

{Sunday}



Hindustan Times

FIRST VOICE. LAST WORD.

Granular data on NEET is out, some centres outperform

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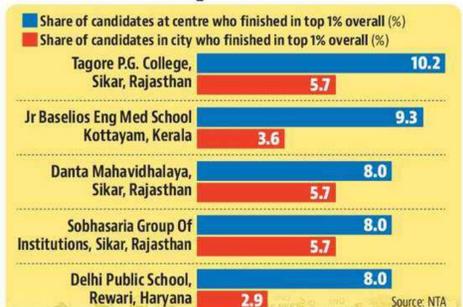
NEW DELHI: The National Testing Agency (NTA) on Saturday released detailed data from India's premier medical entrance exam, the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test-Undergraduate 2024 (NEET-UG), following a Supreme Court directive.

The release of this unprecedented level of detail for an exam of NEET's scale comes amidst allegations of irregularities and cheating in the exam conducted on May 5. The Supreme Court, which is hearing several petitions regarding the alleged irregularities, ordered the NTA to publish the marks obtained by all students by Saturday noon, along with the centres from where they appeared but with candidates' identities masked.

According to an analysis of the data by HT, while some centres showed a higher-than-average proportion of top performers, their success rates largely aligned with the overall performance of their respective cities.

HT's analysis also showed that coaching hubs dominated the top rankings: Six cities --

Noteworthy centres



Some centres did show a higher-than-average proportion of top performers but it aligned with overall performance of their respective cities

Jaipur and Sikar in Rajasthan, Delhi, Bengaluru in Karnataka, Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh, and Kottayam in Kerala -- accounted for a quarter of students ranked in the top hundred.

There were certain anomalies in some centres. Seventeen centres across Haryana, Gujarat, and West Bengal showed

an unusually low proportion of candidates in the bottom 50%, but without a corresponding spike in top performers.

The data also showed that previously flagged centres showed unremarkable trends. Centres where cheating or other anomalies were earlier reported showed performance

AMID CRITICISM, BIDEN VOWS TO BATTLE ON, SAYS WILL BEAT TRUMP

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden said that he will continue his campaign for re-election and take on Republican candidate Donald Trump, as he deals with the fallout from his Covid-19 diagnosis and growing calls from Democrats for him to quit the race.

Biden, who is in isolation at his Delaware residence, insisted he's ready to return to the campaign trail next week to counter what he called a "dark vision" laid out by Trump.

"Donald Trump's dark vision for the future is not who we are as Americans. Together, as a party and as a country, we can and will defeat him at the ballot box," he said in a statement. →P19

SHAH: INFILTRATION HAS HARMED TRIBAL PEOPLE OF J'KHAND

Vishal Kant

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RANCHI: Rampant infiltration has led to the shrinking of the tribal population in Jharkhand, Union home minister Amit Shah said on Saturday, as he accused the chief minister Hemant Soren-led government of being involved in "love jihad" and "land jihad" due to its appeasement policy, which he said was leading to a change in the poll-bound state's demography. →P9



Curfew, shoot-at-sight orders imposed across Bangladesh

Agencies

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DHAKA/NEW DELHI: The Bangladesh government imposed a strict curfew with a "shoot-at-sight" order across the country as soldiers patrolled cities on Saturday to quell a growing civil unrest that has claimed 133 lives, multiple news agencies reported.

The curfew went into effect at midnight and the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's office asked the military to deploy troops after police again failed to subdue widespread mayhem. "The army has been deployed nationwide to control the law and order situation," armed forces spokesman Shahdat Hossain told news agency



Soldiers disembark armoured vehicles as they patrol the streets in Dhaka on Saturday. AFP

Defence, intel brass in Jammu; deployment pattern in focus

Ravi Krishnan Khajuria

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JAMMU: Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi took stock of the security situation in Jammu as he held a meeting with top officers of paramilitary forces, intelligence agencies, and Jammu & Kashmir Police on Saturday amid a spate of terror attacks in the erstwhile peaceful region, officers aware of the matter said.

The meeting, held at the police headquarters in Jammu, took place two days after the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led crucial Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) discussed the



The terror attacks have raised security concerns in the erstwhile peaceful region.

recent surge in terror strikes in Jammu & Kashmir.

"Formation commanders briefed the army chief about the ongoing anti-terror operations across the region and also

informed him of the strategies being adopted to eliminate the terrorists," an officer aware of the closed-door meeting's details said.

The attacks have prompted the BSF and CRPF to consider changing their deployment in the terror hot spots, a second officer aware of developments said. "The recent attacks may prompt a change in the deployment of the forces. Additional reinforcement will likely be sent to conduct search and cordon operations in the jungles of some of the hill districts, where the terrorists are hiding by taking advantage of the mountainous terrain," the officer said. →P10

25 YEARS OF KARGIL WAR

In the second part of the series chronicling India's decisive triumph in the 1999 Kargil War, HT looks at how the conflict exposed Pak's policy of using terrorism



Arvind Kejriwal, VK Saxena

AAP HITS OUT AS LG OFFICE SAYS CM DELIBERATELY ON LOW-CALORIE DIET

Alok KN Mishra

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NEW DELHI: A row broke out over the health condition of jailed chief minister Arvind Kejriwal between the office of the Delhi lieutenant governor (LG), VK Saxena, and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Saturday, with the LG's office saying Kejriwal was "wilfully" not consuming the prescribed diet in jail and blaming "less calorie intake" for his weight loss. The AAP shot back, questioning why Kejriwal would put himself at risk, given that he suffers from type-2 diabetes. →P3

Bihar, Andhra may get spl sops in Budget on Tuesday

Rajeev Jayaswal and Smriti Kak Ramachandran

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NEW DELHI: The government is considering options to compensate states such as Andhra Pradesh and Bihar that suffered because of bifurcation, which may include special assistance for infrastructure development and central support for externally aided projects besides taking help of experts in preparing state-specific compensation packages, four people aware of the development said on Saturday.

While some more time could be required to have a considered strategy to accelerate economic development, these states may immediately become

part of initiatives such as a new smart city development plan, focused development of backward districts, enhanced post-devolution revenue deficit grants, new industrial hubs, the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP), and irrigation, road, port and railway projects, they said, requesting anonymity.

"Some of these measures may find space in the Budget on Tuesday," one of them said. Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to present the full-budget for FY25 in Parliament on July 23. The off-budget package under consideration may include substantial central assistance by way of repaying loans of externally aided projects, he added.

The government is unlikely to recreate the distinction between states with special category status (SCS) and non-SCS states after the same was abolished by the 14th Finance Commission (FC) that was set up by Manmohan Singh-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA), a second person said. "But, both the 14th FC and the 15th FC

continued on →12

HT wknd
A PART OF YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE
Tales from the crypt
A new museum in Delhi tells the underrated story of a warrior who fought numerous battles, founded the Mughal school of miniature art, lost India and then won it back. The Humayun Museum opens next month. An exclusive preview →P16,17

'HUMILIATED', SAYS ARCHERY COACH FORCED TO RETURN

Avishek Roy

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NEW DELHI: Upset at not being given accreditation to be part of the Indian archery team at the Paris Olympics, renowned coach Baek Woong Ki said on Saturday that he felt "humiliated and insulted" and wanted to end his tenure with India.

To make matters worse, Baek, who reached Paris with the Indian team, was called back to India by the Archery Association of India (AAI) after it failed to arrange accreditation for him at the Games Village. →P24

{ CROWDSTRIKE LOOKS FOR 'ROOT CAUSE' }

Worst-ever tech outage had 8.5mn devices hit



The impact of the global outage lingered on Saturday.

HT Correspondent and Agencies

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NEW DELHI: The global tech outage that was related to a software update by cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike affected nearly 8.5 million Microsoft devices, the latter said in a blog on Saturday, as airports and businesses around the world largely limped back to normal. The announcement came as

CrowdStrike itself offered a first technical update on the incident but said it was yet to find the root cause of the error, which it said was due to a configuration error that was downloaded globally by computers between 04:09 UTC and 05:27 UTC, or between 9.39am and 10.57am India time.

What followed was mayhem at a global scale with banks, airlines, hospitals and government offices being knocked offline.

CrowdStrike released information to fix affected systems, but experts said getting them back online would take time as it required manually weeding out the flawed code.

"We currently estimate that CrowdStrike's update affected 8.5 million Windows devices, or less than one percent of all Windows machines," Microsoft said in the blog.

The biggest continuing effect continued on →12

Colgate
SlimSoft™
Charcoal
17X Slimmer Tip Bristles*
FOR A DEEP CLEANING EXPERIENCE
Colgate SlimSoft Charcoal toothbrush has <0.01mm* slim-tip bristles that clean deep and remove plaque from the teeth and along the gum line. So, experience superior cleaning that's best for your teeth and overall oral health.

Ordinary Bristles vs. SlimSoft Charcoal Bristles
*Vs. ordinary end-rounded bristles. Creative Visualization.

SPOTLIGHT | 25 YEARS OF KARGIL WAR

How the 1999 war exposed Pak policy

The 84-day battle in Kargil, and what followed, unmasked Islamabad's sponsorship of cross-border terrorism

Shishir Gupta

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A quarter of a century ago, the 84-day war fought (and won) by India on the glaciated heights of Kargil sector in 1999 marked the beginning of the end of the West's pro-Islamabad stance, with much of the world waking up to the fact that cross-border terrorism was part of the state policy of the country that had gone nuclear a year before.

The war in which the Indian Army lost 527 soldiers (with another 1363 injured) was not only a betrayal of the Lahore peace process by then Pakistan Army Chief General Pervez Musharraf but also showed the extent to which Rawalpindi GHQ would go to claim Jammu & Kashmir. It later emerged that while then Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was celebrating a bus trip to Lahore with then Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif in February 1999, Gen Musharraf had already given a green signal to his Rawalpindi Corps and Force Commander Northern Areas to cross the verified Line of Control (LoC) in Kargil sector using Pakistan-based terrorists as cover. Keeping PM Sharif in the dark, Musharraf visited his Northern Light Infantry (NLI) troops at Gultari, opposite Mushkoh sector, in March 1999 as recorded in the recovered diary of a fallen Pakistani army captain.

The Pakistani army's intrusion into Kargil with terrorists as a cover became evident from the intercepted conversation between Gen Musharraf (while visiting Beijing) and his Chief of General Staff Lt Gen Mohammed Aziz in Rawalpindi on May 26 and May 29. According to the intercepts, Rawalpindi told the terrorists and mujahideen to claim the shooting of IAF Mi-17 helicopter over Drass on May 28. Musharraf's plan was to seize Indian territory in Jammu and Kashmir as revenge for India's Operation Meghdoot in Siachen (in 1984, to take full control of the glacial heights); internationalise the Kashmir issue; and disrupt Indian supply lines to south Siachen glacier and weaken the hold of the Indian Army on Saltoro Ridge.

The war, fought over a 200 kilometre range from Mushkoh to Chorbat La all within Indian territory was an eye-opener for western supporters of Pakistan, who had chosen to side with Islam-



The Indian Army lost 527 soldiers in the war fought on the glaciated heights of Kargil sector in 1999.



HT ARCHIVE

abad for the Great Game in Afghanistan; it was the tipping point after which cross-border terrorism replaced terms such as militants and freedom fighters in the context of Jammu and Kashmir. While India decided to evict the intruders by force after PM Vajpayee's speech on June 7, 1999, it was US President Bill Clinton who forced PM Nawaz Sharif to order the withdrawal of Pakistan Army troops from Kargil sector during the July 4 meeting at Blair House in Washington. Clinton's message was reinforced by US Central Army Commander to Musharraf. Sharif would later pay the price in a coup by Musharraf and his generals on October 8, 1999. But there was also another more insidious trend that Kargil ushered.

While Pakistan was rooted and booted out by July 26 with the largely Shia Northern Light Infantry troops bearing the brunt of the Indian Army's offensive, its policy of using terrorism against India did not change. Indian Airlines IC-814 flight was hijacked by Harkat-ul-Ansar terrorists to Taliban held Kandahar on December 25, 1999 to free

terror kingpin Masood Azhar and two others from Indian custody in a hostage swap deal negotiated by then Intelligence Bureau Additional Director Ajit Doval. The same Azhar, who formed Jaish-e-Mohammed group in Bahawalpur later, targeted the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly using suicide bombers on October 1, 2001 and Indian Parliament on December 13, 2001.

That attack almost led to another war with India mobilising its troops in the western sector on December 17 to take the war to Pakistan. The West, particularly the US, was forced to put pressure on Islamabad to take steps against terrorism as detailed in the January 12, 2002 speech of then President Musharraf.

The US pressure on Pakistan was not a result of the country's affection for India or sympathy for the latter's concerns but to ensure that its war against Al Qaeda and the Taliban post the 9/11 terror attacks was not affected by the Indian offensive on Islamabad from the east. After the September 11 attacks, Pakistan was back in western currency as the US under George W Bush needed Islamabad to take on Osama

bin Laden and his jihadists within the Islamic Republic as well as Afghanistan with the war on terror being waged across the Durand Line. Still, ties between India and the US, frozen after the 1998 nuclear test, did thaw on account of the Kargil war.

Not that this changed Pakistan's approach. The proscribed Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists attacked an Indian Army camp in Kaluchak on May 14, 2002, with some of the victims being barbarically skinned by the jihadists. Seething with rage, PM Vajpayee ordered massive Indian armed forces mobilization under Operation Parakram to teach Pakistan a lesson but frenetic diplomatic effort by the US and UK ensured that India called off strike against Pakistan in the first week of June.

But Operation Parakram yielded a diplomatic dividend in January 2004 when Musharraf bilaterally agreed not to export terror to India from any Pakistan territory. But internally nothing changed in Pakistan as its deep state shifted gears and focused on training radicalized Muslims within India to target Indian cities through the Indian Mujahideen group from 2005 to 2013 with nearly 500 innocents losing their

lives and limbs in the process.

It was only on November 26, 2008, when 10 LeT gunmen massacred innocents in Mumbai that the West woke up again to the threat of Pakistan-based (and sponsored) terror groups.

The western alliance with Pakistan took another turn when Al Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden was gunned down in Attock in Pakistan on May 2, 2011 by the Americans who realized that Pakistan had been playing a double game all along in Afghanistan and taking the Pakistan-friendly US State Department and Pentagon for a royal ride.

This was a major turning point in the Af-Pak region with the US and other western powers giving up on Pakistan — a fact leveraged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to defang and attack the terror apparatus in Pakistan without any fear of a nuclear strike. After the JeM attack on Pathankot airbase on January 2, 2016, Modi gave an opportunity to then Pak PM Nawaz Sharif to bring the culprits to book. It was after the terror attack in Uri on September 18, 2016, that the NDA government ordered a surgical strike across LoC (on September 29, 2016). This strike ensured

that Pakistan kept its terror groups under leash till 2019 when the Pulwama attack took place on February 14. The Indian response this time came in the form of IAF's Mirage-2000 fighters launching a strike at JeM training camp at Balakot.

