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ONE NATION ONE JOY

AFTER 13 YEARS, A WORLD COUP: 17 yrs after winning the 1st T20 World Cup, 13 yrs after winning their 2nd ODI WC, and after 2 heartbreaking losses in the World Test Championship and ODI WC finals in 2023, India finally ended their title drought, edging out S Africa by 7 runs in a thriller that went down to the last over. Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, the 2 highest rungetters in T20Is, ended their int'l T20 careers. A look at the game, in all its swinging glory:

- India score 15 off the 1st over as Kohli races to 14 off 5 balls, but then tumble to 34/3
- Kohli goes into a shell as India rebuild, eventually gets to 50 off 48 balls – his slowest T20 half-ton ever. Doesn't hit a boundary from the 4th over to the 18th
- Promoted to No. 5, Axar Patel responds with a useful 47 off 31 balls but is brilliantly run out by SA keeper Quinton de Kock
- Shivam Dube contributes 27 off 16 balls even as Kohli accelerates at the death before falling for a 59-ball 76 – 1 more than his aggregate of 75 runs in 7 matches before the final
- India score 42 runs in the last 3 overs to finish

- at 176/7, the highest total in a T20 WC final
- Bumrah and Arshdeep strike to reduce SA to 12/2. Tristan Stubbs and de Kock counter-attack, and Heinrich Klaasen slams 52 off 33 balls. Needing 30 to win off 30 balls with 6 wickets in hand, SA seem set for victory. But Hardik Pandya dismisses Klaasen and India begin to extract victory from the jaws of defeat
- Bumrah (2/18) and Arshdeep (2/21) bowl superbly at the death. Pandya, booed throughout the IPL, has to defend 16 in the final over
- Suryakumar Yadav pulls off an unbelievable catch to dismiss David Miller. Rabada swings lustily but it's a Bridge(town) too far for SA



THIS WORLD IS ENOUGH

“It's the stuff of dreams. One day you feel like you can't get a run and then this happens. God is great....It was my last T20 match for India...Time for the next generation to take the game forward – Kohli”



Fitting Farewell For Coach Dravid

Rahul Dravid, who never won a World Cup in a distinguished career as a player, finally bagged a title in his last outing as Team India coach. He leaves with a superb track record:

	Won	Lost	Tied	Draw/NR	Success	
Tests	24	14	7	0	3	58.3%
ODIs	53	36	14	0	3	72.0%
T20Is	71	52	16	2#	1	75.7%

India won both tied matches in super overs

SKY IS NOT THE LIMIT

Catches win matches, goes the maxim. This one won the World Cup. With SA needing 16 in 6 balls, Miller hit Hardik for what looked like a sure sixer till Suryakumar Yadav (SKY) ran full tilt, grabbed the ball, lobbed it into the air as he went over the ropes, and then stepped back to complete a catch that became an instant legend. A couple of inches literally made all the difference for India and SA

FULL COVERAGE | P 17 & 19

“CHAMPIONS! Our team brings the T20 World Cup home in STYLE! We are proud of the Indian Cricket Team. This match was HISTORIC – PM Narendra Modi”

5 soldiers in tank swept away in Ladakh floods

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Five Army soldiers drowned when their tank got stuck after a flash flood in the Shyok river in the Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO) region of eastern Ladakh, which is near the Line of Actual Control with China, late on Friday night.



A file photo of Indian tanks in the Pangong Tso region of Ladakh

The Russian-origin T-72 main-battle tank, which had a crew of one junior commissioned officer (JCO) and four jawans, was 'de-inducting' from a military exercise when the mishap occurred while fording the river near Saser Brangsa due to "a sudden increase in the water level" around midnight. "Rescue teams, including combat engineers in boats, rushed to the location. But the soldiers could not be saved due to the strong current in the river. All bodies were later recovered," an officer said. The 52 Armoured Regiment soldiers who died were identified as M R K Reddy (JCO), Subhan Khan, Bhupendra Negi, Ekeidaung Teibam and Sadarbonia Nagaraju.

► River-crossing drill, P 12

NEET: CBI arrests scribe in Jharkhand, Bihar 'link'

Abhijit Sen\Kalyan Das | TNN

Hazaribag\Dehradun: A journalist from Jharkhand's Hazaribag and another suspect in Uttarakhnad's Dehradun, believed to be linked to

► New NEET-PG schedule 'in 1-2 days': Pradhan, P 14
► Push for pen-paper mode under scanner, P 14

the accused in Bihar, have been arrested by CBI over the NEET leak even as the agency took remand of other accused in Bihar and Gujarat, report Abhijit Sen & Kalyan Das.

Journalist Md Jamaludin, 35, was taken into custody Friday for allegedly helping Ehsanul Haque, principal of Hazaribag's Oasis School and district coordinator for National Testing Agency. Haque and vice-principal Imtiaz Alam are in CBI net. Jamaludin, Haque and Alam were taken to Patna, where they were sent to CBI custody for 5 days, sources said.

Jamaludin, a journalist-cum-ad executive with a local paper, allegedly tried to help Haque and Alam, they said.

► On way to Mussoorie, P 14



Late Vaidyraj Krushnashastry Puranik (1839-1905)



Late Vaidyraj Vishnushastry Puranik (1864-1914)



Late Vaidyraj Rambhau Puranik (1883-1933)



Late Vaidyraj Gangadhar Puranik (1907-1980)



Late Vaidyraj Mahadev Puranik (1912-1987)



Late Anand Puranik (1937-2023)

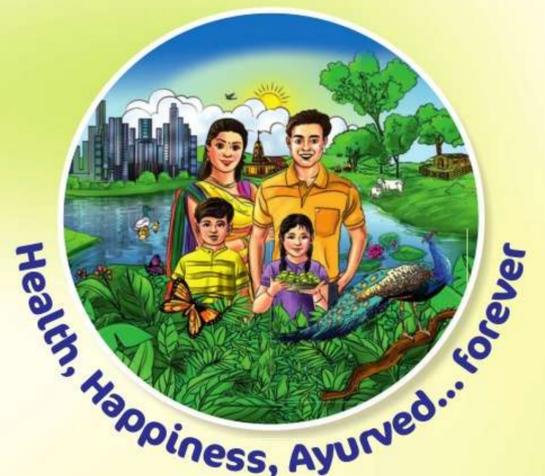


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Know your Ayurved Physician today, take charge of your health.

Aware of rights & options, domestic help quick to dump toxic employers

Namita Devidayal

Recently, a high profile star actor in Mumbai hired a domestic help and demanded that she be up all hours after late shoots, endlessly hand-wash her delicate clothes and serve her guests with no respite. She bargained over the helper's salary. The helper left. So did the next one. Both found better jobs through a placement agency.

While the Swiss court recently came down hard on the alleged abuse of domestic staff by a prominent Indian family, employers in India continue to exploit this unorganised, invisibilized, yet indispensable, workforce that falls outside the regulatory net. The good news? There is growing solidarity among domestic workers, bolstered by a changing demand-supply balance, an awareness of basic rights, and numerous placement agencies who enable the cook or nanny to swiftly 'move on' after dumping a toxic employer.

A country embedded in casual feudalism—where residential towers have separate

TIMES Special

elevators for staff and the helper's 'room' might be a sliver of corridor—is slowly, a bit grudgingly, recognising dignity of labour. Today, salary and leave days aside, the smart domestic worker is far less willing to put up with the chronically suspicious memsaab who accuses them of eating the last avocado in the fridge or a sir who barks orders. As Reshma Patil, a feisty cook in south Mumbai, says, "No one wants to deal with 'khit khit'. Once, twice, people take it, but by the third strike they will bounce and look elsewhere." A company driver recently quit and told his placement bureau his employer had not given him a box of Diwali sweets like other drivers, saying, "Izzat (honour) is all we have, so if even that is not honoured, then there is nothing."

In the bigger gated communities, if a parsimonious madam hesitates to dish out the Rs 2,000 per hour per month (the average rate for part-timers in some parts of Mumbai), there's always five other flats that will welcome

GROWING SOLIDARITY, PLACEMENTS BOOST MOBILITY

Text: Swati Deshpande

What is e-Shram portal

It is a beneficial national database for unorganised sectors launched by the union ministry of labour and employment

Launched on Aug 26, 2021

Allows registration under 30 broad occupation sectors and around 400 occupations

Number of domestic workers registered on e-Shram portal as on March 13, 2023

2.8cr of whom 2.7cr are women

E-Shram cards for unorganised sector

All e-Shram card holders get free insurance of ₹2L and free treatment up to ₹5L

Scholarship for children, free cycle, free sewing machine, free tools for work

Who is eligible: Persons between 16 and 59 years of age

Who is ineligible: Member of CPS, NPS, EPFO or ESIC

Where and how to apply for it

At any public service centre or post office in the neighbourhood

On the website: <https://eshram.gov.in>

Documents required for application:

Aadhar card, bank account and mobile phone number

Source: PIB March 2023

Mumbai police initiative on domestic help

April 2024

Police asked Mumbaikars to register their domestic help with them to ensure the safety and security of employers

More than 50% of families go out to work in every cooperative housing society in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region. These families employ house help who are part of the unorganised sector and work in three to four houses in the same building or in nearby buildings. The help actually need to be registered in the labour department. The state's recent efforts have not made much headway for their registration

Ramesh Prabhu | MAHARASHTRA SOCIETIES WELFARE ASSOCIATION



her with open arms. Besides, the help will ensure the news spreads virally among the neighbourhood bai gang. The madam will likely be informally black-listed and be left walking the dog—or toddler. "There is definitely a change in attitude since the time we started ten years ago," says Meenakshi Gupta Jain, founder of Helper4U, an online placement portal offering pan-India what they describe as the ABCDE—Ayah, Bai, Cook, Driver, Elder Care—of staff, who come with criminal background checks. "We are finding the younger generation of employers are more fair, more accommodating. Now, many employers themselves encourage their help to take Sundays off mirroring their

offices," she adds. The portal connects potential employers and employees. Helper4U is starting a community platform for women workers registered with them to interact—from discussing employer woes to their kids' education. Referring to the Switzerland case, Bookmybai.com founder Anupam Sinhal says, "Someone had to bell the cat. It will set a great precedent. I hope someday something like this comes to India as well so that people reduce their exploitative tendencies—financially, emotionally, physically." Bookmybai has a database of 10 lakh workers and services cities across India and also works with international clients. He says there is growing understanding of basic rights,

like their safety or being given stale food. He cites the case of a worker who quit because the employer tried to stop her from taking her fortnightly paid leave they had agreed upon. "She simply quit, without having a fallback option." The average salary for a live-in domestic worker in the big cities is between Rs 20,000 and Rs 25,000 while in Tier 2 cities it is Rs 15,000 to 25,000, because it is harder to find people, according to some bureau records. But India still has its own version of apartheid when it comes to this sector, and stories of abuse and exploitation continue. Despite international agencies like ILO pushing for it, govt soft-pedals on enforcing minimum wage and benefits for domestic workers—deemed to number between 5 crore and 8 crore, say experts. "We are demanding a national legislation since mere policy is not binding," says Chritin Mary of the National Domestic Workers Movement. This must cover fair wage, social protection, skill development training, protection of migrants and grievance legislation since they fall out of the net of the labour court. "But, yes, at the grassroots level domestic workers are getting aware of their rights," says Mary. "There is also growing awareness among employers who value domestic workers' contribution to the economy. They know if the domestic worker does not go to the employer's home to work, then the employer cannot go to work."

MVA consensual face, collective formula for state polls: Sr Pawar

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Kolhapur: NCP (SCP) chief Sharad Pawar on Saturday countered Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut's claim about the necessity for a chief ministerial face in the state assembly elections. Speaking in Kolhapur, the senior politician said that instead of any individual, the alliance — Maha Vikas Aghadi — itself is a "consensual face" and collective leadership is the formula to the assembly poll contest.

Recently, Raut had said that a chief ministerial face is necessary for the upcoming state elections. However, Pawar pointed out that in the Lok Sabha elections, MVA was ahead in 155 assembly segments.

This, the NCP (SCP) chief said, reveals the trend and proves that MVA is in a good position to win the assembly election due later this year. "We won 30 seats and one MP extended support to us. This shows the trend among people. The LS election results have put Ma-



MVA in good position to win upcoming state elections, said Pawar

hayuti in shock," said Pawar at a press conference.

Pawar said the announcements in the interim budget were made keeping an eye on the assembly elections. He claimed the secrecy of the budget was not maintained as most of the announcements were out in the public a day before. "We think the budget is difficult to implement because of the huge

gap in expenses and income," said Pawar.

About LS Speaker Om Birla's remark on the Emergency invoked by Indira Gandhi, Pawar said the part of Birla's speech on the Emergency was unnecessary and "brings dishonour to post".

Pawar also said the opposition is deliberating on forming a "shadow cabinet" though a final decision is yet to be taken.

Petrol dips 77p/l, diesel ₹2.18/l day after VAT cut plan

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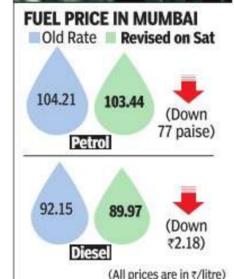
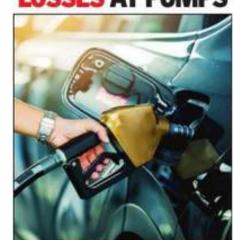
Mumbai: The price of petrol in Mumbai dropped by 77 paise to retail at Rs 103.44 per litre at the pumps on Saturday morning. Meanwhile, the price of diesel dipped by Rs 2.18 per litre and was being sold at Rs 89.97 per litre at Indian Oil pumps.

This development has come a day after deputy chief minister and finance minister Ajit Pawar announced in the state budget that fuel prices will drop as govt has decided to reduce value added tax (VAT) on petrol and diesel across the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR). Petrol price in Thane and Navi Mumbai too dropped by 77 paise to Rs 103.64 per litre while the revised diesel price was Rs 90.16 per litre at Indian Oil pumps. The price at HP pumps was Rs 103.63 for petrol and Rs 90.06 per litre for diesel in these areas.

A member of the Petrol Dealers' Association said the drop was more than what govt had announced. "Govt had given an approximation figure of the drop while the actual calculations were done overnight by the oil marketing companies. Besides, the drop has come two days in advance — as govt has announced that prices will fall from July 1."

There was not much rush at the pumps in the morning as citizens were unaware of the sudden price drop, but as news spread, people started bringing their bikes and cars to the pumps to fill up petrol/diesel. A petrol pump dealer from

LOSSES AT PUMPS



Ghatkopar said, "Our main concern is the earlier stock at the fuel station, which is procured at higher rates. Any revision/drop in rates results in losses for retailers." On Saturday, several pump owners were taken by surprise. "This could lead to losses to the tune of a few crores of rupees in Mumbai region," he said.

Chief minister Eknath Shinde said this was one of the major decisions taken in the budget tabled in the legislature on Friday, and will bring cheer to lakhs of citizens in MMR.

Potholes come up on newly done Mum-Ahd highway

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Mumbai: The deteriorating condition of Mumbai-Ahmedabad National Highway-48 has become a major concern for motorists and businesses alike, with road users encountering potholes on the newly concretised sections of the six-lane road. National Highway Authority of India (Nhai) began white topping work in Dec 2023 and has completed 65km of the 121km stretch from Dahiisar to Achchhad on Maharashtra-Gujarat border.

As Palghar district, through which the highway passes, is expected to receive heavy rainfall exceeding 3,000 mm annually, Nhai manager for Thane region, Sumit Kumar, announced that concretisation work will be temporarily suspended from next week. Kumar acknowledged the presence of potholes on some of the concretised sections, attributing them to vehicles driving on the freshly laid cement. He said pothole-filling will be done when a dry window is available and requested additional traffic police to manage traffic flow.

Commuters have reported that travel time has tripled since unplanned concretisation work began. A spokesperson for Gowalis Industries Association, Vasai, emphasised the critical nature of this route for their

MOTORISTS, BUSINESSMEN AFFECTED



A pockmarked stretch of the highway at Ghodbunder junction

businesses and expressed concern that poor quality of road work has exacerbated an already challenging situation. Entrepreneurs from Mumbai and Thane spend 4-5 hours daily to cover the stretch between Vasai and Ghodbunder junction, said a Vile Parle businessman.

Nhai officials explained that white topping work has been impacted as they were not granted permission to completely close a section of the road while carrying out work. In contrast, Nashik-Mumbai highway white topping work has been progressing smoothly as they were allowed to block a 1-km stretch at a time, completing it within 17 days before reopening it to vehicles. For NH-48, the roads have been partially open to traffic, re-

sulting in a completion time of 50-55 days a kilometre. Officials have submitted a proposal to the state, seeking its nod for a pilot project to fully block a 1-km stretch of road.

The stretch was widened from four lanes to six between 2009 and 2013 by M/s IRB Infrastructure Developers Ltd, but no major overhaul was done in the concession period. Nhai took it over in May 2022. Heavy traffic has been attributed various factors — wrong-side driving, ongoing work by various agencies, encroachments, and illegal parking on service roads. Also, 13 construction zones have been set up, and 3-lane traffic is being regulated in two lanes, causing congestion for road users.

The project is slated for completion in Apr 2025.

Oppn plans breach of privilege motion over GR on 'Ladki'

Priyanka Kakodkar & Clara Lewis | TNN

Mumbai: With the state women and child welfare dept issuing a Government Resolution (GR) detailing conditions and guidelines for implementation of the Mukhyamantri Ladki Bahin Yojana, leader of Opposition in the state Assembly Vijay Wadettiwar on Friday said he would move a breach of privilege motion against the government for issuing a GR before it was passed by the state legislature.

"According to the norms, the budget is discussed and passed in the legislature and then the appropriation bill is signed by the Governor. Only after that can a GR be issued allowing for expenditure on a scheme announced in the budget," said Wadettiwar. "Issuing a GR before this process is a complete insult of the legislature. We will move a breach of privilege motion," he told the state assembly. State minister Shambhuraje Desai said the Opposition was envious of the government. "They did not introduce such a far-reaching scheme when they were in power and now they are jealous," said Desai.

Wadettiwar said the scheme was just pre-election

jugglery. "The norms are stringent and barely 20% of the women who apply will qualify for the scheme. This has only been done with an eye on the polls," he said.

The Mukhya Mantri Mazhi Ladki Bahin Yojana, patterned on the MP govt's scheme, will provide a subsidy of Rs 1,500 to eligible women between the ages of 21 and 60. The scheme, which will roll out in July, will cost the state Rs 46,000 crore per year. The scheme is the biggest announcement in the state budget, with an allocation higher than any other new scheme. Only women who are married, divorced, widowed and destitute can apply for the scheme. It is open to those whose family income is below Rs 2.5 lakh per year.

If a family member pays income tax, they are also not eligible for the scheme. Those with family member as a government employee or has over 5 acres of land is also not eligible. Also, if the applicant has received over Rs 1,500 from another government scheme, she is also not eligible for the scheme. However, if the benefit is less than Rs 1,500 per month, then the difference in amount will be credited to the woman's bank account via the Direct Benefit Transfer scheme.

Mahad doc gets Chinese praise for anti-scorpion venom

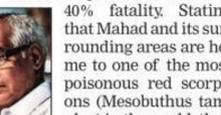
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Mumbai: Almost 40 years after a young 'rural doctor' from Konkan worked out an algorithm to manage hitherto fatal red scorpion stings in the most basic healthcare settings, he still gets praises from around the medical world.

This time, the praise for 74-year-old Dr Himmatrao Bawaskar, who has a hospital in Mahad—roughly 170km from Mumbai—has come from Chinese researchers. Their appre-

ciation has been published as a letter, titled 'Reducing scorpion sting fatality rate to 1% in India', in the latest edition of 'The Lancet', one of the most read medical journals. In 2022, Dr Bawaskar got the Padma Shri for his work in anti-scorpion venom.

"I am most proud that at my scorpion research has been acknowledged by China's scientists. It is a great achievement for India," Dr Bawaskar told TOI.



wrote if a person was stung by it in a village in the 1980s, they would not survive the night. "Most people living in vil-

lages of India had no cure for poisonous scorpion stings and died without proper treatment; no proper medication was available and the medical knowledge of doctors was insufficient to address scorpion sting victims. This norm was broken by a village-born physician named Dr Himmatrao Bawaskar," it said.

It noted that Dr Bawaskar not only invented a treatment for scorpion sting envenomation, but also travelled across rural India to educate doctors

about it. "His treatment approaches reduced the fatality rate from 40% in the 1970s to 1% in 2014," said the Lancet piece.

Incidentally, Dr Bawaskar described his treatment in an article in The Lancet in 1986, a period when original medical research from India was rarely chronicled in foreign academic world. The Indian Academy of Pediatrics, in its standard treatment guidelines 2022, mentions him as the "unsung warrior and living legend who first gave prazosin in scorpion

envenomation management in rural Maharashtra".

Meanwhile, the Chinese letter in The Lancet is followed by one by Dr Bawaskar on "India's forgotten children", a follow-up on a topic he wrote on in 2003. "Since then, little has changed in the context of children's health globally," he wrote. Despite "remarkable reductions" in viral and bacterial diseases, he said poverty and illiteracy are still rampant in rural settings, resulting in malnutrition and sepsis.

'More people involved in Korea trafficking scam'

Mumbai: After the arrest of an officer of lieutenant commander rank in an alleged case of trafficking people to South Korea, a defence spokesperson on Saturday said that they would fully cooperate with the law enforcement agencies. The city crime branch arrested Vipin Dagar for sending people to South Korea on forged documents.

A defence spokesperson said in a statement on Saturday, "A complaint of misconduct of an officer was received by the Navy from the Republic of Korea (RoK) Consulate in Mumbai. On investigation by the Navy, it was found that the case had possible links to a fraudulent visa racket gang." The Navy then informed the police. DCP Datta Nalawade of the crime branch said: "...names of some more accused have emerged. Our teams are searching for them." —Maten Hafeez

CELEBRATING A RESOUNDING VICTORY!



Cricket Fever: Residents in Navi Mumbai took to the streets to celebrate India's win at the ICC T20 World Cup

Jogger hit by vehicle falls 35ft off bridge, dies

V.Narayan@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: A 19-year-old jogger died after he was flung off Andheri flyover, near Gundavali metro station, some 35 feet below, in a hit-and-run around 5.45 am on Saturday. His friend of the same age, who was jogging with him, is in hospital and is slated to undergo surgery.

The deceased has been identified as Vivek Yadav. The injured, Aman Yadav, is being treated at Seven Hills Hospital for multiple fractures and head injuries.

A group of cyclists found Aman lying on the bridge around 6.15 am. Vivek, who had fallen off the flyover, was spotted about 30 minutes later. He must have been lying unattended for at least 15 to 20 minutes, said a cyclist. Another said Aman was conscious, but couldn't recall what had hit them. His left leg was swollen.

One of the cyclists, Amrit Rajkhowa, who spotted the joggers, rushed them to a nearby hospital along with five other cyclists. However, due to financial constraints of the families, the injured teenager had to be taken to another hospital. "They were unable to deposit Rs 10,000. The doctor told Vivek's father that he needed urgent medical aid, but the father took him to Cooper Hospital where he passed away at 10.30 am," said Rajkhowa.

Street lights on the flyover had been switched off at 5.45 am when the two were jogging on the flyover, the cyclist quoted the injured teenager as saying. "This could have prevented the motorist from seeing the two joggers," said the cyclist.

Assistant commissioner of police Dr Shashikant Bhosale said, "There is no CCTV camera on the flyover. We are depending on cameras on the stretch ahead to track down the vehicle involved in the accident," Bhosale said, adding that a third friend went jogging below the flyover.

State likely to table ₹1L cr add'l demand, debt may rise further

Priyanka.Kakodkar @timesgroup.com

Mumbai: The Shinde gov't's election budget, which has shored up voters in the run-up to the assembly polls due in Oct, has cost Rs 96,000 crore and led to a debt projection of Rs 7.8 lakh crore. Govt sources, though, say this is not the entire picture of the financial strain facing the state. Next week, gov't is expected to table supplementary demands for expenses outside the budget. The figure is expected to be as high as Rs 1 lakh crore, sources say.

If supplementary demands were included in the budget, the revenue deficit and debt figure would be higher. Supplementary demands are additional expenses for which funds are required by gov't beyond the allocation in the budget.

In Feb, the state had presented an interim budget which had a debt figure of Rs 7.8 lakh crore. Now in June, the new budget has a similar debt figure even though new schemes are set to cost Rs 96,000 crore. This suggests a portion of these expenses may be included in supplementary demands. "Allocation for the main schemes and expenses of the gov't are supposed to be met by the budget. Supplementary demands are meant to be for exigencies," said a senior official.

Using the supplementary demands to meet budget expenses has become the norm in recent years though. "It's a form of mathematical juggle which buys the gov't some time," said the official.

Last year, the state's cumulative supplementary demands spread over the year amounted to Rs 1 lakh crore. Now,

the same amount could be presented in a single assembly session. Like the budget, supplementary demands are presented in the state assembly and passed by the legislature.

In the July 2023 assembly session, the state had tabled supplementary demands worth Rs 41,243 crore. In Dec 2023, the figure was Rs 55,520 crore. In Feb 2024, the state had tabled demands worth Rs 8,069 crore in the assembly session.

Sources say the supplementary demands will not only make provisions for schemes, but also make allocations to MLA funds for development work within the constituency. In Maharashtra, the MLA fund is worth Rs 5 crore per legislator per year.

In an election year, gov't will want to ensure that works especially in constituencies with ruling party MLAs are not

affected by lack of funds. "The gov't will have to walk a tightrope. In order to ensure that its MLAs do not switch parties, it will want to allocate funds to their constituencies. But it will also want to keep the electorate happy across different constituencies," said an official.

While speaking to the media after presenting the budget, state finance minister Ajit Pawar said the state's debt was within fiscal limits. It is 18.3% of the state's GSDP while the fiscal limit set by RBI is 25%.

Officials though say states with a high debt burden are struggling to pay salaries and pensions of gov't employees since this is a massive chunk of gov't expenditure. The state budget showed the cost of salaries, pension and interest payment totalled Rs 2.9 lakh crore in 2024-25. This accounted for 58% of the state revenue.

Jobs for sportspersons doing India, Maha proud: State govt

Mumbai: The state govt has decided to provide jobs to the sportsperson who have made the country and Maharashtra proud in the national and international games by winning medals.

The decision was taken in the state cabinet meeting held on Friday. Finance minister Ajit Pawar said, "The state cabinet has decided to

provide gov't jobs to all the sports persons who have brought fame to the country and the state in the national and international competitions. The list includes Kavita Raut."

Raut is an Indian long-distance runner from Nashik who won the silver medal in the 10,000-meter race at the 2010 Asian Games. TNN

Youth rams into Dy CM's car, held

Mumbai: Adarsh Gupta, a 23-year-old student, was apprehended by the Vakola police for driving in a reckless manner which led to a collision with a stationary SUV near the Domestic Airport on the Kalina side on Friday at 11:15pm. The SUV, which was a pilot vehicle, was waiting to pick up the deputy chief minister who was expected to arrive in Mumbai. TNN

Govt to table white paper on MoUs signed in Davos before Oct polls

Chaitanya.Marpakwar @timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Amid allegations by the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) of an industrial exodus from Maharashtra, state industries Minister Uday Samant on Saturday announced that his dept will bring out a white paper on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) signed in Davos's World Economic Forum (WEF) and its execution in the last three years.

The white paper will be published before the Oct assembly polls and will be clear under which gov't how many MoUs were signed and executed, said Samant in the legislative council while responding to a question by Congress MLC Abhijit Wanjari. In Aug 2023, a white paper issued by the industries dept had claimed that the Mahayuti gov't cannot be held responsible for the decision of multinationals Vedanta-Foxconn, Tata-Airbus and Safran to prefer other states over Maharashtra for

Problem if photographer becomes CM: Fadnavis in swipe at Uddhav

Mumbai: DCM Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday took an indirect dig at Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray when he said that problems arise if someone who is passionate about photography becomes chief minister (CM). "If you choose your passion as a career, you will definitely get success in life. But, if a person passionate about photography becomes the CM, then there is a problem," said Fadnavis. He was speaking at the launch of the book 'Udaan' written by Andheri (West) BJP MLA Ameet Satam. Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Dr Mohan Bhagwat launched the book.

Bhagwat said Udaan was a practical book on career choice written on personal experiences. "Career has become about good marks in exams and good salary in jobs. But being successful alone cannot be called a career. An individual is fortunate if he makes a career out of his passion," said Bhagwat. Although this book is written in English, the same should be translated in multiple Indian languages and made available to as many parents and students as possible, Bhagwat said. Satam said parents should not impose their dreams on their children but should become a protective shell and protect the child and help them choose their passion as a career. — Chaitanya Marpakwar

their projects as there were no MoUs with state authorities. The white paper had given a clean chit to the gov't, saying that companies like Foxconn and others didn't sign MoUs.

Samant also said Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) had approached the state gov't for land in Ratnagiri to set up a unit but land was not acquired and when the

state gov't got back to GAIL, it said it didn't need the land. Samant said GAIL never made any written application or request so it can't be said that the GAIL project was supposed to come to Maharashtra and then left. Samant said that a Rs 4,000 crore Hyundai project which was going to Chennai will now come to Maharashtra. Leader of Opposition in Legislative Council Ambadas Danve of the Shiv Sena (UBT) had alleged that a Rs 50,000 crore project that was going to be set up in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar or Dabhol in Maharashtra will now be set up in Madhya Pradesh by GAIL.

Samant said 80% of MoUs signed in Davos are being executed. "We will bring out a white paper on all the MoUs signed at WEF in the last three years, so this will cover the previous gov't and our gov't too. This year, we signed MoUs worth Rs 3.82 lakh crore. The biggest gems and jewellery park is also coming up in Navi Mumbai," Samant said.

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CM announces 'Teerth Yojana' for elderly day after budget

Clara.Lewis@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: A day after announcement of budget, CMEkath Shinde announced the CM Teerth Yojana for senior citizens in the legislative assembly. He was responding to a Calling Attention Motion raised by his party MLA Prapat Sarnaik on Saturday seeking govt aid for the poor to go on a pilgrimage.

Sarnaik said in urban areas, MLAs such as Ram Kadam and Prakash Surve have been sending numerous batches of senior citizens on pilgrimage to Amarnath, Vaishnodevi, Ayodhya, and the Char Dham yatra, spending money from their pockets. "In rural areas, MLAs are not able to do so. Hence, the govt must provide for the pilgrimage," he said.

Speaker Rahul Narwekar reminded MLAs that Shinde had already announced the construction of a Bhakta Niwas in Ayodhya. Shinde said that for the first time the govt had announced Rs 20,000 for every Dindi going to Pandharpur on a pilgrimage. The pilgrims include women, farmers, youth, and senior citizens, all of whom will benefit, he said. Shinde said a policy will be framed wherein senior citizens can apply online to avail of the scheme. Around 5,000-10,000 people will be sent on the govt aided pilgrimage annually. The scheme will be implemented immediately, he said.

2 ceiling slabs collapse in Jogeshwari E

Mumbai: Two ceiling slabs of two flats in different buildings in the PMGP colony, Jogeshwari East, collapsed a few hours apart on Saturday. The incident was brought to the notice of the Legislative Assembly by Sena (UBT) MLA Sunil Prabhu through a point of information. Prabhu pointed out that one ceiling slab collapsed around 1am and the other around noon. No one was hurt. Prabhu said the buildings are in a dilapidated condition and urged govt to grant permission for redevelopment to avoid any mishaps this monsoon.

He said the govt must carry out redevelopment by appointing a contractor or tell BMC to redevelop. **TNN**

Three minors detained over teen's murder

Mumbai: Three minor boys allegedly assaulted and one of them stabbed a 17-year-old boy after the victim allegedly refused to share gutkha with them in Mulund on Friday evening. The injured boy was taken to a hospital where he was declared dead. Police traced the three minors and handed them over to the Dongri Children's remand home.

The incident took place between 5 pm and 5.30 pm on Friday in Mulund (West).

The deceased, Mohammed Hussain Khan (17) and his 16-year-old friend were stopped by the three minor boys who asked them to share gutkha. Khan reportedly refused and a heated argument followed.

Later the three minors beat up Khan and one of the accused stabbed Khan twice with a knife.

Khan sustained injuries in his chest and thighs.

The trio fled from the scene. **TNN**

BMC: Cantilever limits Marine Drive greenery

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Mumbai: The BMC which has faced criticism for not planting trees on the newly restored portion of the Marine Drive promenade attached to its ambitious coastal road project said that tree plantation was not feasible because the promenade was built on a cantilever structure. A cantilever is a structural element with beams and columns that extends horizontally and is unsupported at one end.

Additional municipal commissioner Amit Saini in charge of the coastal road project said that since plantation on cantilever was not possible. However, as part of the overall landscaping being planned, the tree cover which was removed from Marine Drive would be added near the Birla Kreedha Kendra at the end of the road at Girgaon Chowpaty.

Civic officials said that from Priyadarshani Park on Nepensea Road upto Worli, the promenade is constructed on a reclaimed stretch of land but owing to Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) rules reclamation on Marine Drive was



Tree cover would be added near the Birla Kreedha Kendra

not possible.

"Therefore the promenade is built up on a cantilever below which there are fragments of rock from the head-roof of the cantilever upto eight metres into the sea. After this there are four rows of tetrapods," said an official.

Regarding the lack of tree planting on the road divider, officials further explained that due to numerous complaints over the past year about pedestrians crossing haphazardly at Marine Drive, the decision was made to close the divider, preventing pedestrian crossings instead of planting trees.

The coastal road project aims to ease traffic congestion in Mumbai, but the lack of greenery on the newly restored promenade has raised concerns about the aesthetic and environmental impact of the project. Civic activist Zoru Bhatena who has raised a complaint on the missing tree cover said that he was doubtful about the promenade being constructed on a cantilever. "Besides, if tall trees can be grown on the roof of Mumbai Airport and inside Terminal 2 as well, it is ridiculous to say that trees can't be grown on a cantilever at Marine Drive promenade," he said.

CM yet to appoint chief secy

Prafulla.Marpakwar@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Chief secretary Nitin Kareer retired on Saturday, chief minister Ekath Shinde is yet to appoint his successor. An IAS officer of the 1988 batch, however, he was given a three-month extension, which ended today.

Additional chief secretaries Sujata Saunik, Rajesh Kumar and Iqbal Singh Chahal are the front runners for the top post.

Saunik is the senior most bureaucrat in the state, in fact, when Kareer was appointed CS, he superseded her. In the event, Saunik is appointed CS, she will be the first woman to lead the bureaucracy.

Senior bureaucrats expressed shock and surprise over the prolonged delay in appointment of the CS.

"It was wrong to wait till the last day of the retirement of the outgoing CS. We felt that Shinde will break the tradition of his predecessors, but he is following them," a former CS said.

PART OF ANDHERI'S BARFIWALA FLYOVER SLATED TO BE THROWN OPEN TOMORROW



Motorists can expect some relief in their commute as BMC plans to throw open a portion of Andheri's CD Barfiwala bridge on Jul 1. The bridge has been connected with Gokhale bridge, a part of which is still under construction. A site inspection has been planned by civic authorities on Sunday before the opening. This development will enable motorists travelling from Juhu towards Andheri East or Western Express Highway to use the road. The misalignment between the two bridges had come to light after the Gokhale bridge opening in February. BMC began work on Apr 14 to match levels of the two flyovers. The concretisation required to align the girders of Barfiwala flyover and Gokhale bridge had to be carried out during the monsoon season too. BMC is spending nearly Rs. 3 crore to match the level of the two flyovers. **TNN**

Celebs help in campaign against mosquitoes

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: In the battle against malaria and dengue, the BMC is roping in celebrities from Marathi and Hindi cinemas to appeal to Mumbaiers to take preventive measures against mosquitoes that spread the diseases.

A fortnight back, the BMC announced that it has adopted the 'foci method' to deal with mosquitoes; the focus will be on areas with the highest number of patients and the priority would be to detect and destroy mosquito breeding sites in these areas. "The insecticide department has already started focusing on mosquitoes, but we need people to adopt anti-mosquito measures as well," said a doctor from the civic health department.

People need to stop storing water that is over a week old or be careful about mosquitoes breeding in their flower pots. Such messages will be delivered through celebrity videos in the 'Bhaag Machhar Bhag' campaign, the doctor added. BMC executive health officer Dr Daksha Shah said that the number of malaria cases in June were lower than in June 2023.

FIRs against 14 passport officials for corruption

Vijay.V.Singh@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: CBI has registered 12 FIRs against passport officials posted at Passport Seva Kendra (PSK) at Malad and Lower Parel, and touts for engaging in corruption to issue passports based on forged documents. CBI said the touts would bribe passport officials to issue passports by avoiding mandatory document verification with the help of forged documents. In some instances, they issued passports despite pending criminal cases against applicants, thus 'compromising national security of our country.'

CBI searched 33 premises in the city and Nashik on Saturday and seized digital evidence related to passport documents. The agency is examining the role of senior passport officials.

On Wednesday, CBI, with the vigilance team of Passport Seva Programme Division of Ministry of External Affairs, checked the suspected officials at the two centres. While examining cellphones, including chat messages and UPI details of suspected officials, CBI found they had received money from touts via UPI. CBI registered 12

FIRs of criminal conspiracy and corruption cases on Friday against 14 officials working as passport assistants and 18 agents/touts.

A CBI press release said, "Some officers are receiving the bribe directly in their own bank accounts or in the bank accounts of their near and dear family members from passport facilitation agents." "It was alleged these officers were in regular contact with passport facilitation agents and conspiring with them to obtain undue advantage in lieu of issuance of a passport based on inadequate/incomplete documents or by manipulating personal particulars of passport applicants."

It further added, "The analysis of documents, social media chats, and Unified Payments Interface (UPI) ID activities of suspect public servants revealed various suspicious transactions by some officials of PSKs indicating demand and acceptance of undue advantage through the passport facilitation agents for issuance of passports as well as to get passports issued based on inadequate/fake/forged documents."

Cruelty: 'Criminal law used only to harass husband, kin'

From P 1

Setting into motion law enforcement machinery leads to serious consequences for innocent family members. Elderly parents, siblings and distant relatives of the accused are often implicated in the complaint without direct involvement," said Justices Ajay Gadkari and Neela Gokhale. They allowed the petition by the husband, his mother (63) and his aunts, aged 62 and 75 years.

In May 2006, a zero FIR was lodged in Satara on the complaint of the woman's father. It was later transferred to Pune. When the trial was pending before a JMFC court, the couple settled the matter before the Family Court. The woman told trial court there was no ill-treatment meted out to her by her husband or his relatives. In Nov 2007, they were acquitted. In Nov 2012, an FIR

was lodged in Satara on her complaint of mental and physical cruelty against the four. In June 2016, the HC stayed the proceedings. The husband's advocate Omkar Nagvekar said since 2007, after a compromise was effected before the Family Court, the couple had resided separately.

In the order, dictated by Justice Gokhale, the judges noted that allegations in both FIRs were similar in nature. In the second FIR, the woman included the allegations she had earlier deposed were due to misunderstanding. "It is clear that the complainant repeated her allegations made earlier in an attempt to somehow increase the number of purported instances of cruelty against these applicants. Having once deposed before a jurisdictionally competent court denying the ill-treatment, she cannot repeat the same allegations after the ac-

quies are acquitted based on her evidence," they added. Also, in the present case, she did not refer to the earlier FIR and acquittal of the applicants and "concealed material facts from the police." In April 2017, a Satara court granted her divorce "based on her allegations."

