "Cast my vote in New Delhi this morning. Urge all voting today to turn out in record numbers."

**Campaigning for ECI**

Umesh Kumar Yadav of Greater Kailash I voted around 7.15am. But he didn't return home to a warm breakfast on a humid morning. Instead, he stood near the polling station till the afternoon, appealing to people to vote. "In life, you cannot achieve anything unless you have a passion for it," he smiled.

**Don't sweat it**

It was a hot and humid day, with the temperature touching 44 degrees Celsius. Electors at the Jyoti Colony polling station were, therefore, gratefully surprised to find coolers installed there. At the Gokalpuri polling booth too, the coolers offered a reprieve to those braving the sun to press the EVM button.

**Dose and don'ts**

Priyanka Srivastava had a busy day at a polling booth in Jama Masjid. She wasn't a polling official, only the nurse designated to see to the needs of the people on a sweltering day. She expected requests for ORS or dehydration treatment. "But I was surprised to find most people asking me for other things such as iron tablets and vitamin B or C capsules," she chuckled. "We hadn't anticipated this and hadn't stocked such medicines." Those who complained of unease due to the heat did, however, receive first aid.

# Voting For 'Change': Civic Issues, Livelihood Priorities For Muslims

## Making Up Roughly 13% Of Delhi's Electorate, Community Knows What It Wants

TEAM TOI

New Delhi: The Muslim community, an important constituency in itself given its numerical significance in Delhi, considered the electoral issues that others in the city had also raised, such as good civic facilities, water supply and women's safety. But they seem to have overwhelmingly regarded employment creation and national progress benefiting all sections of society as decisive factors while voting.

The 2011 census counts the Muslims as 12.9% of Delhi's population. The North East Lok Sabha constituency has the highest component of Muslims voters at 20.7%, but others too have a sizeable percentage. Chandni Chowk has 14%, East Delhi and New Delhi 16.8%, North West Delhi 10.6%, South Delhi 7% and West Delhi, 6.8%. These numbers, however, are estimates of political parties and not official figures.

"A BJP gov't at the Centre and an AAP gov't in Delhi cannot work together," reasoned software designer Mohammad Haseeb, 36, at a polling booth in Mehrauli. "We had a BJP MP for 10 years and we want a change. I want my representative to take up our problems in Parliament," he added, citing unemployment and law and order as major is-



ONE FOR THE COUNTRY: The community regarded national progress as a decisive factor while voting

sues in Delhi.

Nawab Khan, 64, arrived at the Jafrabad polling station with sons Danish Khan, 35, and Basit Khan, 29. "There is a scarcity of job opportunities. I have voted with this in mind," said the sexagenarian. The sons concurred with their father's opinion. At Rohini Sector 5, Mohammad Wasim, 28, said he worried

about the state of employment in the country. "There is a need to generate more jobs than ever," he said. Wasim, who works in the hospitality industry, added, "Without this, our youth will not be able to realise their aspirations, their dreams."

Mohammad Masroof, a resident of NSA Colony in east Delhi, disclosed his and his fa-

mily's votes had gone to the INDIA candidate. "We want someone who will work for the progress of the nation while benefiting all sections of society," he said. His wife, Samar Jahan, added, "Though BJP gov't is performing well, it must allow everyone to have the liberty to follow their faith without restrictions." There were local issues too

that exercised the mind of the voters from the community. Homemaker Shainaz Begum, 54, of Jafrabad was concerned about women's safety. "After I lost my husband, my daughter took up a teaching job. I constantly worry about her because the roads are not safe for women. We see Congress as a strong alternative," she said.

Homemaker Rubina at Chhatarpur was content with the work of the state gov't. "I'm getting free bus rides, my child is studying in a private school because of the EWS policy and our electricity and water bills have reduced," she said. "In 2014, we elected a BJP gov't, which delivered on some promises, but then indulged in the politics of divide and rule." Her father-in-law interjected, "We want a gov't we can trust."

While Afsar Jahan, 41, of Ballimaran wanted the roads and water quality improved with the joint effort of the MLA and MP, Farhan Ruby, 55, also of Ballimaran, added that sanitation and infrastructure in the whole of Old Delhi needed a drastic relook. "Look at the roads, they are all damaged. And it seems no cleaning has happened today. There are heaps of garbage all over the place," she said, echoing Jahan's thought that the INDIA parties were more aligned to these local concerns.

# Badshapur MLA dies of heart attack after voting

TEAM TOI

Gurgaon: Rakesh Daultabad, the Independent MLA from Badshapur assembly constituency, died of a heart attack on Saturday morning, jolting the political establishment as Haryana voted in the sixth phase.

Daultabad is survived by his wife and two sons, aged 16 and 21. His younger brother, Sandeep, died after testing positive for Covid during the pandemic in 2021.

The 45-year-old legislator had returned to his farmhouse in Palam Vihar after casting his vote when he felt unwell. He was wheeled into the emergency ward of Manipal Hospital around 9am. "After an initial check-up, he was taken to the intensive care unit (ICU). Sadly, he did not respond to the treatment," his brother Sombir said. Daultabad was declared dead at 12.45pm.

"Daultabad was presented to the ER at 9.05am with acute chest pain. An electrocardiogram (ECG) was conducted immediately, which showed ST elevation large myocardial infarction (extensive anterolateral myocardial infarction). Soon after the ECG, he had a massive cardiac arrest and he collapsed at 9.15am," the hospital said in a statement. ST elevation shows blockage of the artery.

Doctors said there was an initial recovery in the heart rhythm and blood pressure at 10am when Daultabad was given a cardiac massage (CPR) for around 45 minutes. So, a decision to proceed with a cardiac procedure was taken. "We found that the main artery was 100% occluded (blocked), which we opened. But due to refractory cardiogenic shock (cardiac and circulatory failure), he could not be revived," a hospital official said.

From PM Narendra Modi to CM Nayab Singh Saini, the political establishment expressed grief about the MLA's death, saying it was a "great loss" for Haryana politics.

# No separate queues for trans voters, candidates

TEAM TOI

New Delhi: The elections in the largest democracy of the world seemed to be far from being gender inclusive as transgender candidate Rajan Singh, contesting from South Delhi, alleged that he was not allowed to vote on Saturday until senior officers intervened.

Singh claimed there was no designated queue for the third gender at the gov't school of Sangam Vihar's J block where he went to vote. The candidate alleged that when he raised the issue, the polling staff remained unconcerned.

"I don't identify myself as either a male or a female, does it mean I have no right to vote?" Singh asked. "This is exactly why I am contesting the election — to bring the third gender into the mainstream." He added that only after his protest, senior officers came, wrote on a plain paper 'transgender's line' and allowed him to vote.

A Delhi election office official said only two lines were made as the number of transgender voters was very less. Delhi has 1,228 transgender voters.

Another transgender candidate, Pooja from North West, also said there was no separate queue or a washroom for the third gender at Vishv Manav Hanuman Saraswati Shishu Mandir polling station.

# Safety, price & jobs: Three key issues that brought Delhi's women to polling booths

TEAM TOI

New Delhi: Out of around 1.52 crore voters in Delhi, a little over 69 lakh are women. On Saturday, a sizeable number of them came out to exercise their right to choose the seven representatives from the national capital for the next Lok Sabha.

From the remote areas of the city to the sprawling urban centres, women of all ages, dressed in colorful saris, kurtis or western attire, were seen lining up outside polling booths from early morning. At a polling station in Kalkaji, 38-year-old Shradha Devi, a domestic worker, came early to vote so that she could go to work. On the other hand, 40-year-old Kalpana Kumari kept her parlour shut to turn up at a polling station in south Delhi's Mehrauli to cast her vote.

The significance of women voters lies not only in their sheer numbers, but also in their diverse perspectives, priorities and experiences, say experts. Women's safety, inflation and employment seemed to be the core issues driving their decision.

Mehabooba Begum, an 85-year-old resident of Jama Masjid, expressed her concern due to the rising inflation, highlighting the challenges she has been facing due to the

escalating prices of essential commodities such as gas cylinders and vegetables.

Nimisha Rawat (24) reflected on woman-centric policies at a Mayur Vihar booth in east Delhi. She said she had come to truly understand the essence of "Bharat Ki Beti" in recent years, particularly with the formation of an all-women Air Force squad. "I've voted for a gov't that supports such inclusive measures. We expect to see more leadership opportunities in both corporate and gov't sectors. We also want pay parity," she emphasised.

In a west Delhi village, Vanshika, an 18-year-old graduation student, came with her 64-year-old grandmother Risalo. Showing the inked finger, with many veiled faces in the backdrop, Vanshika said she wanted the cities to become safe enough for women so that the parents won't hesitate to allow girls to explore options beyond the village.

"There are so many issues to be dealt with — we need more facilities in villages, better educational institutions, connectivity. I have voted for development, but also hope that this development would bring better prospects for women, especially when it comes to their safety," she said outside a polling booth at a gov't school.

While some women said

Photos: Jatin Kumar &amp; Rajesh Mehta



The significance of women voters lies not only in their sheer numbers, but also in their diverse perspectives, priorities and experiences, say experts

their decision was influenced by family choices, many made it clear that they had made their own choice.

Sulaksha Goswami (45)

came to vote along with her family at a polling station in south Delhi's Kalkaji. "Our family discussed the issues concerning the nation and all

of us will vote for the same party," she said.

Contrary to her, Ritu, a 40-year-old housemaker from Gokalpuri village, clearly knew why she wanted to vote. Arriving at the polling booth with her six-year-old son Kayansh, she said her primary concern was to support the party that prioritised creating more job opportunities for women. "Currently, there are very few employment opportunities for women," she said. She also emphasised the need for development in her locality, especially the drainage system.

For many women, the change of the voting centre after their marriage posed a challenge. On Saturday, many of them travelled from far-off places to cast vote.

Palak, a 28-year-old registered as a voter in Rajouri Garden, lives in Faridabad since her marriage. "The election comes after every five years. I wanted to make sure I vote and perform my duties," said the newlywed at Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya polling station, a model booth. Janvi Bansal (24) also came to the same polling centre from Sector 16 in Rohini to exercise her right.

For most of these women, their votes were declarations of their right to shape the future of the world's largest democracy.





Photos: Anindya Chattopadhyay, Piyal Bhattacharjee

# Spikes In Some Assembly Seats Buck The Trend And Tell A Story

## Matia Mahal Tops Turnout At 67.2%; Mehrauli At Bottom Of Ladder With 48.1%

TEAM TOI

New Delhi: While Delhi registered an overall voter turnout of over 57%, much lower than the 60.6% of the 2019 elections, some of the assembly segments defied the trend and returned much higher voting percentages than the rest of Delhi. With 67.2%, Matia Mahal in Chandni Chowk emerged as the assembly segment with the highest voter turnout in the city. It was followed by Babarpur (66%), Rohini (62.6%), Mustafabad and Gokalpur. While Rohini is a part of the North West Delhi parliamentary constituency, Babarpur, Mustafabad and Gokalpur are in North East Delhi.

At 48.1%, Mehrauli in South Delhi recorded the lowest voter turnout among the 70 assembly segments in the seven parliamentary constituencies. It was followed by Kasturba Nagar (48.3%), Bawana (48.4%), Greater Kailash (48.8%), Adarsh Nagar (48.9%) and Timarpur (49.3%). Interestingly, the constituencies that recorded a relatively higher turnout were either Muslim-dominated or those that are reserved for scheduled castes, with the exception of Rohini, which is an urban middle-class locality with a large number of housing societies. The assembly segments that recorded poor turnout have diverse profiles. Mehrauli is a rural constituency, while Bawana has a large number of unauthorised colonies. Greater Kailash is an upscale residential area and Timarpur has got housing colonies with some unauthorised colonies.

As per the data available at the Election Commission's

### WHAT THE NUMBERS SAY

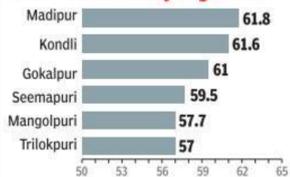
Assembly segment with lowest voter turnout

**48.1%**  
Mehrauli (South Delhi)

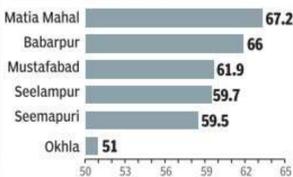
Assembly segment with highest voter turnout

**67.2%**  
Matia Mahal (Chandni Chowk)

#### Reserved assembly segments



#### Muslim-dominated



#### Poorvanchali-dominated



voter turnout app, several assembly segments with a sizeable population of Muslims recorded an impressive voting percentage. While Matia Mahal in the Chandni Chowk parliamentary constituency logged a turnout of 67.2%, Babarpur at 66% and Mustafabad at 61.9% saw a number of Muslim voters coming out to exercise their voting right. Both the assembly segments are part of the North East Delhi parliamentary constituency. Okhla, however, was an exception with a much lower turnout of just 51%.

The relatively better voter turnout in areas that have a sizeable Muslim population is

being seen by the AAP-Congress combine as an advantage. "That is the reason why the two parties joined hands this time to ensure that any anti-BJP vote, which would have otherwise got divided between the two parties, was consolidated," political observer Ranjeet Singh said.

According to senior Congress functionary Chatter Singh, there are at least three parliamentary constituencies — North East Delhi, East Delhi and Chandni Chowk — that have a sizeable proportion of Muslim voters and en bloc voting could tilt the balance. As per the 2011 census, Muslims in Delhi are nearly

12.9% of the total population. Political estimates have put the number of Muslims in the North East constituency at nearly 20.7%, in East Delhi at 16.8% and in Chandni Chowk at 14%. In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, Ballimaran, another Muslim-dominated constituency, had witnessed a voter turnout of 68.3%, which was the highest in Delhi. It was followed by Matia Mahal and Seelampur with 66.9% and 66.5%, respectively.

Several assembly segments reserved for scheduled castes also witnessed a decent voter turnout. While Madipur in West Delhi saw 61.8% of the total voters coming out to exer-

cise their right to vote, Kondli in East Delhi saw a 61.6% turnout and Gokalpur and Seemapuri in North East Delhi logged 61% and 59.5%, respectively. Residential pockets with a Poorvanchali population too recorded a good voter turnout. Gokalpur, though a reserved constituency, has a sizeable Poorvanchali population, as do Rohtas Nagar (60.6%), Karawal Nagar (62.3%), Kirari (53.8%), Burari (57.8%) and Uttam Nagar (59.3%). Poll officials, however, said the turnout figures were still tentative and could change during the final consolidation of numbers received from district electoral officers.

# Names missing, many go from pillar to post to vote

TEAM TOI

New Delhi: At a Bawana voting centre in northwest Delhi, Karan Sharma was hot and bothered as he trudged, his child in his arms, from one booth to another to locate his name on the voter's list. "I have no idea what is going on," said Sharma. "It has been around an hour and half and I am just running around. I got the voter's slip at the school gate, but after standing in the line was told my name wasn't on the list. This has happened at two booths. Now I just want to go home."

As the city voted, many people found their names missing from the electoral rolls. In other places, there was confusion because of the mismatch between polling booth numbers and voter's list entries. In both cases, the people who had walked to the polling stations in high heat were left disappointed at being disenfranchised. There was anger too when polling officials were unable to help them.

Rimsha Naz, 36, of Jama Masjid claimed that the names of most members of her family were missing from the electoral roll. "Surprisingly, the names of my father and aunt, who are long deceased, were on the list and someone else had already voted on their behalf," said Naz. "I spent an hour asking for help and even contacted three observers of a citizens' group, but couldn't get any relief. I didn't want to be deprived of the right to vote, but what could I do?"

In addition to similar tales in old Delhi, in Dwarka too, Shivani Bhattacharya, 48, had a familiar story. She was shocked to see that her name and that of her first-time voter son were not on the list. Her husband's name appeared on a list in a distant booth as the resident of some other

Piyal Bhattacharjee



A voter who could not find his name in the list at a polling booth in Govindpur was directed to another location

apartment. "The returning officer informed us that our names had been deleted. My son, Suproteek, would have voted for the first time. My husband found his name on the ECI app, but at a faraway booth". She added that several of her neighbours too suffered the same fate.

In West Vinod Nagar, Kuber Singh, 35, scoured the poll websites and apps checking for his voting location. The Mandawali resident said, "Last I checked, I had been assigned this booth. But my name is missing here. The last time also, the same thing happened and I couldn't vote," he said. "Kabhi kaha, kabhi waha. So frustrating."

Jhuggi dwellers at Shakur Basti, whose houses had been razed down by a recent fire, were saddened not to be able to vote even though they held voter slips issued by ECI. Usaha, 41, a labourer, claimed, "I have voted several times here. But in April, we lost all our documents when our jhuggis burnt down. We are living in a temporary shelter. I came with my Aadhaar card to vote, but was told that my name wasn't on the list. My hus-

#### A VOTER SAYS

**We had changed our address to Greater Kailash, but we came to vote here because the address on our voter card hasn't changed. But our names are not on the rolls**

band also couldn't cast his vote for the same reason."

Durji Kumari, 49, went and checked at other booths too. "After we lost our houses, we were advised to get a fresh voter's card prepared. We are not educated enough to get that done on our own," she mumbled.

Glitches related to addresses and entries were aplenty. Chaitanya Bhutani arrived with her mother at a polling station in East of Kailash and was disheartened to find they were listed there. "We had changed our address to Greater Kailash, but we came to vote here because the address on our voter card hasn't changed. But our names are not on the rolls," she said.

In west Delhi's Hari Nagar, Parvati Devi's son had found his 80-year-old mother listed at booth No. 10 on the ECI app. When she reached the polling station, she discovered she had to go to another booth. Although unable to walk without support, Devi Kumari went to search for her name there.

A DCP rank officer found someone had voted in his name at Vasant Vihar, south Delhi. The booth official informed him that his vote had been cast via postal ballot. The officer was astounded because he had asserted his preference to vote at the booth. The DCP later lodged a formal complaint with the police commissioner.

# 60% vote counted in Fbd, final figures may match 2019 tally

TEAM TOI

Faridabad: Sixty percent of Faridabad's 24.3 lakh voters showed up to cast their ballot as the parliamentary constituency went to polls in the sixth phase of Lok Sabha election on Saturday.

Election Commission data till 9pm showed that voter turnout was 60.2%, lower than the 2019 Lok Sabha election, but it may still catch up as votes are finalised and postal ballot figures are added.

In 2019, Faridabad's polling percentage was 64.12%.

Officials said 14.6 lakh people voted on Saturday. Queues were longer in the early morning, just after polling booths opened, as voters rushed to avoid the afternoon heat. Mercury went up to 45 degrees Celsius on Saturday.

The turnout in Palwal's Hathin exceeded 70% (70.1% to be exact), the highest among all nine assembly segments in the constituency. Hathin was followed by two other assembly segments, also in Palwal — Hodal (67.8%) and Prithla (67.4%). The three assemblies are largely rural or semi-urban areas. The lowest polling percent-

age was in Badkhal assembly, at just 52.2%.

On Saturday, voters gave mixed responses when asked about the issues that influenced them in their polling decision. Some said national issues such as border security were important, and others said development of Faridabad was a key concern for them.

"If we compare the overall development with Gurgaon, Faridabad lacks infrastructure. Despite its potential to become a model city within NCR, Faridabad has fallen short in terms of infrastructure upgradation compared to its neighbours. Areas like Noida and Ghaziabad have also seen transformative change and are examples of what can be achieved with the right focus and investment," said Aarti Pajal (36), a voter from Sainik Colony in Faridabad.

For Deepak Gupta (51), a resident of Sector 15A, this election was for the country.

"I voted for a candidate who, in my opinion, possesses the vision and capability to elevate our country to new levels of success and prosperity. In assembly polls, I will take into account the concerns specific

to Faridabad," Gupta said.

Most of the polling process was smooth, barring EVM glitches reported at two centres, where voters had to line up for hours.

"I have been waiting for an hour due to a malfunctioning EVM. The city's roads are in disrepair and recarpeting work has been taken up just before elections. It is evident that these are last-minute attempts to sway public opinion. Citizens are well-aware of the true state of their city and the motives behind these sudden repairs," said Rupali Isser (49), while she was posing at a 'selfie point' at the Sector 15A polling station.

Though polling booths in urban areas provided lime water and medical checkups, some rural centres lacked basic arrangements to brave the heat. Many voters were seen covering their heads with dupattas, and in one booth, even mattresses, to shield themselves from the sun.

Faridabad parliamentary constituency — dominated by Gurjar, Jat, Punjabi, Brahmin and Meo-Muslim voters — is set to see a two-sided fight between incumbent Krishan Pal Gurjar of the BJP and Congress's Mahender Pratap Singh.

to Faridabad," Gupta said.

Gurgaon: Long queues in the morning that got progressively thinner as heat and humidity peaked on a scorching midsummer day meant the city recorded one of its lowest turnouts in Lok Sabha elections as it voted in the sixth phase along with the rest of Haryana (nine more seats) and Delhi (seven seats).

At 9pm, Gurgaon parliamentary constituency's overall polling percentage was 60.7%, the lowest in 15 years and almost seven percentage points lower than 2019 (67.33%). The lowest turnouts before this the constituency, through its voting history, has seen were in 2009 when it also recorded 60.7% and in 1991 (60.8%).

The 9pm turnout number is a provisional one, with data still being added. Haryana's overall turnout was 65% on Saturday.

Deputy commissioner Nishant Yadav told TOI that 15.6 lakh of 25.7 lakh voters in the electoral list cast their ballot on Saturday. This figure, he said, will go up as Saturday's count does not include postal ballots.

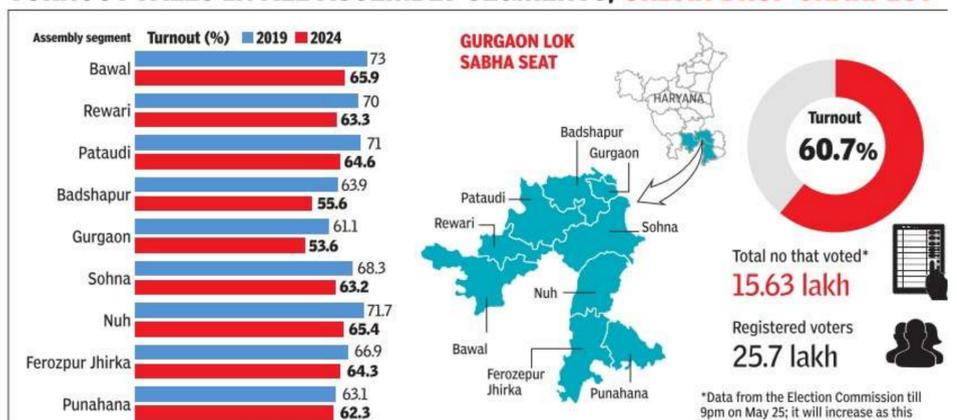
As has been the trend for much of the country, voters in rural belts turned up in booths in higher numbers. At 65.9%, Bawal saw the highest polling percentage among all nine assembly segments of Gurgaon. It was closely followed by Nuh, at 65.4%.

Still, both these rural areas saw a dip of 6-7 percentage points in turnouts compared to 2019.

Voting in the two large urban segments of Gurgaon and Badshapur was sluggish despite polling booths being set up at condominiums, and voter-home facilities being made available for the elderly and physically challenged.

Till 9pm, the Gurgaon assembly segment's turnout was 53.6%, 7.5 percentage points lower than 2019's turn-

# TURNOUT FALLS IN ALL ASSEMBLY SEGMENTS, URBAN DROP SHARPEST



Photos: Vinay Gupta &amp; Indranil Das



out of 61.08%.

Badshapur saw the highest drop in turnout among assembly segments. Its polling percentage was 55.6%, a difference of 8.3 percentage points from 63.9% in 2019.

Asked about lower turnout despite attempts made by EC to counter what it called "urban apathy", a polling official said that though Gurgaon's voting percentage hadn't increased from the last Lok Sabha election, it remained "above 60%", which was still higher than the

figures in other NCR cities". Faridabad's turnout was 60% on Saturday. Noida and Ghaziabad, the UP NCR cities which voted in Phase 2, registered a turnout of 53.6% and 49.8%, respectively.

Historically, Gurgaon parliamentary constituency has recorded turnout over 70% three times in Lok Sabha elections since 1952. The highest was in the 1977 polls — at 72.3%.

The Gurgaon contest is largely seen as a two-cornered fight between incumbent Rao

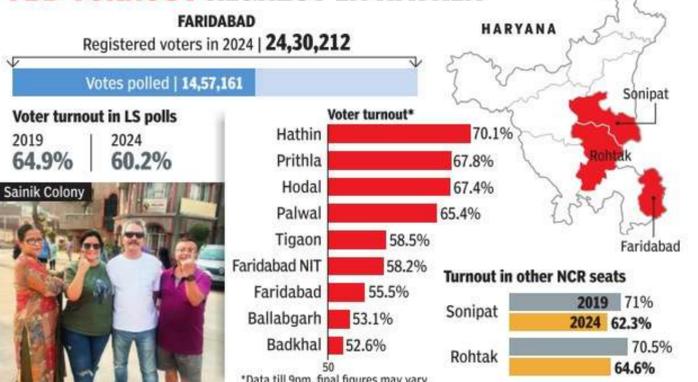
Inderjit Singh, a five-time MP who is fighting for a sixth term, and Congress veteran Raj Babbar. Singh on Saturday expressed confidence that people turned up to vote for him despite the hot and humid weather.

Babbar, who shifted his base from UP to Haryana for this election, said Gurgaon appeared to be following in the trend of lower turnout across most states that have polled till now. "People have voted for change," he said.

The reaction to arrangements at polling centres was divided among urban and rural voters. Those in condominiums said the process was comfortable as booths were set up in community centres or within society clubs, which were equipped with air conditioners, drinking water and waiting areas. There were also designated parking spots.

But for those with centres in government schools and rural areas, there was little shade to take refuge in.

### FBD TURNOUT HIGHEST IN HATHIN



## 'Unrequited love can lead to great distress but try to learn from it'

To help readers cope with their anxieties in these stressful times, TOI has launched *Talk it Out*, a series in which expert counsellors answer your mental health queries. This week's advice is from consultant psychiatrist Dr Sonali Bali

**I am 20 years old and highly depressed. When I was 11, I had my first crush on a boy. I'm still deeply in love with him and wish to marry him in future. However, my love is brutally one-sided, and this grief is impairing my studies and career ambitions. The boy knows that I love him, still he repeatedly blocks me everywhere and doesn't respond properly to my texts. My family, too, does not empathise with me. Instead, I am criticised for falling in love at an inappropriate age with an inappropriate person, since the boy is younger than me and belongs to a different caste. I know my career should be my priority. But this unrequited love and family's lack of support is making me feel hopeless. Please help.**

— Anonymous

Unrequited love can lead to great distress. However, you need to put the facts before yourself and try to practice acceptance with grace. Remind yourself that it's not so much about what happens to us in life. It's more about how we respond to the situation at hand. You loved someone and



wanted to be loved in return. Maybe you didn't get the outcome you hoped for, but that doesn't mean your love is meaningless. Introspect. Did you learn something about yourself? Did you grow in some way? Other methods that you may try include: Laying down boundaries such as unfollowing on social media, redirecting your thoughts and avoiding fantasy interactions. Also, try to expand your social circle and look at engaging yourself in studies, friends and hobbies. Learn a new skill. If you are still unable to get out of the situation, you can seek help from a mental health professional.

**Disciplining my granddaughter, who is 12 years old, is becoming an issue. If I tell her to do some work, she is not ready to let go of the mobile phone. She likes swimming, but when I tell her to take out time to improve her skills, she shouts back at me. During summer vacations, I tell her to spend her time on studying or doing something creative but she is not interested in that either. We are at a loss. Please help.**

— Anonymous

Addiction to mobile phones/internet is

becoming increasingly common. This may be the case with your grandchild. She seems to be spending long hours on the phone, compromising on other activities. Is her entire day revolving around the phone? Does she feel irritable, uneasy when the phone is taken from her? These are some behaviours suggestive of addiction. It's important for the family to talk to her about the harmful effects of it on all aspects of her life and set some rules. There are guidelines for use of gadgets in children and adolescents you must become aware of, and implement them. Not more than one or two hours of screen time for school-going children. The child should be encouraged to participate in outdoor activities, hobbies and creative arts. It's important to have healthy peer relationships. You may take the help of a clinical psychologist if required.

**I am a 22-year-old man, the only son of my parents, and very confused about my future. I have been an introvert since childhood. Sometimes, I feel that I want a girlfriend. But, at other times, I feel I have to live with my parents till the end. When I see neighbours and relatives going through divorce and fighting, I get confused about whether I should marry or not. Please help.**

— Anonymous

It is quite common to have this confusion. But you shouldn't get too influenced by what's happening around you, people getting married or divorced. We're all different personalities and we all have our own journey in life. So, don't compare yours with someone else's. Also, you need to understand why you want to get married. This needs introspection and weighing the pros and cons. Being an introvert does not mean you can't have a successful marriage. And some changes in nature can always be brought about. Also, being with your parents is unrelated to your decision to marry.

## How Aspirin Within 4 Hrs Can Save Lives From Heart Attack

Doctors, However, Prescribe Caution On Use Of Medicine

Anuja.Jaiswal@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Aspirin's efficacy in preventing heart attack deaths has long been recognised, and a recent study published in *Journal of American Heart Association* points out that its benefits are maximised if taken within four hours of severe chest pain onset.

The study on "self-administration of aspirin after chest pain for the prevention of premature cardiovascular mortality in the United States" has concluded that early self-administration of 325mg aspirin was estimated to delay 13,980 acute myocardial infarction deaths in the US in 2019.

According to doctors, aspirin should be taken with caution. However, if a patient does experience chest pain, which is of crushing type associated with sweating and dizziness, 325mg aspirin — three tablets — can be crushed and taken immediately. Besides aspirin, 5mg sorbitrate can be placed under tongue or nitroglycerin can also be taken to relieve chest pain by dilating the blood vessels and improving blood flow to the heart.

"We recommend aspirin for symptoms such as intense chest pain or discomfort, tightness that radiates to the arms, neck or jaw, along with symptoms such as shortness of breath, sweating, nausea or dizziness, which are indicative of a possible heart attack," said Dr Niranjana Hiremath, senior consultant and

### WONDER PILL?

**What an aspirin does** | Aspirin is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) that works by inhibiting the production of certain body chemicals that cause inflammation, pain and fever

➤ It has an anti-platelet effect, which means it can prevent blood clots from forming and causing heart attacks or strokes



### Symptoms that may indicate the need for aspirin

- Chest pain or discomfort, shortness of breath, nausea, sweating, or pain radiating to the jaw, neck, or arm
- These symptoms, especially when they appear suddenly or are severe, could be indicative of a heart attack or angina

### Who should not take it

- Individuals with certain medical conditions, such as stomach ulcers, kidney disease, liver disease, asthma or bleeding disorders
- Children and teenagers
- Consult a doctor before taking it

surgical lead of Apollo Aortic Programme at Apollo Hospital. He added that aspirin could help by thinning blood and reducing clot formation.

Dr Samir Kubba, director and senior consultant of cardiology at Dharamshila Narayana Hospital, said, "Aspirin acts as an anti-platelet agent by inhibiting cyclo-oxygenase, which in turn decreases the production of thromboxane A2, a molecule that promotes platelet aggregation and

vasoconstriction. This mechanism helps prevent the formation of blood clots that can block coronary arteries and cause heart attacks." He added that aspirin should be taken immediately after the onset of chest pain to reduce mortality and improve outcomes by preventing the progression of clot formation.

However, those who are allergic to aspirin should avoid it. "We advise people with other non-steroidal anti-in-

flammatory drugs, active gastrointestinal bleeding, bleeding disorders, or those who have a history of gastrointestinal ulcers or haemorrhagic strokes to avoid aspirin," said Dr Sanjay Parmar, consultant, interventional cardiology at Sri Balaji Action Medical Institute.

Dr Balbir Singh, group chairman, cardiac sciences at Max Super Speciality Hospital, Saket, mentioned that though the ill effects of aspirin could cause bleeding or haemorrhage, a single dose generally didn't do so. He acknowledged that in cases of peptic ulcer, aspirin could cause more bleeding. However, he reassured, there would be sufficient time to reach hospital if it is a heart attack, highlighting that aspirin can be beneficial in such emergencies.

While emphasising the importance of being aware of the bleeding risks associated with aspirin and haemorrhage, he also pointed out that these risks were so uncommon that the benefits of aspirin significantly outweighed them.

However, patients should not take aspirin without a doctor's advice on a long-term basis if they do not have a history of heart disease or stroke. "The risk of bleeding in such patients is greater than the benefit of preventing heart attacks," cautioned Dr Ashwani Mehta, senior consultant at cardiology department, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital.

## Another rapid rail viaduct ready in Meerut

Abhijay.Jha@timesgroup.com

**Ghaziabad:** Work on the Meerut section of the rapid rail is gaining momentum. The RRTS viaduct of the section from Brahmapuri station to Shatabdi Nagar in Meerut is now completely ready. Work on laying of the track in this section is expected to progress rapidly, officials said.

Currently, track work is in progress between Meerut South and Shatabdi Nagar, as well as between Shatabdi Nagar and Brahmapuri. Officials said that tracks on both sides have been laid till a little before the Brahmapuri station, adding that OHLE and signaling works will be undertaken soon.

Earlier this week, large cranes were installed under the viaduct for load testing of the RRTS viaduct constructed between the section from Brahmapuri station to Shatabdi Nagar in Meerut. This required diverting some parts of the road on both sides for traffic. During this time, heavy concrete blocks weighing about 650 tonnes were lifted and lowered onto the viaduct with the help of cranes for load testing.

"The barricading near Atul Maheshwari flyover on the Delhi-Meerut road has been removed. Now, after the completion of civil works in this section, the roads have been fully opened for vehicular movement," said an official from NCRTC.

The official went on to add, "The viaduct load test is conducted to check the weight-bearing capacity of the viaduct, ensuring that the viaduct span can support the weight of the trains running on it. This process has now been completed."

Brahmapuri station is part of the Meerut Metro network. The NCRTC is constructing the Meerut Metro, which runs on a 23km section in Meerut city, and is set to have 13 stations.

This project marks the first time in the country that both the Namo Bharat Train and Meerut Metro will operate on the same infrastructure of the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS, officials said.



### WANT SOME ADVICE?

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You can also visit [bit.ly/TOITalkitOut](http://bit.ly/TOITalkitOut) or scan this QR code to send in your concern.



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\*The mental health score will help you in identifying the symptoms related to mental health at early stage, and seek help at the right time. The questionnaire is not a mental health diagnosis. Please seek professional help in case of a mental health crisis.



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**2 fire incidents reported in Delhi, 12 huts gutted**

New Delhi: A fire broke out at a factory in northwest Delhi's Mundka Industrial Area on Saturday. The fire department said that robots were used to douse blaze at the factory. After receiving information about the fire incident at 4.30 pm, as many as 26 fire tenders were dispatched to the location situated on street number 11 in the area, Delhi Fire Services (DFS) officials said. In another incident, 12 huts were engulfed in flames when a blaze erupted in southeast Delhi's Chilla Khadar locality, the department said, adding that seven fire tenders were rushed to the spot after receiving information at 10.46 am. No injuries or fatalities have been reported in both the fire incidents so far, the department added. **TNN**

**High court directs videoconferencing of all proceedings at district courts**

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New Delhi: Delhi High Court has stepped in to streamline videoconferencing hearings in district courts so that litigants and public can have easier access to these complexes which see some of the heaviest footfall. Acting Chief Justice Manmohan, in a recent order on the administrative side, has directed all district judges to make sure that videoconferencing (VC) in all courtrooms is kept switched on during court hours. The order, signed by the registrar general of the high court, says that video at the court's end shall be switched on once proceedings start. "It shall be ensured that the videoconferencing at court's end shall not be kept mute un-

**Endurance Test On Poll Day With Feel-Like Temp Of 48°C**

**Safdarjung Records Maximum Temperature Of 43.4 Degrees**

Kushagra.Dixit@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: As Delhiites stepped out to cast their votes on Saturday, severe heatwaves in several areas tested their mettle. The heat index or feel-like temperature was 48 degrees Celsius, according to India Meteorological Department. While the city's base station, Safdarjung witnessed about 2 degrees rise in the maximum temperature, several other areas saw sharp rise of four to five degrees. Safdarjung recorded maximum temperature at 43.4 degrees Celsius, three notches above normal, against 41.7 degrees Celsius a day earlier. The minimum temperature was 30.6 degrees Celsius, four notches above normal, against 30.8 degrees Celsius a day earlier. According to IMD, the maximum temperature is likely to increase further and reach 44 degrees Celsius on Sunday, and 45 degrees Celsius on Monday. Mungeshpur was the hottest area with severe heatwa-



**BRAVING THE HEAT:** Weather department issued 'red alert' till May 29

ve conditions at 46.9 degrees Celsius, about seven notches above normal, against 42.5 degrees Celsius a day earlier. Following this, Najafgarh recorded 46.8 degrees Celsius and Narela 46.7 degrees Celsius - both suffering heatwaves. Among other areas under the grip of heatwaves, Pitampura recorded 45.8 degrees Celsius, Pusa 45.7 degrees Celsius and Jafarpur 45.3 degrees Celsius, respectively. The weather department expects no respite and has issued 'red alert' for heatwaves and severe heatwaves in several areas until Wednesday, May 29. "The moist easterly wind will cease, and the city is likely to revive westerly wind component which will lead to rise in the day temperature and cause heatwaves," said an IMD official. Meanwhile, the areas

which did not qualify for the heatwaves too witnessed unbearable suffering, prompting the Election Commission and volunteers to distribute water and arrange shade across several polling booths. The humidity oscillated between 64 and 26%. According to the weather analysts, the city saw moisture laden easterly winds towards evening and dry and warm westerly during afternoon. Moisture kept the outdoor hot and humid causing excessive sweating. Meanwhile, several areas also saw warm night conditions, which occurs when maximum temperature is above 40 degrees Celsius and the minimum is at least 4.5 notches above normal. The maximum is observed when maximum temperature is above 40 degrees Celsius and 4.5 notches above normal or it is simply 45 degrees Celsius or more. "The heatwaves and warm night conditions will persist in some areas of the city," the Met officials said.