India's response to Uri and Pulwama have signalled that New Delhi is prepared to respond to Islamabad in the language it understands. While Pakistan has yet again activated the Jammu sector with terror strikes since 2021, Islamabad today faces full fledged insurgencies in Balochistan, Sindh and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa apart from Taliban taking on the Pakistan Army on the border as it refuses to recognise Durand Line as the international border.

During Kargil, Pakistan used the Afghanistan issue to its advantage. Today, the tables have turned with the Taliban turning against Rawalpindi and the West running out of steam in the Af-Pak region.

(The author covered the Kargil war for Hindustan Times and has reported on Pakistan terror in Kashmir since 1994)

{ INTERVIEW } GENERAL VED PRAKASH MALIK, FORMER CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF

'Musharraf was a good commando but a bad strategist'

Twenty-five years after General Ved Prakash Malik, 85, led the army during the conflict between India and Pakistan in the summer of 1999, he looked back at the Kargil war, and its triumphs, challenges and lessons. In an interaction with Ramesh Vinayak, the former chief of army staff also spoke about the probability of a two-front war with Pakistan and China, and said the best way forward was to be prepared without easing the grip on the counterterror grid in Kashmir. Edited excerpts:

How do you look back on the Kargil war after 25 years?

It was a very challenging event. It had a lot of surprise in it. Even during the war, the then Prime Minister (Atal Bihari Vajpayee) was quite shaken up. He kept sending his interlocutor, RK Mishra, to Pakistan till the middle of June to figure out why this had happened after the Lahore declaration barely three months earlier. The military was also taken by surprise because there were no intelligence reports with us, either from the Intelligence Bureau or from RAW (Research & Analysis Wing). In fact, they had negated the likelihood of any aggression or war to be initiated by Pakistan. We were also weak in our

surveillance along the Line of Control. The gaps between our posts were anything between 9 km and 40 km. In the peak of winter, patrolling gets affected in that area. Back then, we didn't have the gadgetry that we have today, no surveillance drones, no satellite imagery, no radar and not even night-vision devices. So, it came as a big surprise and a challenge.

When exactly did you grasp the intent and scale of Pakistan's Kargil operation?

In the May of 1999, I was on an official visit to Poland and the Czech Republic. Towards the end of it, in the Czech Republic, we were having breakfast with the ambassador and he told me that newspapers in Pakistan are reporting that they have captured part of the Line of Control in Kargil area. Immediately, I rang up the army headquarters in Delhi. Everyone, from the top to the corps commander in the Kargil area, took it as an intrusion by the jihadists (terrorists) in black salwar-kameez, and not by the Pakistan Army.

Even after I returned, my first briefing was that these were terrorists who will be flushed out. The defence minister had gone

into that area. He was also told not to worry. It was a good deception plan on the part of Pakistan.

When I went to the ground soon after returning to India, I asked my people, 'look, terrorists never behave in a manner in which we see here. They don't hold ground. We have different rules of engagement for them; we have been dealing with them for years. We can't use heavy weapons against them.' By that time, we had reports of people holding ground over a stretch of 100 km along the LoC. On May 21, I briefed the cabinet committee on security that the situation is far more serious than everybody had been thinking.

How did Pakistan spring such a nasty surprise that in a way highlighted India's intelligence failure?

First, we must understand why they (Pakistan) did it. Pervez Musharraf was a brigadier in the 1980s when he tried to recapture some of our posts in the Siachen sector, but failed miserably. So, as a brigadier he was hurt that he had failed and he lost a number of people. Then at one stage when he became major general or lieutenant general, he had spoken to then Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto about carrying out an attack in these areas. She literally told him not to be a fool.

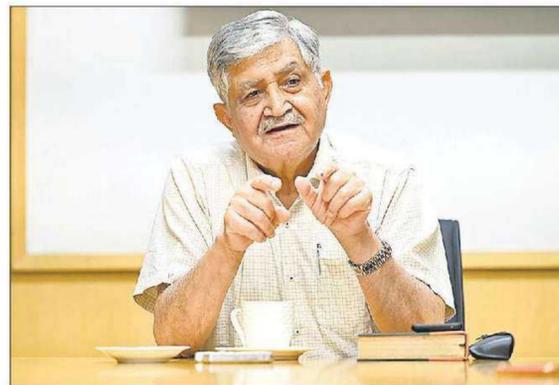
In October 1998, the then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif appointed him as Pakistan's army chief when he was number three in the pecking order. Once appointed chief, he thought now was the time to prove himself and ensure they get back Siachen and some of these posts.

Having been in their military operations directorate, he knew the area quite well. He found this was the easiest place to carry out an intrusion. They started patrolling our area during the peak of winter and set up patrol bases in February 1999, but suffered casualties because of heavy storms and avalanches. Subsequently, they tried to brief the then Prime Minister (Sharif) and told him this will help him in negotiations with India.

Musharraf was in China in May-end when he had a telephonic conversation (with Sharif) that we were able to intercept. Nawaz Sharif being a political man didn't quite understand the implications. Pakistan army had not adequately briefed him.

What was the degree of difficulty in fighting back the intruders holding ground on the Indian side of the LoC?

The difficulty was tremendous at an altitude of 14,000 to 20,000 feet. You require acclimatisation. At that time, this area was not covered as a high-altitude terrain. For whatever reasons, the government was not accepting to give



the same kind of concessions and equipment as we had in Siachen. We were short of winter clothing and did not have adequate weapons and equipment. A few years earlier, the army was forced to go under 70% of equipment, what we call the bottom line. The government had indicated that it did not have adequate money for import. Manmohan Singh was the finance minister when he told the then chief that don't ask for anything for 2-3 years and subsequently, we will provide you with what you need. But that never happened.

In the meantime, the army headquarters raised 30 Rashtriya Rifle battalions without equipment because that sanction was not there. So, regular battalions had to feed them with their weapons and equipment. What we had got further thinned.

At that time, there were sanctions on us because of the nuclear weapons test that we had done at Pokhran in May 1998. So, all these countries, they were not on talking terms with us, literally. Even orders (from international markets) for major repairs didn't come. Once war starts, you can't wait for something to come to you. At a presser in Delhi, when I was asked about lack of weapons and equipment, I had said: We shall fight with whatever we have.

What was the turning point of the war?

Initially, we were using the rules of engagement against the terrorists and the brigade commander would send troops to the top of Tololing and other peaks. Soldiers had no information and we suffered casualties. It's only when our attack failed at Tololing that we had to pump in more troops. By this time, I had already ordered one division to move from the Kashmir valley to this area. The 8th Mountain Division had taken control. I told the new GOC

(general officer commanding), take your time but don't go unprepared. We should be fully prepared. Till the middle of June, we suffered casualties. It's only after we captured Tololing and the Three Pimple ridge line, it gave me confidence that our boys will do what's required. After that there was no stopping us.

As the only limited conventional war in the last quarter century, how has Kargil reshaped India's defence doctrine?

Till the time of General K Sundarji and K Subrahmanyam, one of our foremost strategists, the thought process was that two nuclear nations won't go to war. That was certainly happening in Europe. But Kargil proved that below the nuclear threshold, we could have a limited war. So, now people have started thinking about limited or border or hybrid wars. One of the reasons Pakistan took this plunge was that they thought now we are two nuclear nations and the Indian Army can't react. But that thinking was disproved.

There were questions on a high toll of 527 men that the Indian Army suffered to regain its own territory.

That's a fact. In actual war, because of bullets and shelling, we suffered 468 casualties. But there were casualties on account of other factors like the high altitude and accidents. Whoever died in that area for whatever reason was given full benefit. Had we been permitted to go across the LoC, the casualties would have been higher. Towards the end when I was not agreeing to a ceasefire, the PM (Vajpayee) was insisting, 'why not?'

It was July 11 or 12, we had three meetings that day, just three of us, including (then national security adviser) Brajesh Mishra. PM said they (Pakistan) are beg-

ging. By that time, Sharif was back from the US. I said so many of our men have got killed. If I agree, my own people will question me. Toward the end of the second meeting, he told me that right now, the international community is on our side and we have achieved our aim. In the third meeting, he reminded there would be more casualties if we continue and escalate. I couldn't deny that. It was an interim government and elections were to be held. Ultimately, I agreed but with the condition that Pakistan will withdraw the way we tell them to. By this time, we had recaptured almost 90% of the area.

What were Pakistan's tactical and strategic objectives behind the Kargil gambit? It did succeed in putting Kashmir in an international spotlight.

Tactically, I would say, they did well. They are good soldiers. They came the way they were told, suffered the winter, had casualties. Musharraf was a good commando but a bad strategist. Kashmir was in the spotlight, that's right. But by this time, the international community, including China (though not openly), was supporting us. Sharif signed an agreement with then US President Bill Clinton on July 4, accepting they will withdraw from the other side of the LoC. The world community started thinking that the LoC is as good as a border. It's a de facto border. That notion got strengthened.

You admitted intelligence failure. What were the deficiencies in the military infrastructure?

The joint intelligence committee (JIC) chairman gets inputs from representatives of all intelligence committees. There was no input to the military intelligence from the JIC. Both RAW and the IB inputs negated the possibility of a war. The army's capability is primarily what we gather while patrolling the LoC. Patrolling was restricted at that time and helicopters used to fly over the area, but they couldn't make out from that height as everything was covered with snow. The thinking was that Pakistan may do small mischief but can't bring large forces through the area. But there were a few cases of poor coordination within the division in that area which came to my notice later. The IB has been challenging my statement that we had no intelligence. They talk about a letter of June 2, 1998, signed by then IB director Shyamal Datta to the PM's secretariat, the home and defence ministries that there's a collection of terrorists 50-60 km on the other side opposite Kargil.

I'll give you reasons why I'm saying there was no intelligence. First, the Kargil review committee

report categorically said nobody knew about what's happening on the other side. No institution, no individual. Second, I got hold of the minutes of a meeting conducted by a senior Pakistan army commander to brief US people in which he says there were no terrorists in the area. Third, they are talking about a letter of June 2, 1998, while Musharraf took over Pakistan army in October '98. How did IB know that after he takes over, he would do this? Lastly, in his book *With Four Prime Ministers*, Jarnail Singh, the joint secretary to the PM at that time, has written that Brajesh Mishra asked him to find the letter from intelligence agencies, but he couldn't find any such letter. There's no point if I can't speak the truth 25 years after the war.

What went into India's game plan to not cross the LoC and avoid an escalation? In hindsight, was it a prudent decision?

Wars take place because of political reasons. If we had escalated, which we were prepared for, we would have had more casualties and probably would have captured some areas. We (India) were seen as not the ones to take aggressive action, more reactive than proactive. I'm not saying yes or no. There are pros and cons either way.

It's been two years since the Agni-path scheme was launched. What is your take on it?

Four years in service may be too short a time. The 31-week training is fine but four years to indoctrinate a person with the kind of ethos we have in the armed forces is less, particularly for training in technical arms. Today, there's so much sophistication in weapons and equipment that this period is not sufficient. First, four-year service needs to be extended. Second, the 25% (absorption in the forces) is too less. This should be increased to 50% retention. For technical units, we may increase it further. Third, the government must ensure and make it mandatory that 75% who come out get jobs.

Wars take place because of political reasons. If we had escalated, which we were prepared for, we would have had more casualties

Towards the end when I was not agreeing to a ceasefire, the PM (Vajpayee) was insisting, 'why not?'



READ: Scan the QR code to read the full interview

NEWS

LG, AAP trade barbs on CM's 'low food intake'

Alok K N Mishra
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NEW DELHI: A row broke out over the health condition of jailed chief minister Arvind Kejriwal between the office of the Delhi lieutenant governor (LG), VK Saxena, and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Saturday, with the LG's office saying Kejriwal "wilfully" was not consuming the prescribed diet in jail and blaming "less calorie intake" for his weight loss. The AAP shot back, questioning why Kejriwal would put himself at risk, given that he suffers from type-2 diabetes, citing "risky" blood sugar levels during his stay in jail.

The LG wrote to chief secretary Naresh Kumar about Kejriwal's health on July 19, on the basis of a report submitted by the superintendent (prison) on July 14.

The report brings out the fact that there are several instances of wilful low calorie intake by Hon'ble Chief Minister, despite sufficient home cooked food being provided to him. The diet monitoring chart indicates that between 6th June, 2024 and 13th July, 2024, the Hon'ble CM had not fully consumed the prescribed diet for all three meals of the day. The report also suggests loss of weight (now 61.5kg which earlier was 63.5kg on the date of surrender-2 June, 2024). Prima facie, it appears to be due to less calorie intake," the letter said.

Kejriwal has been lodged in Tihar jail since March 21 in connection with cases pertaining to alleged irregularities in the now-scrapped 2021-22 Delhi excise policy lodged by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the

There are several instances of wilful low calorie intake by CM, despite sufficient home cooked food being provided to him.

OFFICE OF THE DELHI LG

Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). He was put on interim bail from May 10 to June 1 for the Lok Sabha election campaigning, and has remained in jail since. He was granted bail by a trial court on June 20, but the high court issued a stay on it. He was arrested by the CBI at the Rouse Avenue court on June 26.

LG directed prison authorities to advise Kejriwal to strictly adhere to the prescribed dosage of medicine and insulin, apart from the diet specified by the dieticians.

The letter said that on June 18, Kejriwal was either not administered insulin or the same was not recorded by prison authorities in the instant report. "There are also significant variations between glucometer test reading and the CGMS reading on most days. For instance, on 19th June, 2024, the glucometer reading done prior to lunch registered recording of 104 mg/l, while the CGMS reading done before lunch at 12.30 PM on the same day was 82 mg/l. Glaring discrepancies between glucometer test readings and CGMS readings need to be verified by appropriate medical authorities," the LG's office said.

What kind of joke are you making LG Sir? Would a man reduce his sugar levels...God forbid such a time ever comes to you.

SANJAY SINGH, AAP MP

Prisons come under the jurisdiction of the Delhi home minister but officials working in the prison department, as in other departments of the Delhi government, are under the central government.

In response to the LG's letter, AAP MP Sanjay Singh said in a post on X: "What kind of joke are you making LG Sir? Would a man reduce his sugar levels at night? Which is very dangerous. LG Sir, if you do not know about the disease then you should not write such a letter. God forbid such a time ever comes to you."

Delhi minister Atishi said, "The statement of LG is very unfortunate and I think it does not befit a constitutional head of the state. Arvind Kejriwal has been suffering from diabetes for 30 years, very acute diabetes and when someone has serious diabetes, what is called hypoglycemia, falling sugar level is a very dangerous sign. Due to falling sugar levels, a person can go into a coma. Due to falling sugar levels, brain stroke can happen and permanent brain damage can happen."