The judges said the woman set the criminal law in motion "only with a view to rope in her husband and his relatives who did not even share residence with them and only to harass them to settle a personal grudge." "Twice over, the police machinery has been misused to investigate similar allegations and burden the court of the JMFC with vexatious litigation. We find that the provision of 496A IPC has been totally misused by the complainant... we have no hesitation in holding that no cognisable offence is made out," they concluded.

WEATHERMEN ISSUE ORANGE ALERT FOR CITY ON MON; YELLOW ALERT FOR THANE, PALGHAR

Pics: SL Shanth Kumar, K K Choudhary



Mumbai: The city may see a wet week ahead with an orange alert issued by the IMD for Mumbai, Raigad for July 1, Monday.

An orange alert indicates heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places. IMD officials said that with the strengthening of westerly winds, good rains can be expected on July 1. Meanwhile on the same date i.e. July 1 for Thane and Palghar a yellow alert has been issued indicating heavy rainfall at isolated places.

In the past few days the city has witnessed regular rain activity. IMD officials said that the monsoon has finally well established itself in the city after its onset on June 9.

"The strengthening of the westerly winds and an offshore trough establishing in the Arabian sea we expect that rain activity would pick up next week," said an IMD official.

In the 24 hours ending 8.30am on June 29 the total rainfall recorded by the IMD Colaba observatory was 25.2 mm and IMD Santacruz observatory 33.4 mm.

The total rain recorded this month by the IMD Colaba and Santacruz observatory has been 491.2 mm and 321.7 mm respectively.

With water stocks in the lakes supplying to the city's needs being at a three-year low, good rainfall is much needed to ensure that the city administration is notified to levy a further water cut. Currently Mumbai is reeling under a 10% water cut.



13 incidents of drowning reported at Raigad from May 25 to Jun 24

Navi Mumbai: So far 13 persons have drowned in various tourist spots in Raigad district over a month. Most of them are tourists. The drowning incidents have exposed the lack of safety around beaches, talao, dams among others. The Kharghar police has banned entry into hills, waterfalls and channels from June 17 to September 30 in its jurisdiction by putting up warning banners. The drowning incidents were reported between May 25 and June 24. Of those drowned, most were tourists from Mumbai and Pune. 7 of those who drowned were minors. According to officials, revellers enter water bodies unaware of dangers like the depth of water, sludge, etc leading to accidents. — Richa Pinto

As on June 29, the water level at 6am, was 78,579 million litres with the BMC not supplying water from the reserve stocks

Water, shade & family support key to preventing Haj heat fatalities

Mohammed Wajihuddin@timesgroup.com

When summer becomes unbearably hot, not even the most devout are spared. Hundreds of thousands of pilgrims who thronged the holy city of Mecca for annual Haj last week experienced it.

As the mercury soared to nearly 52 degree celsius on a day when the five-day Haj rituals began, many pilgrims, mostly elderly, came under intense heatwave, collapsing fatally. Deaths during Haj is not new, but high number of casualties during this year's an-



Tennis star Sania Mirza (in red sari) performed Haj this year with family

nual pilgrimage—over 1300, including 98 Indians—have raised many questions. Since summer is expected to become

increasingly hotter due to climate change, many have offered precautions to save future pilgrims from getting

singed under the burning sun.

One of the causes for casualties due to heatwave this year was the pilgrims' inadequate preparedness. Many walked long distances in hot sun and stayed outdoor for hours. Most elderly were unaccompanied by younger members of the family left to fend for themselves. Several videos from the Haj have surfaced where pilgrims can be seen and heard appealing to people not to send their old parents unaccompanied by their young family members.

Most of those who died due to heatwave were those who reached there without valid Haj permit. "Anybody who has not secured Haj visa should not go

there. Hajis without permit were not provided air-conditioned buses to travel or tents to stay in the Mina valley. Haj is obligatory only on those who can afford to bear the monetary cost and are physically fit," said city-based businessman Mohammed Syed Sheeha.

Though the deaths of Indian pilgrims is mercifully low compared to other nationals, for example Egyptians, the Haj Committee of India through which the bulk of pilgrims (1,40,000) travelled has drawn flak. Around 35,000 pilgrims used Private Tour Operators (PTOs) to reach Mecca.

Irfan Ismail Shaikh, a member of Maharashtra State

Haj Committee, has petitioned many high authorities, including the PM Narendra Modi, complaining against poor facilities provided by the Haj Committee.

"There was inadequate number of khuddams or volunteers to help the Hajis. Many pilgrims had to wait for hours for buses. They were crammed in rooms at old buildings, many of which were located at long distances from Haram Sharif (holy premises which house the Kaaba and the grand mosque in Mecca)," said Shaikh.

However, Liaquat Ali Afaiqi, CEO of the Haj Committee, said that the responsibility of making arrangements

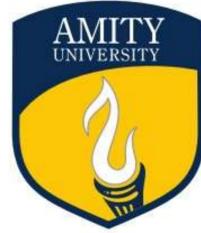
for stay and travels in Saudi Arabia lay with Consul General of India (CGI) in Jeddah and Saudi government. "Our job is to ensure that the pilgrims reach airports safely. Once they reach Saudi Arabia it is CJJ which coordinates with Saudi authorities for comfortable stay and safe travels of the pilgrims," said Afaiqi. He added almost all Indians who died during Haj were above 60.

This brings us back to the question whether at least a young family member should accompany senior citizens. Yusuf Ahmed Khereda of Al Khalid Tours and Travels said it was very difficult for all elderly pilgrims to bring along young members as then Haj

will be costlier.

"The best way to prevent miseries due to heatwave is to stop illegal entry in the Haj area. Saudi government provides shades, cold water or air-conditioned buses only to the legal pilgrims, not those who reach there illegally," said Khereda. Former tennis star Sania Mirza, her father Imran Mirza, her sister Anam and Anam's husband Mohammed Asaduddin used Khereda's Haj services this year. They could afford to stay in luxury while on Haj. Most others could not afford it.

Those pilgrims who neither carried umbrellas nor had enough stock of cold water suffered the most.



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City pharma's new antibiotic to combat superbugs by year-end

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Mumbai: A city-based pharma company designing a new antibiotic to combat superbugs said its clinical trial should be complete by year-end.

Stating that its novel antibiotic candidate, WCK 5222, has shown "100% success rate" in 30 patients who got it on compassionate grounds within India and abroad last year, Indian drugmaker Wockhardt on Thursday said it's in the process of getting the DCG's approval. The drug could thus be launched by the end of financial year in India.

WCK 5222, which contains antibiotic cefepime and zidebactam, has been used to treat patients suffering from infec-

tions caused by drug-resistant strains of known bacteria. The World Health Organisation has listed antibiotic resistance as one of the new public health challenges that kills approximately 5 million people annually across the world.

On Thursday, Wockhardt officials said WCK 5222 was recently used to treat a chronic infection of a cancer patient at Children's Health Hospital, University of California Irvine School of Medicine. During the nine-month hospitalisation, the patient suffered the same infection multiple times and was given various antibiotics. The hospital then requested access to WCK 5222 on compassionate grounds and the patient was cured of the infection in four weeks.

In another case, a city patient who had undergone a kidney transplant developed an infection that spread to his lungs and brain. After 70 days of treatment with WCK5222, the patient's infection disappeared and he could return home. The 30 patients were treated under compassionate grounds for infections caused by strains of pseudomonas, klebsiella, E. coli and acinetobacter that are resistant to all available antibiotics at the moment.

Last week, Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute, a global antibiotics approval body, granted WCK5222 a susceptibility breakpoint of 64 mg/L for around 10 gram-negative pathogens showing high resistance rates. "Susceptibility breakpoints help doctors decide on the

most effective antibiotic to treat their patient's infection," said the official.

Since the introduction of penicillin in 1928, more than 250 antibiotics have been approved and used clinically. However, due to indiscriminate use of antibiotics, many bacteria have become resistant; as a result, there are many superbugs that are hard to treat with known antibiotics. Over 10 years back, India saw the emergence of the severely drug-resistant strains of tuberculosis that couldn't be treated by any of the common antibiotics prescribed under the government TB control programme. The emergence of new antibiotics, such as bedaquiline and delamanid, has since helped in the fight against TB.

Rly min urges vigilance during rains

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Mumbai: Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav conducted a review of the monsoon preparedness of both Central Railway (CR) and Western Railway (WR), instructing officials to remain vigilant to ensure the smooth running of trains and assist passengers during emergencies. During his visit to Mumbai on Friday, Vaishnav held a late-night meeting with senior officials from WR and CR.

CR's Chief Public Relations Officer, Swapnil Nila, stated, "While reviewing the preparations, the minister emphasized the need for constant alertness. He also directed authorities to address issues raised by passengers on the Rail Madad portal on priority." The Rail Madad Portal allows railway passengers to lodge complaints or provide suggestions online, through an app, or via SMS. It also enables them to track the live status of their complaints and give feedback based on their satisfaction with the resolution.

HC refuses extended time to remove Navi Mum hoardings

'Request Of Ninety Days Is Not At All Bona Fide'

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Mumbai: Bombay high court refused to extend time for removal of giant unauthorised hoardings in Navi Mumbai Airport Influence Area (NANA) and observed that the owners do not want to demolish them.

"The request of ninety days is not at all bona fide. The original order records that an undertaking was given to remove the hoardings within four weeks. This having not been done, there is no question of seeking a further ninety days to comply. We think that this is nothing but a request for breaching the solemn undertaking given to this Court," said Justices Mahesh Sonak and Kamal Khata in Friday's order.

On May 30, after HC refused to protect the hoardings, the owners/advertising agencies undertook to remove them within 4 weeks. City and

Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO) had given 24 hours to remove the hoardings.

Their advocate Uday Warunjikar said there was no compliance of HC's order as there is a shortage of cranes. He requested an additional 90 days to report compliance. The judges said the reason did not appeal to them and added, "...we presume that CIDCO does not have any shortage of cranes or the wherewithal to remove the hoardings."

Warunjikar said HC had granted the owners time to apply to CIDCO to revise its policy. The judges said it had nothing to do with removal of the unauthorised hoardings. "This leave, at the highest, might facilitate the erection of such hoardings in the future by the applicants after following the due process of law," they added.

Warunjikar then urged

that the owners be allowed to apply for regularisation. The judges said his request is "completely misconceived."

"The structures are wholly unauthorised and are impermissible under the current policy," they added. T

hey noted that the owners had themselves requested a policy revision. Also, after they had given undertaking to remove the hoardings, "there is no question of entertaining such a request."

Warunjikar said it was only a statement recorded in the May 30 order and not an undertaking to remove the hoardings. Rejecting this "distinction", the judges said it is not the law that the statement made by an advocate on instruction can be flouted by a party by saying it was not an undertaking.

"And this is after securing advantage of the statement and deferring the demolitions scheduled for the next day," they added. They dismissed the applications.

Narvekar & Naik front-runners for MCA prez after Amol Kale's death

Gaurav.Gupta@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: The race for the post of Mumbai Cricket Association's (MCA) president has begun to hot up, with candidates, or perhaps the sole candidate if he's elected unopposed, set to be backed by three of the top political personalities of the state — Sharad Pawar, Ashish Shelar and Devendra Fadnavis.

Following the untimely demise of its serving president, Amol Kale, in New York on Jun 10, MCA will conduct the election of its president at a special general meeting (SGM) on Jul 23 at Wankhede Stadium.

TOI understands that the front-runners in the race are Milind Narvekar and Sanjay Naik. Narvekar is PA to for-

mer chief minister Uddhav Thackeray, Shiv Sena party secretary and currently an MCA apex council member. Naik is currently MCA's vice-president, and was the secretary of the association from 2019 to 22. Two other prospective candidates who have an outside chance are MCA apex council member Jitendra Awhad, and Prasad Lad, MLC.

Narvekar is believed to be close to chief minister Eknath Shinde, deputy chief minister Fadnavis and current BCCI treasurer and former MCA president Ashish Shelar, who is also Mumbai BJP chief. Naik is a close aide of Shelar. At Kale's condolence meeting a few days back, Shelar had praised Naik for "withdrawing his pre-

idential candidature for Kale in MCA elections in 2022." At that time, Kale, who was a very close friend of Fadnavis, had beaten India's 1983 World Cup hero Sandeep Patil in a close MCA presidential election.

Awhad, an NCP leader, is close to NCP supremo Sharad Pawar, who has played the role of MCA 'mentor' for last few years. Lad is believed to be an aide of Fadnavis.

Pawar, Shelar and Fadnavis will be key decision-makers in endorsing candidature of MCA president, who will be in the post till MCA elections in Oct next year.

"This election is happening after Amol Kale sir's unfortunate death... Pawar saheb will take an appropriate decision," Narvekar told

TOI. On similar lines, Awhad told TOI, "Pawar saheb will take the final call."

A prominent member of MCA, who was a part of the Pawar-Shelar group in the last election, said: "We will back any candidate decided by Pawar and Shelar."

Nominations are to be filed from Jul 4 to 10. MCA electoral officer JS Saharia will conduct the election.

Announcement of valid candidates will be done on Jul 11. Deadline to withdraw nominations is Jul 16, and final list of contestants will be announced the same day. On Jul 23, the election will be held, with counting and declaration of the new president's name immediately on completion of polls.

State govt to bring out new policy on hoardings

Mumbai: Industries Minister Uday Samant on Saturday announced in the Legislative Council that the govt will soon bring out new policy for hoardings in the state following the Ghatkopar hoarding crash that killed 17 people. Samant said the railways will be told to follow the rules of the BMC. Samant said new instructions will be given to the railways telling them that BMC rules related to hoarding size and permissions will apply to them also. Samant said a fresh survey of hoardings will be carried out which will include a survey of digital hoardings and illegal hoardings will be removed. Samant was responding to a Calling Attention Motion (CAM) moved by Shiv Sena (UBT) MLC Sunil Shinde. The state govt in June appointed former Chief Justice of Allahabad high court Dilip Bhosale to conduct an enquiry into the May 13 collapse of the billboard at Ghatkopar petrol pump. — Chaitanya Marpakwar

GIRL DIES, WOMAN HURT AS SHOP CRASHES



A portion of a shop collapsed onto an adjacent hut, killing an eight-year-old girl and injuring a senior citizen at Lower Parel, near Deepak Cinema, on a rainy Saturday evening. The girl, Renuka Anant Kalsekar, was declared dead on arrival at KEM Hospital, while Jayshree Gautam Pawar (65) was undergoing treatment. Locals said the heavy rainfall could have weakened the structure of the shop, causing it to crash on the nearby chawl. A passer-by said, "Everything happened very quickly before anyone could try or rescue those stranded." The death of the child has left the local community in shock and mourning, said a local

BJP eyes state council chairman post, plans mega meet in Pune

Vaibhav.Ganpure
@timesgroup.com

Nagpur: BJP Maharashtra president Chandrashekhar Bawankule on Saturday announced that BJP was determined to secure the chairman's post in the Maharashtra legislative council. "Discussions will be held with the 11 constituent parties of the Mahayuti alliance to take a collective decision," he said.

TOI on November 25, 2023, had reported that the chairman's post has been vacant since NCP's Ram Rajee Nimbalkar's tenure ended on July 7, 2022. Currently, deputy chairperson Neelam Gorhe is handling the additional responsibility as the chairman.

The governor issues directives to conduct the chairman's polls, followed by voting among the members. If both ruling and opposition members agree on a candidate, voting can be bypassed. Alternatively, the govt can request the governor to appoint the chairman.

In the 78-member upper house, BJP holds the majority with 22 seats, followed by Shiv Sena (UBT) and Congress with eight seats each. The Peasants Workers Party (PWP) and Rashtrawadi Samaj Party (RSP) have one seat each. Bawankule, while addressing the media at Nagpur airport on Saturday, spoke of the viral letterhead having names of probable BJP candidates for the upcoming council polls in July. "It is a mischievous act, as the page has no authorized stamp and official protocol," he said,

confirming that over 20 names were discussed in the BJP core committee meeting. "The Central Parliamentary Board will select suitable candidates for the council, ensuring good names for the development of Maharashtra," he said.

BJP's Maharashtra in-charge, Bhupendra Yadav, and Ashwini Vaishnav on Saturday held a core group meeting in Mumbai with top BJP leaders, followed by an election management committee meeting to strategize for the upcoming assembly election in Maharashtra. The party has planned a mega meet in Pune on July 14, where Union home minister Amit Shah will address 4,500 workers and leaders.

BJP roadmap ready, will go to polls with allies

Mumbai: The BJP's roadmap for the upcoming assembly elections is ready, announced Mumbai unit president Ashish Shelar on Saturday. Shelar along with party national secretary Pankaja Munde and former minister and ex-Congressman Harshvardhan Patil besides him, said the BJP will fight the elections along with its allies, the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and the Ajit Pawar-led NCP. Munde's presence while addressing the media indicated she is firmly back in state politics and the party's clear intention not to isolate its core voters, the Other Backward Communities, even as it woos the Maratha community. Patil and Shelar are both Marathas.

Immediately after govt was sworn in at the Centre, Union home minister Amit Shah and BJP national president J P Nadda held a meeting with the party's state core unit in Delhi. This has been followed by a meeting of the core committee members in Mumbai. On Saturday, the party held a meeting at its state headquarters in Mumbai which was attended by the party's newly appointed Maharashtra observers Bhupendra Yadav and Ashwini Vaishnav. Those present included deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis, state unit president Chandrashekhar Bawankule, national general secretary B L Santosh, union minister and Mumbai North MP Piyush Goyal, state cabinet ministers Chandrakant Patil, Sudhir Mungantiwar and Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil. Others present for the meeting included national general secretary Pankaja Munde, MLC Pravin Darekar and state Mahila Morcha chief Chitra Wagh, among others.

Shelar said there was a detailed discussion on the roadmap for the elections. A resolution was passed congratulating the state govt on the budget. "Till July 10 we shall hold workshops for more than 700 mandals in the 288 assembly constituencies and give them detailed information on the provisions in the budget for various sections of society. They shall then disseminate this information amongst the people," he said. — Clara Lewis

confirming that over 20 names were discussed in the BJP core committee meeting. "The Central Parliamentary Board will select suitable candidates for the council, ensuring good names for the development of Maharashtra," he said.

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Nagpur-Goa Shaktipeeth Highway: MVA MLCs protest

Mumbai: The state Legislative Council was adjourned for 10 minutes after Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) MLCs walked into the well shooting slogans demanding the scrapping of the Nagpur-Goa Shaktipeeth Highway.

Responding to a Calling Attention Motion (CAM) by Congress MLC State Patil, Shiv Sena minister Dada Bhule said that the land acquisition process for the highway had not started yet and no environmental permissions have been sought so far. However, the MVA MLCs demanded a complete scrapping of the project and said that an old road along the same route already existed and there was no need to acquire land and construct a new highway. Deputy chairperson Neelam Gorhe then adjourned the house for 10 minutes amid sloganeering by the MVA MLCs in the well. Last week, after farmers from Mangon village in Hatkanagale tehsil of Kolhapur burnt copies of the land acquisition notification issued by state govt. — Chaitanya Marpakwar

Thane resident loses ₹10 lakh to cyber cheats

Thane: A 57-year-old victim from Thane fell victim to a cyber fraud, losing ₹10 lakh to scammers who deceived him by claiming that his identity had been compromised and misused for opening 25 fraudulent accounts across the nation. According to Vartak Nagar police, the complainant, a resident of Savarkar Nagar and an employee of a private firm, received a call at 3:40 pm on Wednesday from an unknown number. The caller told the victim that a loan of ₹10 lakh had been applied in his name and instructed him to transfer the amount to an account with a nationalized bank. — Nishikant Karlikar

Make multi-storey slums eligible for SRA: Aaditya

Mumbai: Shiv Sena (UBT) MLC Aaditya Thackeray on Saturday demanded that the govt make multi-storey slums eligible in Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA) schemes. Currently, only ground floor slum units are eligible under SRA schemes but not the first or second floor units. Aaditya's demand is seen as a big political move to woo slum dwellers ahead of the state assembly polls slated for Oct this year. Aaditya also visited the dairy plot in Kurla which the govt plans to give for rehabilitation of slum dwellers of the Dharavi Redevelopment Project (DPR). Mumbai Congress chief MP Varsha Gaikwad was also present and the

47-yr-old scrap dealer held for murder of man

Mumbai: The city crime branch on Thursday arrested a 47-year-old scrap dealer Mahendra Dalvi for allegedly assaulting a 58-year-old engineer who later died during the treatment. Police said that in April, members of a housing society in Parel village had beaten up the victim after allegations of Poeso against him. The deceased resided in another wing of the same residential society. The engineer was admitted to KEM Hospital for treatment. His son approached the RAK Marg police and lodged a case for voluntarily causing against over half a dozen people for assaulting his father. Police had previously arrested five accused. 799

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EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Ref. No. IRCON/BD/IND-BUD (Pkg 1A)/EOI/2024 dt. 28.06.2024
Expression of Interest (EOI) invited for: Association as JV partner for Experienced Agencies in connection with New BG Railway Line between Mangalyavagan - Kheri (INCL) Stations in Indore-Bundi Section of Ratlam & Bhopal Divisions of Western Railway & West Central Railway respectively in Madhya Pradesh State, India - Package 1A.
Tender ID: 2024_IRCON_199748_1 dt. 28.06.2024
For further details and updates, please visit tender section on IRCON's website www.ircon.org & www.tenders.gov.in. Amendments/Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted on the website only.
General Manager / Business Development

CENTRAL RAILWAY MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

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27242193	Modified Filter Panel Assembly	2083 Nos	15/07/2024
27242304	Drum Contact Segment Assembly	223 Nos	16/07/2024
27242643	Modified d-1 Auto drain Valve (GM TYPE)	133 Nos	16/07/2024
27242780	Main Compressor	23 Nos	16/07/2024
27243087	Metalised Carbon Strip	2600 Nos	16/07/2024
27243706	Cable Head Termination System	26 Nos	16/07/2024
27243796	Air Compressor	11 Nos	16/07/2024
38243506	Top side bearer liner to RDSO	4000 Nos	16/07/2024
27241898	Pin Arrangement	34 Set	17/07/2024
27243629	Fire Detection Equipment	24 Nos	17/07/2024
27241752	Set of Brake Gear Pins and Trunion	28 Set	18/07/2024
27242819	Set of Ball Type Cut-Out Cock	67 Set	18/07/2024
27243280	Switch for Head Light	138 Nos	18/07/2024
27243288	Set of Single Duct Leather Bellows	68 Set	18/07/2024
38243223	Foot step assembly.	1700 Nos	18/07/2024
71245065	Ophthalmic Yag laser system Ophthalmology Department.	01 No	18/07/2024
27241041A	Set of Items for Suspension Unit of Wheel Set	467 Set	22/07/2024
27241820A	Secondary Spring	596 Nos	22/07/2024
27243248	Ni-Cd Battery	32 Nos	22/07/2024
27243846	End Frame NDE Assembly	235 Nos	22/07/2024
27243964	Disc Brake Arrangement	08 Set	22/07/2024
27245008	Hitachi Tractor Motor	177 Nos	22/07/2024
38242263A	EDPM rubber profile for FRP window guide.	20000 Nos	22/07/2024
38243499	Knuckle for Upgraded High Tensile CBC AAR type 'E' for Freight Stock	4846 Nos	22/07/2024
50245056	LED Signal Lamp for Main Colour Light Signal for Aspect RED	236 Nos	22/07/2024
18240032	Nickel cadmium starter batteries	06 Set	24/07/2024
38241885	Non-asbestos L-type composition brake block	55202 Nos	25/07/2024
43241118	110V, 40AH lead acid battery set.	45 Set	26/07/2024
43241129	110V/120AH capacity valve regulated lead Acid Batteries	640 Set	26/07/2024
43244011	Blind socket Assembly	160 Nos	05/08/2024

Detail notice & Tender Conditions can be seen and downloaded from the website www.ireps.gov.in
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No: KMSMCL/DRUGS/RETND/PRGM/CH/ZINC SULPHATE/09/2024-25 Date: 28/06/2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

- Ref: 1. Tender Notification No: 1. HFW/KMSMCL/EQPT/RETND/PRGM/CH/ZINC SULPHATE/09/2024-25, Date: 28.06.2024 (IND-0126)
2. HFW/KMSMCL/EQPT/RETND/PRGM/CH/ZINC SULPHATE/10/2024-25, Date: 28.06.2024 (IND-0127)
3. HFW/KMSMCL/EQPT/RETND/PRGM/CH/ZINC SULPHATE/11/2024-25, Date: 28.06.2024 (IND-0128)
4. HFW/KMSMCL/EQPT/RETND/PRGM/CH/ZINC SULPHATE/12/2024-25, Date: 28.06.2024 (IND-0129)

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

- Retender for the supply of Zinc Sulphate Tablets under Child Health Programme of NHM for the year 2024-25. (IND-0126).
- Retender for the supply of Zinc Sulphate Tablets under Child Health Programme of NHM for the year 2024-25. (IND-0127).
- Retender for the supply of Zinc Sulphate Tablets under Child Health Programme of NHM for the year 2024-25. (IND-0128).
- Retender for the supply of Zinc Sulphate Tablets under Child Health Programme of NHM for the year 2024-25. (IND-0129).

Details regarding EMD, Terms and Conditions and other information are available in the Tender Document, which can be downloaded from the website <https://kppa.karnataka.gov.in> from 28.06.2024. The eligible tenderers shall submit their e-tenders under e-procurement platform for above mentioned tenders. Further information if any may be obtained from this office.

Sd/- Managing Director, KMSMCL, Bengaluru.

DIPRC/CP/AAPL/RO660/24-25

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[A] No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162, Date: 25/06/2024. Sl. No.: [1]. Tender No.: Brief Description of Item; Quantity; Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees); Tender Closing Date & Time (IST) are as follow: [1]; 75244132; Stainless Steel Pressed Section for WAG-9 HC Loco, as per Specn. No. CLW/MS/3/038 Alt-11 (each set consisting of 16 items as per set details attached) [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]; 396,000 Set; ₹ 1,28,780,000; 16/07/2024 at 11:00 AM. [2]; 75244115; Safety Sling Arrangement for Hanger lever for WAG-9HC as per Spec. Drg. No.-1209-01.416-066. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]; 900,000 Set; ₹ 0.00; 31/07/2024 at 11:00 AM.

[C] No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162, Date: 25/06/2024. Sl. No.: [1]. Tender No.: 91241011. Brief Description of Item: Rotor Shaft [Finish Machined], Drg. No. ITWD.096.009 Alt-1 and ZTF.096.015 ALT-4, SKEL 5032 ALT.0, SKEL 5043 Alt.0. Specn. No.: 4TMS.096.071 Rev-1, Alt.-1, STR No.: CLW/TM/0394/Rotor Shaft [Finish Machined] Rev-2. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. Quantity: 951,000 Numbers. Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees): ₹ 17,63,490,000. Tender Closing Date & Time (IST): 05/08/2024 at 11:00 AM. [PR4/492] PCMM/CLW/Chittaranjan

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TISS forced to send termination notice to 100 staff members

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The Tata Institute of Social Sciences was forced to send termination notices to 100 staff members after the institute failed to receive the funds that support them from the Tata Trust.

On Friday, the TISS administration sent termination letters to nearly 100 staff members of the institute, informing them that their contracts will not be renewed and service ends on June 30, 2024. These staff members who were previously funded by the Tata Education Trust will become

unemployed after years of service at TISS. As per the TISS authorities, these staff members have been at the institute since 2008 and were running various teaching and research programmes at the premier social science institute. Close to 60 of them were faculty and the others were non-teaching members.

"We have been speaking to the Tata Trust officials for several months. But they have not yet released any salary to pay these staff members. Even the last month's salary of Rs 75 lakh was paid from the TISS reserve fund, which we are not

supposed to use for payment of salary," explained a senior TISS official.

The Progressive Students' Forum has demanded that the TISS administration "immediately revoke the mass termination and make necessary arrangements with the Union Government and the University Grants Commission to take responsibility for those previously employed under the Tata Education Trust. Alternatively, they must hold discussions with the top management of the Tata education trust to reinstate funding for these positions so that all jobs

are protected."

TISS authorities clarified that none of these posts are permanent government positions and all of them are contractual staff members who were supported by funds that came from the Tata Trust. "Once the funds come from the Tata Trust, all these staff members will be taken back to their programmes," said TISS authorities. With the change in the norms of the University Grants Commission, the governing board of TISS will be replaced by an executive council headed by the government-appointed vice-chancellor as chairperson.

Woman who faked death for insurance used 2 Aadhaar cards

Sandhya Nair
@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: The first fake death of Kanchan Rai in the insurance fraud in Bhayander was reported on Oct 11, 2021, with the cause stated as cardiac respiratory arrest. Kanchan's son, Dhanraj (30), submitted the necessary documents, and the insurance company transferred Rs 20.4 lakh to his bank account after a third-party verification that included visiting the family.

Similarly, another insurance company settled another claim of Rs 25 lakh for the first 'death' to the nominee, Dhanraj.

On Oct 20, 2023, another death was recorded, this time in the name of Pavitra. Husband Rohit (48) was the nominee of Pavitra's insurance policy; he claimed and received Rs 24.2 lakh.

However, on Jan 30 this year, the insurance company got suspicious after an audit threw up issues like same address but different name of the insured, same details of claimants and they approached another insurance firm and sought details of Kanchan's death.

This finally led to the first complaint in the case this past week.

Two more claims of Rs 24 lakh and Rs 17 lakh for the second 'death', in which Rohit was the nominee again, were pending when the fraud came to light.

Investigations revealed that Kanchan had taken insurance policies from a total of five private companies using two separate Aadhaar and PAN cards. Dr Yadav had signed the death certificates issued by the Mira-Bhayander and Vasai-Virar municipalities in all cases. The claims were submitted with the fake documents and a copy of the garlanded photograph of Kanchan alias Pavitra.

The family has gone missing, possibly realising their fraudulent activities have been exposed, said Bhayander police, who suspect the involvement of more people, including those from insurance firms and municipalities.

A police complaint was filed against Kanchan and her three accomplices this past Wednesday by one of the insurance firms on charges of criminal conspiracy, cheating and forgery.

Salem application allowed for set-off, says spl court

Mumbai: A special court in the city on Saturday said it has allowed an application of gangster Abu Salem, serving life sentence in the 1993 serial blasts case, for a set-off, in terms of the Supreme Court order. The SC had in 2022 said that Salem's detention commences from Oct 12, 2005 in the 1993 bomb blasts case. The convicted prisoner, through his lawyers Farhana Shah and Rishi Malhotra, sought a set-off from date of his arrest, in lieu of the period undergone in detention during trial.

Deepak Salvi, special CBI prosecutor, had while opposing Salem's plea said that in view of the apex court clarifying that it was material for court to see that whatever benefits are given to applicant under law, 25 years is the minimum sentence which he has to undergo, the plea is redundant and the superintendent of Taloja prison said it was anyway being calculated based on the Special Tada court order—from date of arrest. The SC has clarified that the arrest date was in 2005 and hence he should serve time till 2030.

Salem was extradited from Portugal in 2005. A special Tada court convicted him in 2017 for his role in the Mumbai serial bomb blasts case and sentenced him to life. He is currently serving his sentence at Taloja jail. SC has said on Salem "completing 25 years of sentence, the Central Government is bound to advise the President for exercise of his powers... and to release appellant in terms of national commitment..." **TNN**

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CLOSE to Derasar: Walkeshwar smart 2 BHK 600' carpet @ 63.75 Cr. Nepanasa Road spacious 2 BHK 1200' carpet @ 73.50 Cr. 3 BHK 1500' BIA @ 8Cr. Armus Property Advisors 9820236640

RUSTOMJEE-CROWN

Prabhadevi Xtra ordinary large 4 bhk or ready. sky Mansions, 55 fr + 2100-cpt 17.5 cr + taxes. +91 86554 41895. Limited units.

THANE

INDRAPRASTHA at Bhaskar Colony. Thane (W), 3 bhk - 888 sqft. 720 Carpet. 1 car parking. Contact: 9821212147

SEAFACING DUPLEX / OC Double Height / Private Pool 3800 U Carpet. To Sell ASAP Distress Bargain Deal - 17 CR SIPPY HOUSING 9820053862

VASAI

VASAI (W), Ready to move 2/3 BHK options avl, 70L / 91L (all inclusive), posh locality, O.C received, 24 hrs vvmc water, Quality const, attractive deals for investors purchase 5 units above. contact 9136093405, 9136051376

WADALA

GODREJ Horizon, Wadala 5 star Amenities, pool club, Roof top, party lounge 2.3 BHK 3.35, 4.5, 5.5 cr + taxes 24 months No Emi scheme Multiple offers on site visit +91 981910 0261

ANDHERI EAST

MAHESHWARI NAGAR Kondivita, Andheri (E) 2 & 3 BHK Spacious AC Flats Ready with OC All Modern Amenities Near Metro III, Airport, Highway, Railway Stn Call : 98200 32630 Brokers Welcome

ANDHERI WEST

7 Bungalows 3 BHK 1150 ft Seaview Balcony New bldg Modern amenities High floor possession shortly 5.35 Cr Trupati 9820028191 / 9819682697

ANDHERI WEST

LOKHANDWALA posh spacious 2 & half BHK Terrace 3 Washrooms 16 ft height premium location 3.60 Cr Trupati 9820028191 / 9819682697

ANDHERI WEST

ANDHERI-W 3BHK For Rent, Sundervan Complex, 1200 sq.ft. Furnished, 1.35 L., 2 Parking Call: "Premier Estates" 7710008988

JVLR

FOR-SALE 2.5BHK, Oberoi Splendor, 1 Car Park, Aarey Facing, Corner Flat, Semi-Furnished with A/C. Contact Owner: 855979868

KANDIVALI WEST

CHARKOP market kandivali (W) 1 BHK 96L, 2 BHK 1.51cr. Screenshot 20 on possession 35 steyam tower site 877932789 / 9824181337 / 9867272060.

THAKUR-COMPLEX

Kandivali 2 bhk bungalow 5000' plot 3500 carpet for sale commercial use possible. (brokers wlem) 7021374168

KHAR

3-BHK-NEW-SALE-KHAR-W. OC BCC 5.5 Cr. Lits. Car Park vastu open view westerly Clean Loc Good Gentry Cont. 9819973092 / 9821123092

LOWER PAREL

PRABHADEVI Indiabulls skyforest Outright / Rental - 3 BHK + terrace Builder Finish + addition by owner West open & good view Chirag Shah 9867310366

LODHA

LODHA Marquis 3 BHK 1472 CA 3 Prkgs untouched Fully Furnished Apartment Sale Best For Investment BKP 9820303062 / 9821018184

AVL ON RENT

AVL ON RENT Lodha Parkside, Lower Parel, Cat 2BHK, Higher fr. @ 1.90K, 883 sq.ft. Carpet, 1 parking. Aashita Estate 9819022211

MULUND WEST

7200 sqft commercial space for rent in mulund west. Incl. 11 parking, exclusive lift & access, road facing. Contact: 961920636

FOR SALE

PRIME Comm. Land surro unded by hills. Ideal for Luxury Resort Development on Jaipur-Delhi rd for sale. area 32577 sqm. Udit 982825599

GUJARAT

UMBERGAON 150 kms from mumbai Prime Location 100 meters from Station Premium Residential cum Commercial Project Flats And Shops contact 9820309651.

MAHARASHTRA

COMMERCIAL Space for Sale in Kandivali E, 2,500 sqft carpet, 100ft road, 1st fr, lift, 1 parking, AC, FF, cctv, 5 toilets, pantry etc. Contact: 9867700387

URGENT

URGENT Sale of Plot in Collectors Colony, Chembur with excellent connectivity. Call now for immediate possession. 9820384032

FLATS RESALE

1-BHK in LONAVALA for SALE with Terrace East Facing flat area 710 sq ft terrace 730 sq ft third floor, no lift, semi furnished. Contact: 9820988682

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A COMMERCIAL PROPERTY / INDUSTRIAL SHED ON LEASE IMMEDIATELY, WITH THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS

Space: 5,000-10,000 sq.ft. Height: Minimum 16' ceiling required. This is non-negotiable. Location: Preferably Western suburbs / South Mumbai but open to any area within greater Mumbai. Layout: Open space with as few pillars as possible. Owners and brokers please revert with your contact information and brief details and pictures of the property to Mr. Rahul Shah 9819114121

LEASE & RENT

10N-RENT, One Lakh sq.ft. Highway face N.A. plot built to suit for large Godown / Pharma Csr / Car Centre, Nr Mountain Hotel, 3 km from Kashmiri, 2) ON Rent 6000 sqft. (ist - 3000' & 2nd - 3000') office fully furnished at Marol Maroshi, 3 km from Airport, Nr Seven Hills Hospital. 3) Very Prime Plot Next to Pun Republic 25000 sq.ft. for Car Centre/Showroom / Godown. 4) ON Rent Gr.Floor, besides Lodha Aqua, Mira Road, Super Market 1650' Carpet with A/C & with Backs. 5) ON Rent, Gala 4000 sq.ft. at kaman Bhiwandi Road facing Near Bhajanlal Dairy. 9820236654 / 9870643011. Email: gkp.fittch@gmail.com

AVAIL. for L&L

AVAIL. for L&L min 3 yrs well furnished office at Veera Desai Rd, next to Metro Stn. 3 cabins, conference room, 2 work station, pantry, toilet, reception, A.Cs, new Bldg. 2 car parks. Whatsapp +919820061823

FOR-SALE

FOR-SALE Near GPO/CST Stn. Newly renovated LA - SHEVA and Hira Bldg. office area 2200 + 900 + 700 (200 fully furnished) Leave License - Ownership - Old Rent. Owner 9322247286, Mehta 9322247286

BANDRA (W)

BANDRA (W), Running Restaurant for Lease, 1342 - 50 seater with all kitchen equipments. Gr.Fr. Poja Bldg. Chinchpokli Rd. Next to Bata Showroom. Ideal for Central / Cloud Kitchen. 9820700888 (11 am to 7 pm)

"AURIS-GALLERIA"

"AURIS-GALLERIA" Malad Link Road, Road touch avble. Premium Office 450 Sft. to 900 Sft. carpet on Rent/ Outright basis. Contact: 982179059.

OUTRIGHT SALE WORLI SEA FACE

INDEPENDENT LUXURY APARTMENT

Total 18000 Sq.Ft. Residential Area Each Floor 3000 Sq.Ft. (10 Parks) Total 60 Cars Podium Parking Swimming Pool Gymnasium Banquet Hall O.C. Received Direct access to Coastal Road IDEAL FOR HNI & JOINT FAMILY SEA FACING SATISH MEHTA: 9820147567 satishmehta.realtors@gmail.com

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2-&3/4-&5-BHK & Duplex Fully AC with huge balconies Big carpets / Greenery views Near kinnari of malavia road Builders-809789330 / 8779694199

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VILEPARLE (E) Lowest Rate @ Azad Road, Nr. Milan subway 2BHK 650-2.45 Cr. / 3BHK 1025-3.80 Cr. All Inclusive, Poss. July 2024. "Navkar" - 9930010989

FOR SALE

PRIME Comm. Land surro unded by hills. Ideal for Luxury Resort Development on Jaipur-Delhi rd for sale. area 32577 sqm. Udit 982825599

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UMBERGAON 150 kms from mumbai Prime Location 100 meters from Station Premium Residential cum Commercial Project Flats And Shops contact 9820309651.

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AVAILABLE INDUSTRIAL Gala on Lease

AVAILABLE INDUSTRIAL Gala on Lease & License basis in Kuria(W). Next to Faujiya Hospital. Area 2850 sq.ft. width 12ft height. Mobile: 8878579411 / 9820008167.

