



**Amit Shah inaugurates 'Fast Track Immigration - Trusted Traveller Programme' at IGI T3** that will allow pre-verified Indian nationals & OCI cardholders flying in from abroad to clear immigration faster by simply walking through e-gates. These automated border gates will be set up at eight major airports **P 14**

**Health officials say Israeli air strikes in 2 neighbourhoods of Gaza City on Saturday killed at least 24 people and injured several others** **P 21**

**Eight Indian crew members of the cargo ship 'Dali', which crashed into a famous Baltimore bridge in March, leave for India after nearly three months on the mammoth vessel** **P 21**

**Hardik Pandya's 50 and Kuldeep Yadav's 3 wickets help India beat Bangladesh by 50 runs. Rohit Sharma's team now in strong position to qualify for the T20 World Cup semifinals** **P 23**



## Bellasis bridge shut for 18 mths from Monday

The British-era Bellasis bridge will be closed for traffic for 18 months from June 24 as the connector at Mumbai Central is set to be demolished and reconstructed. Western Railway has awarded a Rs 24 crore contract for the demolition and reconstruction of the railway section of the bridge which connects Tardeo and Nagpada through Mumbai Central. **P 2**

## Fire officers held in Rajkot tragedy

Rajkot's chief fire officer and deputy fire officer were among three persons arrested on Saturday in connection with the May 25 TRP Game Zone fire tragedy, taking the total number of arrests to 15. **P 15**

## Ban on two J&K outfits upheld

The UAPA tribunal led by Delhi HC judge Sachin Datta upheld Centre's 5-year ban on Muslim League Jammu and Kashmir Masrat Alam faction (MLJK-MA) and Tehreek-e-Hurriyat for anti-India activities.

EURO 2024	
Netherlands vs France	0-0
Georgia vs Czechia	1-1
Portugal vs Turkiye	3-0
FULL COVERAGE <b>P 21</b>	

## Boy drowns in Mira Road tank

A 5-year-old boy allegedly drowned in a rain water-filled tank at an under-construction biogas plant site in Penkarpada area of Mira Road on Friday. His family has blamed the civic body for negligence. **P 2**

## Four charred in NCR unit blast

A factory manufacturing fire extinguisher balls in NCR burst into flames after an explosion on Saturday, killing 4 persons and leaving a dozen injured. There are claims flammable material had been stored. **P 15**

## Violence over dalit death in custody

The death of a dalit prisoner, allegedly due to police brutality, sparked violence in UP's Firozabad Saturday, with forces from neighbouring districts being rushed in. He was arrested on Wednesday for a theft. **P 11**

## Lightning kills 7 in MP districts

Lightning claimed seven lives, including that of a woman and her two very young children, in Dindori and Satna districts of MP on Saturday. At least 11 people have died in lightning strikes in four days.

\* PLUS 8 PAGES BOMBAY TIMES

The Times of India is also available as a standalone copy for Rs 5-80

\* The STQ Combo offer and Bombay Times Supplement are available in Mumbai, Thane and Rajgad districts while Education Times will be circulated in Mumbai Metro Region only.

Times Interact | P 6, 10, 12, 14

## Indian transplants biased, say 3 fgn experts; docs livid

Mumbai: Central health officials offer two statistics to "showcase" India's growth in transplant sciences. Firstly, in 2023, Indian hospitals carried out 17,168 transplants—a never-before annual number that was a quarter of the transplants conducted in the previous 27 years. Secondly, while most of these recipients got an organ from a relative, more than 1,000 families (again, an Indian record) altruistically donated their brain-dead relative's organs—one, two or, in some cases, seven—to unknown patients.

But three international experts last week delivered a scathing critique, stating transplantation in India is "not for common good" and "biased"

# Exam jitters: Centre removes NTA chief, postpones NEET-PG

## Review Panel Set Up; NEET-UG Probe With CBI

Manash.Gohain @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Within hours of setting up a high-level committee under a former Isro chief to ensure the fair conduct of examinations, govt on Saturday replaced National Testing Agency (NTA) director general Subodh Singh amid a controversy over alleged irregularities in competitive exams NEET and NET. The crisis of credibility facing the NTA compounded with govt postponing the NEET-PG entrance exam, scheduled to be held Sunday, as a "precautionary measure".

This is the third such jolt affecting lakhs of aspirants

## 'LOGISTICAL REASONS FOR CSIR-NET DELAY'

Edu minister Dharmendra Pradhan says committee headed by former Isro chief is 'first of a series of steps' to improve efficiency of exam process and reform NTA

Reiterates govt view against cancelling NEET-UG. Says interests of meritorious students will be govt's priority

Edu ministry officials say

investigations show Bihar paper leak 'localised affair', does not warrant scrapping of the entire exam

Pradhan says CSIR-NET postponed only due to logistical issues. 'There is also a retest of 1.563 NEET candidates tomorrow. For smooth conduct of the exam everywhere, the decision was taken'

Govt also handed over investigations into alleged irregularities in NEET-UG held on May 5 to CBI. This is the second national-level exam conducted by NTA to be handed to CBI. Two days ago, the UGC-NET investigation was handed over to CBI.

across the country in four days: UGC-NET was cancelled on June 19, a day after the exam, due to paper leak; and CSIR-NET, to be held June 25-27, was postponed on June 21.

More than two lakh students have registered to appear for NEET-PG, which has been postponed with less than 24 hours to go.

► ITPO chief, P 13

## Bihar probe widens: 6 held from J'khand

The probe into the NEET-UG paper leak in Patna widened on Saturday, with police arresting six persons in Deogarh, Jharkhand, taking the number of arrests so far to 19.

The six arrested, residents of Bihar's Nalanda district, are

► NEET 'leak' brain likely from Maha, says Patole, P 2

suspected to be 'handlers' and 'couriers'. They had been hiding in Deogarh posing as labourers. EOU sources said a professor in Hazaribagh sent the question papers on WhatsApp and medical students from Patna and Ranchi solved them. The papers were then sent through one of the couriers arrested in Deogarh. **P 13**

## No GST on hostels, rail platform ticket, waiting room, ESOPs

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: GST Council on Saturday decided to exempt all hostel fees, platform ticket, railway waiting room and golf cart charges as well as employee stock options from payment of tax, while reworking the system to register for the tax regime to check frauds by bogus entities.

► Council relief for sellers & service providers, P 11

While hostels run by education institutions were already exempt from GST, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said now all hostels will be exempted from the levy provided the monthly charges are under Rs 20,000 per person and the occupant stays at the facility for at least 90 days.

The move will also benefit thousands of students and

## FM: <2% taxpayers got notices from govt

Amid repeated attacks from the opposition, FM Nirmala Sitharaman said on Saturday that less than 2% of the nearly 59 lakh active taxpayers had pending notices under the CGST Act. Officials suggested that several opposition-governed states have been issuing notices and summons under state laws. **P 16**

working people staying in paying guest accommodations. There was relief for corporate guarantees, reinsurance, where certain clarifications have been issued, and for e-commerce players, too, as the tax collected at source on net taxable supplies will be halved to 0.5%.

► Amnesty scheme, P 16

## Untrained driver hits accelerator instead of brake, kills 1 in Kandivli

Mumbai: A man who was at the wheel of a car although he did not know driving knocked down three people, leaving an elderly woman dead, in Kandivli (west) around 10.45am on Friday.

Instead of hitting the brakes, the driver, Surendra Gupta, slammed the accelerator, police said. Surendra has been arrested along with the car owner Rajendra Gupta, who was sitting with him.

One of the injured, Saurabhkumar Yadav (19), told police he was walking down Pissar-Gaondevi Road when he heard screams from behind. Before he knew it, a white car hit him and he landed on its bonnet. While he escaped with minor injuries, he found the woman on the road, bleeding profusely. Another man was lying nearby with injuries to his hands and legs. **TNN**

► No learner's licence, P 4

## Key climate patterns keep June rain at 17% below normal

Pune: Major climate patterns responsible for the unexpected pause in the rainfall rhythm in June left several parts of India drier than usual, keeping the overall rains for the month at 17% below normal till Saturday, reports Neha Madaan.

► Heavy rain & winds likely in city today, P 3

An unfavourable phase of Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) in the Indian Ocean emerged as the top cause for the below-normal rains, experts told TOI. This crucial weather phenomenon, which drives monsoon activity, stayed dormant for nearly half the month, impacting precipitation patterns. As on June 22, India had received 88.2mm rainfall as against a normal of 106mm.

► 'Inactive MISO', P 14

## Activists 'suspend' fast after govt gives written promise to protect OBC reservation

Mohammed.Akhef @timesgroup.com

Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar: OBC activists Laxman Hake and Navnath Waghmare "suspended" their indefinite hunger strike on its tenth day on Saturday following a written assurance from the state govt that it would protect OBC reservation. The two activists have been admitted to a private hospital in Jalna.

The decision came after the govt sent a team on the second day running to Wadigodri village in Jalna, where the activists had been holding their fast. On Friday, a govt team had met the activists but had failed to convince them to end their hunger strike. On Saturday, the second delegation led by food and civil supplies minister Chhagan Bhujbal met them.

► 'Only 30-40% win', P 8

## Assembly polls likely in second half of Oct

Senior bureaucrats associated with the election process believe the state assembly elections—likely to be a single-phase—will be held in the third or fourth week of Oct, with the code of conduct likely coming into force from around Sept 20. In 2019, it was held on Oct 21. **P 2**

## Bhujbal behind OBC stir, says Jarange

Quota activist Manoj Jarange accused minister Chhagan Bhujbal of being the "brain" behind the OBC stir "aimed at hitting the prospects of Maratha community's future generations". He said he would not allow even a single Kumbi certificate to be cancelled. **P 8**

► Doggy case diary, P 4

## NGT notice to govt on wildfires in Uttarakhand

Taking suo motu cognizance of reports in TOI about wildfires in Uttarakhand, the National Green Tribunal has issued notices to the Union forest ministry, principal chief conservator of forests in Uttarakhand and the chief of the disaster management authority, directing them to file a detailed affidavit before July 19. It said the reports elucidated that 31 new wildfire incidents had led to the devastation of 33.3 hectares of forest land. Meanwhile, the fires continued to rage in Almora. **TNN P 16**

## Eye on China, India to help B'desh conserve Teesta river

New Delhi: India and Bangladesh signed 10 agreements/MoUs and announced over a dozen other initiatives—spanning across areas like connectivity, health, trade, energy, defence and maritime cooperation—as PM Modi hosted his counterpart Sheikh Hasina for the first state visit after the formation of the new NDA govt, reports Sachin Parashar.

Among the new initiatives was an announcement by Modi after the meeting that India will soon send a technical team to Bangladesh for management and conservati-



PM Modi with his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina at Hyderabad House on Saturday

on of the Teesta river inside Bangladesh. The announcement is significant as it comes amid efforts by China to convince Dhaka to allow it to develop the Teesta basin.

► Movement of goods, P 14

## With 41% share, AP tops in fishing and aquaculture

Andhra Pradesh topped the list of states in fishing and aquaculture and accounts for 40.9% of the share in the sector, followed by Bengal, Odisha and Bihar. Bengal's share in all-India output is down from 24.6% in 2011-12 to 14.4% in 2022-23, the statistics office report says. The output of fishing and aquaculture sub-sector rose from Rs 80,000 crore in 2011-12 to Rs 1.95 lakh crore. The share of milk, meat and eggs in output of livestock sub-sector was 66.5%, 23.6% and 3.7% respectively in 2022-23. **TNN P 15**

## 'Shakes our conscience': HC on police probe, delay in case involving sr babu's son

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: "It shakes our conscience... as victim in crime has to plead repeatedly before the investigating officer for recording her statement," said Justices Ajay Gadkari and Neela Gokhale of Bombay high court in the June 14 order in the case pertaining to social media influencer Priya Singh, who alleged Ashwajit Gaikwad, son of a senior bureaucrat, allegedly ran over her with an SUV on Ghodbunder Road, Thane, last December.

HC recently directed the joint commissioner of police (crime), Thane, to personally reply to a petition by Singh.

On April 22, the prosecutor said attempts are being made to record Singh's statement against Gaikwad. On June 14, the judges noted the IO, Vishal Rumane of Kasarvad-

avali police station, had "till date" not recorded her statement. Ashwajit is the son of Anilkumar Gaikwad, currently MD of MSRDC.

They were "startled" after reading the June 4 case diary. It stated that as a report has to be sent to the Motor Accident Claim Tribunal (MACT), Singh's Aadhaar card, bank passbook and other documents are needed. "We are unable to accept such a recording in the case diary. According to us, IO Rumane is investigating a crime and has not been appointed to file a claim for damages or compensation before MACT. Prima facie, we find that the IO is not well conversant with the provisions of CrPC (Criminal Procedure Code) which is the law of the land," they added.

► Doggy case diary, P 4

## Woman clicks molester pic, gets him jailed

Quick thinking by a Bandra yoga teacher, who kept calm after a man inappropriately touched her bottom last year and clicked his photo on her mobile phone, ensured his arrest and a one-year jail term. The magistrate said it had been proved he intended to outrage her modesty. **P 8**

## IN THE COURTS

► City Pcco court gives man 3-yr RI for hugging & kissing girl (14), says such incidents scar a victim's mind | P 4

► CRPF can't dismiss personnel for not paying maintenance to wife, rules high court | P 16

► Gujarat HC says punishment must match gravity of crime, refuses to quash 5-year jail for assault convict losing his vision due to medical issues | P 16

► Chhattisgarh consumer panel says dog bite an 'accident', orders insurer to pay victim's son Rs 2 lakh | P 16

## Top Gadchiroli Naxal couple with 220 offences surrenders

Gadchiroli: In a major victory in the struggle against left-wing terrorism in tribal-dominated Gadchiroli district, a top commander of People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) who fortified the Maoist headquarters of Abujmah and single-handedly coordinated with guerrilla formations across the now-liberated Red corridor along the Maharashtra-Chhattisgarh border surrendered at the Gadchiroli police HQ on Saturday.

Nangsu Tumaretti, alias Giridhar, 44, an ambush and IED specialist, and his wife Lalita alias Sangita Usendi, 35, surrendered before deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis, reports Sumitro Bose.

The couple, who collective-



Giridhar and Sangita carried a combined reward of Rs 41 lakh

ly had around 220 offences against them, carried a Rs 41 lakh reward on their heads (Giridhar Rs 25 lakh and Sangita Rs 16 lakh). Sangita alone had around 18 offences against her and controlled Bhamragarh and Etapalli talukas of south Gadchiroli.

► 86 gunfights in 28 yrs, P 14

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# Only organs not taken by Indian patients given to foreigners: Docs

Malathy.Iyer@timesgroup.com

**Mumbai:** An article in "Transplantation", which stated that transplantation in India is "biased", is written by three stalwarts and medical ethicists: Dr Beatriz Dominguez-Gil, who heads the world's most successful organ transplant programme in Spain, Dr Francis Delmonico from Harvard University and Dr Jeremy Chapman from Australia.

Their review begins with a praise: "Over the 5 years from 2014 to 2019, India increased the number of transplants performed per annum, by adding approximately the total number of transplants performed in a year in France, Germany,

Spain, or Turkey."

It then talked of "alarming and reprehensible" organ trafficking that is "seemingly recurrent and validated" in India. The country's "impressive growth" has been accomplished in for-profit hospitals, around 807 facilities mostly run by co-

## TIMES Special

porate chains. "Organ transplantation, in a part of the world where one-fifth of all people live is, thus, largely not for the common good, but a treatment available for those with ample monetary resources," it said. Transplantation has such "high monetary value" in

India that foreign patients come under the guise of medical tourism for it, it added.

Mumbai-based transplant surgeon Dr Sanjay Nagral said, "It's strange that we need foreigners to remind us that transparency of data and that the idea of a common good in transplantation is key to building public trust without which there will be no deceased donation."

### Indian Doctors Reply

Many Indian doctors are upset. Dr J Amalorpavanathan, who developed the country's most successful cadaver donation programme, Tamil Nadu, said the article made sweeping generalisations. "We have writers from three continents

who seem to have scant understanding of India's realities," he said. Dr Sunil Shroff, who heads NGO Mohan Foundation that promotes cadaver donations, concurred: "Our allocation with the cadaver programme is such that foreigners cannot be favoured."

When a hospital flags a brain-dead potential donor, a notification reaches transplantation authorities (from Maharashtra's zonal centres, state, regional or National Organ & Tissue Transplant Organisation or NOTTO) and various hospital transplant coordinators, who first look for a local recipient, then widen the search. "If we get no match across the nation, we look at persons of In-

dian origin and then other foreigners," said a govt doctor: "In a manner of speaking, only organs not taken by Indian doctors/patients are given to foreigners," he added.

Dr Shroff said, "Transplant tourism is being equated with organ commerce. They fail to understand that many poor countries find India a cheaper destination to get a transplant than countries in the west." He said no Indian has donated to foreigners as per law. A foreign patient who undergoes a transplant in India isn't an American or German, but from a neighbouring or African nation with no local transplantation.

### Costly Transplants

Mumbai's Dr Nagral, who chairs the 'Declaration of Istanbul custodian group' (a global organisation which campaigns against commercial transplants), said most transplants in India are conducted in the private sector which places them "beyond the reach" of ordinary Indians. "A liver transplant costs around Rs 30 lakh. We expect our citizens to donate after their death, but if any of them needs a transplant now, it would be difficult because of the costs," he said.

Dr Amalorpavanathan, though, said healthcare has overall, and not just with transplants, been a privilege of the rich. "This is true across the world," he said. A doctor said foreigners get heart, lungs, in-

testines and pancreas—"all transplants that haven't yet become routine in India".

In 2008, there were no takers for liver, hearts or lungs in India as people were afraid about the outcome of such surgeries. But, over the next 10 years, India's transplant programme evolved to such an extent that no kidney or liver is wasted or allotted to foreigners, claimed a govt official.

**'Need More Transparency'** Doctors said India's transplant programme is far from perfect, with a need for more regulation with live foreign donors and general awareness.

When foreigners come with their own donors, their embassy has to issue a certificate about

the relationship. Dr Shroff said, "We need another layer of regulation before the embassy stamps our Form 21. We need a local doctor or hospital to refer the patient to the embassy." It should be made available to Indian hospitals. A doctor said an independent transplant auditor is needed. "If a hospital conducts as many liver transplants as, say, cataracts, then it needs to be studied," he said. Dr Nagral said, "We need more public institutions to perform transplants or it will become an elite activity." NOTTO director Anil Kumar said the focus is on public hospitals. The new AIIMS in Hubaneswar, Nagpur, Raipur and Jodhpur have started transplants, he said.

# Autonomy, NEP give wing to tailor-made college courses

Yogita Rao & Hemali Chhappia | TNN

**Mumbai:** Equipped with autonomy and the flexibility that National Education Policy (NEP) offers, several city colleges are now coming up with courses that will help students look beyond their regular choices for undergraduate education. Tailor-made for industry requirements, these courses are slowly getting popular with students, though principals admit it may still take time to replace old favourites. In some colleges, though, innovative courses within the domain of arts, science and commerce have seen an influx of students, with traditional courses seeing a decline in cutoffs. In some others, the newer courses are yet to strike a chord. Among the newer courses, programmes in data science are a favourite.

Homi Bhabha State University (HBSU) plans to introduce the concept of 'Design

## TIMES Special

Your Own Degree', after breaking away from Mumbai University and becoming a cluster, with Sydenham, Elphinstone and Institute of Science as its constituent colleges. The innovative concept leverages the advantages of NEP 2020. "This programme will allow students to tailor their degree options as they progress in their academic journey, offering unparalleled flexibility and customisation in their education. These innovative programmes are designed to meet the evolving demands of industry and society, providing students with the skills and knowledge necessary to excel in their respective fields," said university vice-chancellor Rajanish Kamat. A total of nine new programmes have been introduced, including BSc programmes in popular streams such as artificial intelligence and machine learning, data science and analytics, among others.

"Colleges are offering a professional touch to courses, making students and parents realise every lecture attended, every credit picked matters and will enhance students' skills," said a UGC officer. From climate insurance to crop insurance, Podar College's BCom in actuarial studies has been introduced keeping in mind the broad spectrum of sectors that require a deep understanding of risk management and valuation. "Risk and uncertainty are a part of life. Actuaries are needed in so many industries, from investment firms and mutual fund houses to even the agricultural space," said Podar principal Shobana Vasudevan. Similarly, the course

## INDUSTRY-FOCUSED COURSES GAIN TRACTION

Some of the innovative courses offered in city colleges

### RA Podar College of Commerce and Economics

**BCom (Actuarial Studies)** | Understanding risk management and valuation required for multiple insurance products entering the market

**BBA (Shipping and Logistics)** | From forwarding agents to cold storage tech, to sourcing goods and managing stocks and RFID tech, students are sent to Goa shipping yard for exposure

### Jai Hind College

**BCom (Digital Strategy)** | Leading online business, turning a traditional family business into an online enterprise

### NM College

**BCom (Economics and Analytics)** | Students equipped to be economists, entrepreneurs, researchers, analysts, financial risk analysts, data scientists, investment bankers

### Wilson College

**B Voc (Theatre and Stagecraft)** | All aspects of theatre and stagecraft

### MCC College, Mulund

**BCom (BFSI)** | Mutual fund distribution, insurance advice, major in banking/finance/insurance

### KES Shroff College: BCom (Branding & Advertising)

Developing impactful brand experiences, understanding consumer behaviour, navigating digital marketing landscape



### Dr Homi Bhabha State University

**BSc (Digital Forensics and Cyber Security)** | Protect firms against cyber threats and conduct forensic probe

**BSc (Luxury Brand and Retail Management)** | Brand strategy, consumer behaviour, managing high-end retail businesses

**BSc (Healthcare Management)** | Policies, administration, leadership

**BCom (Logistics & Supply Chain Management)** | Logistics, essentials of transportation, inventory management, supply chain optimisation

**BCom (Management Studies)** | 41,051

**BCom (Accounting and Finance)** | 1.1L

**BSc (Information Technology)** | 1.05L

**BSc (Computer Science)** | 66,187

**BA** | 60,826

**BSc** | 41,382

**BCom (International Accounting)** | Global accounting and finance professionals

**HSNC University KC College** | B Voc (Sports and Entertainment management)

**Mumbai University courses** | Applications received in some popular ones for 2024-25

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# Expect heavy rain and gusty winds today; IMD issues yellow alert for Mum, orange for Thane

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** Due to the strengthening of westerly winds, an increase in rainfall activity is expected over parts of Maharashtra during the next five days, with the weather department issuing an orange alert for Thane and Raigad districts for Tuesday and Wednesday. Mumbaiers can expect thunderstorms with lightning, heavy rain and

gusty winds of 40-50 kmph at isolated places on Sunday. The city remained overcast and humid on Saturday. Colaba recorded a rainfall of 2mm till 8.30 am on Saturday while Santacruz recorded 9 mm during the same period. Thane recorded 42mm rainfall till Saturday morning. Across the state, a red alert of extremely high rainfall has been issued for Sindhudurg, Pune, Kolhapur and Satara districts will have

been put on orange alert next week beginning Tuesday. Weather officials said that Thane can get heavy (64.5-115.5 mm) to very heavy (115.6-204.4 mm) rainfall on Tuesday and Wednesday. Raigad on the other hand will witness heavy to very heavy rains beginning Monday and extending till Wednesday. While a yellow alert (watch) has been issued for Mumbai, isolated places will receive heavy rainfall from Monday to Wednesday.

## All state CET answer books to be put up online again

**Mumbai:** The state CET cell will once again put up answer sheets of all students so they can cross-check the same with its final answer key on Jun 27 and 28. With allegations of a problem in the state's engineering CET (common entrance test) result, government officials, including the CET commissioner, have allayed students' fears of mismatch of percentages and ranks.

On Saturday, state CET commissioner Dilip Sardesai appealed to students and parents to not believe rumours, and clarified that no grace marks were given to any candidate in the exam result. Answer sheets were put up earlier too, but students had complained they were up for a very short period. So, CET cell has agreed to put them up again. The question paper setter will be pulled up for errors that crept in, said Sardesai, adding that "candidates with the same raw score in the same session have got the same percentile".

This entrance test was held in two sessions for several days. MHT-CET 2024 attracted one of the highest registrations this year at 4.1 lakh students in the 'PCM' category exam, of which 3.8 lakh appeared for the exam.

"...candidates who obtained the same raw score in different sessions have got different percentiles," said higher education director Shaileendra Deolankar. Sardesai said: "Also, the objection that they did not get the marks obtained by them as per the answer sheet made available to candidates is not true."

Sena (UBT) MLA Aaditya Thackeray on Saturday called on governor Ramesh Bais to seek his intervention in the MT-CET chaos. —Hemali Chhappia

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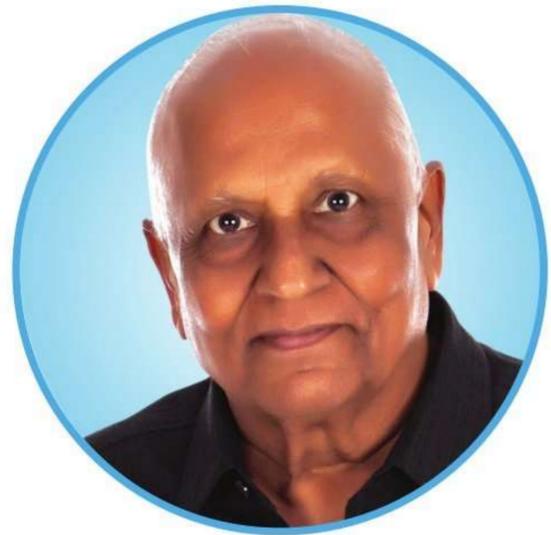
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# Dodgy case diary: HC directs JCP to personally file affidavit

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: After social media influencer Priya Singh accused Ashwajit Gaikwad, son of the MSRDC MD, of running over her leg with an SUV last Dec, two petitions were filed in the high court. Gaikwad sought quashing of the December 11 FIR in which he was booked for rash driving and causing grievous hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others. Singh, on the other hand, urged to add sections of attempt to murder and rape, among others. On April 22, HC was told by the prosecutor that an attempt is being made to record Singh's further statement.

On June 14, Singh's advocate said since she was earlier not called for recording her statement, the advocate had dialled the investigating officer on June 5, to record her statement. The prosecutor said IO Vishal Rumane of Kasarvadavali police station had called Singh on June 11, and requested her to remain present the next day.

The judges noted that the statement was yet to be recorded. Also, they found that the case diary said as a report has to be sent to Motor Accident Claim Tribunal (MACT),

## WHAT HAPPENED ON DAY INFLUENCER WAS RUN OVER



Priya Singh said that on the day of the assault, she reached Courtyard Hotel to meet Ashwajit Gaikwad, who she claimed was her boyfriend. When he came out of hotel, they had an argument and in a fit of rage, Gaikwad bit her on her hand

Later, when Singh went to get her bag

from SUV, Sagar Shelke, Gaikwad's friend, started ignition and she fell on road. He drove over her right leg before speeding away

Singh was admitted to hospital with injuries to her stomach, back, and arms, and with "broken" right leg

Refuting the allegations, Gaikwad said

Singh was just a friend. She came drunk to the hotel and tried to force him to talk to her. When he refused, Singh started abusing

Gaikwad claims Shelke started the SUV so that Singh would step away, accident was not intentional

**Accused's petition** | Seeks quashing of December 11 FIR under IPC sections 279 (rash driving on a public way), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 338 (causing grievous hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others) and 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace)



**Victim's petition** | Seeks directions to add IPC sections 307 (attempt to murder), 354 (assault or criminal force to a woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 376 (rape), 420 (cheating) and 506 (criminal intimidation)



Singh's Aadhaar card, bank passbook and other documents are necessary. The judges could not accept it and directed the JCP to file his "personal affidavit" in response to the petition. They "expect" him to read the entire petition, peruse all records of investigation, the case diary and thereafter only

file the affidavit. They also directed him "not to delegate his powers to any subordinate officer".

The judges also noted that IO Vishal Rumane had maintained the case diary in loose sheets. There was no consecutive pagination in the diary as usual, in contravention of CrPC and directions issued

from time to time by the DGP's office. "There is much more to say about the investigation being carried out, however, we reserve our comment to be offered after perusing the affidavit of JCP, Thane, on that behalf," they added. The judges directed JCP's affidavit to be filed by June 27, and posted the hearing on June 28.

# Thane tin shed collapse: 2 of six injured boys critical

Thane: Two of the six youths who had suffered grievous injuries after a tin roof of a building terrace collapsed on a nearby football turf on Friday, are reported to be critical, said an official.

The incident took place at a Football Turf Club near Gawand Park, Upvan, Thane, around 9:30pm on Friday. Gusty winds and heavy rains caused the tin shed from a nearby building to uproot and collapse onto the football turf where 17 boys were playing, said an official from the regional disaster management cell of Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC).

All the six boys injured on the turf are 15-year-old, said the official. An official stated that the injured were rushed to a nearby hospital and are currently undergoing treatment. The condition of the two seriously injured boys is being closely monitored. "It is most likely that the tin terrace shed collapsed due to gusty winds coupled with rains on Friday," said the official.

Meanwhile, the TMC removed a hazardous advertisement billboard after locals reported that it was swaying



The tin shed collapsed amid gusty winds on Friday

## Woman, her 8-yr-old daughter hurt as balcony of Kalyan bldg crashes

Kalyan: An 8-yr-old girl and her mother were injured after a major portion of a gallery of a ground-plus-four-storey building collapsed in Kalyan West. KDMC officials later evacuated all residents of the building and now plan to demolish the structure. The incident, meanwhile, has left around 100 people living in the building homeless.

The girl, Tasmiya Sheikh, and her mother were passing the lane below the building when part of the fourth floor balcony of Munna Maulavi building in Bazarpath area collapsed. Passersby who saw the girl buried under the debris with leg seriously injured rescued her and rushed her to a private hospital. On learning about the incident, deputy municipal commissioner Dhairyashel Jadhav rushed to the spot with fire brigade team and rescued residents. — Pradeep Gupta

dangerously during strong winds in Shastri Nagar area. Yasin Tadvii, an official from Regional Disaster Man-

agement Cell, said they had halted traffic for a brief time and removed the hoarding on receiving the complaint. TNN

# 3 yrs' RI for man who hugged, kissed schoolgirl on skywalk

Rebecca.Samervel @timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Observing that such incidents leave a scar on a victim's mind, leaving her unable to live a normal life and even socialise, a special Pocco court convicted and sentenced a 31-year-old man to three years rigorous imprisonment for hugging and kissing on the lips a 14-year-old on her way to school on a skywalk in March 2018.

The accused, Chakradhar Sahu, was caught by cops soon after the incident as the girl screamed out for help.

The judge said that the incident will cause mental trauma during the victim's future life. "...accused is matured person and despite that, he involved in the offence of sexual assault with a school-going 14-year-old girl...The incident also involved moral turpitude..." the judge said.

The judge said there is no reason for the victim to falsely identify the accused soon after the incident. "The accused was unknown to her and there was no enmity between them. So, there was no reason for victim to identify the accused falsely," the judge said.

The judge also said the cops who caught the accused have identified him before the court. "So considering the said evidence on record, I come to the conclusion that there is evidence on record to show that the accused was present on the spot of incident, he hugged victim from behind, kissed on her lips and thus, he has outraged the modesty of minor victim girl and has sexually assaulted her and has committed the offence. So there is sufficient and convincing evidence on record..." the judge said. The accused was also fined Rs 10,000.



though. In a city that never sleeps, some folks are often alone and forgotten, even in death.

Her last moments also served as a reminder of the few good folks, who have devoted them-

Mohua.Das@timesgroup.com

It's hard to tell what was more tragic when actor Noor Malabika Das was found dead in her Lohkhandwala flat, a fortnight ago. Her untimely death at 31 after she hung herself in her bedroom and was recovered two days later, or the fact that there was no one from her family to perform her last rites and lay her to rest.

"I got a call from a police officer saying there was a decomposed body languishing in the morgue that they needed help disposing of because her family in Assam could not afford the trip to Mumbai," recounts Iqbal Mamdani, founder of Mamdani Health and Education Trust NGO, who stepped in to ensure she received a proper farewell.

However, Noor Malabika's situation posed a unique hurdle. "It was her name. She could be Hindu

or Muslim," Mamdani explained. After speaking to her family over the phone in Assam and confirming she was Hindu, they organised her cremation according to customs.

Noor's story isn't unique,

oneself to ensuring that those who die alone or unclaimed receive a dignified send-off, at their own cost, despite knowing nothing about them until that moment.

Mamdani, a former journalist, took on this task during the pandemic in 2020 when concerns arose over the management of Covid-19 deaths. "There was anger mounting because Muslims who had died from coronavirus were being cremated instead of being buried," he recounted. Mamdani stepped in with a few helpers to conduct proper burials and soon noticed many unclaimed bodies in hospitals in need of similar attention. "Hospital authorities told us that people were hesitant to claim bodies due to fear of infection."

After securing permission and assurances from the hospital and police to avoid communal disputes, he expanded his efforts and formed a 200-member team work-

ing from Churchgate to Palghar, CST to Kalyan. However, post-pandemic, the need persisted. "Police often dealt with unclaimed bodies, and additional DG of police Vishwas Nangre Patil encouraged us to continue this work."

Today, Mamdani's team of 12 men from a mix of faiths between 25 to 50 years handles at least a hundred bodies a month. "We conduct all rites and rituals as per their faith, free of cost," says Mamdani who has conducted the last rites for over 6,000 unclaimed bodies in the past four years.

Seventy-two-year-old cooperative legal act consultant Prakash Gidwani, too, has been relentless in helping cremate unclaimed bodies for five decades. Having assisted the Caribbean police in Barbados while living there, he has continued this pursuit in Mumbai since the 1980s. "I was at a puncture shop when a

# No buffer zones around factories despite fires; residential areas at risk

State Plans To Amend Development Control Rules: Official; Experts Say Factories Act Has Provision For Buffer Norm To Be Enforced In MMR

Chittaranjan.Tembekar @timesgroup.com

Mumbai: More than two decades ago, residential townships for the workforce in the industrial area of Kalyan-Dombivli were mostly in a 5-km periphery around the units, with minimum distance between houses and factories being 1km. Today, said Veerendra Talegaonkar, a resident of Manpada Road in Dombivli (E), the distance has shrunk to metres.

"With land occupied by sick units being taken over by developers, every year we have at least one or two explosions and fires which damage buildings. The big ones have even claimed the lives of residents. Our building and a school next door sustained heavy damage after an explosion in 2016 in the MIDC area," said Talegaonkar. MIDCs in Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) include those in the Thane Creek area near Thane and Navi Mumbai, Kalyan-Dombivli, Ambernath-Badlapur and Andheri-Marol. These alone have roughly 150 accident-prone ha-

## TIMES Special

zardous units, some of them surrounded by residential areas (see graphic).

"The old buffer rule of 50m for non-hazardous and 100m for hazardous factories to build townships for workers needs to be revisited. In industrial areas, certain pockets have residential pockets with commercial, corporate or IT facilities in them. With barely a margin between the units, most of which are chemical, and the residential and commercial buildings, the buffer line needs to be redrawn and highly dangerous units shifted," said Mangesh Ghotkar, a resident of Sudama Nagar in Dombivli.

What has happened in the MIDCs developed in the 60's and 70's is that several old factories have shut down and their land has been converted for use to corporate or IT parks, malls, business plazas, etc with residential components in them. But this, in turn, puts the new establishments directly in harm's way in the event of an

## MORE DISASTERS IN THE MAKING?

In last four years, 18 major fires were reported in MIDCs in Kalyan and neighbouring regions. 26 people died and 81 were injured in these accidents. The major incidents included the following

**June 12, 2024** | Major blaze at Indo Amines chemical unit which spread to adjoining factory

**May 23, 2024** | Blast in Amudan chemical unit led to 13 deaths, properties in 1.5km radius damaged by impact

**March 15, 2024** | Fire at pharma unit in Dombivli MIDC Phase 1, one worker dead

**Jan 18, 2024** | One dead, 4 injured in blast in reactor of Veekay Chemical unit, several units in neighbourhood damaged by impact

**Dec 10, 2021** | More than 34 people complain of breathlessness as sulphur dioxide leaks from chemical unit in Anand Nagar MIDC in Ambernath

**April 6, 2021** | Gas leak from Nobel Inter-mediate chemical unit, locals complain of breathlessness and irritation in eyes

**Jan 27, 2021** | Fire in Calyex Pharmaceutical Company in Dombivli MIDC

**Dec 18, 2020** | Huge blaze at Shakti Process unit in Dombivli MIDC Phase 1, fire brigade personnel injured

**Feb 18, 2020** | Major fire at Metropolitan Eximchem chemical unit. Blaze controlled after 16 hours of firefighting, nearby residents shifted



**Total factories registered in Maharashtra**  
38,479

Hazardous: 3,982

Chemical: 5,336

Safety auditors employed by govt: 29

Factories spread across 289 MIDCs in over 36 districts

Major accident-prone units: 411

Total workers: 31,05,968

Factories inspected for industrial safety and health: 4,391 (as of 2023)

Factories yet to be inspected: 33,441 (as of 2023)

**Number of accident-prone units in Mumbai region**

Mumbai: 14

Thane: 28

Palghar: 28

Raigad: 76

(Source: Directorate of Industrial Safety and Health)

industrial mishap such as a boiler blast or fire. Recent mishaps in Dombivli and other MIDCs have shown how risky the lack of development planning is in these areas.

Vijay Bukkavar, industrial safety and risk management expert, said, "First and foremost, there is no concept of buffer zones for residential areas under civic bodies. In 1997, when a pharma company in Thane went to Supreme Court to insist on a buffer zone around their factory and they objected to conversion of agriculture land to non-agriculture for allowing residential buildings, the factory was asked to restrict its expansion. There have been instances of phar-

ma companies in the Thane industrial area making losses and downing shutters as there was no scope for expansion. Amid rapid urbanisation, DC (development control) rules need to be amended, making a provision of at least a 200m buffer zone."

Sources with the directorate of industrial safety and health under the labour department said govt was giving serious thought to the issue. "Govt is clear that hazardous chemicals or gas-based units shouldn't be close to residential areas. In MIDCs in MMR, distance and locations need to be defined keeping in mind future course of expansion. Chief minister Eknath Shinde

has already announced work on this," said an official.

Industrial safety expert Aprup Adawadkar said following a revision in the Factories Act 1948, the buffer zone must be maintained strictly in case of major hazardous industries. "Urban local bodies need to enforce this and not shirk responsibilities," he added. Bhiwandi is a case in point where the town planning department and a local body coordinated to amend DC rules and safety norms to create more buffer space around godowns, which frequently reported fires. Earlier, fire tenders could not enter the warehousing areas, which is not the case anymore, said Bukkavar.

# WR DEPLOYS 30 REMOTE-CONTROLLED CAMS TO CHECK DRAINS, PREVENT TRACK FLOODING

Western Railway (WR) has deployed remote control float cameras for the monsoon to enable thorough cleaning of waterways to ensure seamless rainwater drainage and prevent flooding on tracks. The specialized devices are designed for inspecting and monitoring drainage systems such as sewers and stormwater drains. Manthan K Mehta reports

**55** Number of culverts on WR

**50km** Length of WR's drainage system

**1.6L** cubic metres Volume of muck removed by WR every year before monsoon



**MONSOON REQUIREMENT**  
**30** Cameras deployed by WR for drain checks

**Why cameras?** Manual inspection of drains is often impractical or impossible, making cameras essential for efficient cleaning

**How they work?** Mounted camera | The mounting is on a float (a small boat-like platform that can be remotely controlled)

**Floating design** | The mechanism keeps the camera above water, enabling it to move through drains

**Camera system** | The device can capture video and images. Some models include pan, tilt, and zoom. Built-in LED lights illuminate dark drainage systems

**Wireless communication** | The camera transmits video and images wirelessly to a handheld controller

**Durability** | The cameras are built to withstand harsh environments, including exposure to water, debris, and corrosive substances commonly found in drains

**APPLICATIONS**

- Inspecting and maintaining sewer lines and storm water drains
- Locating blockages, cracks, or leaks within drainage systems
- Conducting routine maintenance inspections without costly and risky manned entry

These cameras are inexpensive but extremely useful for ensuring that drains do not remain clogged

Vineet Abhishek | CPRO, WR

# Meet the city samaritans bringing dignity in death to unclaimed bodies

Mohua.Das@timesgroup.com

It's hard to tell what was more tragic when actor Noor Malabika Das was found dead in her Lohkhandwala flat, a fortnight ago. Her untimely death at 31 after she hung herself in her bedroom and was recovered two days later, or the fact that there was no one from her family to perform her last rites and lay her to rest.