Meanwhile, BJP's Delhi unit chief Virendra Sachdeva alleged Kejriwal was reducing his food intake to lose weight and gain the court's sympathy. "During his bail period, Kejriwal was campaigning all day but two days before going to jail, he again said he was not well. The food comes from his house to jail but he does not eat, that is why he has lost two kilograms of weight. On June 7, he was required to take four units of insulin but he refused. He wants to get bail on the basis of his health conditions," Sachdeva said.

BJP questions AAP govt on 70% unused funds for clean air

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) MPs Ramvir Singh Bidhuri and Bansuri Swaraj on Saturday asked the Delhi government to explain why it has not spent more than 70% of the funds it was given under the National Clean Air Programme, and criticised it for turning the Capital into one of the world's most polluted cities.

In a press conference at the Delhi BJP office, the BJP MPs said the failure to use the special fund received from the central government for pollution control is a testament to the criminal negligence of the Arvind Kejriwal government towards the issue of pollution. "The Arvind Kejriwal government must present a white paper before the public detailing the work done on pollution control in the past nine-and-a-half years," said Bidhuri.

The BJP MPs claims are based on a report released by the Centre for Science and Environment on Friday which said that more than 70% of ₹42.69 crore Delhi

received from the Centre between 2019-20 and 2023-24 as part of the national clean air programme remain unused.

"Delhi is one of the most polluted cities in the world. When the Aam Aadmi Party government was not in Punjab, Kejriwal said that the main reason for pollution in Delhi was the burning of stubble in Punjab, but since his government came to power in Punjab, he no longer mentions Punjab. The smog tower in Delhi is not operational, and even its maintenance has not been done. The Kejriwal government should explain how the fund provided by the central government for pollution control in Delhi was spent, as 70% of it remains unspent," said Bidhuri.

In response, the Delhi government said it has been consistently working to address pollution both through short and long term measures. A spokesperson for the Delhi government said that the government has formulated the Winter Action Plan and the Summer Action Plan to mitigate pollution during specific seasons.

Bharti alleges BJP MP indulged in 'corruption' in LS polls, moves HC

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Somnath Bharti has approached the Delhi high court challenging the election of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s Bansuri Swaraj as a member of Parliament (MP) from New Delhi constituency, alleging that Swaraj indulged in "corrupt practices" in the recent Lok Sabha elections.

Swaraj had defeated Bharti by 78,370 votes from the New Delhi parliamentary constituency in the general elections held on May 25. Bharti's petition before high court contended that some BJP workers disturbed money, saaris and suits to the voters on Swaraj's behalf to influence them to vote in her favour.

Bharti's plea said on the day of the polls, Swaraj's booth agents had her pamphlets displaying her ballot number, photo, and election symbol, along with a

HE SAID THAT ON THE DAY OF THE POLLS, BANSURI SWARAJ'S BOOTH AGENTS... ASKED ELECTORS TO VOTE ON A PARTICULAR BALLOT

photo of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. They showed these things to electors who lined up in booth and asked them to vote on a particular ballot.

The plea which is listed before a bench of justice Manmeet PS Arora on Monday added that Raaj Kumar Anand, who had contested as BSP candidate, was "set up" by Swaraj's party to help her win against Bharti.

Swaraj said the petition by Bharti is weak and would not stand good in court. The petition has been filed to revive his political relevance, she added.

{ AHEAD OF JAL ABHISHEK YATRA } JULY 22

Ignore rumours, monitor miscreants: Ggm Police

Leena Dhankhar
leena.dhankhar@hindustantimes.com

GURUGRAM: Police on Saturday advised locals representatives and ward members of Nuh and Sohna to ignore rumour-mongering and monitor those spreading misinformation on social media in the run-up to the Jal Abhishek Yatra on July 22 in communally sensitive Nuh.

Dhirender Khadgata, deputy commissioner of police, Nuh, confirmed that permission has been granted for the yatra. Separately, Nuh residents have requested permission to set up pandals along the route to Nalhar temple to offer refreshments to participants.

There has been intense speculation around the yatra due to breakout of communal violence in Nalhar village of Nuh on July 31, 2023. The violence spread to Gurugram and other parts of Haryana, resulting in six deaths and injured to 88 people. Police later attributed the clashes to three provocative videos released by cow vigilantes on social media.

In the meeting on Saturday, participants were briefed on the details of the Jal Abhishek Yatra, said officials. Police urged all participants to perform Jal Abhishek at their nearest temples to avoid large gatherings and ensure safety.

Specific directives were issued to the managers of Sohna City



Police asked the participants to carry out Jal Abhishek Yatra rituals at their nearest temples to avoid crowding.

and Raipur Naka police stations to closely monitor activities and conduct vehicle checks to maintain order during the yatra. The use of drones to monitor the city during the Jal Abhishek Yatra was also discussed.

The event, named the Brij Mandal Jal Abhishek Yatra, was initiated by Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) in 2020 aims to "revive holy Hindu sites" in Nuh — a district around 50km from Gurugram, where Muslims constitute 79.2% of the population, according to the 2011 Census.

The procession begins with a ceremonial "jal abhishek" (pouring of sacred water) at the Nalhar Mahadev temple, an ancient temple believed to date back to the time of the Pandavas and houses the Nalhar Pandava reservoir.

Notices issued to DJ operators for Kanwar Yatra

In view of the ongoing Kanwar Yatra, notices were issued to DJ operators under Section 172(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), instructing them to maintain the height of DJ setups within safe limits to prevent contact with electrical wires, which could lead to injuries and deaths due to electric shocks, officials said.

Operators were also advised not to exceed vehicle capacity when transporting participants and to adhere to traffic rules and sound level regulations during the yatra.

Failure to comply with these regulations would result in action under Section 172(2) of the BNS, police said.

STUDENT ATTACKS SCHOOLMATE IN JAHANGIRPURI, SENT TO JUVENILE HOME, SAY POLICE

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A 15-year-old boy, a student of Class II of a government school in Jahangirpuri, allegedly stabbed his 16-year-old classmate in the chest for mocking his appearance, police said on Saturday. The incident took place on the school premises on Friday.

The victim is undergoing treatment at a hospital. The juvenile in conflict with the law was apprehended and the weapon used in the crime was recovered, police said. Police said there was a minor scuffle between the boys a few days ago and the accused brought a kitchen knife to the school on Friday to allegedly stab his classmate.

A police officer said, "The victim, along with two other boys, made fun of the accused and his appearance a few days ago. There was a minor scuffle that day. The accused was hurt and brought a knife to take revenge. He stabbed the victim outside their school building."

Police said the victim was stabbed in the abdomen, but the injury was later revealed to be closer to his chest. Deputy commissioner of police (northwest) Jitendra Kumar Meena said a case has been lodged against the minor under sections of assault and he was apprehended. He was later produced before the juvenile justice board and sent to an observation home.

LIC LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA
Divisional Office, "Jeevan Prakash", Prabhat Nagar, Meerut
Phone No : 0121-2671939, Email: estate.meerut@licindia.com

WANTED OFFICE PREMISES ON LEASE

Life Insurance Corporation of India intends to hire office premises, at Bhopa Road, Jansath Road, Roorkee Road, Rajbaha Chowk and other places, All in Periphery of MUZAFFARNAGAR Municipal Area from the individual/firms on lease basis admeasuring 1425 sq. ft carpet area (± 5% variation in areas is acceptable) in ready condition preferably on Ground and First floor or at any other floor with lift facility for office purpose. The preferred location of the premises should be within a radius of 5 km. (Approx.) from Railway Station/ Bus Stand. For complete details and bid documents please log on to www.licindia.in and go to 'Tender' and click on the link 'Advertisement for Requirement of office premises in / at Muzaffarnagar Municipal Area on lease basis'.

LIC of India reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers in full/ part without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

Date:- 21.07.2024 **Sr. Divisional Manager**

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DELHI POLICE SHANTI SEWA NYAYA From 1st July 2024

New Criminal Laws are Victim Centric

Now it is the responsibility of the police to inform victim about progress of the investigation within 90 days

Under the new law, the court will grant the victim an opportunity to be heard in case withdrawal matters

Witnesses, accused, experts and victims can appear through electronic mode

Ushering into era of new criminal laws
It focuses on justice, not punishment

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita The Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam

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E-mail to CP, Delhi at : cp.sanjayarora@delhipolice.gov.in | Write to : Cp, Delhi at P.O. Box No. 171, GPO, New Delhi

FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL 112 TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL 14547

{ SELF-SERVICE STORE } AT DOMESTIC ARRIVALS

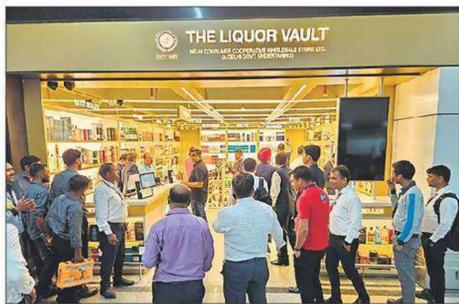
Delhi govt's first 24x7 liquor store opens at T3

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A 24x7 liquor store was thrown open for public in the domestic arrival wing of Terminal 3 at Indira Gandhi International airport on Saturday evening — nearly two years after it was shut due to change in excise policy following a Central Bureau of Investigation inquiry into alleged irregularities in the framing and implementation of the excise policy 2021-2022.

This is for the first time that the Delhi government will run the liquor store, which will be accessible only for those landing at the airport's T3 domestic arrival.

The excise department issued L10 liquor license to the Delhi Consumer's Cooperative Wholesale Store Ltd, one of the four government agencies running all



Customers at the store on Saturday.

liquor stores in the state. DCCWS is operating around 140 retail liquor stores in different parts of the city.

The store will be open 24x7 but will not be accessible for the

general public unless they are landing at T3. International arrivals separately have access to the duty-free shops.

"The liquor store is a self-service store, with a walk in experi-

ence to the customers in around 750 sq ft area. All national and international whisky, beer, gin, and vodka brands, along with other varieties registered with the excise department of the Delhi government, are available," said an official aware of the matter.

The official quoted above said comparative rate chart of different liquors being sold in other parts of county will also be displayed through an LED screen to facilitate general customers. All kind of payment facilities like UPI, credit and debit cards have been made available at the store.

Under the now scrapped Delhi excise policy 2021-22, multiple liquor stores were run by private players in domestic terminals which were closed in August 2022 when the policy was scrapped following the CBI inquiry.

Humid day in the Capital



Overcast skies at Karttya Path in the city on Saturday. The respective maximum and minimum temperatures were 37.8°C and 27.6°C, with a maximum humidity of 89%. RAJ K RAJ / HT PHOTO

Man held for raping, impregnating minor

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A 28-year-old man was arrested for allegedly kidnapping a minor, and raping and impregnating her, before abandoning her and the newborn around five years ago, police said on Saturday.

THE SURVIVOR WAS 16 YEARS OLD WHEN THE CRIME TOOK PLACE IN 2019. THE ACCUSED MAN WAS HELD IN VARANASI, UP

He was booked under sections of rape and kidnapping of the Indian Penal Code, and sexual assault under Section 4 of the Pocco Act.

The woman was 16 years old during the incident, which took place at Shahdara in 2019.

Deputy commissioner of police (Shahdara) Surendra Choudhary said a case was lodged in 2019 and a year later, a city court declared Kumar a proclaimed offender. Teams were sent across UP and Delhi to nab him.

larly and convinced her to elope with him in 2019.

"Her parents did not know about this. The accused took the minor and fled Delhi. He didn't allow her to talk to her parents. He raped her and impregnated her a few months later. A kidnapping case was lodged and the police later recovered the woman near Varanasi with her baby. The accused found out about the investigation against him and fled," the officer, not wishing to be named, said.

Police said they tracked the accused to Kabir Chauraha in Varanasi, where he was working as a gas delivery executive, and arrested him on Friday.

NURSING HOMES, HOSPITALS TOLD TO HIRE ONLY QUALIFIED STAFF

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Medical Council (DMC) on Saturday issued a public advisory asking hospitals and nursing homes in the Capital to not hire unqualified or underqualified staff for treating patients as it is against the law. The move comes after several cases were reported in the national capital of unqualified doctors treating patients.

"In the recent past there have been a few cases such as the Vivek Vihar nursing home incident where several newborns died, and the kidney racket incident. So we thought to send out a message for hospital owners and also to create awareness among public to remain vigilant and not indulge in such malpractices," said Dr Girish Tyagi, registrar, Delhi Medical Council.

Delhi Police this month acted against 22 people, including a doctor at a well-known hospital, in connection with kidney transplant rackets, one of these involving Bangladeshi nationals.

PWD to revamp 170 key junctions across Delhi, improve road safety

Snehil Sinha
snehil.sinha@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Delhi's Public Works Department (PWD) has formed a road safety engineering cell that will work to revamp 170 road junctions across the Capital, officials aware of the matter said, adding that the project is scheduled to take place in phases. Work has already started at Burari and Mukundpur junctions, officials said.

Officials said that PWD will improve pavement design, revamp central verges, and place legible signage, among other enhancements. The executive engineers will submit their list of junctions in the next meeting.

The officials said the project is based on data collected as part of a 2023 IIT-Delhi audit on road safety, conducted following directions by the Supreme Court committee on road safety.

The road safety engineering cell, which comprises a superintending engineer as a nodal officer and three other executive engineers as members, was formed by PWD special secretary Shashanka Ala on June 27, who noted that "little or no progress was noticed" in imple-

For a smoother ride
1,400 kilometres of roads in Delhi that are over 60 metres wide, which are under the jurisdiction of PWD, to be redeveloped

The plan
170 junctions to be revamped
85 junctions to be taken up in first phase
3 junctions under each executive engineer
3 months is the timeline for execution
3 junctions to be surveyed by each engineer in first month

Safety audit findings
Existing road signs do not adhere to IRC standards of size, shape and colour

- 46% sensitive zones have no traffic calming measures
- 69% road signs do not adhere to IRC standards
- 84% footpaths do not have width, as prescribed by IRC
- 25% was footpath surface condition usability

Steps to take

- Prepare protocols to identify, rectify and monitor blackspots
- Implement physical and visible traffic calming measures
- Install road signs according to IRC standards
- Ensure standardised road markings, crash barriers, footpaths and work zone safety according to IRC standards

Tendering and execution in the next two months after monsoon

menting road safety measures. "We plan to initially entrust three junctions to each of the 17 executive engineers. Apart from the suggestions given in the audit, the engineers and their teams will survey the ground situation and come up with a list of

the pavements along the 1,400km of PWD roads were usable in terms of the surface condition, and just 16% were wide enough as per norms defined by the India Road Congress (IRC).

"At some places, pavements don't have ramps for access by

wheelchairs. At other places the tactile tiles have either come off or are being obstructed. There is encroachment in some areas, making it difficult for pedestrians to use. At some junctions, there is no gap in the central verge, which acts like a traffic island for pedestrians," said the second PWD official.

Also, absence of signage or faulty signage need to be replaced, and road markings and hidden signages need to be made more prominent, the second official added.