**Dr. B.R. AMBEDKAR UNIVERSITY DELHI (Established by the Govt. of NCT Delhi)**

**Foreign Students Admission Notice for Academic Year 2024-25 Undergraduate and Postgraduate Programmes**

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi (AUD), a State University established by the Government of NCT of Delhi, invites foreign students to apply for admission to its various undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate programmes (PG) offered by Schools at Kashmere Gate, Karampura, Lodhi Road & Qutab Institutional Area campuses for the academic year 2024-25. Please note that all undergraduate programmes are of four years duration. University offers state of the art disciplinary as well as interdisciplinary programmes in Humanities and Social Sciences. We provide a vibrant academic environment that encourages critical reading and enquiry through its rigorous programmes, seminars, symposia, and student led cocurricular activities.

There is no entrance examination/CUET for foreign students. Link for online application & Bulletin of Information for programme specific admission criteria, available seats, and applicable fees is at <https://aud.delhi.gov.in/admission/Foreign-Student>

The list of offered UG and PG programmes are as follows:

Sl. No.	UG Programmes	Sl. No.	PG Programmes
1.	BA Global Studies	1.	MA Global Studies
2.	BA Sustainable Urbanism	2.	MA Urban Studies
3.	BA Law and Politics	3.	MA Criminology
4.	BA (H) Hindi	4.	MA Law, Politics and Society
5.	BA (H) Economics	5.	MA Hindi
6.	BA (H) English	6.	MA Economics
7.	BA (H) History	7.	MA English
8.	BA (H) Mathematics	8.	MA History
9.	BA (H) Political Science	9.	MA Development Studies
10.	BA (H) Psychology	10.	MA Environment and Development
11.	BA (H) Sociology	11.	Master of Public Health
12.	BA Social Science	12.	MA Psychology
13.	BA (H) Social Sciences and Humanities	13.	MA Sociology
14.	Bachelors in Business Administration (BBA)	14.	MA Gender Studies
15.	BVoC Early Childhood Centre Management & Entrepreneurship	15.	M.DES (Social Design)
16.	BVoC Tourism & Hospitality (T&H)	16.	MA Visual Art
17.	BVoC Accounting & Finance (AF)	17.	MA Performance Studies
18.	BVoC Retail Management (RM)	18.	MA Film Studies
19.	4-Year Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP)-B.A.B.Ed. (Preparatory)	19.	MBA
20.	4-Year Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP)-B.A.B.Ed. (Secondary)	20.	MBA-Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Venture Development
		21.	MA Comparative Literature
		22.	MA Literary Art
		23.	MA Education
		24.	MA Education (Early Childhood Care and Education)
		25.	MVoC Tourism and Hospitality Management
		26.	Masters in Archaeology and Heritage Management
		27.	Masters in Conservation, Preservation and Heritage Management
		28.	MA Public Policy and Governance

Please visit the university website for regular updates. <https://aud.delhi.gov.in>  
**Dated: 04.05.2024**  
 DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0077/24-25 Registrar

**Dr. B.R. AMBEDKAR UNIVERSITY DELHI (Established by the Govt. of NCT Delhi)**

**Admission Notice for Academic Year 2024-25 for Postgraduate Programmes of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi**

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi, a State University established by the Government of NCT of Delhi invites applicants to apply for admissions to its various postgraduate (PG) programmes under different School of Studies in Kashmere Gate, Karampura, Lodhi Road & Qutab Institutional Area Campuses for the academic session 2024-25. The University has joined the Common University Entrance Test [CUET (PG)-2024] to be conducted by NTA. The CUET (PG)-2024 entrance exam will provide a single window opportunity to students to seek admission to various postgraduate programmes of the university.

All such applicants who are willing to take admissions in the postgraduate programmes of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi and appeared for CUET (PG)-2024 have to register online on university PG admission portal at <https://aud.delhi.gov.in/admission/PG-Admissions>.

The list of PG programmes for Academic Session 2024-25 are as follows:

S. No.	Programme Name	S. No.	Programme Name	S. No.	Programme Name
1	MA Criminology	10	MA Psychology	19	Master in Archaeology Heritage Management (MAHM)
2	MA Comparative Literature	11	MA Law, Politics & Society	20	MA Development Studies
3	MBA	12	MA Economics	21	MA Education
4	M.Des (Social Design)	13	MA Sociology	22	MA Education-Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE)
5	MA Environment & Development	14	MA History	23	M.VOC Tourism & Hospitality Management
6	MA Global Studies	15	MA Hindi	24	MA Film Studies
7	MA Urban Studies	16	MA English	25	MA Literary Art - Creative Writing
8	Master of Public Health (MPH)	17	MBA IEVD	26	MA Performance Study
9	MA Gender Studies	18	Master in Conservation Preservation and Heritage Management (MCPHM)	27	MA Visual Art
				28	MA Public Policy & Governance

Applicants shall be admitted to Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi as per the eligibility criteria mentioned in the University Admission Brochure 2024-25 against each PG programme/s and as per merit score of PG CUET 2024. The applicants seeking admission have to apply separately for various PG programmes offered by the University. For more information about eligibility, reservation & other criteria, applicants are advised to refer Admission Brochure 2024-25 available on the website.

**Starting date of Online Application form: 23rd April 2024**  
**Last date of Online Application Form: 5th June 2024**  
**Date: 23.04.2024** [aud.delhi.gov.in](https://aud.delhi.gov.in) Registrar  
 DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0074/24-25

Directorate of Higher Education, Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi

**Dowry death? Noida woman electrocuted, husband held**

Noida: A 22-year-old woman was allegedly electrocuted at her husband's uncle's house in Dadri on Saturday. The husband has been taken into police custody, according to an officer. Her family has accused him of killing her over dowry, alleging he had taken several loans in her name and wanted them to be waived upon her death.

The deceased, Samreen, had been married to Shoaib (25) for two years. They were living in BB Nagar, Bulandshahr. Based on a complaint lodged by Samreen's father, Shahid (47), an FIR was registered against Shoaib, his father Nazakat, uncle Saqir, and aunt Rubina at Dadri police station under charges of dowry death. Shahid said in his complaint that Shoaib had taken Samreen to his uncle's house in the Nayi Abadi Madrasa locality of Dadri on Friday evening. "On Saturday morning, the relatives told me that my daughter had died due to electrocution," said Shahid, who lives in Usman Colony in Dasna, Ghaziabad. Police were informed around 8am. The body was sent for postmortem. "The deceased's family suspects that Shoaib and his family intentionally electrocuted her," said Ashok Kumar, additional DCP, Greater Noida. Shahid further told police that Shoaib had visited his house on Friday afternoon, demanding Rs 2 lakh. "I had told him that I didn't have such a large amount of money at home. He got furious and said he was going to take my daughter to his uncle's home in Dadri," said Shahid, a daily wage labourer. An FIR has been filed under sections 304B (dowry death), 498A (cruelty towards a woman by husband or relatives), and relevant sections of the Dowry Prohibition Act. **TNN**

**Police stand sought on bail plea of Bibhav**

New Delhi: A Delhi court has sought the stand of police on the bail plea of Bibhav Kumar, the aide of chief minister Arvind Kejriwal. Kumar was arrested on May 18 after being accused of assaulting AAP Rajya Sabha member and former DCW chief Swati Malwal. The court has posted the matter for further hearing on May 27. His lawyers moved for bail soon after the court remanded him to four-day judicial custody on Friday. Produced before the court after his earlier remand period ended, the court extended the same till May 28. Malwal alleged that when she went to the CM's residence on May 13, Kumar assaulted her. He has been booked under sections 308 (attempt to commit culpable homicide), 341 (wrongful restraint), 354(B) (assault or use of criminal force to woman with intent to disrobe), 506 (criminal intimidation), and 509 (word, gesture, or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman) of the Indian Penal Code. **TNN**

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**ADMISSIONS OPEN 2024-25**

**IGDTUW IS OFFERING ADMISSIONS IN THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-25**

UNDER GRADUATE PROGRAMS				POST GRADUATE PROGRAMS					
S. No.	Name of Program	Specialization	Admission Criteria	S. No.	Name of the Program	Department	Specialization	Admission Criteria	Sanctioned Intake
1.	Bachelor of Technology (4 years)	Computer Science & Engineering (CSE)	Based on all India Rank of JEE (Main) Examination (Paper-I) Admission through Joint Admission Committee (JAC). Link: <a href="https://jacdelhi.admissions.nic.in/">https://jacdelhi.admissions.nic.in/</a>	1.	M.Tech. (2 years)	CSE	Artificial Intelligence (AI)	Based on merit of the valid GATE Score OR marks secured in the Qualifying examination / CUET Score.	27
2.		Computer Science & Engineering-Artificial Intelligence (CSE-AI)		2.		AI & DS	Artificial Intelligence and Data Sciences (AI&DS)		25
3.		Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE)		3.		IT	Cyber Security (CS)		18
4.		Electronics and Communication Engineering - Artificial Intelligence (ECE-AI)		4.		ECE	VLSI Design		18
5.		Mechanical & Automation Engineering (MAE)		5.	MCA (2 years)	IT	Master of Computer Applications	Based on Rank in CET conducted by IGDTUW/ CUET score.	76
6.		Information Technology (IT)		6.	M. Plan. (2 years)	A & P	Urban Planning	Based on merit of the valid GATE Score OR marks secured in the Qualifying examination / CUET Score.	13
7.		Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning (AI & ML)		7.	MBA (2 years)	MGMT	Master of Business Administration	Based on valid CAT-2023 / MAT- 2023 /MAT-2024/ CUET Score. Admission through CMAC. Link: <a href="https://www.cmacadmissions.com/">https://www.cmacadmissions.com/</a>	75
8.	Dual Degree Program (B.Tech. + MBA) (6 years) with Exit option after 4 years	Mechanical & Automation Engineering and Master of Business Administration (MAE+MBA)							
9.	B. Tech. (Lateral Entry admissions in 2nd yr.) (3 Years)	In various Specializations same as in B. Tech.							
10.	BBA-3 years BBA (Hons./Hons. With Research)- 4 years	BBA	Based on the all India Rank of CUET score. Admission through CMAC. Link: <a href="https://www.cmacadmissions.com/">https://www.cmacadmissions.com/</a>						
11.	Bachelor of Architecture (5 years)	B.Arch.	Based on all India Rank of JEE (Main) Examination (Paper-I) Admission through Joint Admission Committee (JAC). Link: <a href="https://jacdelhi.admissions.nic.in/">https://jacdelhi.admissions.nic.in/</a>						

University also offers admission to NRI candidates for UG/PG programmes under DASA ( Direct Admission of Students Abroad). For Admission brochures and other related details please refer to the University website: [www.igdtuw.ac.in](http://www.igdtuw.ac.in)

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 Email: [etender.itunit@uppl.co](mailto:etender.itunit@uppl.co)  
**Notice Inviting Tender Date: 26.05.2024**  
 e-Bids are invited from interested bidders against e-tender No. GS/UPPL/RAPDRP-A/IT/SAP Plant Maintenance Module/ 2024 Dated 25.05.2024 for Implementation of SAP Plant Maintenance Module for UPPL and its Discos (PVVNL, DVVNL, MVVNL, PuVVNL and KESCO). Tender can be downloaded from UP e-tender portal <https://etender.up.nic.in> for further details. Any changes, corrigendum etc. shall also be notified on the website. UPPL reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or cancel the bid without assigning any reason thereof. Pre-bid meeting: At Shakti Bhawan, Lucknow on date 04.06.2024, time 12:00. Save Electricity in the Interest of Nation. RO-22 dated 24.05.2024

**3090 पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड ई-निविदा सूचना** अनुषंगी निर्माण/कार्यकर्ता फर्मों से निर्माण/ई-निविदा दो भागों में निविदा लिखित की 12:00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है जो उसी दिन 15:00 बजे खोलनी होगी। निविदा विवरण समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशन के उपरान्त ई-टेंडर की वेबसाइट [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध रहेगा तथा अन्य किसी भी प्रकार के सरोकार/लिखित विवरण हेतु निविदा सूचना की तिथि तक लॉग ऑन करें। किसी भी निविदा को बिना कारण बताये निरस्त/अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरी के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा:- ई-टेंडरी-01/2024-25:- 132 केपीओ उपकेन्द्र वीनर पर 132/33 केपीओ 40 एम्पीओएण्ड आइएमपीओ "बि" का निर्माण एवं 33 केपीओ बस के सुदृढीकरण से सम्बन्धित समस्त कार्य। निविदा सूचक 1770, धरोहर रॉफ़ि 20000/ ईटीसी-02/2024-25:- 132 केपीओ उपकेन्द्र हसनन पर (40-20) एम्पीओएण्ड परिवहन के दुर्घात एवं स्थापना से सम्बन्धित कार्य। निविदा सूचक 1770, धरोहर रॉफ़ि 13000/ ईटीसी-03/2024-25:- 220 केपीओ उपकेन्द्र एटा पर माइक्रो वेव टावर की डिमेंटलिंग से सम्बन्धित कार्य निविदा सूचक 1770, धरोहर रॉफ़ि 20000/ अर्धशुष्क अतिरचना, विद्युत परिपथ परदहन, ताल डबिंग, अलीकड्ड। यह दित में विजली बचपरे, विद्युत चोरी की सूचना "www.igpowerup.org" RO-739 dt. 24.05.2024

# U'khand to enlist live-ins online, notify parents of 18-21-year-olds

## UCC Expected To Be Implemented By End Of 2024, Say Officials

Kautilya.Singh  
@timesgroup.com

Dehradun: The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) is expected to be implemented in Uttarakhand by the end of this year, with an online registration facility for live-in couples and marriages in the process of being introduced. Notably, this is the first time that the govt has disclosed that the registration of live-ins would be possible online. The issue of couples having to register, and face scrutiny by the govt under UCC provisions for live-ins, had been a significant talking points among the youth ahead of the Lok Sabha polls this year.

A nine-member panel led by former chief secretary Shatrughan Singh has been working on drafting the necessary rules, which are anticipated to be completed by end of June. Officials said they're planning to implement the Act's provisions by late 2024.

Singh told TOI, "We want to make it easier for people to



In Feb 2024, the Uttarakhand govt led by Pushkar Singh Dhami became the first state to pass a Bill imposing common rules for all communities on marriage, divorce, inheritances, and live-in relationships

complete formalities via the online mode. However, this process is complex as govt staff need formal training. We plan to frame rules and conduct training sessions simultaneously to meet the deadline." He added that training for govt employees, especially those in the sub-registrar office, would be conducted both in online and offline mode, including at the village-level.

Singh highlighted that the online facility would benefit

both couples and govt staff by reducing the need for multiple visits to the registrar's office. He added that despite the additional time required, the plan would be "comprehensive and foolproof."

"We are not against live-in relationships or imposing any restrictions. Registration is mandatory, and for couples aged 18 to 21, their parents will be informed." He pointed out that the intent is to "ensure parents are aware of their

children's relationships."

UCC has strict regulations regarding the registration of live-in relationships. Couples must register their live-in status within one month, facing either a three-month jail term or a fine of up to Rs 10,000 if they fail to comply. If registration doesn't happen beyond three months, the couple faces a maximum of six months in jail, a fine of Rs 25,000, or both.

Crucially, children born from live-in unions will be legally recognised as the legitimate offspring of the couple, entitled to all rights as children born within a marriage. Other notable provisions include a uniform marriageable age for girls (set at 18 years across all faiths), compulsory registration of marriages and divorces within 60 days, and equal inheritance rights for sons and daughters. If someone neglects to adhere to the marriage or divorce registration process, the sub-registrar can impose a fine of up to Rs 10,000.

# 3 linked to terror outfit trying to set up Islamic Caliphate held

## Chennai: Police Saturday arrested three members of Hizbut-Tahrir (HuT), a terrorist outfit banned for trying to establish an Islamic State Caliphate and implement Sharia by overthrowing non-Islamic govts, reports Vivek Narayanan.

On Friday, Chennai police arrested an engineering graduate, Hameed Hussain, his father, Mansoor, and brother, Abdul Rahman under UAPA. Cops said Hussain used to upload videos on social media about the Caliphate rule, while Mansoor used to hold secret meetings in various parts of Chennai to spread HuT's ideology.

"They (HuT) have had a presence in Tamil Nadu for a long time, but no one knew about them," a central intelligence agency source told TOI. Kabir Taneja of Observer Research Foundation said HuT has been active since 1950s in the Middle-East and places like Jerusalem. "It was galvanised by or around Muslim Brotherhood ecosystem," he added.

# 3 Maoists killed in 2 encounters, C'garh tally 11 in last 3 days

Raipur: Three Naxalites were killed in separate encounters in Sukma and Bijapur districts of Bastar division in Chhattisgarh on Saturday. This year's Maoist body count has risen to 116, 11 of them in the last three days. Maoists accused security forces of staging fake encounters and called for a 'bandh' in Bastar on May 26.

In Bijapur, a District Reserve Guards team was sent out Friday night after information about movement of 10-15 Maoists, including the head of supplies in west Bastar. The encounter broke out in Mirtur (390km south of Raipur) on Saturday, resulting in the killing of two Maoists, police said.

The other encounter took place 200km south of Mirtur, close to Andhra border, in the forests near Belpocho village. Cops said a DRG team was sent to intercept groups of Maoists camping deep in the jungle. TNN

# TRIBAL GIRLS FALL PREY TO 'ARCHANA MADAM'

## Man uses voice-changing app to pose as woman, rapes 7 in MP

Amarjeet.Singh1  
@timesgroup.com



SCHOLARSHIP BAIT

Bhopal: In a spine-chilling case of serial rape in MP's Sidhi district, a 30-year-old man sexually assaulted at least seven tribal girls by using a voice-changing app to pose as a woman teacher and lure them into his trap. Following CM Mohan Yadav's orders, a nine-member SIT was constituted on Saturday to probe the crime and submit a report in seven days.

Accused Brajesh Prajapati preyed on girls who were eligible for SC/ST scholarships. He would use the app to mask his voice, pose as "Archana madam", and ask the victims to meet "her" to solve an issue with their scholarship application, police said. He robbed the cellphones of the girls after raping them to ensure they couldn't call for help.

So far, cops have recovered 16 phones from his possession, but have complaints from four of the survivors. "One girl went to meet him with a minor, and he raped them both," Sidhi SP Ravindra Verma told TOI. The six others are in

snatched her phone, the survivor said in her complaint.

Going by the modus operandi, cops realised an app was being used and took the help of cyber experts to zero in on Prajapati. He was arrested the same night, but police didn't disclose details of the case until Saturday. Prajapati is in police remand.

"So far, four cases have been registered against the accused, and there are five survivors (including the minor). During interrogation, the accused has admitted to raping seven girls so far. Details of the other two are being verified. There could be more victims," SP Verma told TOI. Police have spoken with five of the survivors. "All of them complained of rape. No incident of gang rape has been reported till now," the SP added.

CM Yadav said, "The incident of wrongdoing with tribal students in Sidhi on the pretext of scholarship has come to our notice. The accused has been arrested. People doing such condemnable work are enemies of society. Strict action will be taken against the accused."

# New patent pact offers extra shield to Indian genetic resources and traditional knowledge

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Members of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) have finalised a new treaty that will make it mandatory for patent applicants to disclose the country of origin or the source of genetic resources if the claimed invention is based on those materials or associated traditional knowledge.

The treaty that will provide additional protection for Indian genetic resources and traditional knowledge, such as yoga, siddhi and ayurveda, has been a key demand of the developing world, led by India.

The Geneva-based agency, responsible for evolving rules related to patents and trademarks, finalised the agreement Friday, which will require several countries to re-



India has insisted on global giants giving credit to the vast traditional knowledge such as yoga, siddhi and ayurveda

work their domestic regulations. India has insisted on global giants giving credit to the vast traditional knowledge and genetic resources instead of seeking to exploit them by registering patents.

While protection against misappropriation is available

in India, countries, which do not have disclosure of obligations, the disclosure requirements will provide for protection across countries. At present, 35 countries have some form of disclosure obligations, most of which aren't mandatory and don't have ap-

propriate sanctions in place for effective implementation. The WIPO treaty on intellectual property, genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, will for the first time take note of the knowledge and wisdom which have supported economies, societies and cultures for centuries and are now inscribed into the global IP system.

"These are historic achievements championed by India as a provider of traditional knowledge and wisdom and repository of biodiversity, a significant win for countries of the global South and for India," said a govt official.

The resistance from countries such as the US and multinationals is evident from the fact that it took 150 countries to evolve a consensus after two decades of negotiations.

# At 240 GW, peak power demand tops govt estimates a month early

Sanjay Dutta | TNN

New Delhi: The searing heat wave sweeping across most parts of India pushed the peak power demand past Centre's estimate to hit almost 240 GW (gigawatts)—the highest this year — on Friday and looks set to top the all-time record of 243.2 GW in the absence of any respite over next few days, govt data showed.

The power ministry, earlier this month, projected a daytime peak demand of 235 GW and evening peak of 225 GW for May. For June, the projection is 240 GW during daytime and 235 GW during evenings. Officials feel the country could see a new peak of 260 GW, given met predictions.

An early onset of summer and long spell of unusually high temperatures, which

# 2 die in Raj, Phalodi town sizzles at 50°C

Soaring mercury continued to wreak havoc across Rajasthan, claiming two lives Saturday, with Phalodi town in Jodhpur being hottest place in the state, and probably the country, as it sizzled at 50 degrees Celsius. A 45-year-old person died because of extreme heat in Jodhpur. In Jalore, a 50-year-old, who was admitted to hospital Friday after complaining of dehydration, vomiting, and nausea, succumbed on Saturday. Officials said an audit of deaths would be conducted to determine if heatstroke was the cause.

The intense heat conditions have shown no signs of abating, particularly in western Rajasthan. Phalodi saw a curfew-like situation, with markets and roads deserted. Barmer at 48.8°C, Jaisalmer at 48°, Bikaner at 47.2° and Churu at 47° also witnessed similar situation. So did other places like Jodhpur, Sriganganagar & Fatehpur, where the mercury remained above the 46°C mark. TNN

As reported by TOI in Oct last year, International Energy Agency had said India will record highest growth in demand for energy among countries over next three decades, with power consumption for running household ACs alone rising nine-fold by 2050.

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# Bengal, NE on alert as cyclone Remal may make landfall today

## Kolkata Airport To Shut Flight Ops For 21 Hrs From Sunday Noon

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Kolkata/Guwahati/Shillong/Mizoram:** Severe Cyclone Remal is set to strike the Bengal-Bangladesh coast between 11pm Sunday and 1am Monday. Kolkata is expected to bear the brunt from Sunday afternoon till Monday afternoon as the storm, with wind speeds of 70-80kmph, gusting up to 90kmph, is predicted, along with very heavy rainfall, amounting to 200mm. Authorities at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport have decided to shut flight operations for 21 hours from Sunday noon as a measure of abundant caution. The shutdown will lead to the cancellation of 394 flights—28 of them international—which will affect 63,000 passengers.

An official said airlines would refund them but if any passenger insisted on flying,



High tide lashes the beach in Visakhapatnam on Saturday due to the influence of Cyclone Remal in Andhra Pradesh

the airlines would try to accommodate them on next available flights. Airport authorities decided on the shutdown apparently to avoid the situation on a Singapore Airlines flight, where one passenger died and several others

were injured as the plane was rocked by severe turbulence.

"Met office has forecast winds of 93-111kmph in the approach path that could lead to severe turbulence and force suspension of operations," an airport official said. Even overflights—planes that fly between East and West over Kolkata airspace—are deviating by up to 240km to avoid strong swirling winds.

Around 5.30pm Saturday, the system intensified into a cyclonic storm over north and adjoining east-central Bay of Bengal. It is predicted to make landfall between Khepupara and Sagar Island in Bengal around midnight, when the coastal areas of Bengal and Bangladesh are likely to see wind speeds of 110-120kmph, gusting up to 135kmph.

"Kolkata is likely to see most of the cyclone's impact in the 24 hours between Sunday

and Monday afternoon. The first six hours from Sunday afternoon are crucial to determine the storm's impact," said Regional Meteorological Centre head of weather H R Biswas. Kolkata falls within the "high impact zone" of Cyclone Remal that could sail within 100km of the city after landfall, said an official. From Sunday afternoon, visibility is likely to drop to 50-200m. Met officials warned of the risk of losing electricity and communication links and damage to infrastructure in Kolkata and neighbouring south districts.

The northeast is also bracing for impact with the weather system likely to bring strong winds and heavy rainfall to various parts of the seven states in the region. (With inputs from *Subhro Niyogi, Aheli Banerjee, Prabin Kalita, Manosh Das and HC Vanlalruata*)

# Cross-border binge: Why Pakistani dramas are trending in India again

*A younger audience, which is discovering content through social media, is getting hooked to P-dramas*

Akhila.Damodaran@timesgroup.com

Shruti Riteish Lad was scrolling through her phone when she stumbled upon a reel with a rather funny dialogue from Pakistani TV series 'Suno Chanda'. "The show was trending, so I started watching it on YouTube. It was funny and, unlike most Indian dramas, there wasn't much *rona dhona*," says the 29-year-old HR professional from Mumbai. This chance discovery opened a Pandora's box of Pakistani dramas for Lad—'Qurban', 'Mere Humsafar', 'Pyaar Ke Sadqay', 'Tere Bin', 'Ishq Murshid' and many more.

It's not that Indians haven't watched Pakistani shows before. Many still remember the romance dramas of the 1980s such as 'Ankahi' (1982), 'Tanhaiyaan' (1985), and 'Dhoop Kinarey' (1987). Then came hits like Fawad Khan-Mahira Khan starrer 'Humsafar', Ayeza Khan-Humayun Saeed's 'Mere



**STRONG STORYTELLING:** Both 'Suno Chanda' and 'Kuch Ankahi' have feisty, outspoken female leads

crisp half-hour episodes. The 30-year-old is currently watching 'Zulm'. "It's a realistic take on a political family and shows how people are like puppets for influential politicians," she says, waiting for a second season.

Pakistani actors like Sajal Aly (who starred with the late Sridevi in the film, 'Mom') feel the shared cultures of both countries get reflected in these dramas, and make them more relatable. "Art knows no boundaries. Anything good created in any country should be showcased and made accessible to all," she says.

Shreyashi Mukherjee, a senior producer who was part of the team that brought Pakistani content to Indian TV, says the whole idea was to help the two nations connect. "There is immense talent in Pakistan, be it drama, music or acting, and we should be exposed to it and vice versa," she feels. The response to 'Humsafar' and 'Zindagi Gulzar Hai' was phenomenal, Mukherjee says, adding, "Shows like 'Naagin' were playing in India then and Pakistani dramas gave a break to people. The shows gained a huge fan base here, and that's still there."

### Social sagas

Lad speaks of 'Sar-e-Rah', a 2023 Pak miniseries starring Saba Qamar that tells stories of marginalised women and transgender folk. Qamar plays a taxi driver in the show and her compelling performance got Lad interested in 'Pagal Khana', another series starring Qamar. Ayesha T, a marketing professional from Bengaluru, loved Ayeza Khan's 'Chupke Chupke' so much that she made her family watch, too. "A 2021 series led by Ahmed Ali Akbar,

'Parizaad', talks about the importance of preserving language. 'Bakhtawar' (2022), led by Yumna Zaidi, is based on the real-life story of a woman from Lahore who dons the attire of a man to protect herself. Both shows are really gripping," she says, adding that her favourite so far is 'Mere Paas Tum Ho', which even had ticketed shows in multiple cities across Pakistan.

Pakistani actor and film producer Humayun Saeed, who starred in 'Mere Paas Tum Ho', points out that another reason for their success could be that Pakistani dramas don't have many explicit scenes due to strict censorship. "But they tell relatable stories, and often focus on family dynamics and politics, which connect with an average desi household."

Music is a major crowdpuller as well. Lad says the soundtrack for 'Mere Humsafar' was so good, it was trending all over social media. "In 'Dil Kya Karay', I was surprised to hear Rabindra Sangeet and a tribute to Tagore. It even went viral as a reel. The series shows how women should be treated with respect and how mutual love for each other's cultures can dissolve differences between the two countries," says Dhar.

### Reeling them in

Reels and shorts on social media are also helping spread the word. Like Lad, Meenakshi Yadu, a 27-year-old game developer from Bengaluru who is currently watching 'Mannat Murad', discovered the content via reels on Facebook. Another reason for their popularity with a younger audience is that many of them are free to watch on YouTube.

Besides the Pakistani channels, Zee Zindagi has also launched an independent YouTube channel. Producer Shailaja Kejriwal, who is credited with bringing Pakistani content to Indian TV, says, "Airing Pakistani shows has been a great success, both in viewership and business. Recently, our first original show 'Abdullahpur Ka Devdas' garnered over 10 million views on the first episode." Pakistani Canadian actor Ahmad Raza Mir, who stars in 'Dhoop Ki Dewaar' which is about two teenagers who lose their fathers in the Indo-Pak conflict, feels such subjects have an instant connect on both sides of the border. "Also, as it's free content, it's easier to build a wider fan base", he adds.

## 1 dead, 6 hurt in explosion at Chhattisgarh dynamite unit

**Raipur:** At least one person died and six were injured in a massive blast at Chhattisgarh's biggest explosives factory in Bemetara district on Saturday, reports **Rashmi Drolia**. Rescuers suspect many victims are buried in the factory rubble and the toll may rise. It's not known what triggered the explosion.

Witnesses said there were around 100 workers in various units of the factory when the explosion erupted at 7.57am. Sources said there were at least eight to nine people at ground zero of the blast, which blew a 20-ft crater. Locals were seen crying at the gates that their family members were missing.

The 'Special Blast Ltd' factory manufactures dynamite. Shockwaves of the blast were felt up to 4km away. CCTV footage shows a column of smoke shooting into the sky. A split second later, the shockwave violently rattles the camera. Fear and panic shot through the village of 2,000.

CM Vishnu Deo Sai announced financial aid of Rs 5 lakh to the kin of the deceased and Rs 50,000 to each injured. Deputy CM Arun Sao visited the site and said a magisterial inquiry had been ordered.

**HUMAYUN SAEED, ACTOR & PRODUCER**

**They tell relatable stories, and often focus on family dynamics and politics. This connects with an average desi household**

Paas Tum Ho' and Fawad Khan-Sanam Saeed starrer 'Zindagi Gulzar Hai'. But the TRP chase led to tropes like the misogynist male and wronged heroine, and some regressive themes. Now, a fresh crop of shows from across the border with feistier female leads, more vulnerable and less toxic heroes as well as varied storylines that tackle issues like body shaming ('Kuch Ankahi') is finding new fans. Rom coms, of course, have an evergreen audience.

### Relatable themes

Ankita Dhar, a PR professional from Bengaluru, tuned in soon after Pakistani heartthrob Fawad Khan made his Bollywood debut. Shows from Pakistan had just started being aired on Indian TV channels like Zee Zindagi back then. What began for the love of Khan has endured for the love of realistic stories and

**4, including 3 kids, drown in UP rivers:** Three kids drowned while bathing in Garrah river in Shahjahanpur on Saturday. The incident came as another death was reported in the Ganga canal in Muzaffarnagar. TNN

## 'Bar bribery' audio triggers political storm in Kerala, police to probe

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Thiruvananthapuram:** A Kerala Police special team will probe allegations of bar bribery centred on a WhatsApp audio leak about hotel owners allegedly being asked to "pool money for a favourable liquor policy".

The leak purportedly links Animon alias Jayakrishnan, the Idukki district prez of the Federation of Kerala Hotels Association. The allegation surfaced amidst reports that the Left gov't was favourably considering the bar owners' main demands to lift the dry day on the first of every month and to open pubs in IT parks. However, with the controversy triggering a political

storm, it is now learnt that govt might reconsider the move.

The probe followed a complaint by excise minister MB Rajesh to the state police chief, which was then handed over to the crime branch ADGP on Friday. The crime branch team from the Thiruvananthapuram

### LIQUOR POLICY

unit will first conduct a preliminary investigation without registering a case. A case will be registered only if sufficient evidence is found.

Currently, the crime branch team has been tasked with determining whether any fund mobilisation occurred among the bar

owners, as alleged by the WhatsApp voice note. The team will investigate the purpose of the fund collection and who directed it. The team is expected to meet Animon within a day or two.

In the voice note, Animon is purportedly heard asking members to contribute Rs 2.5 lakh each, claiming govt will soon announce a liquor policy scrapping the dry day norm and revising bar hotel timings. The excise minister insisted the state govt had not yet held any deliberations on its liquor policy and that it is only in its preliminary stage. It is learnt that govt decided to initiate a quick crime branch probe as the assembly is being convened next month.

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THE SPEAKING TREE

LOVE, PRAYER AND MEDITATION



In the modern world, where emotional disconnection often prevails, true intimacy is achieved by transcending mere physicality, says OSHO

But if you feel you are a heart-oriented person then prayer will be needed. Talk to the birds, try to have a communion. Watch! Just wait, sit silently with a deep prayer that they should come to you, and they will start coming by and by. By and by they will be sitting on your shoulders.

Sex is a meeting of two bodies – the most superficial meeting. Love is the meeting of minds – deeper than sex, but yet not very deep. Prayer is the meeting of beings, but still, two remain two. Meditation is the ultimate meeting – the two disappear. Only one remains.

People come to me, and they say, "We are in love." And if I insist, "Really, are you in love?" they shrug their shoulders and say, "Well, we think we are in love." Now feeling is not direct, it comes through the head, and when it comes through the head it is confused. It is not bubbling from the heart....

Something very deep has happened to man; a wound, an accident, and he has lost touch of feelings. If you talk to trees, to birds, to animals, long enough and you don't feel foolish – a tremendous energy of feeling will be released in you. You will become sensitive to pain and pleasure. That's how humanity has stopped the functioning of feeling: because when you become sensitive to pleasure, you also become sensitive to pain. The happier you can feel, the more unhappy also you can feel. The fear that one can become very unhappy has closed you, has helped the human mind to create barriers so that you cannot feel.

But try. First try with human beings – just sit silently with your own child and allow feeling. Don't bring the mind in. Sit with your wife, or with your friend, or your hus-



ARUNDYUTI DAS BASU

band, holding hands together...



SEX & SPIRIT

In the beginning it will be difficult, but by and by you will have a different mechanism functioning within you, you will start feeling...

Through the body you can relate to existence. You can go to the sea and enjoy swimming in it, but just become the body. Lie down on the sand and let the body feel the sand, the coolness, the texture.

Accept them. Talk to trees, to rocks, but let it be a heart talk, emotional. Cry and weep and laugh. Tears can be more prayerful than words, and laughter can be more prayerful than words, because they come deep down from the heart. No need to verbalise – just feel. Embrace the tree and feel as if you are becoming one with it. And soon you will feel that the sap is not running only in the tree, it has started to run in you. And your heart is not beating only in you; deep down in the tree there is a response. One has to do it to feel it.

But if you feel that you are the third type, then meditation is for you. Then you will have to sit like Buddha, silently, just sitting doing nothing. Sitting so deeply that even thinking looks like doing. And you drop it. For a few days the thoughts will continue, but if you go on sitting, just watching them without any judgment for or against, they stop visiting you. They stop by and by, gaps come, intervals happen. In those intervals you will have glimpses of your being. Those glimpses can be had from the body, they can be had from the heart, they can be had from the head. All the possibilities are there because your being is in all the three and yet beyond three. ■

Courtesy: Osho International Foundation/www.osho.com

TIMES PARENTING



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- Amrita Raichand, Celebrity Chef



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AXIS BANK	2.37 Lacs	INDP. BLDG	20.00Lacs

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Red Tape	640000/-	15.4 Cr
Haldiram	1280000/-	12.8 Cr
Jumpy Jumpy	530000/-	12.3 Cr
Max Fashions	460000/-	10.0 Cr
ICICI Bank	362000/-	9.6 Cr
McDonald's	840000/-	8.4 Cr
Jumpy Jumpy	355000/-	8.3 Cr
Max Fashions	540000/-	8.2 Cr
Monte Carlo	530000/-	8.0 Cr
California Burritios	700000/-	7.0 Cr
South Indian Brand	260000/-	6.4 Cr
HDFC Bank	200000/-	5.5 Cr
Hush Puppies	340000/-	5.2 Cr
Elle Decor	225000/-	4.9 Cr
Domino's	205000/-	4.5 Cr
Choi's Kitchen	177000/-	4.1 Cr
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Domino's	200000/-	3.0 Cr
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**RITY PROPART | 9818780022, 9810407739**

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- Pre Primary Teacher (for classes Nursery / LKG / UKG)

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**jobs**

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# Porsche teen's grandpa held for threat to driver

## Cops Cite Past Cases To Seek His Custody

Gitesh.Shelke@timesgroup.com

**Pune:** The grandfather of the 17-year-old Porsche Taycan car driver was arrested Saturday on charges of abducting, threatening and confining their family driver at their home after the May 19 crash in a bid to force him to own up the crime. Two techies were killed in the accident.

The teen's grandfather, 77 was produced in court and remanded in police custody till May 28. However, his lawyer Prashant Patil told the court that he was in Delhi with his



A candlelight vigil in Pune on Saturday to seek justice for the victims of the Porsche crash

wife when the accident occurred in Pune's Kalyaninagar. The boy's father, a prominent city builder, was arrested on Tuesday from Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar on similar charges linked to the driver. The police cited grandpa-

## 16 more pubs and bars sealed in Pune

The Pune excise department had sealed 16 more popular bars and pubs till late Saturday night in its intensified crackdown after the Sunday night Kalyaninagar crash that left two techies dead. With this, the total number of establishments facing action has risen to 71, reports **Neha Madaan**.