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business

ACCOUNTANT Req for Garment Co at V.T. 5-6 yrs Exp. Well versed with Excel & Tally Crp 9 Full knowledge in GST TDS and up to Finalization of Balance Sheet, Salary-PM 30K Tel: 022-79694553 Email: mahaanexp@yahoo.com

ACCOUNTANT

ACCOUNTANT Req for Garment Co at V.T. 5-6 yrs Exp. Well versed with Excel & Tally Crp 9 Full knowledge in GST TDS and up to Finalization of Balance Sheet, Salary-PM 30K Tel: 022-79694553 Email: mahaanexp@yahoo.com

RENA Mehta College

RENA Mehta College . 150 feet Road, Bhayandar West. requires full time experienced BCom/ Mcom/ Inter CA qualified Accountant. He should be able to do Balance sheet & P&L work upto finalization of accounts. Apply to Chairperson with Resume or walk in on any working day between 11.30 am to 3 pm . Tel 28176264/66-68

ACCOUNTANT with 2-3yr exp

ACCOUNTANT with 2-3yr exp knowledge of Accounting Software, GST, TDS & MS Excel, Staying in Chembur (W) WhatsApp CV on 9820073497

REQUIRED urgently

REQUIRED urgently Accountant with complete knowledge of Tally, GST & TDS Filing Returns etc. upto finalisation For Oshiwara / Andheri office. Contact 9820044966. E mail: acct@n-artinteriors.com

A manufacturing organization

A manufacturing organization requires Accounts (F) min 3yrs Exp. with tally & Gst knowledge at Mazgaon, Ph. Hvirinder Singh Gupta 23780769 / 23721417. Email: singhandanip@gmail.com

EXP Hse Reg A/C Female

EXP Hse Reg A/C Female Mgr For Tally/Gst/Tds/Bal Sheet. Solar Organics 402 Swastik Chamber Nr Kuria East Mum-71. E-info@spaceint.com

REQUIRED - An administrator

REQUIRED - An administrator for proposed C.B.S.E. school in South Mumbai. Should be well versed with itising with Ed. Dept., B.M.C. Police Dept., Vendors, Contractors, purchase of school material, Books, Supervising Construction work, Trust Work and Charity Commissioner. Must have knowledge of Gujarati (reading and writing) and be well versed in Computer knowledge. Incumbent will be reporting to cvcbsechool@gmail.com

ADMIN.ASST / Data Entry

ADMIN.ASST / Data Entry Operator (Male/ Female) in Govandi for form filling, scanning, listing on Excel. Preferably from Recruitment Background. Age 23 to 42. Contact 72084596 WhatsApp 8928177347 E mail 1: amomum.cvs@gmail.com

URGENTLY required for

URGENTLY required for Int'l Agro based Brokerage Firm at Mulund (W)

EXPORT/IMPORT EXECUTIVE DOCUMENTATION

Male/Female having full knowledge in the same field, Min. 5 years' exp. Fluent English. Apply CV in confidence by email to alz.recruitments@gmail.com

MANAGERS

WANTED Managers for Housing Societies between Churchgate & Borivali for Full/Part Time. M/F. Age strictly 30-55. Salary 10-30k as per exp. Serving / Ex Office Bearers & MC members will be given preference. info@sankalpms.com. 9867276533

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REQUIRE Female Personal Secretary (Age 30-50) Salary 25K - 35K, Computer Operator Part Time/ Full Time for Yuva Infotech Management Pvt Ltd. Call: 8142708849

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WALK IN INTERVIEWS 1-5 JULY Looking for BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE (Field Sales), Exp - 0 - 5 years, Immediate Joiner Add - UGB 88, Phoenix Paragon Plaza, LBS Kuria West. Msg on - 82639 60473 / 98209 27649

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NEEDS sales persons willing to travel for chemical sales for office in Bandra West. Salary as per experience. Contact 83244 00900

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HRD & ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIRED - An administrator for proposed C.B.S.E. school in South Mumbai. Should be well versed with itising with Ed. Dept., B.M.C. Police Dept., Vendors, Contractors, purchase of school material, Books, Supervising Construction work, Trust Work and Charity Commissioner. Must have knowledge of Gujarati (reading and writing) and be well versed in Computer knowledge. Incumbent will be reporting to cvcbsechool@gmail.com

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MANAGERS

Amul
ORGANIC

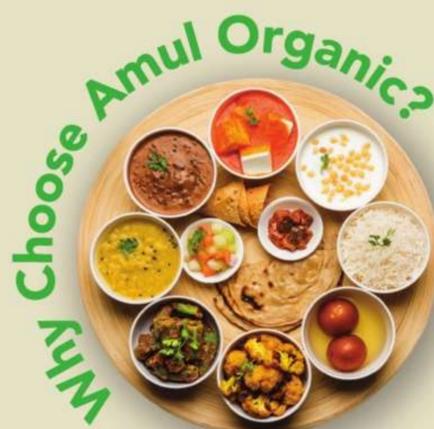
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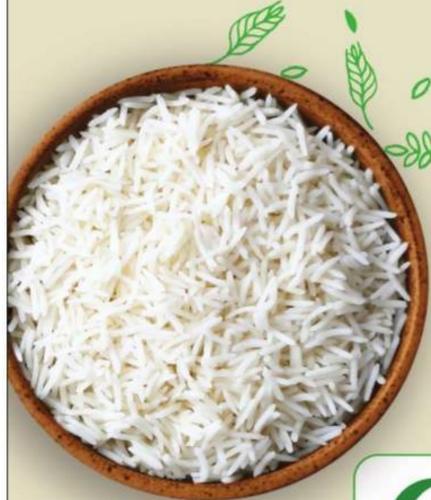
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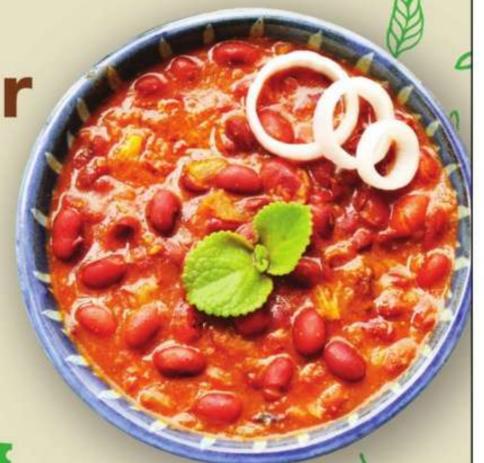
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LAWYERS

AGARWAL 1996/5'10" Corporate Lawyer in Top Law Firm of Delhi (from reputed family of Lucknow) seeks Prof QID match. M: 9783700111

BY RELIGION

CHRISTIAN

KERALA-SYRIAN Orthodox Christian Boy, Mumbai Born, July 1984, 5'7", BSc. In Hotel Mgmt (HIM) Manager in 5-Star Hotel, Mumbai. Seeks Alliance From Suitable Girls. Ct Parents: 99678 99676 / 99205 12303

BY CASTE

JAIN

SM4 Jaipur bsd Shwtr Jain Issueless Divorcee 42, 5'7" CA own business 36LPA+. Upper Caste No Bar M 9899315625.

KAYASTHA

SAXENA boy, Mar 98, 5'9" B.Tech IIT. Scientist SC in ISRO B'lore, 17 LPA, Father PGM PSU Delhi. Reg PGM Slim Tall BtU status fmly 9654212728

HINDU

UP bsd boy Nov 92/5'8" CFA level 2 MBA L.S.B. Hyd wkg M'bal 30-Lacs seeks b'fml. H. Edu only Covt wkg upper caste N.MgkIrl girl 9454038788

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INDORE Handsome boy, 30, 6'2", MBA, India Head at MNC, Upr Mdl Class Progressive family, Mother is stock-trader. Seeking qualified girl. 9930296963

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FOR 1991 born Tambram 6'2" prof qualified Pune MNC employ like minded girls, caste no bar. Ph/ WA 9833412218

GSB, 34, 5'11" SMART, HOTEL

GSB, 34, 5'11" SMART, Hotel Manager in 5 Star Hotel, Non Veg, Girl- Graduate, Good Looking, Non Veg Having Job, Hindu Family Contact : 9867787263

PQMA FEB 89, 5'8" MBA, BE,

PQMA Feb 89, 5'8" MBA, BE, 23 LPA Veg Hindu Mumbai based. Father GZT Officer. Seeks veg b'fml wrkg girl Upr Caste No Bar. 8828252745

SM4 PUNJABI KHATRI SON 32,

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: 8879158954 / 9898964452

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34/5'10" Brahmin B.Tech IIT MBA IIM Sr Manager in reputed family. email: rvmatri1947@gmail.com / whatsapp 74897 78004

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KAYASTHA boy 84 born MBA working in Canada. Family in Mumbai, Moderate Family values, looking for alliance, caste no bar contact M.9090718512

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REPUTED Hindu business family from Hyd Alliance for son 38yrs looking for slim & homely girl from Hindu business & HNI family only 9882008270

SEEKING PG PROFESSIONALLY

SEEKING PG professionally qld.CA / Medico / Lecturer / lawyer etc. wkg girl in NCR for 32/5'4"/CA/B.Tech/Moderate SM4 Punjabi boy in profession. Delhi bsd prof family of status. WA 9810152568

PUNJABI UNMARRIED BOY

PUNJABI unmarried boy 39, 5'9", B.TECH-MS Wkn mnc 1 Cr+ Pkg, no dowry Affidavit for Accept divide wido Cast no bar 940648858 7987144206

MBA I.T. ENG PUNE BASED

MBA I.T. eng pune based boy 44/5'9" 40LPA MNC divorced Ishtriyva caste no bar father chief eng abh19581@gmail.com

RELIGION NO BAR

39/5'10 Agarwal unmarried boy B.Tech-IT MBA-IIM Sr Manager MNC 80 LPA accept div & wido. Caste No Bar, no dowry, 821995309, 5179132579

BY NATIONALITY

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USA bsd MBA/dr/engr/graduated boy 31/6'10" PGM PSU Hyderabad on Bank New York 2cr MBA/Duk e-Comput Eng.Toronto, DoonSch Ting, fath.IAS, delnec-9871790446

LONDON BASED HIGHLY EDU.

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. 9810945586.

MATCH FOR 6 FEET 33 YEARS

MATCH for 6 feet 33 years JAT Canadian citizen software developer upper cast preferred. 9888702870

U S BASED NAIR BOY BASED

U S Based Nair boy based in NRI (M S) - 31 years Star PGM PSU Hyderabad alliance from U S based Hindu girl. Parents from Mumbai NRI (M) 8767767106. Reply- r53129577@gmail.com

SHIA MOMIN GUARATI

SHIA MOMIN GUARATI BOY, BE/MBA, 27, Job in MNC @ Mumbai, looking for Shia or (Sunni-Panjetani) girl. Mob: 8140182124

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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

SM 29 Yrs, 5'10" Master Engineer, working in New Zealand, As projects Manager US based company in top position, tall & Handsome, looking for very fair & beautiful Bride Doctor, BDS / MBBS, 8969399474.

PROF SM BOYS 24-60 H

PROF SM Boys 24-60 H.Prof B'men- Mumbai; 88/91/95 BE MBA; 97/92 MD; 85/87/91/94 MBA; Canada 91 MBA, 88 BE MBA; Dubai 88/91 BE; US 96/87/90 MS; Divorcee options too. Mrs Khan 9820253313.

LOOKING FOR A SUNNI

LOOKING for a Sunni Muslim, educated, studied abroad, liberal girl below 27 years for a well mannered spoken young Dubai based business man born in June 1995, 9821456567, hkanjer@gmail.com

DEHRI

DEHRI based Sikh boy Feb/96 5'11" B.Tech MS, working in USA. HIB visa seeks girl reputed/ edu job 9871329404 dschadha06@gmail.com

IIT IIM OCT 91 CLEAN

IIT IIM Oct 91 Clean shaven 6'1" wrkg Bangalore +50 LPA Affluent Sikh Arora Mohali Family seek Prof QID wrk bnglore tall girl 9855738008

SM FOR HANDSOME

SM for Handsome clean-shaven Sikh Rangbaria girl, 32, 5'9", MBA working in reputed MNC Gurgaon, well placed family; father senior civil servant. 8380191958

ALLIANCE INVITED

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
skaurakaur4@gmail.com

GENERAL

SM Delhi bsd H'som Khatri boy, 31/5'10", Pgrad. in finance. Own Investment consultancy & advisory business. w.sett.fml. pref. wrkg girl. W/c 9810345074

AFFLUENT PROFESSIONAL

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, 27 yrs Architect May Contact With Photo At: arituc59@gmail.com Caste No Bar. Contact Nos: 9431115578, 9431701947.

SM4 PUNJABI BRAHMIN

SM4 Punjabi Brahmin UM boy Dec 83/5'8" Musician settled in Mumbai-caste no bar/simple early marriage. Send profile- Wapp/ Mob 9811882892

PATEL BOY 31 YRS /5'10"

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

DUBAI BASED FINANCE

DUBAI based Finance Professional handsome tall Punjabi boy 5'10" 48 July 1991 Pretty PGM Prio in Dubai Father Retd Col. Family Delhi/NCR. WA 9868870679

34/5'10" BRAHMIN B.TECH

34/5'10" Brahmin B.Tech IIT MBA IIM Sr Manager in reputed family. email: rvmatri1947@gmail.com / whatsapp 74897 78004

KAYASTHA BOY 84 BORN

KAYASTHA boy 84 born MBA working in Canada. Family in Mumbai, Moderate Family values, looking for alliance, caste no bar contact M.9090718512

REPUTED HINDU BUSINESS

REPUTED Hindu business family from Hyd Alliance for son 38yrs looking for slim & homely girl from Hindu business & HNI family only 9882008270

SEEKING PG PROFESSIONALLY

SEEKING PG professionally qld.CA / Medico / Lecturer / lawyer etc. wkg girl in NCR for 32/5'4"/CA/B.Tech/Moderate SM4 Punjabi boy in profession. Delhi bsd prof family of status. WA 9810152568

PUNJABI 31/5'11" B.TECH

PUNJABI 31/5'11" B.Tech. Pilot seeks professionally qualified working girl contact: 9835909721.

BRAHMIN ANSHIK

BRAHMIN Anshik mgkI Oct 85 B.Tech wrkg NCR 25LPA 5'10" seeks ProfQIDy SM Upper cast open to relocate WA 9214696400(M) / 9461149404 (F)

AGARWAL, ARCHITECT,

AGARWAL, Architect, 16.10.1989, 5'9", B.Arch., M.Arch., co-author 18 books. Associate Prof. in architecture college. Own house. Ph: 9213102764. Caste no bar.

PUNJABI BOY, 40/58 MCA

Punjabi boy, 40/58 MCA + MBA, never married. Wkg in BLR MNC 40 LPA. Seeks non-manglik well educated girl. #9810157842

KKB, DEC 86/5'11", DIVORCED

KKB, Dec 86/5'11", divorced consultant TCS Mumbai. 20 LPA, seeks prof. Quali. Girl, no dowry, no caste bar contact 9425711923

PQM4 NRI BOY (+1) 34/7

PQM4 NRI BOY (+1) 34/7 656-9823 2937/33" MS Comp Sci NYU wkg top MNC USA E: spknagpal@gmail.com, W/app: ph: 8422057060(Parents)

WANTED BRIDE

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

COSMOPOLITAN

KANNADIGA family (30g) seeks match for son (30g), data analyst, bng in US. Seeking well educated girl, preferably also lvg in U.S. Contact phalgunaysmat@gmail.com

33/5.6 B.TECH, MS AEROSPACE

33/5.6 B.Tech, MS Aerospace (IST, ISI France) founder @EV project startup (funded) at gurgaon. Former scientist (ISRO) & NSR. US. Father business. M: 9427811809

MATCH FOR I.L.T. I.L.M., MS

MATCH for I.L.T. I.L.M., MS Columbia University (U.S.) Educated, handsome Hindu Arora boy, 45 yrs, 5'11", issueless. Working in Bombay in Leading investment firm. Simple marriage. 93846-12472, 94171-37858

SIKH KHATRI 37, 6 FEET

SIKH Khatri 37, 6 Feet IITIAN, PhD Abroad, Working in Europe Issueless Divorcee Short Marriage Boy Visiting India 8146307566

HANDSOME ISSUELESS

HANDSOME Issueless Divorcee. Posh locality. US Master. BITS. MNCs. Writer. Delhi Assets. Seeking 35-45 Pretty Educated Girl. PICS CV to sunil.brj22@gmail.com

SM FOR ONLY CHILD,

SM for only child, bengali(Mukherjee)Mar'87/ht 5'9", (debari) gon. 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 9476150528.

ACCOMPLISHED GIRL FOR

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 in Whatsapp 9820081120

SM4 PB BOY, 37/5'7", DELHI

SM4 Pb Boy, 37/5'7", Delhi based family, Issueless Divorcee, seeking educated girl below 33 yrs, ph 9810327209, whts app details with pic.

MBA I.T. ENG PUNE BASED

MBA I.T. eng pune based boy 44/5'9" 40LPA MNC divorced Ishtriyva caste no bar father chief eng abh19581@gmail.com

RELIGION NO BAR

39/5'10 Agarwal unmarried boy B.Tech-IT MBA-IIM Sr Manager MNC 80 LPA accept div & wido. Caste No Bar, no dowry, 821995309, 5179132579

PUNJABI UNMARRIED BOY

PUNJABI unmarried boy 39, 5'9", B.TECH-MS Wkn mnc 1 Cr+ Pkg, no dowry Affidavit for Accept divide wido Cast no bar 940648858 7987144206

BY LANGUAGE

BENGALI

BENGALI Kayastha 39+/5'10", Non Mangalik M.S(Engg) from USA, Working in Hyderabad and Houston USA. Seeking fit, fair, bride flexible with relocation. Kayastha & Brahmin 988861278, 9175962608

ALLIANCE INVITED

ALLIANCE invited from fair, pretty, educated Bengali bride with good family background for Probasi Bengali Kayastha groom, 31, 5'3", MBBS doctor pursuing M.D. - Phd(Microbiology), Mobile- 9431086266, 6203894954

GUJARATI

VAISHNAV GUJARATI,

VAISHNAV Gujarati, 5'10, MBA, Nov 73, Sr Mgr with renowned com, Teetotaler, fair handsome looks younger, seeks kind soulmate No Bar B/P at soulseer@gmail.com

SM FOR MUMBAI BASED

SM for Mumbai based Gujarati Brahmin 43, veg, handsome 5'11" MBA 30L, Divorcee. Need educated cultured girl. 9820689868

WANTED GROOMS

WANTED GROOMS BA LLB CS MBL in MNC 50L+ Slim Fair Gaur B'f 37/5'2" GGN Seeks Veg TT NS PQM. WA: 9716000993 1986.alliance@gmail.com

WELL EDUCATED

WELL Educated Brahmin B.Tech girl 31/5'4", good earner with MNC Bangalore, looking for well Educated, good earner Boy, CNB. 9910824159.

SM4 GAUR BRAHMIN

SM4 Gaur Brahmin girl 29/5'2" fair beautiful from status fmly, UK grad, working. Looking for Mumbai based biz fmly boy. Caste no bar. Send bhp 9821038326

DEE/NCR BSD PQM FOR

DEE/NCR BSD PQM FOR CA, NM, TAYAL, DEC83, 162, WKG TOP CA FIRM, SLIM, FAIR, PLEASING PERSONALITY, SOUTH DELHI BASED 9811179046

QLED M4 B'fml 5'10/30

QLED M4 B'fml 5'10/30 Schooling Welham-Ddn, BBA -NMIMS Mumbai, MBA-AMIYA BISA Agarwal Girl From Reputed B'ness Fmly, Prefd Status B'ness Fmly/Or IIT IIM Boy. M:9412212284 sanjivgupta2402@gmail.com

28/5'4" MUMBAI BASED

28/5'4" Mumbai based MBA agr wkg in MNC - Good pkg. Can settle in Mum. NCR, Blr. Seeking highly educated boy in good job with pkg 40L+ Ph: 9321589153

B.TECH/MBA WORKING

B.TECH/MBA Working MNC Bangalore, Jain Gaur Mittal Girl Jan 1992/5'3"/seeks professional wkg Bangalore Parents in Lucknow- 9839903550

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WANTED BRIDE: PUNJABI,

WANTED BRIDE: Punjabi, Khatri, Educated, fair, Home- B. Cultured, at least 5'6" tall, for a Handsome Boy, MBA, 29/6'2", well Established Business, income 50 to 70 LPA, NCR. Btl family of Bhopal. WhatsApp 9826218166

PUNJABI UNMARRIED BOY

PUNJABI Unmarried Boy 31, 5'10" MBA IIM Working MNC 50 LAC Cast No Bar No Dowry Affluent Family Contact: 7987144206, 8898682789

SOUTH DELHI BASED

SOUTH DELHI BASED very highly affluent established business Punjabi family boy Age 22/ 6' / graduate fair h'some smart, 50+showroom in Delhi / NCR. Seeks tall beautiful educated girl from similar status business family send PHP at email : shukrana0304@gmail.com

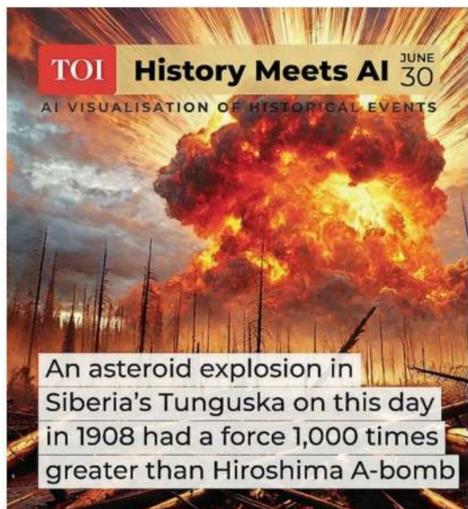
SINDHI

SINDHI 1996 born, BE, MS (USA) working in Boston seeking alliance from a professional Sindh girl with family values. Call / WhatsApp 97678 42032.

TAMIL

AHMEDABAD SETTLED

AHMEDABAD Settled Iyer Boy, 35, C.A., C.S.,



TOI History Meets AI JUNE 30
AI VISUALISATION OF HISTORICAL EVENTS
An asteroid explosion in Siberia's Tunguska on this day in 1908 had a force 1,000 times greater than Hiroshima A-bomb

18 years on, reel reunites siblings

Social media reels became the unexpected catalyst to reunite siblings after 18 years when a 29-year-old woman from UP's Kanpur stumbled upon a familiar face with a distinctive broken tooth while scrolling through Instagram. Recognising him instantly as her long-lost brother, Bal Govind (now 33), who had disappeared after leaving their home in UP's Fatehpur for Mumbai, Rajkumari tried to reach out to him. "I contacted him. Initially, he ignored me but finally accepted my friend request," she said. Govind's eventually recollected their past. On June 20, Govind, returned to his native place with his wife and children. TNN

Jawan gets jail for pilgrim death

A jawan of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) was sentenced to two years of imprisonment on Friday by the court of a judicial magistrate in Joshimath, Chamoli district for reckless driving resulting in the death of a pilgrim during Char Dham yatra on Nov 10, 2021. The incident occurred near Mana Tiraha in Badrinath town when 29-year-old Sandhya a native of Haryana, was on a pilgrimage with her husband and five-year-old son. While crossing the road to her hotel, she was struck by a speeding four-wheeler driven by the intoxicated jawan, identified as Deepak Parki (then 29). She succumbed to her injuries. TNN

CPM received crime proceeds in Kerala bank scam, says ED

'Collected Money From Recipients Of Benami Loans'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kochi: Kerala's governing CPM is in possession of proceeds of crime in the Karuvannur bank fraud and it has been invested in immovable properties and credited to five accounts of the party in Karuvannur Service Co-operative Bank Ltd, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) claimed on Saturday.

CPM received funds from beneficiaries as donations through the bank's governing body, the central agency said in a statement.

ED sources said the agency was carrying out the PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act) investigation by considering the party as a respondent. Official sources said the party may be named as an accused in the next supplementary chargesheet to be filed in this case. If so, it will be the second political party to be arraigned as accused in a money laundering investigation after AAP



Loan amounts were disbursed in cash to prevent money trail, ED said

Sources said CPM may be named as an accused in the next supplementary chargesheet to be filed in this case. If so, it will be the second political party to be arraigned as accused in a money laundering investigation after AAP

Thirissur district secretary, as part of the investigation. The attached assets include 18 immovable properties valued at Rs 28.65 crore, consisting of land and buildings in Kerala belonging to beneficiaries of the scam, the agency said. This includes an immovable property valued at Rs 10 lakh registered in the name

of the CPM district secretary for its party office. The attached assets also include balances of Rs 63.62 lakh in eight bank accounts of CPM committees in Thrissur. ED claimed in the statement that benami and illegal loans were sanctioned by the co-operative at the behest of the CPM Thirissur district committee. In return, the party district committee took money from the beneficiaries.

The statement added that bogus loans were sanctioned by Karuvannur bank on the same property multiple times without the knowledge of society members. Benami loans were sanctioned to non-members against inflated property valuations in the names of other members and such loan funds were siphoned off and laundered by the beneficiaries, the ED claimed. The loan amounts were disbursed in cash to prevent a trail of the money, the statement said.

The total proceeds of crime attached so far in this case by ED is Rs 117.78 crore. The chargesheet was filed by the agency in Nov 2023.

At key meet, JD(U) reiterates spl status demand for Bihar

Akhilesh.Singh @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Janata Dal (United) president and Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar on Saturday appointed his confidante, Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Jha, a BJP-friendly face



as his number-two (working president), while reiterating his demand for special status or a special package for Bihar, an issue on which there have been differences between the Centre and the state in the past. "Time has come when state should get special status or a special package so that the script of a developed Bihar could be written," the party said in the resolution.

The decision was taken at a meeting of JD(U)'s national executive where the party reiterated its demand for special category status for Bihar, while adding that the Centre could also consider an alternative in a special package, its senior leader Neeraj Kumar said.

The BJP ally also demanded stringent action against culprits in exam paper leak cases and called for a strong law to rule out such incidents in the future. The decision to appoint Jha as working president is significant since he is known to have a good equation with the BJP leadership as he had started his political innings with the saffron party before switching to JD(U). He also played a crucial role in reviving the BJP-JD(U) alliance which defied the challenge of the INDIA bloc which got the better of NDA in neighbouring UP. Jha said PM Narendra Modi has always paid attention to Bihar and expressed hope the demand would be met.

Cong takes 'state cabinet' dig at JD(U)

Highlighting that the JD(U) which is a critical ally in the BJP-led NDA govt at the Centre has just passed a resolution reiterating the demand for special category status in central assistance to Bihar, Congress sought to know if the state's chief minister Nitish Kumar will summon the courage to have the state cabinet also pass such a resolution. Congress general secretary in-charge of communications, Jairam Ramesh shared video snippets on X drawing from speeches of PM Modi where he is seen assuring people of Bihar and AP on delivering on their demands. TNN

Indira jailed us, but she never abused us: Lalu

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Patna: RJD chief and former Bihar CM Lalu Prasad Yadav on Saturday recalled going through during the dark days of Emergency and said then PM Indira Gandhi put many functionaries behind bars, but never abused them.

In a post on X, he shared an article "The Sangh Silence in 1975" written by him and journalist Nalin Verma. In the article, they attacked BJP-led govt and said although 1975 is a stain on democracy, let's not forget who doesn't respect the constitution in 2024. "I was in jail under MISA for over 15 months. I did not know BJP ministers speaking about Emergency today," he said. "Indira put many of us behind bars, but she never abused us. Neither she nor her ministers called us 'anti-national' or 'unpatriotic'." TNN

Oppn may field SP's Faizabad MP for deputy Speaker contest

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: TMC, SP and Congress are exploring the option of projecting SP's Faizabad MP Awadhesh Prasad as INDIA bloc's deputy Speaker candidate. Prasad (78) is a Dalit who won the unreserved seat that covers Ayodhya. This comes amid reports that Congress was keen to have K Suresh—an eight-time MP from Kerala—as the opposition bloc's deputy speaker pick.



TMC general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, SP president Akhilesh Yadav and Lok Sabha leader of opposition Rahul Gandhi have already discussed the matter and are likely to take it up with other allies, said sources. The sources added the nomination of

Prasad was an idea of Bengal CM and TMC chief Mamata Banerjee, who conveyed it to nephew Abhishek.

According to the sources, the three INDIA bloc senior partners seemed to agree that Prasad would be an "out-of-the-box" candidate and his nomination would carry "strong symbolism" as he won the high-stakes contest by over 50,000 votes. While conferring with Rahul and Akhilesh, Abhishek suggested the choice of deputy Speaker candidate should "send out a strong message", said sources. He focused on symbolism since numbers don't stack up well for INDIA bloc if there is a contest.

A senior Trinamool MP said: "INDIA bloc will contest the deputy Speaker's post. In

the remaining three days of this session... or even later... we will collectively demand the post. A consensus is being worked out among partners on possible nominees."

Article 93 of the Constitution of India says the Lok Sabha "shall choose two of its members as Speaker and deputy Speaker". The 17th Lok Sabha was the first since Independence which did not have a deputy Speaker.

Asked about the situation in which NDA didn't accept the opposition's proposal of holding a deputy speaker's election, a TMC MP said: "The 17th Lok Sabha and the 18th Lok Sabha are different. There's an NDA govt now, not a BJP govt. We will continue to aggressively push for the election in this session and all the following sessions."

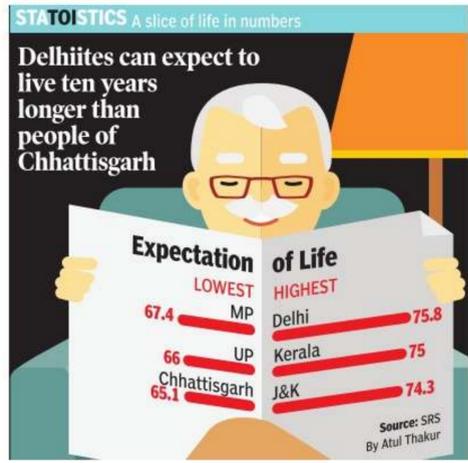
4 workers die in blast at TN fireworks unit

Virudhunagar: Four workers died in a blast at a fireworks manufacturing unit in Tamil Nadu's Virudhunagar district on Saturday. The blast happened at Guru Star Fireworks — licensed by the district revenue officer — in Banduvarpatti village. Preliminary probe revealed that the blast was triggered due to friction when some workers were mixing chemicals in a shed. Police have registered a case and have initiated a probe. On May 9, 12 workers were killed in a blast in a fireworks unit in Sivakasi district. TNN

3 minor boys washed away in Gomti river

Lucknow: Three minor boys drowned in river Gomti in UP's Sultanpur district on Friday. State Disaster Response Force retrieved their bodies on Saturday.

SP Somen Barma said four boys had gone for a swim on Friday afternoon in Wallipura area. They entered the river, but three boys could not withstand the strong current of water and drowned. The fourth boy, Rehan (12), managed to swim to the shore and asked for help, he said. The deceased were identified as Farhan (13), Abid (12), and Hasnain (10). TNN



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WANTED GROOMS. BY RELIGION. CHRISTIAN. SUITABLE match 4 Christian Prof'st girl...

BY LANGUAGE. BENGALI. REQ a well settled good-looking Beng. boy for a fair b'f/bf MBA...

jobs. SITUATION VACANT. OTHER VACANCIES. MULTIPLE VACANCIES. VACANCIES for Mech. Engg./ Diploma engineers...

PUBLIC NOTICE. NOTICE is hereby given that (1) Dnyandeo Waman Patil alias Patil Dnyandeo Waman...

PM tells babus to prioritise citizens' needs Says Simplify Policies

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday told top civil servants to be completely focused on meeting the needs and aspirations of citizens...



Modi told secretaries that citizens should be served with the same devotion that is shown to God, while advocating a flexible approach to ensure that good policies don't get entangled in a web of legal provisions...

ORTHODONTIST good looking 5'5"/95 Hindu brah. seeks prof. well qual. Delhi-NCR based Hindu boy...

ALLIANCE for fair, 1992 Born / 5'4", Kayastha Girl, B.E., MBA (IIM), 30 LPA, Caste No Bar...

REQD. for Pvt Ltd co. (Retired) Vrs/ freshers - 4 qualification no bar. Functions- Sales/ Purchase/ Account/ Finance/ Administration/ Technical/ Computer Operations...

NOTICE. All that piece and parcel of land bearing Final Plot No 2 (TPS Borivali 2) admeasuring in the aggregate 1,529 square meters...

MUSLIM. MUM based Sunni fair b'f/bf 23yr 5'8" 60 kg grad, affluent educated family seek educated well established boys # 9322674577

WELL Settled PGM4 Punjabi Girl B'f/bf Fair, Slim 5'8" / 54 B.Tech / PG, Wkg. in Dubai Divorcee, 1 Less, Parents in Pune. Send BHP M: 717639665

REQD Office Clerk. Office Assistant - Min exp 2 - 3 years with communication in english. Age up to 35 years. Meet personally...

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO. (Description of the said Property) All that piece and parcel of agricultural land bearing Gat No. 174 admeasuring 95 Ares 90 Square Metres...

HINDU. ALLIANCE invited Tulu spkg Billava girl, fair, 37, 5'5", never married, MBA (Fin) wkg MNC Biore. Qualified. Grad + Post Grad, employed suitable boy dsknks.9337@gmail.com

WANTED EDUCATED GROOM FOR BEAUTIFUL 31 YRS OLD MD-RADIOLOGY KASHTRIYA PUNJABI GIRL. FROM TOP BUSINESS FAMILY OF M.P HELPING IN FAMILY BUSINESS. PREFERABLE BUSINESSMAN BOY FROM M.P. OR MUMBAI.

auto. HEAVY VEHICLES. TRUCKS. NEW -Chassis Bus/truck: Company Eicher. Model no Pro 3014 CWC 11.5 mtrs. Wheel base. 5840 mm, Power180 HP. Tire Size:10E20-16PR. Contact. Akshay +91 7722009675

TENDERS. MUMBAI DISTRICT CENTRAL CO-OPERATIVE BANK LIMITED. 'Mumbai Bank Bhavan', 207, Dr. D. N. Road, Fort, Mumbai - 400 001. Phone: 022-22617154 to 59

Looking for GROOM. Beautiful Hindu Girl from Delhi, Height 5'4.5", July 93, Master in economics, Working with World Bank, DC, USA seeks a professional educated Groom from a reputed family, ready to settle in Delhi or DC, USA.

Beautiful Convent educated topper fashion stylist 38yr 5'4", from Sdelhi affluent family seeks SM. Call 9870565998

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PUBLIC NOTICE. NOTICE is hereby given that Chandrakant Dharmaji Mhatre alias Chandrakant D. Mhatre has agreed to sell, convey and transfer to our client, the property more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder written ('the said Property').

Looking for GROOM. Mumbai based 30 year old independent girl, height 5'3"/57, CA, working as an Investment Professional with a listed Indian company, Father passed away, Mother housewife, Married elder sister working in USA. Seeks educated and independent groom.

PUNJABI Khatri girl, 32; 5'7; MBA; diplomat status, born Delhi, posted in Poland seeks well-qualified affluent groom. Never married, Non-smoker. Age 31-35. Working in or ready to relocate to Europe or USA (Washington DC). 980376158

SECURITY. UNITED Guard Force India has expd. Operation Managers. Female Accountant, Field Officers who can make security staff for any government, 910 Corporate Annex, Sonawala Road, Goregaon (E) 98201 56453

services. ASTROLOGY. Maharudra Jyotish. 9321386933. OPEN CHALLENGE. M/F Personal/Family Pro. Vashikaran, Late Marriage, Love Prob. Spl. (Hopeless Lovers cont.) Mira Road

Looking for GROOM. Seeking match for a beautiful Bengali Kayastha girl, 40 years old, 5 feet 4 inches tall, medical doctor practicing in New York City. Girl was born and brought up in USA. Looking for an Indian Hindu, well educated professional, never married, between 38 and 44 years and MUST BE BROUGHT UP IN USA OR LIVING IN USA. Only serious enquiries. Please correspond BY EMAIL FIRST with recent photo, biodata, and number and Whatsapp number. anjalighosh727@gmail.com

THE GIRL Indian. Reputed Marathi family from Mumbai Maharashtra. Age 38. Ht 5'4". Fair and good-looking. Dental Specialist (M.D.S.) from Kings College, London. Permanent Resident of UK. Now practicing as a Specialist (Prosthodontics) in UK. Was married in 2012 and divorced in 2013. No children. Parents based in Mumbai. One brother, settled in the US. WANTED GROOM Age around 38. Ht preferably 5'10" and above. Good looking. Well educated from any field. Financially well settled person in the UK. Good family background. Race, caste and religion no bar. Contact: 8859152951@gmail.com

ENGINEERS. REQUIRED Urgently Billing Engineer for Interiors with full knowledge of excel. Contact 9820044966. E mail: acts@an-interiors.com

FILM RELATED. MFI Film & TV Studio. Bollywood Production reqd. fresher actors (M/F all age) film, serial, web series, Training Available 9324754587, 8692024449

SM for Maharashtra based fair girl, 1983/167 cm, M.Sc & B.Ed, Father Muslim/Mother Bengali. Seeks liberal minded, suitable match in early 30's. Caste no bar Ph: 9823145970

SM for Software Engr. B'f/bf Girl, Pursuing MBA, Wrkg. in USA. 28' 5' 2" in culture, affluent family in India Seeks Prof. Gldf. Tall H'some upper Caste Hindu Boy Wrkg. in USA should be from affluent Indian family. W.A.P: 9826879879

URG. Reqd for An Electrical Contracting Co. Dip/Deg (Min 5 Yrs Exp) Project Engr, elec.projects.hr@gmail.com walkin bet 2-5pm; Off No: 4, 1st Floor, Ajinkya Tara CHS, Singh East, Rd No.1, Thakur Village, Kandivali (E) Mum.

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SECTION CALL JITESH DOMINIC: 9867407521

The Prime Minister said there has to be greater focus on faster and effective addressing of public grievances, said an official. But the focus was clearly in a citizen-centric approach with Modi underlining that people should get precedence in governance.

The PM is also learnt to have urged officers to look into methods of giving incentives to govt entities for capacity development since progress on that score remains patchy despite this being talked about for years.

An officer suggested the need to rationalise manpower in ministries and departments, others suggested better contract management, giving preference to domestic players and improving 'ease of doing business', especially at the level of the states.

Kolkata: West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday made a strong pitch for the judiciary to be free from "political bias", while speaking at the inauguration of a two-day conference organised by National Judicial Academy in Kolkata.



Addressing the gathering attended by CJJD Y Chandrachud, senior Supreme Court judges including justices B R Gavai, Dipankar Datta and Rajesh Bindal, and Calcutta high court chief justice T S Sivagnanam, among others, Mamata said: "It is not my intention to humiliate anyone. But it is my kind submission, a humble submission...please see to it that there are no political biases in the judiciary. The judiciary must be absolutely pure, honest and sacred, and let people resolve it like a temple."

The CJJ appeared to concur, as he said judges should refrain from allowing their personal ideologies to influence their judgments. Mamata's remarks come at a time when her gov't's relationship with the judiciary has been fraught with tension, with the Bengal CM even criticising some of the HC rulings in the recent past. CJJ Chandrachud, on his part, emphasised that judgments should be based on constitutional morality, not a judge's idea of morality. Reminding the judges that they were "servants" of the constitution, not its "masters", he said the values judges had to espouse were values the Constitution had enshrined for them, whether they liked it or not — "that is, a society based on human dignity, fraternity, equality, liberty, respect for all, tolerance for all and inclusion of all".