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oneself to ensuring that those who die alone or unclaimed receive a dignified send-off, at their own cost, despite knowing nothing about them until that moment.

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After securing permission and assurances from the hospital and police to avoid communal disputes, he expanded his efforts and formed a 200-member team work-

ing from Churchgate to Palghar, CST to Kalyan. However, post-pandemic, the need persisted. "Police often dealt with unclaimed bodies, and additional DG of police Vishwas Nangre Patil encouraged us to continue this work."

Today, Mamdani's team of 12 men from a mix of faiths between 25 to 50 years handles at least a hundred bodies a month. "We conduct all rites and rituals as per their faith, free of cost," says Mamdani who has conducted the last rites for over 6,000 unclaimed bodies in the past four years.

Seventy-two-year-old cooperative legal act consultant Prakash Gidwani, too, has been relentless in helping cremate unclaimed bodies for five decades. Having assisted the Caribbean police in Barbados while living there, he has continued this pursuit in Mumbai since the 1980s. "I was at a puncture shop when a

young boy came in, pleading for old tires to cremate his father because they couldn't afford wood. That was the moment I vowed — no one should fade away without a proper cremation."

In 2008, Gidwani approached the BMC with a proposal to collect wood from felled trees and distribute it to the city's crematoriums which they ultimately approved. "Today, BMC supplies free wood to 86 crematoriums for at least 100 cremations. And later, electrical and biogas cremations were made free too," says Gidwani, who operates solo with four ambulances on call, handling between three to twenty unclaimed bodies monthly, who died alone, often without medical insurance or family support.

While Mamdani has dealt with cases involving railway accident victims, newborns abandoned by their mothers, senior citizens estranged from their kids living far away, and even a 12-year-old run-

away, the unclaimed bodies that Gidwani has helped cremate range from the well-heeled — "like Bollywood hairstylist Sheela Kapoor who was discovered two days after her death in her Versova apartment, and after six months of trying to trace her relatives and an investigation, the DCP called me to cremate her" — to the ragpickers, beggars and rickshaw drivers whose families live in other states.

Mamdani says he often comes across migrant labourers from states like UP, Bihar, Assam, and Kolkata, working in Mumbai as daily wagers. "Their families sometimes know they're in Mumbai but have no details about their lives here. After they die, their acquaintances in the city often can't establish contact with their families. Even if the police trace the family, they usually lack the means to travel to Mumbai," Mamdani explains.

Establishing the faith of the deceased can be tricky: Noor Malabika's name, for instance, had posed a conundrum. "She could be Hindu or Muslim," Mamdani explained. After speaking to her family over a phone call in Assam, and confirming she was Hindu, they organised her cremation according to customs.

"For male Muslims, it's easier due to the custom of khatma. For Hindus or Christians, we look for tattoos, markings like 'Om' or 'Ram', or a religious locket like the cross," says Mamdani.

Funding remains a challenge. "Currently, we are 30 friends funding this initiative but seeking CSR or crowdfunding support to sustain it, as it involves significant expenses — salaries, running three ambulances, and necessary items for the rituals," says Mamdani. "No one should leave this world without a dignified goodbye," he signs off.

# Why We Must Manage Lipids To Prevent Heart Attacks

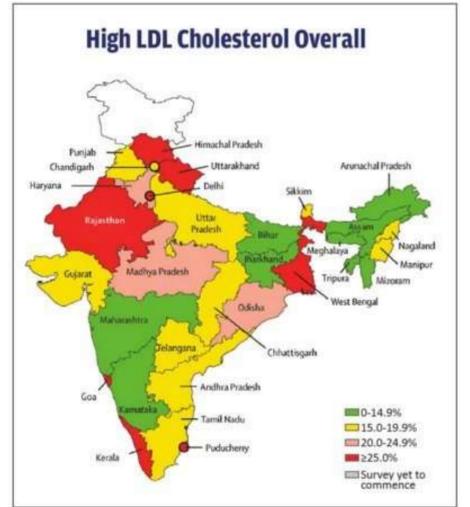
The recently-released lipid guidelines, customised to the Indian population, will help create a uniformity of treatment across the country

India has the unfortunate distinction of having the highest number of coronary artery disease (CAD) patients in the world. A recent study published by the Cardiological Society of India says dyslipidaemia – a condition where there is an abnormally large amount of cholesterol or lipids (fat) in the blood – is the biggest risk for CAD in the country. According to studies, about 217 million cases of dyslipidaemia are reported in India. Real-world evidence shows that about 80% patients in India do not achieve their target low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) goals even one year after a cardiovascular (CV) event. Unfortunately, we don't have standardised treatment protocols or guidelines to manage dyslipidaemia in India. Now, faced with medical evidence of patients not being able to meet their target LDL-C goals, the Cardiological Society of India (CSI) understands the urgency – and the imperative – to develop India-specific lipid guidelines.

cardiologist and chairman of cardiology at Sir Gangaram Hospital in New Delhi, who leads the study. "With patients who have hypertension, diabetes and are generally more at risk, the LDL-C goal is below 70. And for people in the extremely high risk group – those who have suffered cardiac episodes and have high LDL-C – the desired level is no more than 40." Dr Sawhney adds: "International guidelines say you should repeat the lipid profile test about four to six weeks after starting a patient on lipid-lowering therapies. But our study found that the maximum effect of the drug comes at about four weeks and there is no further reduction after that. So we decided to hit hard, and hit early, by reducing the LDL-C



PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK/OLIVIERO TOSCANI



Source: CSI clinical practice guidelines for dyslipidaemia management. Executive summary by Jitendra PS Sawhney, Sivasubramanian Ramakrishnan et al. Indian Heart Journal

working in the last mile," says Dr Jayagopal PB, Director and head of the department of cardiology at Lakshmi Hospital in Palakkad, Kerala. "But even today, many small towns don't have qualified doctors." So the assumption that any general physician will have thorough knowledge of LDL-C, and treat patients accordingly, is a stretch.

that the target LDL-C goals for each person are different, as are individual risks. For instance, a 30-year-old with an LDL-C level of 130 is at less risk than a 60-year-old man who has diabetes, but has an LDL-C level of 100. In fact, cardiologists say that the reference range quoted by pathology labs in reports can be both confusing and misleading because they are very general. So the same 60-year-old with diabetes and an LDL-C of 100, needs to be on medication. Chances are his lab report will quote the ideal range for LDL-C as 130-200. "Seeing this, the patient may feel that he is safe, but he is not," adds Dr Ramakrishnan. "He needs to start on medication right away."

### Information For All

The guidelines hope to close this knowledge gap by keeping general physicians operating in smaller centres abreast of the latest developments in CVDs, for favourable treatment outcomes for patients. They will also provide a framework around which individual physicians can build their treatment protocols, and create a uniformity in treatment across the country.

So what do the guidelines mean for patients? "Many times in India, people are not aware of what is the correct treatment," says Dr S Ramakrishnan, professor of cardiology at AIIMS, New Delhi. "With these guidelines, patients will know exactly what treatment they require." He further adds: "In India, our rates of mortality with heart attacks are high, while our post-heart attack secondary rate of prevention is poor because people stop taking medication after one or two years of having experienced a CVD event, thinking they are fine." Although these are broad guidelines, they will help physicians to individualise treatment, and patients can also see what they are being prescribed (the guidelines include details about both preventive and secondary medication and lipid-lowering therapies).

But most important – the guidelines will make both physicians and patients aware

"Proper management of dyslipidaemia is crucial to control the epidemic of premature CAD in India," says the CSI report. "[We have] strived to develop consensus-based guidelines for better lipid management for CAD prevention and treatment... There is an urgent need for standardization of lipid estimation in medical laboratories across the country so that every eligible individual can receive evidence-based lipid lowering interventions." Good news indeed, for both patients and their doctors.



### Lipid alert

In December 2023, the CSI published a comprehensive set of lipid management guidelines. A panel of 22 doctors worked on this 114-page document – titled CSI clinical practice guidelines for dyslipidaemia management – for four years, taking into consideration data and conditions that are entirely India-specific. The focus is on dyslipidaemias most prevalent in our country, such as elevated levels of LDL-C, known as the 'bad' cholesterol; lower levels of high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C) or 'good' cholesterol; apolipoproteins, triglycerides and lipoprotein(a).

Cardiologists are particularly concerned about LDL cholesterol, which poses the greatest risk for heart attacks, but does not manifest any symptoms when the levels go up, even dangerously. "In our general, low risk population, we have decided to keep the target LDL-C goal at below 100," says Dr JPS Sawhney, senior consultant

of India. "Indians experience cardiovascular diseases (CVD) 10 years before those in the West," says Dr Sawhney. "About 50% of Indians get heart attacks at less than 50 years, and 20% get them at under 40, and these figures are also three times higher than the rest of the world." And yet, when it comes to LDL-C, doctors and patients sometimes don't understand the seriousness of the risks. This goes back to the problem of elevated levels of LDL-C not exhibiting any symptoms. Since this can only be detected through tests, it's easy for patients (and in some cases doctors too) to miss it.

Adherence to therapy in chronic disorders is a critical aspect that is often neglected by patients, and not emphasised enough by doctors in their conversations with patients. Since they cannot 'feel' the effects of elevated levels of LDL-C – or if they have survived a cardiac event – many patients stop taking their medicines,

thinking they no longer need it. Or if they are being treated for comorbid conditions, they may forget to take their heart medication. The outcome of both these scenarios is dangerous: it not only increases patients' risk of cardiovascular events, but also affects their quality of life. "Many times the dosage is reduced by the physician with no proper information," says Dr Sawhney. "Without the knowledge of guidelines, they make mistakes in their clinical estimates, which is why a standardised line of treatment is necessary."

### Specific risks

India has specific risk factors, which is why it needs customised guidelines. Tobacco use, which includes smoking bidis and chewing tobacco; sedentary lifestyles; high-carbohydrate diets and extensive use of oil in cooking that cause central obesity (a build-up of fat around the midriff) – all of these lead to lipid abnormalities such as high LDL-C, high triglycerides and low HDL-C.

There is also a high prevalence of sugar, cholesterol and blood pressure among the population in India, which is known to be the diabetes capital of the world. Then there are genetic factors such as Familial Hypercholesterolemia (FH), a hereditary condition that increases the risk of heart disease



at a younger age than usual. Another factor is Lipoprotein (a) that affects about 25% of the population in India, compared to 15-20% in the West. "These abnormalities, found in much higher numbers in our country than anywhere else, lead to an early onset of heart disease," adds Dr Sawhney.

According to Dr Saumitra Ray, consultant interventional cardiologist and Director, invasive cardiology at AMRI hospital in Kolkata, risks in India are 50% genetic and 50% due to modifiable factors. "Our Southeast

Asian population is genetically pre-disposed to a high degree of atherosclerosis and pulmonary artery disease, which is extensive and also comes on an at earlier age. We have narrower arteries, which we can't help. So the onus is on us to work on the modifiable risk factors like changes in lifestyle, diet etc," Dr Ray says.

The guidelines are, however, only a guidance for physicians. The final call – on line of treatment and drug protocols – lies entirely with the treating doctor, since each case may be

different. For instance, there is a lot of regional variation in the prevalence of LDL-C, HDL-C and triglycerides across the country [see map], along with rural-urban differences. In the past, this has made it tough to have a standardised line of treatment. "Our ignorance about the severity of the problem is an issue," adds Dr Ray. "Even doctors don't realise how rampant dyslipidaemia is in India, and it is still considered a disease of the rich and elite, which is not true." The treating physician having the final say could also create difficulties. "For these guidelines to be effective, we need to reach them to physicians in the most rural or backward areas of the country,

### Standard lipid testing panels and targets for various risk groups (all values in mg/dl)

Lipid Parameter	Desirable Levels Of Various Lipid Fractions			
	Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk	Very High Risk
LDL Cholesterol	<100	<100	<70	<55
Non-HDL Cholesterol	<130	<130	<100	<85
HDL Cholesterol	>40 M >50 W	>40 M >50 W	>40 M >50 W	>40 M >50 W
Triglycerides	<150	<150	<150	<150
Lipoprotein(a)	<50	<50	<50	<50

a The values may vary according to the laboratory-method used. b Direct or calculated according to Friedewald formula; Extremely high-risk group has not been included in this table.

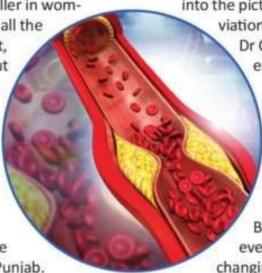
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# Are women at greater risk of CVDs?

Smaller and stiffer hearts, untraditional and unclear symptoms, and a general lack of awareness makes cardiovascular diseases the number one killer for women globally

Do cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) present differently in men and women? Doctors say yes – and the differences go back to anatomy, physiology and behaviours as well.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the US, heart disease is the leading cause of death for women in America, killing 310,661 women in 2021 – or about 1 in every 5 female deaths. "Despite this, only about half (56%) of women recognize that heart disease is their number 1 killer," the study says. In India, too, CVDs are the No 1 killer in women, more than all the cancers [breast, cervical etc] put together, says Dr Shikha Takkar Chhabra, interventional cardiologist from Dayanand medical College and Hospital, Punjab.



lipoprotein) cholesterol, also known as the 'good' cholesterol, which insulates them from CVDs. Dr Chhabra adds that men may experience high levels of LDL (low-density lipoprotein) cholesterol, or the 'bad' cholesterol, earlier in their lives because they don't have that protective cover of oestrogen.

### Women Only

Between the ages of two and 12 years, boys and girls show a similar rise in cholesterol levels every year as they grow up. "Once the girl gets her periods and hormonal interplay comes into the picture, the deviation starts," says Dr Chhabra. "So earlier, women in their 20s, 30s and 40s may have been considered at low risk for CVDs. But today, everything is changing. Menarche is coming on earlier, and so is menopause."

For women, there are reproductive system-related risks. Dyslipidaemia – or an imbalance in lipids – sometimes occurs during pregnancy. And high dyslipidaemia could result in adverse pregnancy outcomes (such as stillbirth and miscarriage) and puts women at greater risk of CVDs in future. "Dyslipidaemia in



pregnancy is also associated with hypertension and conditions such as eclampsia and pre-eclampsia," adds Dr Chhabra. "Pregnant women may also find their cholesterol levels elevated during their second and third trimester. All these things make them prone to heart attacks later in life."

There are two kinds of risk factors for women. First are women-specific risks that have to do with reproduction-related complications, such as pregnancy-induced hypertension or gestational diabetes or having a weak heart during pregnancy. "These women may suffer from CVDs later in their life so their cases need

to be evaluated aggressively after pregnancy – during the post-partum stage – for the future possibility of CVD, and treated accordingly," says Dr Chhabra.

### Smaller Hearts

The second kind of factors are those that exist for both men and women, but may be more predominant in the latter, such as auto immune diseases like lupus, rheumatoid arthritis etc. "Women are unlike men in many ways," says Dr Chhabra. "Their hearts are smaller and stiffer; their coronary arteries are also different, and may sometimes have considerable endothelial dysfunction. This is

why coronary artery diseases (CAD) in women are more 'diffused' than in men, and therefore harder to detect." There are instances when a woman complains of chest pain, but an angiography may show the coronary artery to be normal.

### Changing Times

Many times the diagnosis of a heart attack is itself missed because physicians believe – erroneously – that a young, pre-menopausal woman is less at risk than an older person. "It is mistakenly believed that young women do not have heart problems," says Dr Chhabra. "But we are at an inflection point in society when women are getting pregnant later, having fewer babies, seeing many more pregnancy-related complications and are also exposed to the same traditional risk factors for heart attacks as men, such as smoking, diabetes hypertension etc. Infertility treatments are also becoming popular and these may lead to conditions such as thrombosis and, later, CVDs."

Here's a fairly common scenario in Indian families. The woman of the house suddenly starts to feel unwell: she experiences a vague discomfort; dizziness and headache; perhaps some abdominal bloating and discomfort; maybe even a tightness in her chest, palpitations and a sinking feeling; or some neck pain. She either ignores it because she has too much work at home, or pops a standard pill hoping the uneasiness will pass. Or, in a third scenario, she goes to her local GP and he diagnoses her

as suffering from anxiety, gives her some calming medication, and sends her home.

"Chances are that in more than 50% of such cases, the woman is actually having a heart attack and she doesn't even know it," says Dr Chhabra. "Women present symptoms of CVD differently from men. They may not have severe chest pains, but they are probably still experiencing a myocardial infarction (MI)." A study published in 2023 in the National Library of Medicine, titled *Gender and CVD – Does It Really Matter?* says "although women generally have a lower prevalence of CVD than

men... Number of studies has shown that after an acute cardiovascular (CV) event, women have a greater death rate and a worse prognosis". It adds that cardiovascular deaths in women are still under-recognised and untreated.

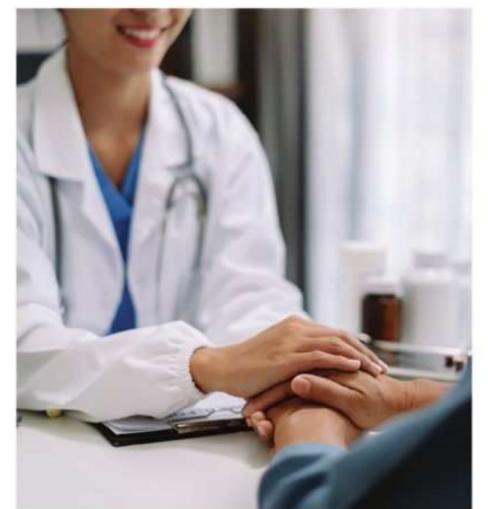
"We need to educate women that with changing lifestyles, delayed pregnancy, increased fertility treatments, early menarche and early menopause, there is a shift from traditional patterns of CVD occurrence," says Dr Chhabra. "Women need to consider this a serious health risk today."

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### JAIPUR

### AHMEDABAD

# Ashok Chavan skips BJP LS polls review meet in Nanded; former MP quits party

**Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar:** The BJP leadership is still assessing its loss in Marathwada in the Lok Sabha elections but received a jolt on Saturday. A four-time former MP Suryakanta Patil, who has influence in Nanded and Hingoli, quit the party. At the same time, newly-appointed RS MP Ashok Chavan's absence from a BJP review meeting on Saturday sparked rumours. However, Chavan said he had informed the party that he would be in Mumbai for work.

Chavan told TOI, "I am in Mumbai for following up on certain development works which are to be included in the

budgetary provisions. I have already communicated this to my party and the teams reaching Nanded."

The review meeting was held by former union minister Raosaheb Danve, who too lost from Jalna. Danve was accompanied by BJP state general secretary Sanjay Kenekar.

Chavan said though a team led by Danve had been to Nanded on Saturday, it is the team led by minister Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil, which has been tasked to reach Nanded and carry out the analysis and submit a report to the party leadership. Danve said Chavan in-

formed him three days back about his pre-decided schedule at Mumbai. "Since the Lselection results, most of our workers have not stepped out of their homes. We have started visiting each of the eight LS constituencies of Marathwada to analyse results and to boost their morale so they start preparing for the assembly elections."

Four-term MP Suryakanta Patil's resignation from the primary membership of BJP on Saturday came as a shock for the party. She started her political career with Jan Sangh in 1970.

—Mohammed Akhef

## Man objects to dog peeing on car, beaten

Pradeep Gupta

**Kalyan:** A 30-year-old man was beaten up after he raised objection to a pet dog urinating on his car in Kalyan on Friday evening.

Khadakpada police have booked the pet owner, Monty Karbhari, and his friend Umesh Karbhari on a complaint filed by Sainath Gaikane. No arrests have been made yet.

Police said that the incident took place when Gaikane parked his car and was chatting with his friend Yash Pawar near Vedant Hospital on Friday evening. He noticed Monty's pet dog urinating in front of his car. As Gaikane confronted Monty, the two got into an argument. Monty made a phone call and four of his friends, including Umesh, reached the spot and started beating up Gaikane, said the first information report registered at Khadakpada police station.

## Man arrested for stealing 14 bikes

**Mumbai:** Kurar police arrested a 35-year-old man who is allegedly a member of an interstate bike theft gang. Police said the gang would gather information on motorcycles that were being transported to other states after online booking and steal them.

The arrested accused, Laxman Dhotre, had allegedly stolen 14 motorcycles for the gang. A hunt is on for his accomplice Babu Bichanna, 32. **TNN**



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## Seat-sharing talks to start after session, says Raut

Mumbai: Amid reports of preliminary seat-sharing talks within the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) for the assembly polls, Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut on Saturday said NCP (SP) may have had the highest strike rate in the Lok Sabha polls, but the UBT Sena was targeted the most by Eknath Shinde and BJP. Raut said seat-sharing talks will begin after the assembly

## Nashik loss due to delay: CM

Nashik: CM Eknath Shinde admitted on Saturday that inordinate delay in declaring Hemant Godse as Mahayuti candidate from the Nashik LS seat was one of the prime reasons for his defeat. Shinde was in Nashik city to campaign for party candidate Kishor Darade for the Nashik Division Teachers' Constituency polls. The CM interacted with teachers. TNN

and parliament session.

Raut said an MVA meeting for seat-sharing talks was scheduled for June 25 but it has been postponed. He said the number of seats each party will get will depend on winnability.

"Sharad Pawar fought 10 seats and won 8, but Sena (UBT) was targeted the most by Shinde Sena and BJP and even Congress's strike rate is good. There are 288 seats and all parties in MVA will get enough seats to fight, there will be no tussle," he said.

The NCP (SP) chief hinted on Friday at a party meeting that his party won't settle for less seats in assembly polls. NCP (SP) had agreed to contest fewer seats than MVA allies in the LS polls but the situation would be different in the assembly polls, a party leader quoted Pawar as saying.

Raut said, "Seat-sharing talks have not yet commenced, neither with the NCP (SP) nor Congress. So the question of who will contest how many seats doesn't arise. All are equal stakeholders." — Chaitanya Marpakwar

## Jarange blames Bhujbal for OBC stir, 'won't let Kunbi certs be scrapped'

Mohammed.Akhef  
@timesgroup.com

Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar: Quota activist Manoj Jarange on Saturday blamed state minister Chhagan Bhujbal for being the 'brain' behind the agitation by OBC activists Laxman Hake and Navnath Waghmare. He also slammed elected representatives from the Maratha community for "failing to fully support the quota demand."

"The Maratha representatives and leaders are shying away from supporting the reservation cause of the community amid fears of political setbacks. Maratha community leaders should learn from the OBC leaders," Jarange said.

Claiming that Bhujbal was the 'brain' behind the stir of OBC activists in Wadigodri village, Jarange said it seemed that the OBC leadership had decided to dent the

prospects of the Maratha community's future generations, to which "we can remain mute spectators."

Jarange said, "If the state sees caste-based riots in the future, Bhujbal will be solely responsible for them."

The activist added that they would not allow a single Kunbi certificate to be cancelled in the state. "Marathas are already in OBC category and we are not taking anyone else's share in quota. Kunbi

records are being found in the old records, so it is already established that we are OBCs," Jarange said.

Speaking to reporters, Jarange questioned BJP ministers Girish Mahajan and Atul Save on their stand. "They have been getting Maratha votes so far. But as soon as we asked for our share of reservation, they started terming us their opposition. Didn't Mahajan and Save take Maratha votes?"

## Only a 30-40% win: OBC activist after suspending hunger strike

Mohammed.Akhef  
@timesgroup.com

Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar: The second govt delegation to call on OBC activists Laxman Hake and Navnath Waghmare on Saturday was led by food and civil supplies minister Chhagan Bhujbal, who had spoken up for the OBC quota in the face of pressure from Maratha reservation activist Manoj Jarange. Bhujbal's team included ministers Uday Samant, Girish Mahajan, Dhananjay Munde, Atul Save and Gulabrao Patil, MLC Gopichand Padalkar and OBC leader Prakash Shendge.

In this meeting, the ministers brought along a written assurance from the state govt, stating none of the backward community reservations would be diluted or affected. OBC activists have voiced concerns that the quota for Marathas could eat into reservation for their community.

Hake termed the state's written assurance a "30-40% win." He told TOI: "The state govt delegation has assured us that all caste certificates will be linked with Aadhaar, a cabinet sub-committee for OBCs will be formed and the 'sage soyare' law will be passed only after it is discussed at an all-party meeting. In addition, we have been assured that govt employees issuing bogus Kunbi certificates as well as those receiving them



Minister Chhagan Bhujbal at the agitation site in Jaina on Saturday

## BJP deceiving both Marathas & OBCs on reservation: Patole

Pune: Maharashtra Congress president Nana Patole said BJP was deceiving the Maratha community and OBCs over reservation. He claimed by CM Devendra Fadnavis and state BJP president Chandrashekar Bawankule have different positions on the issue. "Bawankule says reservation above 50% cannot be maintained. Fadnavis says reservation above 50% can be given. There are two different opinions on the reservation issue among BJP leaders. They should clarify their exact stance," he said. The Patna HC's decision has made it clear that reservations above 50% will not hold, therefore the true face of the BJP is exposed due to the different positions of Bawankule and Fadnavis, he said.

will be prosecuted."

The OBC activist said their other demands, including that for a caste census, are still pending, for which the fight would continue.

Saturday once again saw OBC protests in Beed and neighbouring districts, with

highway stretches blocked and tyres torched. Police had deployed heavy bandobast.

Bhujbal, who has been speaking up for the OBC community, said without naming Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange, "When will injustice against us end?

## Yoga instructor clicks pic of molester, gets him convicted

### Photo Helps Cops Nab Him Same Day; Man Gets 1-Yr RI

Rebecca Samervel  
@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: A Bandra-based yoga teacher's quick thinking of clicking pictures of a man who inappropriately touched her bottom last year has ensured that he was arrested and subsequently convicted and sentenced to a one year rigorous imprisonment.

Finding Dhanbhai Muzumdar (21), guilty, magistrate Komalraj Rajput said, "...the defence of the accused is of total denial and false implication. However, except bare denials and certain suggestions, there is nothing in the cross-examination (of victim) from which it can be inferred that accused has been falsely implicated by the informant. Admittedly, informant and accused were unknown to each other before the incident. There is no reason to drag the accused in the false case. The evidence is cogent and trustworthy. Merely because nooth-

er witness or evidence is collected, informant cannot be disbelieved."

The victim, among the two witnesses to depose in court, said that on May 23, 2023, at about 7.25am was going to her studio from her place of residence. At that time a man unknown to her came from behind, touched her on her bottom and crossed her; she screamed. Listening to her screaming, he turned around. At that time, she took his photograph on her mobile phone. She was frightened and ran to her studio. Then she called her parents and narrated the incident to them. They went to police station and lodged a report. While lodging the report, she showed the photograph taken on her phone to police. The victim identified the accused present in the court as the same person who touched her and outraged her modesty.

A police officer who de-

posed said that on the basis of photograph taken by informant in her mobile phone, the present accused was traced and arrested the same day.

Relying on the evidence, the magistrate said that it is proved that accused touched the victim with the intention to outrage her modesty.

The prosecution prayed for severe punishment. "The offence is serious and against woman," the prosecution said. However, seeking leniency, the accused said that he has been in jail since his arrest. He also submitted that despite granting bail, nobody turned up to comply with bail order. He also submitted that he is a resident of West Bengal and from poor financial background.

While sentencing him, the magistrate said, "As submitted, there is a sister and mother dependent on him. He is the only earning member of his family. Considering the period of custody undergone and these aspects, leniency needs to be shown to accused while granting punishment."

## 'TOO TEMPTING, AND TOO RISKY'

KK Choudhary



With the Pandavkada waterfall in Kharghar node brimming with fresh rain water, a group of youngsters are seen queuing up to take the plunge. However, Navi Mumbai police had recently barred public from entering certain dangerous picnic spots around Kharghar hills, including the main Pandavkada waterfall (uphill) and also the Fanaswadgi region. Given that some people still manage to sneak in through the kutcha village routes, cops said they plan to step up patrolling in the area to prevent any tragic accidents

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Estimated cost: Rs. 1,42,42,681.00 (GST Extra)

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**E-TENDER CORRIGENDUM-4**

The last date of submission of the E-Tender for "Construction of 400 KV GIS Switching Substation Pipalkoti" against Tender Specification No. PTCUL/E-Tender/C&P-II/SS-12/2023-24 is hereby extended upto **04.07.2024 15:30 Hrs**. For more details please visit the e-tender website www.uktenders.gov.in (tender id no. 2024\_PTCU4\_71770\_1) and for e-tender corrigendum notice our website www.ptcul.org. All other terms and conditions shall remain same.

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**CORRIGENDUM**

Ref: 1) Tender Notification No: EE(PN)/E-TEND/03/2024-25 Dated: 12-06-2024.

Advertising of the intending contractors is drawn towards tender notification under reference (1)

**Sl.No. 01 Name of the Work is belongs to ST Category**

Additional Works to Anganwadi Centre in Ashoknagar in Ward No. 70 (Old Ward No. 31), Kushalnagar (Block No. 26-2).

Approximate Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 100.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 100000.00

**Sl.No. 04 Name of the Work is belongs to SC Category**

Improvements to Drains and Road at N.C. Colony (Block No. 55), Gandhi Grama (Block No. 53), Pottery Road (Block No. 32) in Ward No. 73 (Old Ward No. 61), S.K. Garden.

Approximate Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 100.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 100000.00

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**E-TENDER NOTICE**

Tender Notice No: PCMM/CLW/HWH/E-Procurement/24/37. Dated: 19/06/24. PCMM/CLW/HWH on behalf of the President of India invites electronic bids from established reliable manufacturer for supply of the following. The following E-Tender/s is for supply of materials for manufacture of Electric Locomotive. The Prospective/likely suppliers are requested to look up the website www.irps.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.; Tender No.; Description of Stores; Qty.; Due On; Tender Cost** are as follows: [177]; 31241161; Elastic Ring for WAG9 Electric Locomotives RDSO Drawing No. SKEL-4717ALT-4 and RDSO Specification No.-RDSO/2007/EL/SPEC/0053(Rev-2). June 2021; As Per Tender/Doc.; 10/07/24; ₹.00. [178]; 31241196; Complete Cubicle F along with all equipments and cabling for WAG-9HC loco as per specification: CLW/ES/3/0652/D; As Per Tender/Doc.; 11/07/24; ₹.00. [179]; 25245071A; (1) Platinum Crucible with reinforced RIM with Capacity: 40 ml as per CLW SPECN. No. SFM-28/SPEC/Platinum Crucible & Lid Rev.00 dated 03.05.2024. (2) Platinum Crucible with reinforced RIM with Capacity: 30 ml as per CLW SPECN. No. SFM-28/SPEC/Platinum Crucible & Lid Rev.00 dated 03.05.2024. As Per Tender/Doc.; 12/07/24; ₹.00. [180]; 23235131B; Hydraulic crimp head, 12 ton hydraulic head Tool only. Approximate length 15-16 inch. Output 3-1.2 ton, input 9800 PSI. Weight 12 pound along with 02 nos. Die set for each Crimping head. Details of Die set: Crimp Die (Interchangeable) for Hydraulic Head. Size: of Die: 12x3x2x127 mm (Width x Height x Depth). Special function: Interchangeable steel die for hydraulic head quickly interchangeable circular crimp range. Suitable for crimp tool cable leg, cable end sleeves and screen connection. Preferable Make/Brand: Jainson, Taparia, Thomas and Betts, DOWELS, RK TOOLS, PRECIRIMP, or equivalent [make must be Make In India Policy Compliant]; As Per Tender/Doc.; 05/07/24; ₹.00. [181]; 23242505; Internal Coolant Machine Tap of HSS-

HEATER FOR 3 PHASE LOCOMOTIVE AS PER CLW SPECN. NO. CLW/ES/3/0436/A; As Per Tender/Doc.; 05/08/24; ₹.00. [197]; 23242505A; Internal Coolant Machine Tap of HSS-E-EG M20 X 2.5-6H MOD Helical Suitable for Tapping of Stores in MAG CNC Machine, Specification: EG M20-6H MOD 5009276 of EMUGE OR SIMILAR DIN 8140-2 Standard; As Per Tender/Doc.; 12/07/24; ₹.00. [198]; 31242706; (1) AUXILIARY COMPRESSOR HOSE FOR WAG-9 AS PER Drg. /Specn. No. CLW/ES/3/0309/D, (2) SET OF METALLIC HOSE FOR WAG-9 AS PER Drg. /Specn. No. CLW/ES/3/0309/D (set details attached in doc. tab); As Per Tender/Doc.; 15/07/24; ₹.00. [199]; 31242688; (1) CABLE GLAND PG-21 WITH BELL MOUTH as per CLW's Drg./Specn. No. CLW/ES/3/0129/D, (2) CABLE GLAND PG 21 MS-NI as per CLW's Drg./Specn. No. CLW/ES/3/0129/D, (3) CABLE GLAND PG 29 MS-NI as per CLW's Drg./Specn. No. CLW/ES/3/0129/D, (4) CABLE TIES FOR WAG-9 AS PER SPECN. NO. CLW/ES/3/0120B (Set details attached in doc. tab); As Per Tender/Doc.; 12/07/24; ₹.00. [201]; 14242667A; SET OF LOOMING BAR TO CLW SPECN. NO. CLW/ES/3/0119/G (set detail attached); As Per Tender/Doc.; 16/07/24; ₹.00. [202]; 14242623; LATCHING PUSH BUTTON CORRIDOR LIGHTING TO CLW SPECN. NO. CLW/ES/3/0044; As Per Tender/Doc.; 18/07/24; ₹.00. PR3-483 PCMM/CLW/HOWRAH

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## Dead whale washes up at Murud beach

Navi Mumbai: A 40-foot-long dead whale washed ashore at a rocky end of Barashiv beach in Murud, Raigad. As the carcass was highly decomposed, the species could not be ascertained.

The whale was around 4.5 meter in diameter and the decomposed carcass weighed around 6 tonnes. Forest officials said that the whale might have died a week before its carcass washed ashore. The remains were buried at the beach using an excavator.

A stench had filled the air around the place, said range forest officer (territorial) Priyanka Patil. "The whale could have been hit by a large ship deep in the Arabian sea," she said.

Veterinarian Vinayak Pawar said the whale was around 6-7 years old. "Its gender could not be determined during post-mortem as it was badly decomposed," he said.

— Umesh K Parida

## Aaditya slams EC over 'omission' of grad voter names for MLC polls

Chaitanya.Marpakwar  
@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Slamming Election Commission (EC) over the alleged exclusion of names of graduate voters registered by Shiv Sena (UBT), Aaditya Thackeray on Saturday claimed that his party will win the Mumbai graduates' constituency seat by a huge margin.

"Threat to democracy and the Constitution is not yet over. That is why every election matters for us. We have to show again that Maharashtra's pride will not bow before Delhi," Thackeray said at a function to release the manifesto of Sena (UBT) candidate Anil Parab from Mumbai graduates' constituency. Earlier this week, Parab had alleged that the names of 12,000 names registered by Sena (UBT) were excluded from the supplementary voter list by EC without any reason.

Bhalchandra Mungekar, former Rajya Sabha MP and

vice-chancellor of Mumbai University, who was present at the conclave targeted PM Modi for the "8% unemployment rate in India, which is the highest in the world".

In the manifesto, Parab promised that an international finance centre will be set up in Mumbai and lakhs of jobs will be created. He also promised only one-time annual fee for applying to govt job exams and posts in a year and establishing a branch of Balasaheb Thackeray IAS academy in suburban Mumbai to encourage more Marathi graduates for civil services. "Setting up a helpdesk to facilitate visa, passport processes, offer counselling for admissions, and provide job assistance for international opportunities. Hosting an annual domestic and international educational and jobs fair to connect with educational institutions and potential employers are some of the key promises in the manifesto," Parab said.

## No shelter at Dombivli strn irks commuters



Missing platform shed

Dombivli: The absence of an overhead shed on platform 5 of Dombivli railway station is causing inconvenience to people. Local train commuters have said in a video put out on social media. They have urged Central Railway to have a shed erected. Also, at platform 2 also, the overhead shed is missing at some places.

Commuter Sujay Jadhav said when it rains, it causes "a lot of trouble". Chief spokesperson of Central Railway Swapnil Nila said that work of installing shed on platform 5 will be completed by end of July. — Pradeep Gupta

## After reserving parking for Mantralaya staff, govt to consider SoBo residents' plea

Sanjeev.Devasia  
@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: After residents of Maharshi Karve Road and Oval area, raised their concern about the withdrawal of BMC parking scheme and parking being reserved for Mantralaya officials, preventing parking of vehicles of residents, on the road leading from Eros to Madam Cama Road, the state administration has agreed to consider the residents' demand for parking their vehicles outside their buildings, following the intervention of Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar.

"Parking of private vehicles has not been allowed on the Jeevan Bima Marg too,

while vehicles of Mantralaya staffers are allowed to be parked on the same. Earlier this year, the Traffic Police had asked the BMC to do away with the pay-and-park contracts, on the roads, adjoining the Mantralaya building, citing security issues.

Subsequently, the BMC without the parking contracts," said a BMC official. Later, boards stating that parking is reserved for Mantralaya officials and staffers were put up in the area.

Narwekar said that "It is unfair to the residents, as they don't have space to park their vehicles within their heritage buildings. They have been parking on the roads and they should be allowed to park. I have directed

the administration to allow residents to park their vehicles on the road and they have agreed to it."

A meeting of the residents was held with additional chief secretary home Sujata Saunik, municipal commissioner Bhushan Gagrani and additional municipal commissioner Ashwini Joshi recently. Earlier in Feb, the Oval Cooperae Residents Association had written to the municipal commissioner, stating that all the old buildings along the Karve Road, which is a part of the Unesco World Heritage site, had very limited parking within their compounds. The association stated that the Oval area consists predominantly of residential buildings

over 60 years old and the residents have been parking their cars outside their buildings. Taking this away would cause problems to the residents, many of whom are senior citizens, the association stated. Ashad Mehta, president of the Oval Cooperae Residents Association, said "You can't just disrupt the lives of citizens who live here. The residents pay between Rs 2,500 and Rs 3000 every month for parking their vehicles. We approached our MLA Rahul Narwekar and former corporator Harshita Narwekar, who ensured that we were allowed parking for the time being. The officials have assured us that they will reconsider the options available for parking."

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**B.TECH** Male July 91/5'10 Wkg IT MNC Pune 20LPA. Father rtd Business. Seek Prof qual wkg girl. 9549454400/ mankitalatamuj@gmail.com

**SUNNI-HANAFI** 35 years, 5'10", BSc IT Graduate Boy working as IT Professional in MNC, looking for simple & educated girl. Call - 9137129392.

**SM** 29 Yrs, 5' 10" Master Engineer, working in New Zealand. As Project Manager US based company in top position, tall & Handsome, looking for very fair & beautiful Bride Doctor. BDS / MBBS, 8985099474.

**Sunni Muslim Family Based in Middle East Into Flourishing Construction Business Seek Alliance for their Only Son 86 Born 57" Tall Schooling and College from London Now Involved in Family Business. Looking for Educated, Intelligent, Height 5/5, Good Looking, and Sober Person Willing To Settle in Muscat. rahimmohd1786@gmail.com 9811109134**

**SIKH**

**SM** for Handsome clean-shaven Sikh Ramgarhia boy, 32, 5'9", MBA working in reputed MNC Gurgaon, well placed family, father senior civil servant. 8390119858

**DELHI** based Sikh boy Feb/96 5'11" BTech MS ,working in USA HTB visa seeks girl reputed family of Delhi/NCR. Ph:987169340

**IT IIM** Oct 91 Clean shaven 61" wrkg Bangalore +50 LPA Affluent Sikh Arora Mohali Family seek Prof QI/ wkg bnglore tall girl 9855738008

**GURSIKH** Arora Family Boy, 29yr/ 6", MDS own Dental Practice Gujarat, seek Educated Girl, with Family Values, Whtsap: 9263516426

**Alliance invited** Looking for a suitable match for a respected Sikh boy, born in June 1996, height 5'9", fair complexion. He has done his schooling from Modern School, Barakhamba and holds a BBA degree. He comes from a notable business family based out of West UP & New Delhi and is actively involved in managing the family business. We are in search of a well-established Gursikh match from a reputable business/ industrialist family. Connect via 9359111889 skaurakur4@gmail.com

**GENERAL**

**CASTE NO BAR**

**Punjabi boy, 40/5'8 MCA + MBA, never married.** Wkg in BLR MNC 40 LPA. Seeks non-manglik well educated girl. #9810157842

**AFFLUENT** Professional Parents Seek Alliance for their Handsome 6'0" Tall Well Established Masters in Architecture 28 yrs Old Son Punjabi Khatri Based in Ranchi, Fair, Pretty Girl 5'4" Above 23 yrs to 27 yrs Architect May Contact With Photo At arcituc59@gmail.com Caste No Bar, Contact Nos- 9431115578, 9431701847.