2BHK, the Millers and Elrow are among the latest establishments to be sealed. The violations included operating beyond the 1.30am deadline and serving liquor without permits or outside the licensed premises. Of the 71 establishments, three have been found serving liquor to minors. Pune excise department SP CB Rajput told **TOI**, "We are also considering webcasting or live streaming of audio and video of the happenings in pubs and restaurants to our control room to monitor them effectively. We have over 2,000 bars in our jurisdiction. It's difficult to physically monitor them all."

her's criminal antecedents to seek his custody and give protection to the driver. The septuagenarian was previously booked in cases of cheating, attempts to murder and intimidation.

The police told the court that

they had recovered clothes of the driver from the teen's home in Wadgaonsheri. They sought his custody saying they wanted to seize a BMW in which the driver was abducted, check if anyone else was involved and examine his phone.

The fresh case was registered against the teen's grandfather and father after the police recorded the statements of their driver, 42, on Thursday and he lodged a complaint. The case includes IPC sections 342, 365, 368, 506 and 34.

Pune commissioner of police (CP) Amitesh Kumar told **TOI**: "He (the driver) mentioned that around 2.45am on Sunday (after the accident), the builder (father of the boy) called him up. The builder told him to claim that he was behind the wheel of the car. The builder's wife, too, requested him to own up responsibility. The family members of-

**Priest held for raping minor:** The priest of an ashram was arrested Saturday for allegedly raping a four-year-old girl in Bihar's Bhagalpur. The accused Dharmanand Baba had fled after the crime and was caught, reports **Kshitiz**.

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# Senior doctor held for mowing down woman at Mum hospital

**Mumbai:** A senior doctor, who was in the forefront of BMC's Covid response, was arrested late Saturday evening after the death of a 60-year-old Mumbai woman whom he ran over in his car on the premises of Sion hospital the previous evening, police said.

Dr Rajesh Dere, head of the hospital's forensics department who was dean of the BKC Covid centre during the pandemic, was at the wheel, police said. Sources close to the doctor told **TOI** that the woman had collapsed in front of his car barely a couple of minutes after he started it.

Police have not only registered a case of causing death by negligence, and rash driving, they have also in-

voled sections pertaining to furnishing false information.

Police said doctors treating the patient, Rubaida Shaikh, did not disclose the accident until officials accessed CCTV footage that showed a vehicle running her over.



Dr Dere declined to comment, but sources close to him said it wasn't a "hit and run" case. "The patient collapsed in front of his car, resulting in a minor dash," said a source. "The car must have had a speed of 5km/hr at best," said the source. After the patient collapsed, Dr Dere helped carry her to the emergency, the source said. The cause of death is reportedly "cardiogenic shock". **TNN**

**THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, INDIA (NASI)**  
5, Lajpatrai Road, Prayagraj-211002  
Website: <https://nasi.org.in/>, Phone : 0532-2640224

**VACANCY**

NASI invites applications for one unreserved Group "A" Administrative post of "Executive Secretary" in the Pay matrix level 13 (123100-215900) as per 7th CPC (Pay Band Rs. 37400-67000, Grade Pay Rs. 8700/-) as per 6th CPC.

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**Acting Executive Secretary, NASI, Prayagraj**

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Email : [mismetgnoida@gmail.com](mailto:mismetgnoida@gmail.com) Website: [mismetgnoida.org](http://mismetgnoida.org)

## Loudspeakers taken down at religious places in MP

**Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav** on Saturday ordered strict enforcement of the ban on 'unregulated use of loudspeakers' at religious places. Indore administration took down 437 loudspeakers from 258 places of worship during the day. In Bhopal, police removed 96 loudspeakers from religious and other establishments.

A place of worship can use a maximum of two loudspeakers, that too within permitted decibel levels - 75db in industrial areas during the day and 70db at night; 65db in commercial areas during the day and 55db at night; 55db in residential areas in the day and 45db at night. In 'silence zones', it has to be below 50db in the day and 40db at night. **TNN**

## Maha tourist dies after falling into snow cavity in Kashmir

**A** tourist died while another was rescued after the duo got trapped in a snow cavity at Thajwas glacier in Sonamarg in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Saturday. Both were from Maharashtra, officials said, reports **Saleem Pandit**. The two tourists had accidentally fallen into the snow cavity, said an official, adding: "As the news spread, other tourists at the spot along with police retrieved the body of one while another trapped person was rescued and taken to a nearby hospital."

## Robbery bid goes wrong, boy dies after shop catches fire

**A** 12-year-old boy was charred to death during a robbery bid in Jharkhand's Latehar while his 15-year-old accomplice suffered 70% burns when the fertiliser and seed shop they were burgling caught fire allegedly from a candle they had used in the dark, reports **MF Ahmad**.

**Yamunotri**

**Gangotri**

**Kedarnath**

**Badrinath**

**Devbhoomi Uttarakhand**

## A heartiest welcome and greetings to all the visiting devotees of Chardham Yatra

**Appeal**

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- Permission for Chardham Yatra will not be given without registration.
- After registration, visit to the Dham will be allowed only on the day mentioned in registration
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**Means of registration**

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**BSF foils smuggling bid:** BSF seized a sugar-laden truck & nabbed two men in Meghalaya, foiling a bid to smuggle the vehicle into Bangladesh. TNN

### NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

Dy. CME/Works, for Chief Workshop Manager, N.E. Railway, Mechanical Workshop, Gorakhpur, for and on behalf of President of India invites tender through on-line E-Open Tender for the following work:- S.No. 1. E-Tender Notice No. & Name of the work: Tender No.-"05-GKP-MWS-2024-25" "Refurbishment of Inspection Carriage RA-45/NER in Mechanical Workshop, Gorakhpur." Estimated Cost (in ₹): ₹13,62,810/-; Earnest Money (in ₹): ₹27,300/-; Cost of the Tender Forms: Zero; Period of Contract: 02 Months; Last date of tender submission: Upto 11.00, Date: 13.06.2024; S.No. 2. E-Tender Notice No. & Name of the work: Tender No.-"06-GKP-MWS-2024-25" "Grit Blast Cleaning of Bogie set (ICF/MEMU and FIAT), Axle Box Housing and Buffer Casing including its painting work at Mechanical Workshop Gorakhpur for 02 years." Estimated Cost (in ₹): ₹18,98,65,128/-; Earnest Money (in ₹): ₹10,99,300/-; Cost of the Tender Forms: Zero; Period of Contract: 24 Months; Last date of tender submission: Upto 11.00, Date: 14.06.2024. The details of above tenders are also available on Indian Railway website "http://www.reps.gov.in". Dy. CME/Works Gorakhpur

CPRO/Mech-22  
DO NOT SMOKE BIDI/CIGARETTE IN TRAINS

### CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

#### CORRIGENDUM

No. PCMM/CLW/HWH/E-Procurement/CORRIGENDUM/24/11 Dated : 21.05.2024. The following Corrigendum of E-Tender's is for supply of materials for manufacture of Electric Locomotive. The Prospective/bidder suppliers are requested to look up the website www.reps.gov.in. These are E-Tenders, manual offers bid for these tenders will not be accepted under any circumstances, only electronic offer bids shall be accepted. For detailed instructions please refer to website. Sl. No. : [1]. Tender Notice No. : Sl. No. 114 of PCMM/CLW/HWH/E-Procurement/24/25 Dated : 24/04/2024. Tender No. : 14242505B. Tender Opening Date : Tender Opening Date is to be read as "31/05/2024" instead of existing entry. [PR4436] PCMM/CLW/Howrah  
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#### अति-अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता द्वारा ई-निविदा प्रथम-प्रथम दो भागों में निम्न सामग्रियों हेतु केरको ई-निविदा वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर आमंत्रित की जाती है, जिसकी खुलने एवं अपलोड करने की तिथि नीचे दिये गये तालिका में निर्धारित है। निर्धारित तिथि को अवकाश घोषित होने पर निविदायें अगले कार्य दिवस में नियत समय पर खोली जायेंगी। ई-निविदा घनराशि का मुगलान ऑनलाइन एन0ई0एफ0टी0/आर0टी0जी0एस0 (खता सं0 7723508014 आई.एफ.एस.सी. कोड-IDIB000K587) इण्डियन बैंक, कानपुर के माध्यम से किया जायेगा। ई-निविदा प्रपत्र निविदा खुलने की तिथि पर दिये गये समय से दो घण्टे तक वेबसाइट से डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रपत्रों के साथ यू0टी0आर0 की स्कैन प्रतियाँ अपलोड करना अनिवार्य है। ई-निविदा के प्रथम भाग में धरोहर घनराशि का मुगलान अॉनलाइन एन0ई0एफ0टी0/आर0टी0जी0एस0 (खता सं0 7723508014 आई.एफ.एस.सी. कोड-IDIB000K587) इण्डियन बैंक, कानपुर के द्वारा स्वीकार किया जायेगा एवं निविदा प्रपत्र के प्रथम भाग में निर्धारित पी0 ब्यू0 आर0 एवं तकनीकी अभिलेख होंगे तथा निविदा के द्वितीय भाग में दरें एवं व्यवसायिक शर्तें होंगी, बिना धरोहर घनराशि के तथा सशर्त निविदायें खोली/स्वीकार नहीं की जायेंगी।

1. निविदा सं0-07/24-25, पात्र फर्म-मूल निर्माता/अधिकृत विक्रेता, विवरण- एल0टी0 सर्किट की आपूर्ति हेतु। धरोहर घनराशि-(रू0) 457500/-, निविदा घनराशि रू0 में (जी0एस0टी0 के साथ) 5900/-, ई-निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि- 03.06.2024, ई-निविदा खोलने की तिथि-04.06.2024

उपरोक्त ई-निविदा की पूर्ण प्रक्रिया केरको की ई-टेन्डरिंग वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> के माध्यम से की जायेगी। तकनीकी योग्यता प्रान करने वाले निविदादाता के निविदा पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। सामग्री क्रय की मात्रा घट बढ़ सकती है। अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के पास बिना कोई कारण बताये किसी एक अथवा समस्त निविदाओं को स्वीकृत/अस्वीकृत करने का पूर्ण अधिकार सुरक्षित होगा।

1. सूक्ष्म एवं लघु एवं स्टार्टअप इकाईयों को निविदा सेट नियुक्त उपलब्ध कराया जायेगा। 2. सूक्ष्म एवं लघु एवं स्टार्टअप इकाईयों को ई0एम0डी0 से छूट अनुमत्य है। 3. सूक्ष्म एवं लघु एवं स्टार्टअप से सम्बन्धित प्रपत्र को अपलोड करना अनिवार्य है।

(मदन लाल) अधिशाषी अभियन्ता (मण्डार क्रय)

पत्रांक-1531/एस0टी0पी0/ए0-11/2024-2025, दिनांक 25.05.2024

राष्ट्रहित में विजली बचायें।

## Go to mental hosp for wife's discharge, HC rebukes man

Rosy.Sequeira  
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The woman's sister had filed a habeas corpus plea to produce her sister who is 'illegally detained' by the hospital

Mumbai: Observing that it is tragic that a patient who is healthy cannot be discharged because the person who admitted the patient is absent, Bombay high court directed a man to remain present for the discharge of his wife from Thane Mental Hospital where he had admitted her earlier this month.

"You can check in but you cannot check out. Unless you go (to the hospital), how will she be discharged?" asked Justices Nitin Borkar and Somasekar Sundaresan on Friday.

The wife's sister filed a habeas corpus petition to produce her sister who is "illegally detained" by the hospital. The couple from Navi Mumbai have a son, 13, a special needs child. Initially their relationship was cordial, but the wife noticed behavioural changes in her husband. He was rude and initiated fights for trivial reasons. On May 5, when she visited her sister and her father in Mahim, "she was perfectly fine and left happily to return" to her Navi Mumbai residence.

The petition said that on May 9, the brother-in-law in-

formed her he had admitted his wife to the hospital on May 7. The next day, the sister and father were told as per hospital policy they can meet the patient only 10 days after admission. When she finally met her sister on May 15, she revealed that her husband said they were going to the hospital for their son's CT scan. He got her admitted telling the doctor she has mental issues.

The sister's advocate Deepa Mani said the doctors said the patient can be discharged. But as the husband went and created a scene, she was not discharged. The husband said "she has OCD and schizophrenia" and passed it to their son. "I don't want her to be near my son," he added.

## 11-yr-old girl gets ₹.1cr payout for mother's death in 2015 crash

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Mumbai: An 11-year-old girl who lost her mother after a trailer rammied into her scooter at Mazgaon in 2015 has been awarded a compensation of Rs 1.1 crore by a Motor Accident Claims Tribunal.

While the claim had initially been filed by the minor, Ritika Ashokan's father Ashokan Kanapathy, maternal grandfather Anand Subayya Rai and her in 2015, during pendency of the claim the two men died. The child, who since then has been taken care of by her grandmother Banumathi Anandraj, was left as the sole claimant. She filed the claim through her grandmother.

The tribunal said that these aspects had to be considered while calculating the compensation.

The child's mother Seeta Ashokan was a 37-year-old school and tuition teacher at the time of her death and

earned a monthly income of Rs 60,000. "Considering the age of the deceased when she died in the accident, a long span of service was due to be enjoyed by her and there is likelihood of having great increase in her salary. But due to accident she lost her life and lost her chance to live a better life," the tribunal said.

While a major portion of the amount will be kept in a fixed deposit until the child is 21, enabling her to use the quarterly interest accrued until then, around Rs 5.50 lakh with interest from 2015 will be given to her grandmother for her upbringing and welfare.

The tribunal's directions came after the child's lawyer submitted that at present she is residing with her aged grandmother who did not have any source of income.

The compensation will have to be paid by the trailer owner Vidyadhar Mishra and insurer, Reliance General Insurance Company Limited.

# Polluted air can raise Type 2 diabetes risk, say studies

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Mumbai: Breathing polluted air could increase one's risk of getting Type 2 diabetes.

While exposure to air pollutants, especially the microscopic PM2.5, is known to trigger a slew of health problems such as chronic lung diseases, heart attack, stroke and cancer, the diabetes theory is slowly gaining ground.

While a few studies from the US, Europe and China have shown the correlation, a recent two-city study from India has quantified that even a tiny increase (of 10 µg/m3) in the exposure to PM2.5 results in a corresponding rise in blood sugar levels.

Earlier this month, JAPI (Journal of Association of Physicians of India), a leading medical journal in the country brought out of Mumbai, carried an editorial titled, 'Air Pollution: A New Cause of Type 2 Diabetes?' One of the authors of the editorial, diabetologist Dr V Mohan from Chennai said, "We now know that PM2.5 is an endocrine disruptor that affects insulin

### TIMES Special

secretion and also leads to insulin resistant."

While the air quality index has been low in recent weeks due to summer, air pollution is emerging as one of the biggest challenges in urban India; it is estimated that air pollution kills roughly 20,000 in Mumbai and another 50,000 in Delhi every year.

A few months back, Dr Mohan, along with researchers from the Public Health Foundation of India, had published the country's first study quantifying the PM2.5-diabetes link. The study, published in 'BMJ Open Diabetes Research & Care', provided evidence linking short-, medium- and long-term exposure to PM2.5.

"A 10 µg/m3 increase in monthly average exposure to PM2.5 was associated with a 0.4 mg/dL increase in finger prick blood test and a 0.021 unit increase in HbA1c test," said the paper. HbA1c is a blood test that reveals blood sugar levels over a three-month period.

For the study, 12,064 adults residing in Delhi and Chennai were studied over a seven-year period. Not only were daily readings of PM2.5 concentrations noted via a hybrid satellite-based exposure model, but ground

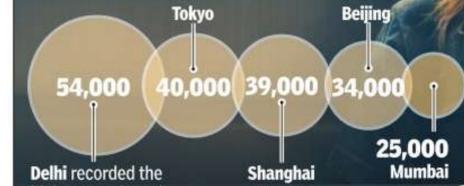
## PARTICULATE MATTER IS BIGGEST CULPRIT

### AIR POLLUTION

- Globally, 9 out of 10 people breathe unhealthy air
- This leads to more than 4 million premature deaths annually around the world
- Air pollutants carry short-term and long-term risks, mainly for hearts and lungs
- Air pollution is known to mainly cause asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, bronchitis, and types of cancer
- It is increasingly being linked to stroke and hearing impairment as well
- The biggest culprit is air-borne particulate matter (PM), which comes in different sizes and chemical and biological compositions

### AIR POLLUTION & DEATHS

A study by Greenpeace Southeast Asia in 2020 found



Delhi recorded the highest number of deaths due to air pollution in the world annually

### WHAT'S NEW

#### AIR POLLUTION LINKED TO DIABETES

Air pollution acts as an endocrine disruptor by affecting:

- Pancreas, leading to a drop in beta cell function
- Liver, adipose tissues, muscles, adversely affecting insulin action and increasing insulin resistance
- Oxidative stress and causing central nervous system inflammation



readings were also monitored. Blood sugar levels of participants were taken at follow-up visits.

It concluded that an increase in average annual PM2.5 exposure by 10 µg/m3 was associated with a 22% increased risk of Type 2 diabetes.

Delhi-based endocrinologist Dr Anoop Misra said, "The air pollution-diabetes link is already known and this study reiterates it for two urban regions of India, hence it lacks generalizability to other regions of India. Most important factor for diabetes, excess body fat, must be incorporated for analysis to be robust."

Dr Mangesh Tiwaskar, editor-in-chief of JAPI and co-author of the PM2.5-diabetes editorial, said air pollution is one of the many factors that contribute to Indi-

### FIRST STUDY IN INDIA

➤ A study, published in 'BMJ Open Diabetes Research & Care', followed 12,064 adults residing in Delhi & Chennai over 7 yrs

➤ Daily average PM2.5 concentrations noted via a hybrid satellite-based exposure model as well as ground monitoring

➤ Individuals with normoglycemia were tested at follow-up visits

➤ The study found: A 10 µg/m3 rise in monthly avg exposure to PM2.5 was associated with a 0.4 mg/dL increase in finger-prick blood test and a 0.021 unit increase in HbA1c test

➤ Increase in avg annual PM2.5 exposure by 10 µg/m3 associated with a 22% higher Type 2 diabetes risk

➤ A fifth of the burden of Type 2 diabetes worldwide has been attributed to air pollution

➤ A meta analysis of 13 studies from the US and European countries showed the risk of diabetes rose by 8-10% per 10 µg/m3 increase in exposure to PM 2.5

➤ The association was stronger in females

➤ A study from China of 400,000 people showed that exposure to higher levels of PM2.5 was associated not only with higher risk of progression from normoglycemia (normal blood sugar levels) to diabetes but also with mortality risk

➤ The only silver lining about the diabetes-PM2.5 connection is that air pollution can be checked. Air pollution is a preventable cause, said Dr Mohan.

The JAPI article said, "We know the major sources of air pollution are either the burning of stubble by farmers, smoke from vehicles, industrial pollution, use of firewood or charcoal in ill-ventilated kitchens, or indiscriminate pollution during festivals like Diwali due to fireworks, etc. All these are potentially modifiable by legislation and education by governmental and non-governmental agencies."

Dr Misra said that more rigorous trials are needed, "specifically when interventions like facemasks and air purifiers are used by 1 group of patients, in a case control manner".

## Tourists from Hyd drive car into Kerala stream, escape unhurt

Kottayam: Four tourists from Hyderabad had a miraculous escape after the car they were travelling in, guided by a navigation app, fell into a stream in Kuruppanthara in Kerala's Kottayam district early Saturday. All four escaped unhurt.

The accident occurred when

Tuafeq, Yashwanth, Madan and Abhirami were heading to Alappuzha from Munnar. "The map showed the way towards the ghat and not the actual route," Yashwanth said. Though the car was being driven very slowly, they realised they were in deep trouble as the front wheels

dipped into the stream. Even before they could act, the vehicle was fully inside the stream. Though the doors got stuck, the power windows were functioning as the battery connection was intact. All four got out of the car through the back windows and swam to safety. TNN



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### IMPORTANT DATES

Date of Start of Registration	: 20th May 2024
Last Date of Registration & Registration Fee Submission	: 17th June 2024
Tentative Rank Display	: 24th June 2024

Registration Fee of Rs. 200/- is payable at time of online registration.

Detailed Information of Trades/Courses, eligibility and other particulars are available at Online Admission Portal <a href="https://itidelhi.admissions.nic.in">https://itidelhi.admissions.nic.in</a>	The complete admission process (Registration, Verification, Choice filling and Counselling etc.) will be through online portal only.
Candidates are advised to visit the admission portal regularly for updates	30% seats are exclusively reserved for female. No tuition Fee for female candidates

Email: [caohelpine@gmail.com](mailto:caohelpine@gmail.com)  
Candidates may visit the department website <https://tte.delhigovt.nic.in> for other schemes and courses available.

DIRECTOR

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0064/24-25

Directorate of Training & Technical Education, Delhi

### Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board (UTDB)

Pandit Deendrayal Upadhyay Pariyatan Bhawan, Near O.N.G.C. Helipad, Nimbuwala, Garhi Cantt, Dehradun - 248003 (UK)  
Ph- 0135-2559898

Ref. No.: 1034/2-8-684/2024-25 Dehradun, Date: 25 May, 2024

#### UTDB invites Proposal through e-procurement portal for conceptualizing and designing of stall for Uttarakhand Tourism Pavilion at Domestic Tourism Marts

Details may be obtained on website: [uktenders.gov.in](http://uktenders.gov.in) and [uttarakhandtourism.gov.in](http://uttarakhandtourism.gov.in) on 27.05.2024. A pre-proposal meeting only in virtual mode is scheduled at 12:00 Noon on 03.06.2024. Prospective Bidders may seek clarification till 5:00 PM on 04.06.2024 through E-mail: [publicityutdb@gmail.com](mailto:publicityutdb@gmail.com) with CC to [procurement.utdb@gmail.com](mailto:procurement.utdb@gmail.com). Any Addendum / Corrigendum including date extension will be uploaded on [uktenders.gov.in](http://uktenders.gov.in). Proposals must be submitted online through [uktenders.gov.in](http://uktenders.gov.in) only. The last date for submission of proposals is 18.06.2024 till 3:00 PM.

Chief Executive Officer

Communication received from police station Nowgam to effect that on 25-05-2024 at around 0820 AM. Police Station Nowgam, received information through reliable source with the effect that one unknown female dead body is lying at Shalina Nowgam near river Jhelum etc. In this regard proceedings under section 174 CrPC has been initiated and investigation taken up.

During the course of investigation, investigating officer visited the spot recovered the dead body from spot and take the dead body in the possession of Police for medico legal formalities. During the course of investigation, the identification of unidentified dead body was not ascertained.

The dead body was taken in the possession of Police and kept at mortuary of SMHS Hospital Srinagar for identification. This Police Station has sought help from general public through media for identification of the dead body. The description of the deceased is as under :-

Age :- about 22 Yrs.

Height : 5' 3"

Face : Oval.

Colour : Blackish.

Photo : Enclosed.

Cell no of Police Station 9596770882, 9596770559.

DIP No: DPK-668/24/25.05.2024



### 2 'tantriks' held over youth's death after ritual

Police arrested two brothers, both self-proclaimed tantriks, on Friday in Odisha's Sundargarh district over the charge of performing some rituals that led to the death of a 20-year-old youth on May 12, reports Malay Ray.

Police said Amit Majhi (the victim) of Barupada, his mother Jashoda, 50, and a few other villagers visited the tantrik brothers on May 11 after an astrologer told them that Amit would pass away soon. The tantriks assured Amit he would live long if he performed certain rituals.

# Kapadia film gets 8-min standing ovation at Cannes

Continued from P 1

The screening of Payal Kapadia's film 'All We Imagine as Light', which was screened on Thursday, received an eight-minute standing ovation from the audience. 'All We Imagine as Light', a Malayalam-Hindi feature, is about Prabha, a nurse, who receives an unexpected gift from her long estranged husband that throws her life into disar-

ray. Her younger roommate, Anu, tries in vain to find a private spot in the big city to be alone with her boyfriend. One day, the two nurses go on a road trip to a beach town where the forest becomes a space for their dreams to manifest, as per the plotline. International critics have given the film a thumbs up and praised Kapadia's storytelling prowess. An alumna of FTII, Kapadia is best known for her ac-

claimed documentary 'A Night of Knowing Nothing', which premiered at the 2021 Cannes Film Festival's Director's Fortnight side-bar where it won the Oeil d'or (Golden Eye) award. Her short film 'Afternoon Clouds' in Cinefondation, a category dedicated to supporting the next generation of talented filmmakers. 'All We Imagine As Light' is an Indo-French co-production between petit chaos from

France & Chalk and Cheese Films from India. The main competition jury was chaired by filmmaker Greta Gerwig and included Spanish director Juan Antonio Bayona, Turkish actor Ebru Ceylan, Italian actor Pierfrancesco Favino, American actor Lily Gladstone, Japanese director Hirokazu Kore-eda, Lebanese actor-director Nadine Labaki and French stars Eva Green and French actor Omar Sy. PH

# HDK rakes up '16 death of Sidda's son in Belgium, CM hits back

Bengaluru/Mysuru: JD(S) state president H D Kumaraswamy on Saturday raked up the death of chief minister Siddaramaiah's son Rakesh in Belgium eight years ago, seeking to know why the matter was not investigated.

The remark was in response to Siddaramaiah's recent comment that Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna had fled India with the knowledge of his family members, including his grandfather HD Deve Gowda.

"Siddaramaiah's son Rakesh had also gone abroad and met with an accident. Which event had he gone for? Had he taken Siddaramaiah's permission?" Kumaraswamy told reporters. "Why didn't Siddaramaiah order a probe into Rakesh's death? Why was it covered up? Did the CM send him abroad?" the former chief minister added.

Kumaraswamy also demanded that Siddaramaiah disclose the number of people who accompanied Rakesh during his foreign trip.

Rakesh died due to multiple organ failure on July 30, 2016, during Siddaramaiah's first tenure as CM.

Kumaraswamy's allegations drew a sharp reaction from Siddaramaiah, who called it "foolishness" to bring up the matter.

"I am not saying that sharing videos without blurring the faces of the victims is not an offence, but Kumaraswamy says my son's death is a bigger issue than the Prajwal rape case. I want to know under which section of Indian Penal Code or any criminal law is it (Rakesh's death) an offence?" he said. TNW

**Dr. B. R. AMBEDKAR UNIVERSITY DELHI**  
(Established by the Govt. of NCT Delhi)

**Admission process for Academic Year 2024-25 for Undergraduate programmes of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi**

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi, a State University established by the Government of NCT of Delhi requests applicants seeking admission to various Undergraduate programmes under different Schools of Studies in Kashmere Gate campus, Karampura campus and Lodhi Road Campus for the Academic year 2024-25. The admission process has started for Academic Year 2024-25 for Undergraduate programmes of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi has joined the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) to be conducted by NTA. The CUET will provide a single window opportunity to students to seek admission. In this regard, the National Testing Agency has been entrusted with the responsibility of conducting the Undergraduate entrance tests for the academic session 2024-25.

All candidates who are willing to study at Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi must appear in Common University Entrance Test [CUET (UG) - 2024] and register at [cuet.samarth.ac.in](http://cuet.samarth.ac.in)

The list of UG programmes, for academic session 2024-2025 are as follows:

S. No.	Programme Name	S. No.	Programme Name	S. No.	Programme Name
1.	BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (BBA)	8.	BACHELOR OF ARTS (SOCIAL SCIENCES)	15.	BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) ECONOMICS
2.	BACHELOR OF VOCATION (TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY)	9.	BACHELOR OF ARTS (LAW AND POLITICS)	16.	BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) ENGLISH
3.	BACHELOR OF VOCATION (RETAIL MANAGEMENT)	10.	BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) HISTORY	17.	BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) HINDI
4.	BACHELOR OF VOCATION (EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE MANAGEMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP)	11.	BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) PSYCHOLOGY	18.	BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) MATHEMATICS
5.	BACHELOR OF VOCATION (ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE)	12.	BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES	19.	4-Year Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP)- B.A.B.Ed. (Preparatory)
6.	BACHELOR OF ARTS (SUSTAINABLE URBANISM)	13.	BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) SOCIOLOGY	20.	4-Year Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP)- B.A.B.Ed. (Secondary)
7.	BACHELOR OF ARTS (GLOBAL STUDIES)	14.	BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) POLITICAL SCIENCE		

Applicants shall be admitted to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi on the basis of eligibility criteria at the website. Applicants seeking admission has to apply separately at [aud.delhi.gov.in](http://aud.delhi.gov.in) for various programmes offered by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi. For updates related to application, Admission Brochure 2024-2025, reservation, eligibility etc. applicants are advised to visit University website ([aud.delhi.gov.in](http://aud.delhi.gov.in)) and NTA ([nta.ac.in](http://nta.ac.in))/CUET ([cuet.samarth.ac.in](http://cuet.samarth.ac.in)) website regularly.

**Dated: 10.05.2024** aud.delhi.gov.in **Registrar**

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0073/24-25

**Directorate of Higher Education, Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi**

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# Shah: After June 4, Cong to blame Kharge for loss

'BJP Will Cross 400 Mark, Cong To Get Less Than 40 Seats'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Shimla: Union home minister Amit Shah said on Saturday he was confident NDA would achieve its "400 paar" target, and that Congress would blame EVMs for its defeat in Lok Sabha elections and pin the responsibility on its national president, Mallikarjun Kharge, leading to his resignation.

Addressing public meetings in Hamirpur and Kangra Lok Sabha seats in Himachal Pradesh on Saturday, Shah claimed BJP has secured 310 seats in the first five phases. "But the goal of crossing 400 seats... this responsibility lies with the people voting in the seventh phase, particularly with Himachal Pradesh," he said, adding that Congress would get less than 40 seats.

Shah accused Congress of keeping the Ram Mandir hanging for 70 years, saying Modi, in just five years, not only initiated the construction of the temple but also performed the "Pran Pratishtha" of Ram Lalla. Slamming the Gandhis, Shah said Rahul and his sister Priyanka Gandhi came to Shimla for vacations but did not at-



Amit Shah at a rally in support of BJP candidate from Hamirpur Lok Sabha constituency, Anurag Thakur, in Una on Saturday

tend the consecration ceremony in Ayodhya because they "feared their vote bank, the Rohingya infiltrators". The public of Himachal will not accept such individuals, he added.

He pointed out that since the era of Indira Gandhi, retired soldiers from Himachal and those serving have been demanding one rank, one pension (OROP), yet their pleas went unheard. He said that upon assuming office, Modi promptly allocated Rs 1,20,000 crore to the accounts of soldiers.

"Previously, slogans advocating for freedom echoed in Kashmir; but now those in POK express a desire to join India. The change is because of Modi's governance," he said, adding tourists were earlier hesitant to visit Kashmir but around 2.1 crore people have now visited the state.

Slamming Rahul for "spreading misconceptions" about the Agnipath scheme, Shah said in Dhamshala that since he (Ra-

hul) had become a leader, many radical changes had been taking place in the country's politics.

Shah said earlier political parties used to present real issues by twisting them, but never made falsehood an issue. "However, Rahul has started this new tradition of making a false matter an issue, and one of the best examples of this is the Agnipath yojana," he added.

Shah said a misconception was being spread across the country regarding the Agnipath scheme, that after four years, 75% of Agniveers would be left with no future and their lives would be ruined. "But, as per the scheme, if 100 soldiers become Agniveers, then 25% of them will get direct permanent postings in the Army. For the remaining 75%, all BJP-ruled state govts have made 10-20% reservation in their police forces. Also, 10% reservation has been made in the paramilitary forces of the central govt," Shah said.

## INDIA bloc will form govt, pick PM, says Kharge

Shimla: Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge claimed on Saturday that INDI Alliance would form a govt at the Centre after June 4, and alliance leaders would then choose the prime minister.

Alleging that the Narendra Modi govt is "misusing" constitutional institutions, Kharge said Congress is fighting against BJP's ideology of dividing the country along Hindu and Muslim lines.

"People are fed up with Modi govt as unemployment and inflation are rising," he said at an election rally in Rohru under Shimla Lok Sabha seat.

He accused Modi of neglecting Himachal Pradesh during last year's disaster. **TNN**

## SAD ousts Badal bro-in-law for anti-party acts

Chandigarh: SAD expelled party president Sukhbir Singh Badal's brother-in-law and former cabinet minister Adesh Partap Singh Kairon (65) from the party on Saturday for allegedly "indulging in anti-party activities".

SAD candidate from Khador Sahib Lok Sabha constituency, Virsa Singh Valtoha, complained against Kairon, who has not been very active in party activities.

Sukhbir's sister, Parneet Kaur, is married to Kairon, grandson of Punjab's ex CM Partap Singh Kairon. He was a cabinet minister thrice in govt led Parkash Singh Badal. **TNN**



## ELECTION MOSAIC

From industrialists and netas to cricketers, and everyday citizens, the sixth phase of India's elections was a vibrant showcase of democracy. On Saturday, 58 constituencies across 8 states and UTs witnessed a rich tapestry of voters casting their ballots. In J&K, despite the heightened security, voting process remained peaceful capturing the colourful essence of a nation united in its democratic spirit

## Village head on way to cast vote trampled to death by elephant in Jharkhand's Jamshedpur

A 65-year-old gram pradhan walking to his polling booth was trampled to death by a wild elephant in Gobrabani forest area in Jharkhand's Jamshedpur on Saturday morning, reports **B Sridhar**.

Surendranath Hansdah was heading to his polling booth in Dhalabera. Forest ranger Digvijay Singh said forest guards and quick response teams have been deployed to push deeper into the forest 37

elephants wandering in Khejuria, Baadmara and Chotia areas on Chakulia-Baharagora stretch. On May 21, a 35-year-old villager was also trampled to death on the Chakulia-Khejuria Main Road.

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# 'June 4 will be day of freedom; BJP to get final farewell, INDIA bloc & SP's PDA will prevail'

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav is leading a spirited campaign for INDIA bloc in the ongoing LS polls. Amid a hectic campaign schedule, he spoke to TOI's Pervez Iqbal Siddiqui about his PDA plank, tie-up with Congress and prospects of opposition parties. Excerpts from the interview:

**You said INDIA bloc will win all 80 seats in UP. What is the assessment of your election war room?**

■ In these elections, BJP will be given the final farewell. When results are announced on June 4, it will be a day of freedom for many. June 5, INDIA bloc and Samajwadi Party's PDA bouquet will prevail. It will be a historic day and a day of celebrations for all.

**Is the current SP-Congress alliance much more cohesive and bonded as compared to the 2017 tie-up?**

■ Having entered into and walked out of quite a few alliances in the recent past, we have had experiences that have helped us to handle alliances better now. Also, INDIA members have held several meetings and long discussions, which has helped us bond better.

**What are the two factors that have worked the most for INDIA bloc in terms of catching the attention of the electorate?**

■ It sounds a bit unparliamentary, but their (BJP's) "jhooth" (lies) has worked the most. Their performance was zero. They have little political credibility left. For the past 10 years, BJP has been heading off at Centre. Add seven years of UP govt to it. The promises they made in 17 years of governance turned out to be false, as did their claims. Much hype was built around investors' meetings and defence expo. Right from PM to ministers in states showcased it. But there is nothing on the ground. Even schemes like ODP (one district one product) have failed.

The govt's focus was on publicity. People don't want *naam wali sarkar*, people want *kaam wali sarkar* (People don't want a govt for namesake. They want one that delivers).

**Where did this idea of PDA come from? Pichhade (backward classes), Dalits, and Alpsankhyak (minorities)**

■ Samajwadi Party has always tried to expand its family to take on BJP in the current context. They (BJP/BSP) had attributed their electoral success to social engineering. This concept has been the crux of socialist ideologue Ram Manohar Lohia's call for social justice, and Netaji (Mulayam Singh Yadav) spent his lifetime for the cause. Samajwadi Party has now gone back to its roots with a more defined approach in the form of PDA, which also stands for Peedhit (exploited),



TOI INTERVIEW

Dukhi (distressed), Agade (upper caste), and Aadhi Aabaadi (women). The idea behind PDA is to bring everyone together. There is another dimension to it. The letter P in PDA also stands for progressive, while N in NDA denotes negativity.

PDA was coined for phonetic effect and to clash with BJP's NDA. It did. Also, the more important underlying message was that INDIA bloc was a larger alliance (national) and with PDA, our party's own bouquet of like-minded masses.

People have seen through how BJP govt has gone against constitutional provisions. For instance, privatisation of airports. Imagine the extent to which backward classes will be deprived of job reservation. Despite all this, PM claims he will protect the Constitution, and BJP wants people to believe him

**You think PDA's target audience has been all ears for you?**

■ Yes. People are fed up with Mann ki Baat (PM Modi's radio talk). They want govt to listen to the Constitution instead.

**You were one of the first to say BJP is looking to win 400 seats because they want to change the Constitution. Where did that come from?**

■ People have seen through how BJP govt has gone against constitu-

tional provisions. For instance, privatisation of airports. Imagine the extent to which backward classes and Dalits will be deprived of job reservation. Another example is JNU and BHU. In both universities, the percentage of employees from PDA bracket is less than 15%.

Is there any reservation in class three-four jobs that govt has outsourced? Is there any reservation in appointment of IAS and IPS officers through lateral entry? Such decisions have eroded people's faith and trust in BJP govt. Despite all this, the prime minister claims that he will protect the Constitution, and BJP wants people to believe him.

**In a never-before shift of strategy, SP has fielded only five Yadavs and five Muslim candidates in 2024.**

■ This is based on my 25-year experience in politics. At the risk of sounding boastful I am saying this, but I don't think there is anyone around who has toured across the length and breadth of UP as extensively as we have.