The night drill, which included river crossing drill, was taking place amid continuing military confrontation with China in eastern Ladakh, which is into its fifth year now. Border Roads Organisation, incidentally, is in the final stages of completing a new alternate 130-km road from Sasoma in Nubra Valley through Saser Brangsa to DBO outpost. DBO, which includes an advance landing ground at an altitude of 16,614-ft, overlooks the Karakoram Pass and is just a few kilometres from LAC and China-occupied Aksai Chin region beyond. Expressing sadness at "loss of lives in the unfortunate accident", defence minister Rajnath Singh said, "We will never forget the service of our gallant soldiers. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families."

Soldiers swept away during river-crossing exercise at night

The night drill, which included river crossing drill, was taking place amid continuing military confrontation with China in eastern Ladakh, which is into its fifth year now. Border Roads Organisation, incidentally, is in the final stages of completing a new alternate 130-km road from Sasoma in Nubra Valley through Saser Brangsa to DBO outpost. DBO, which includes an advance landing ground at an altitude of 16,614-ft, overlooks the Karakoram Pass and is just a few kilometres from LAC and China-occupied Aksai Chin region beyond. Expressing sadness at "loss of lives in the unfortunate accident", defence minister Rajnath Singh said, "We will never forget the service of our gallant soldiers. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families."

SBI MD CS Setty recommended for role of chairman

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The Financial Services Institution Board (FSIB) has recommended Challa Sreenivasulu Setty, MD, State Bank of India, as the next chairman of the bank. The board conducted interviews to select a successor to the incumbent Dinesh Khara, whose extended term ends in Aug 2024.

According to a statement from FSIB, the board interviewed three candidates on June 29 for the position of SBI chairman. "Keeping in view their performance in the interviews, their overall experience, and the existing parameters, the board recommends CS Setty for the position of chairman," the statement said. The other two candidates are understood to be Ashwini Kumar Tewari and Vinay Tonsle.

Setty (born Sept 1965) currently oversees international banking, global markets, and technology divisions at SBI. He started his career in 1988 as SBI probationary officer. Setty holds a BSc in Agriculture and is a certified associate of Indian Institute of Bankers.

Before being appointed MD in 2020, he held several critical positions at SBI, such as Deputy MD of stressed assets resolution group, chief general manager, general manager in corporate accounts group, deputy general manager in mid-corporate group, and vice president and head of syndications at SBI's New York branch.

Initially, as MD, he led retail and digital banking verticals before

Ravi Agrawal to be new CBDT chief

Govt on Saturday appointed Ravi Agrawal as the new chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT). He replaces Nitin Gupta whose extension ends on June 30. An official statement said Agrawal's tenure will start from July 1 and he would be in office till the date of his superannuation on Sept 30 this year.

After that he'll be re-appointed on a contract basis up to June 30 next year on terms and conditions applicable to re-employed central govt officers, according to the statement from the secretary of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. Agrawal is a 1988 Indian Revenue Service officer and was appointed as member of the CBDT which oversees direct tax issues. He had also served earlier as DG investigation in Delhi. **TNN**

re taking on his current responsibilities. His term as managing director was extended by two years in Jan 2023.

Setty's proposed elevation comes at a time when the bank is undergoing a digital transformation, and profits and asset quality are at an all-time high. Motilal Oswal had in a report highlighted the turnaround of the bank in the last six years from a loss of Rs 6,500 crore in FY18 to profits of Rs 61,100 crore in FY24. "We note that cumulative profit of bank over the past three years (FY22-24) is equivalent to what the bank earned in the prior 20 years combined," report said.

Govt panel to finalise new base year for GDP

To Also Advise On New Data Sources

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Ministry of statistics and programme implementation (MosPI) has notified setting up of a 26-member panel to oversee the revision of the base year for national accounts.

The panel headed by Biswanta Goldar, former professor of the Institute of Economic Growth, has been tasked to review the existing databases and advise on the inclusion of new data sources for improving estimates of national accounts.

"To advise on the methodology for compilation and presentation of National Accounts Statistics for purposes of economic analysis and policy including methodology for seasonal adjustment of quarterly national accounts and on promotion of research in

Panagariya: Must continue data-driven policy-making to climb devpt ladder

India should continue its data driven policy making in order to move along its development trajectory, **Arvind Panagariya**, chairman of the 16th Finance Commission said on Saturday.



"Current challenge is to produce authentic, robust and accurate statistics to cope with huge demand for information that is now almost universally accessible through digital and other channels," said Panagariya in his address on 18th Statistics Day, held to mark birth anniversary of Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis who led foundation for statistics and economic planning in country. "The need of the hour is to ensure availability of accurate data so that these can be appropriately fed into decision making processes through the aid of modern technology," said Panagariya who was earlier vice chairman of govt think tank Niti Aayog. He complimented the country's statistical community for creating a robust statistical system. Panagariya also urged Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) to create a portal which will serve as a "home" for the data of the finance commission. **TNN**

the field of National Accounts Statistics," a gazette notification said while detailing the terms of reference of the panel.

The panel will also advise on base year for national accounts and its alignment with other related products

It has also asked to advise on implementation of latest UN standards, adoption of new classifications recommended by the UN Statistics Division in development of sequence of accounts for various institutional sectors.

Tenure of this committee will be five years or till the completion of next base year revision of national accounts, whichever is later. For operational feasibility, committee may constitute sub committees on different aspects with maximum tenure of two years, according to notification.

Other panel members include G C Manna, ex-director-general CSO, Chetan Ghate, director of Institute of Economic Growth, Partha Ray, Director NIBM, Pune, Subrata Guha, professor Centre of Economic Studies and Planning JNU, Shalabh, professor of Statistics & Dean of Academic Affairs Department of Mathematic & Statistics Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, among others.

World Bank approves \$1.5bn loan to help India speed up green hydrogen projects

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The World Bank's Board has approved \$1.5 billion loan to help India accelerate development of low-carbon energy. The operation will seek to promote development of a vibrant market for green hydrogen, continue to scale up renewable energy, and stimulate finance for low-carbon energy investments, according to a statement from the multilateral agency.

The programme will support reforms to boost production of green hydrogen and electrolyzers, critical technology needed for green hydrogen production. It also supports reforms to boost renewable energy penetration, for instance, by incentivising battery energy storage solutions and amending Indian electricity grid code to improve renewable energy integration into the grid. The financing for the operation includes a \$1.46 billion loan from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and a \$31.5 million credit from International Development Association (IDA).

World Bank had approved the \$1.5 billion plan in June 2023, which supported waiver of transmission charges for renewable energy in green hydrogen projects, issuance of a clear path to launch 50 GW of renewable energy tenders annually and creating a legal framework for national carbon credit market.

'No clean chit, probe Cadila MD rape case further'

Ahmedabad: A local court on Saturday ordered further investigation into the rape allegations a 27-year-old Bulgarian woman levelled against Cadila Pharmaceuticals CMD Rajiv Modi and sought a report in two months.

Acting on a protest petition filed by the former flight attendant, the court did not accept Sola police's clean chit to Modi and Cadila employee named Johnson Mathew at this stage.

The woman's advocate, Rajesh Mishra, said the court observed that important witnesses in the case who were cited by the Bulgarian woman were not examined by the investigator. The court also said the police ignored important documents and electronic evidence. **TNN**

HC allows early release of 2 murder convicts serving life

Chennai: Madras high court has ordered premature release of two people serving life sentence for murder in Puducherry, after jail authorities denied them relief.

Puducherry Prison Rules allow a life convict who has completed 14 years of jail to apply for premature release. Accordingly, Venu Shankar and Ravi made separate pleas. But, prison authorities on Jan 19 rejected Venu's application on the grounds that there were 11 other pending criminal cases against him. Ravi's plea was rejected on the grounds that he had jumped parole and was re-arrested after 326 days, and had four pending cases against him. They also cited threat to their lives from rival gangs. —**Sureshkumar K**

Madras HC quashes appointment of ex-HoD's daughter at Pondy varsity

Chennai: Madras high court has censured Central Vigilance Commission for failing to curb irregularities in appointments at Pondicherry University, has quashed appointment favouring daughter of a former department head, and has ordered to reissue a notification for filling assistant professor posts.

"All is not well in administration of Pondicherry University," Justice Battu Devanand said on Friday. Case pertains to appointment of daughter of former HoD of Centre for Pollution Control and Environment Technology Tasneem Abbasi. "Selection process is illegal," the judge said. **TNN**

Lynched man charged with dacoity 10 days after death

Agra: Ten days after a mob allegedly lynched Mohammad Farid, 35, in Aligarh, an FIR was registered against him, his brother and five others on Saturday. The FIR was registered under IPC sections 395 (dacoity) and 354 (assault or criminal force to woman) based on a complaint at Gandhi Park police station, reports **Deepak Lavania**. In her complaint, the wife of textile trader Mukesh Chand Mittal, alleged that Farid, his brother Mohammad Zaki along with their associates carried out a dacoity at her house. She claimed Farid threatened her at gunpoint, snatched her gold chain, and took Rs 2.5 lakh cash and jewellery from her.

"He hit me on the chest with bad intentions," the FIR mentioned, adding that Farid sustained injuries in hands, legs and head as he fell from stairs while trying to flee along with others. On June 18, Farid was beaten to death by a group of men who suspected him of theft. A purported video of the incident was widely circulated on social media.

Delhi teen loses control over car, crashes into cart; 5 hurt

New Delhi: Five people sustained injuries after they were hit by a car driven by a 16-year-old boy in the Jagatpuri area of Shahdara on Saturday. Police have apprehended the minor, who is the son of a businessman, and seized the car. They also plan to book his father who owns the vehicle. The injured were rushed to the hospital. All of them have minor injuries.

Police said that they received information about the incident around 8 am. Cops apprehended the driver at the spot. Further investigation revealed that the boy was returning home with two minor friends after having breakfast. Around 7.40 am, the car collided with a cart vendor near Karkardooma Court. The boy told the cops that when the vendor shouted at the minor, he panicked and lost control. This led to him hitting a woman sweeper and, despite attempts to regain control, he struck three more pedestrians. **TNN**

HIGH COURT OF MADRAS
NOTIFICATION No. 233/2024, Dated : 30.06.2024

Applications are invited only by online (<https://www.mhc.tn.gov.in>) for Direct Recruitment to the following posts in the Madras High Court Service:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Number of Vacancies	Scale of Pay
1.	Interpreter (Tamil and Telugu)	5	Pay Level-22 Rs.56,100/- Rs.2,05,700/-
2.	Interpreter (Hindi)	1	
3.	Interpreter (Kannada)	1	
4.	Interpreter (Malayalam)	1	

For Detailed Notification, Instructions to the candidates, Registration and applying online, visit the Recruitment Portal of the Madras High Court (www.mhc.tn.gov.in). The last date to apply: 29.07.2024.

DATED: 30.06.2024
HIGH COURT, MADRAS DIPR/639/Display/2024
M. JOTHIRAMAN
REGISTRAR GENERAL

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Course dates: 6, 7, 13, 14 July 2024
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Ph: 0674-2397819/919, Fax: 0674-2397424

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ODISHA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE & TECHNOLOGY
Bhubaneswar-751003, Odisha.

No. E - II - 07/2013/Part-II/ 9822/UAT Dt. 28.06.24

ADDENDUM

In continuation to this office advertisement No. 2860/UAT dated 20.02.2023 & No. 2421/UAT dated 17.02.2024, the vacant posts of SMS (Agril Extension) & Fishery as indicated in the above advertisement shall be filled up from the eligible candidates with Master Degree in Agril. Extension & Master Degree in Fishery Science respectively with minimum 55% marks from a recognized University. All other terms and conditions of the said advertisement remain unchanged and unaltered.

Eligible candidates for the above posts may apply to the Registrar, OUAT, within 10th July, 2024 by 5.00 PM under Speed post/Registered Post. The candidates who have already applied earlier in response to the above advertisements need not apply again.

The detailed advertisement can be downloaded from University website: ouat.ac.in

BY ORDER OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR
Sd/-
REGISTRAR
OIPR-16005/11/0007/24-25

CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute
(Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)
Sector 10, Janakipuram Extension, Sitapur Road,
Lucknow-226 031 (India)

RECRUITMENT OF DRIVER & TECHNICIAN-I
Advertisement No. 04 /2024

Applications are invited from the citizens of India for filling up 02 posts of Driver and 17 posts of Technician-I at CSIR-CDRI, a constituent Institute of Council of Scientific & Industrial Research. The details of the post are given below:

Designation	No. of Posts & reservation status	Pay Level/Pay Matrix & Total Emoluments (Rs.)	Upper Age limit	Start date of Registration
Driver (Non-Technical) (Isolated post)	Total Post 02 (01 UR & 01 SC)	Pay Level-2, Cell-1 (Pay Scale-19900-63200) Total 35,475/- (Approx.)	Age Limit: 27 Years (not exceeding as on 08.08.2024)	Friday, 05 th July, 2024 from 10:00 AM
Technician (I)	Total Posts 17 (01-EWS, 03-SC, 05 OBC & 08 Unreserved)	Pay Level-2, Cell-1 (Pay Scale-19900-63200) Total 35,475/- (Approx.)	Age Limit: 28 Years (not exceeding as on 16.08.2024)	Monday, 15 th July, 2024 from 10:00 AM

Note: For detailed advertisement and filling up online application form please visit our website <https://www.cdri.res.in> and 'Driver Recruitment-2024 link and Technician-I Recruitment-2024 link.

Sr. Controller of Administration

WESTERN RAILWAY

NOTICE INVITING E-AUCTION FOR ADVERTISING CONTRACTS MUMBAI DIVISION

Work – Display of Advertisement through various NFR media over Mumbai Division

Divisional Railway Manager, Commercial Department, NFR section, Mumbai Central - Mumbai - 400 008. Invites bidders for e-auction. The details as furnished below for e-auction to be conducted for advertising contracts as under:

Auction catalogue No.		Auction Start (All Lots)		
MMCT-PMBJK-24-2		05-07-24 14:00 hours		
Sr. No.	Lot No	Location / Area	Days	Close Date & time of e-Auction
1	PMBJK-BCT-VAPI- PMBJK-2-24-1 (PMBJK - Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janashadhi Kendras)	E-auction for the work of maintenance and operation of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janashadhi Kendra (PMBJKs) at Vapi Railway station (North West corner of Circulating area near gate) of Mumbai Division Western Railway for a period of Three (03) years.	1095	05-07-24 14:30hours
Auction catalogue No.		Auction Start (All Lots)		
MMCT-ADVT-24-20		05-07-24 15:00 hours		
Sr. No.	Lot No	Location / Area	Days	Close Date & time of e-Auction
1	ADVT-BCT-MX-OH-296-24-1 (Advertising - Out of Home)	E-Quotation for display of Advertisement on Hoardings Station/Location at Mahalaxmi station (West), North West side between km 5/28 to 6/9 and Mahalaxmi scrap yard of size 40'x 40' (2)- in V-shape total display area 3200 sq. ft. on Western Railway for a period of 90 Days.	90	05-07-24 15:30 hours
2	ADVT-BCT-CCG-OSN-329-24-2 (Advertising - On Station Premise (Non-Digital))	Bulk Advertising Rights at Churchgate (CCG) station at ticketing area for a period of 3 years	1095	05-07-24 15:40 hours
3	ADVT-BCT-PBHD-OSN-299-24-1 (Advertising - On Station Premise (Non-Digital))	Bulk Advertising Rights at Prabhadevi (PBHD) Station for a period of Three years.	1095	05-07-24 15:50 hours
4	ADVT-BCT-MX-OSN-297-24-1 (Advertising - On Station Premise (Non-Digital))	Bulk Advertising Rights at Mahalaxshmi (MX) Station for a period of Three years.	1095	05-07-24 16:00 hours
5	ADVT-BCT-DDR-OSN-339-24-1 (Advertising - On Station Premise (Non-Digital))	Bulk advertising rights at Dadar (DDR) station platforms for a period of 3 years.	1095	05-07-24 16:10 hours
6	ADVT-BCT-JOS-OSN-229-24-1 (Advertising - On Station Premise (Non-Digital))	Bulk Advertising Rights at Jogeshwari (JOS) Station on Foot Over Bridges with total display area of 2,315 square feet for a period of Three years for display of advertisement through: (a) Boards: Quantity 80 nos. and Display Area 1,920 sq. ft.; and (b) Glowsigns: Quantity 60 nos. and Display Area 360 sq. ft. (c) Digital screen 01 nos. and Display area 35 sq.ft.	1095	05-07-24 16:20 hours
7	ADVT-BCT-PL-OSN-298-24-1 (Advertising - On Station Premise (Non-Digital))	Bulk Advertising Rights at Lower Parel (PL) Station for a period of Three years.	1095	05-07-24 16:30 hours
8	ADVT-BCT-STC-OSN-340-24-1 (Advertising - On Station Premise (Non-Digital))	Bulk advertising rights at Santacruz (STC) station for a period of Three years.	1095	05-07-24 16:40 hours
Auction catalogue No.		Auction Start (All Lots)		
MMCT-ADVT-24-21		10-07-24 15:00 hours		
Sr. No.	Lot No	Location / Area	Days	Close Date & time of e-Auction
1	ADVT-BCT-BA-OH-343-24-2 (Advertising - Out of Home)	Bulk advertising rights for display of advertisement on 02 existing hoarding structures at Bandra West Circulating area, by dismantling & replacing with new structures of total area measuring 900 sq.ft. (Media Agnostic)	2556	10-07-24 15:30 hours
2	ADVT-BCT-BL-OH-51-23-2 (Advertising - Out of Home)	Bulk advertising rights for display of advertisements by dismantling the existing old hoarding structure and replacing it with erection of new structure of size 20 x 10 (2) measuring 400 sq. ft.	2556	10-07-24 15:40 hours
3	ADVT-BCT-BVI-OSD-337-24-1 (Advertising - On Station Premise (Digital))	Bulk advertising rights for Glowsigns & Digital media at Borivali (BVI) station for a period of 5 years.	1826	10-07-24 15:50 hours
4	ADVT-BCT-BA-OSD-334-24-1 (Advertising - On Station Premise (Digital))	Bulk advertising rights for installation & operation of videowall at Bandra (BA) station for a period of 5 years.	1826	10-07-24 16:00 hours
5	ADVT-BCT-NSP-OSN-285- 23-1 (Advertising - On Station Premise (Non-Digital))	Bulk Advertisement rights on new FOBs of Nalla-sopara (NSP) station	1095	10-07-24 16:10 hours
6	ADVT-BCT-MDD-OSN-301-23-1 (Advertising - On Station Premise (Non-Digital))	Bulk Advertising Rights at Malad (MDD) Station on pillars of escalators and staircases landings for a period of Three years through display boards.	1095	10-07-24 16:20 hours
7	ADVT-BCT-BVI-OSN-161-24-1 (Advertising - On Station Premise (Non-Digital))	Bulk Advertising Rights at Borivali (BVI) Station on Foot Over Bridges for a period of 3 years.	1095	10-07-24 16:30 hours
Auction catalogue No.		Auction Start (All Lots)		
MMCT-ADVT-24-22		11-07-24 15:00 hours		
Sr. No.	Lot No	Location / Area	Days	Close Date & time of e-Auction
1	ADVT-BCT-BOR-OH-56-24-1 (Advertising - Out of Home)	Bulk advertising rights for display of advertisement at Boisar station by dismantling existing hoarding structures & replacing it with new structures of size 20' x 10' (1) = 200 sq.ft. for a period of 07 years	2556	11-07-24 15:30 hours
2	ADVT-BCT-GTR-OH-352-24-1 (Advertising - Out of Home)	Bulk advertising rights for display of advertisement by erection of new hoarding structures at Grant Road Station West Circulating area - 02 hoarding structures of size 20' x 20' (1) and 20' x 10' (1) of total area measuring 600 sq. ft. for a period of 07 years.	2556	11-07-24 15:40 hours
3	ADVT-BCT-BIY-OH-353-24-1 (Advertising - Out of Home)	Bulk advertising rights for display of advertisement by erection of new hoarding structures at Bardoli Station - 05 hoarding structures of size 40' x 10' (1), 20' x 20' (2), 60' x 8' (2) back to back and 10' x 20' (2) back to back, of total area measuring 2560 sq. ft. for a period of 07 years.	2556	11-07-24 15:50 hours
4	ADVT-BCT-NSP-OH-351-24-1 (Advertising - Out of Home)	Bulk advertising rights for display of advertisement by erection of new hoarding structures at Nallasopara (04 hoarding structures of size 20' x 10' of total area measuring 800 sq. ft. for a period of 07 years.	2556	11-07-24 16:00 hours
5	ADVT-BCT-DIC-OH-53-24-1 (Advertising - Out of Home)	Bulk advertising rights for display of advertisement at Dahisar station by dismantling existing hoarding structures & replacing it with new structures (04 hoarding structures) of total area measuring 1156 sq. ft. for a period of 07 years.	2556	11-07-24 16:10 hours
6	ADVT-BCT-AN-OSN-193-22-1 (Advertising - On Station Premise (Non-Digital))	Bulk Advertising Rights at Amalner (AN) Station on Platform, for a period of Three Year through: (a) Boards: Quantity 10 nos. and Display Area 180 sq. ft.	1095	11-07-24 16:20 hours
7	ADVT-BCT-MM-OSN-189-24-1 (Advertising - On Station Premise (Non-Digital))	Bulk Advertising Rights at Mahim (MM) Station on Platform and Foot Over Bridges, for a period of Three Years through: (a) Boards: Quantity 106 nos. and Display Area 3,024 sq. ft.; and (b) Glowsigns: Quantity 50 nos. and Display Area 300 sq. ft.	1095	11-07-24 16:30 hours
8	ADVT-BCT-DRD-OSN-197-22-2 (Advertising - On Station Premise (Non-Digital))	Bulk Advertising Rights at Dahanu (DRD) Stations on Platforms & Foot Over Bridges through 80 nos. of Boards having total display area of 1,920 sq. ft.	1095	11-07-24 16:40 hours

Note: Prospective bidders are requested to visit e-Auction leasing module on IREPS website (www.ireps.gov.in). The lot wise details are available there in under the mentioned catalogue.

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Comic cancels Hyd show after MLA threatens to disrupt gig over joke

Hyderabad: A stand-up show by comic Daniel Fernandes at a restaurant in Hyderabad's Jubilee Hills was cancelled on Saturday after BJP MLA T Raja Singh threatened to disrupt it allegedly over the artist's objectionable remarks on Jain community. Raja released a video threatening to beat up Fernandes if he went ahead with the show. Fernandes had recently joked about members of the Jain community dressing up as Muslims to save goats from being slaughtered on Bakrid.

In Aug 2022, another stand-up comic, Munawar Faruqui, had faced Raja's ire with the MLA threatening to stall the show in protest against his objectionable jokes. **TNN**

RRAP CENTRAL AYURVEDA RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(CCRAS, Ministry of Ayush, GOI)
Podar Medical Campus, Dr.A.B. Road, Worli,
Mumbai - 400 018. Phone No. 022-2494 7259, 2494 7822.
Email : acri-mumbai@gov.in / acri-mumbai@gmail.com

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW - 03.07.2024

This Institute proposes to appoint Tentative 10 Senior Research Fellows (Ayu) and 1 Senior Research Fellow (Ayu/Life Sciences) on a contractual basis through Walk-in-Interview. For the formats for submission of Bio-data and for other details please visit www.ccras.nic.in
Assistant Director (Ayu.) - Incharge

योजना तथा वास्तुकला विद्यालय, विजयवाड़ा
School of Planning and Architecture, Vijayawada
An Institute of National Importance, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India
Survey No.4/4, ITI Road, Vijayawada - 520 008, AP., India.

Ref.No.SPAV/Estt./Rect./Teaching Dt:26.06.2024

ADVERTISEMENT NO.1/2024
FACULTY RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION

School of Planning and Architecture, Vijayawada invites applications from Indian Nationals for the following Faculty Positions on Direct Recruitment Basis:

Sl. No.	Department	Name of the Posts	Total No. of Posts	Pay level (7th CPC)	Reservation				
					GEN	SC	ST	OBC	EWS
1	Planning	i. Professor	1	14	-	-	-	01	-
		Total	1						
2	Architecture	i. Professor	2	14	-	01	-	01	-
		ii. Associate Professor	1	13A1	-	-	-	-	01
		Total	3						

PwD reservation shall be applicable as per extant Government of India orders. Reservations for SC/ST/OBC/EWS/PwD are applicable as per Government of India orders.

For detailed information regarding qualification, experience and other terms & conditions and application forms, visit our website www.spav.ac.in. The last date for receipt of applications is 30 days from the date of publication of advertisement in employment news. Sd/- Director

CONDOLENCES

MARKA

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAD DEMISE

Sad Demise



Vijay K. Nayudu
Passed away on
26-Jun-2024

"It is with great sadness that we announce the demise of a loving husband - father. We love you and will always miss your presence. You have taught us to never give up and live life to the fullest"

PRAYER MEET

July 1st, 2024
(5:00pm - 7:00pm)
St. Andrews
Conference Hall,
St. Dominic Road,
Bandra west,
Mumbai-400050



Dayal Radhakishin Vazirani
February 20, 1932 -
June 28, 2024

MARKA
Sunday, 30th June
5:30 - 6:00 pm
Khatwari Darbar
Linking Road, Khar (West)

Deeply Mourned by
Wife

Mrs. Vanita (Pushpa) Vazirani
Daughters & Sons-in-law
Maneesha (Deepa) &
Vijay Lalchandani
Kareena (Sonu) &
Girish Masand
Grandchildren
Rahul, Akash, Sakshi

Tejwanis, Shahanis, Jagasias
Family & Friends
**NO CONDOLENCES
THEREAFTER**



Lakshmi Iyer
w/o of R.V. Iyer
attained Moksha on
Ekadasi day, 17 June 2024,
at age 95.

Fondly remembering her
gentle smile, serenity and
sacrifice with love and
gratitude.

Daughters
Shanta, Usha & Geeta,
family and friends.
(M) : 9167910211

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With deep sorrow we regret to
announce the sad demise of
**Lawrence Leonard
Fernandes**
on 29th June 2024.

Beloved husband of **Maria
(Mariaya) Fernandes** Loving
father of **Desmond/Sharon,
Trevor/Mohini**, Doting
grandfather of **Caitynn and
Charleen**.

Funeral Mass at **Mt. Carmel
Church Bandra** at 4:30pm on
1st July followed by burial at
Mt. Carmel Seaside cemetery.
Viewing at 3:45pm at
Mt. Carmel church.

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UGC's push for
pen-paper NET,
CUET-UG now
under scanner

Manash.Gohain
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: National Testing Agency (NTA) late on Friday-announced new dates for three exams: the National Common Entrance Test (NCET), the University Grants Commission-National Eligibility Test (UGC-NET), and the Joint Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-UGC-NET.

All these exams will be conducted as computer-based tests (CBT). This raises the question: why were UGC-NET and the Common University Entrance Test-Undergraduate (CUET-UG), both overseen by the UGC and administered by the NTA, shifted to pen-paper and hybrid (partially pen-paper) modes respectively?

The ministry of education and as well as the seven-member exam reform panel are reviewing these changes made "at the insistence of the UGC."

Investigations into the alleged Central Selection Board of Constable and National Eligibility cum Entrance Test-Undergraduate 2024 paper leak cases revealed security breaches during transportation of question papers. This led to scrutiny of the NTA, established to conduct "high-quality" exams.

An NTA source stated, "UGC insisted on making the CUET-UG hybrid or pen-paper in 2023 itself. However, NTA conducted the exam in CBT mode. With the change of leadership in NTA last year, UGC once again wanted the exam to be conducted in hybrid mode."

Principal's arrest in NEET
leak case shocks Hazaribag

Haque Had Turned Oasis Into One Of Dist's Prestigious Schools

Vishvendu.Jaipuriar
@timesgroup.com

Hazaribag: The arrest of principal of Hazaribag's Oasis School, Ehsanul Haque, by CBI in the NEET-UG paper leak case has left those who have known him since his days of struggle in shock and disbelief. Many of them find it hard to accept that the soft-spoken teacher, who built the reputation of Oasis as the city's premier school from the scratch, could be involved in the paper leak.

Haque, 42, once ran a coaching institute called 'Seed' on Pugmil Road in the city. In 2013, he was roped in to head the Oasis School, located on Mandai Road in Haza-

ribag district, at its inception by its owner and chairman, Shabbir Ahmad.

He faced many challenges, right from taking the school to new heights to securing a CBSE affiliation, but succeeded in both, making Oasis one of Hazaribag's most sought-after schools, thanks to its top-notch infrastructure and faculty. The school, which started with 100-odd students in 2013, now has more than 4,000 students and over 40 teachers, and runs from a modern building with state-of-the-art facilities for academics and sports. The school got CBSE affiliations for classes X and XII in 2020.

Source said 118 students appeared in the class X bo-

ard exams in 2012-2022, and the school had a 100% pass percentage, with 38 students securing marks above 85%. In 2022-2023 and 2023-2024, too, all students who appeared for class X and XII board examinations passed.

The academic success of the school also established Haque, who holds PhD and BEd degrees, among the noted academicians in Hazaribag. After being appointed as CBSE coordinator, he became a prominent figure of the city and was often invited to programmes organised by different schools, said an acquaintance of his.

Haque, his friends revealed, comes from a humble background. His father, a former employee of Central

Coalfields Limited, passed away recently. A bachelor, he takes care of his two younger brothers and their families, and a married sister. "He always remained busy from morning to evening, with most of his time spent at the school," one of his friends said. The staff at Oasis School and his neighbours are still in shock over his arrest on Friday. None in the school or the locality wished to speak anything on record on Saturday.

"It's beyond my expectation as to why he did what he did. It's a tough time for his family," said a local who did not wish to be identified. Another person said, "What was the need for indulging in wrong activities?"

CAUGHT IN NEET LEAK

A nationwide investigation into the NEET exam fraud has led to numerous arrests, uncovering a vast network of people — including junior engineers, teachers, school administrators, students, and political functionaries — suspected of involvement in leaking question papers, providing answer keys, and arranging dummy candidates.

BIHAR, JHARKHAND

May 5/6 (Patna) | 13 arrested, including four aspirants and three parents. Key figures: Sikandar Yadavendu (junior engineer), his driver Bittu, Amit Anand, Nitish Kumar, Mukesh, and Roshan Kumar. Charges: Providing question solvers, handling aspirants, transporting to safe houses.

June 21 (Deoghar, Jharkhand) | Six arrested — Paramjit Singh alias Bittu, Baldev Kumar alias Chintu, Prashant Kumar alias Kaju, Ajit Kumar, Rajiv Kumar alias Karu, Pinku Kumar. Charges: Leaking question papers, providing solvers, coordinating leaks.

June 27 (Patna) | Manish Anand and Ashutosh Kumar arrested by CBI. Charges: Sheltering aspirants to memorize answer keys.

June 28 (Hazaribagh, Jharkhand) | Principal Ehsanul Haque, vice principal Imtiaz Alam, and journalist Jamaluddin arrested. Charges: Leaking question papers.

RAJASTHAN

May 5 | 22-year-old female student and Bhagwan Singh arrested for appearing as dummy candidates. Hukma Ram Godara (AIIMS Jodhpur) allegedly appeared as dummy candidate in Bihar; currently on the run.

May 8 | Student mediator and six students from Jhalawar Govt Medical College arrested by Delhi police.



Patna: Economic Offences Unit (EOU) personnel leave with an accused arrested for the alleged

June 13 | 21-year-old student from Madha of Solapur, arrested. Charges: Identifying students, collecting hall ticket photos, collecting money, and passing info to an absconding ITI instructor.

UTTARAKHAND
June 25 (Dehradun) | Gurgaon resident Gangadhar Gunde, originally from Marathwada, arrested while on the way to Mussoorie. Charges: Helping leak question papers in Bihar

MAHARASHTRA
June 23/25 (Latur and Solapur) | Headmaster Jaleel Khan Pathan (34) in Latur district and Santosh

Jadhav (40), a teacher in Madha of Solapur, arrested. Charges: Identifying students, collecting hall ticket photos, collecting money, and passing info to an absconding ITI instructor.

GUJARAT
May 10 | Parshuram Roy, a Vadodra-based overseas education consultant, arrested. Charges: Coordinating with other accused in medical exam leaks.

May 12 | Tushar Bhatt, a teacher at Jalarum School in Godhra who lived in Vadodra, and Godhra-based

Arif Vahora, a suspended BJP functionary, arrested. Charges: Receiving money (Rs 7 lakh or more) for students, coordinating with other accused. Roy gave a list of students to Bhatt on WhatsApp.

May 19 | Vibhor Anand Singh, a Bihar native living in Vadodra, arrested. Charges: Referring students to Roy.

May 20 | Parshottam Sharma, principal of Jay Jalarum School in Godhra, arrested. Charges: Ensuring school selection as exam centre; conspiring with Bhatt.

नेत्र विन्दन्ति शश्वानि नेत्रं दहति पावकः ।। न चैनं क्लेशकल्पयो न शोषयति मासः ।।
Shree Shree Ishwar Satsyanarayanji & Other Detties, Managing Trustee & Shebait

With immense grief, we mourn the sad demise of our beloved Father
Shri Lalit Kumarji Bagla
25.09.1941 - 27.06.2024

Condolences Meet
Tuesday, July 2, 2024 | 5 pm - 7 pm
B2/7, Safdarjung Enclave
New Delhi - 110029

Deeply mourned by:
Pushpa Devi Bagla (Wife)
Madhusudan - Anju Bagla (Son - Daughter-in-law)
Satya Prakash Bagla (Son)

Sharda - Manoj Kastilwal (Daughter - Son-in-law)
Puja - Aditya Maheshwari (GrandDaughter - GrandSon-in-law)
Mansi - Setu Mohita (GrandDaughter - GrandSon-in-law)
Parth - Gauri Kastilwal (GrandSon - GrandDaughter-in-law)
Ananya, Aryan, Yash, Mohi, Arav (Great GrandChildren)

Sabbhadra - Shyam Jindal (Daughter - Son-in-law)
Gunjan - Anubhar Poddar (GrandDaughter - GrandSon-in-law)
Akruti - Ankit Aggarwal (GrandDaughter - GrandSon-in-law)
Bhवेश - Payal Jindal (GrandSon - GrandDaughter-in-law)
Veer, Naina, Nyna, Diya (Great GrandChildren)

Siddhika - Neelabh Goenka (GrandDaughter - GrandSon-in-law)
Nakul - Sarbhi Bagla (GrandSon - GrandDaughter-in-law)
Dhrav Bagla (GrandSon)
Miraaya, Reyanshi, Arvyaan, Aaryaan, Aashvika (Great GrandChildren)
Anishka Bagla & Sonakshi Bagla (GrandDaughters)

Our Hero and our Inspiration.
Kind, gentle, loving and compassionate.
You taught us the meaning of life.
You live on in our hearts and minds forever.



5 September 1939 - 27 June 2024

Dr. Ashok Agarwal
(Son of: Late. Shri Shyambiharji Agarwal)

Left us for his heavenly abode
on 27th June 2024

A Prayer Meeting will be held at
Marigold Banquets, 4th floor,
Hotel TipTop Plaza,
Thane (west)

On 30th June 2024
From 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm
In Loving Memory

The Entire Agarwal Family

REMEMBRANCE
SHARING MEMORIES

3rd Death Anniversary
M. GEORGE JOHN

"Time can never dim the
treasured memories of
someone as special as
you. You will live in our
hearts forever. Deeply
missed and ever cherished."
John family.



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9 arrested in Gauhati
univ marksheet scam

Guwahati: Nine people, including the prime accused, have been arrested so far in an alleged marksheet scam in Gauhati University, police said on Saturday, reports Mukut Das. Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma informed about the alleged scam at a press briefing in Barpeta on Thursday.

The arrests have been made from multiple locations of Guwahati, Barpeta and Dhubri, cops said. The latest arrest was made on Friday. Sarma said six to seven cases have come to light in Barpeta and the prime accused, who is in charge of the firm responsible for computerised marksheet system, has been arrested.

The scam came to light when authorities at Ganeshlal Chaudhary College detected forged marks of Azizul Haque, a sixth-semester undergraduate student, prompting a detailed probe that led to the arrest of eight individuals. The suspects have been charged with criminal conspiracy, cheating and forgery along with other relevant IPC sections and other Acts.

New NEET-PG schedule
in a day or two: Pradhan

New Delhi: National Board of Examinations will announce the new schedule for NEET-PG "in one or two days", Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Saturday. Last week, NEET-PG was among several exams that were cancelled as a pre-emptive measure against alleged irregularities in competitive tests.

His comments follows announcement of revised dates for three cancelled exams by National Testing Agency.

University Grants Commission-National Eligibility Test (UGC-NET), which was cancelled a day after being conducted on June 18 due to "compromised exam integrity", will now take place from Aug 21 to Sept 4.

The Joint CSIR-UGC-NET, postponed as a precautionary measure a day before the exam, is rescheduled for July 25 to 27. Additionally, the NCET 2024 test for admission to the four-year integrated teacher education programme, postponed due to technical issues, will now be conducted on July 10, 2024. TNN

U'khand NEET leak suspect
held on way to Mussoorie

From P 1

The principal had blamed a local SBI branch, where the papers were stored, and a private courier company. Jamaluddin's family sources said he was friends with Haque for many years. Jamaluddin had organised a news conference recently for Haque to clear his stance on the leak, they said.

In Uttarakhand, the suspect arrested was identified as Gangadhar Gunde, aged around 60. A resident of Gurgaon, Gunde was intercepted Saturday on way to Mussoorie by Dehradun police, who assisted CBI in the action.

"Gunde was, perhaps, in touch with the (NEET leak) accused in Bihar. We cannot divulge more details as the case is be-

ing handled by CBI's Delhi unit. Our role was only to secure his arrest and hand him over to our Delhi unit," a CBI officer in Dehradun said.

In Gujarat's Godhra, four people arrested and jailed in a NEET attempt-to-copy case were remanded in four-day CBI custody on Saturday.

WAS IN TOUCH WITH
BIHAR ACCUSED: COPS

Later, the agency took their custody from Godhra jail for questioning. The four are Purshottam Sharma, principal of Jai Jalarum School; Tushar Bhatt, a teacher in the same school; Arif Vahora, a suspended BJP functionary who referred students to Bhatt; and Vibhor Anand Singh of Bihar

who roped in candidates from other states. Vahora had allegedly paid Rs 7 lakh in cash to Bhatt and the money was recovered from the latter's car on May 5 when the copying bid was foiled by the district collector on a tip-off.

The remand order cited CBI's claims that some NEET students chose Jay Jalarum School as their test centre and Gujarati as their language despite being from other states. The modus operandi was to ask students to leave out questions they did not know blank so that they could be filled in later. In his remand order, the sessions judge called it "an exceptional case which prima facie has deep conspiracy".

(With inputs from Patna and Ahmedabad)

Celebrating
80th
Birth
Anniversary

Shri Nand Kishore Gupta
Co-Founder & Former Managing Director
(30.06.1944 - 05.06.1996)

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Supriya Tai Sule (Member of Parliament)



Suhel Khalil Subedar (Chairman - Minorities Dept. NCP (SHARAD PAWAR), Mumbai)

I, Arnold Sebastian Vincento, would like to thank St. Jude Thaddeus for his intercession through which I passed both modules of SPOM Set A and Set B of CA Final Exams

ST Jude thank you for blessing us with another great successful year at W keep us in your grace always. Devotee JV.