Experts say that improving junction geometry and the visibility in the vicinities have to be integral parts of the process. "Around 35% of all fatal crashes are reported around junctions, which is around 22% in urban areas. So, authorities should focus on improving the geometry of junctions," Dr S Velmurugan, chief scientist and head of traffic engineering and safety division, Central Road Research Institute (CRRI), said.

"Also, visibility funnel should be kept in mind. This means that anyone travelling on one arm of the junction should be able to clearly see minimum 100 metres on all other arms," he said.

CBI apprehends four Delhi policemen for seeking bribes

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Central Bureau of Investigation on Friday apprehended four police personnel, including a sub-inspector level officer, while they were allegedly accepting bribes, police said on Saturday.

The four personnel are posted at the Hauz Khas police station in the south district. Police said CBI conducted raids in east and south Delhi based on tips they received and caught the personnel red-handed.

In the first case, sub-inspector Yudhveer Singh Yadav was caught while allegedly accepting

more than 15 police personnel from Delhi Police have been caught in corruption cases this year

a bribe of ₹2.5 lakh. Officers said Yadav had assured the complainant that he would file an investigation report in court if the complainant paid the bribe.

In the second case, CBI raided the Patparganj Industrial Area police station from where two head constables were apprehended while allegedly accept-

ing a bribe of ₹10,000 each. Officials said the head constables had posed as staffers of special staff office and went to a woman's shop in east Delhi and demanded ₹50,000 for not implicating her in a case.

CBI also detained a head constable posted with the special branch for allegedly accepting a bribe of ₹3,000 for clearing passport verification. Officials did not reveal the name of the head constable and said he was caught from Govindpuri.

According to reports, more than 15 police personnel from Delhi Police have been caught in corruption cases this year.

AAP protests cutting of 1K trees in S Delhi

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Saturday held a protest against the BJP and Delhi lieutenant governor (LG) VK Saxena over the cutting of 1,100 trees in the eco-sensitive zone at Satbari in south Delhi earlier this year. However, the AAP workers were stopped by the police from marching to the BJP's office on DDU Marg.

HT reached out to the LG office and the BJP but neither responded to queries seeking comments.

AAP workers hacked the replica of a tree at the protest site

to dramatise the issue. AAP minister Saurabh Bharadwaj said: "The Supreme Court has been repeatedly asking the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) on whose orders it cut down 1,100 trees illegally. But the DDA officers were busy concealing the truth behind this. On February 3, Delhi chief Secretary Naresh Kumar...and many other senior officers had gone to the Ridge area with the LG. Despite this, none of them told the Supreme Court that the LG visited the Ridge area and gave verbal instructions to cut the trees."

Kumar did not respond to requests for a comment.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED
See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Ramu Kumar S/o Raj Kumar Sharma R/o H.No. T-Hut 73/111, Ram Bagh Road, Bagichi Peer Ji, Pratap Nagar, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 150/2020 U/s 411 IPC, P.S. Gulabi Bagh, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Ramu Kumar** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Ramu Kumar** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Ramu Kumar** of case FIR No. 150/2020 U/s 411 IPC, P.S. Gulabi Bagh, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 19.09.2024.

By Order
Sh. Anuj Kumar Singh
Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate-02
Room No. 296A, Second Floor
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/9328/N/2024(Court Matter)

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Rashida D/o Unknown R/o Indiar Colony Jhuggi Sec-52, Gurgaon** has been missing since 14.07.2024 at 10:00 PM from P.F. No.13, Old Delhi Rly. Station, Delhi. In this regard a FIR No. 52/2024 U/s 137 BNS dated 16.07.2024 has been registered at PS, Old Delhi Railway Station.

The description of Missing girl is as under:

Name : Rashida, **Age :** 14 years, **Height :** 4'7", **Complexion :** Fair, **Face :** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing :** Yellow Color Suit and Salwar and White Color Sandal in feet.

If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.

SHO
P.S., Old Delhi Railway Station
Ph : 011-23961522
8750871302

Website : http://cbi.nic.in
e-mail : cbc@cbi.gov.in
Fax : 011-24368639
Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641

DP/9369/RLY/2024

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that one male person **Namely: Laxmi Kant, S/o: Dayamayi, R/o: H. No-173 Sewa Samiti Koli Colony Tahir Pur, Sex: Male, Age: 40 Years, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Grey Colour T-Shirt, Lower, Hawal Chappal in Feet.** has been missing since 08.06.2024 from H. No-173 Sewa Samiti Koli Colony Tahir Pur. from the Jurisdiction of Police Station Nand Nagri Delhi, In this regard **GD No. 78A Date: 18.07.2024** has been registered at **P.S.: Nand Nagri Delhi,**

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing male but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone having any information about this missing male. Please inform to the following.

SHO
P.S.: Nand Nagri Delhi
Mobile: 011-22583307,
011-22585985, 8750870733

Website : http://cbi.nic.in
E-Mail ID : cbc@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
DP/9421/NE/2024

दिल्ली प्रौद्योगिकी विश्वविद्यालय
DELHI TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
(Estd. by Govt. of NCT of Delhi vide Act 6 of 2009)
(formerly Delhi College of Engineering)
University School of Management & Entrepreneurship
East Delhi Campus, DTU
Vivek Vihar, Phase-II, Delhi-110095

SPOT ADMISSION NOTICE FOR Executive MBA in Data Science & Analytics (2024-26)

It is hereby informed that Spot Admission for the Executive MBA in Data Science and Analytics programme offered by the University School of Management & Entrepreneurship, East Delhi Campus, Delhi Technological University will be held on 3rd August 2024 (Saturday).

Eligibility Criteria:

- Mathematics in standard 12th or Graduation (at least one paper) with 60% marks.
- Graduation with minimum 50% marks or equivalent CGPA from any recognized university/institution. There will be 5% relaxation in the eligibility for reserved categories as per DTU norms.
- Managerial/Professional/Technical work experience in industry/organisation of at least three years by 03.08.2024.

How to Apply: The applicants fulfilling the eligibility criteria are required to report at East Delhi Campus, DTU on 3rd August, 2024 (Saturday) along with the required original documents as per eligibility criteria and Demand Draft of Rs. 1500/- as registration fee for Spot Round Demand Draft should be in favor of "Registrar DTU admission East Delhi Campus". Payable at Delhi. Reporting Date and Time: 03.08.2024, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. For any queries, e-mail: mboxeev.osa@dtu.ac.in
For more details please visit DTU website www.dtu.ac.in

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED
See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Rohit @ Madras S/o Nand Lal R/o Building Village Badli, Samaipur Badli Outer North, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 22045/2021 U/s 379/411/34 IPC, P.S. K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Rohit @ Madras** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Rohit @ Madras** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Rohit @ Madras** of case FIR No. 22045/2021 U/s 379/411/34 IPC, P.S. K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 28.10.2024.

By Order
Sh. Himanshu Selhoth
Metropolitan Magistrate-03
Room No. 213, 2nd Floor,
Rohini Court, Delhi

DP/9408/RD/2024(Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF PERSONS ACCUSED
(See Section 82 Cr. PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that three accused person namely (1) **Shekhar S/o Parshottam (2) Sangeeta W/o Shekhar (3) Memo Devi W/o Sh. Parshottam R/o H.No. 8612, Siddhipura, East Park Road Karol Bagh, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 300/2018 U/s 420/34 IPC at PS: DBG Road, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused (1) **Shekhar (2) Sangeeta (3) Memo Devi** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused (1) **Shekhar (2) Sangeeta (3) Memo Devi** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused (1) **Shekhar (2) Sangeeta (3) Memo Devi** of FIR No. 300/2018 U/s 420/34 IPC of PS: DBG Road, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 20.08.2024.

By order
Rashmi Gupta
Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Central
Room No.38, Ground Floor,
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/9481/CD/2024

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male **Age: 60 years, Complexion: Shallow, Built: Normal, Face: Oval, Hair: White, Height: 5'4",** was wearing only Pant, was found in unconscious condition at Under Bara Pula Flyover, INA Metro Gate No. 6, New Delhi. He was admitted to Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi vide MLC No. 31963/23 dated 02.07.2024, where he was declared brought dead by the doctor. In this regard a **DD No. 25A & 110A, dated 02.07.2024, has been lodged at P.S. Kotla Mubarak Pur, New Delhi.**

His dead body has been preserved in Safdarjung Hospital Mortuary. Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO
P.S. Kotla Mubarak Pur, New Delhi
Ph.: 011-24624825, 8750870828

DP/9488/SD/2024

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

No.: JDA/EE&TA to Dir. Engg./I/2024-25/D-45 Dated: 19-07-2024

NOTICE INVITING BID
NIB No.: EE & TA to Dir. Engg.-I/07/2024-25

Bids are invited from interested bidders for following works:

S. No.	UBN No.	Cost of Work (Lacs)	Nature of Work	Last Date
1	JDA2425WLOB00149	600.00	O & M	27.08.2024
2	JDA2425WSOB00152	314.53	Road	10.08.2024
3	JDA2425WSOB00153	418.18	Road	10.08.2024
4	JDA2425WLOB00155	647.87	Road	08.08.2024
5	JDA2425WLOB00150	532.26	Road	07.08.2024

Other particulars of the respective bid may be visited on Procurement Portal website www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and www.jda.rajasthan.gov.in

Samwad/C2545/2024-25 Executive Engineer & TA to Dir. Engg-I

LIC LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA
Divisional Office, "Jeevan Prakash", Prabhat Nagar, Meerut
Phone No : 0121-2671939, Email: estate.meerut@licindia.com

WANTED OFFICE PREMISES ON LEASE

Life Insurance Corporation of India intends to hire office premises, at Bhopa Road, Jansath Road, Roorkee Road, Rajbaha Chowk and other places, All in Periphery of MUZAFFAR NAGAR Municipal Area from the individual/firms on lease basis admeasuring 1425 sq. ft carpet area (± 5% variation in areas is acceptable) in ready condition preferably on Ground and First floor or at any other floor with lift facility for office purpose. The preferred location of the premises should be within a radius of 5 km. (Approx.) from Railway Station/ Bus Stand. For complete details and bid documents please log on to www.licindia.in and go to 'Tender' and click on the link 'Advertisement for Requirement of office premises in / at Muzaffarnagar Municipal Area on lease basis'.

LIC of India reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers in full/ part without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

Date:- 21.07.2024 **Sr. Divisional Manager**

Appeal for Identification

General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body **Name: Unknown, S/o Unknown, R/o: Unknown Age: Approx. 60-65 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Kashariya Shirt & Brown Half Pant** was found on foot path at Subhash Marg, Delhi on 12.07.2024 at 12.00 PM. In unconscious condition he was admitted LNJP Hospital where he was dead on 15.07.2024 during treatment. Dead Body was preserve in MAMC Mortuary. In this regard, a **DD No. 30-A dated 12.07.2024** has been lodged at PS: Kotwali, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this dead body but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this dead body may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
P.S., Kotwali, Delhi
Ph. : 9582030930, 8750870121

DP/9449/N/2024

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male **Namely Unknown S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown Age: approx 45-50 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, Injury Marks: Abrasion over face, Wearing: Black coloured T-shirt, pant and Barefoot,** was found dead on 16.06.2024 at 1:57:17 PM from Biscuit Factory Road 25 Futa Road, Laxmi Park, 50 Futa Road, Nihal Vihar, Delhi-41. In this regard a **DD No.86A, dated 16.06.2024** has been lodged at P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi.

If anyone having any clue about deceased male may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers.

SHO
P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi
Ph.: 011-25946700, 25946710
Mob.: 9812395123, 7065036129

DP/9442/OD/2024

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
(See Section 82 Cr.PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Sadab, S/o Dilshad R/o Village Mahalka PS Jansath Distt. Muzaffarnagar UP** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No.19275/2016 u/s 379/411/34 IPC, P.S. Kalyanpuri, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Sadab** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Sadab** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Sadab** of FIR No.19275/2016 u/s 379/411/34 IPC, P.S. Kalyanpuri, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 09.09.2024.

By Order,
Preeti Aggarwal
Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, East, Court No.29,
Karkardooma Court, Delhi

DP/9330/ED/2024

Adding a new chapter to heritage preservation & management

Inauguration of

THE 46TH SESSION OF UNESCO'S WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

by

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister



On 21st July 2024 at 7:00 pm
Venue: Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

➔ **In the august presence of** ➔

Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar
Minister for External Affairs

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat
Minister for Culture and Tourism

Audrey Azoulay
Director-General, UNESCO

Rao Inderjit Singh
Minister of State (IC), Ministry of Statistics & Programme
Implementation, Ministry of Planning and MoS Culture

Event Highlights

- Exhibition on Re(ad)dress: Return of Treasures
- Exhibitions on Ayurveda, Digital innovations in India and Incredible India
- Immersive Experience of Selected World Heritage Sites in India

21st to 31st July 2024

46th World Heritage Committee Agenda

- Delegates from more than 150 countries
- Decisions regarding new nominations on the World Heritage list
- Review of State of Conservation Reports for 124 World Heritage Sites
- Review of World Heritage Fund and decisions on international assistance
- More than 30 international side events and exhibitions

Watch the live telecast on DD News

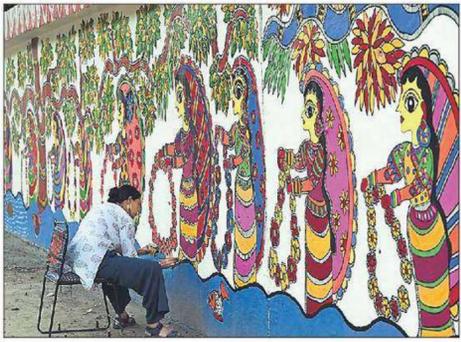
20K cops on ground for world heritage panel meet in Capital

Sanjeev K Jha
sanjeev.jha@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Delhi Police will deploy around 20,000 police personnel, including 100 quick response teams, besides 25 ambulances and firefighting teams, for the Unesco World Heritage Committee meet, which will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday at Bharat Mandapam, officials said.

Teams will be deployed at the Indra Gandhi International Airport, 15 designated hotels where dignitaries will stay, Bharat Mandapam at Pragati Maidan, important heritage sites across the Capital and along roads dignitaries will be travelling, they said.

Special commissioner of police (CP) Dependra Pathak, who is the security in charge for the event, said that several disaster management teams will be stationed at strategic locations. "Over 50 rooms have been blocked in different hotels for Unesco Secretariat, including its director general Audrey Azoulay.



An artist makes a wall mural in Chanakyapuri. ARVIND YADAV/HT

For the DG, all security protocols will be followed. Forty Volvo and Toyota coaches and 50 high-end Mercedes S Class, E Class and Toyota Innova taxis will be provided for pick and drop from airport to hotel and hotels to the venue, to the foreign delegates. Traffic bubbles will be created for delegates," he said. This is the 46th edition of the

Thursday, directed the Central Public Works Department, Delhi Development Authority and Public Works Department, to put in place a contingency plan to deal with potential heavy waterlogging around Pragati Maidan, Rajghat and other key areas.