**There is a perception that BJP gets more support from women than other parties, be it because of law and order, free ration or free gas connections.**

■ Whose perception is that? Has this perception stemmed from the recent Nari Shakti Sammelan (addressed by PM) in Varanasi? What about BJP govt's handling of the Manipur crisis where our sisters were disrespected? In Varanasi, police manhandled protesting BHU girl students in hostels. Crime against women and children is on the rise in UP. Real power of women in every family will come when they have money in their bank accounts. INDIA bloc govt will annually transfer Rs 1 lakh to a woman in every poor family, which will be around Rs 8,500 a month. This will actually strengthen a woman's position in every family.

The perception that BJP gets the support of women is like the perception that BJP govt has kept the Indian borders secure.

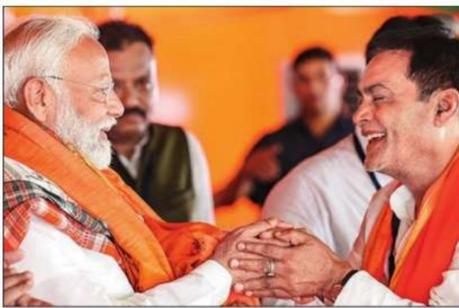
**Are you saying our borders are not secure?**

■ Why is no one talking about why and how the Rezang-la memorial was razed? That memorial was built to remember and salute the valour of a little over 100 Indian soldiers of Kumaon Regiment who fought till the proverbial last man, last round, inflicting over 1,000 casualties on the enemy side. Why is there no word on it?

# PM attacks oppn with 'mujra' dig, Cong calls for 'decorum'

## Modi: Will fight for SC/ST/OBC quota

## RaGa mocks dip in 'dignity of speeches'



PM Modi at a public meeting in Patliputra in Bihar on Saturday

Jai Narain Pandey | TNN

### 'SP bowed down to mafia, gave tickets'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi attacked Samajwadi Party and its chief, Akhilesh Yadav, accusing him on Saturday of "bowing down" to the mafia and even giving them tickets to contest elections.

Addressing an election rally in Ghazipur, PM Modi said, "During their rule, the mafia operated with impunity, brazenly challenging the law from open jeeps and killing rivals, while two to three riots took place each month."

likhwayi hai wo kaan khol kar sun lo, unka jail jane ka countdown shuru ho gaya hai. They will not be spared... this is the NDA govt and Modi's guarantee."

Without naming Tejawshi, who has attended more than 200 election rallies by helicopter, Modi said, "Jaise hin helicopter mein chakkar lagane ka samay pura hua, jail ka rasta tai ho jayega (As soon as the time for helicopter rides ends, the path to jail will open up)."

He cautioned first-time voters against the return of "jungle raj" to Bihar if they voted for opposition alliance.

(With inputs from Alok Chamarja in Sasaram and K Kamlesh in Buxar)

Arjumand Bano | TNN

Goarakhpur: Congress star campaigner Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, criticising PM Narendra Modi's "mujra" remark targeting the INDIA bloc, said on Saturday the PM should "maintain decorum", while her brother, Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, posted on X saying, "Pradhan Mantri ki bhasha ki garima aur Bhajpa ki seatein — dono hi lagatar girti chali ja rahi hai (The dignity of the PM's speeches and BJP's seats continue to fall)."

"Did you listen to Modi's speech in Bihar? He used words for opposition leaders, which have not been used by any PM in the history of this country," Priyanka said at a public meeting to garner votes for INDIA bloc candidates in Gorakhpur and Banskagan seats. She added: "People of the country had imposed their faith in him and trusted him with their future. Even the opposition holds respect for the post of PM. Isn't it Modi's responsibility to treat his position with dignity?"

Priyanka said the PM's way of speaking had exposed him. "Modi ji, aap desh ke pradhan mantri hain. Apne desh ko apne parivar saman kaha hai. Parivar ka jo mukhiya (ko) parivar ke sadayason ke prati ankho ki sharam rakhi chahiye. Afsos ki bat ye hai ki jis tarike se aap bol rahe hain use aapki asiyat dikhai dene lagi hai (Modi ji, you are PM of this country and you have called the people of this nation your family members. As head of this family, you should maintain decorum. But the way you have started talking has exposed your true face)."

Priyanka shared the stage with alliance partner and SP chief Akhilesh Yadav. Greeting the audience with the local Bhajpuri salutation "Raua sabhe ke Ram-Ram (Ram-Ram to you all)",



Rahul Gandhi at an election rally in support of Congress candidate Gurjit Singh Aujla for Lok Sabha polls in Amritsar on Saturday

Priyanka said she was proud to be present in the sacred land of Gorakhpur.

She also invoked Guru Gorakhsanath to lament the "prevalent culture in politics". Akhilesh Yadav urged people to vote for the interests of their future generations. "A wind of change is blowing in Uttar Pradesh," Akhilesh said, adding, "BJP will be wiped out from the nation on June 4."

In Bihar, leader of opposition Tejashwi Prasad Yadav said even the PM's supporters did not like the kind of language Modi was using. RJD Rajya Sabha member Manoj Jha also criticised the PM, saying, "After machhli (fish), mutton and mangalsutra, it is now the turn of mujra. Does it behoove the PM of the country to speak such language?"

Senior Congress functionary Pawan Kherra, who was in Patna on Saturday, also criticised the PM. "Is this the type of language a PM is supposed to use? His mujra remark is making the nation the butt of ridicule. He has also started saying that he is not a biological human being but some divine messenger. The PM seems unaware that the world takes note of all his utterances," said Kherra. (With agency inputs)

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Email: [md.ksmscl@gmail.com](mailto:md.ksmscl@gmail.com)  
No: KSMSC/DRUGS/TND/PRGM/GRUHA AROGYA/ILUCOSTRIPS/04/2024-25 Dated: 24.05.2024

**TENDER NOTIFICATION**  
Ref: 1. Tender Notification No: KSMSC/DRUGS/TND/GRUHA AROGYA/ILUCO STRIPS/04/2024-25, Dated: 24.05.2024, (IND-0116).  
Nationwide Tender is invited through e-Tendering system under KTPP Act 1999 and Rules 2000 for the following tender:  
1. Tender for the supply of GLUCO STRIPS under Gruha Arogya Project 2023-24 (IND-0116).  
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 24.05.2024. 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,  
DIPR/CP/IA/RO131/2024-25 KSMSC, Bengaluru.

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
TENDER NOTICE No. AGC-ELG-T04-2024-25 Date: 24-05-2024  
**E-Tender Notice**  
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (General) N.C. Railway, Agra for and behalf of President of India invites "Open Tender" through on line only (E-Tendering) for the following works.  
Name of work with its location & Completion Period: Electrification work for Track machine satellite depot at Agra cantt.  
Completion period-06 months, Approx. Cost of the work: ₹ 5485383.27/- (including GST) For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) Tenders can only be submitted through web portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) up to 15:00 hrs. on 18-06-2024 910/24(DG)  
North central railways @CPNORCR @northcentralrailway www.norcentralrailways.gov.in

**CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS**  
NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION SCHEDULE  
Sub: Schedule of E-Auction for the month of July' 2024, August' 2024 & September' 2024. It is proposed to hold following e-auction date in the month of July' 2024, August' 2024 & September' 2024. Sl. No.; MONTH; TYPE OF AUCTION; DATE; TIME are as follows: [1]; July' 2024; e-Auction; 11/07/2024 (Thursday), 19/07/2024 (Friday), 26/07/2024 (Friday); 10:00 hrs. [2]; August' 2024; e-Auction; 09/08/2024 (Friday), 29/08/2024 (Thursday); 10:00 hrs. [3]; September' 2024; e-Auction; 12/09/2024 (Thursday), 19/09/2024 (Thursday), 27/09/2024 (Friday); 10:00 hrs. On above mentioned date, time fixing for E-Auction for sale of various types of Vehicles, Crane, Machines i.e. Lathe, Drilling/Milling/Boring, Transformer, Rectifier, Ferrous and Non-ferrous scraps i.e. copper, aluminum etc. Non-ferrous scrap will be sold only to those who are registered by Ministry of Environment & Forest/Govt. of India/New Delhi. One time Registration Fees will be Rupees 10,000/- for each firm (Refundable, if a purchaser deems to permanently withdraw his registration for bidding from Indian Railways e-auction) in forms of Demand Draft in favor of PFA/CLW/Chittaranjan along with Affidavit. Catalogue of materials can be viewed in IREPS website before e-auction date.  
PR3/435 PCMM/CLW/Chittaranjan  
Like us on: [www.facebook.com/clwrailways](http://www.facebook.com/clwrailways)

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
No.: 230-Elect/TRD/PRYJ/EIG/2024 Dated: 22.05.2024  
**PUBLIC NOTIFICATION**  
**INDIAN RAILWAY**  
"Introduction of AC 132 KV Transmission line" "WARNING TO ROAD USERS"  
It is notified for information of the Public that in connection with introduction of 132 KV AC Double circuit transmission line over the section "132 KV Transmission line between tower no. 421 to 426 passing through Raja Jalapur village of Tundla-Ghaziabad section of Prayagraj division over North Central Railway", height gauges have been erected at all the level crossings with clear height of 4.78 mtr above road level with a view to prevent loads of excessive height from coming into contact or dangerous proximity, to live traction wire (Contact Wire) which shall be at a height of minimum 5.5 m above the rail level at level crossings.  
Public are hereby notified to observe the height specified above for the purpose of loading vehicles and to see that the loads carried in road vehicles do not infringe the height gauges under any circumstances.  
The dangers of a load of excessive height are as follows: -  
(1) Danger to the height gauge and consequent obstruction to the road as well as the Railway line. (2) Danger to the materials or equipment carried or the vehicle itself. (3) Danger of fire and risk of life due to contact with or dangerous proximity to the conductors.  
Date of enagisation on or after 10.06.2024  
Sr. Divl. Electrical Engineer [TR-D],  
North Central Railway, Prayagraj  
911/24(A)  
North central railway www.norcentralrailways.gov.in @northcentralrailway

**SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LIMITED**  
CIN: U75302KL2017SGC05027  
**E-TENDER CANCELLATION NOTICE**  
This is to inform all concerned parties that the tendered project of Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Limited, titled "SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, COMMISSIONING, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF VEHICLE MOUNTED HIGH-CAPACITY SUCTION cum JETTING MACHINE," with Tender ID 2024\_SCTLT\_672999-1, has been cancelled. For more details, please visit <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in/> \*\*The above tender is invited through GEM portal\*\*  
(Sd/-) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,  
SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM Ltd.

**MAHARASHTRA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY NAGPUR**  
(Established by Maharashtra Act No.VI of 2014)  
Waranga, PO, Dongargaon (Bulburi), Nagpur - 441108 (Maharashtra)  
**E-Tender Notice for Providing Mess Services**  
Tender Reference Number -[MNLU NAGPUR/MESS/2024/01]  
Tender ID -[2024\_MNLUN\_1039051\_1]  
Date of issue of Tender: May 22, 2024, at 3:00 PM.  
Last date and time for receipt of Bids: June 06, 2024, on or before 3:00 PM.  
Digital signed Online open E-Tenders are invited by Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur for the interested Mess services Provider/ Individuals /Firms/Organization for providing Mess Services for Halls of Residence (Boys and Girls) at Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur. For further details of E-Tender & for Online Participation in E-Tendering, Please visit at <https://mahatenders.gov.in/nicgpp/app>  
Any Corrigendum/addendum can be seen on website <https://mahatenders.gov.in/nicgpp/app> and [www.nlnunagpur.ac.in](http://www.nlnunagpur.ac.in).  
Sd/- Registrar

C/06270/SC/760/15(06)/AG/DV-2  
NR-23361L Lieutenant Seema Yadav  
**ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF THE ARMY STAFF FOR TERMINATION OF SERVICE OF NR-23361L LIEUTENANT SEEMA YADAV OF MILITARY HOSPITAL GWALIOR UNDER SECTION 7 OF THE INDIAN MILITARY NURSING SERVICE ORDINANCE, 1943**  
1. WHEREAS, NR-23361L Lieutenant Seema Yadav, was granted Short Service Commission in the Military Nursing Service on 01 March 2014 and posted to Military Hospital, Gwalior.  
2. AND WHEREAS, while the Nursing Officer was serving at Military Hospital, Gwalior, she absented herself from duty without leave, with effect from 26 July 2014 and continued to remain illegally absent till date.  
3. AND WHEREAS, an Apprehension Roll was issued on 27 August 2014 by Military Hospital, Gwalior to Civil Authorities for her apprehension and handing over to Army Authorities.  
4. AND WHEREAS, a Court of Inquiry was convened on 13 September 2014, to investigate the circumstances under which NR-23361L Lieutenant Seema Yadav absented herself without leave. On conclusion, the said Court of Inquiry declared the Nursing Officer a deserter with effect from 26 July 2014.  
5. AND WHEREAS, the complete facts of the case were placed before the undersigned, who after considering the same, was of the opinion that due to her prolonged absence from duty, further retention in service of NR-23361L Lieutenant Seema Yadav is not desirable and directed to call upon the said Nursing Officer to show cause as to why her services should not be terminated under the provisions of Section 7 of The Indian Military Nursing Service Ordinance, 1943.  
6. AND WHEREAS, in this regard, a Show Cause Notice Number C/06270/SC/760/15(06)/AG/DV-2 dated 24 January 2023, was served at the last known address of the said Nursing Officer, giving her thirty days time to submit her reply thereto.  
7. AND WHEREAS, since, no reply to Show Cause Notice was received from NR-23361L Lieutenant Seema Yadav, the contents of the Show Cause Notice dated 24 January 2023 were published in four newspapers including two National dailies and two Regional newspapers. However, NR-23361L Lieutenant Seema Yadav has neither replied to the Show Cause Notice nor surrendered till date.  
8. AND WHEREAS, it is evident from the above said facts and material on record as well as prolonged absence of over nine years that NR-23361L Lieutenant Seema Yadav is not willing to re-join her duties.  
9. NOW THEREFORE, the undersigned, in exercise of the powers conferred vide Section 7 of The Indian Military Nursing Service Ordinance, 1943, hereby dismiss NR-23361L Lieutenant Seema Yadav from the Indian Military Nursing Service, with immediate effect.  
Signed at New Delhi on this Eighth day of March 2024.  
(Manoj Pande)  
General  
Chief of the Army Staff

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
TENDER NOTICE (Through e-tendering)  
Name of work with its location: Provision of second distant signal on ROK-BTI section of Delhi Division  
App. Cost of the work (₹): ₹8,69,22,727.34 only  
Bid Security (₹): ₹5,84,600/- only  
Address of the office: Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annex-1, DRM Office, New Delhi-110055  
Date & Time for upload the tender/closing of tender: Tender uploading 24.05.2024/ closing date & time 18.06.2024 upto 15:00 hrs.  
Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc: See the Northern Railway website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055  
Tender No.: 558-Sig-16-M-TENDER-1423 Dated: 24.05.2024 1567/2024  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**KARNATAKA STATE MEDICAL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED**  
No.1, Dr. Siddaiah Puranik Road, KHB Colony, Magadi Road, Bengaluru - 560079, Phone: +91-80-29619801  
Email: [md.ksmscl@gmail.com](mailto:md.ksmscl@gmail.com)  
No: KSMSC/DRUGS/TND/PRGM/GRUHA AROGYA/MEDICINE BOX/03/2024-25 Dated: 24.05.2024  
**TENDER NOTIFICATION**  
Ref: 1. Tender Notification No: KSMSC/DRUGS/TND/PRGM/GRUHA AROGYA/MEDICINE BOX/03/2024-25, Dated: 24.05.2024 (IND-0115).  
Nationwide Tender is invited through e-Tendering system under KTPP Act 1999 and Rules 2000 for the following tender:  
1. Tender for the supply of Medicine Boxes under Gruha Arogya Project 2023-24 (IND-0115).  
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 24.05.2024. 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,  
DIPR/CP/RO130/AAPL/2024-25 KSMSC, Bengaluru.

**Public Works Department Sector-19, North Block, Naya Raipur (C.G.)**  
E-Procurement Tender Notice  
E-mail : [tenders-pwd.cg@gov.in](mailto:tenders-pwd.cg@gov.in)  
NIT No. 003/TC/EinC/ PWD/2024-25 Dated- 20.05.2024  
The Engineer-in-Chief, Public Works Department on behalf of Governor of Chhattisgarh invites percentage rate bids on electronic tendering system under RCPLEW RRP-III in the district of Kanker, A.Chowki-Mohla-Manpur, Bijapur for construction of 07 Bridges with estimated cost amounting Rs 1631.87 Lacs including their maintenance for five years from the contractors registered with unified registration system (e-registration) in Chhattisgarh. Non registered bidders may submit bid; however the successful bidder must get registered in appropriate class under "Unified Registration System (e-Registration) of Chhattisgarh before signing the agreement.  
The bid document shall be available to bidders online free of cost and should be submitted online e-procurement system of government of Chhattisgarh in <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>. Bids form will be available on the website from 21.05.2024 and may be submitted up to 17:00 Hrs. on 06.06.2024.  
For participating in bidding process, bidders are required to register in the above web-site with nominal fee of Rs 500/- to be paid online to service provider. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from authorized certifying authorities.  
The bidders are required to submit (a) original bid security in approved form and (b) original affidavit duly verified and notarized as per clause 4.4 B (a) (ii) and 4.4 B (c) to Chief Engineer, Tender Cell, First Floor, NirmanBhawan, PWD, North Block, Sector-19, Naya Raipur Atal Nagar (C.G.) 492-002 as per provisions of bid document through Speed/ Registered post, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.  
Detailed schedule of important dates may be seen on notice board of offices and also available on website of Public Works Department <http://pwd.cg.nic.in>  
Sd/-  
Chief Engineer  
(Central Tender Cell)  
Office of Engineer-in-Chief  
P.W.D. Naya Raipur Atal Nagar (C.G.)  
G-242500067/6

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### AGARWAL-BISA

**SUITABLE** Match for Bansal boy 5'8", 21.07.1991, 05.03 PM, Ghaziabad (UP), B.Tech, MBA, own factory, Non Manglik. Contact: 98185 98801

**FAIR**, well edu wrking girl 4 Fair, smart US-CPA (US/CA) Hrg boy, 5'10 30.6.90/Delhi born. In US Firm 24 Pk Income Parents Doctors. M: 971659213

**SM4** Bisa Agarwal Manglik Pbd based boy 6'2" / 6-3-95 / 3-33 pm / Faridabad/SW Engineer. Bangalore. MNC 45LPA Whtsapp 9958493377

**SUITABLE** match for 39/169 MS Ph D working in US Will settle in India Delhi based family M: 70493014305, E-mail: kpvish@gmail.com

**FSOM** Fair B.Tech Boy, 5'8", Mar'94 Wkg in U.K., Top MNC, H'som Pkg. UP bsd fmly. Seeks PQ b'ful wkg girl. Caste no bar. Em: aayur.rastogi89@gmail.com

**WKG**/homely M4 fair/h'some Bisa Agarwal Garga gorta boy 30/57" MBA,Wkg in Gurgaon, Living in own house at Janak puri, Delhi. Call W/S: 9818829774

**IAS** Garg Smart boy 34/54" Seeks Teetotaler Non vegetarian Professionally Qualified Slim B'ful Girl Mob: 9871011082, 9810680054

**HIGHLY** Qld IAS, IRS, IPS, IES, IIT, IIM, MS 10-70Lpa, 27-47yrs/5'4". 6' grooms for high status family prof. qld girls. # 9415580863, 9958658723

**PQ** compatible suitable match for fair h'som tall Bisa Agrawal 28/181, IIT, IIM boy, working MNC. Father CA. Lucknow based family Wtsap 9834949054

**UP** bsd Agwi boy Dec.82/5'8" B.Tech MBA, Pless Div Wkg. MNC Gurgaon 28 LPA. Sd in Delhi seeks ed in 9871032142 E: agarwaldehiv107@gmail.com

**SM4** NCR Based Jain Boy 30/51" /B'ALL/Sr Associate Wkg in T2 Law Firm 18 LPA Seeks CA CS LLB LLM fair Girl CNB WA/S: 9871672531

**EXCEPTIONALLY** Beautiful, Homly, Below 27 Years Girl For Bisa Agrawal Engineer From Affluent Family, 65 Lpa, Whtsapp: 9968990328.

**SM** for Fair Gupta boy 29/51" /M,MS/CS, S/W Eng in Toronto, Canada, PR, salary(1crore+). Contact Padma 9811662971

**B.TECH** MBA-IIT Saraswat Brahmin only son 29/57" MNC Ggn 15LPA Father Retd. Dy Dir Gen Delhi NCR Prof. BHMS Sr.Vr. 9809906497

**B.TECH** / IT Boy 31Y/56" wkg MNC Chandigarh seeks educated sanskari Brahmin girl. Father Retd. Smt. 203 serv. # 7986674636/9868012062

**MATCH** for Sept 91/510' boy Gaur Brahmin Mumbai Own business Contact 9820101342

**PQM** for Ghaziabad Brahmin Boy 5'4.5", 1993 born, B.Tech MBA, Product Manager in a reputed company Noida, 24 LPA. Father EVP Bajaj auto group companies. Whatsapp: 9953301771

**KKB** Bhardwaj,veg 25/57", MBA,25LPA,wkg MNC Dubai reqd equally qualified,cultured, fmly oriented Girl. Saryuparin also accepted. # 9811668027

**TALL** girl for Punjabi Saraswat Brahmin 6'1", 29. B.Tech, MNC Gurgaon, 33 LPA. Veg teetotaler. WhatsApp 8800632108

**SM 4** NCR based Gaur Brahmin Non Manglik 24/59"/Diploma Engg Own B'ness Delhi. Father Retd. MCD Engn Seeks Qld B'ful Girl # 880617300

**PUNE** Based, Well Established Maharashtra Brahmin Business Family invites Alliance For Their 1993 Born, 5'10" Tall Son, BA LLB, Engaged In Family Business From Smart, Professionally Qualified Girls From Reputed Family. Email Us At: oursons.wedding2024@gmail.com

**GOUR** Brahmin Kaushik Gotra 16.04.90/5'11" B.Tech M.S. (London) 1.5 Cr PA, LLB MBBS/BDS/CA/Arch in WUP/Delhi NCR. 9810995331

**HIGH-STATUS** respected Brahmin industrialist seeks a b'ful girl for his only son 30/510 based in Delhi/Ncr 7417330177, ks4986@gmail.com

**B.TECH** Wkg boy PSB Oct 92/57" Wkg MNC Delhi NCR 22 LPA. Parents in Govt. Jobs seeks qual educated wkg/non-wkg girl 9871536181

**SUT** Empld M4 Delhi Gr Br N Mglk Bachelors Boy 32 Yr/5'8"BE(H), BITS Pilani, ASO Delhi Govt. (Dass Gr-B), Father Adm. Sibling Younger Sis. Admin HR Big 4 WA 9355621818 Marriage Bureau excuse.

**SEP** 78/57" athletic Mumbai issues divorce BA (Eco) Swedish MNC 22LPA. Veg teetotaler. Caste no bar. Email: partner\_2024@yahoo.com

**M4** aadi nadi h'some NMI boy Adv own prac. eng. 6 fig. CS (Ex) MBA LLM 510", 23.3.1987. WApp 8130072844, 011-78657559 vishkarma910151@gmail.com

**DELHI** Based Brahmin M.Tech Boy 28/58"/18LPA Wkg in reputed MNC. Prof. Delhi NCR Based Wkg Girl. Mob no: 8070946467

**SM4** Brahmin boy, 1991/5'8", Delhi, MS, Ph.D & Wkg in USA. Seeks well edu & Upper caste girl who is wrkg/willing to move USA # 8929241030

**SM4** Bhardwaj Br. Dhiman, MCA 31/87/57" Wkg S/W Eng MNC in Noida 30-Lpa, Gzb based Veg. fmly Caste no bar # 9871842271, 9035117840

**SM4** 29/61" MS (CS) USA, Senior S/W Developer (USA) Seeks S/W Professionals, MS (CS) pref. M: 941591767 (W), Marriage Bureau Excuse.

**WANTED** Bride (Doctor) for son pursuing MD Pharmacology in reputed Medical College, 26.5 years, Tall, Handsome Fair Brahmin Gotra Bhardwaj. Please contact 8168129477 (call or WtsApp)

**SM4**, 28, 5'11", Sandhya boy of western UP, Assnt Eng in WRD, Govt. of Jharkhand, prefer govt. officer girl. # 9410066422, 7906209101

**SM4** Brahmin Boy, 41/510", unmarried ASst. Professor Pvt. College, Owner of Flat & also a coaching centre, caste no bar, no dowry, Early Marriage through Temple/Cour # 9566223904

**CA** Boy 33/57"10" WKNG Manager, Govt. PSU 30LPA, Father Retd. Chief Engn PSU. Seeks Good looking, edu. girl 8707648694, 9711488667.

**SEPT** 1996/57"CA (Int), LLM, Smart, Caring & well educated Srivastava boy of affluent business family from Lucknow, owner of chain of reputed educational institutions looking for suitable, beautiful girl. Caste No Bar. W/Call: 6380685394, vkscgc@gmail.com

**SEEK** b'ful tall PQ Girl all upper cast fmly for h'some KY boy 34/51" B.Tech/ MBA Big5, Assoc Dir Ggram 50L+. Father UP Govt Cl Lko # 9935028988

**SAXENA** 32/56", B.Tech, MNC 24 LPA (WFH), Own house, seeks c'd B'ful girl (PQ) wkg. Lko bsd fmly prfd. Upper Caste no bar. # 9451381067

**SAXENA** boy 35/56", Post Graduate, 24k as Asst. Director Editor 14.5 LPA seeks qualified working girl. Contact: 9811612964

**SAXENA** V. Fair MCA Feb85/59"NM, ASSOCIATE MANAGER MNC Noida 36LPA, Nvr married young look Father Asst. Director Rtd. delhi/ry/Maria#958959675

**SAXENA** V. Fair Boy, Sep 92/55", B.Tech/MS (US), Wkg in MNC in California, US, ICR+, Seeks PQSM, caste no bar. Contact: 8319703484, 9425341422

**SAXENA** smart Boy 28/6" B.Tech MBA 32LPA MNC Gurugram seeks B'ful Prof. Qual. Non Manglik wrking girl upper cast No Bar 9621666733

**PQM4** 30/59" B.Tech boy wkg MNC GGN 30 LPA, Father Retd, Gazetted officer abroad. Contact: 989755883, Wapp 8004981961

**KAYASTHA** h'some boy 30/58" N.M. B.Tech, M.S. (IV League) working in USA. 1.5 Cr/A UP based family seeks b'ful girl for son # 9415389881

**PQSM** for NMI, B.Tech, MBA, Saxena boy Mar 87/59" working in MNC in Paris. France. 9871703407, neelamsaxena24@gmail.com

**SM4** boy 57/29yrs, B.Tech IIT DELHI, Own start up & CGN bsd fmly of Doc. Eng. prf. CA, Arch, Doc, Engn. B'ful girl, upper casteb'ar. W/call 9654123300

**SAXENA** 29/57" B.Tech, MNC 65- LPA, seeks cultured B'ful girl (B.Tech, MBA) wkg. Lko base family prfd. Upper Caste no bar: 8318288351

**SM4** for smart fair boy B.Tech, MNC 65- LPA, seeks cultured B'ful girl (B.Tech, MBA) wkg. Lko base family prfd. Upper Caste no bar: 8318288351

**HOMELY** working girl for separated issues less 38 years/5'7" B.Tech, MBA, working in MNC 16LPA Email-biodata, in lettucaul0357@gmail.com

**WANTED** Beautiful Bride for Kavastha India. For Serv. officer 32/170cm B.Tech M.Tech from IIT Kanpur. Father Rnowned Neurologist Pwning Hospital. 986570572 drspradhan@rediffmail.com

**MATHUR** 37/57", B.Tech, Manager in a PSU-FI, Presently posted at Lucknow. Recently divorced, Issueless, well-placed family seeks suitable Mather/Kayastha match. M-918400981

**KAYASTHA** B'ful, edu. Bride ready to relocate to Pune for Serv. officer 32/170cm B.Tech M.Tech from IIT Kanpur. Father Rnowned Neurologist Pwning Hospital. 986570572 drspradhan@rediffmail.com

**SRIVASTAVA** 27/510", B.Tech, MBA (IM), MS (USA), Data scientist in US Govt org. seeks b'ful girl. WhtsApp: 7905791598, 7905840618

**JPR** (Raj) Bsd Engk MS USA 35/56" B.Tech, (UK) MS (USA) MBA (USA) Seeking wkg Uv/ Indian (willing to move USA) upper caste girl 9414311212

**MATHUR**, Jaipur bsd MBA B.Tech fair, 93/107", handsome Boy Wrkg MNC in Bgr Seeks PQ Girl Ftr Mthr both Doctors. WApp # 9414618676, 9414618674

**SM4** Brahmin Boy, 41/510", unmarried ASst. Professor Pvt. College, Owner of Flat & also a coaching centre, caste no bar, no dowry, Early Marriage through Temple/Cour # 9566223904

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**HOMELY** working girl for separated issues less 38 years/5'7" B.Tech, MBA, working in MNC 16LPA Email-biodata, in lettucaul0357@gmail.com

**WANTED** Beautiful Bride for Kavastha India. For Serv. officer 32/170cm B.Tech M.Tech from IIT Kanpur. Father Rnowned Neurologist Pwning Hospital. 986570572 drspradhan@rediffmail.com

**MATHUR** 37/57", B.Tech, Manager in a PSU-FI, Presently posted at Lucknow. Recently divorced, Issueless, well-placed family seeks suitable Mather/Kayastha match. M-918400981

**KAYASTHA** B'ful, edu. Bride ready to relocate to Pune for Serv. officer 32/170cm B.Tech M.Tech from IIT Kanpur. Father Rnowned Neurologist Pwning Hospital. 986570572 drspradhan@rediffmail.com

**SRIVASTAVA** 27/510", B.Tech, MBA (IM), MS (USA), Data scientist in US Govt org. seeks b'ful girl. WhtsApp: 7905791598, 7905840618

**JPR** (Raj) Bsd Engk MS USA 35/56" B.Tech, (UK) MS (USA) MBA (USA) Seeking wkg Uv/ Indian (willing to move USA) upper caste girl 9414311212

**MATHUR**, Jaipur bsd MBA B.Tech fair, 93/107", handsome Boy Wrkg MNC in Bgr Seeks PQ Girl Ftr Mthr both Doctors. WApp # 9414618676, 9414618674

**SM4** Brahmin Boy, 41/510", unmarried ASst. Professor Pvt. College, Owner of Flat & also a coaching centre, caste no bar, no dowry, Early Marriage through Temple/Cour # 9566223904

**CA** Boy 33/57"10" WKNG Manager, Govt. PSU 30LPA, Father Retd. Chief Engn PSU. Seeks Good looking, edu. girl 8707648694, 9711488667.

**SEPT** 1996/57"CA (Int), LLM, Smart, Caring & well educated Srivastava boy of affluent business family from Lucknow, owner of chain of reputed educational institutions looking for suitable, beautiful girl. Caste No Bar. W/Call: 6380685394, vkscgc@gmail.com

**SEEK** b'ful tall PQ Girl all upper cast fmly for h'some KY boy 34/51" B.Tech/ MBA Big5, Assoc Dir Ggram 50L+. Father UP Govt Cl Lko # 9935028988

**SAXENA** 32/56", B.Tech, MNC 24 LPA (WFH), Own house, seeks c'd B'ful girl (PQ) wkg. Lko bsd fmly prfd. Upper Caste no bar. # 9451381067

**SAXENA** boy 35/56", Post Graduate, 24k as Asst. Director Editor 14.5 LPA seeks qualified working girl. Contact: 9811612964

**SAXENA** V. Fair MCA Feb85/59"NM, ASSOCIATE MANAGER MNC Noida 36LPA, Nvr married young look Father Asst. Director Rtd. delhi/ry/Maria#958959675

**SAXENA** V. Fair Boy, Sep 92/55", B.Tech/MS (US), Wkg in MNC in California, US, ICR+, Seeks PQSM, caste no bar. Contact: 8319703484, 9425341422

**SAXENA** smart Boy 28/6" B.Tech MBA 32LPA MNC Gurugram seeks B'ful Prof. Qual. Non Manglik wrking girl upper cast No Bar 9621666733

**PQM4** 30/59" B.Tech boy wkg MNC GGN 30 LPA, Father Retd, Gazetted officer abroad. Contact: 989755883, Wapp 8004981961

**KAYASTHA** h'some boy 30/58" N.M. B.Tech, M.S. (IV League) working in USA. 1.5 Cr/A UP based family seeks b'ful girl for son # 9415389881

**PQSM** for NMI, B.Tech, MBA, Saxena boy Mar 87/59" working in MNC in Paris. France. 9871703407, neelamsaxena24@gmail.com

**SM4** boy 57/29yrs, B.Tech IIT DELHI, Own start up & CGN bsd fmly of Doc. Eng. prf. CA, Arch, Doc, Engn. B'ful girl, upper casteb'ar. W/call 9654123300

**SAXENA** 29/57" B.Tech, MNC 65- LPA, seeks cultured B'ful girl (B.Tech, MBA) wkg. Lko base family prfd. Upper Caste no bar: 8318288351

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# India's temple artisans are carving out global careers

Kamini Mathai & Sneha Bhura | TNN

When you drive down to the coastal town of Mammallapuram, also known as Mahabalipuram and famous for its spectacular 7th-century monuments, you're likely to breeze past the Tamil Nadu Government College of Architecture and Sculpture without even noticing it. Yet, this one-of-a-kind institution has been quietly teaching traditional temple architecture for the past 67 years. While even IITs struggle with placements, alumni here are in high demand these days, thanks to a temple building spree both in India and abroad.

"People everywhere want to reconnect with their Hindu heritage now, and what better way to do this than by building a temple?" says Nishanth Manoharan, an alumnus of the college who is currently in Reunion Island, a French overseas territory in the Indian Ocean, working on his 20th temple. It's probably his fifth or sixth stint on the island, as Nishanth says he has lost count because clients keep sending for him. With more than a third of Reunion Island's population being Indian, building temples is more of a status symbol now. "Almost every family here wants to outdo the other with a temple. You'll find temples everywhere, from the middle of fields to housing colonies. For me, it's steady income, and

With more temples coming up across the world, skilled architects, sculptors and artisans from TN, Guj and Rajasthan are in high demand



**SACRED CROSSOVERS:** Traditional Sompura craftsmen from Gujarat work on an upcoming Jain temple in Melbourne

more than I will earn working on a farm," says Nishanth, whose father is a farmer in Tamil Nadu.

Mohammed Ajmal, craftsman and managing director of Marble Art Palace in Jaipur, says assignments are coming even from Africa. "In Nairobi, Kenya which has a well-established and wealthy Indian community, we are currently finishing work on two temples. Now, we are getting orders from Tanzania," says Ajmal, whose family has been in the business of stone inlay work, also called Pietra Dura (Italian) or parchin kari (Persian), for years. Ajmal and his team also executed parchin kari work on the pillars and interior walls of the

Sheikh Zayed grand mosque, and is currently consulting on detailing work at the recently inaugurated BAPS Hindu mandir in Abu Dhabi. After an initial site visit, most of the commissions are prepared in their factories in Rajasthan. "A Gujarati client in Nairobi, who has dedicated his life to the maintenance of temples and religious community centres, recently got his whole house designed like a temple," adds Ajmal, who has 35 artisans working under him.

Ahmedabad-based temple architect Rajesh Sompura and his team of over 400 skilled craftsmen too have a global footprint. "After the consecration of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, the demand for Hindu, Jain and Swaminarayan temples has gone up. We have been active in building temples mostly in the US, Australia and the UK. Now, we are also getting calls from places like Gibraltar, Madagascar and Portugal," says Sompura. Parts of the temple — designed, carved and polished in India — are shipped to be assembled by master craftsmen who travel on temporary religious worker visas to international locations where local temple committees take care of their food and lodging. "No steel is used in our constructions and structures

are erected according to shilpa-shastra and vastu-shastra. However, our traditional architects are well-versed with technology and work with specialists to convert traditional sketches into AutoCAD drawings," says Sompura. He is currently overseeing the construction of a Jain temple in Melbourne for which craftsmen from India are set to travel in six months' time. "Building temples is a lot of hard work in terms of physical labour but the new generation is not too keen to continue the tradition. Sompura shilpkars (artisans) will be needed in larger numbers in the coming days," says Rajesh.

One reason for this, as art historian Vidya Dehejia writes, is that through temple-building activities, the diaspora is "seeking its roots". According to her, the US alone has at least 450 Hindu temples, many of them in the South Indian model because Ganapati Sthapati and Muthiah Sthapati, deities of South Indian architecture, were willing to travel to the US, work with members of the diaspora in the planning stages, and send skilled workers from India.

Global opportunities may have increased but not everyone gets to travel abroad. Kashi-based sculptor Kanhaiya Lal Sharma, who has been roped in to create replica statues of Ram Lalla in black stone to be shipped to countries across Europe — commissioned by the Eter-Bliss Foundation, which promotes sanatana dharma — works from his hometown. "I have just sent one over 5-ft tall statue for a Hanuman mandir in Amsterdam to

## OF HE-STONES AND SHE-WOOD

Along with monuments, genders are also set in stone at the Tamil Nadu Government College of Architecture and Sculpture. "A he-stone makes a rich sound when you tap it and is used to sculpt the male deity for the temple," says Srinivasan, faculty at the stone sculpturing department. The more high-pitched stones are for female deities. Dull-sounding stones (called 'she-male' stones), though stronger, are more likely to chip and, therefore, used for support structures in temples. "We didn't define the terms. They are written in the Sirpachenoal, the textbook we follow here," Srinivasan adds. The same goes for wood — categorised as he-wood, she-wood and transgender wood. "He-wood is strong and thick; she-wood tree has a wide base and good fragrance; transgender wood has a weak base and is used to make doorways, never for the deities. Our architecture is rooted in ancient Sangam literature," says Kennedy S, faculty at the wood carving department.



be inaugurated on July 21. Another 8-ft one is for London. I haven't visited these places. But people like my work," says Sharma, who started crafting Ram Lalla replicas right after the Ayodhya temple opened to the public on January 22.