ST Jude thank you for blessing us with another great successful year at W keep us in your grace always. Devotee JV.

Kejriwal in judicial custody till July 12

Vineet.Upadhyay@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Saturday sent chief minister Arvind Kejriwal to judicial custody till July 12 in a corruption case related to the alleged excise policy scam after his three-day CBI custody ended.

"Considering the fact that the conspiracy alleged against the accused involves a large number of persons who were involved in the formulation and implementation of the excise policy and also the persons who acted as facilitators in the use of ill-gotten money, I find that there exist sufficient grounds for remanding the accused to judicial custody," said vacation judge Sunena Sharma of the Rouse Avenue courts. The court allowed the CM to meet his family and lawyers inside the court. It also allowed him to carry medicines and medical devices required for monitoring and controlling his diabetes.

The court passed the order after CBI, represented by special public prosecutor P Singh, did not seek an extension of police custody but requested the court to send Kejriwal to judicial custody for 14 days.

The court, taking note of the available material, said the investigation had revealed that Vijay Nair, media in-charge of AAP and an accused in the case, was a close associate of the Delhi CM.

He was contacting various liquor manufacturers and traders "for demanding undue gratification" in order to incorporate provisions favourable to them in the policy, said the court.

The name of Kejriwal had surfaced as one of the main conspirators in the criminal conspiracy, the court said. The agency, in its application, claimed that Kejriwal did not cooperate with the investigation, gave evasive replies and had failed to give a proper and truthful explanation regarding enhancement of the profit margin for wholesalers from 5% to 12% under the policy without any study or justification.

Since Kejriwal gave evasive replies regarding his connection with the said persons, his further custodial interrogation may be required to "unearth the larger conspiracy hatched among the accused persons" in the matter, the court said.



Bouncer shot 6 times in Gurgaon market, dies

Gurgaon: A 24-year-old bouncer with a local club was shot dead in the middle of a crowded market in the city on Friday night by two bike-borne men, who pumped six bullets into him, reports Ankit Anand.

Anuj Dayama was having juice in his car at Ullawas market when the two assailants crashed into the vehicle from behind around 8.45pm, police said. No sooner did he come out to check what had happened, he was fired at. As Anuj started to run, the two attackers chased him down the road for around 100 metres, firing at him almost a dozen times.

Six bullets hit Anuj, of which four pierced his body. Police said they were scanning CCTV footage to identify the attackers. Cops are also tracing Anuj's criminal antecedents.

Woman fights leopard to rescue mom-in-law

Dehradun: A woman rescued her mother-in-law by fighting off a leopard that ambushed both of them in Rudraprayag district's Ghengadkhal village on Saturday.

Manghashi Devi and her daughter-in-law, Vineeta Devi, were cutting grass in their agricultural fields when a large leopard is alleged to have attacked Manghashi.

Vineeta intervened and fought off the big cat courageously, sustaining injuries to her leg from the leopard's claws. Both received treatment at Rudraprayag district hospital and are out of danger.

Rudraprayag divisional forest officer Abhimanyu Singh said, "We have deployed two separate teams to patrol the area and track the leopard's movements."

UP girl (14) tries to save drowning cousin, both die

Bareilly: Two minors, Mahreen (14) and her cousin Abdul Qadir (12), drowned in a pit left open by a brick kiln owner at a village in UP's Sambhal. Mahreen, her brother Arbaaz (5) and Abdul had gone to give food to their parents in a farm on Friday when Abdul decided to take bath in the pit filled with rainwater. He got stuck in the muddy surface. Mahreen jumped in to save him but she drowned too.

Live on social media, lensman ends life

Guwahati: A photographer in his late 20s ended his life live on a social media channel at his rented accommodation in Guwahati on Saturday.

Mrimmay Talukdar, from Tihu in lower Assam, was found hanging from a fan, police said. He left no suicide note. Bhaskar Kalita, a relative of Talukdar, told TOI, "He began live-streaming around 3 pm. I watched the video for 10 minutes. We had no indication that he was unwell." Preliminary probe suggests that he suffered from depression, police said.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA

No. _____ Date: _____

Repair and Maintenance of Rural Roads Under PMGSY & Other Scheme
e-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. CCERWCSBD Online - 03/2024-25

The Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda on behalf of Odisha State Rural Road Agency invites percentage bids in electronic tendering system for maintenance of 5 year completed PMGSY roads under Post DLP e-MARG module in the Districts of Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabrangpur & Rayagada for 28 (Twenty Eight) number of packages with estimated cost totaling to Rs. 29.57 Cr including maintenance for five year from the eligible contractors registered with State PWD / CPWD / MES / Railways. The registered bidder of outside Odisha, can also participate in this process, but shall have to subsequently undergo registration with the appropriate authority of the State Govt. preferably within a month of the deadline for bid submission, but prior to signing of the contract.

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement.dtd. 03/07/2024.

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and should be submitted online in <http://www.pmsgstenders.gov.in>. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (a) (ii) of ITB with Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda & Superintending Engineer/ Executive Engineers of the concerned Division, on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.

Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 18/07/2024 upto 5.00 PM For further details please log on to <http://www.pmsgstenders.gov.in>

Chief Engineer
Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda
OIPR-25192/11/0006/24-25

WESTERN RAILWAY
PROVISION OF ESCALATORS
Sr.DEE/P/BCT, Invites E-Tender No.: EL166/133/WA/4 (R) dated.27.06.2024. Work and location: Mumbai Division - Provision of 12 nos. escalators in connection with the work of "Western Railway Provision of 25 nos. escalators at stations with average footfall more than 25000 per day". (Composite tender for Electrical and Civil work). Approx. Cost: Rs. 19,52,67,971.78/- Cost of Bid Security: Rs. 11,26,300/- Date & Time submission: till 26/07/2024, 15.00 hrs. Date & Time of opening: on 26/07/2024 at 15.30 hrs. For further details please visit www.ireps.gov.in

CENTRAL RAILWAY
BHUSAWAL DIVISION
PROVISION OF AXLE COUNTER
Digitally Signed Online Open E-Tenders are invited from eligible Tenderers by Divisional Railway Manager (Signal & Telecom), Central Railway, Bhusawal for and on behalf of the President of India for the following Work. Name of Work: Provision of Axle Counter in Water Logged Track Section of Various Stations of Bhusawal Division. Approx. Cost of the Work: ₹ 14,72,05,130.77. (Rs. Fourteen Crore Seventy Two Lakh Five Thousand One Hundred Thirty and Seventy Seven Paise only). Cost of Tender Form /Booklet: Nil. Earnest Money Deposit : ₹ 8,86,000/- Completion Period : 12 Months after Issuing of LOA. Bidding Start Date : 15/07/2024. Date & Time of Closing of Tender Submission : 29/07/2024 15.00 hrs. Date & Time of Opening of Tender : 29/07/2024 15.30 hrs. (if possible). Website on which Complete Details of the Tender can be seen : www.ireps.gov.in Open E-Tender Notice No.: BSL.N.S&T.09. 2024-25 dated 28/06/2024 (Open E-Tender)

Office of the Project Director
Project Implementation Unit
JICA Assisted Guwahati Water Supply Project
Tripti Tower, 1st Floor, Ganeshguri, Guwahati-781005, Assam, India
www.gmdwsb.assam.gov.in

Notice Inviting Bids
Ref: PIU/JICA/GHTY/80/2022/PT-I/529
IFB No: GWSP/LCB/C-11(b)/24-25/04
JICA Loan No. and Title: IDP-201 Guwahati Water Supply Project.

Government of India has received loan from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) towards the cost of Guwahati Water Supply Project and it intends to apply part of the proceeds towards the payments under the contract for Supply of AMR compatible, Bulk Water Meters woltman type (Flanged) of size DN50mm & DN100mm conforming to ISO:4064 with MID Certified, FCRI Certification for Life cycle endurance, ISO 9001, ISO 14001 Certified & protection class of IP68 with 5 Years replacement warranty complete with strainer in all respect. (Package No.C-11(b) Lot-2)

Project Director, JICA Assisted Guwahati Water Supply Project, Guwahati invites online Bids for supply of AMR compatible water meters as detailed below:

Lot-2

SI	Package No	Description of Work	Completion Timeline	Tender Processing Fee	EMID	Prebid Meeting Date	Last date of Bid Submission
1	C-11(b)	Supply of AMR compatible Bulk water meters woltman type (flanged) of size DN50mm & DN100mm (1500 Units) conforming to ISO: 4064 with MID certified, FCRI certification for life cycle endurance, ISO 9001, ISO 14001 certified & protection class of IP68 with 5 years replacement warranty complete with strainer in all respect (package no C-11(b) lot-2)	4 months	INR 10,000.00	INR 10,000.00	06.07.2024 13:00 Hrs	15.07.2024 16:00 Hrs

The detailed bidding document and subsequent amendments if any will be available at official website of Guwahati Metropolitan Drinking Water and Sewerage Board (www.gmdwsb.assam.gov.in) and www.assamtenders.gov.in from 02.07.2024. The bids will be received through the e-procurement portal www.assamtenders.gov.in only.

Sd/-
Project Director
JICA Assisted Guwahati Water Supply Project
Guwahati-781005

Janasanyog/CF/467/24/30 June 2024

UTTARAKHAND CIVIL AVIATION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Doon Helidrome, Sahasradhara Road, P.O. Kulhan, Dehradun Pincode 248013 Email: ops.uctad@doon.gov.in

Letter No. 134/UCADA/2024/SingleEngine Date: 29 June, 2024

TENDER FOR SELECTION OF HELICOPTER OPERATOR FOR ONE YEAR
FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT SERVICES AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS PURPOSES (RETENDER)

Govt. of Uttarakhand is looking for a helicopter operator for Disaster Management services and Other Misc. purposes in Uttarakhand for a period of 01 Year.

1. Date of downloading tender document at uktenders.gov.in : 29/06/2024 Time 1800 HRS
2. Date of Pre-bid meeting : 01/07/2024 Time 1130 HRS
3. Last Date for online submission of Tender : 05/07/2024 Time 1400 HRS
4. Last date for submission of documents physically at UCADA : 05/07/2024 Time 1400 HRS
5. Date of opening of Technical Bid : 05/07/2024 Time 1530 HRS
6. Date of opening of financial bids - Shall be intimated later by email to the technically qualified bidders.

For more details, please visit uktenders.gov.in / official website www.uctad.in / Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority, Doon Helidrome, Sahasradhara Road, P.O. Kulhan, Dehradun, Uttarakhand 248013

CEO, UCADA

KARNATAKA STATE MEDICAL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED
No.1, Dr. Siddaiah Puranik Road, KHB Colony, Magadi Road, Bangalore - 560079
Phone: +91-80-29619801, Email: md.ksmcsl@gmail.com

No. HFW/KSMCSL/EQPT/MH/TND/NST/06/2024-25 Date: 28/06/2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

1. Tender Notification No: HFW/KSMCSL/EQPT/MH/TND/NST/06/2024-25, (IND-0124) Date: 28/06/2024.
2. Tender Notification No: HFW/KSMCSL/EQPT/QI/TND/NOAS-EQPTS/07/2024-25 (IND-0125) Date: 28/06/2024.

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

1. Tender for Supply of NST Equipments under Maternal health programme.
2. Tender for Supply of NOAS Equipments under Quality improvement programme.

The tenderers who have registered under e-Procurement department may participate through e-tendering system. Details regarding EMD, Terms and Conditions and other information are available in the Tender Document, which can be downloaded from the website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> from 28/06/2024. The eligible tenderers shall submit their e-tenders under e-procurement platform for above mentioned tenders. Further information if any may be obtained from this office.

Sd/- General Manager
(Admin & Procurement) KSMCSL,
Bangalore

DIPR/CP/651/Zen/2024-25

STATE HEALTH AGENCY (SHA KERALA)
5th & 8th Floor, Artech Meenakshi Plaza
Opp. Govt. W & C Hospital, Thycaud,
Thiruvananthapuram - 695 014
E mail - statehealthagencykerala@gmail.com
web : www.sha.kerala.gov.in
Ph. No. 0471 4063321

INVITATION TO PROPOSAL

The State Health Agency Kerala invites qualified agencies for Medical Audits (Direct Audit and Desk Audit), Field investigations & Verification under AB PMJAY KASP scheme. The agencies shall be selected on basis of the evaluation criteria as provided in this RFP.

All eligible agencies / bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the eProcurement portal (<http://www.etenders.kerala.gov.in>) in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process. All communications with the State Health Agency shall be through Registered AD, Speed Post AD or e-mail with the authorized representative of the Bidder.

Interested bidders are requested to submit their proposals to the "RFP" on or before 17.00 hours, 17 July 2024.

Date : 29.06.2024

Sd/-
Executive Director (SHA)

JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Indira Circle, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur-302004

No.: JDA/EST/ACTT/2024-25/D-453 Date: 27.06.2024

NOTICE INVITING E-BID
NIB No.: DC(Admn.)-02/2024-25

Online Bids are invited for Providing Urban Planners, Architects, Traffic and Transport Planners, Traffic and Transport Eng., Landscape Architects, Conservation Architects, G.I.S. Specialist & Auto Cad Operator Services on Contract up-to 6:00 PM of 18.07.2024. Estimated Cost of Bid is Rs. 850.00 Lacs. The last date for Applying Bid and making online payment on JDA Portal is up-to 06:00 PM of 18.07.2024. Details may be seen in the Bidding Document at office or the State Public Procurement Portal website www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and www.jda.rajasthan.gov.in

UBN No.: JDA24255LOB00092

To participate in the bid, bidder has to be :-

1. Registered on JDA website www.jda.rajasthan.gov.in, For participating in the bid, the bidder has to apply for the bid and pay the Bid Security Fee, Bidding Document Fee, RISEL Processing Fee deposit, online only.
2. Registered on e-Procurement Portal of Government of Rajasthan www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in for online e-Bid submission.

Raj. Samwadi/C/2024-25/1426 Deputy Commissioner (Admn.)

WESTERN RAILWAY
E-AUCTION FOR THE CONTRACT OF LEASING OF PARCEL SLR
E-auction for the contract to lease out parcel SLR in trains originating from Mumbai Division has been invited. The catalogue has already been published on IREPS website, the details are furnished as under:

Type of contract: Parcel, Category: Parcel SLR, Contract period: 2 years.

1. Auction catalogue no.: MMCT-PLS-24-21
Lot No.
22945-SLR-R1-MMCT-OKHA-24-1 22921-SLR-R1-BDTS-GKP-23-1
22917-SLR-F1-BDTS-HW-24-2 19037-SLR-R1-BDTS-BJU-24-1
22945-SLR-F1-MMCT-OKHA-24-1
2. Auction catalogue no.: MMCT-PLS-24-22
Lot No.
12490-SLR-R1-DDR-BKN-24-1 14808-SLR-R1-DDR-JU-24-1
12935-SLR-R1-BDTS-ST-24-1 12989-SLR-R1-DDR-AII-24-2
19037-SLR-F1-BDTS-BJU-24-1

Date & Time of e-Auction: e-auction for lot will start at 12.00 hrs on 09.07.2024. Initial cooling period is 30 minutes.
Note: Prospective bidders are requested to visit e-Auction leasing module on IREPS website (www.ireps.gov.in).

Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) Follow us on: twitter.com/WesternRly

X-8 DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMICS & STATISTICS, ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR
CORRIGENDUM No.3569, dtd. 29.06.2024

The detailed Corrigendum of Request for Proposal (RFP) issued vide file No.DES-WB-OSCRGPP-0005-2023/dt.23.05.2024 on Hiring of Project Management Consultancy for Strengthening of State Statistical System in Odisha under Odisha State Capability and Resilient Growth Policy Programme are available in the official website of DE&S, <http://www.desorissa.nic.in/> and Planning and Convergence Department, <https://pc.odisha.gov.in/>. Besides, the last date of submission of the proposals has been extended up to 06.07.2024 by 5.00 PM.

Sd/-
DIRECTOR
OIPR-21002/11/0005/24-25

O-70
By E. Mail: Despatch
E-MailID: serw_balalore@yahoo.in
Ph.No - 06782290318
Balia, Balasore

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BALASORE
"e" Procurement Notice for Road Work

Identification No.- Online Tender- Road N.C. No. 02 for 2024-25 Date: 27/06/24

Letter No. 2499/WE

1. Name of the work :- Road under MMSY-TRIP
2. Total No. of work :- 1 Nos. of Roads.
3. Estimated Cost :- Rs. 696.28 lakhs (Approximately)
4. Eligible Class of Contractor :- As per Annexure
5. Period of Completion :- As per Annexure.
6. Other details :-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O.D.S.E.R.W. Circle, Balasore	Technical Bid	Financial Bid
		From	To				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Chief Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Balasore	NCB No.-02	04.07.2024 at 11.00 A.M	19.07.2024 Up to 5.00 P.M.	18.07.2024 Up to 6.00 P.M.	20.07.2024 at 11.00 P.M.	Will be intimated later	7

Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd/-
N.V Harinar Rao
Chief Engineer,
R.W. Circle, Balasore.
OIPR-25105/11/0002/24-25

RAJASTHAN URJA VIKAS AND IT SERVICES LIMITED
(Formerly Known as Rajasthan Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd.)
(A Government of Rajasthan Undertaking)
Corporate Identity Number (CIN) - U40104RJ2015SS0048738
Regd. Office - Vidya Bhawan, Jagpath, Jyoti Nagar, Jaipur-302005
Work Office at: 1st Floor, HUCCO Building, Jyoti Nagar, Jaipur-302005
E-mail: ce.ruvnl@rajasthan.gov.in; Website: www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/RUVNL

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Online bids are invited to procure upto 2000 MW power from 15th July 2024 to 28th February 2025 on short term basis from various Generators/ State Utilities/ CPPs/ Distribution Licensees/ SEBs/ Trading Licensees as per specification under TN-26/RUVITL/FY 2024-25. May visit website www.mstcecommerce.com/ www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/ruvks/#/home/dpt/home for further details.

RUVITL-PR-74 (2024)
Raj.Samwadi/C/24/1430

Superintending Engineer

ARMY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, PUNE
ADMISSION TO ME DATA SCIENCE
(Only for Wards of Serving/ Retired Defence Personnel and War Widows)

Course	Eligibility	Contact Details
• Master of Engineering (ME) in Data Science • Duration - 2 Years • Seats - 24, For Defence Wards (Army-19, Air Force-03 and Navy-02)	• 50% in B.E/ B.Tech (any Branch) • Non-GATE candidates can also apply	• E-mail: medatascience@aitpune.edu.in • Website : www.aitpune.com • Tele No : 7249250184, 185 • HoD: 9890809251, • PG Coordinator : 9881195915

Last Date to apply online : 15th July 2024

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Notice Inviting Open E-tender
Commercial Branch, Headquarters Office
Tender No. SR/YSATPA/04/2024 dated 28.06.2024

For and behalf of the President of India, acting through the Principal Chief Commercial Manager, Commercial Branch, Headquarters, Southern Railway, Park town, Chennai-3 invites e-tender for the following work.

Tender No.	SR/YSATPA/04/2024
Nature of the work	To conduct inspections and submit periodic reports on Passenger services provided by the Yatri Seva Anubandh Service Provider in 6 pairs of Vande Bharat trains of Southern Railway, their related base kitchens and other services on these trains for a period of 03 (Three) years.
Advertised value	₹30,55,140/- (Rupees Thirty lakhs fifty five thousand one hundred and forty only) for three years.
Earnest Money Amount	₹61,100/-
E-tender document available at	www.ireps.gov.in
System of e-tendering	Single-stage; two-packet system
Date of Pre Bid Meeting	04.07.2024 at 11.00 hrs Sulekha meeting hall, 2nd floor at Southern Railway Headquarters office.
Date and time of closing of submission of tender	19.07.2024 at 15.00 Hrs
Date and time of opening of tender (Technical)	19.07.2024 at 15.30 Hrs
Validity of offer from the date of e-tender	60 days from the last date for submission of bids
Contract period	Three years

Deputy Chief Commercial Manager/Passenger Services
E-mail: dycmps@sr.railnet.gov.in
Mobile No.90031 60980

WESTERN RAILWAY RATLAM DIVISION
W/623/51/NIT Date: 25.06.2024

E-TENDER NOTICE

The Divisional Railway Manager (WA) RATLAM for and on behalf of the President of India invites "Open Tender" through e-tender on website www.ireps.gov.in the details are as under

Sr No	E-tender No. Name of Work	Approx Value	Earnest Money to be deposited in Rs.	Completion on Period	Similar type of work
1	RTM-2024-25-57	Rs. 1,92,22,000.00	Rs. 2,46,200.00	24 Months	Any civil Engineering work
2	RTM-2024-25-58	Rs. 3,92,46,137.19	Rs. 3,46,300.00	24 Months	Construction of RCC overhead tank
3	RTM-2024-25-59	Rs. 15,14,15,758.57	Rs. 9,07,100.00	18 Months	Any Steel Fabrication Work
4	RTM-2024-25-60	Rs. 10,42,76,590.02	Rs. 6,71,400.00	12 Months	Any civil Engineering work

Nagda-Maksi, Maksi - Dewas and Indore -Dewas -Ujjain Section - Annual repair and Maintenance of bridges in ADEN (West) Ujjain Section. (For Two Year)

Nagda-Bhopal, Indore-Dewas-Ujjain & Dewas-Maksi Section- Providing 1.0 lakhs litre capacity Overhead Tank & 50000 litre capacity under ground sump, with connecting pipe line for Different colonies at Piplopa Bagla, Unhel, Pasoda Makdawan, Aslaoda, Ranayala Jasmia, Matana Buzurg, Binjana, Unhanda Madhavpur & Mangliya Gaon Total-9 stations including with electrical work.

Vikram Nagar Station - Providing Goods office, Trader Room, Ladies rest room, Extension Width of Goods Platform, Covering Shed on Goods Platform and Improvement to approach road, circulating area etc. work including with electrical work in connection with Development of goods shed with various amenities work at.

Shujapur Station - Providing approach road, circulating area, extension rail level Goods platform, Labour rest room, trader room and ladies rest room etc. including with electrical work in connection with development of Goods shed with various amenities at.

Date of uploading on website: 25/06/2024 Date of opening of Tender: 26/07/2024. Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria and terms and conditions are available at Website www.ireps.gov.in cost of tender from is NIL.

Apex/51/112
Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) Follow us on: twitter.com/WesternRly

Divisional Railway Manager (WA) Ratlam Division (WR)

We often hear of 'history' as war and peace, celebrating heroic deeds and assigning not-so-heroic motivations to others. Those histories are occasionally inspiring — and often disturbing for history is power, holding the ability to unfurl action in the present. It is time, wise reader, to engage with real history — the chronicles of Earth — which comes from rock-hard sources (literally, given the geological layers scientists mine). Today, climate history is essential knowledge. The United Nations estimates between 1980 to 1999, 4,212 natural disasters occurred worldwide, claiming 1.19 million lives and costing US\$ 1.63 trillion. Between 2000 to 2019, this rose to 7,348 disasters, affecting 4.2 billion and costing US\$ 2.97 trillion.

Climate history explains the difference. The field is a many-layered one. It encompasses Earth's physical history, from the emergence of its biosphere to the proliferation of its biodiversity. It records diverse elements — carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, etc. — which, in stability, ensure life. It also tracks how humanity is making this balance wobble. Climate-related events, doubling between 1999 to 2019, stem from anthropogenic imbalances — between 1850 to 2022, humans emitted several billion tonnes of 'greenhouse gases', a planet-heating bouquet of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, by burning fossil fuels, destroying forests and polluting ecosystems. Many of us can't easily see the link between human actions and environmental repercussions. Here, climate history shines a (renewable) light. By illuminating how Earth works, how it breathes and exhales, how its oceans and forests dance with currents and clouds, how its wetlands and peatlands store water and carbon and its species evolve, climate history warns us to stop rushing in where the cosmos fears a heavy tread.

It also encourages. As Times Evoke's global experts emphasise, climate history helps us prepare for today's challenges. With extreme weather, the world needs new paradigms of building, growing and being. Climate history offers panaceas of resilience. Also, it is part of your own extraordinary tale — you live on the universe's only known home to life. You arrived here, a mix of stardust and personality, after 14 billion years. You hold journeys and prophecies in your hands — don't overlook that in the maze of everyday thrills, bills and prattle. Join Times Evoke in exploring climate history — and your life.

'Climate history warns us to limit warming to 2°C – humans may not be able to adapt beyond that'

Dagomar Degroot is associate professor of history at Georgetown University. Speaking to **Srijana Mitra Das** at Times Evoke, he discusses archives of climate collapse — and resilience:

What is the core of your research?

I'm an environmental historian. I work on identifying how climate changed in the past, often by collaborating with scientists and scholars from related disciplines, and figure out how such climate change influenced diverse populations. Some collapsed while others managed to survive, even thrive. My work explores this and sees if these findings can inform climate policy now.



work explores this and sees if these findings can inform climate policy now.

What sources are used in such history?

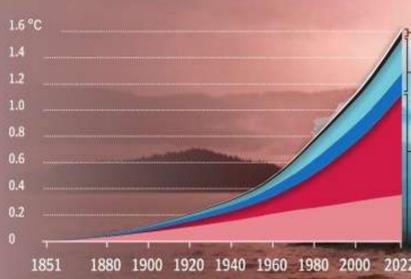
For identifying past climatic changes, I work with scientists in part. They use 'the archives of nature', aspects of the natural world that record the influence of earlier climatic variations. The rings of trees are an example — these correspond to how much a tree has grown. Bits of these rings could be thicker or thinner, depending on weather. You can use their width to figure out how the weather changed over a tree's lifetime. Ice cores also accumulate gradually as layers, akin to tree rings. There's some melting at the poles in summer, causing these layers. By measuring different isotopes in the layers, you gain a sense of the temperature of the whole planet because heavier isotopes tend to evaporate more when Earth is warmer and then precipitate into ice sheets.

Researchers like me also use 'the archives of society'. These can be direct reports of weather. Educated people would often keep weather diaries while officers on ships would record changes in wind direction and velocity. Many texts describe



LORDS OF THE RINGS: Trees have growth rings which record changing weather

HOW WE GOT HERE: GLOBAL WARMING CONTRIBUTIONS BY GAS & SOURCE



activities profoundly influenced by the weather — the date of harvests, sowing times, when cherry blossoms would reach full bloom or how battles were conducted, all these indicated weather. Archaeological remains show us material cultures while oral histories, through word of mouth, mirror the state of climates. You can combine all these different sources and synthesise them to see how the planet changed — and people responded.

When did it become clear humans were impacting climatic processes?

Humans have been altering the atmosphere for thousands of years, changing landscapes, wiping out megafauna and developing agriculture. Potentially bigger changes came with the 15th century genocide in the western hemisphere when European colonisers began killing millions of indigenous people, perhaps so many that previous agricultural and forest management regimes were no longer viable on a scale which could allow the regrowth of tropical forests that pull carbon dioxide (CO₂) out of the atmosphere.

Large-scale pollution of the atmosphere came with industrialisation and the use of fossil fuels like coal, oil and natural gas releasing vast amounts of CO₂, methane and other greenhouse gases — the weight of all the greenhouse gases pumped into the atmosphere over the last 150 years is estimated to be about 2 trillion tonnes. That outweighs the

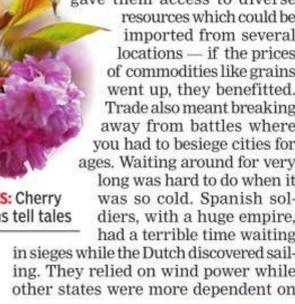
weight of all organisms on Earth plus everything we have built. In the mid-1890s, Svante Arrhenius, a Swedish chemist, wrote about how industrialisation was releasing warming gases into the atmosphere which would cause a 'benign' heating of Earth. By the 1930s, Guy Callendar, an English engineer, figured out Earth was already warming due to CO₂. The emergence of a climate consensus between a vast majority of scientists and experts, on the links between a warming world and human emissions, came in the 1970s-1980s.

Why do you posit the Dutch flourished under climate change?

Some of my work focuses on the Dutch but they were not an exception. I've been working with scholars all over the world to identify such resilience globally. Humans endured climatic changes even before industrialisation. Our species evolved in the Pleistocene epoch. This was distinguished by spectacular climate changes, a vast transition between glacial conditions, when Earth was about 7°C colder than now, and inter-glacial conditions when it was as warm as now. There was a huge oscillation with short-term instability but humans adapted.

Then, the Holocene enabled agriculture 11,700 years ago. The global climate became relatively stable but even here, there were profound regional changes, the most important being the drying-up of the Sahara, a grassland at the Holocene's start, becoming

the world's largest desert very rapidly. Another example was the Little Ice Age, a period of dramatic cooling from the 13th to the 19th century. This was globally modest but locally powerful. In this cooling climate, the Dutch built up a trade empire with networks that gave them access to diverse resources which could be imported from several locations — if the prices of commodities like grains went up, they benefitted. Trade also meant breaking away from battles where you had to besiege cities for ages. Waiting around for very long was hard to do when it was so cold. Spanish soldiers, with a huge empire, had a terrible time waiting in sieges while the Dutch discovered sailing. They relied on wind power while other states were more dependent on



ARCHIVES: Cherry blossoms tell tales



FOSSIL FURY: Burning coal, oil and gas has released once-sequestered carbon

SEEING THE SIGNS

● An awareness of climate existed in India before modern climatological science. In the 2nd century BCE, **Chanakya**, Chandragupta Maurya's eminent minister, wrote the **Arthashastra**, which recognised how rain worked — and impacted stability. He centralised water management and curbed profligacy, pricing water through labour or crops, taxing the wealthy more. He also gave tax breaks to communities managing water tanks — a worthy idea today

● 18th century palaeontologist **Georges Cuvier** linked **organismal biology** to Earth's epochs. Organising species into 'branches' as vertebrata, articulata (arthropods), mollusca (soft invertebrates) and radiata (aquatic animals), and studying the mammoth-like **mastodon**. Cuvier proved extinction — animals vanishing forever due to climatic instability

● **Paul Crutzen** discovered certain substances damaged **Earth's ozone layer** — 1987's **Montreal Protocol**, to phase these out, is due to him. In 2000, the Nobel Laureate outlined how human-induced changes had started a new climatic epoch on Earth — the **Anthropocene**

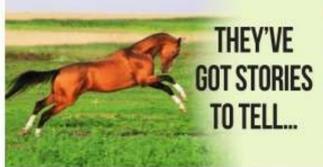
Research: IMD, BBC Science Focus Magazine, NASA

farming, made harder by the Little Ice Age. But wind currents didn't change then, which powered the Dutch.

Can climate history empower people today?

● The world is currently headed for warming of about 3°C by the end of this century. This is extremely dangerous. Many collapses, from the Mayans to the Vikings, occurred when the climate wasn't changing as much. Resilience might not be readily available because there are eight billion humans on the planet now. We must limit warming to 2°C because there is a possibility we can't adapt beyond that. We've recently seen tragic losses of life due to heatwaves in India. Societies which survived climate change were very proactive — climate history can tell a hopeful story but only if we learn its lessons.

Photos: Getty Images



THEY'VE GOT STORIES TO TELL...

● It's not just humans — other species have also seen Earth changing. **Horses evolved 55 million years ago** when the dog-sized Hyaenotherium roamed forests covering North America. Initially, horses were **small-sized forest browsers**. But **changing climates and new grasslands** saw species evolve 20 million years ago. While the Caspian horse emerged in 3000 BCE, an intriguing breed is the **Akhal-Teke** — the 'golden horse' — which originated in Turkmenistan 3,000 years ago, famed for its shimmering coat

● **Crabs** are tough survivors of Earth's climatic swings — the **horseshoe crab**, with its spiny tail, split from its arachnid kin **480 million years ago**. As ice gave way to marsh, **crabs developed legs to walk over land and shields against predators** — they survived continents separating and dinosaurs perishing and **250 million years ago**, diverse species started developing legs for paddling, digging under sediments and **even climbing trees**



● **The ostrich evolved 23 million years ago as rainfall reduced and dry savannas emerged across Africa**. While being flightless, ostriches have long legs and powerful feet — they cover five metres in one stride and **run at 70 kms per hour, despite being 8 feet tall and 159 kgs**. Armed with a 10-cm-sharp claw, the **peaceful-looking ostrich can also kick — to kill** — as many savanna predators, from lions to hyenas, discovered over aeons

Research: Smithsonian Magazine, National Geographic, American Museum of Natural History

'We must draw from India's climate history. This respected topography, hydrology and nature as capital'

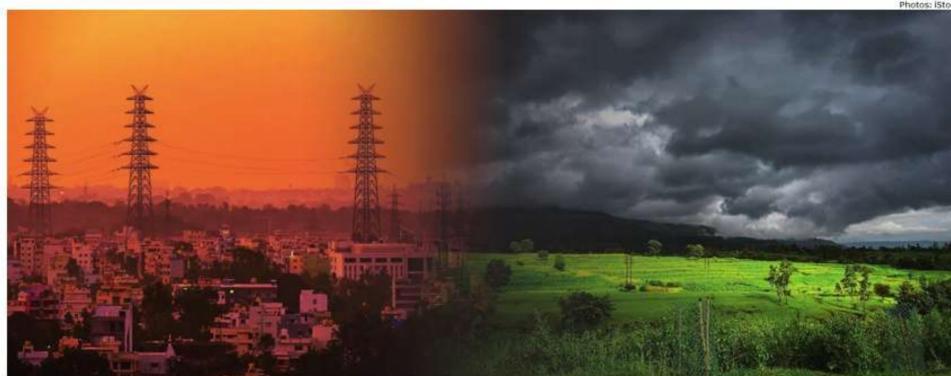
Mahesh Rangarajan is professor of history and environmental studies at Ashoka University. Speaking to Times Evoke, he discusses India's rich climatic history — and the insights it offers in times of increasing weather turbulence:

Several parts of India have swung from extraordinary heatwaves to extreme rainfall in a matter of days — just one day ago, Delhi, which was reeling under severe heat, experienced the maximum daily rainfall seen in June in 88 years. This huge volume of water fell over a few hours, flooding the capital, leaving its roads waterlogged and traffic submerged. India has seen weather swings before — but today, the rate of stochasticity or unpredictable, sudden changes has increased. Some of this is due to global warming and the atmospheric concentrations of heating emissions. But some comes from self-inflicted wounds, which also reflect a lack of awareness of India's rich climate history.

India has a tropical system and a monsoon regime, with a clearly defined wet and dry period. Today, the dry period is growing exceptionally parched and extremely hot, testing the ability of vertebrates to survive. The flipside is very wet periods of intense rain in short durations. Such tumult, impacting people's lives, well-being and resources, reemphasises the importance of climate history. Any subject of the past is seen through the lens of the present. In the 20th century, after World Wars I and II in particular, many fields of study emerged researching how to create conditions for international peace and prevent nuclear war. Today, studies look at how to achieve peace — with nature. Climate history explores how human civilisations over



UNCERTAIN HARVESTS: Rain-dependent Indian agriculture faces climate change



IN A FEW HOURS, JUST LIKE THAT: Several regions of India recently endured a blistering heatwave which claimed lives and challenged infrastructure — in a matter of days though, many parts were experiencing intense rains and flooding which broke historical records

time understood the nature of the biosphere — the thin skin of blue-green in which all life exists.

Humanity has relied on climatic stability for thousands of years, including in the recent Holocene, characterised by regular atmospheric, weather and moisture conditions. Such stability enabled the thriving of societies. Many of these conditions are changing now. Societies across Asia and Africa experience the monsoon — earlier, this weather phenomenon had specific dates by when it would wax and wane, its waters enriching Earth accordingly. The stability of these dates shaped much of Indian civilisation — consider how rain-regulated our agricultural cycles are and how the availability of water helped create cities, which could depend on a flourishing countryside. As several of these conditions are transformed, we can expect turbulence in what remains a largely agrarian country. Already, the times of sowing and ripening for crops like wheat are changing, influenced by altering winters and transformed rain. India has multiple agro-climatic zones which grow diverse crops — agriculturalists everywhere will face climate challenges now.

Yet, unless we draw from our climatic history, we will be locked into cycles of

harsh heat and intense rain, with their accompanying impacts. Heatwaves in cities will intensify unless we retain old urban planning styles, liberally planting shade-giving trees — from neem to peepul, tamarind to jamuns, whose sour purple fruit were eagerly picked by children in the monsoon and loved by birds and small animals too — instead of concretising and deforesting. We also need more intelligent construction — once, we had low-slung buildings with high ceilings and cross-ventilation which made summer bearable. Today, we live and work in towers of metal and glass which intensify heat and need air-conditioning to cool. As we increase air-conditioning units, we create urban heat islands pumping out more emissions — these deepen heatwaves. Older forms of construction were far more sensitive to our ecotype.

Interestingly, climate history spotlights wetlands as a buffer between heatwave and rain. It is noteworthy that Delhi's recent rain and flooding were preceded by a period of harsh water scarcity. To prevent this, we need to preserve wetlands from being taken over for construction because these are crucial for absorbing rain and renewing aquifers. The book 'Shades of Blue', by Harini Nagendra and

Seema Mundoli, analyses issues of water across diverse Indian cities, each of which have their own ecological stories — yet, one common factor binds these locations, from Guwahati to Mumbai and Delhi. They have all been draining their wetlands, causing drought vulnerability in summer and floods in the rains. The flooding in Delhi impacted areas urbanised in the last few years where earlier, rivulets flowed or old stream beds existed. In many places, housing and infrastructure have been built on low-lying areas while channels leading to the Yamuna have been blocked. We need to bring back a sense of respect for topography and local hydrology in what we build — and leave alone.

History is learning of the past to be enlightened for the present. There were long periods of climatic instability in the past too — interestingly, India in the 17th century and Tokugawa Japan coped better than many societies in Europe. One reason was India's elites valued nature. Before the arrival of the British, Indian rulers often gave people interest-free loans to build check dams or wells. The Vijayanagara empire, as Kathleen Morrison's research shows, provided for long dry periods. There could even be a decade when the monsoon fell short but populations adapted. They used crops which needed less water — today's push for millets is apt — and learnt

how to conserve water in lakes and tanks. While many of these rulers could be exploitative or hierarchical, they saw nature as capital. Their perspective was different from contemporary times when we imagine 'capital' as the number of tall buildings, miles of highways and colours of expensive vehicles around us. These are all legitimate aspirations but seeing nature as capital meant investing in resources which would protect us from nature's turbulence, perhaps the most dangerous existential threat. Our climatic history shows a good deal of cooperation thus between rulers, elites and common citizens. We should take a leaf out of these lessons. As both its heatwaves and floods show, Delhi must protect its floodplain — if the Yamuna can flood naturally, water will sink through sand and aquifer and provide protection from extreme weather impacts.

We also need more discussion of climate issues in our political discourse but these should be framed differently. Voters vote for day-to-day welfare issues — if a political party posited it would recharge the water in aquifers, so farmers don't have to drill hundreds of feet for a drop, that would bring cultivators to it. If a party promised to cover large parts of a city with greenery where the young could play and the elderly relax, both these groups would support it. If a party promised to protect India's beautiful birds and animals, those who enjoy biophilia or a love of nature would form a constituency for it. These issues should be presented in positive ways, bridging the gaps between India's ecological realities and solutions — some of which lie in our own climatic past.



PEACE FOR YOU & ME: Preserving wetlands is a boon for humans and other species

READERS WRITE

Dear Times Evoke, As an MSc Microbiology student, I find TE perpetually fascinating. The piece on elephants (15th June) was particularly enlightening; learning that they communicate using each other's names was both astonishing and endearing. Thank you, TE, for always presenting such fresh and enlightening stories.