**BRIDE** for a 1992 born 6 feet tall, fair, well built software engineer in an MNC, Punjabi Saraswat Brahmin boy. Teetotaler, non smoker, belongs to an academically inclined family. email vr.matri.1947@gmail.com / whatsapp 74897 78004

**BENGLALI** handsome boy, Chartered Accountant, Delhi based 34 wkg in Development Bank. Highly educated family seeks well educated wkg beautiful girl within 30. 983074491

**DUBAI** based, Finance Professional handsome, tall Punjabi boy, 5.10", 88 July. Pretty PQM Prbly in Dubai Father Retd Col. Family Delhi/INR. WA 9888767896

**REQUIRED** beautiful, slim well qualified girls 1985 to 2000 born from high status family. Divorced/Manglik also required. Archana-9588457003

**B.TECH** Male July 91/5'10 Wkg IT MNC Pune 20LPA. Father rtd Business. Seek Prof qual wkg girl. 9549454400/ mankitalatamuj@gmail.com

**WELL** Edu, M.S. MBA-IT Manglik Mumbai Bengali Boy, 7L pa, 34/5'8" seeks edu working girl. Call: 863231277 / Mail: cparitosh@gmail.com

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**PB** Brahmin Handsome, 42/6'2", N-married, MS, MBA, US Canadian Citizen, US wkg Pkg 340K Seeks prof. QI/ b'fml girl. Caste no bar. India June to mid July. Contact: 9582981898 Em: vsbak1982@gmail.com

**REPUTED** Hindu business family from Hyd Alliance for son 35yrs looking for slim & homely girl from Hindu business & HNI family only. 9885006270

**SM** for very h'some Gupta boy 30yrs/6ft LL.B from NLS Bangalore/ 25LPA. Legally Divorced after 3 months. Father Retd. Judge Rajasthan (High Court), Seeks QI/ld. Wkg B'fml girl. Unmarried prtdr. Call/W App: 9414941978

**KAYASTHA** boy 84 born MBA working in Canada. Family in Mumbai, Moderate Family values, looking for alliance, cast no bar contact M:9004718512

**RAJPUT** Boy, 33/5'8", BTech MS from USA, Soft Engr working in USA. Caste no bar Seeking well educated, working bride. Contact: 782889195/973627318

**AGARWAL**, Architect, 15.12.1988, 5'10", Punjabi, M.Arch., co-author 18 books, Associate Prof. in architecture college. Own house. Ph: 9213102764. Caste no bar.

**SM4** Punjabi Brahmin UM boy Dec.83/5'8" Musician settled in Mumbai-caste no bar/simple early marriage. Send profile-Wapp/ Mob 9811682892

**WANTED** financially independent bride for 62 year old Punjabi Hindu living in Mumbai since last 50 years. WhatsApp 9930511962.

**34/5'10"** Brahmin B.Tech IIT MBA IIM Sr Manager in IT MNC. Caste no bar. 9893202325, 889903692

**PATEL** Boy / 31 yrs / 5'10" / Mechanical Engineer / Australian Citizenship & Australian Central Govt Job. Caste No Bar. Contact: 9425648187

**SM4** Punjabi divorcee Boy 1986/5'8 B.Tech Wkg MNC Mumbai seeks veg prof girl. Caste no bar 915226117

**MBA**, B.Tech, Working in BigTech, 1 Cr. PA, Nov 1980 /57, Never Married, CNB, Ph: 8750 88 2020, 989 707 1077

**WANTED BRIDE** Seeking professionally qualified tall girl from reputed family for our son-34/6'3", Baniya, M.Tech (USA), working in MNC in Bangalore. Both Parents doctors in Lucknow. Please Call/Whatsapp 9415026358 9415518399

**VAISHNAV** Gujarati, 510, MBA, Nov 73, Sr Mgr with renowned com. Teetotaler, fair handsome looks younger, seeks kind soulmate No Bar B/P atsoulsac@gmail.com

**BANK** Job 20 LPA MBA Parents Expirod own House in Mumbai looking for girl to start Family Dec 82, 88 kg, 5.6. WA Only - 9867396079

**SEEKING** caring wife for divorced/issueless smart 53yr 5'10/72kg MBA Finance clean-shaven Sikh staying independently in Mumbai-area working in MNC. Phone/whatsapp 9152505375.

**SEEKING** PG professionally qualified CA / Medico / Lecturer / lawyer etc. wkg girl in NCR for 32/5'4"/CA/BTech/Modemrite Smart Punjabi boy in profession. Delhi bsd prof family of status. WA 9810125268

**SEEKING** beautiful educated & Family oriented girl for H'some Punjabi 29/5'11" qualified belonging to a industrialist family of Delhi. # 981162543 sehdevpunjab95@gmail.com

**SM4** Punjabi Khatri Son 32, 5'4", Veg, M.Tech, Ph.D. wkg MNC Bangalore, 20L PA. Seeks Hindu/Punjabi Veg. Edu. wkg Girl willing to settle Bangalore. Call: 8879138954 / 9899064452.

**PUNJABI** Boy 1994 born very well settled in Ahmedabad - Mumbai. Seeks independent, cultured, sophisticated lady partner. munsunshy55@gmail.com

**33/5'6 B.Tech.MS** Aerospace (IIT, ISU France) founder of startup (funded) at gurgaon. Former scientist (ISRO) & NSR. US. Father business. M: 9427611809

**SM4** Gurgaon bsd Agarwal boy 35yr, 5'8", MBA(USA), Sr. Mgr in GGN MNC, 80 LPA, only son, nuclear edu wkg, divorced fess, seek wkg & hmlly Widow/un-married/Divorced, fess girl Agrwl/Brahmin. 9711804066

**MATCH** for I.L.T. (I.L.M., MS Columbia University) (I.L.M.) educated, handsome Hindu Arora boy, 45 yrs, 5'11", issuesless, working in Bombay in Leading investment Firm. Simple marriage. 93846-12472, 94171-37858

**ACCOMPLISHED** girl for issueless divorcee Shrivastav kayastha Manglik 1972 born 5'10" MBA USA MS Canada teaching hospitality in College in Vancouver holding PR. Send full details on Whatsapp 9820081120

**SM** for only child, bengali(Mukherjee)Mar'87/ht 5'9", (debari) son, B.Tech, MNC,18LPA, Lives with parents in own house at the Pune, divorced,(short marriage). Non-alcoholic, Non-smoker. Caste & language no bar. WhatsApp only 9976150528.

**WELL** Edu, M.S. MBA-IT Manglik Mumbai Bengali Boy, 7L pa, 34/5'8" seeks edu working girl. Call: 863231277 / Mail: cparitosh@gmail.com

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**REQUIRE** beautiful, slim well qualified girls 1985 to 2000 born from high status family. Divorced/Manglik also required. Archana-9588457003

**PB** Khatri 1976 born Widower by B.Tech M.Tech MBA Own engineering college high income seeks Good Life Partner caste no bar 9818227342

**RELIGION NO BAR**

**39/5'10** Agarwal unmarried boy B.Tech-IIT, MBA-IIM Sr. Manager MNC 80 Lpa accept div & widow, Caste No Bar, no dowry, 882195505, 9179132579

**BY PROFESSION**

**DOCTORS**

**U.P.** based Brahmin boy 1993/5'11", fair,h'some,MS Ophtho(Eye Surgeon) Status Reputed fmy/Seeks Medico tall b'fml girl. M: 9917961666

**SM4** Panchkula Based PG Doctor(Surgeon), Hindu Punjabi Khatri, 1974/5'4", Never Married, surgery advanced@gmail.com 79750-70110.

**LAWYERS**

**AGARWAL** 1996/5'10" Corporate Lawyer in Top Law Firm of Delhi (from reputed fmy of Lucknow)seeks Prof QI/ld match. M: 9793700111

**BY NATIONALITY**

**NRI/ GREEN CARD**

**PQM4** US settled fair h'some slim MS CS 30/5'8" Punjabi Mumbai family teetotaler egotarian non-smoker seeks educated girl in USA 7400173560 Mail: reply.sk@icloud.com

**LONDON** based highly edu. Brahmin 35, 6'0", VP at Bank of America London, UK PR holder, looking for well edu, working bride, ready to move to London. 9810045586.

**USA** bsdMBA'd/egr/gI/Agupta slm/6'10/180cm/President, P.Mom anBank NewYork2cr.MBA/Duk eComputEng.Toronto,DoonSch 'ling.fath.IAS,delh-ncr.9971790446

**ITIANI**, Ph.D, Fair, Hndsm June90/6' tenured professor at NY 6fig USD, vaishya boy seeks PQM Caste no bar. Father Eye Surgeon 897991656

**MATCH** for 6 feet 33 years JAT Canadian citizen software developer upper cast preferred. 9888708270

**BY LANGUAGE**

**GUJARATI**

**VAISHNAV** Gujarati, 510, MBA, Nov 73, Sr Mgr with renowned com. Teetotaler, fair handsome looks younger, seeks kind soulmate No Bar B/P atsoulsac@gmail.com

**BANK** Job 20 LPA MBA Parents Expirod own House in Mumbai looking for girl to start Family Dec 82, 88 kg, 5.6. WA Only - 9867396079

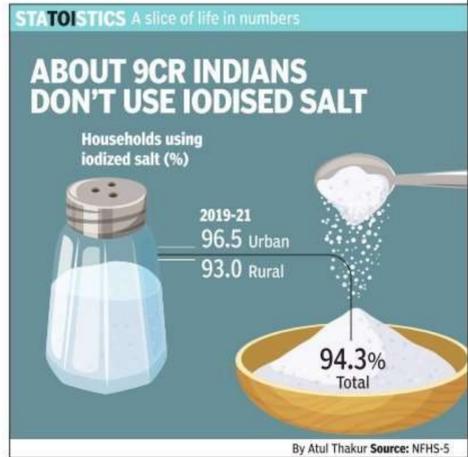
**SEEKING** caring wife for divorced/issueless smart 53yr 5'10/72kg MBA Finance clean-shaven Sikh staying independently in Mumbai-area working in MNC. Phone



**TOI History Meets AI** JUNE 23  
AI VISUALISATION OF HISTORICAL EVENTS

**The bombing of Air India flight by Canadian Sikh terrorists on this day in 1985 killed 329 people, including 268 Canadians**

**Bihar bridge falls, second in a week**  
Days after a bridge collapsed in Bihar's Araria, the state witnessed second such incident this week as a three decades old bridge over a canal in Siwan caved in at 5.30am Saturday, reports **Abhay Singh**. The incident did not result in any loss of life. The 20-foot-long brick structure was constructed in 1991 and stood on a pillar. "The canal might have experienced a rush of water from the river. Under its force, the pillar collapsed," said Siwan DM Mukul Kumar Gupta.



**UAE flight delayed over 'bomb' note**  
A hoax bomb threat delayed a Sharjah-bound flight from Kerala's Kozhikode on Saturday. According to sources, a note with 'bomb' written on a piece of paper from a booklet available in the aircraft was found by a cabin crew on the aircraft's seat during the boarding. Nearly 100 passengers were evacuated. The flight, scheduled to depart at 4.10am, finally left at 6.30pm. Cops are enquiring about who sat on the seat in the previous trip where the note was found. **TNN**

**COEP Technological University (COEP Tech)**  
A Unitary Technological University of Government of Maharashtra (Formerly College of Engineering Pune (COEP))  
Wellesley Road, Shivajinagar, Pune - 411 005, Maharashtra, India  
Ph - 020-25507000 / 7009 Website- www.coep.org.in

**Admission Notice for First Year M Tech, M Planning Programmes for the Academic Year 2024-25**  
COEP Technological University Pune (COEP Tech) is inviting applications from aspiring candidates for the admission to first year M Tech (various specializations) and M Planning programme for Maharashtra/OMS/CIWGC/OIC/PIO/FN/NRI category students for the Academic Year 2024-25. For further details, please visit the university website, to the link given below:  
<https://www.coep.org.in/admissions/graduateprogram>  
Date : 22/06/2024 Registrar

**BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE**  
Office of the Executive Engineer (Traffic Engineering Cell), Road Infrastructure, BBMP, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002.

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) - (SHORT TERM)**  
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer (TEC), Road Infrastructure, BBMP, Bengaluru invites request for proposal from eligible Contractors / Agencies for the Works detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Operations, Maintenance of Asphalt Batch Mix Plant & Equipment including Production / Manufacturing of Asphalt Mixes, Supplying of Asphalt Mixes to Various Designated Locations in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Limits and Laying of Asphalt Mixes by Mechanical / Manual means (as the case may be) by utilizing the available facilities of BBMP Asphalt Batch Mix Plant at Sy. No. 50, Kannur Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East for a period of 3 years and extendable to another 2 years on performance basis. <b>EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,00,000/- (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through e-Payment &amp; remaining as specified in Bid Document).</b>

**Calendar of Events:** 1) The RFP Documents may be Downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> from 26-06-2024. 2) Last Date for Submission of Pre Bid Queries: 03-07-2024 upto 15.00 Hours. 3) Pre Bid Meeting will be held on 03-07-2024 at 16.30 hours in the Office of the Chief Engineer, 1st Floor, Annex-2 Building, N.R. Square, BBMP, Bengaluru - 560002. 4) Last Date and Time for Submission of Proposals is 12-07-2024 upto 17.30 Hours. 5) Date of Opening of Technical Proposals is 15-07-2024 at 11.30 Hours. 6) Date of Opening of Financial Proposals: Will be intimated to the Qualified Tenderers. approval of Technical Bid. Further details can be had from the above office.  
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure - Traffic Engineering Cell, BBMP.

# New GST era set to start with end of anti-profiteering clause

## Cut In Slabs, Compensation Cess Likely

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** While deciding to do away with anti-profiteering clause, which mandates sellers to pass on benefit of tax cuts, GST Council on Saturday signalled its intent to transition to next stage with rationalisation, including a possible reduction in slabs, and roadmap for compensation cess on products such as cars, coal, cola and tobacco, which will be taken up at its next meeting scheduled for Aug end.

The panel of finance ministers headed by Union FM Nirmala Sitharaman decided to end anti-profiteering provision from April which means that from next fiscal year, sellers or service providers can-



FM Nirmala Sitharaman chairs GST Council meeting on Saturday

not be hauled up in case they do not pass on the benefit of tax cuts to consumers. Existing cases will be handled by the principal bench of GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT), an official statement said.

Sitharaman said some of the group of ministers have been recast, as 11 new finance ministers have joined the Council with the one on rationalisation, now headed by Bihar

are going to rush ahead with a decision given that crucial assembly elections are due towards the end of the year and early next year.

At Saturday's meeting, Karnataka sought a discussion on compensation cess levied on several products to cover "revenue loss" by states. While cess was for five years, it had to be extended up to March 2026 following the pandemic, as states had to borrow from market to meet the short-

▶ Related reports, P 16

fall in collections. With borrowings likely to be repaid only in 2025-26, GST Council will deliberate on the future of the levy and the sharing formula in case some amount is left in the kitty after repaying the loans. Asked about including petrol and diesel within the ambit of GST, FM said law has a provision for their inclusion but it was for states to decide on it and fix tax rate.

## Dalit man's death in UP cop custody triggers violence

**Agra:** The custodial death of a Dalit prisoner allegedly due to police brutality has triggered widespread violence in Firozabad, with police forces from neighbouring districts deployed to maintain order, the police said on Saturday.

The postmortem report of Aakash Kumar (28), father of two minor boys, cited "haemorrhagic shock and coma due to antemortem head injury" as cause of death. Inspector general (Agra range) Deepak Kumar corroborated that Aakash's body had multiple injuries. A resident of Nagla Pachiyia area in Firozabad, Kumar's body was kept in an ambulance for 12 hours. His family cremated his body on Saturday after being promised probe. The jail administration had informed Kumar's family on Friday that he died of "illness". SP (jail) A K Singh said Kumar was arrested on Wednesday for bike theft. — **Deepak Lavania**

## Loco pilots risk lives, crawl along bridge's edge in Bihar, fix fault

**Patna:** In an extraordinary display of bravery, loco pilots of a passenger train in Bihar's Samastipur risked their lives, precariously crawling along a bridge's edge, to fix a technical fault due to which the train had come to an abrupt halt.

A video of loco pilot Ajay Kumar and his assistant Ranjit Kumar, putting their lives at risk to prevent a potential mishap, went viral on social media on Saturday. The incident happened on Thursday when the Narkatiaganj-Gorakhpur passenger train came to an abrupt halt on the rail bridge between Valmikinagar and Paniahwa due to a glitch.

## UP man, son shot after spat over watering farms

**Ghaziabad:** An argument over irrigating a farm turned fatal for a 55-year-old Meerut resident and his son, who were shot and thrown into a canal in Niwari on Friday evening. Pappu and his sons Raja (26) and Chand (22) worked as gardeners for Vedprakash Tyagi in Khindora village, Niwari.

The three, police said, were returning to their village, Rasulpur Dhaudi in Meerut, when they were sprayed with bullets. Pappu and Raja succumbed to their injuries, while Chand was admitted to hospital with five bullet wounds.

Sudhir Tyagi, who owns a garden next to Vedprakash Tyagi's, and his sons Deepak Tyagi and Bittu Tyagi have been arrested in connection with the shootout.

The family of the deceased and other villagers snatched the bodies from police and protested on the on the Delhi-Meerut road. **TNN**

**CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
INTRODUCTION OF AC 25 KV TRACTION  
WARNING TO ROAD USERS  
It is notified for information of the Public that in connection with introduction of 25000 Volt, AC, Electric Traction Over the section in **BPCL siding (Engine Reversal line) at Uran** (Loc: BPCL/1011, Ch: 92/143.75) to (Loc: BPCL/8004, Ch: 93/129.75) on Goods line in Mumbai Division of Central Railway, height gauges have been erected at all level crossings with clear maximum height of 4.78 m 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 5.5m 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:-  
i) Danger to the height gauge and consequent obstruction to the road as well as the railway line.  
ii) Danger to the materials or equipment carried or the vehicle itself.  
iii) Danger of fire and risk of life due to contact with or dangerous proximity to the conductors.

खतरनाक व विस्फोटक सामान के साथ यात्र करणा दंडनीय अपराध है

**COEP Technological University (COEP Tech)**  
A Unitary Technological University of Government of Maharashtra (Formerly College of Engineering Pune (COEP))  
Wellesley Road, Shivajinagar, Pune - 411 005, Maharashtra, India  
Ph - 020-25507000 / 7009 Website- www.coep.org.in

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Sd/- Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure - Traffic Engineering Cell, BBMP.

**CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
E-Procurement ADVT. TENDER Notice No. E-25/2024, Dt. 20.06.2024

Tender No.	Item Description	Quantity	Due Date
71245058A	Jig and fixtures for BBM Wheel press machine	01 Set	28-06-24
51245086	Metal Liner drgn no. 8616 and 8617	200000 Set	04-07-24
27241032	Wiper Motor Assembly	761 Nos	12-07-24
62243961B	Total Hip replacement implant	90 Nos	12-07-24
71245008A	EOT Crane 5 Ton Capacity.	02 Nos	12-07-24
90231246D	Mild Steel Plates 56 x 1500mm to 1800mm	28 MT	12-07-24
18242181	Cylinder low pressure Air compressor	50 Nos	15-07-24
18242220	Element engine air filter fibre	1703 Nos	15-07-24
36245006	150 Sq.mm. Hard Drawn Stranded Copper Cross feeder wire.	03 Kms	15-07-24
38235033A	High tensile AAR H type tight lock coupler complete.	60 Nos	15-07-24
41243911	LED light fitting for lavatory	2185 Nos	15-07-24
43244072	LED type emergency lighting system	584 Nos	22-07-24
42241209	Direct air operated pantograph	20 Nos	29-07-24
42241449	Rocker Box Assembly	119 Nos	29-07-24
42241466	Set of spares	49 Nos	29-07-24
43241153	Axle pulley pad for 6 groove Axle pulley	4431 Nos	29-07-24

Detail notice & Tender Conditions can be seen and downloaded from the website. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)**  
For Selection of Advisor cum Merchant Banking Firms  
Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Limited (TGIC), the nodal agency of Government of Telangana for development of industrial infrastructure in the State, invites proposals from reputed Merchant Banking Firms with experience in raising funds through debt markets and handling the issuance of Bonds. Interested and eligible bidders are advised to peruse the RFP and submit proposals.

The RFP can be downloaded from [www.tgic.telangana.gov.in](http://www.tgic.telangana.gov.in) from 23.06.2024. Due date for submission of Proposals: 01.07.2024, 15.00 Hrs (IST). Further updates on this tender will be available in this website only

Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Limited  
Parisrama Bhavan", 6th Floor, 5-9-58/B, Basheerbagh, Hyderabad, PIN-500004.  
Telangana Ph: 040-23237625/26 - Email: [vcmd\\_tic@telangana.gov.in](mailto:vcmd_tic@telangana.gov.in)  
R.O. No: 198-PPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/2024-25 Date: 22-06-2024. Sd/- VICE CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR

**NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY**  
Website: [www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in) Email: [cos@ner.railnet.gov.in](mailto:cos@ner.railnet.gov.in)  
TENDER NOTICE NO-07 DATE 21.06.2024  
Invitation of tenders through e-Procurement system

Principal Chief Material Manager, North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur, 273012 and on behalf of The President of India, invites tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items. Complete description of the item and other condition are available on website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

Item No.	Tender Number	Due On	Brief Description of Stores	Reserved to be procured from
1	22241077	26-08-2024	DV KE11PKSL with Pressure Converter etc.	-
2	22241487	26-08-2024	N1 Power Supply Cord FTRTL make for LHB etc.	-
3	22242299	19-08-2024	JBP Card for WSP of LHB Coaches etc.	-
4	22242035	19-08-2024	Brake Caliper unit leverage ratio 2.48 f etc.	-
5	22241424	19-08-2024	Brake Pipe Accelerator Valve (FTRTL) Make etc.	-
6	22241101	12-08-2024	Brake caliper unit leverage ratio 2.48 f etc.	-
7	22242129	12-08-2024	Knuckle for CBC to Frontier etc.	-
8	22241978A	12-08-2024	POH Kit for Escorts make Levelling etc.	-
9	22231432A	05-08-2024	LHB Brake Cylinder (LH) for LHB Coaches etc.	-
10	22241439	31-07-2024	LHB Brake Cylinder (RH) for LHB Coaches etc.	-
11	22241680	29-07-2024	Air spring Assembly 180 KN for Higher etc.	RDSO
12	22241504	25-07-2024	Element Fuel filter for 1600 HP DEMU etc.	DPC etc.
13	22242229	25-07-2024	One Coach set of Primary Springs etc.	-
14	22241438	22-07-2024	POH Kit for Manifold Mounting cock etc.	-
15	22242230	18-07-2024	One Coach set of Air spring assembly etc.	RDSO
16	24241427A	18-07-2024	Set of motor suspension unit MSU etc.	CLW
17	22241999	18-07-2024	Articulated Spheroleostic Rubber Bearing etc.	-
18	30231050	15-07-2024	Maintenance free valve regulated Lead etc.	ICF
19	21240104	15-07-2024	Servoplex SHC-120 Grease for Traction etc.	CLW
20	22241801	11-07-2024	Cast Steel Side Frame along with Liners etc.	RDSO
21	26245029	08-07-2024	Manufacture and supply of 10125mm 1 in 1 etc.	RDSO

CPRO/S-30 Principal Chief Material Manager, Gorakhpur  
Never travel on roof and foot boards.

**BRIC** a DBT Organization  
**NIBMCG** राष्ट्रीय जीनोमिक संशोधन संस्थान  
National Institute of Biomedical Genomics

**ADMISSION NOTIFICATION**  
BRIC-NIBMCG, a premier institute engaging in research in the areas of health/disease genomics and data science, invites applications from the motivated students for the admission to Integrated MS-PhD programme (2024) in Biotechnology specialization in Biomedical Genomics. Students with bachelor's degree in any branch of Biological Sciences who have appeared for JGEEBILS or JAM (BT) can apply online. The last date of application: 01/07/2024. Further information visit : <https://www.nibmg.ac.in>

**ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES RISHIKESH-249203**  
ADMISSION NOTICE  
All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Rishikesh invites applications for Entrance Examinations leading to admission in Ph.D. Course at AIIMS, Rishikesh for July 2024 Session. Important: For detailed information etc. please visit institute website ([www.aiimsrshikesh.edu.in](http://www.aiimsrshikesh.edu.in)): Examination- Entrance Exam and (Result) regularly as all subsequent Corrigendum/ Addendum/Updates will only be uploaded on website.

Executive Director  
AIIMS Rishikesh

**प्लाज्मा अनुसंधान संस्थान**  
INSTITUTE FOR PLASMA RESEARCH  
भारत, इन्दिरा पुल के निकट, गांधीनगर - ३०२४२८ (भारत)  
Bhat, Near Indira Bridge, Gandhinagar - 382 428 (India)  
Web: [www.ipr.res.in](http://www.ipr.res.in)

प्लाज्मा अनुसंधान संस्थान (आईपीआर), भारत सरकार के परमाणु ऊर्जा विभाग के तहत एक सहायता प्राप्त संस्थान है। निम्नलिखित पदों के लिए योग्य उम्मीदवारों से ऑनलाइन आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं। The Institute for Plasma Research (IPR) is an Aided Institute of Department of Atomic Energy, Govt. of India. Online applications are invited from eligible candidates for the following post.

विज्ञापन सं. ADVT. NO. 07/2024

क्र.सं. Sr. No.	पद का नाम Name of the Post	रिक्तियों की संख्या No. of Vacancies	वेतन स्तर Pay Level
1	सहायक अधिकारी (ग्रुप) (आईपीआर, गांधीनगर के लिए) / Assistant Officer (Purchase) (For IPR, Gandhinagar)	01 अनुसूचित जाति/ SC	वेतन मैट्रिक्स का स्तर 7 और प्रारंभिक मूल वेतन ₹ 44,900/- प्रति माह (7 वें सीपीसी के अनुसार ) / Level 7 of Pay Matrix and Initial basic Pay ₹ 44,900/- p.m. (As per 7th CPC).
2	सहायक अधिकारी (लेखा) (सीपीपी आईपीआर, गुवाहाटी के लिए) / Assistant Officer (Accounts) (For CPP-IPR, Guwahati)	01 अनारक्षित/ UR	

शैक्षणिक योग्यता, एवं सामान्य निर्देशों के बारे में अधिक जानकारी के लिए कृपया संस्थान की वेबसाइट [https://www.ipr.res.in/documents/jobs\\_career.html](https://www.ipr.res.in/documents/jobs_career.html) पर जाएं। ऑनलाइन आवेदन करने की अंतिम तिथि 26 जुलाई 2024 है।  
For more details regarding educational qualification, and general instructions, please visit Institute's website [https://www.ipr.res.in/documents/jobs\\_career.html](https://www.ipr.res.in/documents/jobs_career.html) Last date for online application is July 26, 2024.  
मुख्य प्रशासनिक अधिकारी / Chief Administrative Officer

# Oppn bloc may pull out from panel to aid pro tem speaker

Subodh Ghildiyal @timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** INDIA bloc is likely to pull out three of its members from the panel to assist the pro tem Speaker, in protest against central govt "superseding" senior-most Lok Sabha member, K Suresh of Congress, for the ceremonial post that administrators oath to new MPs, Bhartruhari Mahtab of BJP has been named pro tem Speaker.

The new irritant in the opposition-govt relationship came on Saturday even as Congress demanded that PM Narendra Modi-led govt put three new criminal laws on hold and undertake detailed discussions in the Parliamentary committee and the two Houses to iron out flaws. The three laws are up for implementation from July 1, and DMK and TMC have already asked govt to defer them.

AICC spokesman Jairam Ramesh said Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam were "bulldozed" through Parliament when 146 MPs had been suspended from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. He said they were also "bulldozed" through the standing committee on home affairs without detailed interactions with stakeholders across the country and by ignoring the dissent notes of many MPs.

With NEET/paper leaks and law on MSP already emerging as flashpoints ahead of the Parliament session, the opposition's belligerence on criminal laws and on pro tem Speaker makes the mix a recipe for confrontation. Congress has alleged that Suresh, a Dalit member, has been ignored for the pro tem Speaker's post "for reasons other than merit", and a boycott of the ceremonial functions by Suresh (Congress), Sudip Bandopadhyay (TMC), T R Baalu (DMK) will kick off

the new LS session on a sour note on Monday. All indications are that the bitterness of the 17th LS is spilling over into the new one.

While the pro tem post is only ceremonial, the growing protest across parties against the three laws just ahead of their coming into force suggest a concerted action by the INDIA constituents to force central govt's hand. Modi govt passed the laws despite the opposition's protests last year, but the renewed aggression of the anti-BJP bloc appears a signal to Modi govt that it cannot ignore the rivals after their improved numbers post-election.

Parties like Congress, TMC and Left, which share tense ties among themselves, have come together to talk to govt on criminal laws, triggering a talk if INDIA bloc plans to follow "farm laws" model—when year-long street protests forced govt to withdraw the measures relating to grain produce and procurement. A key difference, though, is that farm laws were a red rag for a potent constituency in farmers of north India, while criminal laws don't have such street force arrayed against them. But, as sources in the opposition suggest, it will not be lenient in its demand for deferral.

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Due to unavoidable circumstances, the invited "e-Tender Notice No 28e/EE(G)/CPH/2023-24 for "Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Generator Transformer (75 MVA, 11/220 KV, 3-ø, 50Hz) with all accessories, including dismantling of the existing transformer at 4x60 MW Chibro Power House" by the office of Executive Engineer (G) Chibro Power House is hereby extended as follows: -  
Last date of submission of bid in the portal: 02-07-2024 up to 17:00 Hrs.  
Last date of submission of bid on website: 03-07-2024 from 15:00 Hrs.  
Date of opening of the bid Part - I on website: 05-07-2024 from 11:00 Hrs.  
All other condition shall be same as previous. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "<http://uktenders.gov.in>"  
E.E.(G), Chibro  
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"



**WANTED GROOMS**

**BY LANGUAGE**

**PUNJABI**

SM4 Punjabi Dr. Girl from Maharashtra, 5'4", Born in July-1981, MDS, Divorced, Prof. Engg., C.A., Dr. Govt Officer. Contact: 9372910354.

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**HINDU**

**VISHWAKARMA**-Lohar 53 Apr88 vegetarian wheatish MBA wkg unmarried female seeks well settled working groom 9938282306 Jharkhand

**PQM4** B.Arch/M.Plan/MBA-IIMC Mittal girl, May 83/Issueless Div/5'2", Wkg MNC Hyd/50-LPA. Contact: connect0405@gmail.com

**MUSLIM**

**LOOKING** For a decent Sheikh/Syed match for 92 born Asst. Professor (PERMANENT POST) Ph.D., NET qualified highly accomplished, smart deendardar girl. Contact: 9450202110, 9335789782

**PROP** Muslim girls 19-28 H.proff fam; 87/96 A.Host; 96/94 BE; 97/98/87 M.Pharm; 94 BDS 98 MBBS; girls from US & D'ai ready to sponsor right match qald and good fam. Bkgd. Div opt too. Mrs Khan 9820255313.

**SUNNI** Muslim Girl, 27 / 5.2 Double MA, BEd. Bombay university Teacher in CBSE School Mumbai. Seeks well edu well settled boy. Call 9004516000

**SM4** Sunni muslim B'ful, fair, tall girl 27 MBA Working MNC at Gurgaon-seeking Well educated reputed family in Indore Mo 9826901123

**SUNNI** Ansari KANPUR girl 32, 5'5" fair M.F.Tech Textile engineer work MNC Mumbai seeks well settled match cast No Bar 8564939685

**MUM** based Sunni fair b'ful 23yr 5'6" 60 kg grad, affluent educated family seek educated well established boys # 9322674577

**DR.** MBBS B.ful khan Girl 24 Elite Fly/Mumbai Laking Only Dr. Boy Or Bsmann NRI Or Dubai Based. Fly Only Urg Wtp 932701001

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**BY LANGUAGE**

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**TIMES Personal**  
CELEBRATIONS  
BIRTHDAY GREETINGS  
YOU'VE accomplished so much in your life, and you're just getting started. Happy 40th Birthday Ryan Mendonca!

# 'Precautionary step': NEET-PG postponed hours before exam

No Specific Reason Given, Dates Soon

Durgesh Nandan Jha  
@timesgroup.com



There are nearly 70,000 PG seats in govt and private medical colleges and more than two lakh candidates applied for NEET-PG this year

New Delhi: Centre on Saturday postponed NEET-PG, an entrance examination conducted by National Board of Examination to determine eligibility for admission to postgraduate medical programmes in govt and private medical colleges across the country, less than 12 hours before its scheduled time.

No specific reasons were given for the abrupt decision, which came in the wake of allegations of paper leak in NEET-UG exams held recently for determining eligibility of candidates for admission undergraduate medical programmes in govt and private medical colleges.

"Taking into consideration the recent incidents of allegations regarding the integ-

egrity of certain competitive examinations, the ministry of health has decided to undertake a thorough assessment of the robustness of processes of NEET-PG entrance examination, conducted by the National Board of Examination for medical students.

It has accordingly been decided, as precautionary measure, to postpone the NEET-PG Entrance Examination, scheduled to be held tomorrow i.e. June 23, 2024. Fresh dates of this examination will be notified at the earliest," govt said. In its statement issued at 10 pm on Saturday, the

health ministry said the decision was taken in the best interests of the students and to maintain the sanctity of the examination process.

The statement, however, failed to cut ice with lakhs of candidates scheduled to appear for the exam on Sunday. "This is an absolute disgrace. The NEET-PG exam has been postponed just a day before it was scheduled. This is a pathetic harassment of all the doctors who have travelled across different cities, spent money on accommodations, and sacrificed their precious time preparing for this ex-

am," Dr Suvrankar Datta, vice-president of the Resident Doctors' association of AIIMS said. He added: "How can govt be so incompetent in managing an exam that was planned months in advance? This is beyond frustrating and unacceptable. The ministry owes us a detailed explanation and immediate rescheduling," Dr Datta said.

There are nearly 70,000 postgraduate seats in the govt and private medical colleges and more than two lakh candidates have applied for NEET-PG this year which will determine their eligibility for admission to the various speciality courses. Dr Manish Jangra, founder, Federation of All India Medical Association (FAIMA) also slammed the govt decision.

"I have received 50 to 60 calls in the last one hour itself from candidates who were scheduled to appear for the exam on Sunday. They are devastated. Govt must give an answer for the reasons behind its failure to conduct competitive exams," he said.

# No need to scrap NEET-UG, 'leak' a localised affair: Govt

Manash.Gohain  
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The education ministry is sticking to its stand that NEET-UG entrance exams do not need to be scrapped based on evidence gathered by Bihar Police, with officials saying that "paper leak" in Patna was a "localised affair".

Maintaining that govt does not intend to hurt the interests of lakhs who legitimately cleared the entrance exams, the authorities are drawing a contrast with the cancellation of All India Pre-Medical Tests in 2004 and 2015.

In the first case, investigation by Delhi Police's crime branch brought out the complicity of a CBSE employee, which raised fears of the examination process having been subverted on a larger scale. In 2015 too, the gang behind the leak was found to have helped applicants in several states, including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan.



Dharmaendra Pradhan said govt does not intend to hurt careers of meritorious students only to buy peace with protesters

As against this, Bihar Police's investigation so far shows that the "leak" remained confined to Patna. Spelling out the stand, Union education minister Dharmaendra Pradhan said govt does not intend to hurt the career and the future of meritorious students only to buy peace with the protesters and the opposition parties who have been demanding the scrapping of the test.

"As custodian of the interests of students, we have

to take a judicious approach to investigate the irregularity and how it happened, punish those involved, ensure that there is no repeat while also ensuring that the meritorious students who have done no wrong are not unfairly penalised," said the minister.

Denying that paper leak was the reason for postponement of CSIR-UGC-NET, a test conducted to determine eligibility for junior research fellowship and assistant professor and admission to PhD in science courses, Pradhan said: "There was no leak in CSIR-UGC NET. It was postponed because of logistic issues. There is also a retest of 1,563 NEET candidates tomorrow (Sunday). For smooth conduct of exam everywhere, the decision was taken."

Appreciating Bihar Police and Gujarat Police for their pre-emptive action, he said: "We must remember fates of many meritorious students are on the line. Also the Supreme Court is monitoring the matter."

## Why do they have to wait till 11th hour to cancel, ask upset parents & students

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The postponement of NEET-PG 2024 has sent scores of parents and medical students in a tizzy. The initial confusion quickly turned into anger after the union ministry of health and family welfare confirmed the news by tweeting on social media platform X. Several students, MBBS doctors, had already travelled to their far-off centres or were on their way when the news broke.

Anup Patel, a parent, said that his son, a graduate from Grant Medical College (JJ), had left for Pune in the evening, as he got a centre there. "Initially, we thought it could be a rumour. Why do they have to wait till the eleventh hour to cancel the exam? It is high time the Prime Minister and the home minister comment on exams' mismanagement. The Supreme Court also needs to intervene," said Patel, adding that the agencies involved have made a mockery of the whole examination process.

Sudha Shenoy, a parent representative, said that a girl known to her had landed from Dubai to write the examination from a centre in Mumbai. Parents and students were discussing their examination centres and wishing each other good luck, which soon turned into panic and confusion over the announcement. Many have spent on travelling to their centres and even booking hotel rooms in different cities.

Brijesh Sutaria, another parent representative, said if they had to check robustness of the exam processes and if they have taken this step as a precautionary measure, why wait till 10 pm, hours before the exam. A parent said govt is playing with students' lives. "They have prepared for this exam for years and now all this will only add to their mental trauma," he said. The ministry said a fresh date will be announced soon.

# Bihar cops arrest 6 from J'khand in NEET-UG 'leak' case, 19 held so far

Kshitiz, Abhijit Sen & Rajesh Kumar Pandey | TNW

Patna/Dumka/Hazari-bagh: The investigation of NEET-UG question paper leak case widened on Saturday with Bihar police's Economic Offences Unit (EOU) arresting six more people in Deogarh, Jharkhand. So far, 19 people have been arrested in connection with the case. There have been street protests across India, with calls for cancelling the medical entrance test growing louder every day.

Officials said the six arrested people, suspected to be "handlers" and "couriers", are residents of Bihar's Nalanda district and were holed up in Deogarh



Cops detain student activists demanding NEET retest, in Hyderabad on Saturday

as labourers to escape detection. The EOU picked them up from a "safe house" and brought them to Patna on transit remand.

The arrested have been identified as Paramjit Singh, alias Bittu; Baldev Kumar, alias Chintu; Prashant Kumar, alias Kaju;

Ajit Kumar; Rajiv Kumar, alias Karu; and Pinku Kumar. EOU DIG Manavjit Singh Dhillon is interrogating them at EOU headquarters in Patna, officials said. Probe so far has revealed that Sanjiv Mukhiya, alias Luta, a technical assistant at Noorsari Horticulture College in Nalanda, could be the mastermind of the paper leak racket.

"The gang had been plotting this for months and it was a professor from Hazari-bagh who had sent the question papers to Sanjiv using WhatsApp. Later, with the help of medical students from Patna and Ranchi, the paper was solved," a top official said. Once solved, it was sent along with the answers

to Chintu of Karai Parsurai. Following Chintu's directions, Pintu of Nalanda, made photocopies of the question papers and gave them to around 30 candidates at the "safe house", now identified as the closed play school in Patna, early on May 5.

A separate team also visited Hazari-bagh, Jharkhand, following reports of a NEET-UG paper leak from one of the five exam centres.

In Ranchi, the team visited the office of a private courier firm to check whether question papers had been couriered to other cities as well. A tip-off to Patna police on May 5 was the starting point of a probe that has unravelled a suspected nationwide network of fraud.

# ITPO chief who saw Pragati Maidan project to completion gets addl charge of exam body

► From P 1

Just before the removal of Singh, who has not been assigned a fresh posting, education minister Dharmaendra Pradhan acknowledged mistakes indeed have happened. "I have already said there has been an institutional failure. I have taken responsibility. NTA's leadership is under the scanner for a host of issues. Accidents happen and we will go to the root of the cause."