Sculptors like K Ramesh of the Mammallapuram-based Manasa Wood Creations have seen their turnover triple over the past couple of years. "I've just hit Rs 1.5 crore," says Ramesh, who recently shot to the limelight for building 44 massive and heavily carved wooden doors for the Ram temple in Ayodhya. Ramesh, who has built temples, doors and chariots in South-East Asia and Europe, makes at least six overseas trips a year for work, and has now started recruiting and training youngsters in the trade to meet rising demand. "I am recruiting from the architecture college but now, I need way more than they can supply," he says.

**INLAY MAN:** Mohd Ajmal (left) from Jaipur has worked on both a mandir and masjid in UAE



# Jatt but no Juliets: Haryana's singles stay away from ballot box

Himanshi Dhawan  
@timesgroup.com

They have inspired memes, suffered jokes and loneliness but now Haryana's bachelors have decided to put their foot down. On Saturday, when Haryana citizens lined up to vote, 'randas' (as single/widowed men are called) stuck to their 'no bride, no ballot' slogan. First spurned by women and now by politicians, they felt a poll boycott was their only way to register a protest.

Virender Sangwan, president of Samast Avivahit Purush Samaj (Bachelors' Union) and Ekikrit Randa Union (Widowers' Union), says the humiliation proved to be too much. "If the government that is run by a randa does not come through on its promise, then why should we become a vote bank for them," he asks. The 43-year-old resident of Mayra Piyau village in Haryana's Rewari district is referring to the Manohar Lal Khattar gov't's unkept promise of a monthly pension of Rs 3,000 for singles between 45-60 years of age.

In just Sangwan's village, there are about 120 men who are single and are considered 'rejects'. There are some larger villages where the number goes up to 500 men. In fact, the two bachelor unions have a combined strength of 1.25 lakh registered members. Haryana has an estimated population of 7 lakh single/widowed men above the age of 40 years.

It's not the first time the lack of brides has become a poll issue. Back in 2014, voters delivered uti-

matums like 'bahu dilao, vote pao' but politicians have never delivered, quite understandably so since a wife is no freebie to be handed around.

## IMPORTED BRIDE SCAM

To get married, a groom must either get a government job or have a significant amount of land. The wealthier lot can import brides from states like Bihar, UP, Rajasthan, Kerala and West Bengal. This is not without problems either with many women facing adjustment issues related to culture and language. But 46-year-old Virender Doon, who is unmarried, says that after the initial success in importing brides, the whole thing has turned into a scam. "Many people bring brides from Bihar, Bengal, and Odisha after paying the family Rs 1.5-3 lakh. Families give jewellery, clothes to the new bride who stays for a couple of days, and then disappears with the money and the gifts," he says. About 50-60 people have been defrauded like this in Doon's village of Petwal, in Hissar, he says.

## SINGLE STIGMA

But it is much harder for the economically weak to snag a match. Doon says, "We are stigmatised and treated like untouchables in our own village. We are considered symbols of misfortune, so we are not invited to family functions or

Chad Crowe



# ASTROLOGY gets hipster makeover, draws Gen Z crowd

Sneha Bhura | @timesgroup.com

When 23-year-old Khyati Malik attended an 'energy exchange' ceremony in April, she didn't tell her friends for fear of them saying 'kya jadoo tona karne gayee thi' (what's this voodoo thing you went for?). "But the very next day, I got a paid make-up gig for a music shoot. People may say what they want but I was in my 'receiving energy' period for this to happen," believes the Delhi-based MBA aspirant who paid Rs 1,800 for the celestial ceremony.

Malik joined a group of women — led by an 'inner child healer' and 'wellness facilitator' — at a South Delhi rooftop for a series of rituals to 'manifest abundance' in her career. The ceremony included breathwork, journaling, drawing of symbols, drinking an astro-herbal concoction, and 'banishing' acts like writing one's fears in a piece of paper and burning it. They all proclaimed their wishes with a celebratory dance under the April moon.

Stern old men preaching how to fix a 'mangal dosh' or to 'marry a tree' may be considered horse-and-buggy in urban India, but that doesn't mean woo woo stuff is out. Anxious urban youth are turning to a more self-help brand of astrology playing out on YouTube channels, Spotify playlists, podcasts by hipster psychics and lifestyle apps like Co-Star (which uses artificial intelligence to generate readings).

## INTERNET-SAVVY JYOTISH

So much is the demand that some youngsters are turning it into a career. Bengaluru-based Surabhi Bhura, who ditched her corporate job in 2020 to jumpstart her astrology company, The House of Intuition, says she is booked for months in advance, with clients across age groups in 22 countries, including Sima Taparia of 'Indian Matchmaking' fame. "Astrology is like doing predictive analysis for a company with directional data," says the 28-year-old MBA grad.

A nineties kid would typically be dragged by the parents to the family jyotish in a bid

From matching zodiac signs on Tinder to attending celestial ceremonies and tarot readings, urban youth are still looking to the stars



**ON THE CARDS:** Tarot influencer Zohra Shakti has over 29k followers and writes horoscopes in a fashion magazine

to know the time of marriage, whether the daughter will get an NRI groom, or the son has career prospects abroad. "But those born in 2000 and after usually ask about money, what their hidden qualities are, and how that can be capitalised to excel at work. Even young boys are happy to flaunt crystals that align with their stars," says Bhura.

Yash Vardhan Agarwal, a 23-year-old pastry chef who worked in France for some years before moving to hometown Kolkata, says his Vedic astrologer is also in her twenties and completely gets him. "It's a great tool for self-discovery and decision-making. It gives me the bandwidth to take certain hits in life," says Agarwal, who feels things had slowed down for him once during a period of 'Shani Saade Sati' (entry of Saturn). He says he is better prepared with monthly tarot readings,

bi-annual horoscope and birth chart analysis, and some mental health counselling.

## ASTRO-DATING

Even dating apps like Tinder are encouraging users to flash their sun signs, and teaming up with zodiac experts to familiarise concepts like 'Juno sign', 'destiny matrix' and 'Venus in retrograde'. A Tinder study revealed that 30% of Gen Zs globally admit to checking a date's star sign before meeting up with them. "It was a Taurus date who taught me the importance of rising and moon signs, which are great filters. You don't want to match with anyone and everyone anymore," says Joshua Benjamin, a 27-year-old marketing consultant from Kolkata.

Goa-based tarot influencer Zohra Shakti aka Woodstock Witch says even the lingo has changed. "Saying that Jupiter and Venus are kissing in the sky will mean nothing to you. But if I explain that you are stepping into a period where you will harness your creative power to the fullest, it will make more sense, right?" says Shakti, who practices in cafes and music festivals. What of those who dismiss her craft as unscientific and exploitative? "I am not here to convince anyone. A square life is a boring one. It's no fun without a little bit of magic," she says.

Romance and relationships still get top billing when it comes to queries, but other concerns are catching up. "I do more divorce, separation and reconciliation readings now. Clients want to know when their situationships will end or what they should look for in a man," says Bhura, adding that lunar cycle analysis and the emotional impact of planetary transits are the most trending content on social media.

## IMPORTED SPIRITUALITY

It is for these full moon, new moon (or even pink moon) events in Goa and Dharamshala that Fakirah shows up as an 'Ecstatic Dance DJ'. Three years ago, while DJ-ing in Goa, he met a group of travellers from Guatemala. Together, they formed a team offering 'cecaal ceremony and ecstatic dance' at celestial events that draw the 25-



40 age group. "Ecstatic dance is just like jagran, only it originated in Hawaii. We try to create a journey inward with electronic, Indian classical music, and Middle-Eastern and Arabic tunes, followed by 'healing' songs from South America. It's a safe space where there's no judgement on how you dance," says Fakirah.

Instead of alcohol, meat or dairy, they extol the many medicinal virtues of cacao (around 20 gm per person). "Through a Mayan ritual, we talk about the mind calendar and energies of different moon phases before offering this cacao to people. It opens up their heart chakras," claims Fakirah. Delhi and Mumbai have also begun hosting cacao ceremonies.

## Dating apps encourage users to flash their sun signs, even roping in zodiac experts to familiarise terms like 'Juno sign', and 'Venus in retrograde'. A Tinder study revealed that 30% of Gen Zs globally check a date's star sign before meeting up

So why are young people looking to the stars? Mumbai-based rationalist Mukta Dabholkar says some things don't change. "We are continually asked about the divide between rural and urban and old and young when it comes to astrology and other allied practices. But even though the nature of superstitious beliefs change over time and space, the core idea remains the same — everybody is seeking relief or a solution based on external predictions," says Dabholkar. Her advice is not to spend money, time and emotional energy on a "fantasy ride". "Although hope is a good thing, this approach is never really harmless, especially when important life decisions are based on it. When the going gets tough, it's better to seek a mental health specialist to build resilience."

Many people bring brides from Bihar, Bengal, and Odisha after paying the family ₹1.5-3 lakh. Families give jewellery, clothes to the new bride who stays for a couple of days, and then disappears with the money and gifts

— VIRENDER DOON, 46-YEAR-OLD BACHELOR



celebrations." In a close-knit community, even small gestures of discrimination hurt, like not being asked to come inside the house for a glass of lassi for fear that the unmarried man might eye the women in the house.

The men complain that stigma follows them to the city if they migrate. "Housing societies do not rent rooms to single men and the kind of jobs that are given are also menial," says Sangwan, who works as a security guard.

The insults have even led to YouTube skits like 'Randa SHO' with over a lakh in views that shows a cop who fails to command respect in his village as he desperately seeks a bride. His attempts to impress a prospective match — despite the display of land and influence — fail, and he is hounded by creditors and is even upstaged by a junior constable who seems to have a beautiful girlfriend. There are sympathetic songs as well like 'Call me Randa' or just 'Randa' whose lyrics go "rande humne bhayane se, inke bhi bhag jagane se" (We will get the single man married and his fate will improve).

But bachelor jokes aside, randas say they have much to contribute and can work with the government in conducting raids on illegal testing centres and abortion clinics. "We have suggested that we could carry out stings, spread awareness and help check foeticide. We know which doctor is conducting surreptitious illegal tests and which family already has two girls and does not want another," Sangwan says. Now, if only the other side would agree, it would be a match made in heaven.

## INQUIZITIVE

by JOY BHATTACHARJYA

1 Which series of stories, written by Belgian Georges Remi relates the adventures of a reporter, starting in the Soviet Union and ending in the fictional South American country of San Theodoros?

2 For what specific reason was a heavyweight boxing match between Evander Holyfield and

Mike Tyson in 1997 stopped by the referee Mills Lane?

3 The Costume Institute Benefit is an annual fundraising festival held in the first Monday of May in New York and is regarded as the most prestigious and glamorous fashion event on the planet. By what two word name is it better known?

4 With what specific annual event would you associate the following commercial entities — DLF, Pepsi, Vivo, Dream XI and Tata?



5 Which Indian nature reserve, which gets its name from a specific type of tree, is home to

the river terrapin, the royal Bengal Tiger, the saltwater crocodile and the Ganges river dolphin?

6 Which Indian state capital has a significant population of Nyishi, Adi, Apatani and Tagin tribals with Nishi, Bengali and Adi being the most spoken languages?

7 With which specific European nation would you associate the Goulash, a stew of meat and vegetables seasoned with paprika and other spices?

8 Alnitak, Alnilama and Minkata are all blue supergiants. Which fairly visible astronomical entity do they make up?

9 With which 2007 film did actor Aamir Khan make his first film as director?

10 This year, Paris will become the second city to host three Summer Olympic Games. Which was the first?



## ANSWERS

- 1 | Tintin, Georges Remi is better known after the Sundart tree
- 2 | Tyson was disqualified for hitting Holyfield on both ears
- 3 | The Met Gala
- 4 | IPL, all title sponsors
- 5 | The Sunderbans 1948 and 2008, 10 | London, 1908, 9 | Taare Zameen Par Three Sisters
- 6 | Arunachal Pradesh
- 7 | Hungary
- 8 | Orion's Belt or the Sword
- 9 | Rang De Basanti
- 10 | Athens, 1896

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**SM for Kapoor Boy** 9 Oct 87/ 9.45am, 5'3" BBS-IHM, Aust. Citizen, Wkg. Std fmly. Own house in Delhi. Boy in Delhi for 2 mths. # 9310542037, 9873083774

**PQM for Arora Boy** 8 Oct 87/ 9.45am, 5'3" BBS-IHM, Aust. Citizen, Wkg. Std fmly. Own house in Delhi. Boy in Delhi for 2 mths. # 9310542037, 9873083774

**OUR son**, 29, "5'10", MA in Mass Communication, works in the creative department of an IT MNC in Pune. We are a well-settled, affluent, professional family. Seeking a cosmopolitan girl with good family values. Whatsapp-9850044768

**WANTED** B'ful Punjabi/ Hindu professional girl for h'some Btech punjabi boy 32/ 5'11" wkg in US MNC posted at Ggn, 23LPA. # 8874157125

**MANGLIK** Arora Pb Boy CA Fee 98/57/10+ Ipa Noida seeks CA/CS/ Govt. Job B'ful Girl. Caste No Bar, Mbi: 9810546847, mail:vahegur1968@gmail.com

**BRIDE** wanted for Delhi based Punjabi MBA from Affluent Family 9/9/88 Born 5.10 Working in MNC Package 30L. Cont: 9811023879, 9811013879

**SM4** Punjabi Khatri Boy, 57, 4/5/82, 10.05am Lucknow, MBA wkg in Pvt bank, 2LPA, parent income 10LPA Delhi based fmly, own house Wapp 9990937088

**UP** Khatri h'some fair boy born Boreilly/09/82/1965/37 B.Tech.wkg Continental B'lone, 23LPA. Status Reputed family, Whatsapp:987029976,9411259510

**ALLIANCE** for widower healthy Sikh retired Army Brigadier 66/17cm, owns flat in NCR, two daughters married settled abroad. Preferably Sikh/Punjabi unmarried/ widor WITH NO CHILDREN to contact 9654443487 & ksrrocket1957@gmail.com

**SINDHI**

**ALLIANCE** invited for Anis Shahid, Gyn. M.S. in Information Systems from USA. Residing in San Francisco. Age 30, 5', 77 kgs. Well educated, cultured girl from USA or India. Caste no bar. timesrisha@gmail.com

**WANTED** Bride (Sindhi) 29/5'11" Education, M.Tech. Working MNC in Amazon, Pkg. 2 Cr. (Educated Girl) # 7049721253, 8827897484

**SINDHI** boy fair 1996/5-7, 25 LPA Gurgaon, Chandigarh seeks PQM B.Tech/CA/CS/ Banker/ Doctor. 98767-43859

**BY NATIONALITY**

**NRI/ GREEN CARD**

**M4** Gupta Boy 1975/5'8", NVR Married, US citizen, CFC MBA (USA), well std hight income New York, profly Qtd alliance from decent indian fmly girls. Pref'd for wkg girls in US. Send profile with recent photo on: RNC58539@gmail.com, C.N.B

**NRI** Gaur Brahmin h'some Boy Nov/94/ 6ft. Wrgk in Toronto, Canadian Citizen. Both Parents Doctors, Seeks B'ful Well Edu. Girl from status fmly # 987161808, 9910199868

**AGRAWAL** 48/5'8", PhD, NVR married, Scientist, Vegetarian, Teetotaler, US PR, FPJ772@gmail.com

**SUITABLE** professionally qld match for Gaur Brahmin Boy 30/6' B.Tech, M.S working as S/W Enggr, USA, Delhi based fmly. Ph: 9818358029, 9826222147

**MBA** Canada Pr. NVR Married 39/5'7" Jain, visiting Delhi May/June, Educated Affluent family, CasteNoBar, WApp 9998982224

**USA** bsdMBA/dr/egr/gr44gupta boy31/6VicePresident,JP Morg anBank/NewYork/2cr.MBA/Duk eComputEng,Toronto,DoonSch Ting,fathIAS,delnrcr-9871790446

**PQM4** clean shaven h'sme NM boy 30/6'1"/CA & MBA/ Asst. Citizen wkg Financial Analyst in Perth, Delhi based Punjabi Sikh fmly. 9810233470

**JAT** boy 1982 born 5.11 running his own law firm in London, currently in India, British National own house early marriage #8279488526

**BRIDE REQUIRED**  
A progressive, ambitious, well settled, self made, dentist based in Australia, running his own award winning dental practice, 45 years, 178 cm, never married. Looking for well educated, open minded and kind hearted life partner. Father retired top executive from PSU bank, settled near Chandigarh. Whatsapp: 8054533895 milap\_kapoor@hotmail.com

**NRI, Sikh Arora Boy Oct 1990/5'7" B.Tech (DCE), MBA (Vanderbilt University, USA) Handsome, Well Cultured, Intelligent, working in MNC in New York, H1B Visa Residence Belongs to Respectable affluent, educated family of Gurgaon, well compatible, educated girl with good values.**

**BR** fair b'ful girl 5'4" B.Tech MBA (HR), 1.10.85/ 5.50AM/ Mum/ 55' Adi Nadi Mesh Ras in Corpts Mum seeks prof qual, match pr fmr Al Brhmin/Upcrest MBA wkg Hvd/abad seeking equivalent well qualified brahmin boy Cont:9414253176

**SM4** Jaipur bsd Gaur Brahmin girl 39 Born/5'11" B.Tech MBA wkg Hyderabad seeking equivalent well qualified brahmin boy Cont:9414253176

**LUCKNOW** based SPB fmly retired Govt. Mumbai based suitable match for girl 33/5'5" 55 AVP Legal in Bank, 50 LPA Contact: 9415018893

**PQM** for manglik girl from upper middle class family 52 Brahmin Sarawat 6.6.1992 4.10 PM Delhi. Cont: 9810170988, 9311356537

**SM4** Gori, slim, Manglik Siyavastava girl 1996/5'3" B.Tech MBA Prof. Pref working in Air Force or IT Sector 941523272 (W) 8707833803 (C)

**PQM4** Sriv fair, B'ful Girl, 31/5, B.Tech, MS, (CSE) Wkg in USA from compatible qld. boy Wkg in USA with family value #9415232545, 8091970878

**SM** Pref Delhi/NCR based for B'ful Mathur Girl 32/160cm/4.6 LPA, Post Graduate, Nutritional in Reputed Delhi Hospital. Call/ Whatsapp: 9650969000

**KAYASTHA** 28/5'4", b'ful girl wrgk Genpac Gurugram, family Lko based seek profly qualified / well settled boy. Contact 9305894542 / 8881580694

**SM4** Lko. based Kay fair b'ful girl 24.12.89/5'3.5" MBA YIT, GMP IIM Lko. wkg MNC Gdn. 28.75LPA. Father SBI Retd. Manager. M: 9415911498

**KAYASTHA** Corp. lawyer 28 yrs NM 169 cms, V.fair, slim b'ful from reputed fmly NCR seeks professionally qualified match.caste no bar #9810967522



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**WANTED GROOMS**

**BY CASTE**

**AGRAWAL - BISA**

**AGRAWAL** Dr. MDS, MHA, Nov 89/5'3", very fair girl, Owns Medical Centre in Delhi highly edu. affluent fmly. Caste no bar. Call/Wapp 9810625343

**PQM4** Beautiful, Slim, Gupta Manglik Girl 94/5'4" working in Auckland (New Zealand) seeks well settled NRI Boy, Open to Relocation. Caste No Bar. Contact: 7065898928

**SM4** Well Edu. B'ful, fair, 5.6", 17/11/94 (9:17 am), Manglik girl of High status Goyal family Delhi, seeking well std Delhi/NCR Aggarwal fmly 9810032795

**JUL** 91/5'6" A/manglik MSc (remote sensing & GIS), PhD girl seeks well educated, preferably teetotaler groom. #9410505553

**SM4** smart int'l gupta girl 27/5'5" csc MBA from US, Wkg Dubai, PQM boy pref settled in Dubai / USA. 9811448927 shvets1372@hotmail.com

**WANTED** Bride (Sindhi) 29/5'11" Education, M.Tech. Working MNC in Amazon, Pkg. 2 Cr. (Educated Girl) # 7049721253, 8827897484

**SM** for Ghaziabad Brahmin Girl 5'0" 1997 born, BBA, 35 LPA Gurgaon, Chandigarh seeks PQM B.Tech/CA/CS/ Banker/ Doctor. 98767-43859

**WANTED** Groom for well qualified, working, good looking, Brahmin Girl, 33/5'4", Father Retd Army Officer. Mob: 8755476387.

**MATCH** from Haryana/ Rajasthan/ Delhi boy for Jaipurite NLSIU Bangluru Law Graduate 28/5'10" Gaur Brahmin B'ful working girl at Delhi. Pref. Lawyer/CA/IAS/RAS/RJS/IRS/Engineer. 9414607215

**MBA** (Aus) Girl Nov 88/5' Wkg NSW Aus, Father Doc Seeks Prof qual match drharishankersharma@gmail.com 9826055207

**MATCH** invited for 90 born Gaur Brahmin vegetarian issueless divorcee girl M.Tech/5-2 working MNC Mumbai @ 15 Lac p.a. Whatsapp 9877427851

**ARCHITECT** Fair Slim B'ful Girl, Aug.1996 / 5'4" B.Arch. & M.Plan. (Gold Medalist) wkg in MNC Gurgaon pref.delhi ncr bsd edu. fmly / W / C 9818360259

**MBA** Wkg in Big 4, Gaur Brahmin Girl Oct/95/ B.Tech Father in PSU, 1.10.85/ 5.50AM/ Mum/ 55' Adi Nadi Mesh Ras in Corpts Mum seeks profly Qld boy. WAp: 9891333442

**SM4** Jaipur bsd Gaur Brahmin girl 39 Born/5'11" B.Tech MBA wkg Hyderabad seeking equivalent well qualified brahmin boy Cont:9414253176

**LUCKNOW** based SPB fmly retired Govt. Mumbai based suitable match for girl 33/5'5" 55 AVP Legal in Bank, 50 LPA Contact: 9415018893

**PQM** for manglik girl from upper middle class family 52 Brahmin Sarawat 6.6.1992 4.10 PM Delhi. Cont: 9810170988, 9311356537

**SM4** Gori, slim, Manglik Siyavastava girl 1996/5'3" B.Tech MBA Prof. Pref working in Air Force or IT Sector 941523272 (W) 8707833803 (C)

**PQM4** Sriv fair, B'ful Girl, 31/5, B.Tech, MS, (CSE) Wkg in USA from compatible qld. boy Wkg in USA with family value #9415232545, 8091970878

**SM** Pref Delhi/NCR based for B'ful Mathur Girl 32/160cm/4.6 LPA, Post Graduate, Nutritional in Reputed Delhi Hospital. Call/ Whatsapp: 9650969000

**KAYASTHA** 28/5'4", b'ful girl wrgk Genpac Gurugram, family Lko based seek profly qualified / well settled boy. Contact 9305894542 / 8881580694

**SM4** Lko. based Kay fair b'ful girl 24.12.89/5'3.5" MBA YIT, GMP IIM Lko. wkg MNC Gdn. 28.75LPA. Father SBI Retd. Manager. M: 9415911498

**KAYASTHA** Corp. lawyer 28 yrs NM 169 cms, V.fair, slim b'ful from reputed fmly NCR seeks professionally qualified match.caste no bar #9810967522

**MBA** (Opration) Kayastha 19 Jan 91 N.M 4'11" smart working girl FPMC MNC Gurgaon 45 LPA seek PQ match fairer boy. Contact 9810774610

**BTECH** Sri NM Aug88/5'2" Sr. Mgr Iovia M bai 35-40LPA, Lko bsd fmly seeks w std boy, early decent Marriage. # 941531617, 9454886600

**SM** For Saxena Girl, Jan 93, 55", Slim, Fair, Manglik, MBA, Wkg 26LPA, Bangalore From Bhopal, All Ksth/Upper Caste- 845890511

**B.TECH**, working at TI, in Wipro, 20LPA, Kayasth B'ful Smart girl, 30yrs/5'4" UP. Pref. suitable match. WAp/ Ph: 9695456145, 9415444067

**DOCTOR** girl (doing PG 196/5'3", MPBsed doctor family, seeks kayasth groom doctor (M/D/M/S/D/M/Mch)/IAS/IPS, drssimlot@gmail.com, 7879387006

**BTECH**, MBA Oct 88/5'7" Wkg MNC Bengaluru 30LPA never married beautiful girl seeks suitable match. Upper caste no bar. 7738892303/9667687816

**SUITABLE** match for beautiful Mathur girl, 27/5'7" B.E DTU, own business. Boy should be settled in Delhi. Upper caste only. WhatsApp-8810321211

**B.E.** girl, divorced, 92/5'4", wkg MNC BLR/25LPA, Father Retd LIC of seeks B.Tech Boy, Living Metro city, 9993478294

**KAYASTHA** Girl 29, BDS MPH, Serving as District Senior Specialist in NGO, India Health Action Trust, at Ayodhya. Package 8.5Lakhs, likely to switch to Delhi/Gurgaon, Contact 9406231900

**DELHI** Based well settled Groom for a Ph.D., Qualified Bengali Kayastha Manglik Girl 35 years old, 5'5" tall, Wheatish Complexion, Permanently Working in a Delhi based Central University. Annual Salary 27 lacs. Cont act: 9415092476 or 9334906431 or 9903003895. Mails: kscarun21@gmail.com or Saha.arati.10@gmail.com

**PQM4** GZB based wheatish Kayastha Girl, N.M / Nov 91/5'6" B.Tech working MNC in Bangalore, 28.5LPA. Upper caste no bar. Mobile: 9958429899

**SRIV** b'ful girl July-87/(215pm birth place:Gwalior)/5'8" Non Manglik, NTT, B.Com, B.Ed working as Primary Teacher. # 9868381044, 8860717530 (Noida)

**KAYASTHA** Mathur Girl April 92 born 5'2" Senior Engineer in MNC. Seeks a well settled working boy. Contact-7893055513

**SM4** B'ful girl Nov 92 born 5'6" pilot renounced airline seeks well settled match. Caste no Bar, contact: 9415076887

**ALLIANCE INVITED** For Kayastha, Beautiful, Fair, Veg. LLB (Pursuing LL.M from UK to Finish in Sept'24) 1998 born / 5'6" Lawyer (No siblings, Edu. Sanskrit Family) Based in Bangalore. **Open to Bania, Brahmin, Rajput & all upper castes.** Send details at WApp: 9818733000

**SM4** Singhal Smart B.Tech Wheatish Girl, 5'4"/09.09.91, Issue-less Divorcee. Father in Business at Kota. # 9312065007, Email pdagarwal48@gmail.com

**SM4** b'ful, fair, Mittal girl 6.7, 1990/157cm, B.Tech, wkg MNC Noida/27lpa, fbr Rtd. Ch. Er. & Adv. Sri. C.Govt. 9818044694 (12-7pm), 9990581234

**LDH** based MBBS Dr in Army (Lt. Col) unmarried Gupta girl 1982/5'3", seeks Army/Civil match. 9316476534.

**SEEKING** a well-educated match from a progressive family for 5'3" 26y Bita Mittal (CSE: ISB) wkg in MNC. CNB Bio to atm.hdy@gmail.com pl.

**DELHI**-Jain girl Apr 93 5'7" LSR Oxford wrgk MNC, father prof. Seeks profly girl. Mob 981003293, 9815505959

**REQD** indlist/CA/IT/ H'some pkge for fair slim smart CA July 93/38 from Punjab based Agg edu retd fmly. Uper cast no bar. Good marriage. (W) 7015864545

**SM4** MD, Arora girl, 5'6", 1993 born, fair, Wkg in Delhi Gov Hosp looking for doctor based in Delhi NCR. Whatsapp on: 8650988558

**MD** Doctor D.M (Neurology) fair, beautiful girl 32/5'7", Brahmin family. Preferable D.M, MS, MCH/MD Doctor. NCR based. Call: 9811057325

**ALLIANCE** invited fmr Medicos, MD, MS etc for a MD Anesthesia (Final Yr) B'ful smart Viashya Girl, 1996/5'2". Call 9951099923

**SM4** MD, Arora girl, 5'6", 1993 born, fair, Wkg in Delhi Gov Hosp looking for doctor based in Delhi NCR. Whatsapp on: 8650988558

**WELL** std. match for Sunni religious b'ful girl 5'2"/1990 born pursuing PhD in English Literature, Convedu. Caste No Bar #6393886326

**MBBS/MD (AIMS) 26YRS** B'ful/REPUTED SUNNI MUSLIM FAMILLY ONGOING PGDM AIMS. CONTACT: 9827495951

**SM4** Muslim Sunni sheikh 30/5'2" divorcee girl, fair, b'ful, religious, Presently working in IAS. Any muslim caste applicable. # 832994909

**SUITABLE** alliance preferably Doctor/Beauracrate/Officer, for an extremely rich family. Muslim MBBS girl (25yrs/5'4"). Send complete details at delind2563@gmail.com

**MBA** B.Tech Sunni Bengali Muslim girl 35/5'3" Wkg MNC GERMANY. Seeks suitable boy Wkg in EUROPE/USA. #9746308038

**SUNNI** Muslim upper caste girl 29/5'5" B.Tech Manager PSU bank UP based Family settled in Raj. seeks suitable prof Qual. match #9461179587

**SYD** Sunni b'ful girl 25/5'3" BE MBA IIM-2nd yr. Father Dr seeks well qual std boy frn Syd/Sheikhs WA 8989406750

**SM4** PhD Girl 36/5'3" Fair AMU Employee Pref AMU, Aligarh & Nearby Place Cast No Bar Early Marriage C: 8267990974

**DOCTOR** PG match for Sunni Sheikh Pathan 25/5'3" P.G. very beautiful girl from status family. Contact: 7607898997, 7017337225

**MASTERS** in Fashion Communication Sunni b'ful religious Pathan 29/5'2, Lucknow based father. Logistics Business. WAp/ph: 9335252002

**SM4** Sunni Sheikh 30/5'6" Girl Fair, Tall, Beautiful, Religious, IIT Kanpur Employee Prayagraj. Prefer NCR by Mob: 9450557300

**SM** for a beautiful & educated girl (23yrs 5'4") from a well established noble Syed Sunni family # 7510062380 or WhatsApp with photo & bio data. Those interested in dowry may not contact.

**SUNNI** v'fr girl, 1985/5'2". Sr. Soft. dev., Cognizant, Hyd. Fmly std. Del. Mar. Sheikh Fhr Ansril. Seeks well stdtd boy fr u fmly. WAp/biodata snap #971873188, 828791148

**SM** for a beautiful & educated girl (23yrs 5'4") from a well established noble Syed Sunni family # 7510062380 or WhatsApp with photo & bio data. Those interested in dowry may not contact.

**SM** for B'ful, Slim Gupta 96/5'1" B.Tech/PGDM 30LPA Delhi Based Educated Family. Pref. Delhi-NCR # 8750116068 Em: shefal12966@gmail.com

**BRAHMIN** 25/5.4 b'ful, fair slim girl B.Tech IIT MBA wkg in MNC 18 Lpa only Cst. Gftr. Father Industrialist caste no Bar 8269934966, 8269898223

**RAJPUT** Girl MBA/30 lakh Very Beautiful May 97/5'3" Lucknow Based, Father Chief Scientist , Seeks MBA, Well Settled Boy. # 638712872

**RAJPUT** (Bhat) girl, 29/5'4" Translation officer Income Tax Bhopal. G.P-4200/- Seeks Govt employee or Business owner in MP. Contact: 9413067855.

**B.TECH** IT/wkg MNC/NCR/Rajput Girl/29/5'4"/ Foreign traveled. Father MNC Sr Excec, reputed UP Thakur family. Seeks suitable match of same background. locaterp@gmail.com / 9650192595

**MP Based RAJPUT HIGHLY AFFLUENT RESPECTED BUSINESS FAMILY** Looking For Their Beautiful and Educated Daughter Feb. 94-5'3" Seeks Well Educated Established Business Family. CONTACT 8120099988

**AGARWAL**

**SM4** Agarwal MBA girl slim fair 28/5'1" working in Gurgaon well settled in Ghaziabad based family. Call 7042347932/ 8826887776

**SQM** b'ful Aggarwal girl orthodontist 35/5'2" wkg in Dubai. Pref Delhi NCR family Early marriage. Call: 971677483

**MBA, XLRI** smart, b'ful Aggarwal Girl 53" 1995 born Sanskriti School. Presently working with MNC, 40 Lac Pkge. Father Senior IAS Officer. # 9969575651, 9874674474. Em: krsna.supta@gmail.com aggarwalbh4@gmail.com

**SM4** Govt Bank Manager Garg 31/5'2" Fair Beautiful Anshik Mnglk. Pref. Bank/ Govt. Officer. CNB No Dowry. # 8128287190, 9368099805

**PQM** veg. teetotaler for Agg 28/5'9" beautiful, smart, slim architect wkg in Ggn. Reputed family from Jaipur, # 99293-0814, gupta35a@gmail.com

**SM4** Jain girl 31/5'4" (Manglik), Masters in Comm. Design, working with reputed org. Father. Professional. Well-off. Contact: M.S.9857200329, 911016283

**PQM4** Singhal Mnglk veg girl 97/87/157cm, B.Com+PGD Multimedia, wkg MNC, Ggn, caste no bar 981142770 ery mrg Emrak eshmohangupta24@gmail.com

**PQM4** Aggarwal Non Manglik B.Tech. + MBA working Girl, Feb/94 /5'3" seeks Well Settled Match. Call 9411023775 Meerut

**M4** Jat girl S.Delhi/GGN based 33/5'5"MBBS MS Ophthal. SR in Ch. Hospital, Ggn Pref. Dr MD/MS, Civil Service, U.caste no bar 9810314135, 9810404135

**SM4** beautiful fair agrawal girl 28y/5'1" MBA working in Blue Dns. Both parents doctors. affluent family. 9412922280

**SM4** beautiful fair agrawal girl 28y/5'1" MBA working in Blue Dns. Both parents doctors. affluent family. 9412922280

**SEEKS** Medico match Gupta b'ful fair, Attractive, Doctor girl 5'3", Jan.92 completing MCH (plastic surgery) AIIMS, DLI. 9811226901

**MBBS, MS, HCMS, 1990, 5'7"**, Hindu girl, looking for Doctor, Civil, Allied Services Near Chandigarh. Shortly divorced. Contact- 98022-22200

**POSTGRADUATE** medico groom any higher caste for 30 years, 5'3" Pulmonologist Punjabi Arora girl from Gujarat. Parents doctors, settled in Gujarat. Call 9825118977 / 9374717453.

**MEDICO** M4 36/5'5 B'ful Fair Aggarwal Doctor Girl MS (Obs&Gyn) SNNMCA NVR Married. 8438545003, 9858351251

**ALLIANCE** for an Aggarwal fair girl, 5'3", ENT surgeon, 1986 born. vijkrishan@gmail.com or 9958447341 for Delhi NCR

**ALLIANCE** invited fmr Medicos, MD, MS etc for a MD Anesthesia (Final Yr) B'ful smart Viashya Girl, 1996/5'2". Call 9951099923

**SM4** MD, Arora girl, 5'6", 1993 born, fair, Wkg in Delhi Gov Hosp looking for doctor based in Delhi NCR. Whatsapp on: 8650988558

**WELL** std. match for Sunni religious b'ful girl 5'2"/1990 born pursuing PhD in English Literature, Convedu. C

# This brainpower flex is India's best-kept secret

## SWAMINOMICS

**SWAMINATHAN S ANKLESARIA AIYAR**  
What has been India's greatest economic achievement in 10 years of Narendra Modi's leadership? My answer is, the unanticipated but phenomenal rise of Global Capability Centres (GCCs) of multinationals. These have made India a global hub for brainpower with no hoopla but to stunning effect.

According to a recent study by WIZMATIC, a Pune-based consultant, GCCs now employ 3.2 million Indians, mostly engineers and scientists. They are estimated to generate a total revenue of \$121 billion, of which \$102 billion represents export earnings. That makes GCCs one of the biggest sectors in India, as well as saviours of the balance of payments.

In 2023-24, Indian exports of goods were \$437 billion, and the trade gap in goods was a whopping \$240 billion. But this was closed substantially by the trade surplus in services (to which GCCs contribute) of \$162 billion. It saved our bacon.

Yet, paradoxically, this owes very little to government policies. It is an outcome of globalisation, of international forces that have driven technical jobs across the world to where the brains are. The West does not produce remotely enough STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) graduates to meet its needs. Apart from China, India is the only country in the world producing an estimated 2.3 million STEM graduates per year, of whom half a million are engineers. Once of spotty quality, MNC confidence in them has risen sharply.

Initially, GCCs were called offshore captives of MNCs. At that time, they performed simple tasks like call centre operations and back-office work. As India's skills developed, GCCs moved up the value chain into business process operations and software for their parent companies. Now, they have moved up further to become global MNC hubs for R&D, design, and artificial intelligence.

They constitute a financial black box because they have no separate balance sheets. MNCs often want to downplay their Indian operations for fear of being

accused of exporting jobs. IBM, for instance, stopped giving a country-wise break up of its employees when its India numbers looked embarrassingly high. Accenture, the world's top consultancy company, said a few years ago that 3 lakh of its 7 lakh worldwide workforce was in India, a stunning ratio.

The first revelation of the meteoric rise of GCCs came in a 2021 Nasscom-Deloitte report. It said that between 2015 and 2020, GCC employment rose 75% to 1.3 million, and their number rose to more than 1,400. GCC revenues increased to \$33.8 billion.