A senior officer at the LG secretariat said that Saxena also monitored beautification around the venue, important intersections and flyovers. "All agencies have been asked to improve areas surrounding monuments and cleanliness near the venue. The power distribution company BSES has been asked to ensure uninterrupted supply. Besides, in honour of the delegates, LG will also host a cultural evening, followed by dinner, at Purana Quila on Thursday," he said.

A senior Delhi Police officer said law and order will be supervised jointly by special CPs (law and order) Ravinder Singh Yadav and Madhub Tiwari, while traffic movement on different routes of the dignitaries will be monitored by special CP (traffic) HGS Dhaliwal.

CASTEIST GRAFFITI ON JNU WALLS: STUDENT BODY

NEW DELHI: A student body at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) on Saturday alleged that walls of the campus were defaced with casteist slurs and communal slogans, targeting the Dalit community.

The slogans were scribbled on the walls of the Kaveri Hostel and authorities painted the walls after photos of the same were circulated on social media, Kunal Kumar, general secretary of National Students' Union of India (NSUI), the student body of the Congress, said.

There was no immediate reaction to the allegations from the dean of students Manuradha Chaudhary. Requests for a response to the allegations were declined by Kaveri Hostel warden Manish Kumar Barnwal.

"We, the Humans of JNU are deeply disturbed by the recent incidents at Kaveri Hostel...", the students' body said in a statement, adding that it reflected the mindset of certain groups.

It also demanded action by the administration against the accused. Last year, the JNU formed a panel to look into the repeated incidents of "anti-national" slogans scribbled on campus. PTI

HT TWTW
THE WEEK THAT WAS

And the winner is... you, for acing this quiz and cruising into the weekend

A river gets cleaned up, a designer is played down and a husband gets called out. A dead name is erased, while a legacy carries on. Good luck!



Natasha Rego

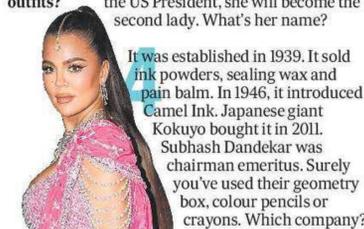


The Bear (above) has received a record 23 nominations in a comedy series for which award?

Mayor Anne Hidalgo jumped into the Seine to show that the river's water was clean enough to host Olympic swimming events starting later this month. Which city, named after a Trojan prince, does the river flow through?

There are over 140 million globally. Four are added every second, one from India. Anushka Sharma, Priyanka Chopra and Alia Bhatt each have one. Richa Chaddha had one this week. Deepika Padukone is expected to have one by September. What?

Her grandfather and father studied or taught at IIT. She studied at Yale and Cambridge. Her name means dawn. It's also a brand of electrical appliances. If Donald Trump becomes the US President, she will become the second lady. What's her name?



Anukathir Surya's dead name is no more. The Indian Revenue Service

officer from Telangana is the first civil servant to be allowed by the Ministry of Finance to change his name, in a major step towards inclusion in the civil services. What else did he get to change?

The nominations are in. The Bear received 23, beating 30 Rock's record of 22. Netflix bagged 107, most for a streaming company. Varun Viswanath has been nominated for editing Reservation Dogs. Vir Das won one for comedy last year. Which award?

Sheikha Mahra is one of 26 children of Dubai's ruler Sheikh Maktoum. She got married last year, had her first child two months ago and posted a message to her cheating husband on Instagram last week. "I ___ you. I ___ you. I ___ you," she wrote. FITB.

He made his costume design debut in 1990, with the film Swarg. He launched his couture label in 2005. Ranbir Kapoor unveiled his debut menswear line in 2015. Khloe Kardashian called him a "local designer", then changed it to "world-renowned designer". Who?

It's home to the Sagrada Familia; Pedro Sánchez Pérez-Castejón is Prime Minister; it gave us Nadal, Banderas and Dali. Eat your churros, sip some sangria and celebrate. Its football team just beat England and won the Euros, for a record fourth time. Which country?

Baba Yogi Chaitanya Akash has reportedly constructed an unauthorised structure on the Sunderhanga glacier, at an altitude of 5,000m. A team will probe the matter, but can only visit the spot post monsoon. Pray tell, what did he build?

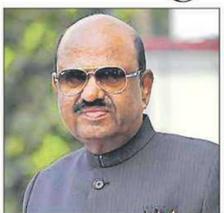
Answers on page 12

In-house probe junks molestation charges against Bengal Governor

Press Trust of India
letters@hindustantimes.com

KOLKATA: An in-house preliminary inquiry report by a Raj Bhavan panel has dismissed molestation charges against West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose by a former woman staffer. The report, made public on Saturday, claimed the complaints were "ill-motivated."

The report, prepared by the former district judge of the Pondicherry Judicial Service, D Ramabathirani, said the alleged sexual misconduct against the Governor on April 24 and May 2 was "ruled out as baseless." Besides taking into consideration multiple newspaper clippings between May 3 and May 7 which reported the alleged incident at Raj Bhavan, the one-man inquiry committee also



Governor CV Ananda Bose

examined eight Raj Bhavan staff as witnesses, including two ADCs and the OSD to the Governor, to reach its conclusion.

"The timing of the alleged incident on May 2, 2024, coinciding with the Prime Minister's visit to Raj Bhavan, creates a cloud of suspicion regarding the truthfulness and indicates a sinister motive behind the allegations," the report said. It added

that the Special Protection Group (SPG) had already taken control of the premises before the alleged incident occurred.

"Given these circumstances, it seems highly improbable the Governor would choose such a moment to engage in misconduct with the complainant," the report concluded, labelling the charges as "ill-motivated."

It also noted that other women staff at Raj Bhavan testified they did not face any inappropriate behaviour from the Governor.

The complainant had alleged she faced sexual misconduct, including molestation, from the Governor on April 24 and May 2 at Raj Bhavan. However, during the May 2 meeting, when a Raj Bhavan supervisor was present, she continued to sit in the chamber even after he left the room, according to the report.

HARYANA AHEAD OF ASSEMBLY POLLS ED arrests Cong MLA in illegal mining case

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate on Saturday arrested Haryana Congress legislator Sunder Panwar in a money laundering case pertaining to illegal mining, people familiar with the development said.

The 55-year-old MLA was taken into custody in the early hours in Gurugram on the outskirts of the national capital. The federal agency had raided the premises of the Sonapat MLA in January on the charges of large-scale illegal mining in the Yamunanagar area of the state. It had then arrested former Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) legislator from Yamunanagar, Dilbag Singh, and one of his associates, Kulwinder Singh. The development comes

months before the elections to Haryana's 90-member assembly are slated for later this year.

The ED's money-laundering case stems from several first information reports (FIRs) registered by Haryana police to probe alleged illegal mining of boulders, gravel and sand in Yamunanagar and nearby districts in spite of a ban imposed by the National Green Tribunal. Illegal mining generated slush funds of about ₹400-500 crore in the last few years, according to ED. In January, ED raided multiple locations in Faridabad, Sonapat, Yamunanagar, Karnal, Chandigarh and Mohali.

The probe revealed the act of illegal excavation and sale of minerals by numerous screening plant owners and stone crushers of Yamunanagar district, officials said, declining to be named.

NIB for Publication on State Public Procurement Portal
Government of Rajasthan

Bikaner House Management Society (BHMS)
Office of the Resident Commissioner, Bikaner House, Pandara Road, New Delhi

(Telephone No. - 011-23383472, Email ID: rcrajasthan@yahoo.com)
UBN NO. RCM2425SL0800010 NIB NO. क्रमांक: BHMS/RUDA/Shrawan Teej Utsav/2024/141 Date: 15.07.24

E-Notice Inviting EOI for Empanelment

1. Single Stage One-Envelope unconditional bids are invited electronically by Bikaner House Management Society (BHMS) for empanelment for year 2024-25 from renowned, reputed and experienced firms for the following works. Brief particulars of procurement are given below:-

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Earnest Money	Cost of tender Document (in Rs.)	Processing Fee for E-procurement (in Rs.)	Last date and time for Electronic submission of bids
1.	Event Management Service	15 to 17.00	30,000/-	500/-	500/-	25th July 2024

Bidding document (technical and financial) along with terms & conditions may be downloaded from the websites <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in> or <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> or <http://rc.rajasthan.gov.in> from 15.07.2024 to 25.07.2024. The bidders are required to pay tender cost (Rs. 500/-), e-tendering processing fee (Rs. 500/-) and bid security amount (Rs. 30,000/-) online through single challan on e-grass portal. Details are at Annexure 'I'.

Bidders need to submit the EOI document along with all relevant papers in pdf format online in electronic format on website <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> latest by 6.00 P.M. on 25.07.2024. Bids will be opened electronically in the presence of representatives of bidders at 3.30 PM on 26.07.2024.

Any communication related to cancellation/postponement/extension/modification will be published only in the websites <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in> or <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> or <http://rc.rajasthan.gov.in>.

RCM2425SL0800010

Additional Resident Commissioner
Bikaner House, New Delhi

Dipr/c/6128/2024

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NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. T_24-25_Coach_Lift_Notice Date: 19.07.2024

E-TENDER NOTICE

Chief Workshop Manager, Coach MLR Workshop, Jhansi for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender from reputed contractors for following work:-

Tender No. : T_24-25_Coach_Lift **Completion period : 24 months**

Description of work : Lifting of ICF & LHB coaches, Unloading, Cleaning, dismantling, Transportation and Fitment of ICF type bogies frame along with Tractor-Trolley with driver & fuel as per scope of work at CMLR Workshop

Qty : One work, **Tender cost :** Rs. 2,55,66,916.68/- (Rs Two crore fifty five lakh sixty six thousand nine hundred sixteen and sixty eight paise only), **Earnest money :** Rs. 2778000/-, **Tender doc. cost :** Rs. 0/-, (1) Tender will be closed at 15:00 Hrs on 12.08.2024 and is available on Indian Railway E-Tendering website www.ireps.gov.in. (2) For detailed information please visit Indian Railway E-Tendering website www.ireps.gov.in (3) Tenderers should watch the website for the corrigendum/addendum to the NIT/e-tender document, if any as there will not be any separate communication for the same. 1264/24 (AS)

North central railways | www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in | @northcentralrailway | @CPRNCR

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one unidentified dead body of male Namely: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 65 Years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: White and Green color Check Shirt and Grey color Lower, who was found dead near Mankameshwari Mandir, Roop Nagar, Delhi. In this regard a case FIR/DD No. 20-A dt. 15.07.2024 has been registered at **PS: Roop Nagar, Delhi**.

Any person having any information or clue about the above deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

Sd/- SHO
P.S: Roop Nagar, Delhi
Ph. 8750870129

DP/9428/N/2024

बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग
15, नेहरू पथ (बेली रोड), पटना-800001

आवश्यक सूचना

प्रखंड उद्यान पदाधिकारी प्रतियोगिता परीक्षा
(विज्ञापन संख्या-24/2024)

उक्त लिखित (वस्तुनिष्ठ) प्रतियोगिता परीक्षा का आयोजन दिनांक 12.08.2024 एवं 13.08.2024 को संभावित है। प्रशासनिक कारणों से परीक्षा की तिथि में परिवर्तन हो सकता है। अपर सचिव-सह-परीक्षा नियंत्रक, बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग, पटना

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

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

Description of work : Loading, leading and Unloading of Misc. P Way material by truck/trailer from any station to any station under jurisdiction of Sr. DENE/JHS.

E-Tender No.: JHS-ENGG-E-2024-146, **Approx. Cost (₹):** ₹ 18391770.00, **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹ 242000.00, **Date of closing Tender :** 16.08.2024 at 15.00 hrs. **Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter :** 24 Months. Tender online can be submitted up to 15:00 hrs on 16.08.2024. For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in 1257/24 (DG)

North central railways | @CPRNCR | @northcentralrailway | www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 5320242025 Dated: 19.07.2024

E-TENDERING TENDER NOTICE

Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering)/North Central Railway/Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites the following E-tendering process for the following works up to 13.30 hrs. on 21.08.2024. The details of the tenders is as under:-

S. No.:	Tender No.:	Approx Cost of work (Rs.):
1	135	₹ 19,04,644.80
2	136	₹ 2,85,59,858.94
3	137	₹ 1,14,36,712.37

Name of Work: Provision of power supply augmentation room for Signaling equipment installed at Khaga and Kurasi kalan stations under Sr. Divisional Engineer/III Prayagraj.

Earnest Money (Rs.): ₹ 38,100.00, **Completion Period:** 06 (Six) Months, **Date of Opening of Tender:** 21.08.2024, **Eligibility Criteria for "Similar work":** Nil.

Name of Work: Lifting of Loop line turnouts, deep screening of siding lines/Over run and Muck removal at various yards in the Section of Asstt. Divisional Engineer/Fatehpur.

Earnest Money (Rs.): ₹ 2,92,800.00, **Completion Period:** 12 (Twelve) Months, **Date of Opening of Tender:** 21.08.2024, **Eligibility Criteria for "Similar work":** P-Way Work.

Name of Work: Extension of Track Machine Sidings in the section under Sr. Divisional Engineer/III Prayagraj.

Earnest Money (Rs.): ₹ 2,07,200.00, **Completion Period:** 12 (Twelve) Months, **Date of Opening of Tender:** 21.08.2024, **Eligibility Criteria for "Similar work":** P-Way Work.

Note:- (1) E-Tender Forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers. (2) The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders are available on Website www.ireps.gov.in up to 13:30 hrs. on the due date of tender opening i.e. 21.08.2024. (3) Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate issued by CCA under IT Act-2008. (4) Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entry in any other form / letter head if attached by vendors shall be straightway ignored and shall not be considered. (5) The tenderers shall submit a certificate as given in tender document as "Annexure" in standard format without which their tender may not be considered and shall be summarily rejected. (6) The supplier / contractor of goods and / or services will be subject to GST Act and Rules as applicable from time to time. (7) Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. (8) This tender notice has also been uploaded on www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in. (9) Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in respect of e-tendering shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. (10) In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. (11) Tender on line can be submitted up to 13.30 hrs. of tender opening date i.e. 21.08.2024. (12) The tenderer has to submit necessary documents in compliance of clause 10 to 18 (Part-I) of GCC-2022 mandatorily, otherwise offer will be considered as Incomplete Offer and accordingly shall not be considered. 1266/24 (A)

North central railways | www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in | @northcentralrailway | @CPRNCR

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that one male Boy Namely: **Mohd Ayan**, S/o: Sarvar, R/o: Biharpur New Aram Bareilly U.P. **Sex:** Male, **Age:** 13 Years, **Height:** 4', **Face:** Round **Complexion:** Fair, **Built:** Normal **Wearing:** Red Colour T-Shirt & Blue Colour Jeans Pant, has been missing since 07.07.2024 from J-41 New Seelampur Delhi from the Jurisdiction of Police Station Seelampur, Delhi. In this regard **FIR No. 0287** **Date:** 11.07.2024 has been registered at **P.S.: Seelampur Delhi**

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing Boy but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing Boy. Please inform to the following.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in> **SHO**
E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in **P.S.: Seelampur Delhi**
Fax: 011-24368639 **DP/9137/NE/2024**
Mobile: 011-22562089, 8750870221

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

General public is here by informed that one girl (depicted in the Photo) Namely: **Khushbu**, D/o: Sh. Bahur Mukhiya, R/o: WP-377, Village-Wazirpur, Ashok Vihar, Delhi, **Age:** 16 Years, **Height:** 4'10", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Blue color T-shirt and Blue Jeans and Sandal in Feet, Missing Since 21.06.2024 by 10.00 am from her home under area of P.S. Ashok Vihar, Delhi.