India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) chairperson and MD, Pradeep Singh Kharola, who was roped in to complete the Pra-

gati Maidan project after it got delayed, has been assigned additional charge of NTA till the appointment of a regular incumbent.

Education ministry Saturday announced the formation of a 7-member high-level committee headed by K

► **MPPSC papers for ₹2k? Officials deny claims, P 16**

Radhakrishnan, former chairperson of Isro and chairperson of the Board of Governors at IIT-Kanpur, to provide recommendations on reforms in the exam process, improvements in data security protocols, and the structure and functioning of

NTA. The committee also comprises Dr Randeep Guleria, former director of AIIMS Delhi; B J Rao, vice-chancellor of Central University of Hyderabad; Ramamurthy K, Professor Emeritus in the department of civil engineering at IIT-Madras; Pankaj Bansal, co-founder of PeopleStrong and board member of Karmayogi Bharat; and Aditya Mittal, head of student affairs at IIT-Delhi. Govind Jaiswal, joint secretary, will serve as member secretary of the committee.

The committee is expected to submit its report to the ministry within two months. The formation of the high-level committee, reported first by TOI on June 18, 2024, follows irregularities and alleged paper leaks in the NEET-UG.

The committee's terms of reference include reviewing the standard operating procedures (SOPs) and protocols of NTA, conducting an end-to-end analysis of the exam process, and suggesting measures to improve system efficiency and prevent breaches. It will also evaluate and enhance the existing data security processes and protocols of NTA, particularly those related to paper-setting and other examination processes.

## WESTERN RAILWAY

### CORRIGENDUM

To Tender Notice No: EL-TRD-W-118-24-25-2, dated: 21.06.2024. The date of opening has been revised from 21.06.2024 (15:30 hrs) to 01.07.2024 (15:30 hrs) remaining all other conditions of Tender remains unchanged. 0252

## WESTERN RAILWAY

### CONSTRUCTION WORK

Deputy Chief Engineer (Construction), Western Railway, INDORE (MP) invites Tender No: IND-UJN/DL/30 Name of Work: Construction of Station building, Circulating Area, Lift Duct, FOB and other misc. work at Laxmibai Nagar Station in connection with Indore - Dewas - Ujjain Doubling Project of Ratlam Division of Western Railway. Approx. Cost: ₹ 17.65,89,965.36/-; EMD: ₹ 10,33,000/-. Date & Time of Submission of Tender: Till 19.07.2024, 15:00 hrs. Date & Time of Opening of Tender: On 19.07.2024 at 15:30 hrs. For further details please visit our website: www.reps.gov.in 0254

## CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

### CORRIGENDUM-1

Tender No.: 91/24/0050 Dated: 20/06/2024. The following Corrigendum against Tender No. 91240050 scheduled to be opened on 27.06.2023, 11:00 Hrs. is carried out as under:- **SL: Particulars:** As per NIT; To be Read AS are as follows: [1]; Item Details (1) as per NIT; Existing: 3-PHASE ASYNCHRONOUS TRACTION MOTOR (RESISTANCE RING MECHANICALLY INTERLOCKED TO END PLATE DESIGN ROTOR, SCHEME-II TYPE 6FRA-6068) FOR WAG-9 LOCOS WITHOUT ACTIVE SPEED SENSOR. DRG. NO. 07WD.096.001 ALT.-3. SPEC. NO. 4TMS.096.081 REV.-1. ALT.-2. STR NO. CLW/2008/3PHTM/STR/0001 REV.1. [2]; Item Details (2) as per NIT; Existing: 3-PHASE ASYNCHRONOUS TRACTION MOTOR (WITH SHAFT MOUNTED ZR. CU. STAMPING TYPE RESISTANCE RING DESIGN OF ROTOR, SCHEME-I TYPE 6FRA 6068) FOR WAG-9 LOCOS WITHOUT ACTIVE SPEED SENSOR. DRG. NO. 07WD.096.001 ALT.-3. SPEC. NO. 4TMS.096.080 REV. I, ALT.-3, STR NO. CLW/2008/3PHTM/STR/0001 REV.1. [3]; Item Quantity (1) as per NIT; Existing: 1035 Nos. (AMM/TM/CLW/CRJ); [4]; Item Quantity (2) as per NIT; Existing: 1053 Nos. (AMM/TM/CLW/CRJ); [5]; Tender Opening Date; Existing: 29.06.2024, 11:00 Hrs. [PR/484] Dy. CMM (P)/CLW/Chittaranjan Like us on: www.facebook.com/cbrwllways

**आर्जे अटॉमिक एनर्जी लिमिटेड (IREL) Limited**  
(A Govt. of India Undertaking - Department of Atomic Energy)  
Manavalkurichi, Tamil Nadu, E-mail: purchase-mk@irel.co.in  
An ISO 9001, 14001 & 45001 Unit, Phone: 04651-200402  
CIN : U15100MH1950G01008187

Ref MKP: ADVT/2024-25/02 Date: 06.06.2024

विद्युत संचयन (TENDER NOTICE)

IREL, Manavalkurichi Unit invites tender for the following:

Tender No.	Description
IREL/ARJET/10/2024	Repair and Replacement of existing HUB Structures
GEM/2024/IB/6027482	Supply and Supervision of Installation & Commissioning of gravity Spiral Concentrate along with all accessories.

Bidder may download the tender document from <https://gem.gov.in>, <https://www.irel.co.in>, gem.gov.in and CPP Portal.  
Any corrigendum / extension to above tender shall be hosted in above websites only.

CBC 48147/12/0002/2425 CGM & Head, MK (मुख्य सहायक प्रबंधक एवं प्रमुख, एनके)

**POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD.**  
(A Government of Uttarakhand Enterprise)  
"Viduyt Bhawan" Near ISBT Crossing, Saharanpur Road, Majra, Dehradun-248002  
Corporate ID: U40101UR2004SGC028675, Tel. No. 0135-2642711

**E-TENDER CORRIGENDUM-4**

The last date of the bid submission of E-Tender for "Augmentation of 132 KV Substation Laksar from 3x40 MVA Transformer to 2x40 MVA+1x80 MVA Transformer at 132/33 KV Voltage level" against tender specification No. PTCUL/E-Tender/C&P-I/SS-16/2023-24 is hereby extended upto 02.07.2024 15:30 Hrs. For more details please visit e-tender website [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in) (tender id no. 2024\_PTCU1\_71329\_1) and for e-tender notice our website [www.ptcul.org](http://www.ptcul.org). All other terms and conditions shall remain same.

For any assistance on E-Tendering, please contact +91-8899890000.  
RO No. 1044/HQ/PTCUL dated 21.06.2024 Superintending Engineer (C&P-I)  
"SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF NATION"

**POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD.**  
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Enterprise)  
"Viduyt Bhawan" Near ISBT Crossing, Saharanpur Road, Majra, Dehradun-248002  
Corporate ID: U40101UR2004SGC028675, Tel. No. 0135-2642711

**E-TENDER CORRIGENDUM-5**

The last date of submission of the E-Tender for "Supply, Erection, Testing and commissioning of 125 MVAR Reactor along with its associated bay and related work at 400 KV Substation Kashipur" against Tender Specification No. PTCUL/E-Tender/C&P-I/SS-14/2023-24 is hereby extended upto 04.07.2024 15:30 Hrs. For more details please visit the e-tender website [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in) (tender id no.2024\_PTCU4\_71331\_1) and for e-tender corrigendum notice our website [www.ptcul.org](http://www.ptcul.org). All other terms and conditions shall remain same.

For any assistance on E-Tendering, please contact +91-8899890000  
RO No. 1047/HQ/PTCUL dated 21.06.2024 Superintending Engineer (C&P-II)  
"Save Electricity in the Interest of Nation"

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**

Divisional Railway Manager (Works) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work:

E-Tender No.: JHS-ENGG-HQ-2024-98 Approx Cost (₹): 23206192.50

Description of Work: Virangana Lakshmbhai- Provision of leaky flat roofs by providing APP Membrane in west colony Jhansi.

Earnest Money (₹): 266000.00

Date of closing Tender: 15.07.2024 at 15:00 hrs., Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter: 12 Months. • Tender online can be submitted upto 15:00 Hrs. on 15.07.2024. • For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website: <http://www.reps.gov.in> 1069/24 (ADM)

Like us on: @CPNCROR, @northcentralrailways, @northcentralrailways, www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

**CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

Notice is hereby given to all users of Railway lines and premises situated on the completed section of the under noted section of the Central Railway that the 25000 Volt, AC overhead Traction wires will be energized on or after the date specified against the section. On and from the same date the overhead traction line shall be treated as live at all times and no unauthorized person shall approach or work in the proximity of the said overhead line.

Section	Km/Chainage	Date of Energisation
BPCL siding (Engine Reversal line) (Goods line) at Uran	From Loc. BPCL/1011, Ch: 92/143.75 To Loc.: BPCL/8004 Ch: 93/129.75	24.06.2024

खतरनाक व विस्फोटक सामान के साथ यात्रा करना दंडनीय अपराध है

**POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD.**  
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Enterprise)  
"Viduyt Bhawan" Near ISBT Crossing, Saharanpur Road, Majra, Dehradun-248002  
Corporate ID: U40101UR2004SGC028675, Tel. No. 0135-2642711

**E-TENDER CORRIGENDUM-4**

The last date of submission of the E-Tender for "Construction of 400 KV D/C (Twin Moose) Vishnugad-Pipalkoti HEP to 400KV Switching substation Pipalkoti transmission line" against Tender Specification No. PTCUL/E-Tender/C&P-II/17-13/2023-24 is hereby extended upto 04.07.2024 15:30 Hrs. For more details please visit e-tender website [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in) (tender id no. 2024\_PTCU4\_71771\_1) and for e-tender corrigendum notice our website [www.ptcul.org](http://www.ptcul.org). All other terms and conditions shall remain same.

For any assistance on E-Tendering, please contact +91-8899890000  
Letter No.: 1045/HQ/PTCUL Superintending Engineer  
Dated : 21-06-2024 "Save Electricity in the Interest of Nation." (C&P-II)

**दिल्ली होटल प्रबंध एवं खान-पान प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान**  
(स्वायत्तशासी संस्था राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र, दिल्ली सरकार)  
**DELHI INSTITUTE OF HOTEL MANAGEMENT & CATERING TECHNOLOGY**  
(An autonomous body of Govt. of N.C.T. of Delhi)  
Lajpat Nagar 4, Behind LSR College,  
Delhi 110024, +91-9711922320, 9810079501, 011-26214812  
(principal@dihtm@yahoo.com)

**Admission Notice for Session 2024-25**

Applications are invited for admission in PG Diploma in Accommodation operation, affiliated to NCHM&CT, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.

Course	Seats	Minimum Qualification & Age
PG Diploma in Accommodation Operation	30 Seats	Graduation from any stream and English as compulsory subject in class 12th, upper age limit is 25 years as on 30.06.2024

Applications are invited for admission to the following One & Half year Trade Diploma Courses affiliated to the Board of Technical Education, Delhi, Government of NCT of Delhi.

S. No.	Course	Seats	Minimum Qualification & Age
1.	Food Production	48 Seats	1. Qualification-10th class pass or equivalent with minimum 50% marks and English as a compulsory subject. A relaxation of 10% marks in the minimum aggregate or C2 Grade in CBSE is admissible to SC/ST candidate.
2.	Bakery & Confectionary	48 Seats	2. Age: applicant should not be below 15 years and above 25 years as on 30.06.2024. The upper age limit can be relaxed by 5 years in case of SC/ST candidates
3.	Front Office Operation	24 Seats	
4.	Food & Beverage Operation	24 Seats	

Application form can be obtained from the Institute upto 18.07.2024 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM on payment of Rs.800/- for General/CBC and Rs.700/- for SC/ST Category by demand draft drawn in favour of Delhi Institute of Hotel Management & Catering Technology or (MPS/ UPI /Net Banking). Last date for submission of completed application form is 18.07.2024 till 4:00 PM. The information regarding these courses is available on our website (<https://dihtmct.in>). Detailed prospectus can be obtained from the institute website.

Sd/-  
DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0098/24-25  
HOO (DIHM&CT)

Government of Karnataka  
**Department of Collegiate and Technical Education**  
NO. 1, Unnatha Shikshana Soudha, Sheshadri Road, Bangalore - 560 001  
Phone: 080-22223906, email: dce.tenders2017@gmail.com

No.: DCE/ITS/PUR/12/2024-INFO (Computer No. 1437822) Date: 21.06.2024

**E-Tender Notification**

The Commissioner for Collegiate and Technical Education, Bangalore hereby invites bids in Two-Cover system through e-Procurement portal from eligible bidders for the following Tender. The Tender Documents with detailed terms and conditions may be obtained from the website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>.

Tender Schedules are as below

Sl. No.	Tender Name & Number	Date of Floating Tender on e-Procurement Portal	Date and Time of pre-bid meeting	Last date and Time for bidding through eprocurement portal
1.	Tender No: DCE/2024-25/IND0015 "Supply of ICT Equipments for Mandya Unitary University of the Department of Collegiate and Technical Education, Bangalore"	21/06/2024	24/06/2024 12.00 Noon	28/06/2024 5.30 PM
2.	Tender No: DCE/2024-25/IND0017 "Supply of Furniture for Mandya Unitary University & Maharani Cluster University of the Department of Collegiate and Technical Education, Bangalore"	21/06/2024	25/06/2024 11.00 AM	03/07/2024 5.30 PM
3.	Tender No: DCE/2024-25/IND00014/Call-2 "Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Equipment and other Accessories necessary for establishment of Help desk at PMU of UUCMS Project"	19/06/2024	24/06/2024 11.00 AM	27/06/2024 5.30 PM

Sd/-  
DIPR/CP/501/Zen/2024-25  
Director of Collegiate Education, Bangalore

**Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation Ltd.**  
Nagarabhivruddhi Bhavan, #22, 17th 'F' Cross, Old Madras Road, Indiranagar 2nd Stage, Near BMTCL Bus Depot, Bengaluru-560 038. Telephone No: 91-80-25196100, 25196124  
Fax: 080-25196110 e-mail: [info@kuidfc.com](mailto:info@kuidfc.com) Website: [www.kuidfc.com](http://www.kuidfc.com)

No: KUIDFC/UWM/Tndr(Work)/2024-25/03 Date: 21-06-2024

**e-Tender Notification**

KUIDFC invites tenders for below mentioned projects from the eligible Contractors. The tender document will be available on KPP Portal of GOK (<https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>)

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to Tender (Incl GST) Rs. in Crore	Earnest Money Deposit Rs. in Lakhs
1	Construction/Upgradation of sewerage system for the Hubballi-Dharwad Municipal Corporation (HDMC) under NGT Environmental Compensation Fund on DBOT Model.	62.94	63.00
2	Package No. JSM01: Implementation of Jala Shuddhi Mission in the following ULBs under National Green Tribunal Environment Compensation Fund & SBM (Urban) - 2.0 on Design-Build-Operate-Transfer (DBOT) model. Work1: Providing and laying/upgradation of sewer network in Mysuru City under NGT Fund Work 2: Conveying and treatment of sewage coming from various parts of Aionora, Madagalli and Belavadi under Hootagalli Municipal Council Work 3: Upgradation to SBR Type STPs in-place of WSP type STPs & providing missing and outfall sewer lines for improvement of UGD System under NGT in K R Nagar Town Work 4: Conveying and treatment of sewage coming from various parts of KHB Colony, Yalavara Hundri, Muddabeeran Hundri, Algodu and Thurumakudlu under T. Narasipura Municipal Council	164.62	165.00

1) Tender Publish Date: 24.06.2024. 2) Pre-bid meeting date & time: 09.07.2024 Time: 11.30 a.m. 3) Last date & time for Bid submission: 24.07.2024 Time: 4.30 p.m. 4) Date & time of Opening of Technical Bid: 25.07.2024 Time: 5.00 p.m. 5) Date & time of Opening of Financial Bid: 30.07.2024 Time: 11.30 a.m.

Interested bidders may view, download & upload the tenders only through KPP Portal. Any further notification will be through KPP Portal and KUIDFC official website only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer  
Project Monitoring Unit, UWM-KUIDFC, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/519/MAA/2024-25

### New telecom law to come into effect from Wed

New Delhi: The new telecom law will come into effect from June 26. It will allow govt, among other powers, to take control of any telecommunications services or networks in times of emergency. Centre partially notified the Telecommunications Act on Friday, making provisions including Sections 1, 2, 10, and 30 effective from June 26. The new law will supersede the existing rules within the telecommunications sector. **TNN**

### 3 of family die as car collides with truck in UP

Lucknow: Three members of a family were killed and four others injured when their car collided with a truck at 3.15am on Saturday in UP's Bahraich district. The injured are in district hospital and one of them is critical. Police inspector Nanpara R K Singh said the victims were travelling from Nanpara to Bahraich. The deceased have been identified as Mohammed Naushad (25), Mohammad Hameed (60), and Mohammad Arif (70). **TNN**

# Shah launches fast-track immigration programme

## For Pre-Verified Nationals, OCI Cardholders

Bharti.Jain@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Pre-verified Indian nationals and overseas citizen of India (OCI) cardholders flying in from abroad will soon be able to clear immigration faster by simply walking through e-gates or automated border gates to be set up at eight major international airports and eventually, 13 more airports across India.

Home minister Amit Shah on Saturday inaugurated the 'Fast Track Immigration-Trusted Traveller Programme' (FTI-TTP) at Terminal-3 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi. The programme is expected to reduce congestion and cut immigration clearance lines at busy international airports, besides offering the passengers a faster, hassle-free and pleasant tra-



**EASE OF TRAVEL:** Shah at the launch in Delhi. The programme will be rolled out at 21 airports, including Mumbai, in 2 phases

vel experience. The FTI-TTP will be launched across 21 airports in two phases, starting with its rollout at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kochi and Ahmedabad airports in the first phase. Only Indian nationals and OCIs will be eligible for now. In the second phase, 13 more international airports will be added and foreign nation-

nals covered as well.

Describing FTI-TTP as a "visionary" initiative of the govt that fulfils one of the key agendas for 'Viksit Bharat @ 2047', Shah on Saturday said it reflects the Narendra Modi govt's commitment to enhance travel convenience and efficiency. He said the facility of faster, smoother and safer immigration clearance will be free of cost for all passengers.

The programme will run on e-gates or automated border gates which will minimise human intervention in the immigration clearance process. "The objective is to make international travel easy and secure by developing world-class immigration facilities through an accelerated immigration pathway for international travellers screened through automated gates (e-Gates)," the home ministry said on Saturday. The FTI-TTP will be implemented through an online portal and Bureau of Immigration will be the nodal agency for fast track immigration of various categories of travellers.

### Hasina's visit reflects deep ties: President

New Delhi: On a state visit to India, Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina called on President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday, prompting Rashtrapati Bhavan to say regular bilateral interactions reflect the enduring spirit of friendship and cooperation that began with the journey of Bangladesh's Liberation War of 1971.



Hasina with Murmu on Saturday. Murmu said the Bangladesh PM's visit will set future course of ties

"The two leaders agreed to work together to enhance the relationship across all domains, including economic ties, development partnership, defence cooperation, energy security, and connectivity," Rashtrapati Bhavan said. Murmu said Hasina's visit will set the future course of the relationship, noting that India and Bangladesh are rapidly advancing their cooperation across sectors and venturing into new areas. **TNN**

# India-B'desh focus now on energy, digital link-up: PM

► From P 1

Aware of India's reservations about China's role, Bangladesh has maintained it will consider "geopolitical issues" before going ahead with the project, which will apparently cost \$1 billion. Hasina is expected to soon visit China, a country Dhaka—in a fine balancing act—continues to have strong economic ties with for its development needs. "As part of our development cooperation, we will also undertake conservation and management of Teesta river inside Bangladesh with Indian assistance within a mutually agreed timeframe," said a joint statement, in which the two heads announced a shared vision for commerce, connectivity and collaboration.

Sharing of Teesta waters has remained a long outstanding issue between the countries, after opposition from West Bengal prevented them from signing a water-sharing agreement finalised during the UPA govt. India's technical team is expected to first examine if there's any need for a reservoir, some-

## NEW BEGINNINGS

- E-visa for patients from Bangladesh
- New assistant high commission of India in Rangpur, Bangladesh
- New train service between Rajshahi and Kolkata
- New bus service between Chittagong and Kolkata
- Commencement of goods train services between Gede-Darsana and Haldibari-Chilahati up to Dalgaon
- Inland container depot to be built at Sirajganj, Bangladesh, under grant assistance
- Commencement of export of 40 MW of power from Nepal to Bangladesh through Indian grid
- Joint technical committee for discussions on renewal of the Ganga Water Treaty
- Visit of technical delegation to Bangladesh for project on conservation and management of Teesta river inside Bangladesh
- 350 training slots for Bangladeshi police officers
- Muktiyoddha scheme for medical patients with an upper ceiling of 8 lakh per patient
- Bangladesh joins Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative
- Commercial agreement between NPCI and Bangladesh Bank for launch of UPI

thing which the Chinese have reportedly suggested. For India, it's important that Bangladesh remains mindful of Indian security concerns while pursuing economic projects with Beijing. They also welcomed formation of a Joint Technical

Committee to initiate talks for the renewal of the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty of 1996. To promote sub-regional connectivity, govt said India will extend transit facilities for movement of Bangladesh goods to Nepal and Bhutan through railways.

# TIMES TRIBUTE

PAYING HOMAGE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL

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or Call: 18001205474 (Toll Free)



With deep regret we wish to inform our beloved

**SULOCHANA NANDAN**  
peacefully left for her heavenly abode on Friday 21st June 2024

Fondly remembered by: Family & Friends.

**DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

Forever & Always in our hearts...

The love that you left behind gives us the courage to go on.

**Pooja Manoj Bhoj**  
20.05.1993 - 23.06.2023

I will forever cherish the memories we made together (Manu).

Our prayers are always with you wherever you are.

Remembered by Husband, Family & Friends.

**FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

**BRIG. SURESH CHANDRA SHARMA**  
Born - 24<sup>th</sup> January 1929  
Departed - 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023

**DEARLY MISSED BY**

- :- WIFE :- Mrs. Usha Sharma
- :- Daughter & Son in law :- Renu & Suraj Prakash
- :- Son & Daughter in law :- Rohit & Poojima Sharma
- :- Grand Children :- Shobhit and Hira

Friends & family members

**IN MEMORIAM**

**LAZAR SAMPATH, SYLVIA & SANDEETA**  
whom we lost in the Air India Kanishka tragedy, on this day 39 years ago. Time has passed us by, but the memories only grow stronger. Remembering you and all who lost their lives that day, may their souls rest in peace.

We love & miss you Anika, Anush, Anita & Sanjay Lazar

**SAD DEMISE**

In loving memory of

**Daphne Margaret Paul**  
(née Valladares)  
27/1/1939 - 21/6/2024

Devoted daughter of Late Samuel Valladares & Late Muriel Valladares

Dedicated wife of Hector Paul

Loving mother of Julian, Late Neil, Kevin & Lorraine

Amazing Nana of Kathleen, Stuart, Rohan & Asha

Supportive mother-in-law to Pamela and Marco.

Beloved sister of Windsor, Late Sinclair & Daz

The deep love you showed all of us will live within us forever. We are heartbroken and you will be immensely missed.

**Funeral Mass on 24<sup>th</sup> June, Monday at 3p.m.**  
at Holy Name Cathedral, Colaba

followed by burial at St. Michael's Church Cemetery, Mahim. (Bus transportation will be available from Holy Name Cathedral to the cemetery and back.)

Live streaming on YouTube link below <https://youtube.com/live/GHjZQzsl30?feature=share>

**SAD DEMISE**

**LACHMANDAS POHUMAL KIRPALANI**  
1933 - 2024

son of late Radhi & Pohumal, husband of late Heera, father of Asha, brother of late Kishini Daswani passed into light peacefully on June 21, 2024.

**In sorrow:** Kirpalani & Surtani families  
**Bhog & Marka:** Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2024  
**Time:** 5-6 p.m.  
**Venue:** Issardas Darbar, 1<sup>st</sup> Pasta Lane, Colaba

In the Loving Memory of

**PRANAV BHASKERRAI ADHYARU**  
26/08/1953 - 21/06/2024

His leadership, passion, & unwavering support has made a significant difference & left indelible mark in our life.

Forever Grateful  
Hitech Writing Instruments Goregaon West.

**SAD DEMISE**

With great sorrow we announce the passing away of

**HILLA SORAB DIVECHA**

Wife of - Late Sorab Divecha  
Mother of - Tushna Rustom Kapadia  
Mother-in-law of Rustom Kersi Kapadia  
Grandmother of Daryush & Jahan Kapadia

**Funeral** On Saturday, June 22, 2024  
3:45 pm at Doongerwadi  
**Uthamna** on Sunday, June 23, 2024  
3:45 pm at Doongerwadi.

**TO PLACE AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN THIS SECTION**  
CALL: **JAI SARSAR 9867505472**  
<https://ads.timesgroup.com>

In Loving Memory of

**Shri Jaikishin K. Rajwani**  
15.05.1934 - 23.06.2015

Dearest Dada, your absence is deeply felt, but your love continues to guide us every day. Your memory is a source of strength, and we honor you by living the values you instilled in us. "Though you're no longer with us, your spirit lives on in the laughter, love, and cherished memories we hold dear."

**Deeply Mourned & Remembered by:** Mohini (Wife), Sons, Daughters, Son-in-laws, Daughter-in-laws, And Grand Children

**TRIBUTES**

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF**

**Harold Lawrence D'Silva (82 yrs)**  
Husband of Philomena D'Silva

Father of Siddharth / Audrey, Shalini / Craig

Grandfather of Alicia, Adrian & Rhea

passed away on June 20, 2024 at his residence in Juhu.

Funeral to be held on Sunday June 23, 2024 at Holy Cross Church, Juhu, 3.00 pm onward.

May his soul rest in eternal peace

**SAD DEMISE**

With deep regret & heavy heart we convey you all that

**Mr PRADIP SHAMRAO MANKAR**  
has left for his heavenly abode on 21/6/2024.

**IN REMBRANCE**  
Wife Nisha Pradeep Mankar, Son Nilesh Pradeep Mankar, Daughter in law Mansi Nilesh Mankar, Grandson Sarthak Nilesh Mankar, Daughter Bhakti Dhananjay Ajinkya, Son in law Dhananjay Ajinkya, Grandson Rihhan Dhananjay Ajinkya

**Funeral leaves residence (Dhus Wadi) on 23/6/2024 at 10 am.**

**SAD DEMISE**

**Smt Leela Babu Salian**  
(Wife of Late Babu Salian)

With a heavy heart, we announce the passing of our beloved Amma on 16th June 2024

leaving a rich legacy of love, happiness & wonderful memories.

**Remembered by** Sudhakar Salian (Son), Daughter-in-law, Daughters, Sons-in-law, Grandchildrens & Abhikhya.

**A HEARTFELT TRIBUTE**

**Smt Leela Babu Salian**  
(Wife of Late Babu Salian)

With a heavy heart, we announce the passing of our beloved Amma on 16th June 2024

leaving a rich legacy of love, happiness & wonderful memories.

**Remembered by** Sudhakar Salian (Son), Daughter-in-law, Daughters, Sons-in-law, Grandchildrens & Abhikhya.

**Mr. Ahmad Hirani**  
(30.07.1930 - 23.06.2023)

You will always live in our hearts, and we continue to draw inspiration from your values, acts of kindness and philanthropy.

Deeply loved and remembered by Zainab, Kousar, Akil, Berry, Arsham and Ahanah Hirani, and the entire team at Majmudar & Partners, Advocates & Solicitors

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF**

**KHOZEMA HAIDER KHAIRULLAH**  
9 APRIL 1953 - 18 JUNE 2024

A kind man, remembered for his generosity & indomitable spirit. His infectious passion for the company he founded, **CSA FITTINGS**, his family, sports and food, resonated in all the relationships he made over seven decades. A dotting husband, a loving father & a fearless leader is the legacy he leaves behind.

The void of his absence will never be filled but his memory will keep us going forever.

Fondly Remembered by Nazneen Khairullah, Huzefa Khairullah, Taha Khairullah, Zahabia Motiwala, Aishuwarya Sudarshan, Ayaan Khairullah and Aqeel Khairullah

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EXCLUSIVE OFFERS AND ASSISTANCE

# Maoist Giridhar masterminded 86 gunfights in 28 yrs

► From P 1

Giridhar, who joined leftist rebels in 1996, emerged as strategic PLGA mastermind growing from a platoon member to lead a company. His wife, Sangita, too spent 22 years in the movement and was a divisional committee member controlling Bhamragarh area committee in south Gadchiroli which bordered Chhattisgarh—considered gateway to the Maoist headquarters of Abujmarh. Gadchiroli located in the heart of central India's Maoists-liberated zone of Dandakaranya is bisected by the Red corridor of Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Telangana.

Giridhar, who masterminded more than 86 gunfights with security forces in his 28-year stint, headed Company 10 formation which guarded buffer zone of Abujmarh and PLGA base near Maharashtra-Chhattisgarh border, particularly approach routes from Gadchiroli. A Dandakaranya special zonal committee (DSZC) member, Giridhar also headed western sub-zonal bureau and chief of Gadchiroli division which controlled the entire tribal district and led ambush operations in Chhattisgarh too. Gadchiroli division

**► Ex-Naxal's daughter puts rebel roots behind, P 16**

was created after amalgamation of north and south divisions after Mardintola encounter in 2021 when another top leader and Central committee member Milind Teltumbde was eliminated along with 26 PLGA fighters at the tri-junction.

Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis, who is also home minister and Gadchiroli guardian minister, handed over a cheque of Rs 25 lakh to the couple. They would additionally get Rs 2 lakh to construct a house on a plot allotted to them under the Maharashtra's rehabilitation policy for surrendered Maoists. Fadnis lauded the efforts of C-60 commandos. "Gadchiroli was once considered the remotest district, where govt footprint was near negligible. Now, it would be considered the first district or gateway to Maharashtra's development...We need connectivity and this will be ensured by building roads, erecting mobile towers, bridges," he said.

# 'Largely inactive MISO too behind below-par June rain'

Neha.Madaan@timesgroup.com

Pune: The Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO), a complex weather phenomenon that travels eastward around the globe, plays a crucial role in the monsoon activity. "When the MJO is active over the Indian Ocean, it leads to widespread cloud formation and convection in the Indian region," a top climate scientist from the weather blog, Vagaries of Weather, said.

Low rainfall also prompted the India Meteorological Department (IMD) to revise its earlier forecast of normal monsoon rainfall in June to below normal. Another key reason for the below-par June rain was the Monsoon Intraseasonal Oscillation (MISO), which was largely inactive during the month. "The MISO, a northward-moving 40-day oscillation, typically brings good rainfall as it travels from south to north across the Indian subcontinent. The MISO is like a conveyor belt of rainfall. When active, it moves from the equatorial region towards the north, causing rainfall in different parts of the country. This June, unfortunately, the belt remained largely stationary," he said.

Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology's (IITM) senior climate scientist Dr Roxy Mathew Koll said, "We notice that monsoon onset and progress in the initial stages is weak in recent years. It is not clear if this is a salient trend and more research is required. Cyclones are also occurring close to the monsoon onset, redistributing the moisture and changing the monsoon dynamics."

Raghu Murtugudde, a professor of climate studies at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, said the season had experienced unusually late heatwaves in northwest India. "The years 2023-24 have been exceptionally warm, with the region receiving extra hot air. The monsoon trough got stuck around 10° north. Usually, when this happens, there is a moisture supply from the north. This year, however, the extra heat kept pushing dry air instead of the usual moisture supply, which could have caused below-normal rainfall in June," he said.

# Under-feted in life, ghazal maestro finds a new note

Chartbusting Success And Awards Largely Eluded Madan Mohan During His Lifetime, But The Decades Have Burnished The Legacy Of The Composer Whose Birth Centenary Is On June 25

Ajvitt.Ghosh@timesgroup.com



**PERFECT HARMONY:** Madan Mohan shared a wonderful creative collaboration with Lata Mangeshkar

Some songs have afterlives. They are reborn in other languages, repurposed as jingles and cover versions, discovered and nurtured by new generations and geographies. Madan Mohan's haunting composition, 'Lag Jaa Gale', a brew of melody and melancholy, belongs to that elite club of single malt songs.

Here are the facts: the classic from 'Woh Kaun Thi?' (1964) was reused in a bunch of films, notably as 'Ponmeni Thazhuvamaal' — lensed on a teenage Jayalalitha in the 1966 Tamil film, 'Yaar Nee?' — and, more recently, in 'Sahab Biwi Aur Gangster 3' (2018). Several Pakistani singers have crooned it; there's a qawwali version, too. The track was used to promote digital audio player, Saregama Carvaan. No wonder, the song, written by Raja Mehdi Ali Khan and voiced by Lata Mangeshkar, has over 300 million YouTube hits.

And here's the irony: 'Lag Jaa Gale' didn't figure among the top 32 songs of 1964 in Binaca Geetmala's annual hit parade even though two other numbers from the same film — 'Jo humne dastan apni sunaye' and 'Naina barse rimjhim rimjhim' — made it to the coveted chart.

## Unsung Star

Lag Jaa Gale's fate is emblematic of Baghdad-born music director Madan Mohan's chequered career, which brims with moody melodies that have stood the test of time and changing taste but that seldom became chartbusters or won awards. In a career spanning 25 years, the composer didn't take home a single Filmfare statuette.

Only three of his songs figured in Geetmala's Top 5 hits of the year. The frisky 'Ae dil mujhe bata de' (No.5 spot, film: 'Bhai Bhai', 1956), the folksy and dancey, 'Jhunka gira re' (No.4, 'Mera Saaya', 1966), which was recast in Karan Johar's 'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahani' (2023), and 1977's 'Koi pathar se na maare mere deewane ko' (No.1, 'Laila Majnu'). Tragically, the music director had breathed his last a couple of years before that. He was only 51.

His eldest son Sanjeev Kohli writes that the lack of mass adulation always caused him anguish and, over the years, embittered him. "The man who was acknowledged as a genius by people who understood and appreciated music was never at the

## TOP 10 FILMS AS MUSIC DIRECTOR

- Dekh Kabira Roya (1957)
- Adalat (1958)
- Haqeeqat (1964)
- Jahan Ara (1964)
- Woh Kaun Thi? (1964)
- Dastak (1970)
- Heer Ranjha (1970)
- Hanste Zakhm (1973)
- Mausam (1975)
- Laila Majnu (1976)



He served as **second lieutenant** in the army for two years

He worked in **All India Radio, Delhi**

He married Sheila Dhingra, niece of **freedom fighter Madan Lal Dhingra**. Madan Lal had shot dead British official Curzon Wylie in London in 1909

top rung in the hit parades or with the big banners or the big stars," he says in the website, madanmohan.in.

With exceptions like Madras-based production house AVM and filmmakers like Chetan Anand and Raj Khosla, Madan Mohan mostly scored music for smaller producers and directors. He worked for Devendra Goel (who gave him his break with 'Ankhen' in 1950), Shakti Samanta and Pramod Chakravarty, too, but that was much before they became industry biggies.

The songs he composed were invariably better than the movies they were located in. Often, they are the only notable element of a film. Some of his finest work, 'Dekh Kabira Roya' (1958), 'Jahan Ara' (1964), 'Dulhan Ek Raat Ki' (inspired by Thomas Hardy's 'Tess of the d'Urbervilles' (1967), was for movies that were mega flops. The songs are remembered, not because of the movie, but despite its failure.

## Ghazal Maestro

There is a timelessness and

universality to his compositions, says film music historian Pavan Jha. Veer Zaara's tunes were used about 30 years after his death, but they don't sound outdated at all, he says.

Nobody composed ghazals better in Hindi films. The music director with leading man looks had the gift to imbue songs with subterranean sadness even when the words were not overtly so, notably in 'Aapki nazron ne samjha' ('Anpadh', 1962), 'Teri aankon ke siva duniya mein' ('Chirag', 1969) and Dil dhoondta hai ('Mausam', 1975).

Jha reasons that unlike some of the more popular music directors, Madan Mohan understood and appreciated Urdu poetry. He sang as well. "Which is why there's a special symmetry of words and melody in his compositions," he says. His niece, actor Anju Mahendroo, reinforces the point. "He wasn't formally trained in music. But he was blessed with in-born talent. His music came from his heart," she says.

He was also a master of the mega song, best illustrat-

ed in 'Tum jo mil gaye ho' ('Hanste Zakhm', 1973) and 'Har koi chahta hai' ('EK Mutthi Aasman', 1973). Like Vivaldi's Four Seasons, these ambitious tracks change tempo, evoking a multitude of yearnings. He was versatile, too. Few patriotic pieces are as moving as 'Kar chale hum fida jaan-o-tan saathiyon' ('Haqeeqat', 1964). And, you'd seldom have heard a more joyful track than 'Zaroorat hai zaroorat hai' ('Man-Mauji', 1962).

Songwriter-singer Amitabh Bhattacharya stumbled upon a Madan Mohan track from the unreleased film, 'Jahan Tum Wahan Hum'. "Over the days, I kept returning to it and I think it underlines the strength and class of the composer who is making us listen to his song in an era where everything is fleeting and clutter rules our audio universe," he says. The song goes, 'Kaise kategi zindagi tere bagair'.

In 1970, Madan Mohan won the national award for best music director for 'Dastak'. Writer-director Rajinder Singh Bedi's movie had some of the composer's most poignant and sensitive melodies like 'Baiyan na dharo' to 'Hum-hain-mataae-koocha' and 'Mayee ree'. "He was extremely sensitive. During a song recording of 'Hanste Zakhm', he was so moved by a note of a sitar that he started weeping profusely," recalls Mahendroo.

## Man Of Principles

He was also a man of conviction and principles, a trait he shared with fellow composers such as Jaidev and Khayyam. "While he was convinced that 'Talat Mahmood was the right singer for some of 'Jahan Ara's' songs, the director was insistent that Rafi saab be given all the songs. My father did not budge and was willing to give up the film. The same thing happened when he chose Rafi saab over Kishore Kumar for the songs of 'Laila Majnu'. The directors finally gave in and these films became musical landmarks," Kohli writes. Overshadowed by Kishore Kumar in the post-'Aradhana' era, the superhit songs of 'Laila Majnu' helped Rafi stage a strong comeback.

Like the finest of whiskeys, many of Madan Mohan's compositions have aged remarkably well and his reputation vaulted. In the run-up to his 100th birth centenary, celebrations of his life and songs are planned in places such as Mumbai, Surat, Pune and others. The master music maker would have loved that.

# Big Fish: Andhra dishes out 41% of India's aquaculture output

## 'Banana Takes Over Mango In Output Value'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Andhra Pradesh topped the list of states in fishing and aquaculture and accounts for 40.9% of the share in the sector followed by West Bengal, Odisha and Bihar.

West Bengal's share in all India output has come down from 24.6% in 2011-12 to 14.4% in 2022-23 while Odisha and Bihar have increased their share, according to a latest statistics office report on value of output from agriculture and allied sectors.

The output of the fishing and aquaculture sub-sector increased steadily from about Rs 80,000 crore in 2011-12 to about Rs 1,95,000 crore in 2022-23. Output of marine fishing includes the entire output of prawn—inland or marine. The output of the 'livestock' sub-sector increased steadily between 2011-12 to 2022-23. During this period, the output of milk, meat and eggs also recorded an increasing trend.

The share of milk, meat and eggs in output of livestock sub-sector was 66.5%,

## Where do you get your fish & pulses from?

Share of Top 5 States for Output of Fishing & Aquaculture in 2022-23	
State Share (%)	(%)
Andhra Pradesh	40.9
West Bengal	14.4
Odisha	4.9
Bihar	4.5
Assam	4.1
Remaining states	31.3

Share of Top 5 States for Output of Livestock in 2022-23	
Rajasthan	12.5
Uttar Pradesh	12.3
Tamil Nadu	9.1
Andhra Pradesh	7.8
Maharashtra	7.3
Others	50.9

Share of Top 5 States for Output of Pulses in 2022-23	
Madhya Pradesh	22
Maharashtra	16.9
Rajasthan	13
Uttar Pradesh	12.3
Gujarat	7.7
Others	28.1

23.6% and 3.7% respectively in 2022-23, compared to 67.2%, 19.7% and 3.4% respectively in the base year 2011-12, the data showed.

Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan together accounted for about a quarter of output of livestock sub-sector while output of Tamil Nadu increa-

sed faster during this period.