Moreover, GCCs provided many indirect benefits through maintenance, transport, suppliers and other linkages. Nasscom-Deloitte estimated that the gross output of all taken together was \$99-103 billion in 2019-20, employment was 5.2 to 5.5 million, and taxes paid were \$4.5 billion. Top engineering MNCs now depend on India for brainpower. The report estimated at the time that no less than 42% of GCC staff were in engineering R&D. General Electric, Volkswagen, and Mercedes Benz were all using India for engineering R&D.

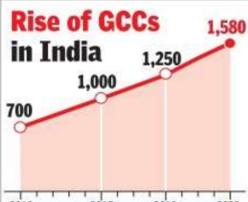
But engineering is now only a minor part of the story. The MNC list has expanded to cover global retailers like Target and Tesco. Global pharma companies are notoriously worried about patents leaking out and have been slow to come in, but Roche is here.

From just in-house software, many GCCs went into producing Software as a Service (SaaS), a major revenue generator. But the most explosive growth has now been in AI. All top companies are now using India as a base for AI design and development.

Much is said about globalisation being on the retreat. A new Cold War has broken out, seriously affecting global trade in goods. But the rise of GCCs has not been affected. Globalisation of brainpower is proceeding apace.

Govt will say it has facilitated GCCs. MNCs, however, still complain that India is a difficult place to do business. Indeed, the biggest govt initiative has been Atmanirbhar, meaning self-reliance. This, by definition, is the very opposite of globalisation. Atmanirbhar's highlight has been production-linked incentives (PLIs) to kick-start international and domestic investment in 14 key sectors. However, so far, Apple is the only big company to have come in, though silicon fabrication plants are coming too. Only one billion of the \$26 billion PLI budget has been disbursed so far.

The Deloitte Technology Trends 2024 report highlights the growth and global dominance of India's GCCs, predicting that it will surpass \$100 billion by 2030, fuelled by the emergence of approximately 2,500 more GCCs employing over 4.5m. No other economic achievement in the Modi era can compare with the dizzy rise of GCCs. Globalisation has proved more successful than self-reliance. ■



# I found my Cannes 'Best Actress' on Facebook, says Bulgarian filmmaker

*Behind Kolkata-born Anasuya Sengupta's historic feat of becoming the first Indian to win Best Actress at Cannes is a Bulgarian filmmaker. In an interview with Sneha Bhura, Konstantin Bojanov talks about how he came to make the Hindi film 'The Shameless', and why he prefers Indian independent cinema to mainstream Bollywood*

**Can you talk about your connection with India, and how you decided to make a Hindi film?**

My connection to India goes way back to over 20 years. But to be precise, after my first feature film 'Avé' premiered in Cannes in 2011, I was looking to develop a new script. I was in Brooklyn and by chance picked up William Dalrymple's book 'Nine Lives' in a local bookstore. I became fascinated by the themes it tackled—from art, tradition, modernity to sexuality and friendship in the complex and dynamic India of today. I optioned the book in 2012 with the idea of creating a documentary but gave up the project to develop 'The Shameless'. Though it is a completely fictional story, I have to acknowledge that without 'Nine Lives', this movie would never have existed. And for that reason, I'm grateful to William Dalrymple. But the story in the book and the film are completely different.

**What made you think of the story of a sex worker who escapes from a Delhi brothel after killing a cop?**

While shooting the documentary in the Belgaum region of Karnataka, I observed the interactions of the central character, a 33-year-old real-life Devadasi called Reshma, with her best friend, Renuka, a sex worker in her thirties. It was incredibly touching and tender. The kind of emotional support that these two women were able to give each other in a very harsh world is what made me think of the story of 'The Shame-

less'. Several women who come to these communities work under the relative protection of a quasi-religious system. So, I imagined what if a woman on the run, who has committed a crime, enters this community that operates by its own sort of rules, and rebels against it? That's how the central character of Renuka (played by Sengupta) was born.

**The movie has quite a cast but how did you find your 'best actress'?**

I take a long time to cast the leads for my films. I worked with Parag Mehta, the casting director who was recommended to me by Anurag Kashyap. Although I had shortlisted some extremely talented and well-known actresses for the part, I wasn't convinced. I was so discouraged that I was contemplating making it as an animated film for adults. Then an Indian producer and a director I know said we have a friend who makes these very interesting drawings and maybe we could work together to develop the animated characters. And this is how I befriended Anasuya on Facebook. I would keep looking at her photo and knew there was something about her; a certain charisma that was suited to Renuka. The idea of the animated film was struck down by the sales agent and the producer, but that initial connection with Anasuya remained. The making of this film took so long—almost 12 years—that it almost drove me to insanity but the

character of Renuka was the biggest hook for me, and it kept me going.

**It's not easy to be an independent filmmaker working in a foreign language. What were some of the challenges you faced?**

I don't speak Hindi and wrote the script in English. Translating the dialogue into Hindi proved to be a major challenge. I tried to work with several different translators and writers, and they were taking it in a different direction or adding Bollywood clichés. Ultimately, it was my production designer, Parul Sondh, who stepped in to translate and knew exactly what I wanted. We shot it on a very, very low budget in Nepal. The financing took years, with small chunks of money from different countries like Switzerland, France, Bulgaria and Taiwan. And finally, an Indian production company came on board just six weeks ago!

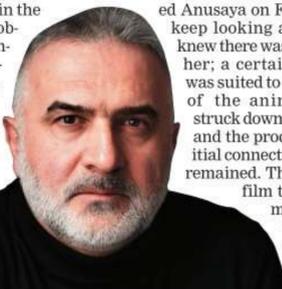
**What are the Indian films you've enjoyed watching?**

Growing up in 1970s Bulgaria, because of the links between India and eastern bloc countries, we watched a lot of Bollywood films. I remember as a kid, just bawling as I fondly watched 'Haathi Mere Saathi' maybe 10 times. Back then, as a kid, it was either Russian war films or East German Westerns, which is funnily enough a contradiction in terms, or Bollywood. But I don't watch mainstream Bollywood movies now. However, there's been a wave of refreshing, new voices in Indian independent cinema in the last 15-20 years. Some that have stayed with me include 'Killa', 'Liar's Dice', 'Newton', Anurag's 'Black Friday', and 'Court'.

**How did you deal with the fact that you're an outsider in the Indian film scene?**

I could only make the film from my own perspective. It would have been foolish and ignorant of me to try to make an Indian film from the perspective of an Indian director. I tend to focus on the universal aspects of the story, no matter where the story takes place. Ultimately, stories are what connect us. Also, it worked because of my sincere connection to the subject matter and all my Indian collaborators. You don't make a film alone.

## FOR THE RECORD



# Pune accident: Negligent parents have bigger responsibility in juvenile crimes

## BY INVITATION

**NEHA SINGHAL**  
The recent tragic accident in Pune, involving a 17-year-old alleged drunk driver who fatally hit two motorbike-borne software engineers, has ignited a firestorm of public outrage and media frenzy. It also highlights the need to have a critical debate about the balance of responsibility between juveniles and adults in such grievous circumstances.

The clamour surrounding juvenile crime often fails to comprehend the intricacies of juvenile behaviour. Scientific consensus unequivocally establishes that juveniles possess inferior decision-making abilities compared to adults due to their poorer impulse control and diminished foresight into the consequences of their actions. This inherent cognitive immaturity is why adolescents are inherently less accountable than adults and thus warrant less severe punishment, even when

convicted of identical crimes. Consequently, while juveniles must undoubtedly face consequences for their actions, the primary burden of responsibility should rest upon adults who hold positions of authority and influence over them. It's worth noting how the law restricts individuals under the age of 18 from operating motor vehicles with engine capacities exceeding 50cc, confining them to vehicles such as a Luna or a Scooty!

**Heinous Mistake or Heinous Crime?** The juvenile faces charges under Section 304 of IPC for culpable homicide not amounting to murder, which carries a maximum penalty of ten years in prison. Under the Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act, a crime is deemed 'heinous' when it warrants imprisonment of seven years or more. According to this definition, the juvenile could potentially be tried as an adult, facing a significantly longer prison sentence than if tried as a minor. However, before advocating for this course of action, it is crucial to consider the principles outlined in the Juvenile Justice Act. The Act prioritises rehabilitation over retribution, acknowledging the

lesser degree of culpability attributed to juveniles due to their age and psychological development. In the case at hand, the act in question appears to stem from gross negligence rather than premeditated or malicious intent, categorising it more accurately as a heinous mistake than a heinous crime.

**Adult Responsibility:** The father's actions demonstrate a complete disregard for both his son's and public safety. Allowing a minor to drive a powerful car is a clear act of gross negligence, as guardians or parents are expected to oversee their children and prevent them from engaging in illegal activities. According to Section 199A of the Motor Vehicles (MV) Act, guardians or vehicle owners are held liable if a juvenile is found driving and commits an offence under the Act, unless proven otherwise. Similarly, establishments serving alcohol to the minor were glaringly negligent as they knowingly disregarded the illegality and potential consequences of their actions.

In response to this incident, the juvenile will be prohibited from obtaining a driving licence

until he reaches 25 years of age, and the luxury car will not be permitted to register at any RTO office for 12 months, in accordance with the provisions of the MV Act. Police have also pressed charges against both the father and employees of the establishments under Sections 75 and 77 of the JJ Act. These sections target wilful neglect and provision of intoxicants to children, respectively. This legal framework lays out the responsibility of adults to safeguard minors from harm, including harm resulting from their immature judgement.

**Institutional Response:** The public outcry and political attention have prompted a positive response. Police and local authorities took swift action. Establishments serving alcohol to the minor have been sealed, and the excise department has initiated special inspections to ensure compliance with age restrictions, revoking licences for violations. This level of cooperation among authorities is rare but crucial. It is this concerted effort by the state and district administration that can prevent future incidents. While exemplary imprisonment or trying

a minor as an adult may satisfy our thirst for retribution, it does little to create a safer community.

**Don't search for scapegoats:** Public outrage, fuelled by the perception of impunity due to the wealth and status of those involved, is understandable. However, it is imperative that this anger does not lead to further injustices like either tarnishing the life of the juvenile or unfairly scapegoating the driver, who was being pressured by the family into taking blame for the accident. And we know what happens when the rich find such scapegoats, given the social dynamics at play.

Instead, the focus should be on constructive outcomes that honour the memory of the victims. Ensuring the juvenile is held accountable in a manner that reflects his developmental stage while imposing appropriate legal repercussions on the negligent adults and establishments can set a precedent for future cases. This balanced approach can also prompt systemic changes in how underage drinking and negligent parenting are addressed legally and socially. ■

Singhal is an independent legal researcher

# No offence but this new political correctness needs a correction

## BY INVITATION

**GAUTAM BHATIA**  
Barely a few decades ago, a yellow school bus would proclaim that it belonged to the 'School for the Deaf and Dumb'. Other institutes were similarly called, 'School for the Blind' or 'School for the Mentally Retarded'. In Bihar, there was even a 'Lunatic Asylum', and an 'Institute for the Criminally Insane'.

But things have since changed, if not for the better, at least for the politically correct. That is to say, there is now no one—least of all the deaf and dumb—who can be offended. School for the Hearing Impaired, Institute of the Un sighted, the Partially Sighted, the Cerebrally Challenged, Shelter for the Home Deprived, and Housing for the Age-Advanced...every aspect of language is now so carefully weighed that it sounds like a riddle. In all the relevant issues of the day from youth (oops, underage) unemployment, gender oppression, environmental degradation, racial persecution, bank fraud, illegal migration, there is a new way in which the world communicates.

Even the most basic of phrases today stand changed. 'The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog' can no longer be used because it is filled with racist and sexist assumptions, extreme and overly subjective opinions about animal behaviour. The revised sentence currently in use is—the speed enhanced fox, a gender-conscious female of colour, jumped over the motivationally-deficient dog of no recognisable genetic orientation.

Such political correctness has an unusual history. In 1994, a book called Politically Correct Bedtime Stories rewrote familiar children's tales with a new and much-needed twist. Snow White, earlier linked to the attractive qualities of white colourless skin and awakened by a prince became instead, a staunch feminist. In the original story Goldilocks, of course, was eaten by Papa Bear, but now in the changed version, only because he has become multicultural and is experimenting with new cuisine. Rapunzel eventually cut her hair so as not to be exploited by men for transportation needs. James Finn Garner, who wrote the book, said very clearly in his preface that he hoped we would see a world purged of all cultural prejudices. On the surface, at least, he might have achieved his goal.

Day-to-day situations have clearly been brought into

politically correct focus. A sentence such as, a poor man from a slum was accused of robbing the necklace from a housewife now reads: 'The wealth-marginalised individual from the economically deprived area had forcibly acquired illegal ownership of a bodily decorative item of high monetary value from a gender specific domestic engineer. Where can you find language that conveys thought with such striking clarity?'

Where political correctness has clearly shone the light is with racial, class, and economic distinctions—so cleverly conveyed that words have come to respect ethnicity and personal space. The minister no longer says they are putting Muslims in a ghetto, but rather that 'persons of a certain minority are being moved to a gated community'. Persons suggest no race, no sex, no religion, no caste, no age. Even when references are used, they must be necessarily vague: a person of colour can be Indian, Black American, Hispanic, Arab, native African, indigenous or tribal, to mark them as distinct from white Caucasian or people with melanin-deprived skin tone.

Getty Images  
Goliwog, the former well-known doll of melanin-deprived children of female gender, has been replaced by Barbie, available in white, brown, yellow and black skin tones. Segregated toilets for Whites and Coloureds—a thing of the past in the US and apartheid South Africa—are now freshly labelled transgender. By extension, even the wider world vocabulary is neutered. A poor country is a low-GDP country. India now belongs to the developing world, not the Third World; the unemployed are human capital, ghetto is preferential

housing where citizens can preserve their ethnic purity; bureaucrats are officials—a human form of artificial intelligence with realms of ChatGPT in their brain. A godman is a materialistic ascetic; just the way a Smart City is a bureaucratic hankering for utopia.

Political correctness has invaded the political stage too. When the minister says, we will give people a level playing field, he means their houses would be razed to make it level.

When politically correct language becomes so nuanced, even implication and innuendo have no place in it. The idea is to neither take offence nor give offence, but produce a form of communication so tepid, so shorn of meaning, so utterly pared to the bone, that it says everything and nothing at the same time. At a dinner table, politically correct etiquette demands that you never say, 'Pass the salt'. The phrase may be offensive to those whose grandparents participated in the Dandi March. ■

## INBOX

### Charm of older heeras in showbiz

I differ with Shobhaa De's views in the column 'Is showbiz finally...' (ATM, May 19). Heroines over 40 years of age have always played a significant role in world cinema. Their grace, experience, and talent have left an indelible mark. The depth of roles performed by the likes of actors like Ingrid Bergman, Audrey Hepburn, Judi Dench, Helen Mirren, Meryl Streep have captivated the audience globally. In the Indian context, we have had Waheeda Rehman, Hema Malini, Rekha, and Shabana Azmi. Their enduring appeal has charmed generations of movie-goers.

— **Gopal Verma, Delhi**

### Stock market jitters

Apropos of the column 'Don't read...' (ATM, May 19), political stability and policy continuity are significant market drivers. But the capital market should not be overly influenced by unfounded electoral predictions by self-styled poll pundits. It should instead be guided by economic growth factors, corporate results and future prospects. Recent volatility based on speculation about elections is a potential deterrent to retail investors.

— **Rajaroo Kumar, Bengaluru**

### Wrinkles achhe hai

It was interesting to read C S Solanki's interview about his 'Wrinkles Achhe Hain' campaign (ATM, May 19). Such campaigns are the need of the hour, in view of the climatic shifts happening globally. His attempt to bell the cat rather than remain a silent witness is greatly appreciated.

— **B Tarikere, Hyderabad**

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# 7 reasons why Punjab is outlier in north politics but, will it stay so?

## BY INVITATION

**ASHUTOSH KUMAR**  
Arguably, all states in the Indian union may qualify as 'mini-democracies', given their distinct electoral choices and party systems. That is the reason why they have emerged as the preferred analytical units for election studies. While Punjab has several commonalities with other states, it also bucks the trends in many ways, substantiating the 'Punjab exceptionalism' thesis.

Let's look at the reasons why it's called the outlier of the north. First, even in the early years after Independence, its party system could never be characterised as the 'Congress system' in the sense that, unlike other states, the party always faced stiff competition from Akali Dal and Jana Sangh. This explains the frequency of coalition govts after the state's reorganisation in 1966. Second, while most states have seen the rise of middle and lower castes in terms of political power in the last three and half decades, Punjab is one state where, despite nearly a third of its population belonging to the scheduled castes, the social basis of power has remained with the numerically strong and land-owning Jat Sikh peasantry. This was visible in the Congress leadership's failed last-ditch attempt to fight anti-incumbency by appointing a Dalit chief minister months before the 2022 assembly elections.

Third, BJP, like Jana Sangh in its earlier avatar, has not been able to mark its electoral presence in the state despite its long-lasting alliance with the Akali Dal (1997-2021), be it in terms of seats or percentage of votes polled. This is unlike other states where the BJP, finding itself weak, first entered into alliance with the locally powerful regional party as a junior ally, and then went on to become a winnable party. The cases of Odisha, Karnataka, Bihar, and West Bengal are pertinent.

Fourth, Punjab has never been swayed by the 'national constituency phenomenon' sought to be created by Congress earlier, and BJP in recent years. BJP's attempt to contest elections on national issues like security, Article 370, citizenship, the exalted status of India on the global stage has not cut much ice in the state till now. On the contrary, even in parliamentary elections, local issues have remained decisive.

Fifth, Punjab is the only state where AAP has managed to win any Lok Sabha seat till date. As early as the 2014 elections, the then two-year old party had won four out of 13 seats. It went on to become the main opposition party in the 2017 assembly elections, and then registered an unprecedented win of 92 out of 117 seats in the 2022 election. It remains in contention in the current Lok Sabha election.

Sixth, Punjab seems immune to the large-scale ideological shift from middle to right-wing conservatism, visible in the ascendance of cultural nationalism in the plains and hills of north, central and west-



**NEW GROUND:** BJP is contesting alone after a gap of 27 years. It will be interesting to see its performance, especially in Hindu-dominated urban seats

ern India. This, despite having a sizable Hindu population. There are hardly any signs of revival of radicalism amongst the Sikh community, despite occurrences like Simranjit Mann winning in the Sangrur Lok Sabha by-elections or the Amritpal Singh episode.

Seventh, even the regional party is not faring well unlike several states where parties with a region-specific political, cultural and economic agenda have managed to challenge national giants. Akali Dal, more than a 100-year-old ethno-regional party that has set the political agenda of the state since the colonial days and claims to be the sole representative of the Sikh community, seems to be in perpetual decline. That too not because of BJP, but due to its own tactical mistakes and organisational/leadership issues.

Coming back to local issues that matter, as the state remains under the sway of a powerful land-holding peasant community, it is the acute distress in the farming sector that is a concern in post-Green Revolution Punjab. Farmers have remained ensconced on the Singhu border for more than three months, reminiscent of the agitation in 2020 against the three farm bills.

The big question is whether Punjab will remain an outlier in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. After a gap of 27 years, BJP is contesting alone. It will be interesting to see its performance, especially in urban constituencies like Ludhiana and Jalandhar where the party will contest for the first time, and which have a significant Hindu presence. Then, there are constituencies where BJP, in alliance with the Akali Dal, has secured victories in the past: Gurdaspur and Hoshiarpur (5 times) and Amritsar (3 times). It would be interesting to see whether Modi's magic finally works in the state or not. ■

Kumar is political science professor at Panjab University, Chandigarh. Views expressed are personal

# People have realised vote for oppn futile: PM after Ph-6



Elderly women going to cast their vote in Bhubaneswar on Saturday

**Times News Network**  
New Delhi: As the sixth and penultimate round of polls concluded on Saturday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed confidence in a comprehensive victory and asserted that voting for INDIA bloc is an exercise in futility.

"I thank all those who have voted in the penultimate phase of 2024 Lok Sab-

ha polls. NDA's numbers are looking better and better. People have realised that since INDI alliance is coming nowhere close to power, voting for it is futile," the prime minister posted on X, asserting that BJP-led NDA is set to return at the Centre.

Earlier in the day, the PM had urged every voter to make their "votes count" soon after polling began in 58 states across seven states

and one UT in the sixth and penultimate phase of the Lok Sabha elections.

Taking to his official X account, the prime minister said that a "democracy thrives" when its people are engaged and active in the electoral process.

"I urge all those who are voting in the sixth phase of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections to vote in large numbers. Every vote counts,

make yours count too! Democracy thrives when its people are engaged and active in the electoral process," he wrote on X.

The PM also "specially" urged women voters and youth voters to vote in large numbers. BJP is confident of a third straight win and growing number of women voters exercising their franchise has given boost to their confidence.

# Bengal continues to clock high turnouts

## Voting Also Over For Assembly Polls In 3 States

Continued from P 1

West Bengal maintained its trend of high turnout in this phase as well, recording 79.5%. Odisha, where six parliamentary constituencies and 42 assembly constituencies went to the polls, recorded 69.6% turnout.

Election Commission's concerted efforts to enrol and motivate particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTG) voters came to fruition as they also posed with inked fingers after casting votes at polling stations in the coastal state.

There were some reports of sporadic violence and clashes between rival party workers in West Bengal and breaking of an EVM by a BJP candidate in Odisha.

Haryana seemed to have faced urban apathy as centres like Gurugram and Faridabad recorded around 56% polling each, pulling down the state's overall turnout to around 60.4%. With summer at its peak, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar too saw moderate polling at 54% and 55.2% respectively. Jharkhand, where four PCs went to polls, witnessed 63.8% polling.

A total of 889 candidates were in the electoral fray in Phase 6.

With the conclusion of Phase 6, polling for general elections 2024 is now complete in 486 parliamentary constituencies across 28 states/UTs.

Polling is also over for assembly elections in Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Andhra Pradesh and 105 seats in Odisha.

## THE PHASE 6 TURNOUT MATRIX

State (Seats)	2019 turnout in 2024 Phase 6 seats	
	Approximate Voter Turnout %	2024
Bihar (8)	58.36	55.24
Haryana (10)	69.93	60.4
Jammu & Kashmir (01)	NA*	54.30
Jharkhand (4)	64.39	63.76
Delhi (7)	60.47	57.67
Odisha (6)	71.36	69.56
Uttar Pradesh (14)	54.42	54.03
West Bengal (8)	84.36	79.47
<b>Total (57)</b>	<b>64.74</b>	<b>61.2</b>

\* 2019 overall numbers do not include Anantnag-Rajouri in J&K whose boundary has been redrawn

## TMC worker killed in Bengal on eve of polls, violence hits East & West Midnapore dists

Bengal witnessed polling at a brisker pace till 5pm on Saturday in the penultimate phase, compared to the earlier ones, but it was marred by the poll-eve murder of a Trinamool Congress worker in East Midnapore's Mahisadal and a near fatal attack on another in Moyna in the same district. Despite sporadic incidents of violence, mostly in the traditionally volatile belts of East and West Midnapore, average turnout in the eight seats that voted in the sixth phase was 78% till 5pm. The final figures will show an uptick, EC said.

The attacks on TMC workers spurred poll-day demonstrations against BJP candidates Hiran (Ghatal), Agnimitra Paul (Midnapore) and Abijit Ganguly (Tamluk) at multiple places in Keshpur and Egra.

Around 3pm, violence erupted outside a booth in Garbeta under Jhargram LS constituency. BJP candidate Pranat Tudu was attacked by villagers, all TMC supporters, after his security allegedly assaulted an elderly voter. As stones and bricks rained on them, Tudu and his security guards had to run for cover. A CISF jawan was injured when a stone hit him on the head. Two vehicles, including one belonging to the media, were damaged. EC had to rush in reinforcements to control the situation. Both TMC and BJP slammed the central forces, accusing them of allowing rigging by the rival party workers. TNN

The voter turnout figures are provisional and are likely to see an upward revision as polling parties return and updated data is fed into EC's voter turnout app.

As per the laid down procedure, scrutiny of election papers takes place a day after polling, in the presence of candidates or their authorised

polling agents. The decision to conduct a repoll, if any, is also taken. Some polling parties return after polling day depending on the geographical/logistical conditions. EC will also, after the scrutiny and depending on the number/schedule of repoll, publish the updated voter turnout figures by May 30, said an EC spokesperson.

## Game zone had no fire NOC; operator and 2 managers held

Continued from P 1

Police said the bodies were badly charred, complicating identification, and DNA tests will be necessary. A tin shed collapsed due to the fire, prompting use of an earthmover to clear the debris. It is feared that some victims are buried beneath. "A temporary structure collapsed near the entrance, making it difficult for people to rush out," Rajkot chief fire officer Ilesh Kher said.

The facility had been running for the past 18 months without mandatory municipal licence and fire NOC, according to Rajkot MC standing committee chairman Dr Jaymin Thaker. Gamezone operator Yuvraj Singh Solanki, who went incommunicado after the fire, was detained along with two managers and seven others. During preliminary probe, Solanki said welding work was being done at a tin shed nearby and it is likely that sparks from it caused the fire.

Fire department said a detailed probe is required to find out the cause of the fire.

CM Bhupendra Patel announced financial aid of Rs 4 lakh to families of each deceased and Rs 50,000 to the injured, while directing authorities to prioritise rescue, relief & treatment. He ordered formation of an SIT to investigate the tragedy.

## Total votes polled in seat can't be changed even by mischief: EC

Continued from P 1

Election Commission reiterated on Saturday that the complete elector data is available with the authorised agents of all candidates as part of Form 17C, a copy of which is shared with them after polling.

"With approximately 10.5 lakh polling stations across the country, almost 40 lakh agents (assuming 3-4 agents per polling station) and around 8,000 candidates get all turnout data by way of Form 17C," said an EC official. Thus, the total number of votes polled in a constituency, as recorded in Form 17C, can never be changed even by anyone's hypothetical mischief, it asserted.

Asked why the absolute elector data was released only after five phases, CEC Rajiv Kumar said EC was awaiting Supreme Court verdict in the relevant case. "But the fact is that the polling data was always available, even as it was being updated, via the EC Voter Turnout app. Even a Class 6 student can calculate the absolute number of votes cast with the polling percentage and the total number of electors in a constituency released by the commission," he said.

As per the electors data, around 11 crore of the total

The CEC said even a Class 6 student can calculate absolute number of votes cast with poll percentage, number of electors in a constituency data released by the commission

16.6 crore electors voted in Phase 1 (66.1%), 10.6 crore of a total 15.9 crore electors (66.7%) in Phase 2, 11.3 crore of 17.2 crore (65.7%) in Phase 3, 12.2 crore of 17.7 crore (69.2%) in Phase 4 and 5.6 crore of 8.9 crore electors (62.2%) in Phase 5.

The commission reiterated that there was no delay in the release of voter turnout data, which, it said, is updated on a two-hourly basis till 1730 hours on polling day. By midnight, the app shows best estimated 'close of poll' data in percentage form.

Data attains finality on second, third or fourth day of polling depending on time of arrival of polling parties and repolls. "Any alleged delay in the issue of press notes of Phase 1 does not mean that data was not available in public domain all the time through the Voter Turnout app," it underlined.

## 'Anasuya is like a whip; haven't ever seen someone so sharp'

Continued from P 1

The honour for Anasuya Sengupta has come in Un Certain Regard section for her role in Bulgarian director Konstantin Bojanov's 'The Shameless', in which she plays a sex worker who flees a Delhi brothel after murdering a cop, reports Priyanka Dasgupta.

Un Certain Regard section runs parallel to the main competition, and seeks to bring to the fore new trends, paths and countries making cinema. Now settled in Goa, Sengupta is a successful art director and has worked in feature films like Sanjeev Sharma's 'Saat Uchakhey' and Bengal director Srijit Mukherji's 'Forget Me Not'. The latter was a part of a Netflix anthology Ray, Bengal, Sengupta's home, however, hasn't seen much of the Jadavpur University alumna on screen except in a supporting role in Anjan Dutt's 2009 Bengali film Madly Bangalee.



(From left) Actors Rohit Kokate and Omara Shetty, Bulgarian director and screenwriter Konstantin Bojanov with actor Anasuya Sengupta at the screening of 'The Shameless' at Cannes Film Festival

Anirban Datta, head of direction and screenplay writing department at Kolkata's Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, has known Sengupta since his days at Pune's FTII.

"Anasuya is like a whip. I haven't ever seen someone so sharp. She was not an alumna of FTII. Yet the student diploma film, where she did art direction, went on to win the

Swarna Kamal," Datta said. He added that he wanted Sengupta as an art director for a film in Kolkata, but could not garner funds for the project in the city. "My films have gone to 200 film festivals and yet, I haven't got the finances for a film in Kolkata where I had planned to cast Tanmay Dhanania — Anasuya's co-actor in 'The Shameless,'" Datta said.

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**SM** for 35 yrs, 5-3". Anshik Manglik, Issueless divorcee, B'fUl Brahmin girl, PGDM, Pvt job in NCR. Pl msg. thru WhatsApp no 9625636997.

**PHD** Astt. Professor in Univ Fair B'fUl Khatri girl 5'7"/22.2.90 Seeks Well settled Edu. Boy Affluent family. CNB. #9650991263, 9818744419

**PQSM** 4 Smart, fair, Good looking, Punjabi (SIKH) Girl Dec 94, 5'5", PQ, Working in Hyd. Contact: 9849640921 deepa.chandna@gmail.com

**SM4** B'fUl Pb 1980 born looks young/5'4" MA Eng. unmarried girl, self emp good income, Del bsd status fmly # 991060999 ashwinsearch24@gmail.com

**PUNJABI** Khatri Girl 30 yrs/5'2". Masters frm US University (UCLA) wrkg in top US MNC at Mumbai. Good Stry. Father Sr. Executive. Boy prfrly wrkg in Mumbai. CNB. M: 9818462131.

**PUNJABI**  
**SM4** Arora Punjabi Anshik Mglk fair beautiful girl 27-5'2" Officer in nationalised bank preferably in same or govt. profession # 7037410983

**MATCH** for Punjabi girl Sep'94 born, height 5'6", non manglik, wrkg as an associate director in International Bank Pune.CTC 33LPA. M:9044374411.

**PHD** Astt. Professor in Univ Fair B'fUl Khatri girl 5'7"/22.2.90 Seeks Well settled Edu. Boy Affluent family. CNB. #9650991263, 9818744419

**MS, Data Anlyst San Jose** USA, NCR bsd (Bulandshahr). Agrawal charming girl 31/1990, 1 sibling. Parents doctors seek USA bsd groom pref engineer/mba caste no bar. 789554119

**SM4** Pb B'fUl Girl(NRI H-1B Visa) Wkg USA 32/54'/ B.Tech, MS from USA. Seeks Prof QHD W.sld prof. H-1B/USA Citizen. Parents sld in Del. (Divorcee Excuse) # 9810123193 (W.App)

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With reference to e-Tender advertisement published on 16.05.2024 titled 'Invitation to Contractors for the Renovation work at 204, 2nd Floor, Bhika Ji Bhawan, Bhika Ji Cama Place, New Delhi-110066'. The last date of submission of Bids of this tender is extended upto 31.05.2024 till 3.00 pm. Other terms and conditions remains the same. Sd/- (Dy. General Manager)

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT**  
(Order 5 Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)  
**In the Court of MS. NEELAM SINGH DISTRICT JUDGE (COMM-02) (South-East)**  
at Room No.14, Block-1, Saket Courts Complex, New Delhi

**Date of Order: 07.05.2024**  
**Date of Issue: 16.05.2024**  
**Suit No.: CS/COMM/900/2022**  
**Next Date of Hearing: 06.06.2024**  
**CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA** .....Plaintiff  
**ROHIT SINGH AND ANR.** .....Defendant

To, **1. Mr. Rohit Singh S/o Sh. Joginder Singh**, R/o Jalalpur, Dichar, Modi Nagar, Ghaziabad, U.P. Mob: 8859056304  
**2. Adesh Mohan Tyagi S/o Mr. Brijeshwar Tyagi**, R/o Ganv Sarna, Post Murad Nagar, Ghaziabad-201206.

WHEREAS you are intentionally evading service of summons it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the 06.06.2024 the day fixed for file a written statement within 30 days and appear in this court, it will be heard and determined ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court on this 16.05.2024. District Judge Commercial-02 (South-East) Saket Court Complex, New Delhi

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# Day after UN court orders halt to offensive, Israel strikes Rafah

## Biden Highlights US Commitment To Israel, Ukraine

West Point (New York)/Tel Aviv: Israeli warplanes and artillery pounded Rafah on Saturday, as the govt dismissed an order by judges at the International Court of Justice to halt its military offensive in the southern Gaza city. "What they are asking us, is not to commit genocide in Rafah. We did not commit genocide and we will not commit genocide," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's national security adviser, Tzachi Hanegbi, told Israel's N12 TV on Saturday.

At the same time, renewed international efforts were underway aimed at securing a ceasefire in the war sparked by Palestinian militant group Hamas' unprecedented October 7 attack on Israel. An Israeli official said the govt had an "intention" to restart stalled negotiations over the coming days, which the Hamas official denied later.

President Joe Biden emphasised the critical role of US support to allies around the world including Israel, Ukraine and the Indo-Pacific in a speech at the commencement for the US Military Academy at West Point, New York. In his speech before 1,036 graduating US Army cadets, Biden said



**ITALY TO RESUME UNRWA FUNDING:** Italy PM Giorgia Meloni with Palestinian Authority PM Mohammed Mustafa, in Rome, Italy, on Saturday. Italy has decided to resume financing specific projects (by the UN agency for Palestinian refugees or UNRWA) intended for assistance to Palestinian refugees but only after rigorous controls that guarantee that not even a penny risks ending up supporting terrorism, Italian foreign minister Antonio Tajani said

## 4 US Army vessels run aground near pier

Four US Army vessels supporting the temporary pier built to deliver aid to Gaza have run aground in heavy seas and Israel is aiding a recovery effort, US Central Command said Saturday. "The vessels broke free from their moorings and two vessels are now anchored on the beach near the pier. The third and fourth vessels are beached on the coast of Israel near Ashkelon," the statement said. "No US personnel will enter Gaza. No injuries have been reported and the pier remains fully functional," it said. AFP

"We are standing strong with Ukraine and we'll stand with them". He highlighted the US role in repelling Iranian missile attacks against Israel and support for allies in the Indo-

Pacific against increasing Chinese militarism in the region. Palestinian medics said Israeli forces killed more than 30 people in new attacks in the Gaza Strip. AFP & REUTERS

## Spanish defence minister says Gaza war is 'real genocide'

Madrid: The Spanish defence minister said on Saturday that the conflict in Gaza is a "real genocide", as relations between Israel and Spain worsen following Madrid's decision to recognise a Palestinian state. Reuters couldn't immediately reach Israeli officials for comment on Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath.

Israel has strongly rejected accusations made against it by South Africa at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) that it is committing a genocide against Palestinians, saying it is waging war on the Hamas militant group which unleashed an attack on Oct 7.

The remark by Spanish defence minister Margarita Robles in an interview with TVE state television echoed a comment by Spanish deputy prime minister Yolanda Diaz who earlier this week also described the Gaza conflict as a genocide. "We cannot ignore what is happening in Gaza, which is a real genocide," Robles said. She also said Madrid's recognition of Palestine was not a move against Israel, adding that it was designed to help "end violence in Gaza". REUTERS

# China concludes elaborate military drills near Taiwan

China has concluded expansive military exercises around Taiwan, held in the wake of Lai Ching-te's inauguration as the island's president. The Chinese army has "successfully completed all the missions" directed against Taiwan, state-run military news channel CCTV reported on Saturday. A total of 111 Chinese aircraft and dozens of naval vessels had surrounded the self-ruled island over the past two days, according to Taiwan's defence ministry.

The Chinese military's latest drills were the biggest in a year around the island. The latest drills started a "new era of normalized practices," Zhang Chi, associate professor of the China People's Liberation Army National Defense University, said in an interview with CCTV. "The PLA will stake a step forward each time the Taiwanese separatists make a provocative act," Zhang said.

Beijing has signalled its displeasure with Taipei's new government in recent days, accusing Lai of seeking independence and destabilizing the region.

"China's recent unilateral military provocations have not only undermined the status quo of peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait, but also openly provoked the interna-



A Chinese warship is pictured while navigating at an undisclosed location in waters around Taiwan in this handout image, released by Taiwan defence ministry on Friday

## US 'deeply concerned' over China drills

The US state department said on Saturday that the United States was "deeply concerned" over China's military drills in the Taiwan Strait and around Taiwan, and strongly urged it to act with restraint. "Using a normal, routine, and democratic transition as an excuse for military provocations risks escalation and erodes longstanding norms that for decades have maintained peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait," the state department said in a statement. REUTERS

tional order, and aroused serious concern and condemnation from the international community," Taiwan presidential spokesperson Karen Kuo said in a statement Saturday. Taipei calls on China to "shoulder global responsibility with Taiwan and work to maintain peace and stability in the Taiwan Straits and the region," she said.

The drills add to the complications Lai faces, among them a divisive campaign by rival parliamentarians to rein in the president's powers. The opposition is pushing through changes to the law that would expand lawmakers' ability to investigate the government, bringing thousands of people on to the street in protest. BLOOMBERG

# In show of unity, G7 slams China's trade practices

China's engagement in the global system of commerce was roundly criticized by Group of Seven finance chiefs in a show of unity accompanied by a threat of further escalation.

The club of rich-world ministers and central bankers concluded its gathering in the Italian lakeside town of Stresa on Saturday with a communique that cited the world's second-biggest economy by name and accused the country of hurting the economies of its trade partners. "While reaffirming our interest in a balanced and reciprocal collaboration, we express concerns about China's comprehensive use of non-market policies and practices that undermines our workers, industries, and economic resilience," they said. "We will continue to monitor the potential negative impacts of overcapacity and will consider taking steps to ensure a level playing field."