In this regard a **FIR No. 223/2024**, **Dated 28.06.2024** has been registered at P.S. Ashok Vihar, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this girl but no clue has come to the light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this girl kindly inform to the following.

E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in **SHO**
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> **P.S.: Ashok Vihar, Delhi**
Ph: 011-24368639 **Ph. 011-27242917, 8750870221**
DP/8649/NW/2024

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that one male person Namely: **Shendare Sagar Suresh**, S/o: Suresh Shendare R/o: 8 Engr. Regt, PIN-904008, C/o, 56 APO General D Souza Marg Sadar Bazar Delhi Cantt. **Sex:** Male, **Age:** 30 Years, **Height:** 5'2", **Face:** Oval **Complexion:** Fair, **Built:** Normal **Wearing:** T-Shirt White Colour & Blue Dark Colour Lower has been missing since 18.07.2024 from C/o, 56 APO General D Souza Marg Sadar Bazar Delhi from the Jurisdiction of Police Station Delhi Cantt, New Delhi. In this regard **DD No. 117A** **Date:** 18.07.2024 has been registered at **P.S.: Delhi Cantt, New Delhi**.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing male but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing male. Please inform to the following.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in> **SHO**
E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in **P.S.: Delhi Cantt, New Delhi**
Fax: 011-24368639 **DP/9469/SW/2024**
Mobile: 7065036229

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Payment to farmers within 72 hours of crop sold

Disbursement of ₹33.26 crores under Bhavantar Bharpai Yojana for Vegetables and Fruits

₹5693 crores transferred directly to the accounts of 19.95 lakh farmers under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi

₹12,750 crores disbursed as immediate relief for damaged crops

Increase in MSP and assured Procurement on MSP will continue...



CORRIGENDUM No.1 Tender Notice No. - E-Tender No. NCR-S&T-EPC-EI-GWL Dated: 14.06.2024

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY Open E-TENDER NOTICE For and on behalf of the President of India...

REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING RCC SLABS E-TENDER NOTICE NO.: 32-ENGR-RNY-2024-25

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY E-Tender notice For and on behalf of the President of India...

TENDER NOTICE J&K Grameen Bank, Head Office, Jammu 180006 Ref. No.: JKGB/IT/2024-25/2380

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY Tender Notice No. 4920242025 Dated: 18.07.2024

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY OPEN TENDER NOTICE Div.Rly. Manager, N.W. Railway, Jaipur

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY Open E-TENDER NOTICE For and on behalf of the President of India...

PUBLIC NOTICE GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA EXCISE & TAXATION DEPARTMENT

NOTICE FOR INVITING e-TENDERS FROM GENERAL PUBLIC FOR ALLOTMENT OF REMAINING RETAIL LIQUOR ZONES IN TWELVE (12) DISTRICTS IN THE STATE OF HARYANA FOR THE EXCISE POLICY YEAR 2024-25.

1. It is notified for the information of general public that e-tenders for allotment of 19 retail liquor zones of country liquor and Indian Made Foreign Liquor vends (L-2/L-14A) in 12 districts in the State of Haryana are hereby invited for the excise policy year 2024-25.

Table with 3 columns: Sr. No., Name of District, Zone Code. Lists districts like Faridabad, Gurugram, Hisar, etc.

2. The schedule for submission of e-bids for these zones and evaluation thereof shall be as under:- Starting date and time for placing e-tenders From 22nd July, 2024 (9.00 AM)

3. The reserve price and quota of these 19 zones for the purpose of e-tendering has been decided as per the provisions of clause 2.16 and other relevant provisions of the Haryana Excise Policy 2024-25.

4. The e-tenders for these zones can be submitted online through the official website of the department i.e. www.haryanatax.gov.in. The remaining terms and conditions of e-tenders and allotment of zones shall be same, as informed vide the Public Notice, published in leading newspapers on 18th May, 2024, for inviting e-tenders for allotment of retail liquor zones of all districts in the State of Haryana.

5. The excise arrangements of these zones containing number of vends, liquor quota, location of vends, command area as applicable and reserve price thereof, as well as the venue for evaluation of e-tenders shall be conspicuously displayed in the office of DETCs (Excise) and DETCs (ST) of the districts concerned. These details shall also be available on the official website i.e. www.haryanatax.gov.in

6. All allotment(s) and grant of licence(s) shall be subject to the provisions of the Haryana Excise Act, 1914, the rules framed thereunder, orders/instructions issued by the competent authority and the Excise Policy for the year 2024-25. Any clarification regarding the procedure may be obtained from the office of DETCs (Excise) in any of the districts. The copy of Haryana Excise Policy for the year 2024-25 is available on official website of the department.

7. All allotments of licenses are subject to the approval of the Excise and Taxation Commissioner (Financial Commissioner). The ETC (FC) may reject, without assigning any reason, any allotment in public interest as the case may be, within 10 days of the date of allotment. In case no decision of Excise and Taxation Commissioner (FC) is conveyed within the stipulated period of ten days, the allotment shall be deemed to have been approved by the ETC(FC).

Excise and Taxation Commissioner Haryana RO NO. 1037/11/233/2025/28039/19/7

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY Tender Notice Chief Project Manager, Gati Shakti, N.C. Railway, Jhansi

Maharashtra Rural Road Development Association Superintending Engineer, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Aurangabad Region, Aurangabad

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY E-Tendering Tender Notice Chief Project Manager, Gati Shakti, N.C. Railway, Jhansi

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NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY Tender Notice No.: 5020242025 Dated: 16.07.2024

RAIL COACH FACTORY, KAPURTHALA Notice for Invitation of Tender (NIT) Dy. CME/Fur acting for and on behalf of The President of India

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RAIL COACH FACTORY, KAPURTHALA Notice for Invitation of Tender (NIT) Dy. CEE/Production

Love jihad, land jihad changed demography of J'khand: Shah

Vishal Kant
letters@hindustantimes.com

RANCHI: Rampant infiltration has led to the shrinking of the tribal population in Jharkhand, Union home minister Amit Shah said on Saturday, as he accused the chief minister Hemant Soren-led government of being involved in "love jihad" and "land jihad" due to its appeasement policy, which he said was leading to a change in demography of the state.

Addressing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers at Prabhat Tara ground in Ranchi during the party's extended executive committee meeting, Shah said if the BJP forms the next government in the state, it will release a "White Paper" on demography to protect tribal lands and rights.

"A tribal chief minister, instead of being concerned about tribals, is involved in 'land jihad' and 'love jihad' in tribal areas, which is causing demographic changes," Shah alleged. "Thousands of infiltrators are marrying tribal women, getting certificates and



Union home minister Amit Shah with former Union minister Arjun Munda and state BJP chief Babulal Marandi during BJP's extended working committee meeting, in Ranchi on Saturday. PTI

buying land, thus changing the demography. The tribal population is shrinking in Jharkhand... You make the BJP government in the state, and we will bring out a 'white paper' on demography to protect tribal people, their lands, reservation, and rights."

"Love jihad" is a term used by right-wing activists to describe relationships between Muslim men and Hindu women, though

the courts and the Union government do not officially recognise the term.

"Infiltrators are usurping jobs meant for local people and Hemant Soren is busy increasing his vote bank. His welfare of tribals means welfare of his family," Shah alleged.

The senior leader also exuded confidence of the BJP forming a government in Jharkhand, where

assembly elections are due later this year, noting that the party won in 52 of 81 assembly segments in the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections.

During his speech, Shah attacked senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, accusing him of displaying arrogance despite the party's defeat in the 2024 national elections.

"Many become arrogant after winning, but this is the first time I'm seeing such arrogance after a defeat... You must have seen Rahul Gandhi's conduct in Parliament," Shah said. "...Everyone knows who won the elections and who formed the government. The entire INDIA bloc could not amass 240 seats. So why this arrogance? We won for the third consecutive term, yet these leaders refuse to accept their defeat."

Shah added the BJP got more seats in the Lok Sabha polls than the Congress' combined numbers in 2014, 2019 and 2024 elections.

He also labelled the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM)-led alliance as one of the most corrupt gov-

ernments in the country, and said it was time to show it the exit door. He also referred to recovery of over ₹300 crore from the premises linked to a former Congress MP in Jharkhand, as well as recovery of about ₹30 crore from the house of the PA of a former state minister to attack the ruling JMM-Congress alliance in Jharkhand for involvement in corruption.

Reacting to the senior BJP leader's comments, JMM spokesperson Manoj Pandey said being the Union home minister, Shah should take responsibility for any infiltration.

"If Bangladeshis are infiltrating the state, he should take responsibility. Instead of making wild allegations, Shah should have spoken about the core issues related to the tribals and OBCs," Pandey said. "They are disconnected with the ground realities. In 2019 Lok Sabha elections, they (the BJP) led in over 60 seats but were reduced to 25 in assembly elections. This time they led on 52, so they would be reduced to single digit."

Cong attacks govt as UPSC chairman quits 'prematurely'

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) chairperson Manoj Soni resigning from the post nearly five years before the completion of his tenure was "disconcerting", Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said on Saturday and questioned if there was any "connection" between the "numerous scandals and the resignation". Targeting the Centre, Kharge also sought to know as to why Soni's resignation was "kept secret" for a month.

People aware of the matter said Soni — whose term as the Commission's chairperson was to end on May 15, 2025 — had put in his papers in the first week of June, but his resignation was yet to be accepted. The UPSC website still lists him as its chairperson. Before becoming the UPSC chairperson last year, Soni was a member of the Commission from June 2017 till May 2023.

"It is disconcerting how the UPSC Chairperson has resigned prematurely, five year[s] before his term ends. Why was his resignation kept secret for a month? Is there any connection between the numerous scandals and the resignation?" Kharge wrote in a post on X, adding the "multiple scandals that have plagued the UPSC is a cause of national concern".

To be sure, Soni's resignation in early June came much before the controversy surrounding Maharashtra-cadre IAS probationary officer Puja Khedkar, who has been accused of using fake disability and Other Backward Class (OBC) certificates to gain an unfair advantage in the UPSC selections, came to light this month.

According to the UPSC, Khedkar allegedly manipulated her identity to appear for the civil services examination multiple times, exceeding the permissible attempts. The Commission has already filed a criminal case with the Delhi police against her for "misrepresenting and falsifying facts" and has also issued a show cause notice regarding the cancellation of her candidature for the 2022 examination and debarment from future examinations.



Manoj Soni

In the last two weeks, several other high-ranking officers have also come under scrutiny for allegedly using fake certificates to avail reservation benefits under various categories, including Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Persons with Disabilities (PwD).

Earlier in the day, news outlets reported that Soni, who has allegedly cited "personal reasons" to quit as the UPSC chair, would be focusing on socio-religious activities and be more involved with a non-profit, Anoopam Mission.

HT contacted the Gujarat office of the organisation, where an official, requesting anonymity, said: "Dr Soni has been a member of the Mission for many years. We do not want to comment on the personal reasons behind his resignation."

Despite repeated phone calls and multiple text messages from HT requesting a comment, Soni did not respond till the time of going to the press.

Kharge also attacked the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its ideological fountainhead Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), accusing them of "systematically indulging in an institutional takeover of India's Constitutional bodies, thereby damaging their reputation, integrity and autonomy".

The UPSC conducts the central civil services exam in the country, appoints officers on promotion, deputation, absorption and also deals with disciplinary cases related to different civil services.

"Numerous cases of unqualified individuals faking caste and medical certificates seemed to have duped a 'foolproof system...," Kharge added.

HT reached out to senior BJP leaders for a comment, but could not get one immediately.



Amitabh Kant

CAN'T COMPROMISE ON COMPETENCE: KANT AMID UPSC SELECTION ROW

Naresh Chander
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant has raised serious concerns about the competency and integrity of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), which conducts the central civil services examination in the country, pointing to allegations of fraud in entry to country's top services.

"Several cases of fraud through UPSC for entry to top Civil Services are being alleged. All such cases must be fully investigated and the sternest action taken," Kant, a former chairman of NITI Aayog, posted on X. "Selection on basis of competence and integrity should never get compromised."

His remarks come amid a massive controversy surrounding Maharashtra-cadre IAS probationary officer Puja Khedkar, who has been accused of using fake disability and Other Backward Class (OBC) certificates to gain an unfair advantage in the UPSC selections. Several other high-ranking officers are also under scrutiny for allegedly using fake certificates to benefit from quota to Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), Persons with Disabilities (PwD), among others.

While backing the quota for scheduled castes/scheduled tribes and OBCs, albeit with the creamy layer regulations, Kant emphasised the need for a review of the existing quota for the differently abled and the proposed quota for the third gender. "I am in favour of SC/ST or OBC reservation. These reservations should continue, with the creamy layer regulations being enforced," Kant said.

"However, the existing reservations for the physically & mentally handicapped and the proposed 1% reservation for the third gender for the top Civil Services need to be reviewed. They are being misused."

Kerala govt confirms Nipah in 14-year-old

Press Trust of India
letters@hindustantimes.com

MALAPPURAM: Kerala health minister Veena George on Saturday confirmed Nipah infection in a 14-year-old boy from Malappuram district.

George, who met the media in Malappuram, said the Pune NIV (National Institute of Virology) had confirmed the infection in the boy who is currently under treatment at a private hospital.

"He will be shifted to the government medical college at Kozhikode. The contact tracing has begun. High-risk contacts have already been isolated and their samples have been sent for testing," George told the media.

The child is under treatment and is on a ventilator, George added.

Minister said the epicentre

HEALTH MINISTER VEENA GEORGE SAYS EPICENTRE OF NIPAH INFECTION THIS YEAR IS PANDIKKAD

was Pandikkad and that precautionary measures have already been initiated.

She asked the people in the locality of the epicentre and the nearby hospitals to wear masks in public spaces and avoid visiting patients in hospitals.

The state government had announced recently that a special action calendar was being prepared for the prevention of a Nipah outbreak, which has haunted the state on four occasions in the past.

16-YEAR-OLD GIRL GANG-RAPED IN GONDA, 1 HELD

GONDA: A 16-year-old Dalit girl was allegedly raped by two men in her village in Gonda district of Uttar Pradesh, police said on Saturday, adding that one of the accused has been arrested.