— **Shipra Gautam**, Lucknow

I'm in school and I love Times Evoke! I was so delighted to read about elephants. It was the first time I got to know that humans are not the only intelligent beings on Earth, elephants are too! Elephants give each other names — just like we humans do! Thank you so much for such wonderful information, TE.

— **Priyanshu Roy**, Siliguri

I was amazed to learn elephants use unique vocalisations to 'name' each other. This incredible discovery by George Wittemyer, unravelled through machine learning, showcases their remarkable intelligence. I'm very grateful to TE for deepening our understanding of nature.

— **Soumyadeep Dutta**, Kolkata

Thanks, TE, for informing us how elephants have languages. This fascinating article looked exquisite and I agree with George Wittemyer that animal intelligence is highly underrated by humans. This article made me realise how there's so much more to know in life!

— **Vijayalakshmi Thiyyagarajan**, Mumbai

Thank you for your superb articles, TE! I was awestruck reading about elephant vocalisations! I eagerly await such wonderful TE articles.

— **Ayaan Abbas**, Barabanki

It was simply amazing to read about elephants' naming patterns. With decades of research, George Wittemyer and his team have achieved a great scientific breakthrough. Kudos to them and TE for such wonderful work!

— **Saurabh Thakur**, Mysuru

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India prise Cup out of SA's hands

Virat Kohli, Pacers Star In Nerve-Shattering, Soul-Redeeming 7-Run Win As Proteas Choke Again With Finish Line In Sight

TIMES IN THE CARIBBEAN

Dwaipayan.Datta@timesgroup.com

Bridgetown (Barbados): There was a new sunrise for Indian cricket on the banks of the North Atlantic Ocean on Saturday. All the agony of losing at the final hurdle is a thing of the past. The balm for years of hurt — that reached its crescendo on Nov 19 last in Ahmedabad when India lost to Australia in the final of the 50-over World Cup — has been provided by a group of bravehearts who refused to give up. In lifting the T20 World Cup after 17 long years, India gave Virat Kohli the ultimate T20 farewell as he announced his retirement from the format while accepting the Man of the Match award.

There can be a million moments that you'll keep talking about all your lives, but the one that will never be forgotten is Suryakumar Yadav's outstanding catch off the first ball of the 20th over. South Africa needed 16 runs off the last over and Hardik Pandya was the desperate choice. A yorker gone wrong had been hit in the air and it seemed to be going for six, but only until Suryakumar completed a catch that will be remembered as the

most memorable, after the one taken by Sreesanth to send Misbah-ul Haq home off the last ball of the 2007 final.

It was a battle of nerves after that and Hardik, who has gone through so many upheavals in his life recently, kept landing every ball on the spot. As Keshav Maharaj's last shot went nowhere, Hardik just sat down on the pitch with tears in his eyes. He had redeemed himself and so had Team India.

It wasn't just the last over. Hardik had the ball in his hand when Heinrich Klaasen and Miller were going great guns. All South Africa needed were 26 off 25 balls. Jasprit Bumrah's over had been negotiated, the flags were being folded, the journalists were switching their laptops off. Hardik bowled one slightly wide and Klaasen, who probably believed the World Cup was theirs by then, tried a punch that got a nick and went to the wicketkeeper. And that's where the infamous South African choke started setting in.

A team that had played with remarkable positivity until then started thinking about losing the game. Once such emotions start creeping in, there's a man in the Indian lineup who can simply hammer you. In came Bumrah for the 18th over and Marco Jansen's stumps were shattered.



ROHIT'S BRAVEHEARTS: Indian players celebrate the fall of Kagiso Rabada's wicket in Bridgetown

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South Africa managed virtually nothing from those six balls and that turned the game. South Africa stuttered and stumbled, as they always do.

And now let's talk about a man who might not have played this game if the world had had its way. Captain Rohit Sharma had said before the

final that Kohli was saving his best for the final. And how the 'King' kept his word!

Things had gone wrong for India after they were reduced to 45-3 in the first Powerplay. Kohli (76 off 59 balls), after the first three boundaries that he hit in the first over, struggled to force the pace in the middle. But he didn't throw his wicket away and held one end up as Axar Patel (47 off 31 balls) played an innings of quality.

At a time when left-arm

spinner Maharaj was looking to get on top, Axar took on the slog sweep and attacked the longer boundary, clearing it with ease. Axar and Kohli ran well between the wickets and the partnership of 72 was central to India reaching a score of respectability. Axar was looking for quite a few more, but a moment's lapse of concentration allowed Quinton de Kock to take an aim at the stumps and break the stumps at the far end.

176/7

India recorded the highest total in the final of the T20 World Cup, bettering Australia's 173/2 vs NZ in Dubai on Nov 14, 2021. India's previous highest in the T20 WC final was 157/5 vs Pak in Johannesburg on Sept 24, 2007.

1 Virat Kohli has become the first Indian batter to post two fifties in the final of T20 World Cups — 77 vs Sri Lanka in Mirpur on April 6, 2014 and 76 vs SA in Bridgetown on June 29, 2024. Gautam Gambhir is the only other Indian to score a fifty in the final — 75 vs Pak on Sept 24, 2007.

17 Arshdeep Singh, with 17 wickets at 12.64 in 8 matches, and Fazalhaq Farooqi, with 17 at 6.31 in as many matches jointly hold the record for most wickets in a T20 WC.

72 Runs put on by Kohli and Axar Patel for the 4th wicket, India's highest partnership in the final of the T20 WC, going past the 63 for the 3rd wicket between Gambhir and Yuvraj vs Pakistan on Sept 24, 2007.

—Stats: Rajesh Kumar

SCOREBOARD

India: R Sharma c Klaasen b Maharaj 9, V Kohli c Rabada b Jansen 76, R Pant c de Kock b Maharaj 0, S Yadav c Klaasen b Rabada 3, A Patel run out 47, S Dube c Miller b Nortje 27, H Pandya 5 not out, R Jadeja c Maharaj b Nortje 2; **Extras:** (nb1, w6) 7; **Total (20 overs; RR: 8.80): 176/7; FoW:** 1-23, 2-23, 3-34, 4-106, 5-163, 6-174, 7-176; **Bowling:** Jansen 4-0-49-1, Maharaj 3-0-23-2, Rabada 4-0-36-1, Markram 2-0-16-0, Nortje 4-0-26-2, Shamsi 3-0-26-0.

South Africa: R Hendricks b Bumrah 4, Q de Kock c Kuldeep b Arshdeep 39, A Markram c Pant b Arshdeep 4, T Stubbs b Axar 31, H Klaasen c Pant b Pandya 52, D Miller c Kuldeep b Pandya 21, M Jansen b Bumrah 2, K Maharaj not out 2, K Rabada c Kuldeep b Pandya 4, A Nortje not out 1; **Extras** (b1, lb4, nb1, w3): 9; **Total (20 ov; RR: 8.45): 169/8; FoW:** 1-7, 2-12, 3-70, 4-106, 5-151, 6-156, 7-161, 8-168; **Bowling:** Arshdeep 4-0-20-2, Bumrah 4-0-18-2, Axar 4-0-49-1, Kuldeep 4-0-45-0, Pandya 3-0-20-3, Jadeja 1-0-12-0

Result: India won by 7 runs

Player of the Match: Virat Kohli

Player of the Tournament: Jasprit Bumrah

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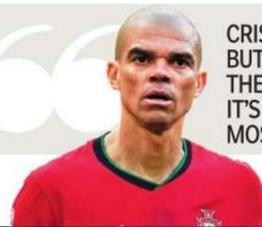
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—PEPE | PORTUGAL DEFENDER

CIAO ITALY! HELLO SWISS!

Murat's Men Stun Defending Champions To Enter Quarterfinals With An Impressive Display

Berlin: Switzerland dumped reigning champions Italy out of Euro 2024 with a stunning 2-0 victory on Saturday to reach the quarter-finals for the second time in their history.

Murat Yakin's supremely well-drilled side outplayed the flat two-time winners in the last 16 clash in Berlin and will face England or Slovakia in the next round.

Ruben Vargas teed up Remo Freuler for Switzerland's 37th minute opener before curling home superbly himself right at the start of the second half to deservedly double their lead. A new-look Italy, short on star power and without many of the key figures that led them to Euro 2020 glory, offered little in response to Switzerland's energetic display.

Former Arsenal midfielder Granit Xhaka, arriving at the Euros after a stunning season with German champions Bayer Leverkusen, pulled the string.

Italy coach Luciano Spalletti dropped Jorginho after his worrying group stage performances, bringing in Nicolò Fagioli in defensive midfield among a hefty six changes which failed to bring the Azzurri to life. The 23-year-old started a major tournament match for the first time, having missed most of the season with Juventus after a seven-month ban for gambling on football matches.

Spalletti said his team had no alternative but to improve in the knock-out rounds. However it was Switzerland who grew in confi-



HEADING FOR THE TOP CORNER: Ruben Vargas curls in a stunning effort for Switzerland's second

"We were compact and we created chances. We made a really good game and we scored at the right moment."
—Breel Embolo | SWITZERLAND STRIKER

ROUND OF 16
SWITZERLAND 2
Freuler 37, Vargas 46
ITALY 0

dence and pulled off their best display yet, making a bright start at the Olympiastadion in a sweltering Berlin, where a far more impressive Italy won the 2006 World Cup.

Former goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon has been regaling the squad with stories from that triumph but it did not inspire a convincing performance – apart from his modern day counterpart, Gianluigi Donnarumma.

The Paris Saint-Germain goalkeeper could not stop Freuler from firing Switzerland ahead after 37 minutes when the midfielder controlled Vargas' low cross and drilled home at the near post. Augsburg midfielder Vargas, who started in place of the suspended Silvan Widmer but on the left of the attack, broke into the area and arced a superb curling shot over Donnarumma in the 46th minute. AFP

33 Switzerland kept the ball for well over a minute in the build-up to the first goal, stringing together 33 passes before Remo Freuler, who plays for Serie A side Bologna, applied the finishing touch.

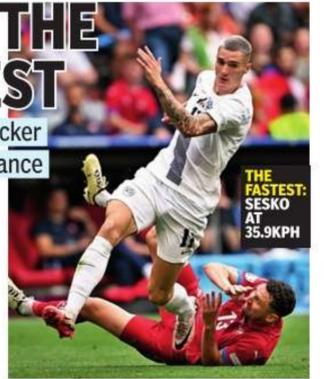
PASSING THE SPEED TEST

Players Are Getting Quicker And Putting In The Distance

Players are getting quicker, with Slovenia's Benjamin Sesko clocking a top speed of 35.9 kph (22.3 mph), fastest among the 45 players who, according to the UEFA numbers, eclipsed the 33.8 kph reached by both Hungary's Loic Nego and Italian Leonardo Spinazzola in Euro 2020.

And they are putting in the distance. Five players in Germany have beaten the 36 km (22.4 miles) covered by Russia's Aleksandr Golovin in the group stage of Euro 2020, with Albania's Ylber Ramadani running 37.5 km at an average 12.3 km per match.

Slovenia defender Erik Janza scored the most powerful goal of Euro 2024 in the group stage at 128.76 kph (80 mph), while Danish midfielder Morten Hjulmand's 28-metre (30.6-yard) strike was the longest. The built-in technology of the tournament's ball also showed that Hungary's Kevin Csoboth hit the goal with the most spins in his last-gasp strike against Scotland with a total of 16 rotations.



THE FASTEST: SESKO AT 35.9KPH



SECOND BEST: ROMANIA'S VALENTIN MIHAILA AT 35.5KPH



HARDEST WORKER: ALBANIA'S RAMADANI COVERED 37.5KM IN 3 GAMES



STAR RUN: FRANCE'S MBAPPE CAME IN JOINT 10TH AT 35KPH

Tricks and treat: Spain's perfect record to be tested by Georgia

Velbert: Willy Sagnol ranked just qualifying for Euro 2024 with Georgia as one of the finest achievements in his impressive football career, but the Frenchman topped that by leading the tournament's rank outsiders into the knockout stages where they face Spain on Sunday.

The country of 3.7 million people in the Caucasus sits 74th in the FIFA rankings and had never been to a major tournament since gaining independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. "I thought we reached our maximum by qualifying in March," Sagnol admitted after Georgia beat Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal 2-0 to reach the last 16.

Georgia got to the Euros in a rather roundabout way, finishing fourth in their qualifying group behind Spain, Scotland and Norway. However, their impressive performances in the Nations League gave them another crack at making it via the play-offs, in which they beat Luxembourg and then defeated Greece on penalties.

Georgia's success on the pitch, where they are led by Napoli's old-school winger Khvicha Kvaratskhelia, comes at a time of political turmoil in the country.

On Friday, there was a much more laid-back atmosphere as Sagnol gathered his players together in the sunshine on their training pitch in Velbert, where the stadium looks down over the Ruhr valley towards the city of Essen.

Just after taking charge, Sagnol's Georgia played Spain at home in a 2022 World Cup qualifier. They went ahead, but Spain came back to win 2-1 thanks to a stoppage-time goal. Spain beat them 4-0 at home in that campaign, and won both meetings in qualifying for this tournament, including a 7-1 victory in Tbilisi. That shows the size of the task awaiting Georgia in Cologne. AFP



SPAIN VS GEORGIA
12.30 am Live on Sony Sports network

NICO WILLIAMS

Spain beat Georgia twice in qualifying. A 7-1 rout saw Lamine Yamal set a record for youngest ever goalscorer in a Euros qualifier, two months after his 16th birthday since then. Georgia have shown improvement, their low block and quick counterattacks are similar to those of Albania, who caused Spain problems in the group stage

"(AGAINST PORTUGAL) WE COULD SEE THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO PLAY WITH EVERY TEAM AND IT IS POSSIBLE TO WIN. IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO YOUR OPPONENTS ARE BECAUSE THERE ARE NO EASY TEAMS AT THE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP."
—Khvicha Kvaratskhelia | Georgia striker

ENGLAND SEEK SPARK, SLOVAKIA SEE OPPORTUNITY

Mainoo May Start, Shaw Set To Return As Southgate's Men Face Fierce Criticism

Gelsenkirchen: Gareth Southgate's gamble of naming long-injured Luke Shaw to his squad for Euro 2024 could soon pay off with the left back expected to make an imminent return in what would be his first game in more than four months.

England face Slovakia in the Round of 16 on Sunday in Gelsenkirchen and while the 29-year-old is not expected to start, he could provide a boost off the bench to a squad that has been without a left-footer in his position. "It's a calculated risk," Southgate told reporters when his squad was announced earlier this month. "I think you can take one gamble and that's a gamble, we've got enough evidence to believe it can pay off."

Southgate is also reportedly considering starting teenager Kobbie Mainoo in midfield. Defence has been the most positive part of England's performance in Germany, with them conceding one goal in the group stage. While boasting some of the world's best attackers, England mustered only two goals in three games and were 20th in goal attempts.

Newcastle's Kieran Trippier is right-footed and so tends to turn inside, while Shaw is an attacking defender who loves to

ENGLAND VS SLOVAKIA
9.30 pm Live on Sony Sports network



KOBBIE MAINOO

make overlapping runs down the left flank much like the team's right back Kyle Walker. England's two goals by Jude Bellingham and Harry Kane were assisted by Bukayo Saka and Walker on the right.

Shaw was solid in England's 2020 European Championship run, scoring an early goal in the team's loss to Italy in a penalty shootout in the final.

Bitter revisit

England also scored only two goals in the group stage of the last Euros before progressing to a first major tournament final in 55 years. However, it is the shades of Euro 2016 that will send shivers down the spines of England fans heading to Gelsenkirchen. Eight years ago Roy Hodgson's side also stumbled their way through the group phase with five points only to be handed a seemingly kind draw against Iceland. Iceland pulled off a shock 2-1 win.

Under coach Francesco Calzona, Slovakia have produced one of the shocks of the tournament by beating Belgium 1-0 in their opening game. AFP



JURAJ KUCKA
The Slovakia midfielder has two assists so far. He has 100 per cent crossing accuracy in 3 matches. He is 8th in key player stats rankings, covering a distance of 34.02km. Kucka will make a record-extending 11 appearances for Slovakia at Euros

"We remember where we started. When our coach first took the job, we were playing friendly matches in front of 2,000 people in the stadium. And now, after two years of hard work, we're among the best 16 teams in Europe. So, it's really wonderful, and we're happy about it."
—Milan Skriniar | SLOVAKIA CAPTAIN

SPAIN VS GEORGIA
Cologne Stadium

HEAD TO HEAD (7 games)

SPAIN WON 6 DRAWS 0

GEORGIA WON 1

FORM GUIDE

SPAIN
W W W W W

GEORGIA
W D L W D
(most recent first)

0-0 England's one failure to defeat Slovakia was at Euro 2016 in their only previous major tournament meeting, a goalless draw in Saint-Etienne, in which the Three Lions had their most shots (29) in a European Championship match on record (since 1980).

England
2 Goals (0.67 avg. per match) 336.09km Distance covered (111.67 avg. per match)

Slovakia
3 Goals (1 avg. per match) 342.36km Distance covered (113.67 avg. per match)

30 The average age of the Slovakia starting XI (30 years, 218 days) in the group stage was the oldest in the competition. They've handed 809 minutes to players aged 35 or older, with only Italy at Euro 2016 giving more at a single Euro (870).

"Everything that's happened is now pretty irrelevant. We have things that we can build on, but also, each individual game can take wild directions at times."
—Gareth Southgate
ENGLAND MANAGER

ENGLAND VS SLOVAKIA
Arena AufSchalke, Gelsenkirchen

HEAD TO HEAD (6 games)

ENGLAND WON 5 DRAWS 1

SLOVAKIA WON 0

FORM GUIDE

ENGLAND
D D W L W

SLOVAKIA
D L W W W
(most recent first)

VINICIUS STEPS UP FOR BRAZIL, FINALLY

Atlanta: Vinicius Jr unleashed his inner beast in a little over 45 minutes of pure Brazilian football mayhem to guide the five-time World Cup champions to their first 2024 Copa America win against Paraguay on Friday.

The 23-year-old electric winger scored twice in 4-1 win and delivered a much-needed statement performance that Brazilian fans have long been waiting for. The Real Madrid rising star may be one of the best players in the world but until now that fiery spark has not been seen in

his national team performances. Even in Brazil's Copa America opener this year—a goalless draw against Costa Rica—Vinicius ended up being substituted halfway through the second half after not managing a single scoring attempt. After that, Brazil manager Dorival Jr changed tack and that decision paid back in a major way.

Instead of being deployed as more of an orthodox winger wide on the left against Costa Rica, Dorival gave Vinicius the freedom to roam across the front line on Friday against Para-



"I played a game that is compatible to the level of the player I am. I always say that I never play for myself, I play for the team, for Brazil. Always try my best, but it's not always possible."
—Vinicius

guay and fans were shown why he is a strong contender to win the Ballon d'Or after guiding Real to a LaLiga-Champions League double. After their disappointing opener, Brazil were initially struggling against another defensive opponent and almost lost their composure when Lucas Paqueta badly missed a penalty halfway through the first half.

But instead, they were rescued by Vinicius, who took charge and was all over the field, striking twice and creating another chance that allowed Savinho to score, helping Brazil to go to the break with a comfortable 3-0 lead. That was more than enough for a Brazil who were playing under huge pressure. REUTERS

COLOMBIA BEAT COSTA RICA TO BOOK LAST-8 SPOT

Glendale: Colombia cruised to a 3-0 win over Costa Rica in Group D on Friday and booked their spot in the Copa America quarters thanks to strikes from Luis Diaz, Davinson Sanchez and Jhon Cordoba. Colombia started the match well and took the lead in the 31st minute through Liverpool winger Diaz, who confidently converted from the penalty spot after Costa Rica goalkeeper

Patrick Sequeira bundled over Cordoba in the box.

As Costa Rica pressed for an equaliser they left themselves open on the break and Colombia made them pay, with Sanchez outmuscling defender Juan Pablo Vargas to head Jhon Arias' corner past Sequeira from close range in the 59th minute.

After scoring, Sanchez held up the jersey of team mate Jhon Lucumi, who missed the match due to an injury. Cordoba rounded out the scoring three minutes later after timing his run perfectly to stay outside and latch onto James Rodriguez's long ball. REUTERS

'King Kohli' saves his best for last

Got The Job Done When Mattered, Says Batter; Announces Retirement From Format

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Bridgetown (Barbados): Virat was smiling one moment and crying the next. It was a moment that was meant for 'King Kohli' and he deserved every bit of it. As India's greatest T20 cricketer announced his international retirement from the format, he had a Man-of-the-Match award in his hand. And he had just fashioned a World Cup victory for India.

Nothing had gone wrong for Virat in this World Cup. If the twitterati had its way, he wouldn't have been playing the final, but there was a team management that believed Kohli would come good. "He is saving his best for the final," captain Rohit Sharma said after India won their semifinal without much of a hassle.

Even on Saturday, the

world ranted as Kohli was fighting it out in the middle. After hitting three beautiful boundaries in the first over, India had lost three quick wickets and Virat was suddenly left to pull off a rescue act. Yes, he wasn't connecting, but the old pro knew how to deal with those moments.

Many of those who remember Kohli from his days in the 2016 World Cup — when he took Australia apart in Mohali to fashion one of India's greatest-ever run chases — believed he would play in the same vein every day, year after year. On Saturday at the Kensington Oval, the homeground of Sir Garry Sobers, Kohli showed the world that taking a few blows on the chin and battling it out is also a rare quality.

"One day you feel you can't get a run, then things happen. I got the job done for the team



THE MASTER AT WORK: Kohli in full flow on Saturday

on the day it mattered. It was now or never for me, I wanted to make the most of it. I wanted to lift the cup, wanted to respect the situation rather than force it," Kohli said. The champion batter said about his T20I retire-

ment that "this was an open secret". In fact, he might not have played the T20 World Cup had India won the ODI World Cup last year. But it was the hurt of that defeat that kept Virat pushing for it. He had a magnificent IPL

and put all speculation about his inclusion in the squad to rest.

The team management opened a slot for him — that of the opener — to make his game relevant for the format. Kohli was there for the insurance he provided at the top of the order, which wasn't happening till the final. But he was not ready to let go. Some of his batting in the nets of Barbados against Jasprit Bumrah, India's greatest white-ball match-winner, was beyond brilliant as he prepared himself for the moment.

And once he got it done, the 'King' announced that was time for the younger lot to take over. "It's time for the next generation to take over, some amazing players will take the team forward and keep the flag waving high." They will surely do, but Virat will never be forgotten.

THE WORLD IS ENOUGH



MIRACLE OF BRIDGETOWN: Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma (clockwise from top) pose with the Tricolour after India's come-from-behind win in the final; Jasprit Bumrah, one of the chief architects of the win, celebrates with Axar Patel and Ravindra Jadeja; South Africa's Keshav Maharaj (from left), Heinrich Klaasen and David Miller are inconsolable after the narrow defeat; Arshdeep Singh, who became the joint-highest wicket-taker in the tournament, exults after dismissing Aiden Markram

Luus, Kapp keep South Africa alive

...After India Pile Up Record Total

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Chennai: Gritty half-centuries from Sune Luus (65, 164b; 6x4, 1x6) and Marizanne Kapp (69*, 125b; 8x4) sparked a South African resurgence as they crawled their way to 236-4 after India declared their record-shattering innings

ONE-OFF TEST

at 603-6 on Day Two of the one-off Test. They stitched a near-century stand to stay alive in the contest.

The visitors remained unfazed about India's gigantic total and went about their business calmly. Proteas openers Laura Wolvaardt (20) and Anneke Bosch (39) were undeterred by the scorching heat in their seven overs at the MA Chidambaram Stadium as they began their innings in smooth fashion. Both got off the mark with a four and went on to hit the pacers for bounda-

ries occasionally.

To separate the duo, India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, who had closely observed the passage of play in the morning session, was tempted to bring in the ever-reliable Sneha Rana (3-61) on the spin-friendly surface. Right after the lunch break, Sneha hit the nail on the head by giving India their first breakthrough.

The right-arm off-break bowler looked determined to get rid of South Africa captain Wolvaardt. In the eighth over, she first lost a review when a sharply turning delivery appeared to be on the path of Wolvaardt's stumps. Three deliveries later, she finally got her prized wicket as the ball kept low and did not turn as much as it did in the previous deliveries, trapping Wolvaardt LBW. Speaking after the match, Sneha, who was the pick of the bowlers, said: "Laura's wicket was the most satisfactory one. I'm happy that I finally got it."

After losing Wolvaardt, Bosch and Luus kept India at bay in a well-curated stand of 63 runs off 137 balls.

Emotions, tears flow as Indian players savour the triumph

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

It was a time for the tears and emotions to flow freely. India beat South Africa in a humdinger of a final in Bridgetown to clinch the T20 World Cup. Obviously, the stars found it difficult to articulate their thoughts. But Jasprit Bumrah, who was named Player of the Tournament, was his usual calm self.

"Usually, I'm the one who tries to keep my emotions in check and get the job done but today I don't have many words. I don't usually cry after a game but the emotions are taking over. We were in trouble but we're really over the moon to win from that stage. My family is here, we came close last time and we got the job done, there's no better feeling than to get your team through in a game like this."

The master batsman revealed that he would have announced his retirement from T20 Internationals even if India had lost. "It's time for the next generation to take the T20 game forward. It's been a long wait for us, waiting to win an ICC tournament. You look at someone like Rohit, he's played 9 T20 World Cups and this is my sixth. He deserves it. It's been difficult to hold emotions back and I think it's going to sink in later.

It's an amazing day and I'm thankful."

Axar Patel, who chipped in throughout the tournament with all-round contributions, said, "It means everything for me. The last few years I've been getting injured, not getting that performance. I wanted to do something for India and I'm feeling proud. I tried to keep it simple. Just thought of it as another match. That worked for me."

Meanwhile, Hardik Pandya, who found his form in the tournament and helped India immensely, was seen crying his heart out after the triumph. "It means a lot. I'm very emotional, we've been working very hard and something was not clicking. But today we got what the whole nation wanted."

Alluding to the difficult period he has gone through in the last 6 months, Hardik said, "It's more special for me, after how my last six months were, I haven't spoken a word. I knew that if I kept working hard I could shine and do what I could do."

'340 officers were prematurely retired between 2014 and 2020'

► From P1

In an office memorandum dated Feb 27, DoPT asked the departments concerned to furnish a report in this regard "by 15th day of each month starting from July 2024". FR 56j/1 empowers the appropriate authority to retire any govt servant, if it is in public interest, by giving him a three-month notice in writing or three months' pay and allowances in lieu of such notice. The broad criteria followed in recommending premature retirement is that the govt servant should be of doubtful integrity and ineffective and not fit or competent to continue in the post held.

As per information shared by junior minister for personnel Jitendra Singh with Rajya Sabha in Feb 2021, a total 340 officers were prematurely retired between 2014 and 2020. For Group A and B employees, premature retirement under Rule FR 56j may be handed after the employee turns 50 if he has joined service before 35 years of age, and 55 years in other cases. For Group C employees, the premature retirement in public interest can be done after they complete 30 years of service. Rule 48(1)(b) too allows govt to retire an employee after completing 30 years of service, in public interest. The guidelines for evaluating cases fit for premature retirement were issued by DoPT in 2020.

"The objective of FR 56 (j) (1) and Rule 48 of CCS (Pension) Rules (now, revised as Rule 42 of CCS (Pension) Rules, 2021) is to strengthen the administrative machinery by developing responsible and efficient administration at all levels and to achieve efficiency, economy and speed in the disposal of govt functions," DoPT said on Thursday, while regretting how various ministries and departments "are not adhering to the said guidelines, resulting in delay in identifying the govt employees due for review".

DoPT asked ministries/departments to identify the employees due for review.

Fatalities due to wrong-side driving up 3 years in a row

Need Effective Surveillance System: Experts

Dipak.Dash@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Road deaths due to wrong side driving have increased consistently for three years from 2020 to 2022 for which data is available.

The chances of fatalities in such accidents is more on highways and expressways as vehicles travel at a higher speed. Govt data show in 2020, wrong side driving claimed 7,332 lives and in 2021 and 2022, the numbers increased to 8,122 and 9,094 respectively.

The data on road crash and fatalities of 2023 has not been published yet. Road safety experts said wrong side driving should attract stringent punishment and sections of penal law must be slapped on violators as such offenders are aware of the consequences of their road behaviour and the risk they pose to others.

They said there is a need to put a better and more effective surveillance system to prevent wrong side driving on highways, in particular:



Under the BNS, which comes in to effect from July 1, rash and negligent driving attracts a penalty of jail up to six months

Locals help with rescue after crash

► From, P 1

Aniket Chavan succumbed to his injuries while undergoing treatment. The injured have been identified as Shakeel Mansuri, Altaf Mansuri, their driver Rajesh Kumar and an unidentified man.

On being informed about the incident, the patrolling teams of the highway traffic police reached the spot. With

the help of residents of nearby villages, the highway traffic police personnel carried out the rescue operation. Highway traffic police inspector Ganesh Giri, in his report to the highway traffic headquarters, specifically pointed out that driving of a car on the wrong side was the reason for the accident. Taluka police station in Jalna has registered a case and initiated an investigation.

Under the BNS, which comes in to effect from July 1, rash and negligent driving at-

tracts a penalty of jail up to six months, and/or fine up to Rs 5,000 for first offence (it was Rs 1,000 earlier).

Any subsequent offence within three years attracts jail up to two years and/or a fine up to Rs 10,000.

An analysis of the data published for 2022 by the road transport ministry shows that 40 persons died in every 100 crashes across all categories of roads due to wrong side driving. In the case of National Highway stretches, the rate of fatality in such crashes was 48%. In 7,330 such crashes on the NH network under different agencies, 3,544 lost their lives.

"Commuters caught for driving against the flow of traffic must be booked under the provisions of the IPC (now BNS) in addition to getting challans as per the Motor Vehicle law. They must be held under Section-279 of the IPC, which will Section 184 under BNS. By driving against the flow of traffic, motorists intentionally attempt to risk other people's lives on the road," said Anil Chhikara, an expert on motor vehicle law and road safety.

TIMES NATION

BJP will contest Haryana polls on its own, declares Shah

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Undeterred by the loss of five seats during the Lok Sabha polls in Haryana,

senior BJP leader and home minister Amit Shah on Saturday announced that the party will contest the forthcoming assembly polls in the state solo and exhorted party workers to gear up for a two-thirds majority.

"We have lost a few seats in Haryana by small margins but our vote share has gone up by 5% from 2014. This time too, we will not ally with anyone and will contest on our own and win. This time, we must win Haryana with a two-

third majority," Shah said, in his first public rally after the Lok Sabha polls, as he addressed BJP workers at Panchkula.

The decision to go it alone is significant after Congress halved BJP's tally from the state. Just before LS polls, Dushyant Chautala-led Jannayak Janta Party, which was an ally of the BJP in the state, severed ties and contested the polls on its own.

Shah sought to play down BJP's less-than-expected performance in LS polls, focusing instead on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's feat in being the first PM in 60 years to score a third consecutive victory "How can this be possible without the blessings of the people of India?" the home minister said.

Minor driving tanker hits scooter & jogger

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Pune: A wrestling instructor riding pillion on a scooter was injured while her husband escaped unhurt after a water tanker driven by a 15-year-old boy rear-ended their two-wheeler on National Institute of Bank Management (NIBM)-Undri road on Saturday morning.

A jogger had her spinal cord fractured after she was also hit by the tanker. The accident occurred around 6.30 am. Kondhwa police have detained the boy.

Justice Board, which ordered his detention in observation home till July 10. Cops have arrested his father and tanker owner.

A magistrate court in Wanowrie ordered their remand in magisterial custody for 14 days. The duo have been lodged in Yerawada Central Jail and their bail plea has been listed for hearing on Monday.

Ganesh Ingale, assistant commissioner of police (Wanowrie division), told TOI: "Geeta and her husband, Santosh Dhume, 46, run an institute to train wrestlers. They were on a two-wheeler following 18 students jogging on NIBM-Undri road. As they approached NIBM institute, empty water tanker coming from Undri rear-ended the two-wheeler and hit one of the students."

Not every Ram Bhakt will vote for BJP: Uma

Bhopal: Former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Uma Bharti on Saturday said that it is not necessary that every "Ram Bhakt" should vote for BJP. Bharti was in MP's Shivpuri, speaking with media-persons on BJP's poor performance in Uttar Pradesh, when she said: "BJP's defeat in UP and Ayodhya is not such a big issue. It should not be interpreted as Hindu voters being angry with BJP. You have to understand the mind of Hindu society. Hindus do not think that religion and social order are one, but the Muslim society does."

She added: "No one should manifest the arrogance that every Ram Bhakt will vote for BJP. The voter may have voted for anyone but his devotion for Lord Ram has not decreased. And neither should Prime Minister Narendra Modi or chief minister Yogi Adityanath be blamed (for the Uttar Pradesh LS results)." **TNN**

New terminal at Rajkot airport was to be ready in Feb

P1
A portion of canopy outside Rajkot airport collapsed on Saturday

► From P 1

The airport has been functioning in a temporary building meant for cargo handling. The new permanent terminal was supposed to be completed by end of Feb 2024. However, it is still under construction and the new deadline is Aug 15 this year. The greenfield airport spread over 1,025 ha was built at the cost of Rs 1,405 crore. With a 3,040m-long and 45m-wide runway, it handles 10 to 12 flights connecting Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Pune and Goa.

Relaxed Sable wins gold in 'training mode'

Panchkula (Haryana): Paris Olympics-bound star athlete **Avinash Sable** ran in the "training mode" but his modest timing was still good enough to win gold in the men's 3000m steeplechase on the third and penultimate day of the National Inter-State Championships here on Saturday. Representing Maharashtra, the 29-year-old Sable, who holds the national record of 8:11.20 in his pet event, clocked a new

ute 31.75 seconds to win the race under humid conditions at the Tau Devi Lal Stadium. "The Athletics Federation of India has made it mandatory for all the athletes to take part in the National Inter-State, so I ran the race as a practice, just like in training (in the USA). I was not thinking of timing, hence I was taking it easy, there was no pressure at all," Sable said later.

INTER-STATE ATHLETICS

Djokovic 'pain free' ahead of Wimbledon

Serbian Moves Well During His Exhibition Win Over Medvedev

Novak Djokovic proclaimed himself "pain free" after defeating Daniil Medvedev in an exhibition match on Friday ahead of Wimbledon.

Former world No. 1 Djokovic, the seven-time Wimbledon champion, needed surgery earlier this month following a serious knee injury at the French Open.

But on Friday the 37-year-old took his place in the draw for Wimbledon, which starts on Monday, with Djokovic, seeded two, taking on 123rd-ranked Vit Kopriv of the Czech Republic at the grass-court Grand Slam.

Djokovic's movement was not completely smooth in a 6-3, 6-4 win over Medvedev during an exhibition event at London's Hurlingham Club, with the Serbian's right knee strapped up. But he struck the ball crisply and served well.

"I can tell you that I enjoyed myself really, really much today," said Djokovic afterwards. "I can tell you that pain-free tennis is the best tennis. I was pain-free and I'm really glad. It was a great test obviously against one of the best



Novak Djokovic relaxes during a practice session at All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club on Saturday. Wimbledon starts on Monday

players in the world.

"I've played a couple of practice sets but I really wanted to test myself. The test was very successful so I'm obviously really glad. It's been an intense three week after surgery, spending a lot of hours rehabbing." He was forced to pull out ahead of his quarter-final at the French Open against Casper Ruud after tearing the medial meniscus in his right knee.

He has since been looking to learn from fellow tennis players and athletes who have suffered similar injuries, including American Taylor Fritz, who faced a similar situation three years ago and recovered in time for Wimbledon. "I asked him, I asked many athletes - (Stan) Wawrinka, (skier) Lindsey Vonn, (footballer) Zlatan Ibrahimovic - and they were all very kind to share some of their ex-

periences and give me some contacts of people who could help me out," said Djokovic.

Sabalenka 'not 100%' certain due to 'rare' injury

Australian Open champion Aryna Sabalenka said Saturday she is "not 100%" certain of playing her first round Wimbledon match due to a "really rare" shoulder injury.

"I'm not 100% fit now," admitted the 26-year-old who is due to face 106th-ranked Emma Bektas of the United States in the first round on Monday. "We're doing everything we can with my team to make sure I'll be able to play my first match here."

Sabalenka said her doctors had told her that she was "just the second or the third tennis player who injured the (shoulder) muscle". "It's really a specific injury, and it's really a rare one." AGENCIES



Thompson records ninth-fastest 100m

Kingston: Kishane Thompson registered a sizzling world-leading mark of 9.77 seconds to win the men's 100 metres at the Jamaican Olympic trials on Friday, becoming the joint ninth fastest man in history.

Two-time World Championships finalist Oblique Seville was second in 9.82, while World Indoor 60m bronze medallist Akeem Blake finished third in 9.92.

Thompson, who is in his second season as a professional, had not raced at all this season before the Jamaican championship and said he believes he can go faster.

"My coach instructed me just to run the first 60 metre, nothing more, after that, shut it down," he said. "If I came second or third, I would've made the team. The goal wasn't to prove anything tonight, just run the 70 or 60 metres and see where I was."

Thompson, now the fourth fastest Jamaican - behind Usain Bolt, Yohan Blake and Asafa Powell - said he had much to improve on making his Olympic debut in Paris. "It's kind of new to me, but I'm getting it slowly," he said.

Shericka Jackson recovered from a poor start to win the women's 100m in 10.84, clawing her way from the back of the field after 30 metres to power past Tia Clayton (10.90) and twice Olympic champion Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce (10.94).

Jackson, the back-to-back world champion in the 200m, said winning was more important than running a faster time. "Coach and I sat down and talked about how we wanted the approach the sea-



Kishane Thompson registered a world-leading mark of 9.77 seconds in Jamaica on Friday

son, and I think we did pretty good, having only ran one 100m prior to the national trials," Jackson said.

Olympic hurdler Lolo returns to US trials at 41

Lolo Jones, at age 41, returned to the US Olympic track and field trials for the first time in 12 years on Friday, competing in the 100 metres hurdles despite being "terrified" to step onto the track.

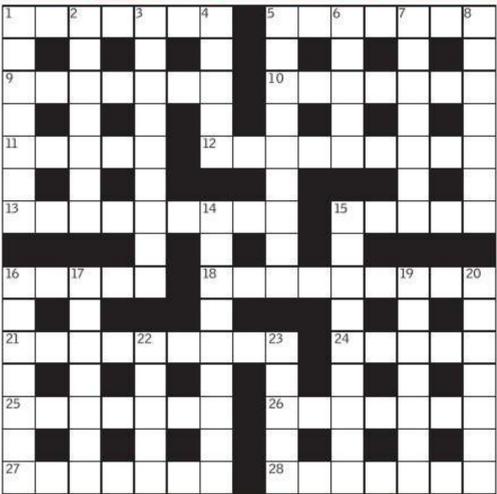
One of the most recognisable women in American track, Jones is the oldest ever to qualify for the US trials and said she hoped to inspire the younger competitors in Eugene, Oregon. "I hope to show them like you can still be in your 40s and be good enough to qualify for the Olympic trials," said Jones who clocked 14.86 seconds.

Jones competed in the 2008 and 2012 Olympics, finishing seventh and fourth, respectively. She later competed at the 2014 Winter Games in the bobsleigh competition. AGENCIES

THE TOI CROSSWORD

CROSSWORD No. TCC#0174

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!