Those words of warning followed the Biden administration's announcement to reimpose tariffs on hundreds of goods imported from China. The escalation in rhetoric could just be the prelude to further tensions if Trump regains the White House in US elections. BLOOMBERG

# Macron ready to debate far-right politician Le Pen ahead of EU vote

Paris: French President Emmanuel Macron said on Saturday that he was willing to debate with far-right politician Marine Le Pen ahead of the June 9 European Parliament election, saying part of France's destiny was at stake in that ballot.

Le Pen's eurosceptic National Rally (RN) party leads opinion polls by a huge margin, with as much as 33% of the vote, or about twice as much as what is forecast for Macron's, centrist, pro-EU party. "My dear compatriots, wake up, look closely at who they are!," Macron told Le Parisien newspaper in an interview, speaking of the RN. "I'm willing to debate with Mrs Le Pen," Macron said. "The ball is in her camp."

Le Pen immediately replied on X that she was willing to debate, but only on the condition that Macron agreed to resign or call snap parliamentary elections if his party loses on June 9 — which he would have no reason to agree to. Macron beat Le Pen in two presidential election runoffs, in 2017 and 2022, but her popularity has kept growing since. REUTERS

# Prez: Ukraine has control of areas in Kharkiv region

## Two Killed In Aerial Attack By Russia

Kyiv: Ukrainian forces have secured "combat control" of areas where Russian troops entered the northeastern Kharkiv region earlier this month, President Volodymyr Zelensky said. Meanwhile, two people were killed Saturday in an aerial attack on the city of Kharkiv, which is the region's capital, according to local officials.

Kharkiv is about 20km from the Russian border. Moscow's troops have in recent weeks captured villages in the area as part of a broad push, and analysts say they may be trying to get within artillery range of the city. Ukrainian authorities have evacuated more than 11,000 people from the region since the start of the offensive on May 10. "Our soldiers have now managed to take combat



Firefighters battle a blaze at a shopping mall struck by Russian missiles in Kharkiv, Ukraine, on Saturday

control of the border area where the Russian occupiers entered," Zelensky said in his nightly video address on Friday evening. Zelensky's comments, however, appeared to be at odds with those made by Russian officials. Viktor Vodolatsky, a member of Russian lower house of parliament, said Russian forces now controlled more than half of the town of Vovchansk, 5km inside the border, Russian sta-

te news agency Tass reported Friday. Vovchansk has been a flashpoint for fighting since Russia launched the offensive in the Kharkiv region. Vodolatsky was also quoted as saying that once Vovchansk was secured, Russian forces would target the cities of Sloviansk, Kramatorsk and Pokrovsk in the neighbouring Donetsk region. Independent confirmation of the claims wasn't immediately possible. AP

# US calls for rapid deployment to Haiti after killing of 2 missionaries

The murder of two US missionaries in Haiti this week by powerful gangs underscores the urgent need to deploy an international security force to the troubled Caribbean nation, the US department of state said.

Natalie and Davy Lloyd, a married missionary couple, were ambushed and killed Thursday night along with a third person as they left church. "Unfortunately, this serves as a reminder that the security situation in Haiti cannot wait — too many innocent lives are being lost," US department of state spokesman Matthew Miller said in a statement released late Friday.

Haiti's turmoil has escalated following the assassination of President Jovenel Moise in 2021, and gangs now control large parts of the capital. More than half the population are going hungry and more than 300,000 people have been forced from their homes due to violence. Last year, the UN authorized a Kenyan-led security force to intervene, but its deployment has faced delays due to logistical and financial challenges. BLOOMBERG

# First in US: Abortion pill sans prescription a crime in Louisiana

Louisiana became the first state to make it a crime to possess the two main US abortion pills without a prescription, after a new law added mifepristone and misoprostol to the list of controlled substances like highly addictive narcotics.

Governor Jeff Landry, a Republican who opposes abortion access, said in a social-media post Friday that he'd signed the bill into law, just a day after the state Senate passed a bill by a 29 to 7 vote. The law goes into effect Oct 1. "Requiring an abortion inducing drug to be obtained with a prescription and criminalizing the use of an abortion drug on an unsuspecting mother is nothing short of common sense," Landry said in a post on X. "This bill protects women across Louisiana."

Louisiana, which has a near-total ban on terminating pregnancies, now classifies mifepristone and misoprostol the same way as drugs with the potential for addiction. Criminalizing possession of the non-addictive medications could trigger similar measures in other GOP-led states, where lawmakers



A LOSING BATTLE

have expanded limits on access to abortion since the US Supreme Court overturned the Roe vs. Wade decision.

Mifepristone and misoprostol are the most commonly-used method of terminating a pregnancy in the US, accounting for 63% of abortions last year, according to the Guttmacher Institute.

Louisiana's maternal mortality rate exceeds the national average, ranking 47th out of 48 states between 2018 and 2021, according to the CDC. Other states with strict abortion laws also had high maternal mortality rates, including Mississippi, Georgia and Alabama. BLOOMBERG

# Mob attacks Christians in Pak province

Lahore: A mob led by radical Islamists on Saturday unleashed an attack on Christians in Pakistan's Punjab province over allegations of desecration of the Quran. The attack left at least two members of the minority community injured, one of them seriously, police said. The incident took place in Mujahid Colony of Sargodha district in Punjab, 200km from Lahore. Several video clips of the mob attack on properties of Christian community members were being shared on social media. The mob led by radical Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan activists is seen burning and ransacking properties of Christians. PTI

# Kenya gold mine collapse kills 5

Five people were killed and three missing after the collapse of an unauthorised gold mine in northern Kenya, police said Saturday. Authorities in March had ordered the closure of so-called informal mines in the Hillo area near the border with Ethiopia, following clashes between local communities that resulted in seven deaths. AFP

# Meta, Call of Duty maker sued on 2nd anniv of Uvalde school attack

Austin (US): Families in Uvalde took more legal action Friday on the second anniversary of the Robb Elementary School attack, suing Meta Platforms, which owns Instagram, and the maker of the video game Call of Duty over claims the companies bear responsibility for products used by the teenage gunman.



Daniel Defense, the company that made the rifle used by the accused, faces two lawsuits

They also filed another lawsuit against Daniel Defense, which manufactured the AR-style rifle used in the May 24, 2022, shooting — and has already been sued. It added to mounting lawsuits over the attack and came as the small Texas city gathered to mourn the anniversary of one of the deadliest school shootings in

US history. The gunman killed 19 students and two teachers. Officers finally confronted and shot him after waiting more than an hour to enter the fourth-grade classroom.

Some of the same families on Wednesday filed a \$500 million lawsuit against Texas sta-

te police officials and officers who were part of the botched law enforcement response that day. More than 370 federal, state and local officers responded but waited more than an hour to confront the shooter inside the classroom.

Friday's lawsuits are not the first to accuse tech firms of having a role in radicalising shooters. Families of victims in a May 2022 attack on a New York supermarket sued social media firms, including Meta and Insta, over content on their platforms.

The lawsuit against Meta and Activision Blizzard — the maker of game Call of Duty — were filed in California with additional families

of victims from the attack.

According to the lawsuits, the Uvalde shooter had played versions of Call of Duty since he was 15, including one that allowed him to effectively practice with the version of the rifle he used at the school. The families also accused Instagram of doing little to enforce its rules that ban marketing firearms and harmful content to children.

Activision called the Uvalde shooting "horrendous and heartbreaking in every way", but said millions of people around the world enjoy video games without turning to horrific acts. Daniel Defense and Meta did not respond to emails requesting comment. AP

# Nasa launches sat to better climate change prediction

A tiny Nasa satellite was launched Saturday from New Zealand with the mission of improving climate change prediction by measuring heat escaping from Earth's poles for the first time. "This new information — and we've never had it before — will improve our ability to model what's happening in the poles, what's happening in climate," Nasa's earth sciences research director Karen St Germain told a news conference.

The satellite, which is the size of a shoe box, was launched by an Electron rocket, built by a company called Rocket Lab. The overall mission is called PREFIRE. It will serve to take infrared measurements far above the Arctic and Antarctic so as to measure directly the

heat that the poles release into space. "The process of getting the heat from the tropical regions to the polar regions is actually what drives all of our weather around the planet," said Tristan L'Ecuyer, a mission researcher affiliated with the University of Wisconsin, Madison. With PREFIRE, Nasa aims to understand how clouds, humidity or the melting of ice into water affects this heat loss from the poles.

Until now the models that climate change scientists used to gauge heat loss were based on theories rather than real observations, said L'Ecuyer.

Small satellites like this one are low-cost "specialists" that will answer very specific scientific questions, said St Germain. AFP

# Baltimore as US overdose capital: Almost 6k dead in 6yrs

Baltimore: Across the city the death toll has mounted. Fatal drug overdoses have occurred on one-third of the city's blocks. Bodies have been found in motels and vacant houses, at parks and the football stadium, around the corner from City Hall and outside the health department. In one grim month alone, 114 people succumbed. People in Baltimore have been dying of overdoses at a rate never before seen in a major US city.



IN THE GRIP OF FENTANYL

In the past six years, nearly 6,000 lives have been lost. The death rate from 2018 to 2022 was nearly double that of any other large city in the US.

A decade ago, 700 fewer people here were being killed by

ly, experimented with ways to steer people into treatment and ratcheted up campaigns to alert the public.

But then city leaders became preoccupied with other crises, including gun violence and the pandemic, and many of those efforts to fight overdoses stalled, an examination by The New York Times and The Baltimore Banner has found.

Those who lost lives include a cross-section of Baltimore: line cook, lawyer, bus driver, engineer, machinist, teacher, restaurant owner, carpenter, veteran, physician, salesperson and admissions coordinator for an addiction recovery center. There were retirees and the jobless.

Some victims were heartbreakingly young. Since 2020, at least 13 children younger than 4 have died after being exposed to drugs, according to the reports. Black men in their 50s to 70s died at the highest rates. A few overdose deaths drew headlines, but most were invisible to the public.

For nearly all of the past three decades, Baltimore has had one of the highest fatal overdose rates of any large US city. But for most of that period, the death rate was much closer to the national average than it is today.

Beginning in 2006, pharmaceutical companies were inundating pharmacies across the country with addic-

tive pain pills. Some patients began selling their pills in Baltimore expanding the illegal drug market. The mayor wrote last week that the current fentanyl crisis had been triggered by the influx of pills from drugmakers and distributors. But the prescription pill epidemic was far less severe in Baltimore than elsewhere in the country. Oxycodone was the cause of relatively few deaths in the city, according to CDC and state data.

The death rate remained relatively low until the mid-2010s, when fentanyl flooded the illegal drug markets across the country. Dealers began spiking heroin with fentanyl, which is up to 50 ti-

mes more potent and can be manufactured from cheap chemical compounds. They also began mixing fentanyl in cocaine, pressing it into fake prescription pills and selling it on its own. Drug-testing data shows that it is now all but impossible to buy illegal opioids in Maryland that have not been mixed with it and other dangerous additives like xylazine, which makes naloxone — the generic name for Narcan — less effective. These days, heroin is rarely found.

Because fentanyl is combined with other substances, the distribution of the opioid's granules is uneven. One hit may be just enough to get high. The next could be deadly. NYT

## AROUND THE WORLD



**WORLD TO GET FIRST MILLENNIAL SAINT:** An image of 15-year-old Carlo Acutis, an Italian boy who died of leukemia in 2006, is seen during his beatification ceremony in St. Francis Basilica, Assisi, Italy, on Oct 10, 2020. Pope Francis cleared the way for the teen to become the first millennial saint by attributing a second miracle to him — recovery of a Costa Rican university student who suffered severe head trauma after falling off her bicycle — the Vatican has said. Roman Catholics often called Carlo the "patron saint of the internet" because of his computer skills, which he used to share his faith. He was born in London to Italian parents, who moved to Milan when Carlo was a child. NYT

# Morgan Spurlock, director of 'Super Size Me', dies

Morgan Spurlock, a documentary filmmaker who gained fame with his Oscar-nominated 2004 film 'Super Size Me', which followed him as he ate nothing but McDonald's for 30 days — but later stepped back from the public eye after admitting to sexual misconduct — died Thursday in New York City. He was 53. His brother Craig Spurlock said the cause was complications of cancer. A self-described attention hound with a keen eye for the absurd, Spurlock was a playwright and television producer when he rocketed to global attention with 'Super Size Me', an early

entry into the genre of gonzo participatory filmmaking. After eating for 30 days at McDonald's, Spurlock was 25 pounds heavier, depressed, puffy-faced and experiencing liver dysfunction. The film, which debuted at the Sundance Film Festival, grossed over \$22 million, made Spurlock a household name, and helped spur a sweeping backlash against the fast-food industry — although only temporarily.

Judge rejects Baldwin plea to drop indictment: A New Mexico judge on Friday rejected Alec Baldwin's bid to dismiss an involuntary manslaughter charge for the 2021 shooting of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins, opening the way for an unprecedented trial of a Hollywood actor for an on-set death. Baldwin's lawyers argued at a May 17 hearing that a grand jury indictment of the actor was "a sham".



Manprit with Anahad

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# Kids are not fussy eaters. We should make ghar ka khana more interesting

Model-turned-chef **Amrita Raichand** had started cooking at the age of eight but never considered pursuing it professionally till she became a mommy in 2007. When her son Agastya started solids, Raichand began experimenting with ingredients to create meals he wouldn't spit out and found her true calling. The Jamshedpur-born chef, whose cookery show 'Mummy ka Magic' has been running for 14 years, spoke to **Neha Bhayana** about parenting a 16-year-old, and how to get children to love home-cooked food

**How are you coping with the terrible teens? Are they all that terrible?**

Fortunately, my son is not one of those teens who gives a lot of trouble. But he is definitely changing. He has his moods and demands. As a kid, he used to be my go-to person for everything I did on social media. He would smile every time I wanted a picture and happily do what I wanted him to do. Now even bribing does not help.

I recently told him that I miss that phase. I have adorable videos of him dancing to 'Gangnam Style'. I said, "Agastya, you were like a little puppet." He made a face and said, "That's what you want, a puppet who dances to your tunes."

**When kids enter their teens, they become mini adults. Suddenly, they have a mind of their own. I think the moment we understand and respect that our kids are now growing into adults, the journey is easier**

When kids enter their teens, they become mini adults, and we don't have much control over them. It is not that a parent wants control. It's just that the parent is used to it because the child is dependent on you for everything. Then suddenly they have a mind of their own. I think the moment we understand and respect that our kids are now growing into adults, the journey is easier.

**How can a parent ensure a child's transition to the teen phase is smooth?**

Communication, for sure. We are a very close-knit joint family. I think we have survived thanks to our conversations. We talk about everything with everybody. We have coffee in the morning together, and at least one meal at the dining table. We chat about our triumphs, our tribulations, we discuss Agastya's studies. Everybody is involved in everybody's life but not to a point where it is overbearing. We have seen Agastya evolve in front of our eyes. We respect his feelings and his needs, and he respects us a lot more now. He doesn't talk to us only when he needs something.

**Any ground rules at home? Are mobiles allowed at the dinner table?**

We naturally don't bring our phones to the table. But we're not in a jail so there are no written rules, and nobody's afraid of anybody. I have realised that being too much of a disciplinarian goes against the motive that you have. One thing I don't encourage

is sleepovers. We allow sleepovers only at the homes of one or two close friends of ours, and that too when the kids have to study or work on a project together. His friends are always welcome at our place though.

**I am sure Agastya's friends love to eat at your place...**

They do. They love my cookies. I bake these chocolate chip cookies with no maida and no sugar — they have no clue about the ingredients (winks). His friends love to eat crepes, pancakes, pizzas and pasta here too. But I also feed them roti, dal, chicken curry, sabzi. Their moms are pleased that they eat proper ghar ka khana at my place.

**Was your son a fussy eater? How did you cope?**

My son was not a fussy eater; he was a child with a good palate. He would not eat tasteless food. Even now he has an opinion about every bite he takes. And, I think any child who has an enhanced palate should be respected. I believe that children are not fussy eaters, and I have said this in my TED talks as well. We adults are just not ready to evolve to a level where we can think beyond saying that. We feel that "Arre bachhe to ghar ka khaana khaate hi nahi hai, inke to bahar ka khana chahiye" (kids don't eat home food, they want food from outside). Perhaps, we have just not tried hard enough to make sure the child gets good food at home. You have to make a little effort. If you give bread and butter, they will not be excited to eat it. They will want to eat outside food. If you bake healthy cookies or turn rajma chawal into a burrito bowl or serve egg toasties instead of simple omelette, they will surely want to eat.

**While some moms go out of their way to make heart-shaped rotis and star-shaped sandwiches, others believe one should let the child skip the meal if he is not keen, and he will have to eat when hungry. What's your take?**

Both schools of thought are fine. You can't spoil a child but you also cannot kill yourself beyond a point. Once in a while, you should make that treat but the food need not be beautifully presented every single time. If the child is being extra fussy, let them skip a meal. When they're hungry, they're going to eat it. But is it fair to make a child eat something which is not palatable? So, you have to make a little effort to make interesting food for your child. And ask the child what they

**MILLET RECIPE FOR KIDS**

**Bajra Cookies**

- ▶ Preheat the oven to 165°C
- ▶ In a large bowl, add one cup bajra flour, quarter cup whole wheat flour and half tsp baking powder. Mix well. Add chilled and cubed butter (60 gram) and rub the mixture to get a crumbly texture
- ▶ Add 100 gram of jaggery powder in a tablespoon of water to dissolve the lumps and add to the dry ingredients, followed by 1 tsp vanilla essence. Make a soft dough
- ▶ Roll it thinly using some dry flour if necessary. Use a cookie cutter to make cookies in the shape of your choice and place it on a greased baking tray
- ▶ Bake in the preheated oven for 12-15 mins
- ▶ Place the tray on a cooling rack and allow the cookies to cool completely
- ▶ Melt one cup white chocolate with the help of a double boiler or microwave it at 30 second intervals to get a smooth & silky consistency. Dip the cookies till half way by & remove them on a parchment paper. Add some colourful sprinkles and let them set
- ▶ Relish with your child

like. If the child always wants to eat pasta and burger, maybe make these for every meal. After five days, I promise you they will be fed up and ask for roti, dal, sabzi or pulao.

**With restaurant food just a click away, teens have become even more difficult to please. How can parents get them to eat what is served?**

If you cook good food at home, your child will not want to order online. Even a toorai or lauki ki sabzi can be made so tasty that kids will love it. Once in a while is perfectly normal to crave restaurant food but not daily. What happens is when we cook at home, we don't make an effort to get the right balance of flavours and make it delicious. We feel that ghar ka khana hai, toh boring hi hoga (if it is home food, it will be boring). That need not be the case.

**As a health ambassador for the Salaam Bombay Foundation, you are trying to promote healthy eating among the underprivileged. Tell us about your work.**

I dedicate one day every month to working with them. I go to slums and government schools and talk to parents and children about the importance of healthy eating. I share simple recipes, and we cook together with normal ingredients that are available at their homes. Healthy food does not need to be expensive. We don't have to use olive oil or quinoa. I show them how they can make interesting food at home without compromising on the taste. I also introduce a few French culinary terms for fun and chat with the moms about our struggles. My interactions have made me realise that all children are the same; they have the same desires, tantrums and the same inhibitions.

**Cooking is a survival skill but few parents bother to teach their kids to cook...**

Today's children don't have time. They are so busy with studies, projects, and internships. But knowing how to cook is essential indeed. In fact, this summer we are not travelling so that's our plan. I am also planning a series to teach children to cook in a fun way. Even when our kids go abroad to

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study, they should be able to whip up something healthy because no matter how good the outside food is, sometimes home food is absolutely essential. Schools should also include cooking in their lessons.

**Millet is the new superfood but it is often difficult to feed a child bajra or ragi rotis. How can a parent include millet in the child's diet?**

Sometimes, I just sneak in a little jowar or bajra flour in our regular wheat atta. Or you can easily make some yummy bajra cookies (recipe in box) or jowar feta crackers.

**What according to you is the toughest part of parenting?**

Letting your child go. The whole and soul of my existence has been my son. So, when he's ready to go for his higher studies, I don't know how I'll deal with it.

**Strict or soft — how would you describe your parenting style?**

I try to be a balanced mom. I am strict enough for him to know that when I say something, I mean business. But I'm soft enough that he shares every secret with me and talks to me about anything, even girls. He would never

**I am strict enough for him to know that when I say something, I mean business. But I'm soft enough that he shares every secret with me**

lie to me. Sometimes, even when he does wrong things, he comes and tells me very sweetly. I have always told him no matter what happens, never ever be dishonest. It's better to just speak the truth because to hide one lie, you lie 10 more times.

**Do you keep your opinion to yourself to get Agastya to talk to you freely?**

No, I am fairly opinionated. I listen to his point of view but I also give my opinion and then I leave it to him to take a call. You cannot ignore the fact that parents have more experience; we have gone through more relationships, more friendships and more turmoil in life. We may not be in their shoes at that time, but we certainly know a little better than them. If something smells fishy or if some person or situation does not seem right, I make it a point to tell him. He may not agree with my perspective, but that's okay. We have to let them make their own mistakes and learn. There have been times when he has come back and said, "Mom, you were right." I love saying that mom is always right (laughs) though the truth is mom is not always right.

**Describe motherhood in one word. Thoroughly enjoyable.**

## A child called Frooti, and the problem of ultra processed food

Rujuta Diwekar

I visited Gadchiroli a few years ago on a speaking assignment. I was addressing the social worker community at Dr Rani and Abhay Bang's organisation. Amongst many things that I carry back are the names of two tribal girls — Frooti and Selfie. One tends to think that people in rural areas inhabit a different planet from those in metros but that's not really the case as far as penetration of junk food products — colas, chips, chocolates (and now even clicks on smartphones) — go.

And so, the recently released ICMR-NIN guidelines on healthy eating that ask people to avoid eating ultra-processed foods (UPFs) is a step in the right direction. UPFs and their detrimental effects on both people and the planet are well documented. Global scientific communities are asking for warning labels on UPFs like those on cigarettes. But those are hard to come by, especially in developing economies where industries habitually push back any kind of regulation. And probably that's why the ICMR, in its latest guidelines, asks you to read food labels and make informed choices.

What does this really mean for a child though who lives in an obesogenic environment? The Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors Study (GBD 2021) shows that from 2000 to 2021 there has been an almost 50% increase in DALYs (disability-adjusted life years), basically years spent in poor health. Most of this has been caused by non-communicable diseases such as obesity, high blood sugar and blood pressure in the 15-49 age group. One may be tempted to call these lifestyle disorders, the diseases that one gets because of one's own negligence, lack of discipline and willpower. Or we can acknowledge that there is data to show that when policies that prioritise health are in place, these risks can be mitigated.



**FIGHTING OBESITY:** Chile's black warning labels on unhealthy food and curbs on junk food advertisements are showing results. India needs some regulation too

One example of this is Chile which, in 2016, introduced front-of-label octagonal black warning labels on all UPFs. It does not allow advertisements of junk food on TV programs that are directed at kids. It was a response to the fact that half of their children were either overweight or obese, and the gambit paid off. Studies found that consumption of sugary beverages had dropped. Also, companies cut sugar and salt to meet the new regulations. Essentially Chile has presented proof of concept for junk food regulation and warning labels.

Many other countries have followed suit. In 2020, the Oaxaca state of Mexico banned sales, distribution and supply of sugary beverages (colas, caffeinated energy drinks etc) and high-calorie foods to all kids under 18, similar to restrictions on alcohol. In 2017, Norway (also known as one of the healthiest, happiest countries in the world) increased the tax on sugar and chocolate products by 80%. Canada too is putting restrictions in place to create a healthier environment for children.

ICMR states that 56% of disease burden in India is due to unhealthy diets (read high consumption of UPFs). We are probably the only country where pizza and burger chains have a dedicated birthday area. What can you do as a parent then to ensure that your kids have not just a long life but also a healthy one?

**HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS**

- 1 Teach children that consumption of packaged food is unhealthy
- 2 Tell them how to recognise UPFs. They usually have more than five ingredients and include additives, emulsifiers, stabilisers, hydrogenated oils etc. And even if they are enriched with vitamins or minerals, it does not make them healthy
- 3 Watch out for sneaky sugars such as high fructose corn syrup
- 4 Reinforce that chips, chocolates and colas are chips, chocolates, and colas even when sold and advertised as low fat, sugar or low calorie

Most importantly, remember that guidelines that warn you about UPFs without any policy shifts — like regulation and taxes — are toothless, to say the least. As a nation we have taken massive strides in the areas of communicable, maternal, neonatal, and nutritional diseases. We still have a long way to go even there, but the intention and the machinery is in place. It's time that our politicians and policy makers stop reducing obesity to a lifestyle choice and instead address the elephant in the room.

## Sexual abuse a 'touchy' issue but don't avoid it

A child is sexually abused every 15 minutes in India, according to latest data from National Crime Records Bureau. The only way to prevent such crimes is to teach kids to protect themselves. But most parents struggle to even mention the words 'sexual abuse' in front of their kids, let alone discuss it. **Sushant Kalra**, a parenting expert who has been creating awareness about sexual abuse prevention, tells us how parents can have this talk



Reading about incidents of sexual abuse in the news always leaves me ill at ease for, I have also experienced the ignominy of 'bad touch' in my life. All kinds of questions haunted me later: Is this normal? Is this right or wrong? Is it ok to talk to your parents, siblings, teachers about this? Am I a bad boy? Am I weak? What could I have done to prevent it? The incident affected my relationships and instilled a fear of authority in me.



Sushant Kalra

When I became a parent, I was sure that I did not want my child to go through the same experience. But how could I protect my child if I am not there with him 24x7? An analysis of crime records shows that 90% of child abuse is committed by a known person.

**TRICKY TOPICS**

Who will protect my child in this case? Despite schools taking up these sessions, there seems to be no respite in the increasing numbers of sexual abuse cases involving children. Almost 85% of people we met in our parenting programmes admitted having experienced 'bad touch' in their life.

vate parts can feel good, stimulating, titillating — it may not feel bad and a child may not perceive it as bad. This conversation is about safe and unsafe touch, whether it feels bad or not.

One dilemma that parents have is — what is the right age to talk to the child? If your child is two or three years old, they may not have the vocabulary to have this conversation, but it cannot be delayed beyond this age group. Even if your child is a teen, muster up the courage and talk to them today. Children above 10 or 11 years may have had exposure to conversations around sexuality and may feel awkward. Please don't let that stop you, tell them that this is embarrassing for you too but it's critical that you and the child talk.

The easiest way to start the conversation is to talk about various touches — what kind of touch makes them feel good, appreciated or wanted, and move into what kind of touches make them feel bad or uncomfortable. Share your own thoughts, ask your spouse to do the same and have an open conversation as a family. Remember each and every conversation will go differently as each child will respond differently. So, don't judge yourself or your child.

**USE A DOLL**

You could use a doll or the drawing of a body outline to ask/tell your child about private parts. Explain to your child that the following are private parts:

- ▶ Genitals or area between the legs
- ▶ Chest: Mention that the chest is private for men as well even if the swimming costume does not cover it
- ▶ The bottom
- ▶ The mouth: Tell them that private parts don't necessarily mean they have to be covered. The mouth is also a private part

**TEACH THEM SKILLS TO SPOT UNSAFE TOUCH**

Tell your child that it is UNSAFE if anyone touches these parts (not bad touch, but unsafe touch). The child has to take control of his or her safety and not allow anyone else to touch these areas — only a doctor if required and that too in the parents' presence.

- 1 Tell the child if any touch makes them feel uncomfortable, whether it's someone pulling their cheeks, hugging or asking them to sit in their lap, they should shout a loud and aggressive 'NO' at the top of their voice. Make them practise this till the time you are sure that the shout is loud and aggressive enough to shock the offender and attract others around. This is a super critical step. Remember just telling them that you need to shout will not work. Practise to the level that the shout comes out spontaneously
- 2 Advise them to run away and physically get out of the situation. Discuss where they should go if they are at school or a mall, for example
- 3 Create a 'safe circle' list with your child by noting down the places they normally go to and who would be their go-to safe person in that place



these conversations with your child. Don't we teach our kids to use a knife in the kitchen? It can be dangerous, yet anyone can acquire the skills to handle it responsibly. This too is a conversation that needs to be done to build the skill to protect themselves and not to warn or scare them of people. Your demeanour, tone and your belief are key.

A critical rule to establish is that they have to speak to you if anything happens — there are no secrets between parents and children!

Kalra, founder of Parvurish Institute of Parenting, spoke to Neha Bhayana

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## LOOK TO ROCK KKR'S BOAT

**Marauding Knights Start Favourites But Gambhir-Mentored Team Will Be Wary Of Pat Cummins' Mercurial Bunch In Final Today**

**CALM BEFORE THE STORM:** KKR captain Shreyas Iyer (left) and SRH counterpart Pat Cummins pose with the IPL trophy in Chennai on Saturday /PTI



**18** runs needed by Sunil Narine (482 at 37.07 in 14 matches) to become the first allrounder to complete the double of 500 runs and 15 wickets (16 at 22.00) in one IPL season.

**“Where I stand as a skipper is definitely on you guys to decide. About Gautam bhai (Gambhir; team mentor), I feel he has got immense knowledge about how the game is played.”**  
— Shreyas Iyer | KKR CAPTAIN

**“It will be great to win the title but the run's going to stop at some point. It's been a great couple of years, but I haven't captained any T20 cricket team before this series. So, I'm not too sure what to expect. It's quite fast-paced.”**  
— Pat Cummins | SRH CAPTAIN

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**Chennai:** The year was 2012. Shah Rukh Khan's daughter Suhana still hadn't reached her teens. After the first four years of struggle, as Kolkata Knight Riders won a magical final at Chepauk, beating two-time defending champions Chennai Super Kings, 'King Khan' couldn't control his emotions and was on the verge of jumping from the first-floor balcony of the stadium.

Suhana stopped her dad that moment, but the celebration (and pandemonium) that followed in the team hotel through the night was the experience of a lifetime for those who were there.

Cut to 2024 and KKR are close to revisiting similar sensations. But standing in their way is an unpredictable Sunrisers Hyderabad team, who have lost twice to the Knights this year, the most recent being in the first Qualifier in Ahmedabad on Tuesday.

Some of the key protagonists of that 2012 triumph for KKR are still there — then-captain Gautam Gambhir is now the mentor while Sunil Narine remains the No. 1 weapon for the Kolkata team, albeit in a different form.

Now with a much-modified action, Narine, with an economy rate of 6.9, is still a bowler who is difficult to score runs off. But it's his no-holds barred batting at the top of the order that has become one of the talking points of this IPL.

The West Indian has the ability to clear the fence whenever the ball is in his hitting arc, which can be worrying for somebody like Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who banks on his swing early on at a pace of around 130 km/hr. For SRH, the best chance against Narine will be to try and bowl short at a good pace, something that skipper Pat Cummins can do if he chooses to.

On Friday, SRH had two unlikely bowling heroes in left-arm spinners Abhishek Sharma and Shahbaz Ahmed on a black-soil pitch, but the track is going to be changed for the final. The game

will be played on a red-soil pitch where the wrist spinners should get a bit of help, provided the dew doesn't come in.

Narine and his mystery spin partner C Varun, who has got 20 wickets in this IPL, could be crucial. Captain Shreyas Iyer stressed on that in the press conference just before KKR's practice schedule was halted by an afternoon shower.

“Narine and Varun's roles are going to be important. They have been spot on in terms of executing their plans and have been able to control the runs in the middle overs. I hope they will be able to do that on Sunday as well,” Iyer said.

All the indications are that KKR will start the final as overwhelming favourites, but there's something about this SRH team that doesn't quite rule them out of the contest.

While Cummins' astute captaincy is one of the crucial elements, it is the explosive nature of their opening duo of Abhishek Sharma and Travis Head that will keep KKR team management worried. Head didn't play the first time these two teams played against each other this season, while in Qualifier 1, he got a first-ball duck, unable to deal with the pace and swing of the ever-improving Mitchell Starc. But there's always an unpredictability about Head's game and captain Iyer will hope that Starc delivers the sucker punch once again early on.

The second big hurdle that can come in KKR's way is in the form of Heinrich Klaasen, who was brilliant during his 34-ball 50 in the second Qualifier on Friday. He has everything in his batting arsenal to deal with the spin threat of Narine and Varun and add to that the confidence that he has gained from his Friday show.

But KKR too are hungry. Their mentor Gautam Gambhir's “obsession for success” seems to have rubbed on and it will need an extraordinary performance from SRH to stop the marauding Knights from running away with their third title.

## Cummins breaks new T20 ground

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**Chennai:** In any discussion about great cricket captains, Pat Cummins' name is unlikely to get a mention. But the success that this humble Aussie paceman has achieved over the last one and a half years is simply unmatched.

Australia broke Indian hearts in the World Test Championship final and ODI World Cup final last year, and now he is one step away from winning T20 cricket's biggest franchise event — the IPL. It was only MS Dhoni who had an ODI World Cup and an IPL title (in 2011) under his belt as captain at the same time, and Cummins knows he can do one better with Sunrisers Hyderabad.

“Yes, it's been a great couple of years. But I haven't done much T20 captaincy before this, having captained in ODIs helped though,” a relaxed Cummins said, taking his eyes off Dhoni as a re-run of a CSK game was being played on a screen

inside the press-room.

There's an understated nature about his captaincy, even though you can see that he is an astute reader of the game. The Indian team got a feel of his tactical acumen in Ahmedabad last Nov and that's probably one of the reasons the SRH management punted on him, picking Cummins up for Rs 20.5 cr from the auctions.

“He is a very practical guy, very humble. He is empathetic towards his teammates and coaching staff. And he keeps it simple, our team meeting today (Friday) went on for like 35 seconds,” SRH assistant coach Simon Helmot said after the team's win against Rajasthan Royals in the second qualifier.

In this day and age, some of the captains are absolutely obsessed with data analysis, but Cummins is probably a little old school in this regard, even though he isn't closed to new-age technology.

“I think data analytics play a role

but it can take you so far, a captain probably needs to be intuitive. It's actually a balance of information you gather from objective data and your own intuition,” Cummins said, analysis his methods of captaincy.

It's interesting that only three foreign captains have won the IPL — Shane Warne (2008), Adam Gilchrist (2009) and David Warner (2016). It's not always easy for foreigners to understand how it works for Indian rookies, but Cummins, who isn't an IPL regular, seems to have taken to it like a duck to water.

“There's a lot of pressure on the Indian guys in the IPL. So, instead of trying to change how they play, it's better to keep them encouraging and see how it works. And when the tough moments come, it is about rallying around each other,” said Cummins.

It's this simplicity in his approach that has taken his team so far and one more win on Sunday will ensure that Cummins holds an exclusive place in Indian cricket history.

## SRH vs KKR | IPL TITLES WON

<b>As SRH - 1</b> (beat RCB by 8 runs in Bengaluru; 29-5-2016).	<b>KKR - 2</b> (beat CSK by 5 wickets in Chennai; 27-5-2012 & Punjab by 3 wickets in Bengaluru; 1-6-2014)
<b>As Deccan Chargers - 1</b> (the previous iteration of the team, Deccan Chargers, won the title in 2009 beating RCB by 6 runs in Johannesburg; 24-5-2009)	

IPL RECORD OF CAPTAINS					
	Played	Won	Lost	NR	Winning %
Shreyas Iyer (KKR)	14	10	3	1	76.92
Pat Cummins (SRH)	15	9	6	0	60

TOP PERFORMERS					
KKR					
Batter	M	Runs	HS	Ave	100/50
Sunil Narine	14	482	109	37.07	1/3

Bowler					
Batter	M	Wkts	Ave	Best	4WI
Varun Chakravarthy	14	20	19.65	3/16	0

SRH					
Batter	M	Runs	HS	Ave	100/50
Travis Head	14	567	102	43.61	1/4

Bowler					
Batter	M	Wkts	Ave	Best	4WI
T Natarajan	13	19	22.94	4/19	1

—Stats: Rajesh Kumar

## GALLERY

### Sandeep next after Bumrah in last two yrs, says Samson

**Chennai:** Rajasthan Royals captain Sanju Samson had special praise for Sandeep Sharma. “I am happy for him. By not being picked in the auctions and coming back as a replacement. If we look at the numbers, Sandeep Sharma in the last two years, he (Sandeep) will be the next guy after Bumrah. He has done a great job,” Samson said.

### Panic cost Royals place in final, says Sangakkara

**Rajasthan:** Rajasthan Royals had a “great season” but a “little bit of panic” chasing Sunrisers Hyderabad, team director Kumar Sangakkara said late Friday. “Wicket turned a little bit probably, but I think a little bit of panic and not building enough partnerships past that first wicket,” he said.

### Leclerc takes pole position for Monaco GP

**Monaco:** Charles Leclerc took pole position for Ferrari at the Monaco Grand Prix and ended Max Verstappen's bid for a record-extending ninth straight pole on Saturday. Verstappen starts Sunday's race from sixth place for Red Bull on arguably the most difficult track for overtaking in the series. AGENCIES

## ACTION TODAY

**BADMINTON:** Malaysia Masters finals, 10.30 am (Jiocinema); **CRICKET:** 2nd Women's ODI Eng vs. Pak, 5.30 pm (Sony); IPL final: KKR vs SRH, 7.30 pm (Star Sports, Jiocinema); **FOOTBALL:** La Liga: Sevilla vs Barcelona, 12.30 am Monday (Jiocinema);

## Shubhankar makes cut in Belgium

**Antwerp:** Shubhankar Sharma hit four birdies in a row on his first nine to ensure a smooth passage into the weekend rounds of the Soudal Open here. The two-time DP World Tour champion, Sharma, who missed the cut when he played the event last two times, followed up his first round 69 with a second round 67 to get to 6-under.