Uttar Pradesh had nearly 41% share of output of the sugar group in 2011-12, which increased to more than half of all India output of sugar crops in 2022-23. Maharashtra was distant second with 19%, followed by Karnataka at 8.9%, Tamil Nadu at 3.9%,

Bihar 3.3%. The remaining states accounted for 11.4%.

When it comes to fruits, bananas overtook mangoes in terms of value of output in 2022-23. Banana had a share of 10.9 per cent, followed by mango at 10 per cent. Together, it accounted for more than one-fifth of output of the entire group. Among the vegetables during 2022-23, potato and onion together contributed highest production, accounting for about 15 per cent output of the group. Floriculture accounted for about 7 per cent. The data showed that agriculture, forestry and fishing accounted for 18.2% of the gross value added — a key indicator of economic performance — at current prices in 2022-23. After reaching 20.4% in 2020-21, it came down to 18.9% in 2021-22.

India ranks second worldwide in arable land (155.37 million hectares); third in production of cereals; and second in groundnut, fruits, vegetables, sugarcane, tea, and jute. The country had largest herds of buffalo and goat; second largest in cattle and sheep; and seventh in chicken population in the world, as per the latest available information of 2020. It is the largest producer of milk; second in production of eggs and fifth in production of meat.

# TN hooch tragedy toll now 55, over 2 dozen patients said to be critical

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kallakurichi: The death toll in Kallakurichi hooch tragedy rose to 55 on Saturday evening, with 159 people undergoing treatment, including 107 at Kallakurichi govt hospital, 31 at Salem, 17 at Jipmer-Puducherry and four at Villupuram government hospital.

The condition of more than two dozen people undergoing treatment was said to be critical. The district administration has deputed several medical teams to visit the localities where the hooch deaths were reported, and

## State-sponsored murder, says BJP

The BJP came down hard on DMK govt and Tamil Nadu chief minister MK Stalin, for the hooch tragedy and demanded resignation of state prohibition and excise minister S Muthusamy. The party also demanded CBI probe into the tragic incident. Party spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla described the deaths as "state-sponsored murder. Poonawalla said, "DMK means D for Do Nothing, M for Muzzle Everyone, and K for Kill Everyone through liquor." TN

screen and identify people who had consumed spurious liquor but were reluctant to seek medical attention and admit them to hospitals. Meanwhile, two of the five patients who absconded while undergoing treatment were traced by police and brought to Kallakurichi govt hospital for treatment. Kallakurichi govt hospital dean said 30 patients had recovered and would be discharged after psychiatric counselling. Kallakurichi collector M S Prasad said seven people involved in illicit hooch business were arrested.

# Blast at Gurgaon fire extinguisher factory kills four

Gurgaon: A factory manufacturing fire extinguisher balls off Dwarka Expressway burst into flames after an explosion early on Saturday, charring four persons to death and leaving a dozen injured.

The owner of GFO Research and Development Pvt Ltd, Sandeep, was arrested following allegations that he had stored flammable material inside the factory area despite being warned against it multiple times. The blast, which is believed to have occurred around 2am, also damaged neighbouring buildings, most of which house factories and workshops. TN

# 2 fire officers among 3 more arrested for Rajkot arcade blaze

Rajkot: Rajkot's chief fire officer and deputy fire officer were among three persons arrested on Saturday in connection with the May 25 TRP Game Zone fire tragedy, taking the total number of arrests to 15.

The crime branch arrested chief fire officer Ilesh Kher (45), deputy fire officer Bhikha Theba (54), and fabrication contractor of gaming zone, Mahesh Rathod (60). Theba is already in jail after being arrested by anti-corruption bureau in disproportionate assets case and crime branch took his custody from on transfer warrant. Investigators revealed that in the past two years, the Rajkot municipal corporation's fire department had not checked any building that did not have fire NOC. The fire officers knew about the functioning of the game zone, but did not care to verify whether it had fire NOC and sufficient fire-fighting equipment or not. Rathod is the uncle of Rahul Rathod, a welder arrested earlier, and is also a partner in the gaming zone. A senior police officer told TOI: "Despite receiving a copy of licence from police, fire officers did not check NOC of game zone. We have collected information of last two years and found that fire department did not seal a single building that did not have fire NOC." — Nimesh Khakhariya

# FIR filed against Prajwal brother over unnatural sex

Hassan: After father H D Revanna and brother Prajwal Revanna, now MLC Suraj Revanna is facing sexual harassment charges. A day after his aide Shivakumar H L accused one Chethan K S (27) of extortion bid over a sexual assault allegation, the latter filed an FIR alleging that Suraj committed unnatural sex on him at his farm in Holenarasipura on June 18. Suraj has been summoned by Cyber Economic and Narcotics (CEN) police in Hassan and is likely to be arrested. Hassan SP Mohammed Sujetha told TOI that Chethan's complaint, received through email, was forwarded to Holenarasipura rural police station. Suraj has refuted the charges. TN

# 2 more deaths take Assam floods toll to 29

Guwahati: The death toll from the floods in Assam rose to 29 after two more deaths, including a child, were reported in Barpeta and Bajali districts on Saturday. According to Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) the number of people affected from floods decreased from 3.9 lakh to 2.6 lakh in the last 24 hours. ASDMA reported that over 93,000 people, including 27,259 children, are currently staying in 228 camps and relief distribution centers across the state. This is a decrease from the 245 such facilities that were housing more than 1.8 lakh displaced people on Friday. According to the ASDMA bulletin, the Kopili and Kushiya rivers continue to flow above the danger level at Dharamtul and Karimganj, respectively. Floodwaters have submerged 3,995.33 hectares of cropland, and 2,20,546 animals are affected. TN

नगर निगम, प्रयागराज। ई-निविदा सूचना (तृतीय चार)			
महाकुम्भ मेला, 2025 योजनानुसार प्रयागराज नगर निगम सोमा क्षेत्र के अनन्तर्गत मार्ग-प्रकाश व्यवस्था सम्बन्धी निम्नलिखित कार्यो को कराये जाने हेतु डुअल बिड ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है, विस्तृत विवरण निविदा प्रपत्र वेबसाइट में उपलब्ध रहेगा। निविदा प्रपत्र उक्त प्रदेश की ई-प्रक्वीरमेंट की वेबसाइट <a href="http://etender.up.nic.in">http://etender.up.nic.in</a> से प्राप्त एवं देखे जा सकते हैं। निविदा के साथ मांग की गयी जमानत की धनराशि एफडीआर/आरटीओजीएफडी रसीद की स्कैन कॉपी के रूप में संलग्न करना अनिवार्य होगा, जो मुख्य अभियन्ता (चि/यां), नगर निगम, प्रयागराज के नाम प्लेज्ड होगा। बिना जमानत की धनराशि के निविदा अवेध मानी जायेगी। निविदा प्रकाशन के निर्धारित तिथि तक निविदा शुल्क की धनराशि नगर निगम, प्रयागराज के इण्डस्ट्रियल बैंक, सिविल लाइन्स, प्रयागराज शाखा में डेपॉजिट खात संख्या - 100116210130 व IFSCCode- INDB0001024 में जमा करना होगा। जिसकी रसीद तथा जमानत धनराशि के एफडीआर/आरटीओजीएफडी रसीद की स्कैन कॉपी निविदा के साथ अपलोड करना अनिवार्य होगा। उक्त की अनुपस्थिति में निविदा अवेध मानी जायेगी। किसी भी समय निविदा स्वीकृत/अस्वीकृत करने का अधिकार नगर आवुक्त महोदय को सुरक्षित होगा। निविदा खोले जाने की तिथि को किसी कारणवश अवकाश होने पर निविदा तिथि अगला कार्य-दिवस मानी जायेगी।			
निविदा प्रपत्र वेबसाइट पर अपलोड करने की तिथि	24.06.2024	अपरान्ह 11:00 बजे से	
निविदादाताओं द्वारा निविदा प्रपत्र वेबसाइट अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि	08.07.2024	अपरान्ह 5:00 बजे तक	
निविदा खोलने की तिथि	08.07.2024	सायंकाल 5:30 बजे तक	
क्र० सं०	कार्य/वाहन का विवरण	निविदा फार्म का मूल्य	धरोहर की धनराशि
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# GST notices pending against less than 2% of taxpayers: FM

## Bid To Clear Air Amid Repeated Attacks By Oppn

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said less than 2% of nearly 59 lakh active taxpayers had pending notices under the Central GST (CGST) Act, while asserting that govt wants to make life easier for assesseees.

"We want to reassure assesseees that our intent is to make their lives easier. Under CGST, notices are not being sent left, right and centre" she said. At the end of Dec, 1,14,939 assesseees had been sent notices by CGST authorities.

The comments are aimed at clearing the air on repeated attacks by opposition on GST, which has been dubbed "Gabbar Singh Tax" by Rahul Gandhi. Officials suggested that several opposition-ruled states have been at the forefront of issuing notices and summonses under state laws.

In fact, a rush of notices by



Finance ministers of states &amp; UTs at the GST Council meet on Saturday

state authorities has been particularly troubling for large companies that have to register separately in each state. Consultants and companies routinely complain of "summons" being issued by state authorities on minor issues and several of them being asked to appear in person.

Recently, Centre sought to put a check on the issue and issued detailed instructions to its officers that calling for information should not be called a "notice" or "summons" and all such communication should only be sent after it has been approved by senior officers of the department.

"FM has reassured that GST administration will be conciliatory, which is very positive from the perspective of ease of doing business and will comfort investors. The steps taken by the GST Council today include several important and trade friendly measures and seek to bring certainty in tax regime, reduce litigation and improve cash flows," said Pratik Jain, partner, PwC India.

In the past seven years, overall direction of GST has been to lower incidence of tax on consumers with products such as atta and honey exempted, govt officials said.

## Amnesty scheme for defaulters to make life easier for biz, says FM

From P 1

There were clarifications allowing 12% tax on all types of milk cans, solar cookers and paper cartons. Further, compensation cess on supply of aerated beverages and energy drinks to authorised customers by defence canteens have also been exempted. The all-powerful body comprising Union and state FMs also recommended amendments to CGST Act for not levying tax on extra neutral alcohol used for manufacture of alcoholic liquor for human consumption. Earlier, Centre had decided to forgo its power to levy tax on ENA.

The council also recommended a phased rollout of biometric-based Aadhaar authentication for registration of GST payers, for which pilots had been conducted in Gujarat and Puducherry. The move meant to combat fraudulent input tax credit claims made through fake invoices will require registration at GST Suvidha Kendras or facilitation centres, which, Sitharaman said, should not take more than 15 minutes or so.

She also said that several items related to review of tax rates were not taken up in Saturday's meeting but there were a host of changes, including an amnesty scheme for defaulters, to make life easier for businesses. A big relief will come in the form of the Centre's decision to fix thresholds for appealing to GST Appellate Tribunal (Rs 20 lakh), high courts (Rs 1 crore) and Supreme Court (Rs 2 crore). Govt does not intend to file an appeal in case the amount involved, other than policy issues, is under the threshold, said revenue secretary Sanjay Malhotra.

Similarly, pre-deposit amount for taxpayers to file appeals has also been cut. Further, interest and penalty will be waived if a taxpayer who got a notice under Section 73 of CGST Act during FY18 to FY20 agreed to clear the demand by March. The section deals with cases where full tax has not been paid or was erroneously refunded or where input tax credit was wrongly availed.

# Andhra, C'garh seek funds for new capitals, Kerala a spl grant

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh on Saturday sought assistance for developing new state capitals, while others such as Tamil Nadu, Haryana and Odisha demanded project-specific support, with Kerala demanding a Rs 24,000-crore special package to tide over a liquidity crisis.

With TDP, a key constituent of NDA govt at Centre, back in the saddle in Andhra, special package for the state—a long pending demand—was widely expected, but sources said the state finance minister only sought support for several projects, including construction of a new capital in Amravati and Polavaram dam. In contrast, during a pre-Budget meeting with Union FM Nirmala Sitharaman, Kerala came up with the demand.

"Considering the state's contribution in varied spheres in keeping up national pride, a special package of at least Rs 24,000 crore may be announced in Union Budget 2024-25 to tide over the current liquidity stress by scheduling it over a period of two years from 2024-25," Kerala FM K N Balagopal said in a speech.



Kerala FM K N Balagopal sought a Rs 24,000-crore special package for the state to tide over liquidity crisis

States such as Chhattisgarh also demanded easing of restrictions on rice export and other farm products that have been banned to ensure adequate supply in domestic market. The BJP-governed state also sought funds for Naya Raipur, while seeking tweaks in the spending norms for the district mineral fund.

Sitharaman told reporters that several states raised the

issue of devolution of central taxes, an issue that is dealt with by the finance commission, and infrastructure with some of the states from the North-East seeking to work with the department of north eastern region. Several states have demanded money for capex, for which Centre has been extending support.

Haryana FM Jai Prakash Dalal on Saturday sought special grant assistance from Centre for implementation of various projects in the NCR, including 122-km Haryana orbital rail corridor from Palwal to Sonapat at a cost of Rs 11,600 crore and Delhi-Panipat fast rail corridor.

Similarly, Tamil Nadu FM Thangam Thennarasu sought Budgetary provision of Rs 63,000 crore for Chennai Metro Rail's second phase, which has been hanging for been awaiting CCEA clearance for three years, and funds for other projects. He also raised the demand for funds for disaster relief.

# NGT issues notices to Centre & U'khand as wildfires rage

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Dehradun: Taking suo motu cognisance of reports published in TOI about the unabated wildfire proliferating across Uttarakhand, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has issued notices to Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change, principal chief conservator of forests (PCCF), Uttarakhand, and chairman and chief executive officer of the State Disaster Management Authority. The NGT has implicated all of them as respondents and has directed them to file a detailed affidavit before the next hearing scheduled for July 19.

The news report highlighted forest fires raging in Nainital district. The situation escalated and the Indian

## Blaze reaches Almora shelters, inmates moved

Forest fires in Almora continued despite recent rain, with a blaze reaching Shishu and Nari Niketan. Forty people, including 17 children, were in the compound at the time of the incident and had to be shifted to a safer location, an official said on Saturday. A few women and staffers were also present, reports Yogesh Nagarkoti. "The blaze, which began in Bakh forests, spread rapidly to reach the compound, causing panic among occupants. Firefighters brought the intense blaze under control after about two hours," the official added.

Air Force had to deploy a helicopter to douse the flames using water from Bhimtal lake. NGT said the case is registered suo motu on the basis of the TOI report "IAF helicopter roped in to douse fire in Nainital as situation worsens in Uttarakhand district" on April 27.

The tribunal stated: "According to the article, the conflagration has now reached the HC colony in Pines area. An Indian Air Force

M-17 helicopter used a Bambi bucket to collect water from Bhimtal lake and subsequently poured it over the blazing forests in areas, including Pines, Bhumaiadhar, Jyolikot, Narayan Nagar, Bhawali, Ramgarh and Mukteshwar." NGT bench comprising Justice Prakash Shrivastava, Justice Arun Kumar Tyagi and expert member Afroz Ahmad said the TOI report flagged that 31 new incidents of wildfire.

## Respond to J&K MP's bail plea by July 1, NIA told

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Friday asked National Investigation Agency (NIA) to submit a response by July 1 on an application filed by Engineer Rashid, arrested in a 2017 Jammu and Kashmir terror funding case, seeking interim bail to take oath as an MP.

Sheikh Abdul Rashid, popularly known as Engineer Rashid, defeated former CM Omar Abdullah in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls in Baramulla. The court of Additional Sessions Judge Kiran Gupta fixed the matter for hearing on July 1.

Rashid has been in jail since 2019 and is presently lodged in Delhi's Tihar jail. He has moved the court seeking interim bail, or custody parole in the alternative, to take oath and perform his parliamentary functions. The newly elected MPs are scheduled to take oath on June 24, 25 and 26. TNN

## UAPA tribunal upholds ban on 2 'pro-Pak' outfits

New Delhi: Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal on Saturday upheld Centre's decision to impose a five-year ban on Muslim League Jammu and Kashmir Masrat Alam faction (MLJK-MA) and Tehreek-e-Hurriyat for their anti-India activities.

The tribunal held that there were sufficient grounds to confirm the Centre's Dec 31 decision regarding the two pro-Pakistan separatist organisations which promoted terrorism under the direct support of Pakistani agencies.

Tehreek-e-Hurriyat aims to separate J&K from India and establish Islamic rule there, Union home ministry contended. MLJK-MA was in direct contact with Pakistani High Commission and Pakistani institutions to secure large funds for anti-India activities, it added. TNN

## Dog bite death 'accidental', fit for insurance payout: Consumer panel

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Raipur: Chhattisgarh State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has ruled that a dog bite falls under the category of an 'accident', and if the victim dies, it would be considered 'accidental'.

Overturing a district commission judgment, the state consumer panel determined that death of an elderly dog-bite victim, Santram Janbandhu, was covered under Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY).

Panel president Justice Gautam Choudhury and member Pramod Kumar Varma ordered National Insurance Company Ltd and Chhattisgarh Rajya Gramin Bank's Chhuria branch to pay the complainant, Santram's son Tejendra, Rs 2 lakh under

## HC refuses to quash conviction of man who is turning blind

Gujarat HC has refused to quash conviction and sentence of a man (50), who is gradually losing his eyesight due to medical complications, stating that the gravity of the crime must be matched by appropriate punishment, regardless of the convict's health. Refusing to spare Bababhai from a five-year jail sentence in an assault case, the HC said he could not be shown "undue sympathy", and also cited a Supreme Court judgment. TNN

PMSBY, along with 6% interest from the date the complaint was filed, within 45 days. Also, the panel ordered a

## 'CRPF can't dismiss jawan for not paying maintenance to wife'

Punjab and Haryana high court has set aside a CRPF order, which dismissed a constable for not paying maintenance to his wife. The court observed that "such punishment was disproportionate to the alleged offence". The HC also pointed out that if a member of the force does not maintain his family, CRPF cannot not take action if the matter is pending before the court. His dismissal resulted in depriving the entire family, it noted. TNN

compensation of Rs 20,000 to the complainant for mental agony and Rs 5,000 towards litigation cost.

THE SPEAKING TREE

# YOG INCREASES SOLIDARITY



To become a true yogi, we should be able to touch the hearts of those around us with compassion and treat them with love and respect,

says MATA AMRITANANDAMAYI

Yog, a priceless gift from the ancient sages of Bharat, holds the power to transform our lives. The word yog, meaning coming together or joining, perfectly encapsulates its essence. It's a practice that harmoniously unites our body, breath, mind, and awareness. By mastering our bodies, we gain control over our breaths. By mastering our breaths, we gain control over our minds.

This inner peace radiates into every aspect of our lives. The ultimate goal of yog is to guide us towards this holistic progress, a journey that can truly change our lives.

Scientists have proven that the average person uses only a fraction of his physical and mental capabilities during his lifetime. However, through yog one can further awaken and develop those abilities. For example, say we have a supercomputer. If we were to use it merely to store our grocery expenses and balance our household accounts, what a waste of its capacity it would be; a supercomputer can effortlessly store data for an entire city. Unfortunately, today, this is how we are using our body and mind.

Yog is the path to awakening our infinite potential and realising our inherent completeness, through the proper adjustment of the body, mind and intellect.



ARUNDYUTI DAS BASU

Any type of exercise is beneficial for the body and mind; however, yog offers several advantages that mere physical exercises may not.

Other exercise systems aim to reduce body fat and tone our muscles through fast movement. Yog has most of the physical benefits of regular exercise, but—as much of

it is done slowly, focusing on our breath and bodily movements—it also calms the mind, creating an experience akin to meditation. It also channels our inner energies in the right direction. This promotes

our overall health, even improving the function of our organs. It purifies our nervous system and helps our mind and body relax. It improves health and mitigates disease. Additionally, it increases our mental strength and focus. Moreover, yog helps reduce depression and promote inner cheerfulness.

Yog can be practised by children as well as the elderly. However, children under 14 should only practice a limited number of postures.

In general, yog should always be learned directly from an experienced teacher.

One does not become a yogi simply by being able to bend down and touch one's toes. To become a yogi, we should be able to touch the hearts of people around us with love and compassion.

It is only when one gains the ability to appreciate the supreme divinity in one and all and to treat them with love and respect that one becomes a true yogi. We should be able to see others' suffering as our suffering and others' joy as our joy.

The Sun can be reflected in a hundred pots filled with water, but there remains only one Sun. Similarly, there is but one Self, reflecting variously in various bodies. This is the vision that yog should ultimately uplift us to obtain.

May we be able to use this priceless wealth bestowed on humanity by the ancient sages of Bharat in the right way. May the practice of yog increase solidarity and cooperation in society. May the grace of the divine bless us all to achieve this. ■

# Parl in session, PM may skip SCO meeting in Kazakhstan on July 3-4

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi is likely to skip SCO summit that will be hosted by Kazakhstan in Astana on July 3-4, official sources said. The PM has in the past regularly participated in the Eurasian bloc's summit meetings but the fact that Parliament session will still be in session on July 3 is believed to be one of the reasons for Modi deciding to give it a miss this time.

Apart from having a possible bilateral with President Vladimir Putin, Modi was also expected to come face



Modi was expected to come face to face with Xi Jinping at the meet

to face with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif at the summit, for the first time since taking over as PM for third time. India, however, has said in the past that it at-

taches great importance to SCO for peace, stability and economic development of the region.

Modi in 2018 coined SECURE acronym that stands for Security; Economy and Trade; Connectivity; Unity; Respect for Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity; and Environment. Despite its full membership of SCO, India remains an outlier in the group in the sense that it's the only member not to endorse China's BRI and not to have any bilateral engagement with Pakistan.

The SCO summit was hosted by India last year.

# YSRCP office razed in Andhra, Jagan calls it 'vindictive politics'

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Vijayawada: YSRCP's under-construction party office at Tadepalli in Andhra Pradesh's Guntur district was demolished on Saturday morning, Mangalagiri-Tadepalli Municipal Corporation, which razed the building, claimed it was illegal and being constructed on irrigation land without necessary approvals. YSRCP, on the other hand, alleged the demolition was in defiance



The under-construction central office of YSRCP being demolished in Guntur on Saturday

of high court order. YSRCP president and former Andhra chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy said

CM N Chandrababu Naidu had taken his vindictive politics to the next level. Jagan said Naidu demolished the "near-completion party office like a dictator" by ignoring high court orders.

"Law and justice have disappeared from the state. With this incident, Naidu gave a violent message as to how the next five years are going to be. But, YSRCP will not back down to these threats and vindictive politics. We will continue to fight for people," he posted on X.

# Ex-Maoist's daughter puts rebel roots behind, sets off on engg path

Soumitra Bose@timesgroup.com

Nagpur: On a day when central India's two top Maoist leaders laid down arms before deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis in Gadchiroli on Saturday, the story of a former Maoist leader's daughter is warming the hearts.

Sunita (name changed to protect her family's identity) was barely six months old when her father left home to join the Maoist movement. Seven years later, he quit the movement and re-

turned to join society's mainstream, in 2010. Now 18, Sunita is a second-year civil engineering diploma student at Gadchiroli Govt Polytechnic College.

After her father's surrender, the family shifted to a sheltered colony at Gadchiroli police headquarters. Police helped her father to become an electrician while the mother started working as a cook.

Sunita scored an impressive 74% in Class 12 board examination without tuitions or any help. "It was

solely self-study," she told TOI and added that she wants to pursue her education further—first completing BTEch and, if all goes well, acquire an MTech degree. "I'm unsure how long my family will be able to support my education, but my dream is to get into an engineering college to complete BTEch," she said, her eyes welling up. Currently, she works as an intern at a forthcoming barrage project. "After returning home from work, I study till late in the night," she says.

# MPPSC 'leak' buzz day before test, officials call it 'misleading'

Indore: Amid NEET and NET crisis, Madhya Pradesh Public Service Commission (MPPSC) was hit by paper-leak rumours on Saturday after social media messages claimed that questions for state service and forest service general studies paper were available for Rs 2,500.

MPPSC denied it saying, it would go ahead with the exam on Sunday. Over 1.8 lakh candidates are expected to appear for the exam for recruitment to 110 posts. The message was circulated on Telegram. However, the authenticity of the question paper being sold can only be checked by matching it with the real paper that will be used ahead of exam on Sunday, MPPSC said. Some candidates alerted MPPSC that the Telegram account was offering a QR code and was asking for Rs 2,000 to Rs 2,500 for general studies paper. MPPSC secretary issued a formal denial and urged people not to circulate "misleading news".

MPPSC warned of strict action against anyone spreading such messages. "We have obtained the question paper that was being sold. It will be matched with the real one after the exam on Sunday," MPPSC OSD Ravindra Panchbhai said, adding that the commission has approached police. Cyber SP Jitendra Singh told TOI that they were yet to receive a formal complaint on the paper being sold through Telegram. TNN

# Couple in their 80s dies by suicide at daughter's home

Nagpur: An elderly couple in their 80s allegedly died by suicide in separate rooms of their daughter's home in Nagpur on Friday. The deceased were identified as Shiram Katre (85) and his wife Shakuntala Bai (82). Police suspect the couple took the drastic step due to old age.

A case of accidental death has been registered. No suicide note was found in the house. Cops said the Katre couple had come to their daughters' Nagpur home on May 26 to attend the marriage of their grandson. TNN

**1**



**ALTAMOUNT RD/  
CARMICHAEL RD,  
MUMBAI  
400026**

**PROMINENT  
RESIDENTS:**  
Industrialists Mukesh &  
Nita Ambani, Kumar  
Mangalam Birla

**₹1.4 CRORE**  
Cost of space to park  
a Tata Punch (71.76  
sq-ft), India's largest  
selling car in March  
and April

**₹1,95,503 PER SQ-FT**

It's called India's 'Billionaires Row' for a reason. Like the famous Manhattan neighbourhood near Central Park, Mumbai pin code 400026 draws moguls and barons from around the world, for several reasons.

Once the favoured enclave of British officials and affluent merchants, it is steeped in history. Its strategic location near south Mumbai landmarks combines convenience with prestige. It also has everything from upscale boutiques and gourmet eateries to exclusive clubs. Cultural landmarks like National Museum of Indian Cinema are nearby.

Amid this opulence stands Antilia, home to India's richest man, Mukesh Ambani, further solidifying 400026's cachet as a hub of luxury and extravagance. It's not surprising that property prices here are the highest in India.

**2**



**WORLI, MUMBAI  
400018**

**PROMINENT  
RESIDENTS:** Cricketer  
Virat Kohli and actor  
wife Anushka Sharma,  
actor Shahid Kapoor

**₹1.24 CRORE**  
Cost of space to park  
a Tata Punch

**₹1,72,210 PER SQ-FT**

Set in Mumbai's heart, Worli in pin code 400018 was a centre of trade and commerce in colonial times, and is now home to landmarks like Museum of Living History, Mahalaxmi Race Course, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Stadium and Nehru Planetarium that provide space for leisure and entertainment. It's also close to the new Coastal Road, which provides easy access to other parts of the city. Property prices have touched Rs 1,72,210 per square foot here, second highest in India.

**3**



**PRABHADEVI,  
MUMBAI  
400025**

**PROMINENT  
RESIDENTS:** Actors  
Deepika Padukone  
and Ranveer Singh

**₹1.21 CRORE**  
Cost of space to park  
a Tata Punch

**₹1,68,352 PER SQ-FT**

With peak property prices touching Rs 1,68,352 per square foot, Prabhadevi stands out as one of India's most expensive locales. Overlooking the Arabian Sea, it has some prime waterfront real estate. Additionally, its famous Shree Siddhivinayak Temple adds cultural and spiritual value. Prabhadevi's strategic location amid bustling commercial hubs and affluent neighbourhoods also cements its status as a prestigious address. And as more businesses and residences are built here, property values keep rising.

# 10 PIN CODES FOR NEW INDIA'S MOGULS AND NOBLES

Chandni Chowk, also known as Delhi 6 (pin code 110006), was the most sought-after address in Mughal times. Where do India's rich and famous covet a home today? Here's a list of the top 10 real estate locations in India, by price

Nauzer.Bharucha@timesgroup.com

You can live comfortably on Rs 2 lakh a month almost anywhere in India. But on Mumbai's Altamount Road it won't buy you standing room. A square foot of floor area in a flat — less than your shoulder width — currently costs Rs 1,95,503 there, making it India's costliest real estate. If you can buy a house on Altamount Road you are a likely fit for the Forbes list, like billionaire Mukesh Ambani whose towering 'Antilia' mansion is the Road's most famous signpost.

Other major Indian cities also have neighbourhoods where a home signifies you have arrived. These select postal codes are shorthand for affluence and influence, luxury and privilege. TOI in association with Lias Foras, a real estate research and data analytics company, analysed 5,000 elite postal codes in 60 key urban centres nationwide to pinpoint the top 10. We based our findings on prices of new houses and resale properties to determine the maximum price per pin code. Unsurprisingly, all 10 are situated in India's economic and political capitals, respectively, Mumbai and Delhi. We'll also look at the top 10 most-sought-after locations in other metros in the coming weeks.

Photos: Anindya Chattopdhyay, Imtiaz Shaikh, Sanjay Hadkar

**4**



**WORLI SEAFACE,  
MUMBAI  
400030**

**PROMINENT  
RESIDENTS:**  
Industrialists Isha  
Mukesh Ambani &  
husband Anand  
Piramal, actors Riteish  
Deshmukh & wife  
Genelia D'Souza

**₹1.11 CRORE**  
Cost of space to park  
a Tata Punch

**₹1,55,087 PER SQ-FT**

Located near south Mumbai, Worli Seaface is a residential and commercial hub known for skyrocketing property prices. While a 17th-century fort bears testimony to its strategic importance in colonial days, Worli Sea Link, which takes off here and connects the suburb of Bandra, symbolises the area's current importance. The sea link is a marvel of engineering that saves travel time. Residents and visitors are also drawn to Worli Seaface Garden, a picturesque waterfront park.

**5**



**NEPEAN SEA  
ROAD/MALABAR  
HILL, MUMBAI  
400006**

**PROMINENT  
RESIDENTS:**  
Industrialists Adi  
Godrej, Sajjan Jindal,  
Anand Mahindra

**₹1.07 CRORE**  
Cost of space to park  
a Tata Punch

**₹1,48,882 PER SQ-FT**

Pin code 400006 in south Mumbai encompasses the wealthy Malabar Hill region, known for opulent residences and breathtaking views of Arabian Sea. Banganga along Walkeshwar Road is a historical landmark and proof of the area's rich cultural heritage. You also find Hanging Gardens atop Malabar Hill, offering panoramic vistas, and Kamala Nehru Park adjacent to it. Altogether, Nepean Sea Road is India's fifth priciest address now with rates touching Rs 1,48,882 per square foot.

**6**



**PALI HILL/  
BANDSTAND/  
CARTER RD,  
MUMBAI  
400050**

**PROMINENT  
RESIDENTS:** Actors Shah  
Rukh Khan, Salman Khan,  
Aamir Khan & John  
Abraham, former L&T  
chairman AM Naik

**₹1.05 CRORE**  
Cost of space to park  
a Tata Punch

**₹1,46,198 PER SQ-FT**

Pali Hill is part of Mumbai's Bandra suburb — pin code 400050 — that was a fishing village once. Now, it is one of India's wealthiest neighbourhoods with property prices touching Rs 1,46,198 per square foot. Among its attractions are the scenic Bandra Bandstand and Carter Road promenades, Bandra Fort and Basilica of Our Lady of the Mount, a prominent Catholic church. Worli Sea Link provides not only quick access to south Mumbai but also breathtaking vistas of Mumbai's skyline. Western Expressway also makes travelling to and from other parts of the city easy.

**7**



**JUHU, MUMBAI  
400049**

**PROMINENT  
RESIDENTS:** Actors  
Amitabh Bachchan and  
Akshay Kumar, and  
filmmaker Sanjay Leela  
Bhansali

**₹1 CRORE**  
Cost of space to park  
a Tata Punch

**₹1,39,784 PER SQ-FT**

This upscale neighbourhood is the vibrant heart of suburban Mumbai that used to be known for serene beaches and verdant landscapes. Many Bollywood titans, including Kishore Kumar, Yash Chopra and Amitabh Bachchan, made it their home, something that attracts fans and tourists by the thousands. There's also Juhu Airport — a hub for private aviation — that's used by affluent residents. As Juhu is also fairly close to the Mumbai airport, jet-setters want a slice of it.

**8**



**JOR BAGH,  
NEW DELHI  
110003**

**PROMINENT  
RESIDENTS:** Nandas  
of Escorts Group

**₹0.96 CRORE**  
Cost of space to park  
a Tata Punch

**₹1,33,333 PER SQ-FT**

Buying property in Delhi's upscale Jor Bagh will cost you Rs 1,33,333 per square foot. The charm of Delhi's poshest neighbourhood lies equally in its surrounding attractions, such as Golf Links, Khan Market and Lodi Garden. Neither is it too far from the seat of power in India's capital that houses important govt buildings like Parliament and the various Union ministries. That's why influential people who value convenience and status make it their home.

**9**



**CHANAKYAPURI,  
NEW DELHI  
110021**

**PROMINENT  
RESIDENTS:** Torrent  
Power has a bungalow  
on Dharam Marg

**₹0.91 CRORE**  
Cost of space to park  
a Tata Punch

**₹1,27,407 PER SQ-FT**

This is where the embassies are in Delhi, and property prices can touch Rs 1,27,407 per square foot, making it the ninth priciest neighbourhood in India. For nature enthusiasts it has Nehru Park, and the South of Central Ridge Forest is not far. Knowledge seekers flock to the new Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya and National Rail Museum, while heritage buffs can visit Safdarjung's Tomb and Lodi Garden nearby.

**10**



**GAMDEVI,  
MUMBAI  
400007**

**PROMINENT  
RESIDENTS:** Lawyer  
Zia Mody, fitness  
guru Nawaz Modi  
Singhania

**₹0.89 CRORE**  
Cost of space to park  
a Tata Punch

**₹1,25,000 PER SQ-FT**

With property prices that can climb up to Rs 1,25,000 per square foot, Gamdevi counts among India's top wealthiest neighbourhoods, but this leafy locale is also rich heritage-wise. Mani Bhavan here was the Mumbai home of Mahatma Gandhi from 1917 to 1934, and it's been made into a museum commemorating his life. Marine Drive Beach, known as Queen's Necklace for its shimmering lights resembling a necklace, falls under this pin code. There's August Kranti Maidan, where Quit India Movement started in 1942. With its blend of heritage and modernity, this pin code mirrors Mumbai's dynamic character.

## INQUIZITIVE

by JOY BHATTACHARJYA

- Which Asian country's time zone is exactly 15 minutes ahead of India?
- If the tiger and the lion are the two largest big cats, which is the third largest by size and weight, with the scientific name *Panthera Onca*?

- Which noted Indian personality invited the first judo or ju-jitsu teacher Jinnosuke Sano to India to teach his students martial arts?
- Longer than shorts, but shorter than trousers, which item of clothing was first introduced by **Sonja de Lennart** and Bunny Roger in 1948 and named after an Italian island in which they were very popular?
- What change was made in the US flag in 1959 from the version that had been in use since 1912?



Sahana Gupta

- Which vegetable, originally from Central Asia, was purple or yellow in colour, but is now mostly seen in a specific colour as a result of crossing yellow and white varieties?
- Which critically acclaimed Hindi film is set between 2 and 6 pm on a single day and involves an interaction between a certain Prakash Rathore and an unnamed person?

- LIV, backed by the sovereign wealth fund of Saudi Arabia, is the name for a professional men's tour in which sport?
- Which particular type of tradespersons or skilled workers get their name from a variety of metal originally used in pipes in Rome?
- 'Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood' is an autobiographical account of which famous media personality who has also hosted Grammy Awards?

## ANSWERS

- Nepal
- Jaquar
- Rabindranath Tagore
- Capri, from Capri Pants
- 2 more stars were added for the two new states of Hawaii and Alaska
- Carrot (orange)
- A Wednesday (by Neeraj Pandey)
- Golf
- Plumber, from the Latin word for Lead
- Trevor Noah

Himanshi.Dhawan@timesgroup.com

## Milord, lawyers are going back to cram school

As July 1 deadline looms for three new criminal laws, even experienced advocates and profs are reliving their law school swotting days

It has been a hard summer for lawyers, and it's not just the weather to blame. Instead of heading off to colonial-era hill stations for a month-long holiday, they have been forced to spend hours unlearning colonial-era laws.

From July 1, three new criminal laws — Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam — will replace the Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act respectively. So not only is it a fond goodbye to sections like 'char or bees' (for cheating) but a painful one at that. Those feeling nostalgic can

### SANJAY HEGDE, SENIOR ADVOCATE

If police are unaware or unsure of what provisions to apply, defence lawyers will get a huge advantage in demolishing the case

perhaps turn to old courtroom scenes in Hindi movies where milord handed out 'daffas' under IPC.

Criminal lawyers, however, have been busy downloading cheat sheets, signing up for online familiarisation courses and mugging the new laws. Booklets for the new acts are flying off the shelves.

Delhi Bar Association president Nitin Ahlawat says it is back to school for lawyers and predicts a difficult few months ahead. "So many things have changed. If there is a case of forgery, it would have taken only a quick glance for an experienced lawyer to assess the case. The provisions, punishment and past judgments are top of their mind. Now, not only have

the provision numbers and language of the law changed, punishment could have been altered too," he says.

As litigators are wont to do, they have already litigated. A petition by Vishal Tiwari, a lawyer who approached the Supreme Court asking for an expert committee to examine and assess the validity of the three laws before they are enforced, was dismissed. In January, Madras high court judge N Anand Venkatesh declared that as he did not know Hindi, he would continue to call them by their original English names.

Lawyers can't take such liberties. The life mantra for a practising advocate, as one X handle says: 'draft, file, plead, repeat' has an added step of 'cram'. As for law students, they now have two sets of codes to learn, and teachers are mourning the loss of the familiar. "The syllabus has been revamped and we have to incorporate changes in our classes. It has meant a complete systemic overhaul," a law professor says.

Lawyers have already issued warning videos on the enhanced punishment of 10 years if a man is in a live-in relationship and has reneged on his promise to marry, also on hit-and-run cases where

again the law has become stricter.

But jokes apart, lawyers, judicial officers, police and courts are worried about impending chaos. Opposition leaders like Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin and West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee have written to the Centre, asking for the laws to be deferred, as has Congress.

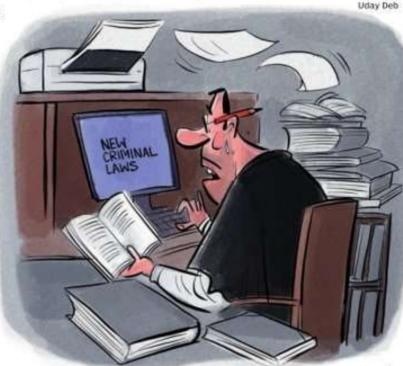
Senior advocate and Lawyers' Collective founder Indira Jaising warned that the move may lead to rise in pendency and two systems of laws running concurrently. The new laws are only applicable for crimes committed from July 1, 12:01 am and the older cases will continue to be argued and adjudicated under IPC and CrPC for another 20 years as that is the av-

erage lifespan of a case. "In effect, we will be having two parallel criminal justice systems for the foreseeable future, which can range from 20-30 years," she wrote in a letter to the Centre.

Supreme Court lawyer Sanjay Hegde, who often handles civil rights cases, says the success of any criminal case is how it is handled at the police station where the correct criminal provisions are decided. "If people at the thana level are unaware or unsure

of which provisions to add, defence lawyers will have a huge advantage in demolishing the case," he says.

While BNSS encourages transition to a digital court infrastructure, some warn that it's not going to be smooth. Lawyer Jhuma Sen feels there is an over reliance on technology. "Every step of criminal justice administration — from registering FIR to recording of evidence to delivering judgments — has been digitised. While digitisation is a noble idea, what happens to a significant chunk of the litigating public who are outside the digital world, what happens to data that is collected through this method (like e-FIRs) and legitimate concerns for privacy?"



Uday Deb

## Solve this puzzle: 50 yrs later, Rubik's Cube still has youngsters hooked

Shruti.Sonal@timesgroup.com

In 1974, former US president Richard Nixon found himself knee-deep in the stormy waves of the Watergate scandal. India conducted its first nuclear test in the dusty terrains of Pokhran. Author Stephen King published his debut horror novel. And a rather reclusive Hungarian professor changed the world of puzzles forever with a 3x3 invention made with wood and held together with glue and rubber bands.