According to police, the incident took place on Friday night when a woman and her daughter had gone out of their house to relieve themselves.

"Two men, who are residents of the same village, dragged the girl into the field and raped her," additional superintendent of police (East) Manoj Kumar Rawat said.

He added that the survivor's mother called for help but by the time the her family and villagers reached the spot, the accused had fled.

One of the accused, Shadab (28), has been arrested, while a search operation is on for others, he said. PTI

CBI arrests two MBBS students, NIT graduate

Press Trust of India
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday arrested one of the masterminds in the alleged National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET-UG) paper leaks case, and two MBBS students who allegedly solved the medical entrance exam paper in lieu of money, officials familiar with the matter said on Saturday.

So far, the federal agency has arrested 21 people in the six cases related to the alleged irregularities in the NEET-UG 2024.

Officials aware of the matter identified the three arrested as—MBBS students Kumar Mangalam Bishnoi and Deepender Sharma, and Sashikant Paswan

CBI HAS ARRESTED 21 PEOPLE IN THE SIX CASES RELATED TO THE ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES IN THE NEET-UG 2024

alias Sashi alias Pasu, a B.Tech (Electrical) graduate from the National Institute of Technology, Jamshepur.

They said that Bishnoi and Sharma solved the exam papers stolen by Pankaj Kumar, an engineer, from an National Testing Agency trunk in Hazaribagh. "The two 'solvers' were present in Hazaribagh on May 5, the date the NEET-UG examination was conducted across the country."

Hindustan Times
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Army chief in Jammu to review security situation as attacks rise

Ravi Krishnan Khajuria
ravi.khajuria@htlive.com

JAMMU: Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi took stock of the security situation in Jammu as he held a meeting with top officers of paramilitary forces, intelligence agencies, and Jammu & Kashmir Police on Saturday amid a spate of terror attacks in the erstwhile peaceful region, officers aware of the matter said.

The meeting, held at the police headquarters in Jammu, took place two days after the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led crucial Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) discussed the recent surge in terror strikes in Jammu & Kashmir.

"Formation commanders briefed the army chief about the ongoing anti-terror operations across the region and also informed him of the strategies being adopted to eliminate the terrorists," an officer aware of the closed-door meeting's details said.

Northern Army chief Lieutenant General MV Suchindra Kumar, General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the 16 Corps Lieutenant General Navin Sachdev, Intelligence Bureau chief Tapan Kumar Deka, Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) chief Ravi Sinha, Border Security Force (BSF) director general Nitin Agarwal, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) director general Anish Dayal Singh, J&K director general of police (DGP) RR Swain, ADGP law and order Vijay Kumar, and ADGP Jammu Anand Jain were among the officers present at the meeting,



An army convoy arrives at the police headquarters where a meeting was held in Jammu.

those aware of the developments said.

"The army chief was also informed about the steps taken to effectively plug infiltration routes along the 198km International Border and the 744km Line of Control (LoC). Given the spike in terror attacks across Jammu, the army has started deploying around 500 paramilitary commandos and 3,000 troops across vulnerable areas," the officer quoted above added.

The recent terror attacks have sparked concerns that Jammu has emerged as the new hub of violence in the Union territory, where tens of thousands of people have died in extremist attacks since the 1990s. This year, 11 security personnel and 11 civilians have been killed in as

many attacks by terrorists in the region. Five terrorists have been killed either in these encounters or in operations carried out by security forces.

On Monday night, a group of three to five terrorists ambushed a search party on a hilltop in the Desa forests of Doda district, where seven attacks have taken place in little over a month. The security forces chased them into the treacherous terrain and thick foliage, leading to another firefight in the woods. Captain Brijesh Thapa, Naik D Rajesh, Sepoy Bijendra and Sepoy Ajay, from the counter-insurgency unit of 10 Rashtriya Rifles were killed in the encounter. Kashmir Tigers, a proxy outfit of Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), claimed responsibility for the

attack.

The attacks by terrorists, who appeared to be well trained in guerrilla warfare, have prompted the BSF and CRPF to consider changing their deployment in the terror hot spots, a second officer aware of developments said.

"The recent attacks may prompt a change in the deployment of the forces. Additional reinforcement will likely be sent to conduct search and cordon operations in the jungles of some of the hill districts, where the terrorists are hiding by taking advantage of the mountainous terrain," the officer said, requesting anonymity.

This was General Dwivedi's second visit to Jammu since he took over as the army chief on

June 30. On Saturday, he also met J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, who said the security forces will now adopt the "Kashmir model" to combat terrorism across Jammu.

"The people of Jammu have always withstood terror, and I have full faith in the bravery of our jawans. The way the commanders of all the [terror] outfits were wiped out from here (Kashmir), our security forces and army will soon succeed in getting rid of them there (in Jammu region)," he said at an event in Srinagar.

Intelligence officers suspect that Pakistan army regulars trained in warfare tactics might have been a part of the terrorist groups that carried out the recent attacks in Jammu, weeks before the likely conduct of the J&K assembly elections.

Terror activity in areas south of the Pir Panjal mountains, including the Rajouri and Poonch sector, has spiked during the last two years. To deal with this resurgence of terror, the army earlier took a raft of measures, including sending more troops to the Rajouri-Poonch sector, reorienting its units operating there, and strengthening the intelligence network for conducting counterterror operations effectively.

Around 40 to 50 terrorists are believed to have infiltrated via the International Border in Jammu in the past two to three months, officers have said. "These terrorists have split into smaller groups of two to three terrorists. They need to be neutralized before the elections," said former DGP SP Vaid.

Fossil fuel producers to raise new climate fund

Jayashree Nandi
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Azerbaijan, the host of COP29 climate summit, has announced a climate finance action fund (CFAF) to be raised from fossil fuel producing countries and companies in order to support green projects in developing countries as well as to help member nations keep within reach the 1.5C temperature target.

The announcement, however, drew criticism from a section of climate experts for not holding the fossil fuel industry accountable for denying and delaying climate action. COP29 is set to be held in Baku between November 11 and 22 this year.

Azerbaijan will be the founding contributor, COP29 president-designate Mukhtar Babayev said on Friday. Members will commit to transfer annual contributions as a fixed-sum or based on volume of production in their countries or companies, a statement by the COP29 Presidency said.

CFAF will be a catalytic public-private partnership fund, mobilising the private sector and de-risking investment. It will also contain special facilities with concessional and grant-based support to rapidly address the consequences of natural disasters in the developing countries in need.

The fund will become operational at the conclusion of the initial fundraising round, which aims to attract \$1 billion, and when at least 10 contributing countries commit as shareholders.

"We have assessed the shortcomings in financial markets and carefully listened to the concerns of communities. This will be the first fund with both fossil fuel producing countries and companies across oil, gas and coal. It will be the first to both provide investment and to address the consequences of natural disasters. And it will be the first to receive annual transfers from its contributors," COP29 chief negotiator Yalchin Rafiyev said.

"We also have given special attention to accessibility and speed when addressing the consequences of natural disasters and to ensuring that shareholders collectively make decisions."

According to the plan announced by Azerbaijan, a gas-rich country on the Caspian Sea, 50% of the CFAF will be directed towards climate projects in developing countries that rely on support, across mitigation, adaptation, and research and devel-



Mukhtar Babayev, Azerbaijan minister and chief of COP29, delivers a speech.

opment. These will promote the adoption of clean energy technologies, improve energy efficiency, strengthen climate resilience of vulnerable populations, and facilitate the development of cutting-edge technologies.

Another 50% of the contributions will be allocated to helping member nations meet the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to keep the 1.5C temperature target within reach. The CFAF would dedicate 20% of the revenues generated from investments to a Rapid Response Funding Facility (2R2F) for helping the most vulnerable countries respond to climate disasters.

"All developing countries can access this fund," Babayev said on Friday.

The fund will be headquartered with its secretariat in Baku, and its board of directors will include representatives from contributors, and an independent audit committee will publish quarterly data including financial reports and project evaluations. Shareholders will collectively make decisions and a working group is being established with international financial experts to further develop the management model and funding mechanism.

"Azerbaijan has committed to leading by example, it is working to submit a 1.5-aligned NDC, and the COP29 Presidency is encouraging all Parties to come forward with similar plans," the statement by the COP29 Presidency said.

There are already some funds under the United Nations financial mechanism. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has served as an operating entity of the financial mechanism since the Convention's entry into force in 1994.

At COP16, in 2010, parties established the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the next year they designated it as an operating entity of the financial mechanism. Parties have also estab-

lished the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) and the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) — both managed by the GEF — as well as the Adaptation Fund (AF) established under the Kyoto Protocol in 2001.

But the fund announced by Azerbaijan is parallel to the UN platform. At COP28 last year, the UAE announced a US\$30 billion commitment to a newly launched catalytic climate vehicle, ALTERRA by the UAE, that will drive forward international efforts to create a fairer climate finance system.

"These funds are also about messaging of the COP28 Presidency. It remains to be seen if these provide high interest loans or actually help developing countries," an observer, requesting anonymity, said.

The announcement, however, came under criticism from certain climate experts over a range of issues.

"The announcement of a new fund undeniably puts a spotlight on the fossil fuel industry's role in the climate crisis. However, its proposed design dangerously grants a social licence for the ongoing extraction of gas, oil, and coal. This is far from the robust accountability we have long demanded to hold the fossil fuel industry responsible for denying and delaying climate action," Harjeet Singh, Global Engagement Director for the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative, said.

The COP29 Presidency's plan for the climate summit this November lacks the ambition to phase out fossil fuels and falls massively short in supporting a just transition for developing nations, he added.

"True climate justice means holding the fossil fuel industry financially responsible for the destruction it has caused, not facilitating its continued operation under the guise of tiny contributions to climate solutions," Singh said.

Vaibhav Chaturvedi, Fellow, CEEW, said: "While several parallel announcements of climate focused funds are welcome, it should not confuse the developing world into believing that enough finance at reasonable terms is available for supporting mitigation, adaptation, and recovery from loss & damage in their economies. The aim for COP29 should be a strong commitment related to new collective quantified goal (NCQG), and that should be the biggest measure of success of this COP, not country driven or plurilateral announcements of new climate funds."

I-T dept gets 4 weeks to complete valuation of Golden Forest assets

Abraham Thomas
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has directed income tax authorities to complete the valuation of properties belonging to Golden Forests India Limited (GFIL) within four weeks as nearly 1.4 million investors who were duped by the company await refunds.

As the Chandigarh-based company is stated to have acquired about 7,750 acres of land across the country, the top court on Tuesday took up a batch of petitions filed by investors seeking progress on the sale of company assets to get refunds of their investments.

A bench of justices BR Gavai and Sanjay Karol in its order passed on July 16 said, "With regard to valuation of certain properties, as directed by us in the earlier orders, learned senior counsel appearing on behalf of the Union of India states that the same is under process and he will be in a position to inform about the present status of the same on the next date of hearing."

Posting the matter for hearing on August 28, the court appointed senior advocate Sunil Fernandes to assist the matter.

The GFIL which commenced business in 1987 came out with several schemes inviting funds from investors in lieu of which plots of land were purchased. The scheme attracted a large number of investors as it promised high returns of up to 20% for a minimum investment of

THE GFIL CAME OUT WITH SEVERAL SCHEMES INVITING FUNDS FROM INVESTORS IN LIEU OF WHICH PLOTS OF LAND WERE PURCHASED

₹1,000. Within a year, the company mobilised ₹311 crore and its capital base rose to ₹1,037 crore.

In 1997, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) initiated an inquiry against the company and a year later, based on the findings of the inquiry prohibited the company from alienating its properties following serious financial and other irregularities.

Some of the investors informed the court that some properties belonging to the company in Panchkula had been encroached upon for carrying out illegal mining. The bench noted the details of the properties and directed the district magistrate of Panchkula to conduct an inquiry and submit a report within four weeks.

As multiple proceedings by investors arose, the matter was transferred to the Supreme Court, which formed a committee in 2004 to invite claims from investors of GFIL and its group companies. The committee headed by former Delhi high court chief justice RN Agarwal had to also identify properties of the GFIL group to be put on sale for recovery of investments.

Sunita Kejriwal launches Hry campaign



Sunita Kejriwal, wife of Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, issues 'Kejriwal Ki Guarantee' for the people of Haryana in the presence of Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann ahead of the Haryana assembly elections. AAP MPs Sanjay Singh, Sandeep Pathak, Haryana chief Sushil Gupta were also present on the occasion.

BSF officer, jawan die due to heat stress during patrol along border

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

AHMEDABAD: A Border Security Force (BSF) officer and a jawan died due to exposure to "extreme heat" during patrol along the India-Pakistan international border in Gujarat, the force said on Saturday.

The deceased, identified as assistant commandant Vishwa Deo and head constable Dayal Ram, are said to have suffered a heat stroke and dehydration, on Friday, official sources said.

The current temperatures in the Rann of Kutch and Harami Nallah areas along the border is between 34 and 36 degrees Celsius with humidity levels soaring to 80 to 82%.

battalion of the BSF and the patrol team reportedly ran out of water in the Harami Nallah area that is experiencing extremely humid conditions, the sources said.

"Water was supplied from the nearest base to the patrol team. The two BSF personnel were rushed to a health facility in Bhuj but they could not be saved," one of the sources cited above said.

Speaking on the incident, the BSF's Gandhinagar-based Gujarat frontier spokesperson said the two jawans, along with other members of the force were undertaking a "long-range border patrol in remote and inaccessible terrain along international borders to the north of Harami Nallah, known

for its treacherous terrain, when they were caught in extreme weather conditions."

The spokesperson said despite their extensive training and experience, the "severity of the situation" proved overwhelming.

"The two BSF personnel exemplified the highest standards of bravery and dedication. Their commitment in safeguarding the nation's sovereignty, even in the face of extreme danger, will never be forgotten," the BSF said in a statement.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with their families, friends, and colleagues during this incredibly difficult time," the Border Security Force spokesperson said.

I was mocked by CM Nitish Kumar for forming HAM, alleges Manjhi

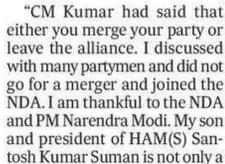
Anirban Guha Roy
letters@hindustantimes.com

PATNA: Union minister Jitan Ram Manjhi on Saturday took a swipe at National Democratic Alliance (NDA) partner and Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar, alleging that Kumar once "mocked" him for forming the Hindustani Awam Morcha-Secular (HAM-S) and expressed doubts over his ability to lead the party.

Manjhi, who joined the Kumar-led Janata Dal (United) in 2005 and later went on to become the first Mahadalit chief minister of Bihar in 2014, had quit the party in 2015 and floated the HAM-S. "In 2015, when I got disassociated from CM Kumar to form my own outfit, Kumar had mockingly told some people how I would be able to run a party without money. Well, I can say now, my party is running at full speed. I do not know with what feeling CM



Jitan Manjhi



Nitish Kumar

Kumar had expressed such doubts but I want to thank him," Manjhi said, taking a dig at the JD(U) chief, who is a senior ally in the NDA government.