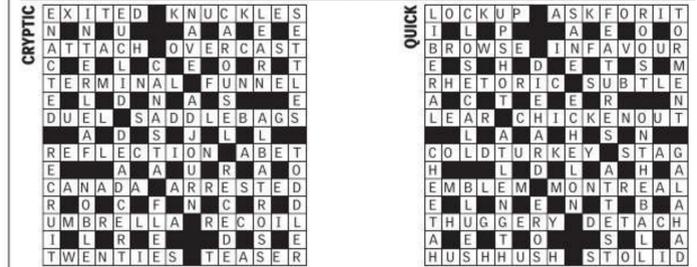
CRYPTIC CLUES

- Across**
 1 Tells of twinges after exercise (7)
 5 He had an uncle and sisters on the stage (7)
 9 Hubbard shows reticence (7)
 10 A rising little place noted for its industry (3,4)
 11 Her sister is a superior person (5)
 12 Australian haven providing unrestricted cover in the sound (9)
 13 Has a note to mail first - must be quick (9)
 15 Many poems need deciphering (5)
 16 Ease off the downward pressure? (3,2)
 18 Called without once becoming stuck-up (9)
 21 No striking example of the horologist's craft (9)
 24 Tracks of birds (5)
 25 Ends an academic period in Italian capital (7)
 26 An early caller (7)
 27 Gulpers out to go the whole hog (7)
 28 Train to be articulate (7)
- Down**
 1 Vegetable described in a newspaper cutting? (7)
 2 Promises certain to be kept by a fool (7)
 3 One of those animal crackers? (9)
 4 Novel supporter in the flesh perhaps (5)
 5 Changed circumstances may put a different complexion on it (9)
 6 He's paid to say nothing (5)
 7 Given a lift from this ode (7)
 8 Depressed areas (7)
 14 About four hide being reticent (9)
 15 It's not alphabetical; that's obvious of course (5,4)
 16 TS Eliot play shows understatement (7)
 17 Some were carried away in it and lost their heads (7)
 19 A plant from the list (7)
 20 Abandons wastelands (7)
 22 Coming before the deputy head perhaps (5)
 23 Strange oriental lake (5)

QUICK CLUES

- Across**
 1 Supplement to will (7) 5 Larva of toad (7) 9 Definite military task (7) 10 Medicine for cough (7) 11 Scene of conflict (5) 12 Highly controversial issue (3,6) 13 Completely (2,3,4) 15 A dominant theme (5) 16 Disparage (5) 18 Diocese (9) 21 Regain consciousness (4,5) 24 Structure supporting power cables (5) 25 Green gem (7) 26 Type of escort warship (7) 27 Perfumed (7) 28 Place of seclusion (7)
- Down**
 1 An agreement (7) 2 Family origin (7) 3 Sharp practice (9) 4 Execute by mob action (5) 5 Report maliciously (4,5) 6 Australian wild dog (5) 7 Person rejected by society (7) 8 Slacken (4,3) 14 Infinite (9) 15 Matter open to debate (4,5) 16 Author of The Old Curiosity Shop (7) 17 Vie (7) 19 Set free (7) 20 Satisfied (7) 22 Cook before a fire (5) 23 Postpone (5)

SOLUTIONS TO LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD



Malvika makes it to US Open semifinal

Fort Worth (US): India's **Malvika Bansod** stunned Scotland's **Kristy Gilmour** in a thrilling three-game encounter to advance to the women's singles semifinals of the prestigious US Open Super 300 badminton tournament here.

The 22-year-old from Nagpur, ranked 49th in the

BADMINTON

world, registered a 10-21, 21-15, 21-10 win over Kristy, a 2014 Commonwealth Games silver medallist.

Malvika had defeated Kristy at the Hylo Open in 2022 when the Scot shuttler had retired in the second game due to an injury. The Indian had lost twice to Kristy in the past.

The Indian, who had won the Azerbaijan International challenge this year, will face sixth seeded Japanese **Natsuki Nidaira** next.

In men's singles, **Priyanshu Rajawat** produced a

Gukesh holds Pragg in Rd 3

Bucharest (Romania): Grandmaster **R Pragganandhaa** missed out on becoming a joint leader at the Superbet Classic chess tournament after settling for a draw against **D Gukesh** in the third round here.

After losing to Gukesh in the last Candidates tournament in April earlier this

CHESS

year, Pragganandhaa had a great opportunity to equalise the score this year but could not find a winning continuation after Gukesh spoiled a drawn endgame.

For the first time in three days, all the five games in the ten-player double round-robin tournament ended in draws. The lead positions remained unchanged and Gukesh continued to be at the top of the tables along with **Fabiano Caruana** of United States. With both leaders on two points, **Vachier-Lagrave**, **Pragganandhaa**, **Alireza**, **Wesley So**, **Giri** and **Nepomniachtchi** share the third spot on 1.5 points apiece. PN



Malvika Bansod will meet sixth seeded Japanese Natsuki Nidaira in the last four clash

good show but couldn't get past fourth seed **Lei Lan Xi** of China, losing 21-15, 11-21, 18-21 in a quarterfinal match that lasted just over an hour.

The in-form Indian doubles pair second seed **Treesa Jolly** and **Gayatri Gopichand** lost 17-21 21-17 19-21, Japanese sixth seed **Rui Hirokami** and **Yuna Kato** to also end their campaign in the last eight round. PN



MRF CONGRATULATES

TEAM INDIA ON AN AMAZING VICTORY.

Team India wins the ICC Men's T20 2024 World Cup at The Kensington Oval in Bridgetown in Barbados.

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SUNDAY



TIMES

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Sharad Pawar contradicts Sena (UBT)'s Sanjay Raut on need to name CM face ahead of state polls. Says MVA itself is "consensual face"

O F I N D I A

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Why France will vote twice in polls it didn't see coming

Trounced By The Right Wing In EU Polls, French Prez Macron Thrust Snap Elections On The Country That's Hosting Next Month's Olympics. It's Anybody's Match As Voting Begins Today

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

In elections to the European Parliament on June 9, the far-right National Rally party secured double the vote share of Emmanuel Macron's Renaissance party, which narrowly escaped coming third by staying just ahead of the left. Macron immediately called for elections within 20 days to the French National Assembly, or parliament, taking colleagues and the opposition by surprise.

His party did not have a majority in the outgoing parliament, which meant he had to constantly look for support from others to push through laws, or use constitutional provisions to controversially enact them, like his pension reforms, which have faced wide opposition among the French public. Parliamentary elections were last held in 2022 but failed to return a clear winner with Macron appointing a govt led by his own party.

The assembly was not required to go to polls till 2027, but Macron would've been chafing at the constant hassle of cobbling together support and the attendant threat of facing a no-confidence vote.

TOI Explains

Why Vote Twice?

French people will vote once today and, in most constituencies, again on July 7 to send representatives to the 577-member parliament. The majority mark is 289 with Macron's party holding 250 seats in the now-dissolved assembly. National Rally had 88 seats but is expected to vastly improve its tally and emerge as the single-largest party even if it falls short of majority. Much of the outcome will depend on the turnout and political dynamics between like-minded parties.

In constituencies where at least 25% of voters cast their ballot on Sunday, the candidate who corners more than half the votes is declared the outright winner. Failing that, every candidate who bags more than 12.5% of the votes will be on the ticket for the July 7 runoff, where the winner is the one who secures the majority of votes.

This system provides scope for 'tactical voting', that is, voters whose candidate doesn't make it to the runoff may choose to vote for another party (usually to keep out the far-right). Parties also withdraw candidates for the



ALL OR NOTHING: Marine Le Pen and far-right National Rally chief Jordan Bardella are expected to lead their party to a historic win while Macron and French PM Gabriel Attal will be hoping that the snap poll gamble pays off and they secure a majority in parliament

runoff to improve the chances of an ally. This time, the main worry for Macron and his centrist Ensemble alliance will be the broad left New Popular Front coalition, part of which is the well-known radical left figure of Jean-Luc Melenchon of the France Unbowed party. Experts say that the left coalition may eat into Renaissance party's votes, leaving Macron faced with the prospect of running only the fourth 'cohabitation' — implying a president and PM belonging to two different parties — in French govt and the first in the last 20 years.

Roles Of Prez And PM

France has a presidential system of govt, but the PM wields considerable powers. As president, Macron leads foreign policy, European affairs and defence. He is also the commander-in-chief of the army. The PM, on the other hand, is in charge of running the country, formulating domestic legislative policy and introducing bills and getting them cleared by parliament.

As with any democratic set-up, having the same party,

or like-minded leaders, in both offices makes governance easier. However, in the present circumstances, experts say it's unlikely that Macron and a PM from either the far right or left will see eye to eye and bridge their significant differences over everything from French support for Ukraine in the war against Russia to the Palestine issue amid the conflict between Israel and Hamas.

Who's Likely To Form Govt?

Opinion polls put Macron's party at third behind National Rally and New Popular Front. But Jordan Bardella, leader of the National Rally — the outfit associated most closely with Marine Le Pen and her father Jean-Marie Le Pen — has said his party won't form the govt unless it wins a majority. The 28-year-old Bardella stands a chance to break the record of becoming France's youngest PM if he takes over from Gabriel Attal, who was 34 when Macron named him PM in January this year.

Macron has the constitutional prerogative of appointing the PM, but his choice has to reflect the composition of

the assembly. If National Rally wins and refuses to form the govt, experts say a 'technocratic' dispensation comprising members unaffiliated to any party could be put in place to run the day-to-day affairs till the next elections.

High Stakes

Macron's gambit would be to confront the French public with the choice of having an extreme far-right govt or voting for liberals and moderates to run the republic. French football star Kylian Mbappe recently said that "the extremes are at the gates of power", inviting a strong reaction from Bardella, leader of the National Rally — the outfit associated most closely with Marine Le Pen and her father Jean-Marie Le Pen — has said his party won't form the govt unless it wins a majority.

French voters and mainstream parties have generally acted to prevent radical parties from coming to office but the so-called 'cordon sanitaire' in French politics — or, mainstream parties refusing to ally with fringe parties — has broken this time with Eric Ciotti, leader of the main conservative party, the Republicans, saying they would join hands with National Rally. However, that declaration was accompanied by angry rumblings from his colleagues.

For France, these elections kick off a quest to decide whether the country will make a hard right ahead of the next presidential polls, when Macron is automatically disallowed from running, or if the centrist and liberal parties maintain their hold on power in the world's seventh largest economy, which is also a nuclear-armed UN Security Council member and a major pillar of the EU edifice.



A left alliance that includes prominent far-left leader Jean-Luc Melenchon is tipped to gain at the expense of Macron's Ensemble combine



Footballer Kylian Mbappe recently warned about radical parties winning power, inviting a strong reaction from far-right leader Bardella

Pak CJJ slams 'unlawful' killing of women over adultery charges

Islamabad: Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Qazi Faez Isa said on Saturday women in the country were killed in the name of honour without fulfilling the Islamic condition of producing four witnesses in cases of adultery.

Speaking at a conference here on 'Access to Justice for All', the Chief Justice said that the constitution mandates women's representation across all sectors.

He lamented a disregard for social history within the Muslim community and condemned the misuse of honour killings in the name of dignity. He said according to Islamic teachings, "the condition of four witnesses is necessary (to prove the act of adultery)."

He also said that accusing a woman of adultery is called a 'Qazf' and is punishable in Islam and under laws in Pakistan. "Accusing or desecrating a woman is punishable by 80 lashes in the Quran," he said, adding he had not heard anyone punished for wrongly accusing a woman of adultery. **PTI**

Pak seeks US arms to fight terrorism

Washington: Pakistan's ambassador has urged the US to provide small arms and modern equipment to his country to ensure the success of Operation Azm-i-Istehkam. Islamabad's newly-approved counter-terrorism initiative. Ambassador Masood Khan made the request while addressing US policymakers at a Washington think tank last week. **PTI**

AI race: US states try to make sure workers aren't left behind

Hartford (US): With many jobs expected to eventually rely on generative artificial intelligence, US states are trying to help workers beef up tech skills before they become outdated and get outfoxed by machines.

Connecticut is working to create what proponents believe will be the country's first Citizens AI Academy, a free online repository of curated classes that users can take to learn basic skills or obtain a certificate needed for employment. "This is a rapidly evolving area," said state Democratic Senator James Maroney. "So we need to all learn what are the best sources for staying current. How can we update our skills? Who can be trusted sources?"

Determining what skills are necessary in an AI world can be a challenge for state legislators given the fast-moving nature of the technology and differing opinions about what approach is best. Gregory LaBlanc, professor of finance, strategy and law at the Haas School of Business at Berkeley Law School in California, says "we need to figure out what is AI not good at and then teach those things to workers".

This year, at least four states — Connecticut, California, Mississippi and Maryland — proposed legislation that attempted to deal with AI in the classroom somehow. They ranged from Connecticut's planned AI Academy, which was originally inclu-

ded in a wide-ranging AI regulation bill that failed but the concept is still being developed by state education officials, to proposed working groups that examine how AI can be incorporated safely in public schools. Such a bill died in the Mississippi legislature while the others remain in flux. One bill in California would require a state working group to consider incorporating AI literacy skills into math, science, history and social science curriculums.

While Connecticut's planned AI Academy is expected to offer certificates to people who complete certain skills, Maroney said the academy will also include basics, from digital literacy to how to pose questions to a chatbot. **AP**

Turbulence in WaPo as daily loses dollars

The prestigious *Washington Post* is in crisis, with pressure on from owner Jeff Bezos to change its money-losing ways. The *Post's* managing editor abruptly resigned; a chosen successor withdrew under fire, and a boss has been targeted in the newspaper's columns.



ALL EYES: For many observers, the outcome of the crisis lies in the hands of billionaire Bezos, who bought the *Post* for \$250 million in 2013. So far, Bezos has backed his CEO

Murdoch family's conservative media group about 12 years ago, in a scandal of illegal phone tapping by the tabloid *The News of the World*. On Friday, Lewis was at the centre of an investigation by his own journalists. According to the *Washington Post*, he gave the go-ahead in 2011 for the destruction of thousands of emails, fuelling suspicions that he was destroying evidence, which he denies.

As the US presidential election approaches, the affair is poisoning the atmosphere at a long-vaunted newspaper that is "not doing well economically," says Northeastern University journalism professor Dan Kennedy.

The *Post* was among trusted news outlets that benefited from the upheaval that

Here's what it would take Democrats to replace Joe Biden as party nominee

Forcing Him Out To Be A Huge Task

Democrats have ways to replace Joe Biden at the top of their presidential ticket after a harrowing debate against Republican Donald Trump — but doing so without their standard-bearer's acquiescence would be a daunting task. Party members once united behind Biden are now scouring candidate resumes and researching rules for a contingency plan to present voters with a different nominee after a universally planned performance Thursday cemented worries about the President's ability to serve a second term.

"The easiest one is, Biden takes himself out of the race," said Elaine Kamarck, a Democratic National Committee member and author of a book about the presidential nominating process. "Then yes, there's rules and procedures and the party would replace him." While pushing Biden off the ticket is possible, the lack of an obvious candidate to replace him makes such a gambit unlikely, Kamarck said.

The debate saw months of Democratic anxiety over Biden, already the oldest US president in history at 81, and his prospects for defeating Trump, boil over.

The president Friday acknowledged the limitations of his debate showing but dismissed calls to exit the race.

TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL SANDEEP ADHWARYU



If Biden doesn't step aside, forcing him out would be a Herculean undertaking for Democrats. Any rival would first have to collect 600 delegate signatures on a petition to place his or her name in nomination at the Democratic convention — with no more than 50 signatures from any one state. That's about 13% of the delegates. But with Biden controlling 99% of the pledged delegates, that would require challengers convincing Biden loyalists to flip their support.

"The odds are not insurmountable, but they're very high for any scenario that involves a delegate revolt," said Josh Putnam of FHQ Strategies, a non-partisan consul-

ting firm specializing in delegate selection rules.

The Biden campaign has vetted his delegates for their loyalty, but they do have room to change their minds. Unlike Republican delegates, who are often legally bound to cast their vote for a particular candidate, Democratic rules say only that pledged delegates "shall in all good conscience reflect the sentiments of those who elected them."

A move to change the ticket — whether Biden agrees to go willingly or is pushed out — would bring a convention free-for-all not seen for decades.

In an "open" or "brokered" convention, no candidate comes into the roll-call vote with

enough delegates to be guaranteed the nomination. Voting could last any number of rounds until a candidate wins.

Such a convention would also put so-called "super-delegates" in the spotlight. Those delegates — leaders and elected officials who get to the convention by virtue of their position — have been stripped of some powers in recent years as the party worried their influence in the process was undermining. But if a nomination goes into a second ballot, those automatic delegates, who number more than 700, could sway the convention.

Another wild card is that the party is free to change its rules at any time before the nomination, potentially lowering or raising the bar for a Biden challenger.

The most obvious heir apparent is vice-president Kamala Harris — but Democrats don't have to pick Biden's running mate. Some of the most discussed alternatives include Governors Gavin Newsom of California, JB Pritzker of Illinois and Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan, all of whom say they still support Biden.

The nomination vote was scheduled for Aug 21, but the DNC has raised the possibility of a virtual roll call before Aug 7 to accommodate early ballot deadlines. If Biden steps aside after the convention, the decision on how to replace him would be up to the 400 plus members of the DNC — the chairman would consult with Democratic congressional leaders and governors and make a recommendation. **BLOOMBERG**

No place for Hinduphobia in UK, says Labour leader

Naomi Canton

London: Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer, who is widely expected to become the next British prime minister, visited the Shree Swaminarayan Mandir in Kingsbury on Friday where he said "there is absolutely no place for Hinduphobia in Britain" and that Labour would "build a new strategic partnership with India".

He began his speech with "Jai Swaminarayan" and praised British Hindus for not having forgotten their roots, for their "rich Hindu heritage and deep commitment to Britain's future".

"If we're elected next week we will strive to govern in the spirit of seva to serve you and a world in need," he said. "Strengthened by Hindu values, you're not only contributing massively to our economy, you're bringing innovation and expertise that keeps us competitive on the global market."

He said Labour had a record number of Hindu candidates in the general election.



Labour Party leader Sir Keir Starmer during a visit to the Shree Swaminarayan Mandir in Kingsbury, London, Friday

If selected, they will "stand with the entire Labour party — firmly behind the Hindu community, representing your concerns, listening to your voice, working with you, on issues at home as well as on the global stage," he said.

Starmer was received by an Indian pipe band in Scottish regalia. He performed "anjali mudra" and then inside the mandir he performed puja which included

"abhisheka", interacted with local schoolchildren and was given "prasad".

Dr Neeraj Patil, chairman of Hindus for Labour, said: "He is going to address anti-Hindu hatred, which is most welcome. He is sending a strong positive signal to 1.7 million British Hindus that the prospective Labour govt will include Hindus in the growth and prosperity of this country."

Orban takes helm of EU presidency

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban's frequent attacks against Brussels and his warm relations with Russia have left the country increasingly isolated as it takes over the bloc's rotating presidency on Monday. The longest-serving leader in the European Union, Orban has recently ramped up his rhetoric against what he calls the "technocratic elite of Brussels", warning "we will rack our brains to hurt them".

"It's unbelievable. It's like the defendant in a trial has suddenly taken over the prosecution," said his biographer, and journalist, Paul Lendvai.

While he warned not to "overestimate the importance" of Hungary's six-month presidency, he predicted that Orban would continue to block key issues as he did with EU aid for Ukraine while "loosening restrictions" on rule of law issues on which he has been censured by Brussels in order to unlock blocked EU funds.

Orban openly supports former American president Donald Trump. **AFP**

Russian attacks on Ukraine kill at least 12

Kyiv: Russian attacks across eastern Ukraine killed at least 11 people on Saturday, while rescuers in the city of Dnipro dug through rubble after a Russian strike ripped through a nine-story residential building, leaving one dead, officials said.

The attacks came as Russia continues to stretch out Ukrainian forces in several areas along the 1,000-kilometre front. Moscow has stepped up airstrikes in a bid to drain Ukraine's resources, often targeting energy facilities and other vital infrastructure.

TASS news agency reported citing Kursk governor that

Priests freed in prisoner exchange

Ukraine and Russia said Saturday that priests were among the dozens of captured soldiers and civilians they had exchanged earlier this week. Two Ukrainian Greek Catholic priests taken captive in Moscow-held Berdiansk were handed back to Ukraine after the mediation of Vatican. **AFP**

a Ukrainian drone has killed five people in Russia's border Kursk region. **AFP, REUTERS**

Iran to hold runoff election

Dubai: Iran will hold a runoff presidential election on July 5 pitting little-known reformist Masoud Pezeshkian against hard-line former nuclear negotiator, Saeed Jalili, after results Saturday showed the lowest-ever poll turnout in the Islamic Republic's history. More than 60% of voters cast no ballot in the race. Of the 24.5 million votes cast in Friday's election, Pezeshkian got 10.4 million while Jalili received 9.4 million.

Iranian law requires that a winner gets more than 50% of all votes cast. If not, the race's top two candidates advance to a runoff a week later. Jalili, once described by CIA director Bill Burns as "stupefyingly opaque" in negotiations, would have won outright had the three hard-liners not split vote. **AP**

AROUND THE WORLD



THE K FACTOR: K-Pop band Seventeen performs on the Pyramid Stage on the third day of the Glastonbury festival at Worthy Farm in the village of Pilton in Somerset, southwest England, on Friday

Man killed after 'crossbow attack' on Israel embassy

An attacker who fired a crossbow at a police officer guarding the Israeli embassy in Belgrade was shot dead on Saturday in what President Aleksandar Vucic called a terrorist attack against Serbia. No embassy staff were wounded in the attack, the Israeli foreign ministry said, and the policeman was in a stable condition in hospital following surgery to remove an arrow from his neck, Vucic said. Vucic named the attacker as Salahudin Zujovic, a man from central Serbia who had converted to Islam from Serbian Orthodox Christianity, and said he had worked with an accomplice who is at large.

belong to the country and no organization or individual are allowed to claim them, the State Council said in a statement on its website. The state will take charge of protective mining of the resource, it said. The new rules take effect on Oct 1.

Aus says arrogant Meta should pay for news

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese called social media companies arrogant and irresponsible, as the government's battle to have Meta Platforms continue to pay local media organizations for content escalated. Meta's regional policy director Mia Garlick told a parliamentary committee Friday that "all options were on the table," when asked whether the company would ban news on its platforms.

5 missiles land near ship in the Red Sea

A ship sailing through the Red Sea came under repeated missile fire Friday in an attack launched by Yemen's Houthis rebels, authorities said, the latest targeting the maritime route.

can. did.



Congrats team India!
We can, we did!

BBDO INDIA

No NEET answer, but time to make merit matter again

THE UNDERAGE OPTIMIST



CHETAN BHAGAT

It's fair to say that NEET, the national-level medical entrance exam, has become a mess. Allegations of paper leaks, mismanagement of centres, unfair marking schemes, mathematically improbable result patterns abound. This is not only stressful to the millions who took the exam, but to those planning to take it in the coming years.

Even with no irregularity, Indian entrance exams are already intensely stressful. Long after one has stopped being a student, the recurrent nightmare is usually to do with an exam. NEET is extremely competitive. Some 23 lakh students took NEET-UG this year, aiming to get one of the approximately 50,000 seats in government medical colleges. This makes it a rejection rate of 97.8%. There are some more seats for private medical colleges, but they are a) not as prestigious and b) are expensive to study in, sometimes costing crores (compared to a few lakhs for government ones). Even including private colleges, total medical seats cap out at a little over 1,00,000.

The big fight is, however, for government seats, or to obtain one of the top 50,000 ranks. Imagine the value of obtaining this top rank in NEET. Ignore all morals, merit, hard work. Let's just go into pure greedy, shameless, crony-capitalist mode. What if you could auction and sell those top ranks? How much do you think they would sell for? You save in crores given the lower fee at government colleges. There's higher prestige. You avoid the stress and hard work of preparation and save the coaching fee as well. Perhaps these top ranks could be sold off, in a greedy pure capitalist world, for Rs 3 crore each. So, for the top 50,000 ranks, we are talking about a potential Rs 1,50,000-crore revenue opportunity annually, if we were ready to sell our souls. This is why there is a massive incentive for things to go wrong. It's the same story with other entrance exams — the money to be made in rigging them is massive. In a nation that has rarely prioritised merit and ethics, is it really surprising that a mini industry has come up to make money off these tests?

When did we care about fairness, integrity and merit anyway? It isn't how our politics works which is almost always about identity — some mix of religion, caste, regionalism and nationalism. So why care now? Why bother with silly things like merit? Why not sell everything? If we can have crony capitalism, where certain corporates who pay up have an advantage, why not let rich families buy seats for their kids? But it bothers us, doesn't it? It makes us sick actu-



TESTING TIME: Exams like NEET give young people an opportunity to jump class so leaks feel like a betrayal

ally. Mass-level cheating in our few, extremely difficult but supposedly honest exams shakes us to the core. It isn't just about students. It is about all of us, who suddenly feel nothing is sacrosanct, nobody can be trusted and, finally, it is only power and money that talks. Exams like NEET, JEE, UPSC are the only outlets in our country for young people to jump class. For someone to get a better life of dignity for themselves and their parents. They are extremely hard, but at least carry hope in a country with few avenues to rise.

Hopefully, this NEET fiasco wakes us up. It makes us realise that values such as integrity, honesty, merit, and respect for hard work are values that need to be guarded. Humans are flawed. If there is massive opportunity to rig and cheat, some people in the system will do so. But we as citizens must stay vigilant. Students are the victims here but here's a bit of feedback for them. They may not like to hear this, but over the last few years, the average Indian student has disconnected from politics. Lost in their Insta reels, YouTube videos, memes, OTT series and video games, they say, 'Who cares, politics doesn't affect me. Let boring oldies do it.' No, you must care. For if you don't, you will suffer the most. How did NEET finally attract national attention? When enough students finally kicked up a fuss. Stay engaged in your democracy. Don't check out. Don't think voting every five years and ignoring national issues otherwise is enough. Your regular vigilance is needed to keep everyone accountable.

For this specific NEET situation, all problems lead to National Testing Agency (NTA) which conducts these high-stakes exams without good systems in place. With lakhs of crores in malpractice possible, we deserve a more foolproof organisation. For exams like NEET, centres must be reputable and secure. If enough good centres are not available, exams can be phase-wise, like elections. For this, multiple question papers can be set of equal difficulty and scores normalised. Only a tight circle should be aware of which exact paper will be used on exam day. Conducting an exam with integrity is possible but it depends on those conducting it. Leaking papers is essentially selling of seats. It is selling Indian merit, honesty and hard work. It is selling India's soul. We can't let that happen. ■

In these polarised times, we need to be aware of what we share as humans

British-Turkish writer **Elif Shafak**, who became an international sensation with 'Forty Rules of Love', has just written her 19th book, a novel that connects ancient Mesopotamia, Victorian England and present-day Turkey through a single drop of water. Shafak, who listens to heavy metal when she writes, spoke to Namita Devidayal about literature, ecofeminism, and being gentle and radical at the same time

is an individual quest and everyone's journey is different, like fingerprints. Secularism is crucial — where religion does not try to dominate and shape public life, especially for women.

■ You said somewhere that you don't like certainties — that you can learn equally from faith and doubt, from being simultaneously gentle and radical. Could you please elaborate on this non-binary approach?

I think it's one of the most important questions of our time precisely because of how deeply and bitterly polarised we have become. For storytellers, there is no such thing as us versus them. There are only human beings. There is no 'other'. So, we have to question these dualities that are constantly being imposed on us. We have to find a new narrative that is aware of what we share as human beings. To me, words like diversity and multiculturalism are precious — not only the diversity outside, but also the pluralism within my own soul. I sincerely believe that in life, we don't learn so much from sameness but from differences. I don't want to be surrounded by people who think like me, dress like me, talk like me, because that is a very self-centred existence. If what you're telling me makes sense, I'm willing to revise my opinions, to leave the door a little open. What we have lost in the age of internet is real intellectual exchange. Coming back to the question of certainties, the absolute certainty of dogma really frightens me. It is a beautiful thing to be able to say, 'I don't know'. I like the humility of people who say, 'I'm on a journey, I'm learning, I'm a student of life.'

■ What's your advice to a young writer?

While giving talks at schools, I found that six- and seven-year-olds have so much courage and chutzpah. When you ask if there are any artists or poets in the room, many hands go up. At that age, girls are so confident, sometimes more than boys. But in middle and upper school, it's amazing how much things change. Girls don't want to speak up. No one wants to be an artist or writer. We have basically told these kids — don't stand out, blend in. So, little by little, we chip away their confidence and creativity. All I can tell the young writer is: Don't let that happen to you. Go back to that inner garden you had as a child and rebuild it.

■ Your new book, 'There are Rivers in the Sky' melds history and geography. What motivates you to take that route repeatedly?

As a writer, I'm not only interested in stories, but also silences — people who have been silenced throughout history. Most stories told to us, especially in Turkey, are from the point of view of a man in a position of power. But the stories of women, of minorities, of men who do not have power, for instance, have been forgotten. I've always been interested in the untold stories, the silences, the taboos, the gaps. Literature has the power to re-humanise the people who have been dehumanised, to make the unheard heard. That said, this book was very difficult for me to write because all the worlds are built around a single tiny drop of water.

■ Why water?

Even at this age (52), I really don't know where the stories come from. All I know is I am interested in nature. We have turned ourselves into consumers and the more you consume, the more value you have. I think we need to question that. We need to understand that we are only a small part of a very delicate ecosystem in which trees have a voice, water has presence. I am also interested in ecofeminism. When we talk about the climate crisis, we are actually talking about a freshwater crisis, and this especially impacts

women all around the world, for they carry water to their communities and often have to walk long distances, increasing the possibility of gender violence. So, everything is connected. This is my love poem to water.

■ Tell us about how your childhood in Turkey shaped you as a writer.

I was born in France but shortly afterwards, my parents got separated and my mother brought me to Ankara in Turkey. So, two things are very crucial to me: First, the sense of displacement and the idea of homeland. The second is the solidarity and sisterhood between my mother and my grandmother. Even though they are very different, they supported each other tremendously. My grandmother was barely educated but she wholeheartedly believed in women's independence. So, when my mum returned as a young divorcee with no career, no money, no diploma, it was my grandmother who encouraged her to go back to university so that she could have choices, and she took care of me. At a very vulnerable moment in our life, my grandmother's support changed our destiny. I'm a big believer in women supporting women.

■ Do you consider yourself spiritual or religious or secular? Can one be all three things at the same time?

I'm not religious at all, especially when it comes to organised religion. I think spirituality



Photo courtesy: Ferhat Elilk

Rahul versus Modi: LS session reveals two different approaches to politics

RIGHT & WRONG



SWAPAN DASGUPTA

There was an eerie predictability about the disruptions and manufactured controversies that greeted the brief, inaugural session of the Lok Sabha last week. Inspired by what it perceived was its great success in denying the ruling BJP an outright majority on its own, opposition can now be expected to reduce Parliament to a boisterous slugfest. The underlying belief is that agitational politics both inside and outside Parliament will expose the Narendra Modi government's fragility and make governance difficult. Since BJP had crafted its election plank on the promise of providing a smooth route to its Viksit Bharat destination, opposition now believes it is positioned to throw a spanner in the works, at least at frequent inter-

vals over the next five years. On his part, Prime Minister Modi has entered his third term with a business-as-usual approach. The selection of senior ministers suggests that continuity will be the hallmark of the government. The restiveness apparent in different layers of BJP, not to mention the wider Sangh Parivar, at the reduction of the government's majority and the big losses in UP, Maharashtra and West Bengal, has not found expression in the functioning of the government. Whether this insouciance is strategy or merely an interim decoy pending a more considered assessment of the outcome is not known. However, govt strategists need to consider the mismatch between the unbridled optimism of stock markets and a mood of tentativeness among people over the future.

No doubt some of the question marks have arisen out of the episodic anger over the NEET turmoil. There are suggestions that the Agniveer issue is also on a slow burning fuse. There will

be other such hiccups that the govt will have to confront in the future. What matters is whether its sincerity of purpose is accepted by the public.

However, BJP's loss of seats has also been accompanied by a media-inspired resurrection of tensions involving the RSS, a facet of public life that had been eased out of the political imagination after Modi's 2014 victory. Political speculation along such lines tends invariably to be salacious and these, in turn, gnaw away at the moral integrity of a govt. The Modi govt has so far made its mark on the strength of its achievements in governance and on the development front. People's perception has been shaped by its energy and record of delivery. Modi hasn't been distracted by the political shenanigans that prime ministers from P V Narasimha Rao to Manmohan Singh had to expend their energies on. It is in his own interest to ensure that the fears of 'coalition adharma' turn out to be false scares.

India, it would seem, has unexpectedly been

confronted by two different approaches to politics. Quite unwittingly, Rahul Gandhi detected the conflicting impulses in his first speech as Leader of Opposition. In welcoming the Speaker, he said: "Speaker sir, the question is not how efficiently the House is run, the question is how much of India's voice is allowed to be heard in this House. Speaker sir, so the idea that you can run the House efficiently by silencing the voice of the Opposition is a non-democratic idea."

While willfully overstating and mocking the disciplinarian compulsions of a Speaker, he astutely identified a unique facet of the Modi govt: its use of efficiency as the yardstick of good governance and politics. From directing govt employees to attend office punctually, using technology to stop the proverbial transmission losses of government funds, to holding periodic audits of ministerial and departmental performance, Modi's political priorities are implicitly non-discursive. He seems to loathe yesterday's meandering pravachans.

This is in marked contrast to the political imagination of the INDIA combination that (at least for the moment) wants elaborate parliamentary deliberations to set the tone of politics. There is a view of liberalism that celebrates decision-making which flows from the laboured aggregation of conflicting philosophies — a confederal system where even the views of CPI (ML-Liberation) and AIMIM are given disproportionate weightage. This approach is at best akin to taking the scenic route or, more likely, travelling by the mail train that stops at every station. What matters is the journey, never the destination.

Maybe there are countries where non-urgency and plebiscitary democracy are ideals. But does it suit the imperatives of an India where the real challenge is to bring all parts of a vast and diverse country into the 21st century, without losing our sense of who we are? It is shaping up to be a battle between the cacophony of liberal democracy and the choral chants of national democracy. ■

Buy British, huh? Mahatma Gandhi is having the last laugh

BY INVITATION



SANDIP ROY

In 1921, Gandhi took a pledge to boycott foreign goods by burning 1,50,000 pieces of English cloth in Bombay. The swadeshi movement had started earlier after the Partition of Bengal in 1905 with calls to boycott Manchester cloth and Liverpool salt. But now it truly captured the imagination of the Indian public. Gandhi called it the soul of the dream of swaraj. Almost 100 years later, a British prime minister of Indian origin has given the call for swadeshi in London in the hope that he too will capture the imagination of his public as Britain heads into an election next week. In a tweet Rishi Sunak exhorted his fellow countrymen to "Buy British", saying, "We shouldn't be reliant on foreign food."

An X user's post saying, "Babe wake up the Brits are starting a Swadeshi movement," promptly went viral. Gandhi, the man Britain's great hero Winston Churchill described as a "seditious half-naked fakir", would have been amused that a British PM seems to be wanting to take a page out of his playbook.

Sunak's aim was to appeal to national pride and promote self-reliance. His opponents pointed fingers at the role his own party has played in the decline of British agriculture as well as the impact of Brexit on food supply. A London School of Economics study said British households paid 7 billion pounds since Brexit to cover the cost of trade barriers on food imports from the European Union. Controversial trade deals with Australia and New Zealand have flooded British markets with cheap beef from Down Under. But, for Indians, this was a juicy moment to give the Brits a history lesson.

When Indians launched the swadeshi movement in 1905, thousands were arrested and sent to jail. Colleges whose students had been part of the movement found their grants and scholarships cancelled. Sunak's clarion call, instead of igniting a similar fervour, has set off a meme fest and social media hilarity.

One X user said it was a great idea, but could Sunak direct them to the nearest British tea garden. Also, the 'Buy British' slogan rings a little hollow in a country where curry-houses are as

ubiquitous as pubs and chicken tikka masala is the unofficial national dish.

But there was a more sobering message as well. Britain once boasted that the sun never set on the British Empire. Even after Independence many Indians remained fascinated by London and knew more about British history than their own. But now, it has truly been cut to size. The emperor has no clothes (and no spices of its own either).

While the Indian leaders' call for swadeshi actually made an impact, Sunak's plea just had people rolling on the floor in laughter as some asked for a "squeeze of British lemon" and a "drizzle of British olive oil" and "those British spices." In the comedy series 'Goodness Gracious Me', the characters once go out for 'an English' which meant ordering 12 bread rolls and the "blandest thing on the menu." "Goodness Gracious Me" was a spoof on English culture by British-Asian comedians but now Sunak himself has become the joke. He is pretty much the "blandest thing on the menu."

It was actually also an unwitting reminder of how a very small country had colonised so much of the world and cornered so much of its resources for its own gain for so long. The mention of "British spices" is particularly pointed because it was in the name of spices that European colonisers ravaged many parts of the world. That is why Amitav Ghosh used nutmeg as a way to recount a larger story about colonialism and capitalism all leading us towards climate change through the exploitation of the planet's resources in his book 'The Nutmeg's Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis'. Now, as Sunak tells his countrymen to buy British, it reminds us that the British went out to colonise so many parts of the globe precisely because there wasn't that much to buy at home. The raw materials of places like India finally gave Britain its chicken tikka masala, and there's no going back to mashed peas and boiled potatoes.

In fact, if they had just bought British in the first place, the history of the world would be very, very different. In that light, Sunak's plea sounds more plaintive than passionately patriotic. He has made it with a rather stoic disregard of the intertwined histories of both the country he leads and the country his ancestors came from. Social media is chortling that this is Gandhi's revenge, but Sunak remains straight-faced and impassive. Revenge might be a dish best served cold but post-colonial comeuppance, it seems, must come with a stiff upper lip. ■

INBOX

Roadmap to dealing with heat waves

Apropos of the interview 'How will cities...' (ATM, June 23), the ongoing heat wave conditions in the country reflect the effects of global climate change. To be more effective, heat action plans must be tailored to each region, keeping in mind differences in meteorological and socioeconomic conditions. They should also focus on long-term nature-based mitigation measures. Additional funds should be pledged for this.

—Kamal Laddha, Bengaluru

I read Dileep Mavalankar's interview 'How will cities...' (ATM, June 23) with interest. It is indeed undoubtedly true that most of the state governments do not properly report deaths due to heat waves. As a forensic surgeon, there have been instances where I have had to perform autopsies on 10-12 bodies in a single day during the month of May, all of which were heat stroke deaths, yet the vital statistics rarely reflect this. As the interviewer rightly said, a national health action plan is need of the hour.

—Dr K R Reddy, Visakhapatnam

AI-generated exams?

Apropos of 'NET is far...' (ATM, June 23), the cancellation of exam fails to mitigate the issue in the long run. With the advent of new tech and AI, competitive exams shouldn't be conducted on pre-set question papers which are prone to leaks. Instead, we can have instant AI-generated papers based on the prescribed syllabus.

—Amit Tiwari, Amethi

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Atmanirbhar with a twist: India's different from Korea, Latin nations

SWAMINOMICS



SWAMINATHAN S ANKLESARIA AIYAR

Last week, this column described how the govt's atmanirbhar policy was evolving into an Indian version of the Korean chaebol, where industrial conglomerates are backed by their govt with support and subsidies to become world-class national champions. Similar policies mark other East Asian countries.