Not even Erno Rubik himself could have anticipated that 50 years on, the puzzle would still be a best-selling toy instead of a passing fad. In India too, the cube has a legion of new fans. Even in the age of Minecraft and Grand Theft Auto, the twisty 3D toy engrosses youngsters who find a sense of community and calm in it. Parents and teachers too encourage it as they see it as a way of cutting screen time.

Few could have imagined that the clicking of cubes could turn into a career. Delhi-based Aryan Chhabra, who holds the national record for solving a single 3x3 cube in 4.81 seconds, is one of many coaches. He first started getting online messages to tutor kids during the pandemic. The momentum endured, and he has coached nearly 200 students, directly and through partnerships with puzzle companies. "Not everyone wants to become a speedcuber but they do want to improve." The 21-year-old engineering graduate adds that compared to when he started in 2015, cubers participating in events today are younger (six to twelve age group). Innovations such as the introduction of magnetic cubes in 2016, which added stability to the puzzles, allowed cubers to significantly improve their speeds. Young competitive puzzlers also rely on algorithms, YouTube gurus (available in Indian languages too) and professional



TRICKS OF THE TRADE: Delhi's Aryan Chhabra is one of a new breed of cubing coaches who mentor young aspirants via personalised classes

coaches if they can afford it.

California-based children's author Kerry Aradhy, who recently published 'Erno Rubik and His Magic Cube', says one reason for its popularity is because it's such a tactile experience. "There's something special about being able to hold an object and manipulate it in your hands, which you can't do on your phone or on a computer. It's also engaging for people of all ages, including those who may be too young or too old to be online or those who don't have access to the digital world," she says. A couple of years ago, a video of a tribal boy from Arunachal solving the cube in less than a min-

ute, with his eyes shut, went viral.

In the competitive segment, things have steadily picked up pace in the country. According to the World Cubing Association (WCA) website, the first official competitions in India were held in 2008. That number reached 72 last year, and 49 have already been held in 2024. In cities like Chennai and Delhi, cubing communities have

emerged too, which not only hold competitions across schools and colleges, but also workshops and mentoring sessions.

Newer formats are emerging. For instance, blindfold cubing is quite a rage, as is mirror cubing that involves participants solving the puzzle while looking into the mirror. Cubes themselves are going beyond the 3x3 imagination: now there are 12x12 formations, or those that come in different shapes such as pyramids and hexagons. Like phones and watches, there are 'smart' cubes available too, that can be connected to a phone via bluetooth, and allow users to play on apps and compete with others.

Saiyam Jain, who solves the 3x3 blindfolded, says despite the innovations and change in formats, one thing remains key: learning mathematical algorithms. Jain, who recalls getting terrible marks in maths in class 10, says things changed when he discovered cubing. For one, trigonometry became less daunting. "It's not necessary to be good at math to learn cubing, but it certainly helps you get better at it," Jain, 27, says. Armed with PDFs of manuals and later YouTube videos, he taught himself cubing and then decided to take things up a notch. "Solving it blindfolded was a real challenge: I had to memorise all the sides of the cubes, the colours and the placements. Then, I had to apply the algorithms." An introvert in school, he has come out of his shell, mentoring others and founding the 'Speedcubing Delhi' community.

For some, it's gone from hobby to business. Realising the lack of good quality cubes in the market, IIT-Bombay graduates Jainendra Jain and Nitesh

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New TESTS: Saiyam Jain solves cubes blindfolded

The more practical question, she says, is whether there has been any official audit of the digital infrastructure of trial courts. "Most courts do not even have air conditioning and in peak summer, we have already seen court work being disrupted by power cuts or extreme heat. Official data will also show that trial courts are understaffed and overworked. Who will implement and assist in the smooth functioning of the digital ecosystem given the overworked court machinery?"

Prof KVK Santhy, who has been teaching criminal law at Hyderabad's Nalsar University for 24 years, says there are grey areas in the new laws that need to be addressed. For instance, in the new BNSS, an FIR can be filed by email or through audio-video means but requires the complainant to visit the police station in three days to sign the FIR. "What if the person is unable to do so? The police department will have to introduce protocols," she says.

Santhy also adds that there have been deletions like section 377 with no corresponding provision to address the crime of sexual assault against an adult male.

But there have been attempts to catch up. National Law University assistant professor and co-director for the Centre for Criminal Justice Administration and Human Rights Neeraj Tiwari has conducted training workshops in a dozen states. "Infrastructure, human resources, training and skill development are some key areas in which focus is needed. The government is creating forensic infrastructure to meet one of the key requirements in the BNSS, i.e. visit of forensic experts to the crime scene. Central and various state govts are also working towards procuring devices for the mandatory videography of the crime scene and forensic experts are being recruited," he says.

### NEW TAKES ON THE CLASSIC

> Megaminx Speed Cube typically has 12 different colours, with 11 pieces in a star-pattern, five corner pieces and a fixed centrepiece.

> Square-1 has kite-shaped corners and triangular edges. Therefore, the corners can be swapped with the edges

> Rubik's Phantom is printed with thermochromic ink that appears all black until the heat from your hands activates the colours, while Rubik's Impossible has iridescent tiles that change colour when viewed from different angles

Deshmukh decided to start Cubeleo in their final semester. "There were no online retailers for Rubik's Cubes in India, and my friends had to bring me imported cubes from Hong Kong," says Jain. They started by selling imported cubes before shifting to local manufacturing.

However, cubing is still largely a boys club. Nearly all of the participants in competitions, Jain admits, are male. Mumbai-based Somya Srivastava, who has been speedcubing since 2013, is determined to change things. The marketing professional became India's first female WCA delegate six years ago and has conducted several workshops to promote female participation. "The ratio is still very low compared to other countries. But I have had many female cubers come up to me and say that I inspired them," Srivastava says.

Doesn't she get bored of solving it over and over again? Srivastava says it is a source of constant intrigue. "There are so many ways to solve it. You can also do it anywhere: standing in a queue, on the train or cab. If you are not able to solve it, you try again. If you're able to solve it, you do it differently next time."

## Attention pliss! Let's dance to the tunes of a different Melodi

A severed digit in a cup of ice cream took over my morning. Let me clarify that I am not into cannibalism. It was a wormhole I fell into after reading about a doctor from Malad who found the offending finger in his dessert. I spent half an hour googling 'body parts found in food' like I was ACP Pradyuman's sidekick. I even discovered a baker in Thailand who bakes bread in the form of severed heads and torsos, and I am happy to share his details if during your next visit, along with a happy ending, you want to partake in a doughy unhappy one.

It is not an anomaly to lose time in this manner, where five-minute breaks inadvertently stretch to forty-five due to the delights of the virtual world. While we are aware of noteworthy battles like knights against dragons, priests armed with holy water exorcising demons, and Zelenskyy and Putin's endless bouts, we remain unaware of our ongoing daily war with our phones. Research shows that we touch or check our phones more than 2,000 times and, on average, spend more than three hours staring at them daily. German neuroscientist Manfred Spitzer coined the term 'digital dementia' to describe changes in cognition due to overuse of technology. These include problems with short-term memory where we quickly forget things, have difficulty recalling words and trouble multitasking. I am not the only one who sees a dip on days when I have allowed myself too much scrolling time, and my overwhelmed mind, like poor Joe Biden, starts wandering off in the middle of important events.

Recently, the US surgeon general called for tobacco-style warning labels on social media to alert users that the platforms can harm children's mental health. He stated that it was not a failure of willpower and parenting that allowed the overconsumption of social media but the consequence of unleashing powerful technology without adequate safety measures. I wanted to read the entire article, but I gave up after reading the first two lines and skimming the next paragraph. After all, in the last 20 years, the average attention span has decreased from 2.5 minutes to about 45 seconds.

Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella states that the true scarce commodity will soon be human attention. Attention is what we give to the things we love or need for survival, like our family, work, friends, and health. Isn't it strange that not only are we allowing this hijacking of our attention but, like victims of Stockholm syndrome, we almost seem to prefer the iridescent, unsubstantial soap bubbles of the digital world over the magnificent reality around us?

Early this week, my younger one was playing in the school concert. I took my seat, and already bored, I pulled out my phone and automatically started obeying the god of minor distractions. Then, the timer I have recently started using to curb my screen time kicked in, and I had to put my phone away. The concert was in a Notting Hill church. While walking in, I noticed perfunctory details like its high ceiling and the central aisle. Now, I stared at the painting of 'The Last Supper behind the altar. I observed the stained-glass windows through which sunlight flickered like a malfunctioning tubelight. I

Mrs. Funnybones



TWINKLE KHANNA

watched the kids holding their violins horizontally and some even upside down. The music rising from the belly of the church to the gallery where I was sitting, euphonious, discordant, imperfectly marvellous, filled cavities inside me that I was unaware existed, like a high tide that floods seawater into sandy depressions.

Arundhati Roy, the celebrated writer who, ironically, may end up in prison for focusing her attention and caring too deeply about the Kashmir issue instead of scrolling through the news about it on Twitter, once said, "There has never been a time in the history of the human race when we have had to process so much information, and it is destroying us." She talked about switching off social media and noticing neighbours, birds and dogs around us instead.

Even mundane activities like a train ride can become a memorable experience if we pay close attention. I spent a large part of a recent journey watching a stranger asleep, his head thudding against the window, mouth agape, liver spots where there once must have been hair. A pot of ready oats and an orange slid on the table towards the passenger



Perhaps, like the way we plan our meals, we will also have to devise diets for the brain. I would advocate some cheat days in this nutritional plan for the mind. We can't completely give up the pleasure of looking at Melodi memes

sitting opposite him, who kept pushing it back like she was playing a game of shuffleboard by herself.

Life has one finite resource — time — which is stored in blocks of attention. In this subversive attack on our very existence, we must find ways to build fortresses where we allow information to flow in and pull up our drawbridge after we fulfil our requirements. Perhaps, like the way we plan our meals, we will also have to devise diets for the brain. I would advocate some cheat days in this nutritional plan for the mind. After all, we can't completely give up the pleasure of looking at memes of two beaming prime ministers with the hashtag Melodi.

Attention can work like a telescope and bring distant objects closer. It is a microscope that takes minuscule elements and makes them bigger. It is a magnifying glass that can take paper and sunlight and create a bonfire. It is the lens of lived experiences, wasted on mere spectatorship.

While I am strictly curtailing myself from any further investigations into the case of the severed finger, it does make me think that in this digital age, losing a finger might cramp your texting style, but it beats losing your mind to endless scrolling.

## Good old softy is back in a gourmet avatar

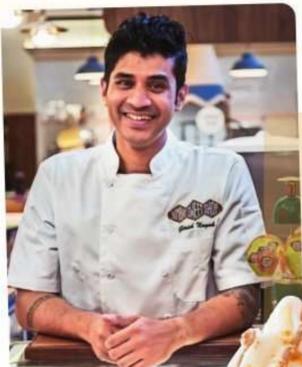
Long before fancy gelatos and sorbets, we had velvety smooth and cheap soft serves. Now, artisanal chef-driven creations are giving this sweet treat a new life

Sneha.Bhura@timesgroup.com

Vanilla ice cream topped with olive oil and sea salt? The internet was recently abuzz with this rather odd-sounding combo endorsed by none other than Dua Lipa, the pop singer who made it to the Time 100 list of the world's most influential people this year. "It's so good, you have to try it!" Lipa said in a BBC Radio1 interview.

Back in Bengaluru, Anurag Arora, a chef who curates fine dining experiences, is already on top of this unexpected food trend. At a food pop-up recently, the chef-curator churned out a vanilla softy made of pure buffalo milk, topped with extra virgin olive oil and a sprinkling of salt. "It's a lovely, light and fluffy combination which just needs discovering. Commercial soft serves are made from a powdered concentrate, but the flavours of this one remind one of whipped cream and a glass of milk," says Arora, who was inspired by Italy's milk-based gelato 'straciatella', often served with olive oil and balsamic vinegar.

While Gen Z-ers associate softies with



American fast food chain McDonald's, most millennials will remember the velvety summer treat pouring out of machines at malls, amusement parks and market nooks

which sold cones for just Rs 5. Bengaluru's iconic Mavalli Tiffin Room (MTR) was a pioneer in importing softy machines and setting up franchised kiosks that became a hit. But now, the soft serve, which is basically semi-solid ice cream with a lot of air, is slowly swirling its way up the gourmet high table in new and more inventive avatars. Arora, for instance, is trying out a malt caramel softy and plans to play with the tangi-

ness of Japanese miso paste. Nostalgia plays a huge part in keeping softy love alive, says Chaitanya Muppala, founder of Hyderabad-based craft chocolate company Manam Chocolate. "We didn't grow up with gelatos or sorbets. But as a nineties kid, the

soft serve was this magical treat which swirled into a cone from a rattling machine. We really wanted to bring it back in a new avatar, especially since it had almost disappeared from the scene." The company started serving the softy from the day it launched operations in August.

Their prized serve is the creamy Chakkarakali banana, an Andhra variety that is brought in from farms. To cut the sweetness, it is paired with 60% dark chocolate and topped with freeze-dried raspberries. "It's so popular that we play Russian roulette with it. Our customers don't know if it will be there every day, so they are forced to keep coming in to check," says Muppala. Other seasonal delights on the menu are a creamy mango softy serve with fresh Himayat and Pedda Rasalu mangoes served in whole wheat waffle cones and millet cups. Toppings include almond batons, Kashmiri walnuts, mango-ginger pâte de fruits, caramelized pecans and cacao nibs.

"Our taps have single origin milk and dark chocolate for the softy to be dunked into," adds Muppala. They are launching an avocado softy serve soon.

The Bombay Sweet Shop applies its 'modern mithais' ethos to the soft serves that have been its mainstay right from the first outlet in Byculla, Mumbai.

Think rasmalai soft serve made with mini rasmalais; black sesame soft serve inspired by winter gajak; and even a rabri soft serve with jalebi.

"I remembered seeing kulfi hand-churned in Lucknow and Kanpur. As the soft-serve machine mimics traditional hand churning, we started having fun with our soft serve flavours," says chef and 'chief mithaiwala' Girish Nayak. Their nolen gur softy serve has palm jaggery and mishti doi served with tiny balls of nolen gur rasgulla. There's also a rose and watermelon one inspired by Mohabbat Ka Sharbat from the thelas of Old Delhi, and a Pallonji soda-inspired raspberry one. For Holi and Ganesh Chaturthi, they have the thandai softy serve (with rabri and pistachios, topped with gulkand) and the puran poli softy serve (with puran poli crisps and a spiced jaggery sauce).

The 2,000-sq-ft Soft Serve Co. in Alwarpet, Chennai even serves softy inside bambolini and brioche-style donuts, croissants

and fries topped with truffle oil. The ice cream shop started by restaurateur Anuj Rajasekaran two years ago is already getting offers for branches in other cities. "For me, ice cream in Chennai only meant softy throughout childhood. This was long before McDonald's," he says. Rajasekaran has made soft serves out of sorbets and frozen yoghurt, matcha tea with boba pearls, mascarpone and peanut butter.

"But the bestseller is the cereal milk softy serve. Remember the soggy leftovers after you finish a bowl of cereal with milk? That's what it tastes like."

What about dairy-free options? Sarah Nicole Edwards, a certified health coach and plant-based recipe developer, has been curating monthly garden pop-ups of oat milk softy serves at her Bengaluru café Cloves + Copper for a while now. She rents a large softy machine and keeps a make-your-own-sundae format. "A company called Oat Milk gives us powdered oat milk mixed with all-natural sugar and vanilla. Our toppings range from chocolate and jaggery caramel sauce to coconut sugar, strawberry and mango compotes, and homemade granola. It's crazy popular, with long queues," she says.

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Riyaz with Zayd



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# Hope CEO story changes. Want to show that working moms can rise to the top

## CEO, reality show judge, mom — which is the toughest role you play?

I think the toughest role is to do the mix and retain your sanity and make sure that you have enough time for yourself, your mind, body and your own recovery. Individually, each of the roles is tough some days, rewarding some days. But the aggregate is far more rewarding than tough. There's nothing to complain about.

## Most women cut back on work after giving birth, but you have taken on more. How do you manage?

A few things have helped. One, I have tried not to let fear overcome my decisions. From the day you are pregnant, people say so many things like you can't travel and so on. It is easy to get gripped by fear and once that happens, it is a vicious cycle. I have never had all the answers, but I had confidence that I will find answers. Two, I have been privileged and I have also consciously invested in a support system. When I was taking on Shark Tank shortly after I delivered, my mom told me to not give up any growth or any opportunity just because I have a kid. My father used to rarely visit me for prolonged periods, but now if we are travelling, he comes for a week and stays with my son. My husband (Nalin Moniz, Edelweiss chief investment officer-Alternate Equity) has been amazingly supportive too. He handles everything from diaper duty to reading books to feeding Remy. We are an equal household, and it can't work any other way. Women should create a support system and a back-up support system for themselves. You need a team to be able to do this. Lastly, it is important to raise your hand and ask for help. I keep telling women, you don't have to do everything alone. Don't fall for these super wife, super mother ads that keep showing up every Mother's Day. You're not super at everything. Just ask for help.

A mother doesn't need six months of maternity leave from an organisation. She needs five years of flexibility, trust and understanding

A lot of women downsize or quit their career after having a child. Edelweiss Mutual Fund CEO Radhika Gupta has taken on more roles, including that of a Shark Tank judge, since the birth of her son Remy two years ago. She spoke to Neha Bhayana about work-life balance, the importance of me-time for moms and coping with bullying

## You posted that work-life balance is a "beautiful chaos". How do you ensure it stays beautiful and does not become stressful?

Having a sense of gratitude really helps. This is a value that I want to teach my son too. We are fortunate to be born into the country we are in. We are fortunate to live the lives we live. So, if I'm at the club with my son and we are going down a slide, I just feel very happy about it. I'm like this is so cool that I get this time with him while being able to be CEO. Constantly being thankful helps you make the chaos feel beautiful. Constantly finding time for yourself to do things that you like, eat things that you like and rejuvenating yourself also makes the chaos beautiful.

## Do you have a dedicated me-time in your daily schedule?

I don't have a dedicated me-time because I struggle with the idea of doing everything every day. I work in financial markets so there can be a day where market events take over and there will be no me-time or family time. And there may be a day when family takes all the time. So, my days are not perfectly balanced. But if you ask me, on an average is there is any me-time? There absolutely is. I have a strong sense of priorities which I have only sharpened after being a parent. In fact, I write them down. My weekends are either devoted to my son or devoted to refreshing myself. I read books, poetry, sleep and just replenish my body. I'm part of a chief executives group called Young Presidents' Organisation so I go on a few solo trips every year even after becoming a mom. One trip is coming up soon. So, that's also re-energising time.

## Raising kids can be very expensive. How can parents financially prepare to deal with the costs, especially of higher education?

Plan in advance. I think higher education, whether in India or overseas, is crazy expensive. Of course, everybody has different levels of affordability. With my son, we started making a contri-

but for his higher education from both his parents' salary when he was just one or two months old. We have a SIP and a mutual fund portfolio for him. When you plan early, the burden is a lot lighter. You have time to build that equity corpus.

## What's your message for bosses who think a woman with child is less suitable for a job compared to one without a child? How can we break the bias?

It drives me crazy (to think of the bias). I have been very fortunate. I had a boss who, when I was going on maternity leave, told me: "Go, enjoy having your baby. I promise you, motherhood will make you a better leader." So many women tell me they wish they had a boss like that. I genuinely believe that parenthood, not just motherhood, actually makes you a better leader. It teaches you the value of empathy. It teaches you to communicate better. When you have something to go home to, you come back to work refreshed. Effective leaders and effective people at the workplace are not about the hours that they work, it is about the energy they bring to work. I wish people would see that. I have had many women employees. We just hired a mom in

our Mumbai sales team. She has resumed after a few years off and the team says she makes the least excuses about having to tend to her kid, something people assume would happen when they hire a woman with a kid. If I were to take a day off to take care of my kid, I would compensate ten times. A mother doesn't need six months of maternity leave from an organisation. She needs five years of flexibility, trust and understanding.

## We have few women CEOs in our country and even fewer mom CEOs...

Yeah, it's unfortunate. When I was pregnant, I was on a hunt for pregnant CEOs, and I didn't find any examples. I think one hears of some pregnant entrepreneurs though. As an entrepreneur, at least you have a little more control over your schedule. As CEO, you have a lot of external accountability. I hope the mom CEO story changes. I hope people are more open to talking about how work and family can go together. One of the reasons I write about this on social media is because I want to show that it's possible. So many girls approach me at airports and tell me that they read my post about getting back to work or saw me go down the slide with my son. I'm just embracing the fact that it's okay, that you can be a well-performing CEO and also a mother

without feeling guilty about it. I really hope more stories are shared because, believe me, a lot of women in their late 20s and 30s feel that it's not possible.

## Working moms are always asked how they juggle career and child. Men are rarely asked this question. Please share your views on this dichotomy.

It's hilarious. You know, I have always detested the word mother-toddler classes. When we enrolled my son for parent-toddler at play school, my husband went to as many, if not more, sessions than I did. People also assume there are only mothers on school WhatsApp groups. On one such group, my husband was the only father and then someone said something and later apologised to him. In fact, it's funny that when a father today becomes a little involved, everyone's like, "Wow, he's such a hands-on father." I've rarely heard anyone ask a woman if she is a hands-on mother? If you're not a hands-on mother, people will think you're a bad mother. When young women approach me, they don't ask me for career advice. The most common question is: "What kind of guy should I marry?" I really believe one should marry someone who promises to be an equal partner in parenting.

There was a particular school where we were going to apply for our son's admission. We learnt that they only entertain moms and that dads are like persona non grata. That did not work for us. We want to raise our son with the right values around gender equality. My son sits in my cupboard when I get ready. He sees mama is wearing a sari and going to the office and papa is going to office too. He knows both of us have meetings. These days he has this new fascination for sitting at the laptop and saying, "Remy's in a meeting."

## You were born with a broken neck and faced a lot of bullying growing up because of your neck tilt. Children can be insensitive, often unknowingly, to someone who looks different. How can

## parents raise their children to be kind and respect differences?

This is going to be something I have to learn, but I think we just have to raise kids to not be mean people. I do believe society is getting a lot meaner and social media is making us meaner. Raising your child in a community that is diverse is important. For instance, my son plays with everyone around, including all the help. Raising someone to respect a diverse set of people (socio-economically, professionally, culturally) is important. We are a multicultural family. My husband and I celebrate both Diwali and Christmas. Just raising your child in an environment of differences should, hopefully, make them less judgmental and more accepting of differences. It's really sad. My son was a plump boy when he was born. So, already they start talking about how this one's too thin, this one's too fat. I'm like please let them be. Kids can be chubby, they can be thin, it doesn't matter. Don't rate them in percentile and thin and fat. We have to

I am a believer in planning. We have a SIP and a mutual fund portfolio for our two-year-old. Both of us started making a contribution for his higher education from our salaries when he was just one or two months old

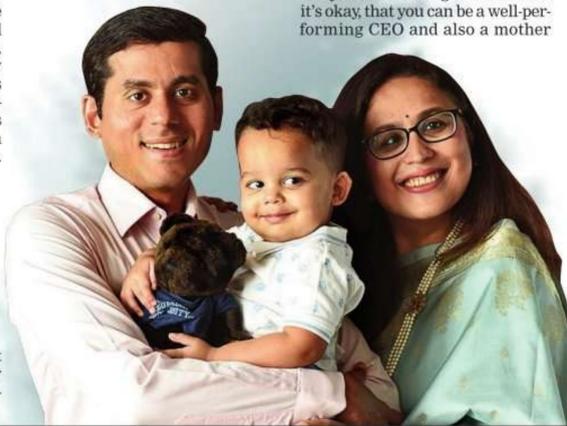
was on a group for school admissions recently and I realised I was getting stressed because people are so stressed about school admissions in Mumbai. One day I called my mother and asked whether I was a bad mother. She said, "No, you are not a bad mother. I didn't send you to school till you were five years old and you turned out to be a CEO. So, it's all good."

As a parent, I'm trying to control the urge to put pressure on my son. Some of it is natural but I don't want to. Moreover, I keep telling kids — I talk to a lot of them — to remember that nothing in life is the end of the world. If one door closes, a lot of other doors can open. You have to have the energy to look around you and see those other doors and try opening those doors. Those doors may be perfectly good doors. Lastly, one of the scariest things I've seen very closely is to push children down a particular domain, particularly engineering. I have been an engineer and I know not everyone's cut out for it. I think in today's India if your child wants to be a really successful YouTuber, chef, business person or an actor, they can do all four. So, it's important for parents to have an open mind and realise that non-traditional careers can make people very successful and happy too.

## You've said that today's youth are depressed because they're trying to look cool on Instagram. How can we teach our kids to keep it real?

Instagram is not reality. I am not saying that you have to quit social media. I am a big proponent of social media. People know me because of social media and I get a lot of love on those platforms and it's great for business too. It is fine for kids to be on social media in this digital age, but there has to be a balance between the life we live in the online and offline world. We need to strike the right balance. We have to make our children spend time in the offline world. I met Javed Akhtar recently and he told me that someone asked him why today's kids don't read as much and why they don't enjoy literature. He pointed out that the conversations we have at home are either about business or Netflix. How many times do we talk about how many novels we have read or the last concert we attended? Children learn by osmosis. Giving a picture of the real world is important. Since my son was three months old, my husband has been reading books to him. Now, the little guy comes to us every night and says, "book, book, read book". It's a routine. I also send my son down to play every day.

scious cycle. I have never had all the answers, but I had confidence that I will find answers. Two, I have been privileged and I have also consciously invested in a support system. When I was taking on Shark Tank shortly after I delivered, my mom told me to not give up any growth or any opportunity just because I have a kid. My father used to rarely visit me for prolonged periods, but now if we are travelling, he comes for a week and stays with my son. My husband (Nalin Moniz, Edelweiss chief investment officer-Alternate Equity) has been amazingly supportive too. He handles everything from diaper duty to reading books to feeding Remy. We are an equal household, and it can't work any other way. Women should create a support system and a back-up support system for themselves. You need a team to be able to do this. Lastly, it is important to raise your hand and ask for help. I keep telling women, you don't have to do everything alone. Don't fall for these super wife, super mother ads that keep showing up every Mother's Day. You're not super at everything. Just ask for help.



# These doodle daddies draw on their parenting journey

The memorable 'Dennis the Menace' was inspired by creator Henry Ketcham's little boy. Like him, several Indian artists and animators are spinning their kids' cute capers and missteps into sketches and comic strips

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If Henry King Ketcham hadn't thought of turning his four-year-old son's wondrous capers into a cartoon strip back in 1950 — despite his wife's declaration, "Your son is a menace!" — generations of kids would have been bereft of the sheer magic of 'Dennis the Menace'. Like him, several comic artists around the world have turned to their parenting journeys for inspiration. In India too, new-age artist dads are creating web comic series and sketches out of their more hands-on parenting struggles and joys.

It's a great way to build special bonds, says Mumbai-based animation filmmaker Sangram Borse who started his comic series 'Ruhi and her Gigi' on Instagram while on a trip away from his six-month-old daughter. "I was missing Ruhi and drew a comic for her. Then I thought, why not make it a series? These are Ruhi's adventures with her very first toy, 'Gigi'. It's the perfect way to capture our precious moments together, giving her a cherished keepsake to look back on as she grows up," says Borse, co-founder of Regh Animation Studios who has worked with Disney TV and Warner Bros.

Ruhi is now three, but every week, Borse sketches a new comic on lived experiences with his daughter such as their first bike ride together or even the endless sleepless nights she's given them when she was a baby. He plans to turn them into an animated series eventually. "Drawing needs a lot of patience and daily practice, much like striving to be a better father. I improve at both little by little every day," he says.

Vivekananda Roy Ghatak, Bengaluru-based work-from-home dad and chief creative officer at Bakarmax animation studios, has launched a weekly comic series on Instagram called 'Orin the Parent Tamer' which he plans to turn into a graphic novel. These are tongue-in-cheek snippets about his nine-year-old son Orinjoy's shenanigans. Orin calls his dad Kokobaba and was four or five when Ghatak started these comics.

"The stories are based on actual incidents creatively re-told for a comic format where, more often than not, Orin has the last laugh. In the stories, you will find the many 21st century parenting strategies we have tried (note: tried) — like 'time-outs', 'consequential reasoning' or using more reason than discipline — without much success," says Ghatak, who has directed over 30 short films for 'Galli Galli Sim Sim', the Indian version of American TV educational show for kids 'Sesame Street'.

Ghatak believes we tend to downplay our own unique and humorous takes on parenting, thinking they won't be relevant for others. "But with people messaging for these stories every week, I realised parenting and childhood are universal themes everyone will relate to. The series is a great way of documenting Orin's childhood rather than millions of pictures and videos we keep taking blindly," he says.

IIT Hyderabad design professor Delwyn Jude Remedios is an ardent admirer of Calvin and Hobbes, the 1985 comic strip by Bill Watterson about a six-year-old boy's adventures with his stuffed



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— VIVEKANANDA ROY GHATAK | CCO, BAKARMAX ANIMATION STUDIOS

tiger that still holds the world in thrall. Remedios' Instagram series, 'Shayne's world', began as a doodle at the office desk eight years ago, when his son was just a year old. "My office had limited stationery, so I grabbed a pencil,

some markers and A4 papers and scribbled how a curious Shayne would open all the house drawers," he recalls. Egged on by family, friends and an overwhelming social media response, sketch books began piling up and soon,

there was a sizeable collection on Shayne's daily adventures. "Once he started talking, the mispronunciations, jokes and questions also increased, and the series turned into a web comic. Till Shayne was seven, I drew them almost daily. In Nov 2023, with my younger son Anit's arrival, the comics began once again. Now it's 'Anit and Shayne's World,'" he says.

The series made Remedios more perceptive to key moments in Shayne's growth. "Children grow up too fast. I get inspired by their simple joys. The comic is a mirror to these moments through the lens of a father," he adds. In a technology-driven world, Remedios is glad to be able to show Shayne the possibilities that a pencil, paper and a little bit of imagination can unfold.

Manpal Setia, dean of Chitkara Design School in Punjab, has a Facebook series titled 'Sandy and Divya stories' that features his extended family of canines as well. "Anhad (now nine) was three months old when I introduced him in the series. Now, he has started communicating with us through drawings, whether it's a sorry card or a compliment. Both of us make cards for our dads on Father's Day," says the proud daddy whose all-time favourite comic is Garfield by Jim Davis.

With more than 300 comic strips, Setia is compiling them into a book. "These comics show we are not just father and son but also have a bro code — teaming up in trouble; making food together; having story sessions; him begging for screen time and me giving him odd jobs instead. It's a never-ending rollercoaster ride!"



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— SANGRAM BORSE | CO-FOUNDER, REGH ANIMATION STUDIOS



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— MANPAL SETIA | DEAN, CHITKARA DESIGN SCHOOL



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## For world-class firms, is India going Korea way?

### SWAMINOMICS

SWAMINATHAN S ANKLESARIA AIYAR

Without any announcement or perhaps even a plan, the govt seems to be creating an Indian version of the Japanese zaibatsu and Korean chaebol — giant conglomerates supported by the state to create national champions that can take on western corporate giants.

The zaibatsu were corporate families that in 1900-1940 converted a once-backward country into a global power that could fight the UK and US in World War II. The zaibatsu were supported by state subsidies and monopolies. They gave kickbacks, leading to charges of crony capitalism. Dismantled by the US occupying forces after WW-II, they re-appeared in new avatars, and spearheaded Japan's industrial rise from 1950 to 1990.

Korea industrialised rapidly from 1960 onwards. As in Japan, govt backed conglomerates called 'chaebol' such as Hyundai, Daewoo, Samsung and Lucky Goldstar Daewoo went bust but the others became world class. They too were called crony capitalists. The chaebol, like the zaibatsu, were successful examples of what is now called 'industrial policy' — govt support through subsidies and other favours to help create national champions.

India appears to be moving in a similar direction. It now has a corporate Big Three — Tata, Ambani, and Adani — well ahead of the rest. The next tier is headed by Kumar Birla, accompanied by Sajjan Jindal (JSW), Sunil Mittal (Bharti Airtel), and Anil Agarwal (Vedanta).

Rahul Gandhi accuses the govt of giving them favours for money. He seems to think one can become a top industrialist by buying favours. No, India is an extremely competitive place where the biggest groups of yesteryear have been laid low despite their historic links with top politicians. Where are Hindustan Motors (CK Birla group), Premier Automobiles (Walchand), JK Synthetics (Singhania sub-group), the Thapars or DCM today? Alas, their historical supremacy was not matched by their ability to compete.

All industrialists make political contributions, lobby for favours, and get some rewards. But without enterprise and high efficiency, they wither in the face of competition engendered by globalisation and new upstarts. In the licence-permit raj till 1989, anybody who got an industrial licence could mint money in monopolistic conditions. Today licences have been abolished and competition has killed many big names of yore.

Rahul Gandhi accuses Anil Ambani of being a beneficiary of crony capitalism, a charge the latter strongly denies, pointing out that the group bagged big projects when UPA was in office. Yet Anil Ambani, who was once on the global rich list, went virtually bust while his brother Mukesh soared sky high. One was competitive and the other was not. Favours did not matter.



**SUNNY OUTLOOK:** A field of solar panels at an Adani energy park. The company wants to be a world leader in renewables while Tata is eyeing the global EV market

Like Japan's zaibatsu or Korea's chaebol, India's Big Three are conglomerates operating in several fields. In the West, the track record of conglomerates is poor. But in developing countries, good management is a scarce resource. Groups that have it can expand successfully into a huge variety of new sectors. Tata is in IT, steel, autos, power, chemicals and electronics. Adani has diversified from ports into power, cement, airports, solar parks and equipment. Rahul Gandhi says he favours. But that alone cannot explain his meteoric rise, just as favours alone did not explain the success of Mitsubishi or Hyundai.

To promote manufacturing, BJP govt launched a production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme. Its big success has been in attracting Apple for cellphones, with Google Pixel likely to follow. But this may not thrill the RSS: it wants national champions, not MNCs. The problem till recently was that Indian companies were good enough for middling technology but lacked the skills and capital to become world class.

That is finally changing. Govt is building on this by helping the top conglomerates to become world-class national champions. In green hydrogen, a cutting-edge area, the govt is backing Reliance Industries and Adani with PLIs to become world leaders. It offers subsidies of up to 70% for chip fabrication (fabs). Tata will launch the first fab in Dholera, Gujarat. Adani plans to be in the entire value chain from solar equipment to solar parks, becoming a world renewable leader. Tata plans to become a world leader in electric vehicles, and Ambani in telecom. Bharti Airtel is already a major telecom operator in Africa.

Defence has been opened to the private sector. Tata is at the forefront of defence aeronautics. A Reliance subsidiary has showcased software for drones and aircraft design. Adani is building a missile plant in Telangana and plans to make drones too.

Adani is India's top port operator. He is instrumental in helping India compete with Chinese port expansion in Asia, by building ports and terminals abroad in Haifa and Colombo.

Space has been opened to private companies including foreign ones. But rather than letting Tesla's Starlink dominate satellite telephony, both Reliance Jio (Ambani) and Bharti Airtel plan to give it competition and will get all the support they need.

China, Korea and Japan have always been admired for creating national champions. Atmanirbhar (self-reliance) is evolving into chaebolisation. Whether it will succeed is an open question. But the attempt seems to be on. ■

## How will cities find a solution if they don't even count heat wave deaths?

Heat waves are becoming deadlier, with India recording over 100 deaths and 40,000 suspected heat stroke cases since March. But these numbers do not tell the whole story, says **Dileep Mavalankar**, the man who played a key role in formulating India's first Heat Action Plan (HAP) for Ahmedabad in 2013. The former director of Indian Institute of Public Health, Gandhinagar talks to **Ketaki Desai** about why govts need to wake up

**■ Tell us about Ahmedabad's HAP. How did it come about?**  
The first step was to analyse temperature and co-relate it with the all-cause mortality data (total number of deaths happening in Ahmedabad every day). In the 2010 heat wave, 800 additional deaths were registered in one week. Ahmedabad usually has 100 all-cause deaths

in May. But that year it was 47 degrees one day, and 310 people died. We looked at 15 years of daily mortality during summer at different temperatures to decide on three threshold points at which mortality and temperature were increasing—41 degrees (yellow alert), 43 degrees (orange alert), and 45 degrees (red alert). There were four major HAP components: early warning and inter-agency coordination; public awareness and community mobilisation; medical and para-medical systems; reducing exposure and long-term actions. After each season, we did a review to see what worked and what didn't. After two-three years of implementation, we found that mortality at peak heat time reduced by 30-40% after the HAP.

**■ More than a decade on, why do only a few Indian cities have HAPs? With historic high temperatures, shouldn't the capital do so?**

If Delhi looked at what's happening to its all-cause mortality, it would wake up to take some serious action. Instead, they are trying to hide data. We've requested for data from Delhi and other cities several times. Cities

like Nagpur, Bhubaneswar, and Surat are doing it. But there is no national mandate, either from the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) or urban development or the health ministries. In the last few years, the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) created an online health reporting system to capture data from hospitals. But we need to do this from cities since not all deaths happen in hospitals, and not all hospitals are reporting. When we looked at five hospitals in Ahmedabad, we saw only around 76 people had died of heat stroke whereas our data showed 800 excess deaths as compared to average mortality of that period.

**■ What do you make of this year's heat stroke and fatality numbers?**

They have given the number of 40,000 heat stroke cases. If there were 110 deaths, that's a mortality rate of about 0.3%. But if you look at heat stroke mortality ordinarily, it's 20-30%. So, either these 40,000 are not really heat stroke cases or the mortality is under-reported. That's why all-cause mortality is the best indicator. If there is no other explanation besides heat (no epidemic or major disaster), then those are likely to be heat-related excess deaths. This also depends on doctors recording the cause of death, which does not always happen. In 1660s London, there was a system developed during the plague to do mortality analysis and print it. If

London could do it 300 years ago, how come Delhi isn't doing it? Public health agencies, national and international, are not insisting, nor is the home ministry which registers the deaths. If a person dies in a smart city and we don't know why, what kind of smart city is it? If you don't accept the problem, how will you find the solution?

**■ What should the govt be doing to better prepare ordinary citizens for extreme weather conditions?**

In March, the IMD website had said a heat wave was coming. After that, I have only seen a few ads from the govt this whole season. If the govt is not advertising, how will people know what to do? We've been breaking heat records every year since 2022. Unless we take action now, it will only get worse. This is a wake-up call.

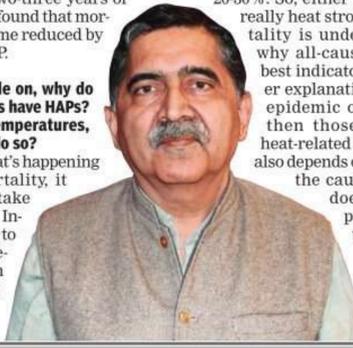
**■ What can other Indian cities learn from the Ahmedabad model?**

A blueprint is ready. What we need is to act immediately to raise awareness among citizens. We had thought heat islands in the city centre only have a 5-6 degree difference but a recent World Bank study in South Africa shows a 16 degree difference between richer and poorer communities. We must do such studies. Besides, each city, state, and country should have a chief heat officer to coordinate all govt and stakeholder action.

**■ In India, heat waves have only highlighted inequalities between the rich and the less privileged. How can such disparities be reduced?**

People who are richer, who can afford ACs and have the luxury of not going to work outside in this heat will be okay. But the more ACs we put, temperatures will rise further. Poor people will be worse off. One suggestion is to have an overall plan and, within it, focus on vulnerable sections. If someone lives in a slum in Delhi and works outdoors, the HAP is not going to change his job or give him money. Ahmedabad has tried something called parametric insurance. If the temperature goes above a certain point for more than 7 days in a season, each person will be paid Rs 2,000 as compensation because they cannot work. Water is the other most important thing; the poor are not getting it in places like Delhi. Modi as CM had developed Gujarat's first climate change department, but not much is happening at the national level.

### FOR THE RECORD



## NET is far from perfect but its cancellation matters more than you think

### BY INVITATION



RITUPARNA PATGIRI

As soon as news spread that the 2024 UGC-NET exam had been cancelled by the ministry of education, affected students, teachers and others started a tweetstorm about how unfair this decision was. The exam was held on June 18 in two shifts, with the afternoon one ending at 6 pm. The very next day at 10 pm, cancellation was announced. In fact, after taking the exams, many complained about the format—multiple choice questions (MCQs) that don't really test teaching and research aptitudes—and framing of questions along with poor infrastructural facilities such as lack of clean toilets and disabled access at centres. There were also complaints about the high registration fee which ranged from Rs 350-1,150 depending on one's location. Little wonder that after bearing with all this, and sitting for exams in the intense heat, there was so much anger among students.