### Diksha Dagar finishes T-20 at Jabra Ladies Open

**Evian-Les-Bains:** Iksha Dagar closed with back-to-back birdies to turn in an even par 71 in the final round and ensure a Top-20 finish at the Jabra Ladies Open at the Evian Golf resort here. Earlier in the morning, the cut fell at 5-over and Sneha Singh missed it by a shot.

### Swiss star Morgane Metraux holed three birdies in a row

Swiss star Morgane Metraux holed three birdies in a row from 14th to the 16th to ensure a fine win as she raced to 10-under. PTI

## Simran wins India's 6th gold in para athletics

**Kobe:** Simran Sharma won gold medal in women's 200m T12 event with a personal best time of 24.95 seconds to fetch the sixth yellow metal for India on the final day of the World Para Athletics Championships here on Saturday.

### PARA ATHLETICS WORLD C'SHIPS

Darlenys De La Severino (25.08) of Dominica and Lorraine Gomes De Aguiar (25.40) won the silver and bronze respectively.

The T12 category is meant for athletes who have vision impairment.

India now has 15 medals (6 gold, 5 silver, 4 bronze) to be at sixth place in the standings.

Earlier, India were awarded the silver and bronze in men's javelin throw F46 event after winning a protest against second-place finisher Dinesh Priyantha Herath of Sri Lanka.

In para sports, athletes are classified into groups with similar levels of physical ability to allow fair competition.

The F46 classification is for athletes with arm deficiency, impaired muscle power or impaired passive range of movement in arms, with athletes competing in a standing position.

“He (Herath) was not classified properly and did not belong to the F 46 category,” said an official from the Paralympic Committee of India.

India got a favourable decision and Herath was disqualified. Rinku, who originally finished third with an effort of 62.77m, was upgraded to second while Ajeet (62.11m) was handed a bronze.

“We won the protest against the Sri Lankan, who had also won gold at the Tokyo Paralympics, that he should not have been eligible to compete,” head coach Satyanarayan said.

“Now, Rinku is the silver winner from the original third and Ajeet was upgraded from fourth place to bronze.”

This is India's best-ever performance, having surpassed the earlier record medal haul of 10 medals (3 gold, 4 silver and 3 bronze) it won in the 2023 edition in Paris. PTI

## Lifter Bharali clinches gold in World Youth Championships

**New Delhi:** Assam's teenage weightlifter Bedabrat Bharali won the gold medal in the men's 73kg at the IWF World Youth Championships in Lima, Peru.

### SPOTLIGHT

Last year Bharali, an Asian youth champion, finished third in the 67kg category.

Ryan McDonald from the United States finished second with an effort of 125-159-284 while Serhii Kotelevskiy of Ukraine was placed third on 130-153-283.

Sairaj Pardeshi added another medal to the Indian tally as he clinched the bronze medal in the snatch discipline of men's 81kg with a lift of 135kg.

But he missed out on a medal in overall category by just 1kg and finished in fourth position with a total lift of 300kg (135+165). PTI

## Hat-trick of WC gold for women's compound team

**Archiman.Bhaduri** @timesgroup.com

**Kolkata:** It's hat-trick of World Cup gold for the Indian women's compound team as the trio of Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Parneet Kaur and Aditi Swami ended on top at the mega events' Stage II competition at Yecheon, South Korea, on Saturday.

They had won the season-opening World Cup Stage I in Shanghai, beating Italy last month and also ended last season with a gold at Stage IV of the event in Paris.

In a lopsided final, the world No. 1 Indian team dominated Turkey's Hazal Burun, Ayse Bera Suzer and Begum Yuva to win comfortably without dropping a set, 232-226.

Asian Games champion Jyothi, however, failed to add a second gold to her kitty as she along with Priyansh went down to the USA's Olivia Dean and Sawyer Sullivan 155-153 in the compound mixed team final.

Later in the day, youngster

Prathamesh Fuge missed out on a medal when he lost to World No. 1 Mike Schloesser of the Netherlands in a shoot-off in the bronze medal play-off match in the individual men's compound match.

The 21-year-old Fuge got a chance to grab a medal when he took the match to a shoot-off after Schloesser faltered in his penultimate arrow to end the five sets at 148-all. But Fuge lost hitting a nine to 'Mr Perfect's' 10.

Fuge earlier lost to world No. 7 James Lutz of the USA 143-148 in the semifinal.

In the compound women's team final, the second-seeded Indians led by four points at the halfway mark. Though Turkey fought hard in the last ends, it was not enough to deny the Indinas a top of the table finish.

In the mixed team summit clash, Jyothi and Priyansh faltered even after holding on to a two-point lead in the first end as Olivia and Sullivan leveled scores at 76-all at the halfway mark.

# MANCHESTER RE-UNITED

Red Devils Deliver Cup For Ten Hag, Deprive Local Rivals City Of The Double, And Seal A Europa League Place

London: Erik ten Hag made a convincing case to be spared the sack as Manchester United upset Manchester City to take the FA Cup with a shock 2-1 victory in Saturday's final. United will also qualify for the Europa League.

Ten Hag was reportedly set to be dismissed regardless of the result at Wembley after a troubled campaign that even the United manager described as "terrible" this week. But United's hierarchy might be having second thoughts after Ten Hag's tactical masterclass ruined City's history bid.

City were hot favourites to win a second successive Premier League and FA Cup double. Yet Ten Hag found a way to neutralise Pep Guardiola's side as first half goals from Alejandro Garnacho and Kobbie Mainoo put United on course to win the FA Cup for the first time in eight years. Jeremy Doku squeezed an 87th minute strike past Andre Onana's weak attempted save but it was too late to rescue City.

Having ended a turbulent season on a high note, if Ten Hag's two-year reign does end, his exit would provoke memories of fellow Dutchman Louis van Gaal's Old Trafford departure. Van Gaal was fired just two days after United's FA Cup final victory against Crystal Palace in 2016.

Ten Hag will hope a more apt comparison is Alex Ferguson's 1990

FA Cup final win against Palace, which kick-started his remarkable run after calls for his sacking earlier that season. Ferguson was in attendance as a match labelled Ten Hag's funeral turned into a triumph for the much-maligned Dutchman.

Linked with Thomas Tuchel, Mauricio Pochettino and Gareth Southgate, among others, there is still plenty for Jim Ratcliffe to ponder after United finished eighth in the EPL this season - their lowest final position since 1990. Ten Hag believes a lengthy injury list was the root of the problems and can point to the two trophies he has won in three cup final appearances with United as proof of what he can do when his team's at full strength. AFP



TEN HAG IS LIFTED BY MARTINEZ

<b>FA CUP FINAL</b>
<b>MANCHESTER CITY</b> 1
Doku 87
<b>MANCHESTER UNITED</b> 2
Garnacho 30, Mainoo 39

**"Nobody believed in us. But we're a team, all together. We fought, the game of our lives."**

—Alejandro Garnacho, UNITED GOALSCORER

**"It's been a tough season with ups and downs. Last year I was in the stands. We knew we had to come together. We've shown we can compete and win."**

—Kobbie Mainoo SCORED THE 2ND GOAL

## LEEDS, SAINTS TO CLASH IN '£140M' PLAYOFF

London: Leeds and Southampton will slug it out for a lucrative place in the Premier League when they meet in football's single richest match at Wembley on Sunday. Promotion to the English top-flight is worth an estimated £140 million (\$178 million) for the Championship play-off final winner.

**Copa America to feature its first female referees:** Next month's Copa America will be the first edition of the men's football tournament to have female referees.

## MOTTA SIGNS OFF WITH LOSS AT BOLOGNA BEFORE 'JUVENTUS MOVE'

Milan: Bologna slipped to a 2-0 loss at Genoa on Friday in Thiago Motta's last game in charge as their historic Serie A campaign came to an underwhelming end.

The visitors had already wrapped up a top-five finish and a place in the Champions League, but can no longer come third ahead of Juventus. Former Italy midfielder Motta will not renew his contract with Bologna. Motta is widely reported to be replacing the sacked Max Allegri at Juventus.

## SACKED XAVI SAYS LAPORTA WILL HAVE TO EXPLAIN MOTIVE

Barcelona: Xavi said Saturday that he is leaving Barcelona with "a clear conscience" that he did his best after the club decided to part ways with the former player, but that it will be up to president Joan Laporta to explain why he is going.

"These have obviously been tough days, but my conscience is clear," head coach Xavi said. "I have been here two-and-a-half years. It has not been easy. But, I think that we can feel proud of the work we have done."

The 44-year-old said that he will now "take a break" from coaching. His last game in charge will be at Sevilla on Sunday. Neither Laporta nor any club official has said why they wanted Xavi to leave, and the head coach did not shed any light on the circumstances of his exit either. "The president told me his reasons for why he thinks the club needs a change, and I can only respect that. I am a club man," Xavi said.

"We shook hands, hugged and wished one another the best. From now on I will be just another fan. He will have to explain his motives." AP

# Sindhu in final with hard-fought win

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

PV Sindhu is peaking at the right time. The two-time Olympic medallist reached her first final of the year with a hard-fought 13-21, 21-16, 21-12 victory against Busanan Ongbamrunghaphan of Thailand in the Malaysia Open BWF Super-500 tournament in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday.

Sindhu achieved another feat on way to the final as she now has the most wins

With Olympic Games two months away, top shuttlers have skipped the Malaysia Open and Sindhu seized the moment. None of the top-8 Olympic qualifiers are in action at the Malaysia Open.

Sindhu's last appearance in a final was on April 2, 2023 at the Madrid Masters. The last title she won was the Singapore Open on July 17, 2022. She had defeated Wang Zhiyi of China then and she will face her in the final again on Sunday. Wang downed compatriot Zhang Yi Man 21-9, 21-11 in the other semifinal.

Sindhu enjoys a 2-1 win-loss record against Wang. However, the Chinese girl defeated Sindhu at the Arctic Open on October 14, 2023.

Despite struggling against the feisty Busanan in the first set, Sindhu, who recorded her 18th victory against the Thai in 19 matches, raised her game a few notches in the next two although she faced stiff resistance in the second.

## MALAYSIA OPEN

by an Indian shuttler: With 453 victories Sindhu, surpassed Saina Nehwal record of 451 wins. Among active shuttlers, Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei has the most wins (525) followed by Carolina Marin at 506. Men's world No.1 Viktor Axelsen has 536 victories. On the summit is Lee Chong Wei of Malaysia with 711 wins, while his longtime rival Lin Dan has 662 to his name.

# Green turf in Antwerp raises eyebrows ahead of Olympics

## Even As India Go Down To Belgium

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Kolkata: The Indian men's hockey team came back strongly against Belgium on Saturday after losing 4-1 to the same opponents on Thursday in FIH Pro League. It was one of their most disappointing shows under coach Craig Fulton and it happened with the Paris Olympics just about two months away. However, on Saturday they held Belgium to a 2-2 draw before going down in the shoot-outs.

But the team's performance wasn't the only cause for concern. It was quite uncanny to see them play on a green turf at Wilrijkse Plein Antwerp, the venue for the Pro League mini tournament in Belgium. One can't help but wonder as to why the team has to play on a green turf when they will be playing on a blue surface at Paris Olympics.

Performance wise, there is no difference according to FIH but it's important to note that green turfs are no longer considered to be Category 1.

"For a turf to be certified as Category 1, it must be blue. However, Category 2 turfs, which have the same performance level as Category 1, can be blue or green and are certified for international matches as well. For FIH Hockey Pro League, we use both Category 1 and 2 pitches, as not all countries have facilities with blue turfs," said an FIH spokesperson. "For the FIH World Cup and the Olympic Games blue Category 1 turfs are used."

**Indian Jr. women's hockey team beats Belgium:** The Indian junior women's hockey team defeated hosts Belgium 4-2 in shootout here after both the sides were locked at 2-2 at the end of regulation time.

Kanika Siwach scored a brace to lead India's efforts in front of the goal.

# Girona's secret has been day-to-day work: Michel

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Panaji: At the end of the best season in Girona FC's history, the team celebrated in front of a jubilant home crowd at the Montilivi stadium on Friday night.

"Do you think this team has reached its ceiling," coach Michel Sanchez Munoz, better known as just Michel, asked the fans, who had no hesitation in responding with a loud, delightful "no".

Girona ended their extraordinary season with 81 points to finish third behind champions Real Madrid and Barcelona, and ahead of Atletico de Madrid by eight points in La Liga, a stunning achievement for a side that was promoted to the top flight in 2022

and played in Spain's fourth tier as recently as 2006-07.

"This season we managed to do something historic," Michel told reporters during a global media conference arranged by LaLiga. "The secret to success has been the day-to-day work. We have done things right from day one. The effort everyone put in is amazing. We have a clear idea of where we want to take the club."

Next season, Girona will amazingly host European football at their 14,624-capacity stadium after qualifying for the UEFA Champions League. Girona's success is nothing short of a fairy tale. The club has one of the lowest capacity stadiums in the league, yet they hammered eight past



GIRONA COACH MICHEL

famous neighbours Barcelona over two legs (4-2 win in both games), the first team to do that in a season this century. As late as February, Girona were still top of the league and never dropped out of the top three.

"Everyone tried to compare us with

teams like Barcelona, Atletico de Madrid and Real. It's difficult to manage that because Real have 94 points (and a game in hand). We were unable to handle that pressure. It's true we won 48 points in the first half of the season, which was amazing, but to maintain that same level of performance, all season, is practically impossible," said Michel, who previously achieved qualifications with Rayo Vallecano and Huesca, before getting the sack.

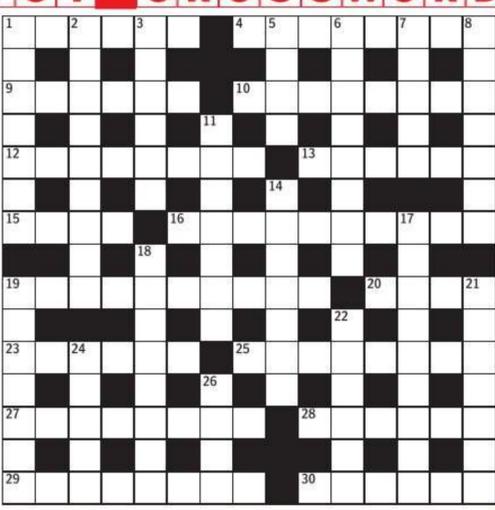
Could they have done a Leicester City and won the biggest prize?

"I explained to the players (the target) of qualifying for the Champions League but not the title," said Michel, who had 17 seasons as a Rayo Vallecano player.

# THE TOI CROSSWORD

CROSSWORD No. TCC#0169

The TOI Crossword contest is on a short break, but the crossword itself will continue to be featured in The Sunday Times of India, so that you can continue to relish the challenge every week. Stay tuned!



The Times of India  
**CROSSWORD**  
EVERY SUNDAY

## CRYPTIC CLUES

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Across</b>   | <b>Down</b>                                     |
| 1 Hose used on borders (6)  | 1 Criticise long dash (7)                       |
| 4 Stop work to steal (5,3)  | 2 Poet involved with fruit cake (5,4)           |
| 9 Spot something on the board (6)                                 | 3 Fastidiousness for exactness (6)              |
| 10 Artisan whose work caused feathers to fly (8)                  | 5 It flows out of line (4)                      |
| 12 I act on it precisely to quote a reference (8)                 | 6 Downpour makes it hard to see (8)             |
| 13 Vegetables with holes in them (6)                              | 7 Unusual chore for painters (5)                |
| 15 Mark goes back to school (4)                                   | 8 Anticipate charge for concealing minerals (7) |
| 16 Be grateful for rise in value (10)                             | 11 It may give a speaker some standing (7)      |
| 19 Like an astronaut returning - or failing to get lift-off? (10) | 14 Part of speech which she makes (7)           |
| 20 Highlight in the theatrical world (4)                          | 17 Writer shares out novel (9)                  |
| 23 A speaker skilled at splitting alternatives (6)                | 18 A metal or I'm much confused (8)             |
| 25 Many may come to mourn Sue (8)                                 | 19 Develops and goes round toplest (7)          |
| 27 Six have an airing perhaps in America (8)                      | 21 Objects to Ernest's replacement (7)          |
| 28 Usual place for a wake (6)                                     | 22 An exceptionally warm spring (6)             |
| 29 Sent round small amount of money as a deposit (8)              | 24 Bill free of bitterness? (5)                 |
| 30 In trouble, is repeatedly after credit (6)                     | 26 Indication there's good starting in evil (4) |

## QUICK CLUES

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Across</b>   | <b>Down</b>   |
| 1 Showy but worthless (6) 4 In the present age (8)  | 1 North African country (7) 2 Energetically (4,1,4)   |
| 9 Indigenous (6) 10 Complete transformation (8)   | 3 Lay waste (6) 5 Sanction (4) 6 Sufficient (8)   |
| 12 China's most populous urban area (8)   | 7 Blacksmith's block (5) 8 Withdraw from contest (7)  |
| 13 A vent (6) 15 Of a similar nature (4) 16 Ability to make money easily (5,5) 19 Guiding principle (6,4) 20 Head cook (4) 23 Tricky question (6) 25 Item by item (2,6) | 11 Salted roe of sturgeon (7) 14 The last part (4,3)  |
| 27 Declare publicly (8) 28 Bringer of bad luck (6)  | 17 Without precedent (7,2) 18 Military call to awake (8) 19 Deteriorate (2,2,3) 21 To quarrel (4,3) |
| 29 Grotesque misrepresentation (8) 30 Gain (6)  | 22 Roundabout route (6) 24 Pleasing smell (5)   |
|   | 26 Insinuation (4)  |

## SOLUTIONS TO LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD

<b>CRYPTIC</b>	S	E	N	D	O	V	F	A	S	H	O	C	K	E	R
	U	O	O	I	F	A	U	R	N	E					
	R	E	T	R	E	A	T	I	N	G					
	F	E	A	R	A	P	O	T	R						
	E	M	B	E	R	L	O	R	G	N	E	T	T	E	
	I	L	L	E	N	E									
	T	E	E	N	A	G	E	R	S						
	A	I	T	C	H										
	R	H	R												
	T	H	E	C	R	E	E	P	S						
	M	A	M	M	O	H	C	P	I	L	I	A			
	I	A	N	A	D	H	L	G							
	S	A	L	I	E	N	T								
	E	X	T	R	E	M	E								
<b>QUICK</b>	C	Y	P	R	E	S	S	C	A	L	I	P	S	O	
	O	O	X	H	O	I	A	U							
	B	E	L	I	E	V	E	M	I	N	A	R	E	T	
	L	E	T	U	P			N	I	C	A	R	A	G	
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	R	E	C	T	A	N	G	L	E						
	B	U	R	L	I			A	O						
	E	A						T	E	E					
	S	I	D	E	T	R	A	C	K						
	E	N	C	H	A	N	T								
	C	A	I	A	E	A	I	L							
	H	O	L	S	T	E	R								
	A	T	L	A	R	G	E								

# Nadal gets ready for tough German test

## 37-Yr-Old In Better Frame Of Mind Ahead Of Round 1 Tie Against Zverev

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Paris: Rafael Nadal was in black-and-white practice gear, he was leaning on the grass, but that was all the vintage 14-time Roland Garros champion sparked on an afternoon when the sun was in the shade.

The 37-year-old's shots were short of signature crackle and his stride was a mite slow. Nadal enters the Paris Grand Slam following an anemic match schedule courtesy a hip injury that kept him off his beloved terre battue last year for the first time after 18 consecutive appearances. The Spaniard played four matches in 2023 and has logged just four tournaments in 2024.

Nadal, bidding to finish a storied career on his terms, at the very least end where he started it on the tennis court, will go up against 4th-ranked German Alexander Zverev in first round on Monday. He'll

need to blast off the blocks. So, where exactly is Rafael Nadal, on a competitive scale?

He is ranked outside the top-250 at No 276, but that, in this case, is just a number against a name. Not a measure of the legend. Nadal, who arrived in Roland Garros more than a week before the start of the fortnight, said he's feeling better than he has in a long time on the tennis court.

"This is the first week since I come back that I'm able to run the proper way without limitations. That has encouraged me," said Nadal, who arrived for his pre-championship media interaction in an electric blue tee and a smile to match. "That does not mean that I'm going to play incredible on Monday, no?"

The 22-time major winner, who has a glittering 112-3 win-loss record here, retraced his romance at this spectacularly stylish venue. "In some ways this place is magical for me," he said. "So, if, in the bottom of my heart, I don't have any hope to have success here and to create a beautiful thing this year, I will not be here in front of you guys."

That declaration at once lifted the mood in the packed

press room. Nobody wants one of the greatest champions this game has seen, one of the fiercest fighters in all sport, limp into the sunset. That would be a travesty.

Nadal, who went down to Hubert Hurkacz in the second round in Rome in his last tournament outing, indicated that he's able to push more physically. "I don't feel the limitations that I felt in Rome in terms of running," he said. "I'm not thinking in terms of having amazing results here but thinking about giving myself a little bit more room to think about what can happen in the future."

This then, particularly the last three-four months, has got to be Nadal's weightiest fight, chasing as he is a wafer-thin chance on the slippery slope of hope. Battling age and wrestling for time. "We did things to try to feel better, and we have been working without a stop to keep progressing, to try to arrive here in a proper way," he said.

Each time Nadal threads the needle with his mélange of heavily spun groundies on a practice court, he's faced with questions. "I didn't play five-set matches since a long time. I haven't played this level of opponents since a long time," he said. "All these questions that you ask me, I'm asking to myself too."

Bring out the popcorn, if only because there's hope yet.

# First up for Nagal: Towering Khachanov

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Paris: Sumit Nagal is coming off a stretch where he has done quite a lot of homework. The 26-year-old, who had a near four-week training block at his tennis-base in Germany, was bounced out in the first round of his first two tournaments back, a Challenger in Bordeaux and then in Geneva (ATP 250), against opponents ranked in the spectrum of 130 and 20.

After his loss in Geneva the Indian enjoyed a near two-hour session with the 24-time major winner Novak Djokovic, after the Serb's manager reached out to Nagal. "We played some rallies, played some points," Nagal said. "As a tennis player, he's very much close to perfection, everyone knows that."

"We stopped playing points at 3-3, it's just a practice and nobody cares about those scores, both of us were working on our own games," he said.

Nagal, who plays the world No.18 Russian Karen Khachanov in the first

round on Monday, is up against a tall order literally and game-wise. Khachanov, 6 ft 6", and Nagal 5 ft 10", have never faced each other on a match court, the Indian though has seen a lot of the Russian in the juniors and again on the Tour. "It's always a pleasure to play a top-20 player," Nagal said.

"If I have to beat him, it has to be a heart-out fight from my side. He's the kind of player who plays every point at a very high level. The mentality has to be about me, focused on me. You can't really think about the person at the other end, when you start doing that you are in a place where you are worrying more about him than yourself and you forget to do what you are supposed to do."

Khachanov is looking to get his Roland Garros campaign off to a start against Nagal. "We have never played. I was checking, he has good results lately," he said. "He's a tough opponent. He has good skills, good mover, topspin groundstrokes. I will scout and study him and be prepared for the match in the best possible way."

# Abhimanyu advances in Oly qualifiers

Bangkok: Abhimanyu Loura displayed his never-say-die attitude to pack off Bulgaria's Kristiyan Nikolov in a thrilling 80kg category first round clash at the Boxing World Qualifiers for Paris Olympics here on Saturday.

Loura started slow as the 10-time Bulgarian national champion took an upper hand in the opening round.

But the 21-year-old Indian quickly switched gears and went on the offensive in the second round and earned the bragging rights for the round with four of the five judges voting in favour of him. On Friday, Sachin Siwach opened India's account with a win in the 57kg category against Alex Mukuka of New Zealand. PTI

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**Shreyas Iyer-Captained KKR and Pat Cummins-led SRH are ready for IPL title clash today P27**

VOL. 35 NO. 21 | NEW DELHI

## EC gives absolute polling nos. day after SC refuses to step in

**50.7Cr Of 76.3Cr Eligible Voted In First 5 Phases**

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**New Delhi:** A day after Supreme Court declined to direct Election Commission to publish booth-wise elector data as recorded in Form 17C, the poll panel released the absolute number of eligible voters and votes cast across parliamentary constituencies in the first five phases, to set at rest "false narratives" about a "delay" in release of voter turnout data.

Of over 76.3 crore eligible voters in the first five phases of the Lok Sabha polls, as many as 50.7 crore people have cast their vote, according to

“First, questions are raised about purity of electoral roll, then attempts are made to discredit EVMs. Amid polling, doubts are cast over turnout data. **Pattern in raising suspicion without concrete examples when LS election is under way must be studied...** The fact is that the polling data was always available, even as it was being updated, via the EC Voter Turnout app. **Even a Class 6 student can calculate the absolute no. of votes cast** — Rajiv Kumar | cec



CEC Rajiv Kumar after casting his vote at a Moti Bagh booth

data shared by EC Saturday.

The revision in format of release of turnout data came even as Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar questioned the trend of repeated raising of "unfounded doubts" on the electoral process.

“First, questions are raised about purity of the electoral roll, then attempts are made to discredit EVMs. Amid polling, doubts are cast over turnout data,” he underlined while speaking with TOI after completion of the penulti-

mate phase of polling. Stating that the electoral processes, design and systems are well-settled and earnestly followed election after election, the CEC said polls conducted in around 22-23 states since the 2019 general election have followed the very same processes. “Pattern in raising suspicion without concrete examples only when a general election to the Lok Sabha is under way must be studied,” he told TOI.

Describing the grievance redressal system of EC as “very robust”, Kumar said: “If there is indeed a mistake or failure, it must be pointed out. Planting unfounded doubts in the minds of voters as regards the electoral processes may adversely impact turnouts.”

► **‘Total votes polled...’ P 24**

## 9 children among 27 dead in Rajkot gaming zone blaze

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**Rajkot:** At least 27 people, including nine children, died in a massive fire late Saturday afternoon at TRP Game Zone, a two-storey recreational facility packed with a crowd of around 300 due to summer vacation and the weekend amidst sweltering weather in Gujarat's Rajkot city, officials said.

DCP Parthrasinh Gohil confirmed the deaths as rescue operations continued to find more victims. The fire, which started around 6pm, caused chaos as some managed to



Firefighters carry out rescue work at a gaming zone in Rajkot

escape while others were trapped by collapsing temporary structures. “The fire has been doused but due to darkness, it's difficult to find bodies. The re-

scue operation will continue Sunday,” police commissioner Raju Bhargava said.

► **No fire NOC, P 24**

## Pune teen's granddad held in Porsche case

The 77-year-old grandfather of the teen in the Porsche crash case was arrested on Saturday on charge of abducting, threatening and confining their family driver in their residence after the May 19 accident in a bid to force him to own up the crime, reports Gitesh Shelke. The boy's grandfather was produced before a special court on Saturday. He was remanded in police custody till May 28. The police cited his criminal antecedents to seek his custody. He was previously booked in cases of cheating, attempts (two) to murder and criminal intimidation. P 15

## Man United stun Man City 2-1 to win FA Cup

Manchester United stunned Manchester City 2-1 in the FA Cup final on Saturday, ending City's dreams of a second straight league and cup double. Alejandro Garnacho put United ahead in the 30th minute and Kobbie Mainoo doubled their lead 9 minutes later after a well-worked team move, with Jeremy Doku pulling one back late on. P 28

## 13-yr-old student from Bihar kills 9-year-old in TN

A 13-year-old boy was detained Saturday for stabbing his nine-year-old schoolmate to death at an Urdu school in TN's Madurai district and dumping the body in a septic tank. Both minors are natives of Bihar. The victim had allegedly spoken ill of the accused's parents, leading to an argument that ended in murder, police said. **FLAP INSIDE**

## Liquidation looms as GoAir bidder pulls out

GoAir, which stopped flying in May last year, may now head for liquidation as Nishant Pitti, a key bidder to revive it under insolvency laws, withdrew on Saturday. The curtains had been expected for the erstwhile Wadia Group airline after Delhi HC last month allowed lessors of Go's 54 aircraft to repossess them. **FLAP INSIDE**

## 4 Pjb tourists die in accident in Anantnag

Four tourists from Punjab's Moga district died in south Kashmir's Anantnag district Saturday as their vehicle skidded off the road. Four others, including the driver, were injured. In Sonamarg in central Kashmir, a tourist from Maharashtra died after getting trapped in a cavity in Thajwas glacier. **TNN**

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# GoAir faces liquidation as key bidder withdraws revival offer

## Govt Can Now Allot Its Slots, Foreign Bilateral Rights To Other Airlines

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New Delhi: GoAir, which stopped flying in May last year, may now head for liquidation as Nishant Pitti, a key bidder to revive it under insolvency laws, withdrew on Saturday. The curtains had been expected for the erstwhile Wadia Group airline after Delhi high court last month allowed lessors of Go's 54 aircraft to repossess them.

Centre could now distribute Go's slots and foreign bilateral rights to other airlines like Air India Group, IndiGo and Akasa, which are growing rapidly, after getting the legal nod. Akasa, for instance, did not get any bilaterals for Dubai — the biggest destination for Indian globetrotters — as the flying rights have been exhausted. Once Go's bilaterals are given out to others, that will mean more flights — and, hopefully, slightly lower fares — on con-



Once Go's bilaterals are given out to others, that will mean more flights — and, hopefully, slightly lower fares — on constrained routes

strained routes with passengers suffering from under-capacity amid demand surge.

Go managed to hold on to leased planes, engines, slots and bilaterals under a moratorium provided by Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.

"After careful consideration, I have decided to withdraw from the GoAir bid in my personal capacity. This

decision allows me to better focus on other strategic priorities and initiatives that align with our long-term vision and growth objectives... we continue to navigate new opportunities and challenges," Pitti, founder-CEO of EaseMyTrip, said. Like scores of passenger and travel agents, Pitti's company has a large amount stuck with

Go in unrefunded tickets. Go's successful bidder could have got arbitration proceeds from an ongoing Rs 8,000-crore damages case the airline had filed against Pratt & Whitney, whose snag-ridden engines for Airbus A320s grounded its planes, contributing to the airline's demise.

Go owed over Rs 11,000 crore to creditors and employees when it shut down on May 3, 2023. The committee of creditors (banks) had nudged the two bidders for Go, including Pitti, to up their bids given the airline's massive debts.

"Like Kingfisher, Jet and scores of other airline failures, the Go episode is also very sad. We have lost our hard-earned retirement fund and salaries. The only saving grace has been we have been spared a pointless revival exercise. An example is Jet, which has had a successful bidder for years now but hasn't taken off again," said a former Go employee.

## Boy, 13, stabs to death 9-yr-old after argument in TN, detained

Madurai: A 13-year-old boy was detained Saturday for stabbing his nine-year-old schoolmate to death at an Urdu school near Melur in Tamil Nadu's Madurai district and dumping the body in a septic tank on Friday night. Both minors are natives of Bihar. The victim had allegedly spoken ill of the accused's parents, leading to an argument that ended in murder, deputy SP BK Arvind said.

Police said the boys were staying at the residential school run by a private trust, where several students from Bihar have been enrolled. On finding the nine-year-old boy missing on Friday night, the school management alerted Melur Police. Cops reached the spot, inquired with other students and subsequently searched the premises to find the body dumped in a septic tank early Saturday. Further investigation led to the 13-year-old boy confessing to having stabbed the nine-year-old in the neck with a kitchen knife following an argument. After he died, the accused pushed the body into the septic tank and closed it shut. **TNN**

## Flyers face tighter scrutiny at Dubai, Abu Dhabi airports

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Chennai: If you are flying to the UAE, ensure you have at least Rs 60,000 in your bank account or a credit card, and a return ticket, as immigration scrutiny has been made stringent at Dubai and Abu Dhabi airports in an attempt to prevent people from misusing tourist visas. Sources said passengers, especially first-time travellers, landing from airports in Tamil Nadu and Kerala are being randomly scrutinised.

Travellers to Dubai and Abu Dhabi are facing delayed check-in at the city airport after the UAE deported a few passengers for not carrying return tickets or enough money for their stay with a tourist visa.

Airlines have also started to screen solo travellers in the age group of 20-35 with tourist visas and are double-checking before boarding them to prevent passengers from getting deported. It's the airline's responsibility to bring back the deported passengers.

The UAE has tightened the implementation of im-



A few passengers have been deported from the UAE for not carrying return tickets or enough money for their stay with a tourist visa

migration norms after they found that travellers land up without money or accommodation and sometimes misuse the 96-hour transit visa and stay on.

Travel and tour operators have started to advise their customers about the strict rules being followed at immigration in UAE airports.

Basheer Ahmed of Chennai Metro Travels said, "The checks are happening because it has been found that people are entering the UAE for jobs using tourist visas. Some of them cancel their return tickets and stay on. Immigration officials were leni-

ent until recently but have now started to tighten scrutiny. There is no problem for genuine tourists, family, and group travellers."

He said check-in at the airport takes time as low-cost carriers are checking passengers to see if they meet immigration norms to avoid deportation.

Sources say that at least 10 people have been deported to India for travelling without return tickets or proof of accommodation.

Sriharan Balan of Madurai Travels said, "Tourists are not affected. A large number of them are travelling to the UAE. Immigration is checking for two things: people entering the UAE for jobs on tourist visas and the Kuruvu movement. A UAE visa is issued by multiple emirates. They say that a visa issued by Abu Dhabi cannot be used for landing in Dubai, and vice versa. So a lot of scrutiny is going on."

Though summer is not the usual travel season, many have been travelling for holidays to Middle East. Flights are full and fares are high due to the demand.

## Loving the stars to OpenAI star: Journey of Pune boy who realised Altman's vision

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It's early morning in the US, and Alka Dhariwal's voice recounts every milestone in her son's journey with pride. The San Francisco-based Prafulla Dhariwal, who went from being a standout student and school head boy in Pune to a key contributor in the development of the OpenAI's latest GPT-4o, shot into the limelight after OpenAI CEO Sam Altman tweeted his praise: "GPT-4o would not have happened without the vision, talent, conviction, and determination of @prafldhar over a long period. That (along with the work of many others) led to what I hope will turn out to be a revolution in how we use computers."

His teachers and friends recall a young boy who, despite his exceptional intelligence, and numerous quiz and international Olympiad victories, was always approachable, pleasant, disciplined, and willing to share his knowledge.



ONE FROM THE FAMILY ALBUM: Prafulla with his sister Deepal, and parents Alka and Sushil Dhariwal. (Left) With President Kalam

tration, sportsmanship, social skills, and teamwork. I used to discuss our methods with his friends and their parents to foster a supportive community. It's crucial to teach children from the start that selfishness is wrong, and that considering others is essential," she says.

Alka was working as a professor in the civil engineering department at MITWPU College of Engineering in Pune. "She was completely involved in academic and co-curricular activities of Prafulla. She would give assignments and he would finish them. She was the force behind him, taking him to all the exams, competitions and coaching. Prafulla responded with 100% hard work," remembers Shantini Bokil, a professor from the department.

Dhariwal's elder sister Deepal is with Microsoft in the US. Speaking from her daughter's house, Alka says that Prafulla has done everything a mother could hope for and more. "We are immensely proud of him. In future, I wish he would do something that helps everyone in society, especially those in rural areas or the disadvantaged. India has a lot of talent, but it remains underdeveloped. I want Prafulla to do something such that every child in the rural area gets access to the best books, the best resources and the opportunity to appear for all exams," she says.

After winning the maths, astronomy and physics Olympiad, Prafulla never entered these competitions again

so that others get a chance to learn.

JEE and Olympiad coach M Prakash, the teacher credited by Alka for Prafulla's success, said a teacher can only motivate. "Some teachers would attend our classes but Prafulla could solve problems better than them and sometimes helped them. At some point, it was decided that a student cannot represent the country in two Olympiads. Otherwise, Prafulla would have got gold in chemistry too," says Prakash, who is 71 now. "We stay close by so whenever he is in Pune, Prafulla drops by," he adds.

Pallavi Naik, principal of Dr Kalmaadi Shamarao High School, where Prafulla studied from kindergarten to Std X, says he was head boy. "He was in Std IX when he won a gold medal in the International Astronomy Olympiad in China in 2009," she adds. He got the National Talent Search Scholarship.

Rajat Dandekar, an IITian who co-founded AI-based startup Vizuaara, was



### AI-CHIEVEMENTS

- > Head of GPT-4o (o for 'omni'), OpenAI's first natively fully multimodal model
- > Also, co-creator of GPT-3, text-to-image platform DALL-E 2, music generator Jukebox, and reversible generative model Glow.

Friends said Prafulla was never a 'boring' studious guy who only talked about syllabus and marks — he loved to play cricket and watch the night sky, pointing out the constellations. This blend is the foundation for his achievements in AI, they said.

Prafulla's mother says they gave him textbooks from various educational boards, allowing him to understand concepts in different ways.

He loved studying, as well as sports. "Prafulla was a night owl. He enjoyed cricket and chess. We must understand the value of sports in building concen-

**ALKA DHARIWAL, MOTHER**  
He enjoyed cricket and chess. We must understand the value of sports in building concentration, sportsmanship, social skills, and teamwork

his classmate and went to the same IIT JEE coaching class. While both cracked JEE, only Dandekar went to IIT Madras. Prafulla chose MIT. He joined OpenAI in May 2016 as a research intern and went up the ranks. "Prafulla helped out a lot during our preparations. We would solve maths problems at his house. We were at his house late one night and he took us to his balcony and showed us all the constellations. His interest in astronomy was not limited to just theory but he loved watching the sky. We always knew he was made for something big," Dandekar adds.

Dandekar says he was smart but not arrogant. "He had the knack of explaining stuff in a way that everybody would understand. He would play cricket with us. But he was never competitive. He was just smarter than all of us so there was no real competition. He never spoke about marks or the syllabus. Discussions were always about regular stuff, school gossip, cricket and other things," Dandekar adds.