Will India emulate East Asia? Or will it go the way of Latin America, which also aimed to create national champions with high tariffs, quasi-monopolies, cheap credit, and ended with disasters in country after country? The chaebol bribed politicians. But Latin American corruption was enormously higher, with crony capitalism ruining economies. Despite historical advantages, the region failed to move from middle-income to high-income status. Argentina, among the richest countries in the 19th century, went bust seven times and regressed.

East Asian countries were always export-oriented and, hence, globally competitive. By contrast, Latin Americans aimed at self-sufficiency. The resulting lack of competitiveness doomed them.

Will India succeed in its version of chaebolisation? Or will it go the Latino crony way, as liberals like Raghuram Rajan fear? Consider three major fears...

● One is incomplete chaebolisation. Korea kept out big multinationals. But atmanirbhar has mixed aims. It seeks national champions but also wants to attract the biggest multinationals. It boasts of success in attracting Apple to make and export billions worth of iPhones, and Micron (with subsidies of 70% of cost) for semiconductor assembly and testing. This has been denounced as an unwarranted gift to foreigners. By contrast, Korea never allowed foreign investment in production, reserving favours for chaebol. Samsung and Hyundai rose by first buying foreign technology and, later, investing massively in R&D to become technological leaders.

India's atmanirbhar is far from pure chaebolisation. It is a jumbled mix of attracting FDI and backing India's Big Three — Tata, Ambani and Adani — to become national champions to take on the world.

Atmanirbhar includes high tariffs (hopefully temporary) to keep out imports, subsidies through production-linked incentives (PLIs), and rules favouring national champions. Govt has raised import duties on many low-tech items, protecting small producers of items like kites, candles, clocks, and textiles. But it wants multinationals like Amazon and Walmart too, even while changing e-commerce rules to benefit homegrown companies like Reliance. So, unlike Korea, India seeks both MNCs and national champions.

● The second fear is that Indian businessmen will become mainly uncompetitive palm-greasers buying favours from corrupt govts. Some Indian economists say India is going the Latino way of crony capitalism, with companies



NOT JUST LOOKING INWARD: Unlike Korea, India wants both multinationals and national champions

like Ambani and Adani making money in non-competitive sectors like infrastructure. Much of this criticism reflects caste bias against Marwaris and other Vaishyas. Ambani runs one of the biggest oil refineries in the world, and has made petroleum products India's biggest export. His refining margins are higher than those of Singapore's famed refineries. These are not crony feats. Reliance Jio has given India one of the cheapest telecom networks in the world.

Adani is mostly in infrastructure. He started with Mundra port. It had to be competitive to attract cargo away from major ports like Mumbai and nearby Kandla. Today, Mundra is India's biggest port with the biggest attached Special Economic Zone.

A decade ago, Adani audaciously decided to invest \$16 billion in a new Carmichael coal mine project in Australia. No crony would make such a huge bet in a foreign country. He had to battle environmentalists and tribal groups for years. Besides, rival miners said Carmichael would need an export price of at least \$110/ton to succeed, which was unlikely as the world gradually stopped using coal. Adani fought critics for years, finally got all the permits, and commenced production. The price of Australian coal today is \$140/tonne, so Adani calculated rightly and his critics did not.

Tata is an established global player. It is now the biggest private sector employer in Britain, running TCS, Tata Steel Europe (formerly Corus) and Jaguar Land Rover.

● The third fear of critics is that Indian companies will fail for want of R&D. India spends only 0.6% of GDP on R&D against China's 2.4% and Korea's 4.8%. Most Indian R&D is by the govt, not corporations. This must change radically if India is to chaebolise. However, top Indian companies are aiming to do just that. Ambani and Adani plan massive R&D in renewables. They aim to reduce the price of green hydrogen from \$3/kg to just \$1/kg, which is cutting-edge stuff. Jaguar's R&D will help Tata become world class in e-cars. Bajaj's India's fourth biggest group, has converted most of its Pune factory into an R&D centre.

Success is by no means assured. But India is well-placed to charge uphill. Let us be optimists. ■

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In history's footsteps: Why the Nalanda story still fascinates us

Shruti.Sonal@timesgroup.com

Born in the Nalanda district of Bihar, poet-diplomat Abhay K has made several visits to the ruins of the Nalanda Mahavihara over the years. Guides regaled him with stories about the world's first residential university that attracted nearly 10,000 students from all over the world, and how the fire that engulfed its gargantuan library burnt for over six months. Over time, his interest took the shape of a full-fledged research project. "I started getting curious about how, why and when Nalanda became a seat of learning and who were the key people responsible for establishing it. Who taught and studied there. What contributions did they make to disciplines like philosophy and science? What led to its decline?" says Abhay, whose forthcoming book 'Nalanda' is

Centuries after its decline, the ancient university lives on in the works of poets, historians, fantasy writers and filmmakers

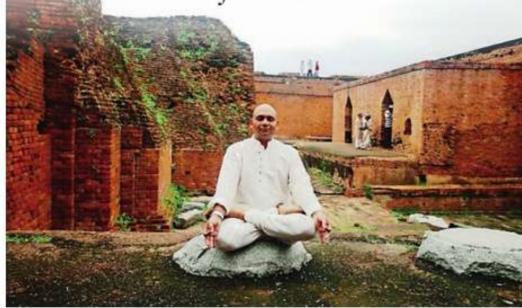


Photo: Benoy Behl
CAMPUS REWIND: Abhay K (left) paid many a visit to the ruins to research for his book; Benoy Behl has chronicled the site's sculptures

based on his research. It weaves together historical facts with a narrative flair to transport readers to the prehistoric city of Rajgir, where the university existed between the early 5th and 13th centuries.

Though the revival of the university was first proposed by former president APJ Abdul Kalam way back in March 2006, it's only now that a new campus has been inaugurated by Prime Minister Modi. Beyond the controversies and politics, there's one thing that hasn't flagged — interest in its legacy, which has been kept alive through the pages of fiction and non-fiction books, TV documentaries and AI-generated videos that recreate it, amassing thousands of views.

What intrigued veteran filmmaker and art historian Benoy Behl, who first visited Nalanda back in 1976, is how it laid the foundation for modern academic rigour and study. "There was a formalised way of writing a thesis which followed the format of a discursive argument. Scholars had to write points in support of

their thesis and against it. Then, there were sub-points under each of the arguments," says Behl, who chronicled his study of the sculptures that remain at the site as part of his broader documentaries for Doordarshan, as well as his books, 'Art of India' and 'Buddhism: The Path of Compassion'.

NAMIT ARORA, HISTORIAN

Nalanda was truly amazing... and worth taking pride in. But there's also a deep unease about what happened to it



Interestingly, one of the most big-budget projects on Nalanda was the 2016 film, 'Xuanzang' (after the famed 7th century traveller Huiyen Tsang). The first Indo-Chinese joint production became China's official entry for the best foreign language

film at the 89th Oscars, and included several scenes of the Buddhist traveller's accounts of his time at Nalanda, with dialogues in Sanskrit. Legendary filmmaker Wong Kar-wai was its executive producer and its Indian crew included actors like Sonu Sood, Neha Sharma and Ali Fazal.

What is it about Nalanda's story that has led it to occupy so much space in the public imagination, centuries after its demise? Historian Namit Arora, author of 'Indians: A Brief History of a Civilisation', says there are two reasons. "One is that it was truly an amazing thing. The fact that India had this centre of learning where students came from all over the world to study a diversity of subjects is something worth taking pride in," Arora says. It also attracts attention for the wrong reasons. "There's a deep unease about what happened to it. Who's to blame? One group is made the villain, which makes for very captivating but false stories," he adds.

The aura of mystery makes it ripe for fiction, too. Delhi-based historical fiction writer Shivani Singh's murder mystery novel 'Nalanda' follows the journey of Siddhartha, a young Buddhist monk studying at Nalanda, who is roped in to investigate a murder on campus. "I was fascinated with its sense of mystique, its grandeur and its dramatic destruction," Singh says.

For Singh, part of the appeal was the lack of primary empirical evidence of what happened to Nalanda, which allowed her to give free rein to her imagination. Apart from the ruins at the site, which include a few sculptures, its story has been pieced together largely through the travel accounts of Buddhist monks who studied there, and later, western scholars.

Arora's book, on the other hand, deals with questions around Nalanda's demise, including the theory of its destruction at the hands of Bakhtiyar Khilji in circa 12th century. He is of the school of thought that Nalanda was too large to be completely destroyed in one attack. Debates and theories aside, attempts to examine Nalanda's legacy are picking up steam. Before the museum at the site was closed for renovation in March, it attracted a steady stream of scholars. Birendra Kumar, additional in-charge of the Nalanda Museum, says that about 300 to 500 researchers used to visit every day from India and abroad. While most of them were interested in its Buddhist heritage and the archaeological remains, there has been a new interest in studying it as a role model for universities today, especially when it comes to blending formal education with the study of spirituality and religion, adds Kumar.

In order to revive Nalanda, it's important to understand what it stood for, says Behl. "It was where the building blocks of logic and understanding were laid — the kind that did not exist anywhere else in the world."

What's in a name? Forget Shakespeare, just ask a Bengali

Rohan Banerjee

Over a hundred years ago, German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche wrote: "To those human beings who are of any concern to me I wish suffering, desolation, sickness, ill-treatment, indignities — I wish that they should not remain unfamiliar with profound self-contempt, the torture of self-mistrust, the wretchedness of the vanquished..."

Nietzsche's ideas have influenced many people around the world. But few have embraced this dictum with as much gusto as a Bengali parent bestowing a nickname upon their child.

No Bengali can escape this blight. It is our fate, our destiny. Within days of our birth, the nickname — or daak naam, to use the Bengali term — is yoked to our identity. Even our biggest movie stars cannot escape it.

The only rule of daak naams is that there are no rules. Insofar as naming conventions go, it is the Wild Wild West (Bengal). Daak naams spit in the face of dictionaries and laugh at lexicons. They have no discernible logic and no intrinsic meaning. Some theories claim they are the result of a bout of insanity that afflicts new parents. Can the name Tublu, for instance, ever spring from a rational mind? Or perhaps there is devilry at play. What else would explain a pair of college professors christening their twins, Kochi and Buchi?

For obvious reasons, the daak naam does not make its way to the official documents certifying our existence. That dreary world is left to our 'proper name' (bhalo naam). The daak naam prefers the freedom of the oral tradition. It revels in being spoken, often changing its form to accommodate a surfeit of vowels. (As you would have noticed from the above examples, no decent daak naam can have less than two vowels; the best have three or more.)

In our early years, it holds us in a stranglehold. Parents, relatives, neighbours — it is on everyone's lips. Lacking the faculties to register a protest, we gurgle and giggle, thus encouraging its continued usage. It is not for me to speculate how years of being called Bogola can damage the formative mind of an infant.

As we grow older, our sense of self is cleaved in two. When we venture outside, we are trained to slip out of the daak naam — leaving it at the threshold of our home — and step into our 'proper name'. Initially, we do not give this metamorphosis much thought. It's a bit like speaking one language at home and another at school — each identity comfortable in its assigned place.

Then, one day, everything changes. The setting may vary — a classroom, a friend's birthday party, the schoolyard — but the scene usually follows a familiar script. A daak naam inadvertently stumbles into this genteel gathering and is immediately pounced upon. The child, to whom the daak naam is attached, tries to deny it but it is too late. Blood is in the water and the kids have smelt it.

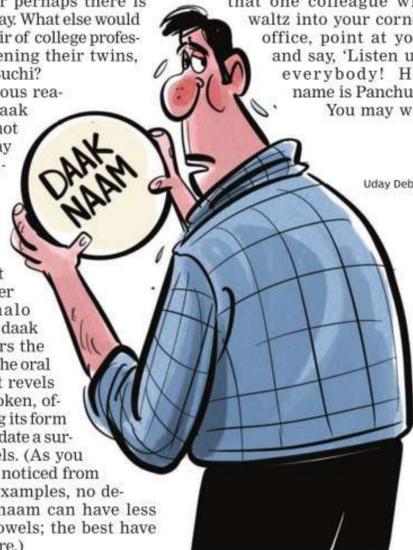
"Your parents call you Puchki?" "What does Poltu even mean?" "Beguni! Beguni! Beguni!" (The precise sobriquet does not matter — all daak naams are fatal.) Your ears ringing with their taunts, you learn an important lesson. You must guard your daak naam with your life. You take pains to ensure your relatives never refer to you as Jhontu in front of your fiancée. You spend the rest of your life pretending your daak naam does not exist, hoping you have nullified its threat; but deep in your heart, you know you can never be rid of it. It hangs around your neck, like

a decaying albatross. Its stench still clings to you — perceptible, in particular, to the keen noses of nosy Bengalis in your social circle. They sniff you out and befriend you. They bide their time until they have gained your trust — waiting for years, if necessary — and then eventually, they propose a trade: your daak naam, for theirs.

To prudent souls, this offer is an instant red flag. In Bengali relationships, the daak naam is a Rubicon one does not cross. There is a shared

understanding of past trauma that neither party wishes to relive. (You once saw your best friend instinctively respond when someone shouted Bhutai, only to look away the next instant, his face ashen. The two of you never talk about it.) And, more importantly, no self-respecting Bengali ever volunteers to reveal their daak naam. The only ones who would even contemplate such a brazen act are the meagre few with nothing to lose — those who got away with Raja, Bunt, Pinky, and suchlike. They dangle the promised knowledge of their worthless names as bait, to fish for more valuable treasures. Those who fall prey to their wiles are compromised forever.

You may be a business tycoon, but you will never know peace if you're always wondering when that one colleague will waltz into your corner office, point at you, and say, "Listen up, everybody! His name is Panchu!" You may win



Uday Deb

Homing in: The startupperpers who want to transform their own backyards

Ketaki.Desai@timesgroup.com

Things were going well for Hitesh Dharmadasani. After finishing a masters in cybersecurity in the US, he'd been working at a startup in San Francisco. That company did an IPO, leaving Dharmadasani with a handsome sum in his bank account. This is back in 2015 — a period he describes as a "post-recession boom" in the US startup ecosystem. So, his plan to move back to India, and that too, his hometown of Belagavi, Karnataka, struck others as, politely speaking, sort of stupid. But he's been running his cybersecurity startup out of the small town for many years now, and has even created an organisation called Belagavi Technology Companies Association (BeTCA) to bring together the small but budding startup ecosystem of Belagavi.

Like him, many entrepreneurs are looking beyond the charms (and problems) of big cities like Bengaluru, Mumbai or Gurgaon and homing in on their own backyards. This is also why Tier 2 and 3 cities are seeing so much startup action. A 2024 report by Primus Partners found that 90% of startups in 2023 were started in Tier 2 and 3 cities. These startups creating 150 lakh jobs last year.

Anuraha Ganesan and Dinesh Baluraj moved back from the Netherlands to Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu's rice bowl, to launch their drone startup Yali Aerospace in 2022. "People didn't take our work seriously based on location. We met hundreds of venture capitalists. Some ignored us, some treated us poorly. A few asked us to move to Bengaluru or hand over the technology. I was getting good pay abroad, so I was not here to make quick money," Baluraj told TOI. Their patience paid off — this year, Zoho founder Sridhar Vembu invested an undisclosed amount in their startup.

The pandemic played a big role as many entrepreneurs returned to their hometowns during lockdown,

and found that remote working let them function just as efficiently. It changed mindsets too. As Dharmadasani puts it, "Before that, people believed that if you don't move to a bigger city for greener pastures, you're not living the good life."

Others, of course, were far ahead of this change. Rohit Bhat moved back to Udupi a year after starting his company Robosoft out of Mumbai. "In the first two years, I was building software and delivering it to American clients like Apple. This was all happening over the internet, so I saw no reason to stay in Mumbai. Everyone told me I was crazy, but luckily things worked out," he says. He sold Robosoft to a Japanese firm for \$100m. He now runs a gaming company called 99Games. "If I could do it in the '90s, why would someone think they can't do it now?"

Bhat acknowledges that it's not all roses. "It takes convincing to persuade middle management, in particular, to move to smaller places. My pitch to them

HITESH DHARMASANI, BELAGAVI ENTREPRENEUR
Before Covid, people believed that if you don't move to a bigger city for greener pastures, you're not living the good life

has been that it's a great lifestyle decision. If they're still able to do cutting-edge work and have a better quality of life, they are happy."

Amey Kadle, founder of Ajinkya Technologies and member of Belagavi-based BeTCA, says that while finding talent is not that hard, retaining it can be challenging. "We're able to offer salaries at par with Bengaluru organisations. But there are issues with retention.



HOME COMING: Dinesh Baluraj and Anuraha Ganesan run Yali Aerospace from Thanjavur



With young men, when it comes to having an arranged marriage, they want to move away because it's hard to find a match. Parents don't want their daughter to marry a boy in Belagavi. We actually just started a small Bengaluru office for this reason," he says. Plus, for people in relationships, it can be hard for both parties to find employment they're happy with in a small town.

Another potential hurdle is funding, founders say. While things have changed in recent years — Bhat had been laughed out of the room when he was raising funds in 2013, and was told that no one funds companies in small towns — there are still challenges when it comes to courting venture capitalists. For one, some investors like to keep a close eye on the startups they invest in, so the distance may prove to be a hur-

dle. Sajith Pai of Blume Ventures says while he wouldn't turn a startup away for funding because they're from a small town, he does see it as a constraint. "I've only seen a few high-quality startups in Tier 2 and 3 cities because investing and talent are challenges. If it's very early on and you want to bring a small group of people together, it makes sense. But long-term, it makes sense to be in Bengaluru or in Delhi if you're a consumer brand." There's a reason, he says, that small-town startups often move to a big town to scale up.

Jivraj Singh Sachar, host of the Indian Silicon Valley podcast and investor, sees not being in a startup hub like Bengaluru to be a double-edged sword: "While peer talent and conversations are available in startup hubs, you could argue that they become deafening or counterproductive." But, at the same time,

he cannot deny that there is something about the energy — the ambition in the air of a city like Bengaluru — that does have intangible benefits. "It makes you believe in something bigger than yourself," he says. However, he has seen more startups coming out of small towns like Jaipur and Surat, for instance. Small-town success stories, he feels, will inspire more entrepreneurs.

This lack of ecosystem and community is exactly what BeTCA is trying to change. Dharmadasani says they are now connected with at least 50 companies running out of Belagavi; many of them are funded and doing well. For those who ask "why Belagavi?", Ajit Patel, founder of electric vehicle startup Rivolt Motors, has an answer: "When TVS started, someone must have asked them 'why Hosur?'. Today, Hosur has a supply chain which has led other companies to go there. I want to be TVS — to create opportunities for future generations to be here."

Even in Bihar, where the ecosystem is still in a fledgling stage, entrepreneurs with an emotional connection to the state are trying to give it a fillip. Himalay Verma's return to Bihar to start SKILL Foods, a food and agriculture startup aimed at generating employment, has been quite a journey — from a chance meeting with Ratan Tata at Verma's alma mater Cornell University that led to a job, to his wife's role as breadwinner while he worked out his startup logistics. Now, he's on the Bihar Industries Association where they're currently selecting the best business plan submitted by about 150 budding entrepreneurs. "I've taken sessions with young people at BIA and many of them have amazing ideas — one is making an app for barber appointments, while others are making soap out of flaxseeds. Over the last 15 years, I've seen many people move back and launch homegrown startups," he says.

No longer must one rely on birth dates or wrinkles (hello, botox!) to figure out how old a person is. The things you wear, say, and how you text define the generation you belong to

Emily Ratajkowski in a baggy pair of jeans

SOCKS TO SKULL EMOJIS, the new ways to tell your age

How tight are your jeans

The baggy vs skinny fit debate is one that shows no signs of getting over — more so now that voluminous cargo/parachute pants have become super popular. But if you're still in a monogamous relationship with slim fits and jeggings, a Gen Z-er can spot you a mile away. They like big, billowing teamed with a crop top and maybe an oversized shirt to layer

Short socks, huh!

Even your socks — yes, socks — can define your generation. Gen Z would not be caught dead in ankle-length or invisible socks that they consider to be "too short", according to a NYT piece. One Gen Z-er interviewed in the story says the only person he knows who wears ankle socks is his dad, in case you want to feel old. The kids would rather wear crew socks that go up to their calves. This has even become a point of generational quibbling on social media, with millennials saying things like "You will pry these ankle socks off my cold, dead feet."

Partial to middle part

Even the way you part your hair reveals something about your generational alliance. A middle part is the way to go for Gen Z, unlike the side part or side fringe that has come to be associated with millennials. Lately, though, there is photographic evidence that the reign of the middle part may finally be over. Actors from Emily Blunt and Penélope Cruz to Jennifer Lawrence have been flaunting their side parts again

Full stop to periods

For millennials, punctuation in texts is a sign of proper etiquette — the digital equivalent of saying 'please' and 'thank you'. However, Gen Z views a period at the end of a sentence like a digital slap. They prefer lowercase letters and minimal punctuation, creating an approachable, casual vibe. It's as if every sentence ends with an implied shrug and apology

LOL, you're old

Alongside proper punctuation, some emojis and internet acronyms have become cringe-worthy. Unlike millennials, who popularised LOL, BRB, and OMG, Gen Z has evolved a new internet language with phrases like stan, rizz, drip, cap, and 'it's the _ for me', dominating their conversations. Normal emojis don't always mean what millennials think they do. For example, the skull emoji does not signify death but rather dying of laughter — it's the new laughing emoji. Similarly, the standing person emoji has become a meme response equivalent to the millennial 'umm, ok?'

Celebs like Rihanna are rocking side parts again



Goals by Remo Freuler & Ruben Vargas (pic) in each half help Switzerland defeat Italy, send Euro defending champ packing **P 18**

VOL. XXXV NO. 26 MUMBAI, SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 2024

Jogger flung off flyover in hit-&-run, dies

A 19-year-old jogger died after he was flung off Andheri flyover near Gundavali metro station in a hit-and-run at 5.45am Saturday. His friend who was with him is in hospital with fractures and head injuries. A group of cyclists found the two, Vivek Yadav and Aman Yadav, lying on the bridge 35 feet below. Since there is no CCTV camera on the flyover, police said they would check cameras on the stretch ahead to track down the vehicle involved. **P 3**

Petrol now costs ₹103 in city, diesel ₹90

A day after state govt. in its budget, reduced value added tax on fuel across Mumbai Metropolitan Region, petrol price in Mumbai dropped by 77 paise on Saturday to retail at Rs 103.44 a litre while diesel rate fell by Rs 2.18 a litre to Rs 89.97. **P 2**

To Our Readers

Times Evoke appears in the paper today on **P 16**. It will be back on Saturday as usual from next week. TOI's weekly quiz, 'Inquizzitive', will appear in Monday's edition

12 FIRs filed over passport fraud

CB has filed 12 FIRs against officials at Passport Seva Kendra in Malad and Lower Parel and touts for issuing passports on forged documents, even to persons with criminal cases. It searched 33 premises in the city and Nashik on Saturday and is examining the role of senior passport officials. **P 4**

Blast in cracker unit kills 4 in TN

In yet another tragedy in a fireworks unit in Tamil Nadu, four workers were killed in an explosion in a factory at Virudhunagar on Saturday. The blast was triggered due to friction when some workers were mixing chemicals. **P 11**

Bhojshala: 39 broken idols found

The high court-ordered survey of the disputed Bhojshala/Kamal Maula mosque complex in Madhya Pradesh has been completed, and ASI has found 1,710 relics, including 39 broken idols. **Flap inside**

3 boys drown in Gomti river

Three minor boys who went for a swim in the Gomti river in UP's Sultanpur drowned on Friday. A team of State Disaster Response Force retrieved their bodies on Saturday. A fourth boy managed to swim ashore. **P 11**

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

Times Interact | P 8, 10, 12, 14

Domestic help saying 'no' to toxic employers

While Swiss courts recently came down on the alleged abuse of domestic staff by a prominent Indian family, employers in India continue to exploit this unorganised 'invisible' workforce that is outside the regulatory net. But there is change in the air: solidarity is growing among domestic workers, bolstered by a changing demand-supply balance, an awareness of basic rights, and numerous placement agencies that help workers to swiftly 'move on' after dumping a toxic employer. **TNN P 2**

3 from city among 7 dead in Samruddhi away crash

Car On Wrong Side Of Road Causes Collision

Mohammed.Akhef @timesgroup.com

Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar: A head-on collision between two cars caused by one of them being driven on the wrong side of the Samruddhi Mahamarg left seven people dead and four others seriously injured in Jalna on Friday.

► **Minor tanker driver hits scooter, jogger in Pune, P 19**

The deceased included three men from Malad who have been identified as Fayyaz Mansuri, Faisal Mansuri and Al-tamash Mansuri.

Citing preliminary probe, police said a Swift Desire, which was on its way to Buldhana, had halted at a fuel station in Kadvanchi for a refill, and instead of driving towards Mumbai and taking a U-turn a few



The mangled remains of one of the cars after the mishap

kilometres ahead, the driver drove on the wrong side of the highspeed corridor to reach Panshendra interchange. Coming head-on on the same route was the car with the Mansuris who were on their way to Mumbai from Nagpur. With the Mumbai-bound car speeding at about 100 kmph when the Swift appeared in its way all of a sudden, there was a

Wrong side driving: Fatalities rising

Deaths due to driving on the wrong direction on carriageways have increased consistently for 3 years from 2020 to 2022 for which data is available. The chances of fatalities in such accidents are more on highways and expressways as vehicles travel at a higher speed. Govt data show in 2020, wrong side driving claimed 7,332 lives and in 2021 and 2022, the numbers increased to 8,122 and 9,094, respectively. **P 19**

ghastly collision. The impact flung one of the cars onto the roadside barricade.

The others killed have been identified as Buldhana residents Sandeep Budhwant, Pradeep Misal, Vilas Kayande and Aniket Chavan. Budhwant was driving the car that was on the wrong side.

► **Locals help out, P 19**

Day after IGI, canopy outside Rajkot airport collapses after rain

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Rajkot: A day after a roof collapsed at Delhi airport killing one person and leaving scores injured, a fibre canopy outside Gujarat's Rajkot International Airport terminal crashed on Saturday just when a flight from Mumbai was scheduled to land.

No one was injured and no flight operations were affected due to the incident that occurred at the pick-up and drop-off point outside the interim terminal building. The airport, located at Hirasar, was inaugurated by PM Modi in July last year.

"The canopy collapsed due to water accumulation and heavy wind, and nobody was injured in the incident.

► **Orange alert for Mumbai for Monday, P 4**

We have deployed a team to clear the water above the canopy," Diganta Borah, airport director, told TOI.

Sources said the canopy is made of a sustainable fabric using wood pulp considered a high-end material known for being soft and durable.

► **New terminal, P 19**



A portion of the canopy outside the terminal's pick-up/drop area came down on Saturday

► **340 officers, P 19**

Hold periodic review of staff, ministries told

New Delhi: Pointing out laxity on part of certain Union ministries and departments in periodically reviewing staff performance to ascertain if they are deadwood and fit for premature retirement in public interest, the department of personnel and training (DoPT) has instructed the ministries to identify the employees due for review under Fundamental Rules 56 j/1 and Rule 48 of CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972, and submit their cases expeditiously to the review committee. "All ministries/departments/organisations are... requested to adhere to the timeline mentioned in OM dated 28.08.2020 for undertaking the exercise of review of performance to ensure staff with doubtful integrity or found to be ineffective are not allowed to continue," it said. **TNN**

► **340 officers, P 19**

Misuse of laws, mockery of justice, says HC, clears husband and in-laws

Rosy.Sequeira @timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Observing that a woman and her family members misused the police machinery and even made a mockery of the judicial system, Bombay high court quashed and set aside criminal proceedings for cruelty against her husband and his relatives.

The court said this is yet another case where welfare provisions such as Section 498A, etc. of IPC enacted to address dowry-related harassment and other forms of cruelty, both physical and mental, have been misused to harass the in-laws by roping them in a false case, said the verdict.

► **To harass man, kin', P 4**

Judiciary must be free from bias: Mamata

Kolkata: West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee Saturday made a strong pitch for the judiciary to be free from "political bias", while speaking at a conference by the National Judicial Academy in Kolkata, reports Debahis Konar. Addressing the gathering that comprised CJI D Y Chandrachud, Mamata said: "It is my kind submission... please see to it that there are no political biases in the judiciary." The CJI seemed to concur, as he said judges should refrain from allowing their personal ideologies to influence their judgments. **P 12**

Portion of shop crashes on hut in Parel, kills girl

A portion of a shop crashed on an adjacent hut, killing an 8-year-old girl and injuring a 65-year-old woman near Deepak Cinema in Lower Parel on Saturday. Locals said the heavy rainfall could have weakened the structure, causing it to collapse. The girl, Renuka Anant Kalsekar, was declared dead on arrival at KEM Hospital. **P 6**

SBI MD Setty may take over as chairman

The Financial Services Institution Board has recommended SBI MD C Sreenivasulu Setty for the post of chairman after Dinesh Khara's term ends in Aug. The board interviewed 3 candidates for the position. Setty currently oversees international banking, global markets and technology divisions. **P 13**

'Ayodhya winner' oppn's nominee for dy Speaker?

Trinamool Congress, SP and Congress are exploring the option of projecting SP's Faizabad MP Awadhesh Prasad as INDIA bloc's candidate for deputy Speaker. Prasad, 78, is a Dalit who won from the unreserved seat that covers Ayodhya. Sources said the India bloc allies seemed to agree that Prasad's nomination would carry "strong symbolism". **P 11**

Woman fakes death twice, creams insurers of ₹70L

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Mumbai: In an insurance fraud involving Rs 1.1 crore in claims, a 45-year-old woman from Bhayander, Kanchan Pai, also known as Pavitra, allegedly faked her death twice in two years.

Her husband and son collectively received nearly Rs 70 lakh in death claims from three private sector insurance companies between 2021 and 2023 for two 'deaths'. They were awaiting the remaining amount when the fraud was exposed. All three are absconding.

The scam involved obtaining death certificates and cremation receipts, which were provided by a medical

THE FRAUD

Bhayander woman gets 5 insurance policies. Changes name, fakes death twice. Husband and son get ₹70L before insurers see through the fraud. All 3 absconding
Oct 11, 2021: Kanchan Rai, 45, reported dead. Son Dhanraj receives claims totalling ₹45.4L
Oct 20, 2023: Pavitra dead. Husband Rohit gets ₹24.2L
► Still awaiting 2 claims of ₹24L & ₹17L but game's up
► Doctor helped with documents, he's also on the run
practitioner identified as Dr Ashutosh Yadav (50), who is also absconding.

► **2 Aadhaar cards, P 7**

Xi invokes Panchsheel as key to end today's global conflicts

'It Set A Historic Benchmark For International Rule Of Law'

TNN & AGENCIES

Beijing/Delhi: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday highlighted the relevance of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, which gained traction with the Non-Aligned Movement, to end the present-day conflicts and sought to expand influence in the Global South amid its tussle with the West.

Xi, 71, invoked the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, termed as Panchsheel by India, at a conference in Beijing to mark its 70th anniversary and also sought to juxtapose them with his new concept of Global Security Initiative envisaging a shared future for mankind.

The Panchsheel pointers were first formally enunciated in the Agreement on Trade and Intercourse between the Tibet region of China and India signed on April 29, 1954, according to the MEA.



Chinese President Xi Jinping highlighted the relevance of Panchsheel at a conference in Beijing to mark its 70th anniversary. No Indian official was reported to have participated in the conference

No Indian official was reported to have participated in the conference on Friday. The invitees included former Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa and several politicians and officials from various countries that have close ties with China.

The five principles formed part of the legacy of the then PM Jawaharlal Nehru and his Chinese counterpart Zhou

Enlai in their unsuccessful quest to find a solution to the vexed boundary issue.

"The Five Principles answered the call of the times, and its initiation was an inevitable historic development. The Chinese leadership in the past specified the Five Principles in their entirety for the first time, namely, 'mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity', 'mutual

non-aggression', 'mutual non-interference in each other's internal affairs', 'equality and mutual benefit', and 'peaceful coexistence', Xi said.

"They included the Five Principles in the China-India and China-Myanmar joint statements which jointly called for making them basic norms for state-to-state relations," Xi said.

The Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence were born in Asia but quickly ascended to the world stage. In 1955, over 20 Asian and African countries attended the Bandung Conference, Xi recalled.

The Non-Aligned Movement that rose in the 1960s adopted the Five Principles as its guiding principles, he said.

"The Five Principles have set a historic benchmark for international relations and international rule of law," he said, highlighting their relevance to ending the present-day conflicts.

'39 broken idols found at Bhojshala complex in MP during ASI survey'

Rajesh Jauhari | TNN

Mhow: As many as 1,710 relics, including 39 broken idols, were found during the 98-day high-court-ordered survey carried out by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to establish the 'true nature' of disputed Bhojshala/Kamal Maula Mosque complex in MP's Dhar district.

The idols include those of Vagdevi (Saraswati), Mahishasur Mardini, Ganesh, Krishna, Mahadev, Brahma and Hanuman, say sources. The Muslim side doubts these findings, wondering "where they came from".

The multi-disciplinary scientific survey concluded on Thursday, and ASI is expected to submit its report on the findings before the court on July 4. Highly placed sources said ASI might seek a second extension to 'dig deeper into the structure and surrounding areas'.

Hindus believe Bhojshala



ASI is likely to submit its report in HC on July 4. The Muslim side doubts the findings, wondering 'where they came from'

was a temple to Goddess Vagdevi (Saraswati), while Muslims say it has always been a mosque. The Hindu Front for Justice moved Indore bench of high court, seeking an ASI survey, which was granted in March this year. Representatives from both Hindu and Muslim sides were allowed to accompany ASI experts during the survey every day.

On June 27, the last day of the survey, ASI found at least seven structures during ex-

cavation in the northern side of Bhojshala, said HFJ representative Gopal Sharma. "One of them was the broken idol of a goddess, and the rest are broken pieces of a pillar. Only the neck and face of the idol were found," he added.

ASI roped in Geological Survey of India and used ground-penetrating radars to examine the area in and around the Bhojshala complex.

HFJ's Ashish Goyal told TOI, "ASI has declared end of excavation, stating that all the work related to it has been completed and they don't find need for any further excavation." All the relics found so far have been cleaned, numbered and many have been sent for carbon dating.

The Muslim side says court norms were not adhered to during the inspection. Dhar Shahar Qazi Wakar Saadiq said, "Our main objection is that the survey was not conducted as per the guidelines of Supreme Court."

EAM to visit Qatar today, to focus on trade, energy, security

New Delhi: Foreign minister S Jaishankar will pay an official visit to Qatar on Sunday, Indian govt said in an announcement. During the visit, he will meet the prime minister and foreign minister of Qatar, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani.

Jaishankar's visit will enable both sides to review various aspects of bilateral relations including political, trade, investment, energy, security, cultural and people-to-people as well as the regional and international issues of mutual interest, govt said.

India and Qatar share historic and friendly relations which are marked by regular exchange of high-level visits, said the MEA in a statement, recalling PM Modi had visited Qatar on 14-15 Feb 2024 and held discussions with Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. TNN

No help for Indian helps when 'dream' foreign job turns into a nightmare

Both nanny institutes and immigrant consultancies are mushrooming but as Hinduja case shows, domestic workers need legal protection

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Anjali from Ulhasnagar in Thane has quite a few stamps on her passport. Having worked in Dubai, Hong Kong and Muscat (where she was employed by a 'sheikh') as a domestic worker, she reels off the dos and don'ts. "Do not give your phone to your employer. Remember, they need you more than you need them. Ensure that you are allowed to speak to your family every day. Clients will say they have spent lakhs on your visa, so they have a right to take away your passport but don't fall for that. Don't go for a lower salary, and don't fall for scammy agents," says the 35-year-old, who has drawn a salary of up to Rs 45,000 a month abroad and wants to go to London for her next job.

Not everyone is as savvy. While the money is more than what they would get in India for a similar job, it's still nothing compared to what a local would be paid. Before that comes the hurdle of getting there. Many of them take loans to pay greedy agents who don't give them the proper paperwork. Without that, they are held hostage by employers who take their passports and withhold salaries. As the recent Hinduja case in which four members of the family were convicted for exploiting domestic staff at their luxury villa in Geneva showed, even wealthy NRI tycoons can behave that way and not just a sheikh in the Gulf. Besides other charg-



HELD TO ACCOUNT: Hinduja conviction in Swiss court spotlights how domestic workers are treated even in some wealthy households

es like confiscation of passports, low salaries and long hours, the lead prosecutor pointed out that the family's annual spend on their pet dog surpassed the salary they offered their house-help.

In the Hinduja case, the domestic workers took a rare step and fought back against exploitation, but the case highlights a larger problem — that of India's lack of protective mechanisms for domestic workers at home and abroad. India has not ratified the ILO Domestic Workers Convention No 189, which requires signatory governments to protect the rights of domestic workers. "India should negotiate stronger bilateral labour agreements with destination countries to ensure that domestic workers are granted legal protections, fair wages, and safe working conditions," says Karan S Thukral, a Delhi-based immigration lawyer. "Implementing accessible and effective reporting mechanisms for workers who don't speak the local language to report abuse and exploitation is critical. These mechanisms should ensure confidentiality and protection against retaliation," he adds.

Sister Josephine Amala Valarmathi, Tamil Nadu state coordinator at the non-profit National Domestic Workers' Movement, says people use loopholes to not formalise this labour. "More often than not, domestic workers are taken abroad as 'relatives' to escape any formal work agreement or contracts."

That several 'nanny institutes' have sprouted across north India shows that there is a demand to cater to busy NRI couples who seek help with child and elderly care. These institutes teach aspirants, who must have studied till either class 10 or 12, the basics of nutrition, first aid, etiquette, child behavioural psychology, etc through six-month certificate courses. Sometimes they are even required to take IELTS exams as part of the course, after which they travel on special caregiver visas.

The day the Hinduja case was convicted, the Kerala government became the first in the country to announce plans for a legislation for safeguarding house-holds, with the draft laying out minimum wage, fixed hours, workplace security, rest time, and outlining responsibilities of the employer and private placement agencies. Sonia George, vice-president of SEWA, a union of informal workers, and an executive committee member of International Domestic Workers' Federation, points out that while this is a welcome step, it isn't applicable overseas. "The draft immigration Bill proposed by the external affairs ministry in 2019 and revised in 2021 would have addressed the concerns of overseas Indian domestic workers had it seen the light of day. Post-pandemic international migration of domestic workers acquired through illegal recruitment agencies has gone up in Kerala. These agencies tap into the most marginalised sections, including workers from tribal communities, Dalits and fisherfolk," says George, adding that the urgency to pay off debts accrued during the pandemic has only increased the need to go work abroad.

FORGOTTEN AYAHS OF THE RAJ

Indian female domestic workers going abroad for higher wages is not new. The experiences of 'travelling ayahs' who traversed between India and Britain during the imperial era have been well documented. These women primarily served families onboard ships rather than in stable residences in either country.

While generally treated adequately at sea, they often faced abandonment and mistreatment upon arrival in Britain. In 1825, a women's committee founded



A 'travelling ayah' on a troopship in 'Waiting on Empire'

the Ayahs' Home in Aldgate, England, to help stranded ayahs find new jobs and return to India.

Historian Arunima Dutta, who researched the subject for her 2023 book, 'Waiting on Empire: A History of Indian Travelling Ayahs in Britain', says some found ways to engage in entrepreneurial activities while they waited, while others went to the India Office in London to appeal. "There were some who even took their irresponsible employers to court for failing to pay the ayah's return passages," says Dutta.

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