A lot has been already said about the disadvantages of a centralised exam as well as using a MCQ-based test, so I am not dwelling much on those. But in the backdrop of the cancellation, let's unpack what it means for the future of higher education, particularly humanities and social sciences in India.

**PhD admissions delayed:** In March 2024, the National Testing Agency (NTA), which conducts the exam, stated that the NET score would be combined with the marks obtained in the interview for admission to PhD programs. This means that these admissions will be now delayed for institutions that planned to use NET scores. These include JNU, University of Delhi and University of Hyderabad.

**Foreign-degree premium:** Exam cancellation sends a message that the Indian higher education system is untrustworthy. Students will take it as a sign to pursue their PhD degrees outside India, especially in Europe and the US. But this can be done only by a privileged group of people. It is not easy to get admission into a PhD program abroad, especially for those with



**DEGREE OF BIAS:** Many will go abroad for PhD but what of those who can't afford to?

limited access to both money and information.

What this does is create a distinction between those who have a degree from abroad and the ones who pursue a PhD within the country. People with PhD degrees from abroad can be favoured when

it comes to hiring. This distinction already exists, as one can see from the profiles of recent recruits in several private universities. There is a clear preference for those with foreign degrees among private universities, especially 'white degrees'. This particularly affects students from marginalised sections. Clearing the NET exam and pursuing a PhD in India at a public university is the only choice that many have.

**Marriage pressure increases:** There are other associated fallout. The Junior Research Fellowship (JRF)—which students can avail after clearing UGC-NET to fund their PhDs—has an age limit of 30. So this loss of time can affect students' chances of obtaining JRF if they are closer to the age limit. For women candidates, the cancellation has additional ramifications. As a woman enters her twenties in India, there is pressure to get married. Clearing NET and getting into a PhD program is for many a way to delay marriage. Obtaining a JRF ensures financial security and further enables women to negotiate with their families. This is especially true for women from low-income families. Since NET

is the minimum eligibility criterion for getting a teaching position, it also pushes people out of the job market. Cancellation of the exam means further delay in rescheduling, result declaration and disbursement of certificates.

**Setback for humanities and social sciences:** This compromising situation is one more attack on humanities and social sciences—a global trend at the moment. Humanities and social sciences have been hit with fund cuts, closure of departments, job precarity and politicisation of educational spaces. Cancellation of the exam and the heightened uncertainty around it further propagates the view that it is futile to pursue higher degrees in these disciplines.

Like many others, I don't think the NET exam is a good test of one's teaching and research aptitudes. But in a country where selections can be marred by social biases, it at least creates a pretence of objectivity. For the exam itself to be cancelled is not a good sign for the Indian higher educational system. It is a direct blow to student aspirations. ■

Patgiri is a sociologist and teaches at IIT, Guwahati. Views are personal

## Right Melodi: Italian PM marries strategy and selfie diplomacy

### POLITICALLY INCORRECT



SHOBHAA DE

Giorgia Meloni, the 47-year-old first female prime minister of Italy (so much catching up to do with India), was indisputably the prima donna of the recent G7 summit. Dressed in a pink trouser suit, the tough-talking, hard-nosed politician effortlessly held her own with seven men while gamely smiling through photo ops. But what grabbed maximum eyeballs was Meloni's upbeat selfie on Instagram with the special invitee to the 50th summit — our very own Narendra Modi. "Hello from the Melodi team," posted a grinning Giorgia. And a meme fest broke out. Ooh, their chemistry, swooned admirers. Aah, their camaraderie! Ciao, bella!

The obvious bonhomie between the Jodi No 1 is not new. Meloni and Modi had struck a great rapport from the time they first interacted in Delhi, then Dubai. The latest selfie sealed the pact between two strong-willed global leaders. Meloni, who recently got a big boost after her far-right party won European elections in Italy with a whopping 28% of votes, chose to share the spotlight with the newly minted third-time prime minister of a burgeoning democracy. Never mind the lower numbers, Modi is still the bossman. And Italy has serious business to further with India — telecom, critical minerals, AI, defence, and energy. The Indo-Italian strategic partnership cannot be ignored. And the power of digital diplomacy, via the Melodi selfie, was shrewdly harnessed to add heft to the mutually beneficial alliance.

Meloni, who joined active politics at 15, may have been called '4th Most Powerful Woman in the World' by Forbes, and featured on Time magazine's most influential list but her ultra-conservative views have also got her labelled as 'xenophobic' and 'heartless'. Meloni has frequently opposed same sex marriage, euthanasia and favoured a naval blockade to halt immigration. At G7, she had the reference to 'safe and legal' abortion watered down.

Critics have often pointed out the many contradictions between her stated beliefs and personal life. Take her famous quote: "I am Giorgia, I'm a woman, I'm a mother, I'm Italian, I'm Christian." As a mother to a young child whose father (flamboyant journalist Andrea

Giambro) is described as a partner (now an ex-), critics questioned her double standards. Her political party, Brothers of Italy (why not sisters?), won back favour during Covid times thanks to efficient management, despite the uncomfortable neo-fascist undertones of her party's slogan, 'God, Fatherland, Family'. Leading American newspapers like The New York Times have run headlines saying that the 'Far Right wants to take over'. And Meloni is leading the way.

At the moment, however, Meloni is being hailed as kingmaker of the EU and a giant among the G7's political dwarfs. There were also snide references to 'Meloni and the six lame ducks' as, one by one, the other leaders (from Macron to Trudeau) were shown their place in the pecking order. Since her election as Italy's PM in late 2022, Meloni has surprised everyone with her pragmatism. She is also given credit for being a skillful negotiator and a diplomatic strategist par excellence.

Europe is clearly experiencing a 'Meloni Moment' as Fareed Zakaria gushingly declared, while comparing Meloni to Angela Merkel. Hardly a fair comparison. Merkel was 'one of the guys', just smarter. Meloni's body language and style ensure she will never be mistaken for one of the guys. This makes her a major game changer in the European political arena where a not-so-cozy Old Boys' Club has been in operation for the longest time. She, along with France's Marine Le Pen, are leading a rightward swing in the EU

bloc. Meloni has made it clear — she is no decorative prop in Armani suits — she is boss lady.

Her male counterparts are scratching their heads, wondering how to deal with Giorgia. For starters, Rishi Sunak needs to up his muah-muah game! He appeared so gauche when attempting a badly timed second kiss on Giorgia's cheek. The gang of seven this year were beset by their own domestic travails, struggling with shaky economies and dented personal images. As for Meloni, she made it as much 'India's Moment' as hers. And yes, her namaste, which also went viral, was no accident! India is clearly on top of Ms. Meloni's agenda. And all things Italian are on India's priority list as well now that Italy is no longer seen as Sonia Gandhi's personal domain.

Time to remind Giorgia about her old quote: "If I were British, I would be a Tory." Cut to 2024: "And if you were Indian, you would be...?" ■



**CIAO BELLA:** At the G7 summit, Meloni showed that she is no decorative prop in Armani suits, she is boss lady

### INBOX

**Naidu and Nitish Kumar need BJP too**

This refers to 'It's time to...' (ATM, June 16). Although BJP needs Nitish and Naidu as crutches, it is still the single largest party in Lok Sabha. To expect that uncertainties of a coalition government will rock this govt, is to delude oneself. Also, it is advantageous for Nitish and Naidu to continue their support, while getting reciprocal benefits for their states. Having said this, the invincible aura of Modi has been dented. No more 'my way or the highway' now.

—Vijai Pant, Hemptur

**Bipartisanship debate**

Apropos of 'Oppn can learn...' (ATM, June 16), while Swapan Dasgupta is all praise for Patnaik's bipartisan values, he can't expect the same from opposition parties whose primary role is to raise issues of national importance. Their protest against Adani's alleged irregularities, or demand for an enquiry into stock market surge is not partisan behaviour. Bipartisanship should not come at the cost of effective governance and democracy.

—Rakhi Banerjee, Kolkata

**Fix entrance exams**

Suggestions made in 'NEET controversy...' (ATM, June 16) are important. Human resource development will be achieved in a real sense only if we study the way UPSC, GATE exams are conducted. Additionally, the mass level exam pattern of US and China could be analysed and implemented.

—Vishal Banswal, Aurangabad

Email your letters to the editor at [sunday.times@timesgroup.com](mailto:sunday.times@timesgroup.com) with 'Sunday Mailbox' in the subject line. Please mention your name and city

## Heli-buckets and tankers in hills, but the fault is not in our clouds

### BY INVITATION



MOHIT SATYANAND

At 7 am last Saturday, the helicopter was thrumming in the hazy sky, towing its red 'belly bucket' to the Binsar forest. The sorties had begun two days ago, the chopper scooping up water from Bhimtal lake, 45 km to the south, and dumping it on the raging fire in the Binsar sanctuary.

Water is scarce on the Binsar ridge, but even if that were not so, once a forest fire goes out of control, vast tracts of terrain cannot be approached by land. Four forest guards died after the winds picked up pace and engulfed their vehicle. A fifth forest watcher who had 70% burns was airlifted to AIIMS Delhi but passed away in hospital.

A day later, the skies are silent, so presumably the Binsar fire has been put out, but the Kumaon skies are heavy with smoke, the slopes hot and dry, and the hillsides busy with the transport of water. At a roadside hand pump, a knot of villagers looks up at the helicopter and speculates about the amount of water it is carrying.

"Ten thousand litres," one uncle says quite confidently.

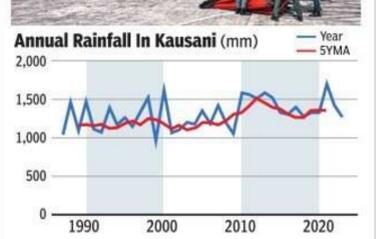
"Ten thousand litres," an army man on home leave echoes that afternoon, when I was having a flat tyre fixed.

"That's a lot of water to carry", I venture.

"It's a huge helicopter, the Mi-17", he replies. It is, but even so, the Mi-17 can't carry more than 4,000 kgs of load, Wikipedia informs me. Allowing for the weight of the pilot and crew, the maximum amount of water it could carry would be about 3,000 kg, which is also 3,000 litres. Burning aviation fuel at the rate of four litres a kilometre, chugging a 100 km for every round trip from Bhimtal to Binsar and back, a helicopter is about the most expensive way to ferry water.

Not that cost should be a major consideration when fighting a raging forest fire. But in the daily life of a hillside, water economics must be upfront. Cycling down to the stream at the bottom of our valley last week, I reckoned that one in every two vehicles I crossed was ferrying water. One was a dedicated tanker being plied by the local govt; the others were pick-up trucks with plastic tanks spilling water as they groaned up the steep, winding road. Most settlements now boast a hand pump, but where homes are more isolated, women and children trudge to the nearest *strot*, or water source, battered plastic cans in hand.

The poor pay for their water with time and effort; the rich, in their second homes, and in the burgeon-



ing concrete cluster of hotels on the ridge, with the price of diesel burnt to bring the water up the hill. There is an irony of physics here: rainwater runs down the hill in the monsoons, some of it getting stored in underground aquifers, but most of it surges down to the plains in the muddy eddies of seasonal streams. But we fail to store it when it falls, even though rainwater harvesting is not exactly rocket science. And when the rains are slow to arrive, as they have been this year, we scurry down the hill, to find the remnants of last year's rainfall in the stagnant pools of the tiny Suyal river; as if it never rained where we lived, as if water originated in the river below, rather than in the skies above.

As a footnote, I know some people might respond by saying that I am not taking drought into account, the possibility that we receive less rain than we did in better times. Well, I checked that, thanks to the daily rainfall data that hobby meteorologist David Hopkins has recorded since 1987, at Kausani, on a ridge to the north of us, but very much in the same meteorological zone. The graph above shows annual rainfall since then, along with a five-year moving average, '5YMA'. Annual rainfall was flat, averaging about 1150 mm a year for about two decades till 2005, then perked up to almost 1500 mm, and is now running at 1350 mm a year.

If we are running short of water on our hillside, the fault is not in our clouds, but in ourselves, that we can invest in marble bathrooms and velvet bedspreads, but not in water storage. ■

Satyanand is an entrepreneur and investor

# Outrage as UK politician says West provoked Ukraine war

## Playing It Into Putin's Hands: Sunak

London: Nigel Farage, leader of Britain's anti-immigration Reform UK party, faced strong criticism Saturday after saying that the West provoked Russia's invasion of Ukraine. In an interview with the BBC on Friday, Farage said "we've provoked this war", while adding that "of course" it was Russian president Vladimir Putin's "fault".

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak told reporters that Farage's claim was "completely wrong and only plays into Putin's hands", likening the comments to "appeasement". Labour leader Keir Starmer, who looks set to take Sunak's job after an election next month, said Farage's comments were "disgraceful". "Anyone who is standing



Anya, daughter of Vladyslav Korniychuk, a Ukrainian serviceman who died in action, mourns on his grave at Lychakiv cemetery on the Day of Mourning and Remembrance of the Victims of War in Lviv on Saturday

for parliament ought to be really clear that Russia is the aggressor", he told reporters on the campaign trail.

Farage — a former European Union parliamentarian who has tried and failed to run for the UK parliament seven times — is seeking a seat from Clacton in east England in a general election next month.

His party is polling third behind the ruling Conservatives and opposition Labour parties, and is predicted to pick up a few seats. A surge of popularity for Reform UK since Farage took over as leader this month risks drawing away votes that the Conservatives sorely need to win a fifth term in power. AFP

## Three killed as Russia targets power facilities

Kyiv: At least three people were killed in a Russian bomb attack on Ukraine's second city, Kharkiv, on Saturday afternoon, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said.

Kremlin forces struck a residential area of Kharkiv with glide bombs, hours after a missile and drone barrage directed at Ukraine's already gridlocked power system. Power grid equipment in the far western Lviv and southeastern Zaporizhzhia regions was hit by Russian air strikes.

Zelensky said Russia had deployed more than 2,400 guided bombs on Ukraine in June, with about 700 used on Kharkiv. He called on Western allies to deliver promised military aid packages without delay. BLOOMBERG, REUTERS

## Probe into 1985 Kanishka bombing remains active & ongoing: Canada

Ottawa: Investigations into the bombing of the Air India Flight 182 remain "active and ongoing", the Canadian police have said, terming it the "longest" and one of the "most complex domestic terrorism" probe, ahead of the deadly bombing's 39th-anniversary memorial.

The Montreal-New Delhi Air India 'Kanishka' Flight 182 exploded 45 minutes before it was to have landed at London's Heathrow Airport on June 23, 1985, killing all 329 on board, most of them Canadians of Indian descent. It was blamed on Sikh militants in retaliation to 'Operation Bluestar' to flush out militants from the Golden Temple in 1984.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police assistant commissioner David Teboul said the impacts of the bombing "have not diminished with time". He said that the trauma it caused has impacted generations. "We must never forget those innocent lives lost to this tragedy and other acts of terrorism," he said. PTI

# Eight from ship that crashed into Baltimore bridge leave for India

Washington: Eight Indian crew members of the cargo ship 'Dali' that crashed into a famed Baltimore bridge in March left for India on Friday after nearly three months on the mammoth vessel. According to Baltimore Maritime Exchange, four of the 21 crew members are still on board the 984-foot cargo ship MV Dali, which is tentatively scheduled to leave Friday evening for Norfolk, Virginia.

The rest of the crew has been moved to a service apartment in Baltimore and will remain there pending an investigation. Notably, 20 of the crew members were Indian nationals. They were on board the MV Dali Cargo, which struck the pillars of Baltimore's Francis Scott Key Bridge resulting in its collapse and the death of six construction workers in the tragic incident. Dali will undergo repair at Norfolk.

The departure of eight Indian crew members including a cook, a fitter and seaman follows a deal approved by the judge. None of these are officers. The rest 13 would remain in the US, mainly because of the pending investigations. "They're anxious, under considerable stress considering they don't know the future.



The collapsed Francis Scott Key Bridge near the cargo terminals of the Port of Baltimore

They don't know when they'll see their family again or how they'll be treated here," Rev Joshua Messick, director of the Baltimore International Seafarers' Center and chaplain for the Port of Baltimore told CNN.

None of the crew members have been charged in connection with the disaster. FBI and other federal agencies are conducting the investigations. PTI

## 39 killed in Israeli strikes across N Gaza

Deir al-Balah (Gaza Strip): At least 39 people were killed by Israeli air strikes across northern Gaza on Saturday, according to Palestinian and hospital officials.

Fadel Naem, director of the al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza City, said more than three dozen bodies arrived at the hospital. The Palestinian Civil Defense, an emergency group active in Gaza, said it pulled approximately the same number of bodies from a building hit by an Israeli strike in an eastern neighbourhood of Gaza City.

Israel said Saturday that its fighter jets struck two Hamas military sites in the Ga-

## An Israeli found dead in West Bank

An Israeli was shot dead in a Palestinian town in the northern West Bank Saturday morning, Israel's army said, while deadly strikes rocked northern Gaza. Israeli forces shot dead two militants in the same West Bank town on Friday. Violence has flared in the West Bank since the Israel-Hamas war erupted. AP

za City area but did not elaborate further. The deaths came a day after at least 25 people were killed in strikes. AP

## Houthi target ship as Eisenhower leaves

Dubai: An attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels targeted a commercial ship travelling through the Gulf of Aden but apparently caused no damage, authorities said Saturday, in the latest strike on the shipping lane by the group.

The Houthi attack comes after the sinking this week of the ship Tutor, which marked what appears to be a new escalation by the Iranian-backed Houthis in their campaign of strikes on ships in the vital maritime corridor over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, US officials reportedly ordered the USS Dwight D Eisenhower, the

aircraft carrier leading America's response to the Houthi attacks, to return home after a twice-extended tour.

The captain of the ship targeted late Friday saw "explosions in the vicinity of the vessel", the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations centre said. A later briefing by the US-overseen Joint Maritime Information Centre said the vessel reported two explosions off its port side and a third one later. "It was not hit and sustained no damage," the centre said. "The vessel and crew are reported to be safe and are proceeding to their next port of call." AP

## US aircraft carrier arrives in S Korea for military drills

Seoul: A nuclear-powered US aircraft carrier, the Theodore Roosevelt, arrived in the South Korean port city of Busan on Saturday to take part in joint military exercises later this month with the host nation and Japan, naval officials said.

The leaders of the three countries agreed at a summit last August to hold annual military training drills as they sought to project unity in the face of China's growing power and nuclear threats from North Korea. This month's drills, called "Freedom Edge", will include maritime, anti-submarine warfare exercises and air defence. REUTERS

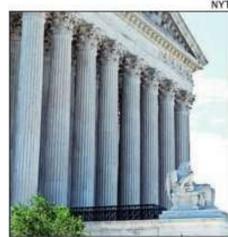
# US top court upholds law that disarms domestic abusers

Washington: The US Supreme Court ruled Friday that the government can take guns away from people subject to restraining orders for domestic violence, limiting the sweep of a blockbuster decision in 2022 that had vastly expanded Second Amendment rights.

Indeed, Friday's decision amounted to a retreat from what had been an unbroken series of major rulings favouring gun rights that started in 2008, when the court first recognized an individual constitutional right to keep firearms in the home for self-defence.

In the 2022 decision, the court established a right to carry guns outside the home and announced a new test to assess all sorts of gun control laws, one that looked to historical practices to judge their constitutionality. That new test has sown confusion in the lower courts, with some judges striking down laws that had been on the books for decades.

The case decided Friday,



Justice Clarence Thomas, author of the majority opinion in the 2022 decision, New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen, was the only dissenter

United States v. Rahimi, asked whether a Texas man could be prosecuted under federal law making it a crime for people subject to domestic violence restraining orders to possess guns. Chief Justice John Roberts, writing for the majority in the 8-1 decision, said the answer was yes and that Second Amendment rights have limits. NYT

# Hindujas 'appalled' by jail term; file appeal

London: Britain's wealthiest family, the Hindujas, have said they are "appalled" by a Swiss court's ruling of jail terms for some members and have filed an appeal in a higher court challenging the verdict finding them guilty of exploiting domestic workers from India employed at their villa in Geneva.

A spokesperson for the affected family members, Kamal and Prakash Hinduja and their son Akash and his wife Namrata — who are all Swiss nationals, pointed out on Saturday that neither of them have been subjected to any "imprisonment, conviction, sentence or detention."

"Per Swiss law procedure, the lower court's judgement is rendered ineffective and inoperative as the presumption of innocence is paramount until and unless a final judgment by the highest adjudicating authority is enforced," the family's spokesperson said.

"It may be noted the case has no complainants left anymore and they had declared in the court that they were led into signing statements that they didn't understand. They had neither intended to nor initiated proceedings. All of them further testified that the four Hinduja family members treated them with 'respect, dignity and like family'," the spokesperson said.

Earlier on Friday, in a statement issued on behalf of the family stressed their clients had been acquitted of all human trafficking charges. They also dismissed media reports that any members of the family faced detention after court reports from Geneva said the four were sentenced to between four and four-and-a-half years in prison. PTI

# Editor opts out of WaPo top job over UK phone tap link

Robert Winnett, the editor selected to run *The Washington Post*, will not take up that position, after reports raised questions about his ties to unethical news gathering practices in Britain.

Winnett will stay at *The Daily Telegraph*, where he is the deputy editor, according to emails sent Friday to employees of the London-based newspaper and to staff members at the *Post*. "I'm pleased to report that Rob Winnett has decided to stay with us," read a message to *Telegraph* employees from the newspaper's top editor, Chris Evans. "As you all know, he's a talented chap

and their loss is our gain."

Will Lewis, CEO of the *Post*, confirmed the news in an email to employees. "It is with regret that I share with you that Robert Winnett has withdrawn from the position of editor at *The Washington Post*," Lewis wrote. "Rob has my greatest respect and is an incredibly talented editor and journalist."

Winnett chose to withdraw himself from the position running the *Post*'s newsroom, according to two people with knowledge of the matter. He did not respond to calls and messages seeking comment.

Last week, *the Times* reported that Lewis and Winnett we-



The Washington Post building in downtown Washington

re said to have used fraudulently obtained records in news articles at *The Sunday Times* newspaper in London. The next day, the *Post* followed up with a 3,000-word investigation into Winnett that tra-

ced his ties to John Ford, a private investigator who acknowledged using unethical methods to obtain exclusives.

Lewis said the *Post* would run a search to fill the role. Past searches have been lengthy, culminating with an interview with Jeff Bezos, the Amazon founder who owns the paper. Winnett's decision to stay in Britain is the latest in a series of convulsions at the *Post*. Early this month, Sally Buzbee, the paper's executive editor, stunned the newsroom by abruptly resigning. That coincided with Lewis announcing a plan to drastically remake the *Post* news-

room, including by installing Winnett as its top editor.

In the weeks since, numerous articles about Winnett and Lewis have raised questions about their journalistic ethics and past conduct. Many journalists at the paper have become skeptical that the pair could lead an institution like the *Post*. Bezos, who has owned the paper for over a decade, has been largely silent on the matter, though he weighed in with an email to senior editors this week reassuring them that the standards at the *Post* would remain high. "That can't change — and it won't," Bezos wrote. NYT

# China, France launch sat to better understand universe

A French-Chinese satellite blasted off Saturday on a hunt for the mightiest explosions in the universe, in a notable example of cooperation between a Western power and the Asian giant.

Developed by engineers from both countries, the Space Variable Objects Monitor (SVOM) is carrying four instruments — two French, two Chinese — that will seek out gamma-ray bursts, the light from which has travelled billions of light years to reach Earth. The 930kg satellite "successfully" took off around 3pm from a space base in



A Long March 2-C rocket lifts off from a space base in Xichang, Sichuan, on Saturday

Xichang, China's National Space Administration said.

Gamma-ray bursts generally occur after the explosion of huge stars — those over 20 times as big as the sun — or the

fusion of compact stars. The extremely bright cosmic beams can give off a blast of energy equivalent to more than a billion billion suns.

Observing them is like "looking back in time, as the light from these objects takes a long time to reach us", Ore Gottlieb, an astrophysicist at the Flatiron Institute's Center for Astrophysics in New York, said. The rays carry traces of the gas clouds and galaxies they pass through on their journey through space — valuable data for better understanding the history and evolution of the universe. AFP

# Starliner's return to Earth delayed again

Nasa said on Friday the Boeing Starliner's return to Earth from the International Space Station, which was scheduled for next week, has been delayed again.

The delay of the rescheduled June 26 return will allow more time for the review of the thruster malfunctions and helium leaks that caused the first delay, it said.

Starliner's first crewed mission to the ISS, which had initially been scheduled to last about eight days, has been extended to a date yet to be determined. The spaceship blasted off from Florida atop

a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket on June 5 following years of delays and safety scares, as well as two aborted launch attempts that came as astronauts were strapped in and ready to go.

"Nasa and Boeing leadership are adjusting the return to Earth of the Starliner Crew Flight Test spacecraft," Nasa said Friday. "The move off Wednesday, June 26, deconflicts Starliner's undocking and landing from a series of planned ISS spacewalks while allowing mission teams time to review propulsion system data," it said. AFP

# First Nigerian set to fly to space for free

Chethan Kumar  
@timesgroup.com

Expensive, risky and elite — that's space travel in a nutshell ever since Yuri Gagarin became the first human to be sent to space 63 years ago. Till now, less than 700 astronauts have reached space altitude and a majority among them have been from just three countries. Even commercial space flights remain exclusive to the few who can afford them.

But not anymore. Giving regular folks from around the world a chance to become astronauts and participate in space science, US-based Space Exploration and Research Agency (SERA) has partnered with Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin to develop what they call "a human spaceflight programme for citizens of all nations". The cost will be borne by SERA, and co-founders Sam Hutchison and Joshua



The Blue Origin NS-22 lift-off in Jan, 2022. US-based SERA has teamed up with Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin to make space flights accessible to regular citizens

Skurla say they might even be tapping talent from India for their programme.

In line with this mission to make space accessible, SERA has just signed an agreement to send the first Nigerian to space. In June 2022, Vic-

tor Hespanha, a 28-year-old civil engineer from Brazil, was selected to travel to space onboard Blue Origin's New Shepard Rocket (NS-22). He was only the second Brazilian astronaut, and soon became a national hero.

SERA had commercially purchased a seat from Blue Origin for Hespanha, but the mission's success has now opened the door to a partnership with Bezos' firm, and launch of a new human spaceflight programme. For their next mission, SERA has reserved six seats on an upcoming launch of New Shepard, Blue Origin's rocket. "We look at New Shepard as a wonderful tool to introduce space travel to people for whom it might feel like a very distant opportunity," Skurla says.

Could an Indian be on their next mission? Skurla says, "One of the things we love about India as a potential partner country is all of its

space infrastructure and activity. India can take a leadership role among others."

Hutchison agrees that India could be a potential partner, which will enable the Indian community to vote in an astronaut. "We realised over 150 countries never had an astronaut. We want to create historical moments and use them to stimulate national conversations about each country's space plans moving forward," he says.

The first phase involves flying citizen astronauts selected by their communities on the New Shepard rocket. Five of the seats will be allocated to partner nations that have either never had an astronaut or had very few. The sixth seat will be open to individuals from any nation.

"We want to stand back and let the community run this mission. If you want to build a space agency, we're providing the tools to allow

that for people globally, especially young people to have a say and stake in this flight," says Hutchison. Unlike traditional government space programmes, SERA is going for open voting to select astronauts from each partner country or region. Minimal physical requirements and astronaut training are needed.

But SERA's ambitions go beyond just flying civilians to space. Their long-term vision is to provide an open platform and resources for communities worldwide to collaborate on early-stage space research, technology development, and even form new space startups.

"We're going to provide the community with programme management tools, risk assessment, budgeting — all that's traditionally used by large aerospace organisations. The idea is to get people collaborating on space missions, with us footing the bill initially," adds Hutchison.

## Three missing in landslide in Swiss Alps

Vienna: Three people were missing on Saturday after massive thunderstorms and rainfall in southeastern Switzerland caused a landslide, authorities said. One woman was pulled out alive after being buried by the landslide in the Alpine valley of Misox in Graubünden. A rescue operation for the three others is ongoing. The landslide hit a group of houses in the municipality of Lostallo. Rescuers have been searching all day Saturday with excavators and specially-trained search dogs. William Kloter from the Swiss police, who is heading the rescue operations, told local media that he was hoping to find the three missing persons alive. AP

## Google Maps deletes AI photos of Austrian landmarks

Google on Saturday deleted from its maps service dozens of images of Austrian landmarks that were altered by environmental activists to highlight the potential impact of climate change. The images, changed using artificial intelligence, showed the river Danube and Austrian lakes dried up and snowless Alpine peaks as though the pictures were taken in the year 2070. They were put on Google Maps this week by the Letzte Generation (Last Generation) group. "Our policies clearly prohibit content that is not based on real experience," a Google spokesperson said. AFP

## AROUND THE WORLD



Members of the Tengger sub-ethnic group gather to present offerings at the crater's edge of the active Mount Bromo volcano as part of the Yadnya Kasada festival in Probolinggo, East Java province, on Saturday

## Flight returns after fire-signal emergency

A Japan Airlines plane returned to Aomori airport Saturday after a system message signalled one of its engines had caught fire mid-air, the company said. Flight JL2154 bound for Osaka was carrying 47 people — including five crew members — when it was forced to return to Aomori because of the message in the cockpit that suggested the left engine had caught fire, the carrier said. No injuries were reported in the incident. "We are confirming whether the engine actually caught fire," JAL said in a text message, adding that the Embraer SA jet landed at Aomori as the fire signal disappeared after the crew halted the engine.

Night watchman killed in Paris robbery bid: The body of a night watchman was found bound and battered in a Paris hotel after an attempt to steal a safe filled with cash, a

police source said Saturday. Officers were called at 11.30pm on Friday to a street in the city's 11th district, where the police source said a safe was found abandoned. Inside a nearby hotel, they found the body of the night watchman "lying on his bed, tied up and with multiple bruises," the source added. A witness reported seeing four men wearing balaclavas trying to load the safe into a van at around 9.30pm, before giving up and fleeing in the vehicle. The safe "contained the hotel's whole month of revenue," the source said.

Egypt to prosecute travel agents: Egyptian PM Mostafa Madbouly ordered 16 tourism companies stripped of their licences and referred their managers to the public prosecutor Saturday over illegal pilgrimages to Mecca. The order came after countries whose citizens performed this year's hajj reported more than 1,100 deaths, many attributed to the oven-like summer heat in Saudi Arabia.

Portugal Advance To Round of 16 With Easy Win Over Turkiye

# ONE SELF, SOME SELFIES

**Dortmund:** Bernardo Silva's first goal at a major tournament, a calamitous own goal from Samet Akaydin and a Bruno Fernandes tap-in gave Portugal a comfortable 3-0 win over Turkiye on Saturday to guarantee qualification for the last 16 as Group F winners.

There were no goals, one assist and no less than four selfie-pursuing field invaders for Cristiano Ronaldo. Ronaldo was the centre of attention as always at Westfalenstadion but not how he might have expected.

Silva gave Portugal the lead in the 21st minute, rifling home after Nuno Mendes' cross deflected kindly into his path before Akaydin failed to look and passed the ball beyond onrushing goalkeeper Altay Bayindir seven minutes later. Fernandes effectively ended the contest after 56 minutes when Cristiano Ronaldo—who could have become the oldest goalscorer in Euro history—selflessly passed to his teammate to tap home.

The victory secures Portugal's progress while Turkiye must avoid defeat on Wednesday to the Czech Republic, who drew 1-1 with Georgia earlier on Saturday, to be certain of qualifying for the knockout rounds.

Portugal started sharply and were unfazed by the Turkiye's supporters noise when in possession, with Ronaldo drawing an easy save from Bayindir inside two minutes.

Turkiye—who had lost all three of their previous European Championship games against Portugal without scoring—often played out from the back and the gamble almost paid



**PL, SHARE...** Cristiano Ronaldo obliges a young fan during the game

off after 20 minutes, but Pepe's last-man challenge stopped Orkun Kokcu, which fell to Ronaldo who laid the ball on a plate for Fernandes to score.

The game petered out even after Turkiye boss Vincenzo Montella introduced teenage star Arda Guler but was marred by several pitch invaders towards the game, all of whom seeking a selfie with Ronaldo.

There was chaos as three fans got on the field at different times in the second half and attempted selfies with Ronaldo. He accepted the first but looked unhappy at the other two.

Another phone-waving supporter, wearing a Portugal jersey, got to Ronaldo moments after the final whistle and security had to hold back another person attempting to confront the stars in the world as he walked off the field with his teammates.

Ronaldo might be more unhappy at failing to score against a Turkiye team that was their own worst enemy at times. AGENCIES

### STATS THE WAY

Turkiye	Portugal
10	12
3	3
44%	56%
416	571
88%	90%
16	8
3	2
1	3
9	1

### TURKIYE

0

### PORTUGAL

3  
Silva 21, Akaydin 28 (og), Fernandes 56'



**OH GEE!** Turkiye's goalkeeper Altay Bayindir and defender Zeki Celik scramble in vain to stop teammate Samet Akaydin's mis-pass into their own net against Portugal in Dortmund on Saturday

### STANDINGS

#### GROUP A

TEAMS	P	W	D	L	GD	Pt
Ger*	2	2	0	0	6	6
Swi	2	1	1	0	2	4
SCO	2	0	1	1	-4	1
Hun	2	0	0	2	-4	0

#### GROUP B

TEAMS	P	W	D	L	GD	Pt
Spain*	2	2	0	0	6	6
Italy	2	1	0	1	0	3
Alb	2	0	1	1	-1	1
Cro	2	0	1	1	-3	1

#### GROUP C

TEAMS	P	W	D	L	GD	Pt
Eng	2	1	1	0	1	4
Den	2	0	2	0	0	2
Slo*nia	2	0	2	0	0	2
Serbia	2	0	1	1	-1	1

#### GROUP D

TEAMS	P	W	D	L	GD	Pt
Fra	2	1	1	0	1	4
Ned	2	1	1	0	1	4
Aut	2	1	0	1	1	3
Pol	2	0	0	2	-3	0

#### GROUP E

TEAMS	P	W	D	L	GD	Pt
Rom	1	1	0	0	3	3
Ukr	2	1	0	1	-2	3
Svk	2	1	0	1	0	3
Bel	1	0	0	1	-1	0

#### GROUP F

TEAMS	P	W	D	L	GD	Pt
Port*	2	2	0	0	4	6
Tur	2	1	0	1	-1	3
Cze	2	0	1	1	-1	1
Geo	2	0	1	1	-2	1

\* Qualified for Last 16; Table updated till Tur vs Por match

### TONIGHT'S TUSSLES

Group A	Time
Swi vs Ger	12.30am
SCO vs Hun	12.30am

Live on Sony Sports Network

## Schick shakes it up in entertaining draw

**Hamburg:** Patrik Schick chested home to earn the Czech Republic a 1-1 draw against debutants Georgia on Saturday in an entertaining match, but it leaves both teams in a tricky spot in Group F. They have a point each.

Georgia coach Willy Sagnol said his players' disappointment at their opening defeat showed how far his team has come, and they gave everything in Hamburg to earn their first Euros point.

Goalkeeper Giorgi Mamardashvili made a string of superb saves to keep his team in the game and they took the lead just before the break through Georges Mikautadze's penalty. However Schick reprised his Euro 2020 goalscoring heroics with an improvised finish to leave honours even at the end of a pulsating clash.

Georgia's key attacking duo Mikautadze and Khvicha Kvaratskhelia both needed medical treatment in the warm-up but were able to



**CHECK THIS OUT:** Patrik Schick scores to give Czechs a lifeline

### GEORGIA

1  
Mikautadze 45+4 (p)

### CZECH REP

1  
Schick 59

### STATS THE WAY

Georgia	Czech
5	26
1	11
45%	55%
309	506
79%	88%
12	17
4	5
9	0
5	11

### MOST EURO GOALS FOR CZECHS

6 Patrik Schick (5 in 2020, 1 in 2024)
5 Milan Baros (2004)
4 Vladimir Smicer (1 in 1996, 2 in 2000, 1 in 2004)

## As coaches debate goal or not, quiet Kante has his say

**Leipzig:** The Netherlands coach Ronald Koeman said Xavi Simons' disallowed goal against France should have stood, but that a 0-0 draw in Leipzig was a fair result.

N'Golo Kante was the unlikely star of the show in the absence of a frustrated Kylian Mbappe as one of the most anticipated matches of the group stage failed to live up to expectation on Friday.

NETHERLANDS	0
FRANCE	0

The France captain sat out the entire match from the bench after breaking his nose on Monday against Austria.

Recalled from a two-year international exile, Kante has rolled back the years in Germany with back-to-back man-of-the-match awards to become the fulcrum of Didier Deschamps' midfield once more.

Les Bleus enjoyed the better of the chances as Antoine Griezmann missed two opportunities. The biggest talking point came 18 minutes from time when Simons lashed in the rebound after Mike Maignan saved from Memphis Depay. After a lengthy delay for a VAR check, the goal was ruled offside as Denzel Dumfries was adjudged to be interfering with Maignan's ability to stop the shot.

"I think the position of Dumfries is offside but he isn't disturbing the goalkeeper. When that happens it is a legal goal in my opinion," said Koeman. "You need five minutes to check it? I don't understand this."



**OFFSIDE?** Netherlands striker Denzel Dumfries (right) stands behind France's Maignan as Xavi Simons' (not in pic) shot speeds in

**2** France have kept a clean sheet in their opening two matches at the tournament for only the second occasion—the other being the 1984 edition, which they went on to win.

**7** The Dutch have now kept a clean sheet in seven of their last nine fixtures across all competitions.

A point edges both sides towards qualification for the last 16. Deschamps agreed with the decision. "I was taken aback with how long it took because when I saw the screen it was a no-brainer," he said.

The Netherlands remain top of Group D on four points, ahead of France only on goals scored with one game remaining. Austria are third with three after their 3-1 win over Poland.

**21** A piece of tournament history for Verbruggen, who becomes the youngest goalkeeper to record a clean sheet in a Euro finals match, aged 21 years and 308 days.

**2** France's N'Golo Kante has been awarded the 'Player of the Match' awards for his country's two matches played so far.

Over the past two years, France have not won any of the seven games that Mbappe has not started. "Obviously the team is on a different plane when Kylian is in it," added Deschamps. "I would be more worried if we weren't creating chances. I thought Griezmann was better than in the first game, but was slightly off the pace on the technical front, which I'm not used to with him" he said. AGENCIES

## Max expectations for 'new' Germany

**Mittelstaedt's rise as 'one of the best left-backs' is symbolic of a refreshed footballing nation**

**Herzogenaurach:** Maximilian Mittelstaedt's stunning rise from relegated bench player to Germany starting XI is symbolic of how the Euro 2024 hosts have been reborn under coach Julian Nagelsmann.

One year ago, Mittelstaedt was relegated with Hertha Berlin. He often watched from the bench as his boyhood side, the biggest club in the German capital, slipped into the second division.

After moving to Stuttgart for 500,000 euros (\$534,000), a paltry sum even for a club which had come close to relegation themselves, little was expected of the 27-year-old defender.

However, Mittelstaedt went on to play a key role as Stuttgart finished second in the Bundesliga, 40 points more than their previous campaign and ahead of perennial champions Bayern Munich.

His reward was a call up to the Germany squad for the first time.

On Wednesday, playing in Stuttgart this time in Germany colours, Mittelstaedt created the second goal for the hosts, sealing a 2-0 win over Hungary which put his country into the last 16. The assist was the latest in a series of highlights for a player who has quickly become a key component in Germany's return to contender status as they chase a fourth European title.

Mittelstaedt was one of 11 changes Nagelsmann made in March as he rebuilt a struggling Germany side just three months out from the Euros opener.

Gone were big names like Leon Goretzka, Serge Gnabry and Mats



Hummels, with Nagelsmann instead picking heavily from Stuttgart and champions Bayer Leverkusen.

Mittelstaedt came in alongside three other Stuttgart players, winger Chris Fuehrich, forward Deniz Undav and defender Waldemar Anton. While the other three were also chosen as part of the Euro 2024 squad, Mittelstaedt is the only one locked into the starting XI.

Mittelstaedt described his rise to become a Germany regular as "totally surreal." "If someone had told me this last year, I'd have said they were crazy." But if the rapid ascent startled the defender, he is confident he belongs at the highest level.

"It's funny how quickly everything can develop," the defender said. "But I worked hard for it, even in the years when things weren't going so well. I never doubted that I had the quality. I always believed in myself."

Clearly impressed, Nagelsmann named Mittelstaedt as one of the best four left backs in the world before the

**SWI VS GER**  
Frankfurt Arena

**HEAD TO HEAD (53 games)**

SWI WON 9

DRAWN 8 GER WON 36

**FORM GUIDE**

**SWITZERLAND**

D W D W W

**GERMANY**

W W W D W

(most recent first)

tournament kicked off.

His style clearly suits Nagelsmann's Germany, who seek to hold the ball and attack like Stuttgart under coach Sebastian Hoernes.

Mittelstaedt highlighted the similarities between the young, offensive-minded coaches, saying "both want to play football, both want to have possession and both want to attack."

He said he would have been unlikely to get a call up as someone who "just stands there and kicks the ball away."

After the win over Hungary and a dominant 5-1 thumping of Scotland in the tournament opener, Germany need at least a draw in Sunday's match against Switzerland to guarantee top spot in their group.

After the win over Hungary on Sunday, Mittelstaedt described his story as "a very, very nice fairytale."

While the road is long for a team which has underperformed at major tournaments for almost a decade, playing the July 14 final in Mittelstaedt's hometown of Berlin would surely be a fairytale ending. AGENCIES

## Scots hungry for a shot at history

**Stuttgart:** History awaits Scotland if they can beat Hungary on Sunday and potentially seal qualification for the knockout stages of a major tournament for the first time.

In 11 previous attempts, at eight World Cups and three Euros, Scotland have always fallen at the group stage.

A familiar early exit looked on the cards when Steve Clarke's men suffered an opening night humiliation at the hands of hosts Germany.

However, a battling 1-1 draw against Switzerland has re-instilled belief and kept dreams of qualification alive. Victory would not guarantee progress but would almost certainly be enough either for second place in Group A or to be one of the four best third-placed sides who reach the last 16.

Clarke said before a ball was kicked in Germany that he was targeting four points.

A clash with Hungary, who have two losses, appears to offer Scotland's best chance of a first win at a major tournament since 1996. AFP

**SCO VS HUN**  
Stuttgart Arena

**HEAD TO HEAD (9 games)**

SCO WON 3 DRAWS 2

HUN WON 4

**FORM GUIDE**

**SCOTLAND**

D L D W L

**HUNGARY**

L L W L W

(most recent first)

## Bravo! Claudio saving grace as Chile hold Peru

**Arlington:** Claudio Bravo became the oldest player in Copa America history and made four saves to help Chile play Peru to a scoreless draw on Friday night in the tournament opener for both teams.

Bravo, who is 41 years and 69 days, stopped a first-time shot by Gianluca Lapadula on a corner kick in the 79th minute before denying Paolo Guerrero on the rebound attempt in front of 43,030 fans at AT&T Stadium.

Chile's best scoring chance came in the 16th minute when Alexis Sanchez was left wide open in front of the goal, but his redirection went over the crossbar.

The physical battle featured 37 fouls and four yellow cards. Chile and Peru trail Argentina in Group A.

We tried to play, but Peru were very strong in their defence and they were able to break up our game," Chile boss Ricardo Gareca, who coached Peru from 2015-2022, told reporters.



**OLD HANDS:** Chile goalkeeper Claudio Bravo (centre) in thick of the action against Peru in the Copa America in Arlington on Friday

"The referee allowed a lot for that type of play. So of course, there were a lot of breaks, and it was tough for us to create and to come up with these opportunities."

After the draw, Chile and Peru were left with a point each, trailing Group A leaders Argentina by two after the defending champions' 2-0 win over Canada on Thursday.

"We were not able to create many plays and execute them. We were under a lot of pressure and sometimes we were not accurate in our passes," Gareca added.

"I'm not concerned. I think this will be useful for us to analyse our game to improve our game. "We of course hoped to win the

match. But I think it's very important that we're able to take a point and we still have two matches ahead of us."

**Hosts US won't overlook Bolivia**  
The US team is in no position to take an opponent lightly as they face Bolivia in their first Group C match of Copa America on Sunday (Monday, 3.30am IST) in Arlington, Texas.

With the Americans placed 11th in the FIFA rankings and Bolivia 84th, the US have a good opportunity to take the first step towards advancement to the knockout round. Securing victories over Bolivia and Panama, ranked 43rd, would guarantee advancement for

the hosts, irrespective of the final group match outcome against 14th-ranked Uruguay. However, the American squad harbours larger ambitions than just making it to the knockouts.

"For me it's getting past the quarterfinal," midfielder Tyler Adams said.

"We need to - in a pressure situation - win in a knockout. That's going to measure a lot of our success." Scepticism around coach Gregg Berhalter's leadership ability was heightened following an unconvincing run-up to the tournament and a crushing 5-1 defeat by Colombia.

However, a 1-1 draw with Brazil, one of the tournament favourites, relieved some of the mounting pressure. AGENCIES

# T20 WORLD CUP

"OBVIOUSLY, IT MAKES A MASSIVE IMPACT. I'VE PLAYED A LOT OF DAY T20S IN THE WEST INDIES (IN THE CPL) AND GENERALLY THAT IS (POWERPLAY) THE MOST IMPORTANT TIME TO SCORE RUNS."

—Quinton de Kock | SOUTH AFRICA OPENER



## Hardik stars in clinical win

## Pressure of winning makes Men in Blue vulnerable: Smith

**Kuldeep, Bumrah Sizzle With Ball As India Brush Aside Bangladesh By 50 Runs, Put One Foot In Semis**

**TIMES IN THE CARIBBEAN**  
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Once the niceties of the two most beautiful national anthems by the same poet were done on the faraway shores of Antigua, it was on India to take charge of their Super8s group and all but seal a semis spot.

From openers Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli to cavaliers Rishabh Pant and Shivam Dube, everybody contributed. Jasprit Bumrah (2/13), too, was his usual miserly self as Bangladesh huffed and puffed to a 50-run loss.

But as India all but shut out Bangladesh's hopes in this T20 World Cup, it was Hardik Pandya who put all his troubles to the side to stand up and deliver. Hardik has been slowly gathering momentum through the World Cup after a horrendous IPL, and on Saturday morning at the hot and sticky Vivian Richard Stadium, the allrounder came to the party.

His 27-ball 50 was the cornerstone of India's 196-5, a score big enough to notch up the easy win against a team that doesn't have the firepower in its batting. Coming into bowl within the Powerplay, Hardik used the slower ball to remove the dangerous opener Litton Das caught at deep square leg, that halted Bangladesh's improbable chase.

Earlier, Hardik had come in to bat with the score on 108-4 in the 12th over, the entire top-order back in the hut. One more wicket at that stage could have made things slightly tricky for India, but Hardik ensured that nothing on those lines would happen.

Clearing his front leg, Hardik played the shots that made himself such a menace over the years as Shivam Dube (34 off 24 balls) came up with a useful contribution towards the end. The 33-



**1** Hardik Pandya is the first Indian batter—No. 6 or below—to post a fifty in T20 World Cup. MS Dhoni had scored 45 vs South Africa at Durban on Sept 20, 2007. Suresh Raina had also managed 45 vs South Africa at Colombo (RPS) on Oct 2, 2012.



**FINAL FLOURISH:** Hardik Pandya finished as India's top scorer with an unbeaten 50 off 27 balls

**3002** Virat Kohli became the first player to score 3000-plus runs in World Cups (ODI and T20 combined). He has scored 3002 runs in 69 matches at an average of 61.26 with the help of five tons and 26 fifties. Rohit Sharma is second on the list with 2637 runs in 72 matches while David Warner is third with 2502 runs in 68 games.

**4103** Runs scored by Kohli at an average of 49.43, including a hundred and 37 fifties, in 114 innings to overtake Rohit Sharma's tally of 4073 (ave 31.57, 148 innings) and become the second highest scorer in T20is. Pakistan skipper Babar Azam tops the table with 4145 (ave 41.03, 116 innings).

All Stats: Rajesh Kumar

run stand that he had with Dube was the right injection at the right time, the colossal sixes off the left-hander's bat telling the world how deep India can bat. And even after Dube got out, Hardik connected a few strong hits as India notched up the highest score in a T20 game on this ground.

One could see that the Bangladesh batters lacked the belief to make a match of it. Still Tanzid Hasan and Nazmul Hossain Shanto did make an effort, till left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav (3/19) came into his own.

India had decided to play him in the West Indies because of the variety that he brings to the table and the help that he gets from these tracks. Kuldeep's first wicket on Saturday

was that of left-hander Tazid Hasan Tamim, who failed to read Kuldeep's googly to fall leg-before.

Towhid Hridoy, too, missed a sweep off another one that turned in to get trapped right in front. Shakib Al Hasan fell soon enough and Kuldeep's sumptuous spell of spin bowling was definitely the second highlight of the day.

The Bangladesh batters failed to create any momentum off Kuldeep and the game was over before it was actually over.

Much before that, it was the two superstars of Indian cricket — Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli — who gave glimpses that big scores could be just around the corner.

While Rohit (23 off 11 balls) looked to give himself just that little bit of room and play over the top, Virat (37 off 28 balls) seemed in beautiful touch during the course of his cameo.

On a big ground, 39 off 3.4 is a good start and by the time Rohit got out, after being put in rather surprisingly by the Bangladesh captain, the platform had been set. The fans would have liked Virat to score a little more than what he got, but the super batter isn't exactly bothered about the number of runs that he is getting. It's all in a team's cause and even though it was a moment to remember for medium-pace Tanzim Shakib when he got Virat bowled, the Indian engine had already started chugging.

**SCOREBOARD**

**India:** Rohit Sharma c Ali b Shakib 23, Virat Kohli b Tanzim 37, Rishabh Pant c Tanzim b Rishad 36, Suryakumar Yadav c Litton b Tanzim 6, Shivam Dube b Rishad 34, Hardik Pandya not out 50, Axar Patel not out 3  
**Extras:** (NBI, W6) 7; **Total:** (For five wickets, in 20 overs) 196;  
**FoW:** 39-1, 71-2, 77-3, 108-4, 161-5; **Bowling:** Mahedi Hasan 4-0-28-0, Shakib Al Hasan 3-0-37-1, Tanzim Hasan Sakib 4-0-32-2, Mustafizur Rahman 4-0-48-0, Rishad Hossain 3-0-43-2, Mahmudullah 2-0-8-0  
**Bangladesh:** Litton Das c Yadav b Pandya 13, Tanzid Hasan lbw b Kuldeep 29, Najmul Hossain Shanto c Arshdeep b Bumrah 40, Towhid Hridoy lbw b Kuldeep 4, Shakib Al Hasan c Sharma b Kuldeep 11, Mahmudullah c Patel b Arshdeep 13, Jaker Ali c Kohli b Arshdeep 1, Rishad Hossain c Sharma b Bumrah 24, Mahedi Hasan not out 5, Tanzim Hasan Sakib not out 1  
**Extras:** (LB, W3) 5; **Total:** (For eight wickets, in 20 overs) 146;  
**FoW:** 35-1, 66-2, 76-3, 98-4, 109-5, 110-6, 138-7, 145-8; **Bowling:** Arshdeep Singh 4-0-30-2, Jasprit Bumrah 4-0-13-2, Axar Patel 2-0-26-0, Hardik Pandya 3-0-32-1, Ravindra Jadeja 3-0-24-0, Kuldeep Yadav 4-0-19-3  
**Result:** India won by 50 runs  
**Player of the Match:** Hardik Pandya

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Ian Smith was in the commentary box when M S Dhoni fell just short of his crease, being run out by a direct hit from Martin Guptill in the deep, during the World Cup semifinal in 2019. Smith's voice, a combination of euphoria at New Zealand closing in on the final—and sadness that it could be Dhoni's last moment in international cricket—became one of the iconic pieces of commentary in recent times.

One of New Zealand's top wicketkeeper-batters of the 1980s and early 90s, Smith felt the Dhoni dismissal took the World Cup away from India. The ICC trophy has kept eluding them and during an interaction with select journalists at the Bridgetown airport, Smith felt "it's the pressure of winning every day that makes India vulnerable in the biggest moments".

"Pressure is a big thing. No one plays with as much pressure as the Indian team does. Everyday you have to win—that's an idea that can make you vulnerable. In tournaments like the World Cup, they become the iconic team that everyone wants to beat," Smith said.

The 'keeper himself was part of a brilliant New Zealand team led by Martin Crowe in the 1992 World Cup that played game-changing cricket only to falter against Pakistan in the semifinal.

Smith empathizes with India and says "it's not because of lack of talent that India haven't won". "But they carry some of the pressure of the burden that hurts them. Fear of failure can be a big thing in sport."

However, the man who played 67 Tests and 98 ODIs, believes that India are the favourites, along with Australia, to win the T20 World Cup. "It's because of the individual match-winners that these two teams have. They have seven or eight and you only need two to come off," he said.

**'With time, Pant can be as good as Gilchrist'**

During the course of the conversation, when TOI asked him how he feels about Rishabh Pant, Smith said: "He still has a bit to go, but he can be as good as Adam Gilchrist. In Tests, he can bat down the order and in white-ball cricket at the top, so



**“PRESSURE IS A BIG THING. NO ONE PLAYS WITH AS MUCH PRESSURE AS THE INDIAN TEAM DOES. EVERYDAY YOU HAVE TO WIN—THAT'S AN IDEA THAT CAN MAKE YOU VULNERABLE. IN TOURNAMENTS LIKE THE WORLD CUP, THEY BECOME THE ICONIC TEAM THAT EVERYONE WANTS TO BEAT.”**

—IAN SMITH | EX-NZ KEEPER

there is similarity with Gilchrist. If he goes this way, there can be a time when people bracket him with Gilchrist."

Smith went on to add that Pant is a combination of "dynamic, aggressive and extremely dangerous" and has the ability to compliment the likes of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli. "I am a firm believer of best players playing maximum deliveries and No. 3 is the perfect slot for Pant," Smith said.

**'Nothing wrong in Williamson refusing central contract'**

There has been quite a bit of talk about New Zealand legend Kane Williamson's decision not to accept the central contract by the board. Smith, though, doesn't see anything wrong in Williamson's decision at this stage of his career. "Williamson is definitely not the first player to do this, Boult has done it before him. He is in a stage of his career where he can 'pick and choose'. There is a talk that players are doing this so that they can play more franchise cricket. Even I would have done the same if it was happening in the 1990s. It isn't wrong to follow the money at this stage of one's career," Smith added.

He also felt that New Zealand are probably at the end of a very successful cycle and they need to up the ante. "First things first, you cannot have the same coach for all the three formats. They probably need a new broom to sweep through."

### AFGHANISTAN FACE UPHILL TASK VS AUS

Kingstown (St Vincent): A stern test awaits Afghanistan as they take on a rampant Australia in their T20 World Cup Super Eight Group 1 clash here on Sunday.

Coming off a 47-run thrashing at the hands of India, Afghanistan will be under pressure not just to record a win but also to improve their run-rate which took a severe hit after the loss in their first Super Eight game. Afghanistan are placed third with a NRR of -2.350 and it will be an uphill task for them to improve that as well as move up in the points table in a group which also consists Bangladesh.

Afghanistan showed their all-round skills in the group stage to finish second behind the West Indies but they will have to find their 'A' game to stop the 2021 winners Australia, who have notched up five wins in a row.

At the top, David Warner (169 runs) and Travis Head's (179) destructive opening pair can take down the best of bowling attacks and in such a scenario, Rashid's use of Farooqi and himself could have a big impact on the proceedings.

The two teams last met in the ODI World Cup in 2023. It was in Mumbai where Glenn Maxwell had played a once-in-a-generation knock to notch up a sensational double hundred while battling cramps all over his body, with Pat Cummins in tow.

Afghanistan would certainly be motivated to exact revenge for that loss in a format wherein they feel most comfortable and have the skills to excel. PTI

## Personal chefs serve home flavours for Hardik, Surya

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If you're in the West Indies, you're in food heaven. Even as the ocean takes your breath away, it's easy to get hooked to the mouth-watering street food if you're in the mood to try something beyond the usual fare.

But it's not such a rosy story for everybody, especially if you're a top Indian cricketer. Take Suryakumar Yadav and Hardik Pandya, for example. Surya is a Mumbai boy and is surely exposed to quality seafood while there's enough evidence that Hardik isn't shy of a flamboyant life. But when it's the World

Cup and an elusive trophy to win, the two superstars of Indian cricket are keeping themselves on a tight leash when it comes to culinary experiences. One understands that both the players have their own chefs travelling with them. The duo's daily *dubba* (lunch box) comes from these chefs.

According to sources, the travelling chefs are not part of the team contingent. They do their own bookings and stay in bread-and-breakfast joints close to the team hotel. It is here that they cook the food prescribed by the cricketers' nutritionists. The meals are handed to them in tiffin-carriers every day.

One understands that it has nothing to do with the quality of food that is being served to the team at the hotels that they are staying. It's just that the players are very fussy about nutrition and the feel of "ghar ka khana

(home-cooked food)" that make them feel comfortable on a long, difficult tour.

While Hardik and Surya have their own chefs, it's not that the other members of the team are going on binges. In fact, it was Virat Kohli who had brought about a change in the food culture of the Indian team during his captaincy tenure and the team has stuck with it.

If all goes well though for another week though, a little bit of indulgence for the boys in blue could well be in store on the party streets of the Caribbean.

## England eye huge win to seal Super Eight spot

**Bridgetown (Barbados):** Defending champions England will need their power hitters to do the job against a demoralised yet tricky USA in their final Super 8 match as they eye a huge win to keep themselves in contention for a semifinal spot at the T20 World Cup here on Sunday.

England batters couldn't produce the big hits while chasing a target of 164 during their last Super 8 match against South Africa, suffering a seven-run loss on Friday.

West Indies' massive nine-wicket win over the USA has opened up the group, leaving England with the task of notching up a big victory to push their net run-rate up as it might come down to it in the end.

While South Africa are currently sitting atop the Group 2 with two wins, both West Indies and England have a win and a loss each with the hosts having a better NRR.

However, no team is assured of a semifinal berth and England will need to defeat USA by either 10 runs or at least an over to spare to stay in contention for the semifinals.

For SA, a loss—even in a Super

Over—against WI in their final match will knock them out of the race if England can achieve their task.

If SA win and England lose to USA, it will again be a three-way tie between WI, ENG and USA for the second spot and the team with better run-rate will go through to the knockout stage.

England batters produced an authoritative performance against the West Indies but they failed to tame the SA bowlers and faltered in their chase of 164 on Friday.

Phil Salt has been in great form, having blasted two centuries, a fifty, and three thirties in his last 10 T20is but his early dismissal meant England couldn't get the explosive start as Jos Buttler and Jonny Bairstow couldn't quite bring out the big shots. Harry Brook (53) and Liam Livingstone (33) played sensibly to take the chase deep but England eventually failed to score 25 runs in the last three overs. However, England's batting remains a formidable force which the likes of Saurabh Netravalkar and Harmeet Singh will find tough to tame. PTI

**FACE-OFF**

ENG VS USA

TV TIME: 8 PM  
STAR SPORTS  
HOTSTAR

**HEAD TO HEAD**

ENG	USA
0	0

**LAST FIVE MATCHES**

ENG	L	W	W	W	L
USA	L	L	L	W	W

**VENUE: BRIDGETOWN**

**ODDS**

ENG	USA
3/10	5/1

**NUMBERS GAME**

**52.75** Andries Gous average while scoring 211 runs, including two fifties, at a strike rate of 150.71, in five innings—the best among the batters with 175-plus runs in this edition.

## Hope keeps WI in hunt with six feast

**Bridgetown (Barbados):** Opener Shai Hope blasted an unbeaten 82 as West Indies came back roaring to crush the USA by nine wickets on Friday.

After bowling out the USA for a mere 128 in 19.5 overs, the West Indies batters went all guns blazing from the word go to knock off the target in just 10.5 overs.

The win improved West Indies' standing in the Group 2 points table. The Caribbean side, which had suffered an eight-wicket hammering from England on Wednesday, is now placed second with two points and a net run rate of 1.814.

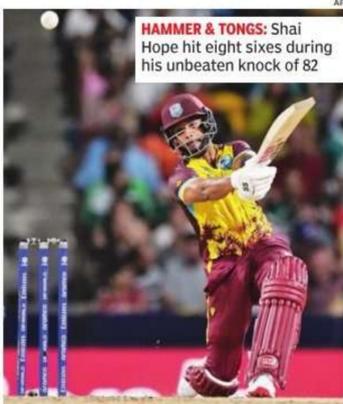
West Indies skipper Rovman Powell lauded Hope after being dropped for the contest against England. "He's been fantastic, he got a chance against Afghanistan but was dropped next game against England in St. Lucia because of the combination. However, he was hungry for a good performance," Powell said.

"Kensington brings back special memories for us. We had a great opportunity to

come out and play some good cricket. (Roston) Chase plays really well, plays a role very well. Keeps things tight. On a good surface, he bowled really well," Powell added.

Johnson Charles fell for a 14-ball 15 with a couple of fours early on but the pair of Hope (82 not out) and Nicholas Pooran did the job for their side, smacking the USA bowlers all around the park here at the Kensington Oval. Hope made a mincemeat of the USA bowling as the right-hander clattered eight sixes and four fours to make 82 not out from just 39 balls, with Pooran reaching 27 not out from 13 balls with three sixes and a four.

Meanwhile, Kyle Mayers was added to the West Indies squad as a replacement for injured opener Brandon King. King had suffered the niggle against England on Wednesday. PTI  
**Brief scores:** USA 128 in 19.5 overs (Andries Gous 29; Roston Chase 3-19, Andre Russell 3-31) lost to **West Indies** 130-1 in 10.5 overs (Shai Hope 82\*, Nicholas Pooran 27\*) by nine wickets.



**HAMMER & TONGS:** Shai Hope hit eight sixes during his unbeaten knock of 82

**Most sixes in a T20 WC edition**

Player	Team	Season	M	6s
Nicholas Pooran	WI	2024	6	17
Chris Gayle	WI	2012-13	7	16
Marlon Samuels	WI	2012-13	7	15
Shane Watson	Aus	2012-13	6	15

## Aditi makes cut, world No. 1 Nelly misses out

R.Satya@timesgroup.com

**Sammamish (USA):** When Aditi Ashok walked off the ninth green — her closing hole — around noon, she was sitting two shots out of the cut line at five-over on another tough scoring day at the KPMG Women's PGA Championship here on Friday.

The Indian ace, who shot an even-par 72 on the first day, wasn't the only one to suffer as the picturesque Sahalee Country Club course bared its teeth on the second day. On a tree-lined course where there's a premium on accuracy, the big



Aditi Ashok just about made the cut in Sammamish, Washington

names, especially world No. 1 Nelly Korda, found the going tough.

By the time the last group came in six hours later, Aditi, who took her two-day total to five-over 149, just made the cut line. Korda, with six wins this

season, shot an uncharacteristic nine-over 81, her worst round as a pro, to miss the cut for the third straight week by a shot.

American Sarah Schmelzel, searching for her first win, managed to shoot a sizzling five-under 67 to hit the front with a two-day total of six-under 138. She was joined by Korea's Amy Yang (68) later in the day. The duo was two strokes ahead of Jin Young Ko (68), Hinako Shibuno (70) and Lexi Thompson (72). Aditi, known for her putting prowess, had a poor day on the greens. Ranked sixth in putting aver-

age on the Tour, the 26-year-old missed a few birdie putts in the 10-12 feet range and took 33 putts for the round, four more than her average.

Also, the Asian Games silver medalist was struggling a bit with her hitting. After two good par saves, she found the greenside bunker on the 12th hole and ended up with a bogey five. But after taking the turn at one-over, Aditi's struggle began. She bogeyed the first, fifth, where she went over the green with her tee shot, and the two closing holes — eighth and ninth — missing the par putts from about eight feet.

## Women eye ODI clean sweep against SA

**Bengaluru:** India were able to tame varied challenges thrown at them by South



Africa so far, and they will be eager to take the series to its fitting conclusion of a 3-0 margin during the third and final ODI here on Sunday.

Currently, the margin stands 2-0 in favour of India but that insuperable position has not come without its own trials by fire. In the first match, the Indian batters had to come back from a perilous 99 for five before making a 260-plus total. The home side bowlers defended the target well too.

But in the second game, it was the turn of the Indian bowlers to ace the test that they were subjected to by centu-

rions Laura Wolvaardt and Marizanne Kapp on a placid pitch. Despite the heavy pounding, they kept their nerves till the last ball of the match to come out on the right side of the result. However, the common thread across these two matches was the exceptional batting of **Smriti Mandhana**, who made 117 and 136 in them.

Mandhana thus became the first India woman batter to score two successive hundreds in ODIs, and she also equalled Mithali Raj's record of seven one-day centuries. So, the Indian vice-captain will be eager to sign off from the ODI series on a high before entering the one-off Test at Chennai from June 28.

The timely return to form of skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, who made an 88-ball

103 in the second match, too might have pleased the management no end.

However, the think tank will be eager to see a substantial outing from opener Shafali Verma, whose run of low scores has now been extended to eight matches. With the series already in kitty, India might also give an outing to fringe players such as bowlers Shreyanka Patil, Saika Ishaque and top-order batter Priya Punia.

On the other hand, South Africa will be keen to win the match and gain at least two ICC Women's ODI Championship points, critical in their qualification for next year's 50-over World Cup.

Of course, a win will go a long way in instilling a dose of confidence ahead of the Test and the ensuing T20I series. PTI

# Gangjee wins Selangor Masters golf

Selangor (Malaysia): **Rahil Gangjee** won the PKNS Selangor Masters despite six bogeys in his 3-over 73 on the final day as he prevailed over Deyen Lawson (69) by one shot, here on Saturday. The 45-year-old veteran, who had started the day with a five shot lead, finished at 8-under for the wire-to-wire win as Lawson was 7-under.

It was Gangjee's second win on the ADT after his 2018 success at Louis Philippe Cup

in India. He has two Asian Tour wins too.

**Shubhankar makes cut, later slips**  
Amsterdam: Shubhankar Sharma, heading to the Paris Olympics in August, made the cut on the line in the second round of the KLM Open before suffering a round of 3-over 74 in the following round here. Sharma is now tied 67th.

The leader after two rounds was Mikko Korhonen (64-68), who was 10-under. He was yet to start his third round. The Finn made a hole-in-one on the opening day. AGENCIES

# Soaring high in WC season

## Women Compound Archers Pick Up Fourth Gold On The Trot

Archiman Bhaduri  
@timesgroup.com

Kolkata: There's no stopping the Indian compound women's archery team as they remained undefeated in this World Cup season. The trio of Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Aditi Swami and Parneet Kaur claimed a hat-trick



The compound women's archery team of Jyothi Surekha Vennam (C), Aditi Swami (L) and Parneet Kaur has remained undefeated this World Cup season

our focus on our shots and rhythm," individual World champion Aditi told World Archery.

Later in the day, rising compound archer Priyansh failed to defeat Dutch heavy-weight Schloesser for a second time this season and had to be content with his second World Cup silver. At the season-opening World Cup in Shanghai in April this year, Priyansh had lost to World No. 8 Nico Wiener of Austria 147-150 in the final.

Priyansh dropped a point in the opening set and that proved decisive as he could not overcome the deficit with Schloesser shooting a series of 10s to clinch the match 149-148.

In the semifinal, the 21-year-old fired 15 perfect-10 shots to knock out World No. 2 Mathias Fullerton by one point. Priyansh also made his maiden World Cup Final by finishing third on the circuit this season.

### SNAPSHOTS

#### Norris on pole in Spanish GP

McLaren's Lando Norris produced a spellbinding late lap to deprive Max Verstappen of pole for the Spanish Grand Prix in qualifying at Montmelo on Saturday. Lewis Hamilton will start on the second row alongside his Mercedes teammate George Russell. It was second career pole for the British-Belgian racing driver. AFP

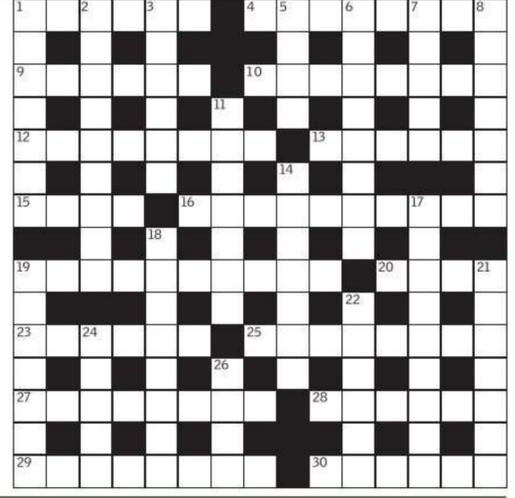
### ACTION TODAY

**ARCHERY:** Archery WC Stage 3: 12.30pm & 4.30pm (Sony Sport)  
**AUTO:** Spanish F1 GP: 6.30pm (Fancode)  
**CRICKET:** T20 WC: Afghanistan vs Australia; USA vs England 8pm (Star Sports); India Women vs South Africa 1.30pm (JioCinema)  
**FOOTBALL:** Euro: Switzerland vs Germany; Scotland vs Hungary 12.30am Monday (Sony Sports)  
**TENNIS:** Halle Open, 5.30pm (Eurosport)

## THE TOI CROSSWORD

CROSSWORD No. TTC#0173

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!



### CRYPTIC CLUES

- Across**
- Left in play (6)
  - Joint projections over which one may get rapped (8)
  - New act with hat and stick (6)
  - Not very bright but in charge of the players (8)
  - End of the new tram line (8)
  - Fire escape on board ship (6)
  - A two-party fight (4)
  - Used by riders - but not riding breeches (10)
  - Study the echo (10)
  - Help with a wager (4)
  - Country girl on the vessel (6)
  - Held in apprehension (8)
  - It's not fair for me to use this (8)
  - Kick into wind again (6)
  - What scores of young people are in? (8)
  - Steer awkwardly round a difficult problem (6)
- Down**
- A decent reform carried out (7)
  - Insert of two pages Alfie rent in error (9)
  - With a new clue I'd find the mathematician (6)
  - Church body (4)
  - A closure arranged in a roundabout way (8)
  - Many deserve to get information (5)
  - Pays for lights (7)
  - Is a good man able to get a game? (7)
  - Undo jar found damaged for repair (7)
  - Ship's follower hung about an old sailor (9)
  - No racehorse alive is one (4,4)
  - Get someone else to do the fighting (7)
  - One still too young to take certain steps (7)
  - Decline to make a further grant? (6)
  - Count old money (5)
  - Desert one's post though left in charge? (4)

### QUICK CLUES

- Across**
- Imprison (4,2) 4 Invite trouble (3,3,2) 9 Look around casually (6) 10 Approved of (2,6) 12 Art of persuasive speaking (8) 13 Elusive (6) 15 Shakespearean king (3-4) 16 Quit through loss of nerve (7,3) 19 Abrupt withdrawal from drugs (4,6) 20 Male deer (4) 23 Symbol (6) 25 Canadian city (8) 27 Brutal violence (8) 28 Uncouple (6) 29 Highly secret (4-4) 30 Not easily excited (6)
- Down**
- Generous (7) 2 Narrow escape (5,4) 3 Outcome (6) 5 Of sound mind (4) 6 The face (8) 7 Henhouse (5) 8 Great anguish (7) 11 Irreconcilably stubborn (3-4) 14 A level in a hierarchy (7) 17 Alert and up-to-date (2,3,4) 18 After a considerable time (2,6) 19 The fastest-running animal (7) 21 King Arthur's noblest knight (7) 22 Bear witness (6) 24 Bout of depression (5) 26 Greek equivalent of Cupid (4)

### SOLUTIONS TO LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD

**CRYPTIC**

E	Q	U	A	T	O	R	R	E	B	O	U	N	D
X	M	H	E	R	E	A	N	N	E	R			
C	O	B	W	E	B	S	M	O	N	D	C	L	E
I	R	O	E	A	J	L	S						
S	T	A	I	R		T	A	I	L	O	R	E	S
E	G	E	N	A	E								
S	H	E	L	T	E	R	E	D	T	E	N	O	R
I	E	E	O										
R	E	L	I	C	A	C	R	O	P	L	I	S	
E	O	D	L	E	H								
P	R	O	S	E	L	Y	T	E	I	D	A	H	O
A	F	X	T	M	N	K	R						
P	L	A	C	E	B	O	E	L	E	G	A	N	T
E	H	A	G	N	R	G	E						
R	I	S	O	T	T	O	D	I	S	C	E	R	N

**QUICK**

G	A	R	L	A	N	D	K	E	S	T	R	E	L
A	H	A	R	R	E	H	E						
I	G	N	O	B	L	E	E	R	R	A	T	I	C
N	S	I	A	P	U	R	T						
F	E	A	S	T	D	O	W	N	G	R	A	D	E
U	C	R	A	C	R								
L	I	K	E	A	S	H	O	T	C	L	E	A	N
R	E	C	O										
A	R	R	A	I	L	O	H	E	N	G	R	I	N
F	O	L	D	E	R								
F	A	N	T	A	S	T	I	C	I	S	L	A	M
A	N	F	O	R	M	I	E						
B	U	I	L	T	U	P	A	G	E	L	E	S	S
L	N	E	A	W	N	V	I						
E	A	G	E	R	L	I	E	S					

### WORLD CUP STAGE 3

of gold medals with a win over Estonia at WC Stage III in Antalya, Turkey, on Saturday.

However, their men's counterpart first went down to Turkey in the semifinal and then lost the bronze-medal match to France. It's India's consecutive bronze medal loss as Prathamesh Bhalchandra Fuge, Priyansh and Abhishek Verma also went down to Australia at Yecheon in Stage II.

However, Priyansh picked up India's second

medal when he narrowly lost the men's individual final to world No. 1 Mike Schloesser. It was smooth ride for the Indian women as they qualified as the top-seeded team. After getting a first-round bye, they got past El Salvador 235-227 and the hosts 234-227 to set up the summit clash with Estonia. In a rather one-sided final, the trio prevailed over Estonia's Lisell Jaatma, Meeri-Marita Paas and Ma-

ris Tetsmann 232-229. They had not only won gold at Stage 1 in Shanghai and Stage 2 in Yecheon but also ended last season with the top finish in Paris.

The women overcame extreme hot conditions hitting the bulls eye five out of six times in the penultimate end and four times in the final end to assert their supremacy.

"Despite the heat, we kept

# Raising eyebrows: US to bring their own ACs for Oly

Eugene (Oregon, USA): The US Olympic team is one of a handful that will supply air conditioners for their athletes at the Paris Games in a move that undercuts organizers' plans to cut carbon emissions.

US Olympic and Paralympic CEO Sarah Hirshland said Friday that while the US team appreciates efforts aimed at sustainability, the federation would be supplying AC units for what is typically the largest contingent of athletes at the Summer Games.

"As you can imagine, this is a period of time in which consistency and predictability

is critical for Team USA's performance," Hirshland said. "In our conversations with athletes, this was a very high priority and something that the athletes felt was a critical component in their performance capability."

The Washington Post reported earlier this month that Germany, Australia, Italy, Canada and Britain were among the other countries with plans to bring air conditioners to France.

Olympic organizers have touted plans to cool rooms in the Athletes Village, which will house more than 15,000

equipped with fans.

"I want the Paris Games to be exemplary from an environmental point of view," Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo has said about the plans for the Olympics.

According to the International Energy Agency, fewer than 1 in 10 households in Europe has air conditioning, and the numbers in Paris are lower than that. The study said that of the 1.6 billion AC units in use across the globe in 2016, more than half were in China (570 million) and the United States (375 million). AP

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# Nagal set for Paris Olympics but could be without a coach

Pune: **Sumit Nagal's** joy of representing India at the Olympics for the second successive time has been somewhat dampened by the probability of not having his personal coach Milos Galecic by his side in Paris.

As per IOC norms, the number of support staff cannot exceed one-third of the number of athletes from a country in each discipline. With the doubles team of Rohan Bopanna and Sriram Balaji having a coach (Bala-

chandran Manikkath) and a physiotherapist (Rebecca Van Orshaegen), it rules out another coach for the tennis contingent.

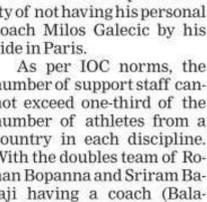
"Sumit's request is absolutely right. But the issue is the timing," Anil Dhupar, honorary secretary of the All India Tennis Federation, said on Saturday. "Rohan's participation was more or less confirmed way back, so we had given his name and his partner as well as his choice of coach and physio in the long list six months ago."

"Sumit was ranked 125 then but his name was given based on the high probability

of him qualifying.

"His request for a coach has come now, we will forward it to the IOA because they decide on this. Although there is a 33 per cent rule, we can ask them as a special case. But it is entirely up to the IOA."

Nevertheless, Nagal was excited about competing in Paris. "Of course, it's a proud moment to represent India again at the Olympics, to be the only singles player to do it the last two times," Nagal told TOI. "The process has been good. I have always spoken highly about keeping improving on and off the court, and I feel like the development has been going well from the past few months."



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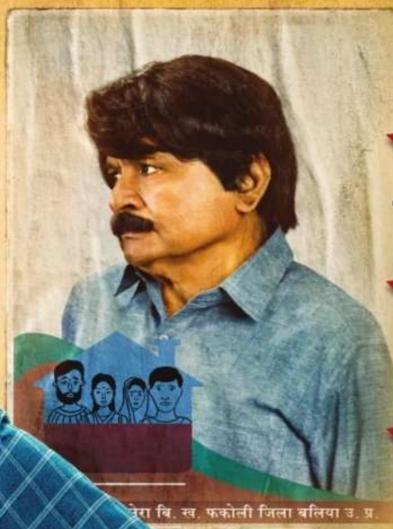
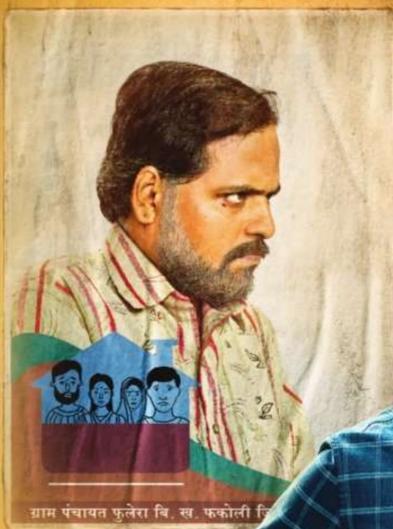
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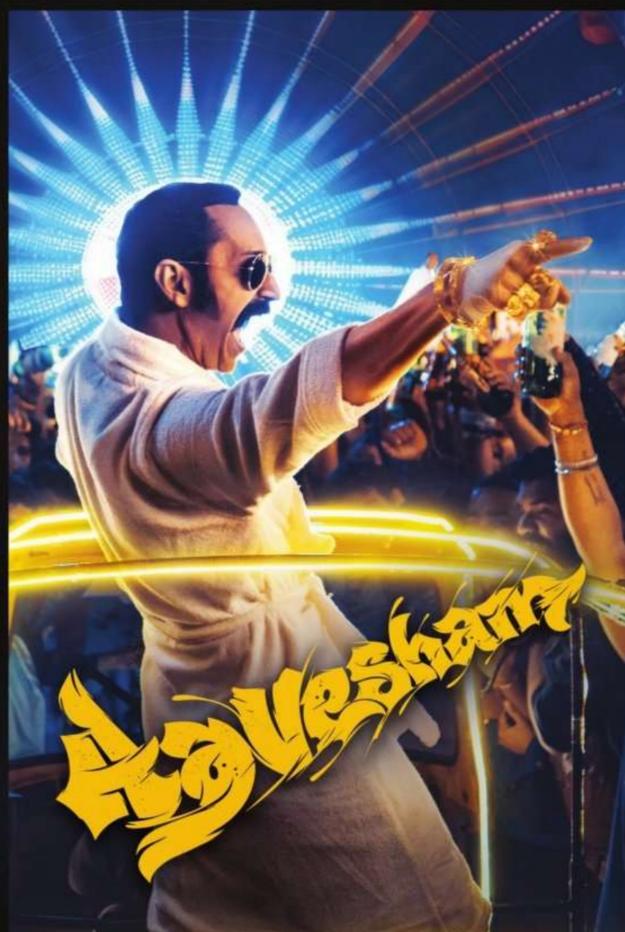
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