HAM(S), with Manjhi being the sole MP of the party, is also a constituent of the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre. Manjhi, who briefly realigned with Kumar in 2020, securing a ministerial berth for his son Santosh Suman, also recalled his fallout with the JD(U) chief last year, when the Bihar CM was busy bringing together anti-BJP parties which culminated in the formation of the INDIA bloc.

"CM Kumar had said that either you merge your party or leave the alliance. I discussed with many partymen and did not go for a merger and joined the NDA. I am thankful to the NDA and PM Narendra Modi. My son and president of HAM(S) Santosh Kumar Suman is not only a MLC for six years but also now a minister of three departments," said the 79-year-old Gaya MP.

Santosh Suman is minister of Information Technology, disaster management and minor irrigation in the state government. Responding to Manjhi's remark, JD(U) MLC Khalid Anwar said the HAM(S) founder should understand that it was Nitish Kumar who had made him the chief minister. "It is Nitish Kumar who had made Manjhi the chief minister. It's for that Manjhi is what he is now. Kumar has never harboured any ill feeling for Manjhi despite having differences," Anwar said.

NCERT releases textbook 'rooted in Indian context'

Fareeha Iftikhar
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) on Friday released a new social science textbook for class sixth with chapters rooted in Indian context that contends the naming of the country by ancient inhabitants was "Bharat" and that it was later called India by foreigners; and included sections on Vedic school of thought and stories from Upanishads, among others.

The online version textbook titled 'exploring society: India and beyond' has been released by the NCERT on its official website. This year, the Council announced that it will release revamped textbooks under National Education Policy (2020) and the new National Curriculum Framework (NCF), which emphasise the curriculum to be "rooted in the Indian and local context and ethos", only for classes third and sixth. While the

majority of the books have been released online, some are yet to hit the market in physical form.

The fifth chapter of the new book titled "India, that is Bharat", explains how the country had many names in the course of its history, and the names given by its ancient inhabitants include 'Jambudvipa' and 'Bhārata'.

"However, the latter became widespread in time and is the name of India in most Indian languages," it states.

Highlighting that 'Bharata' is a name that first appears in the Rig Veda, where it refers to one of the main Vedic groups of people. "In later literature, several kings named 'Bharata' are mentioned... A few centuries later, 'Bhārata' became the name generally used for the Indian subcontinent. For instance, in an ancient text called the Vishnu Purana, we read: 'The country that lies north of the ocean and south of the snowy mountains is called Bhārata,'" it states.



The new book has sections on Vedic school of thought.

Emphasising that the name "Bharata" is even in use today, the book mentions that in north India, it is generally written as 'Bharat', while in south India, it is often 'Bharatam'.

It further says that foreign visitors to, or invaders of, India mostly adopted names derived from the Sindhu or Indus River; this resulted in names like 'Hindu', 'Indoi', and eventually 'India'. Besides, the book mentions that the term 'Hindustan' was first used in a Persian

inscription some 1,800 years ago, and was used by most invaders of India to describe the Indian Subcontinent.

"The first foreigners to mention India were the Persians, the ancient inhabitants of Iran. In the 6th century BCE, a Persian emperor launched a military campaign and gained control of the region of the Indus River, which, as we saw, was earlier called 'Sindhu'. So, it is no surprise that in their earliest records and stone inscriptions, the Persians referred to India as 'Hind', 'Hidu' or 'Hindu', which are adaptations in their language of 'Sindhu'."

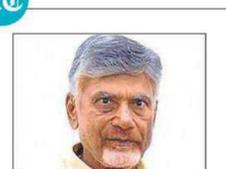
"Based on these Persian sources, the ancient Greeks named the region 'Indoi' or 'Indike'. They dropped the initial letter 'h' of 'Hindu' because this letter did not exist in their Greek language," the textbook states. However, it also mentions that the Indian Constitution, which was first written in English, uses the phrase 'India,

NSG COMMANDOS CONDUCT DRILLS NEAR RAM TEMPLE

LUCKNOW: A National Security Guard (NSG) team is carrying out mapping, surveying and drills at the newly built Ram Temple, Hanuman Garhi and Kanak Bhawan in Ayodhya to prepare for any possible security threat to the high-risk installations, senior police officers aware of the matter said on Saturday.

Inspector general of police (Ayodhya) Praveen Kumar said that NSG team has been camping in Ayodhya since July 17, and carried out a mock drill near Hanuman Garhi and Kanak Bhawan on Friday night, while a similar drill was carried out on the Ram Temple premises on Thursday.

The development comes a month after the Centre announced that the NSG will soon create its units in Ayodhya, Pathankot and Kerala.



Naidu tasks MPs with bringing funds for Andhra projects

HYDERABAD: Andhra Pradesh chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday asked his party MPs to follow up the issues of state with the Centre and secure maximum funds for various projects. Naidu convened a TDP meeting at his residence in Amaravati, where he said, "The MPs should follow up with the central ministries and secure funds for various projects in the state."

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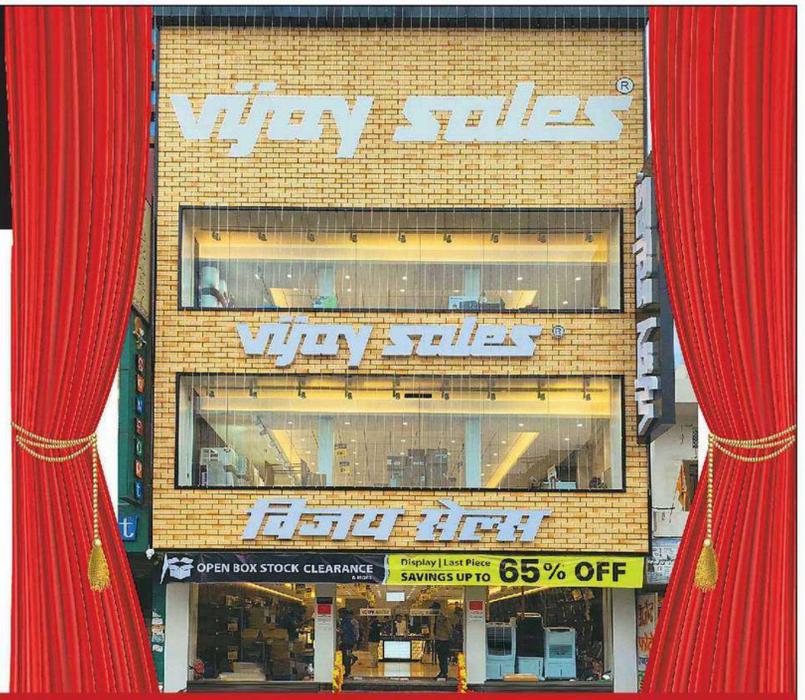
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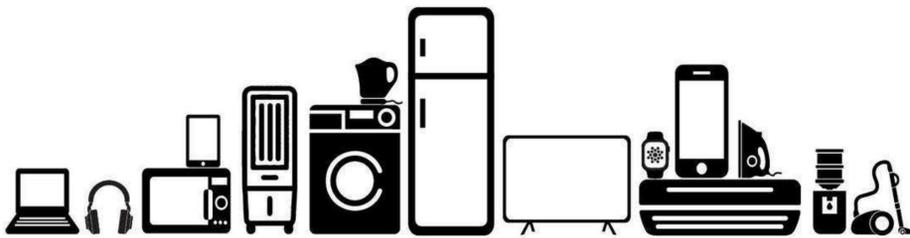
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E-Procurement Tender Notice No. 09/2024 Dated 19.07.2024

Tender Notice

On behalf of President of India, Sr. Divisional Materials Manager, North Central Railway, Prayagraj invites the E-procurement tenders.

Tender No.	Description	Qty.	EMD	Tender Opening Date
19246103	Safety Shoes	13248 Pairs	₹ 1.33,540/-	16.08.2024

Note: 1. The complete information of above E-Procurement Tender is available on IREPS website i.e. <https://www.ireps.gov.in>. 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above Tender, for this purpose, Vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with class III Digital signature certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 3. Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall only be considered. Rates and any other financial entry in any other form/letter head if attached by vendor shall be straight away ignored and shall not be considered. 4. Documents being attached should be signed on their body. The above tender notice has been uploaded on <https://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in>. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the IREPS website may be approached. 1262/24 FA

Delhi State Health Mission
6th Floor, 'B' wing, Vikas Bhawan-II, Civil Lines, Delhi, Ph: 011-23812902/03

F1-13/2023-Estt.(E-File No. 5555)

Cancellation of Walk in Interviews

The advertisements published on 07.03.24 (DIP/SHABDARTH/CLASSIFIED/0365/23-24) & 16.03.24 (DIP/SHABDARTH/CLASSIFIED/0395/23-24) respectively regarding Walk-in Interviews for various posts for Delhi State Health Mission & National Mental Health Program under National Health Mission stands cancelled.

Sd/-
Mission Director
DSHM

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0129/24-25

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संख्या : 65/02/डी०आर०/प्रावि०/सेवा-3/2021-22
दिनांक : 19 जुलाई, 2024

विज्ञापित

एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग उत्तराखण्ड तकनीकी शिक्षा विभाग के अन्तर्गत प्रवक्ता, राजकीय पॉलीटेक्निक संस्थानों के विषयवार रिक्त 525 पदों एवं लोक निर्माण विभाग के अन्तर्गत सहायक शोध अधिकारी के रिक्त 01 पद पर सीधी नती के माध्यम से चयन हेतु विज्ञापन दिनांक 23 जुलाई, 2024 को आयोग की वेबसाइट-psc.uk.gov.in पर प्रकाशित किया जाएगा। ऑनलाइन आवेदन के क्रम में प्रमुख तिथियां निम्नवत् हैं:-
विज्ञापन प्रकाशन की तिथि : 23 जुलाई, 2024
ऑनलाइन आवेदन पत्र भरने की अन्तिम तिथि : 12 अगस्त, 2024 (रात्रि 11:59:59 बजे तक)
आवेदन शुल्क-Net Banking/Debit Card/Credit Card/UPI द्वारा जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि : 11:59:59 बजे तक
ऑनलाइन आवेदन पत्र में संशोधन/परिवर्तन : 18 अगस्त, 2024 से करने की तिथि : 27 अगस्त, 2024 (रात्रि 11:59:59 बजे तक)
प्रश्नगत पदों हेतु इच्छुक/पात्र अर्हताओं ऑनलाइन आवेदन करने से पूर्व आयोग की वेबसाइट-psc.uk.gov.in पर प्रकाशित विस्तृत विज्ञापन में वर्णित समस्त शर्तों/निर्देशों का माली-माति अवलोकन कर लें। ऑनलाइन आवेदन करते समय उत्सन्न समस्याओं के समाधान हेतु अर्हताओं ukschepline@gmail.com पर ईमेल कर सकते हैं।

Nivida No.06 of 2024-25
CORRIGENDUM NO.2

Following rectification is made in Tender Notice No.06 of 2024-25 of Executive Engineer, Ver-II Project Division, Vyara PINCODE NO.394650, Phone No.2626-222090, Dist. Tapi.

Event	New Date	
1	2	3
Last date of online Tender upload	09/08/2024	Up to 18.00 Hrs.
Physical Document Submission of date.	Up to Dt. 22/08/2024	at 18.00 Hrs.
Pre-bid Conference	Dt.29/07/2024	at 12.00 Hrs. Office of Committee Room, Block No.9 Fourth Floor, New Sachivalay, Gandhinagar. For Online Pre-bid Meeting link Plz. Contact Division Office.
P.Q. Bid Opening Date & Time	Dt.12/08/2024	at 12.00 Hrs. in Office of the Superintending Engineer, Ukai Circle (Civil), Ukai

other conditions remain unchanged.
No.:Mahiti-Surat/329/2024

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अल्पकालिक पुनः निविदा सूचना :-

एतद्वारा विधीय वर्ष 2023-24 के Financial Statement को तैयार करने एवं 2024-25 हेतु साहारनपुर स्मार्ट सिटी लिमिटेड साहारनपुर में फूल टार्वर वाटर्डेड एकाउन्टेड फर्म/ सी.एम.ए.फर्म/ अन्य के चयन हेतु डबल बिड सिस्टम (तकनीकी एवं वित्तीय) के आधार पर दिनांक 20.07.2024 अपराह्न 03.00 बजे तक निविदा पुनः आमन्त्रित की जाती है। इच्छुक फर्म E-Tender Portal से विस्तृत निविदा प्रश्न एवं शर्तें अंकन रूपमें 1,180/- (जी एच सी सहित) स्मार्ट सिटी लिमिटेड के नाम से ऑनलाइन जमा कर प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। तथा अपने निविदा E-Tender Portal पर दिनांक 29.07.2024 को अपराह्न 03.00 बजे तक डबल बिड के आधार पर समस्त प्रश्नों सहित स्वयं प्रमाणित कर डाल सकते हैं। निविदाओं की समिति के सदस्यों द्वारा दिनांक 29.07.2024 को अपराह्न 04.00 बजे खोला जायेगा। विस्तृत शर्तें विवरण एवं निविदा प्रश्न वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है।

E-Bid Reference	दिनांक	अपराह्न	बजे
Publish Date and Time for RFP	दिनांक 20.07.2024	अपराह्न 03.00	बजे
Last Date and Time for submission of E-Bids	दिनांक 29.07.2024	अपराह्न 03.00	बजे
Date and Time of Technical opening Bids	दिनांक 29.07.2024	अपराह्न 04.00	बजे
Place of opening of E-Bids	Saharanpur Smart City Limited, Saharanpur		
Tender Fees	Rs- 1,180/- (Rupees One thousand one hundred eighty only)		

अधिसूचना अमियन्ता
साहारनपुर स्मार्ट सिटी लिमिटेड

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पत्रांक : 21/64/उ.कु.प्रसा./रा०आ०/प्रधानाचार्य (श्रेणी-02) परीक्षा-2023/गोपन-3/2024-25 दिनांक : 19 जुलाई, 2024

विज्ञापित

एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है दिनांक 27 जून, 2024 को आयोजित कौशल विकास एवं सेवायोजन विभाग के अन्तर्गत राजकीय औद्योगिक प्रशिक्षण संस्थानों में प्रधानाचार्य (श्रेणी-2) परीक्षा-2023 के स्कीमिंग परीक्षा के प्रश्नपत्र- सामान्य अध्ययन की लिखित परीक्षा (वस्तुनिष्ठ प्रकार) की चारों सीरीज (A, B, C & D) की उत्तरकुंजी को उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग की वेबसाइट www.psc.uk.gov.in पर अर्हताओं के सूचनाओं प्रकाशित कर दिया गया है। यदि किसी अर्हताओं को चारों सीरीज के किसी प्रश्न एवं उत्तर विकल्प पर कोई आपत्ति है तो वह आयोग की वेबसाइट पर Online Answer Key Objection हेतु दिये गये लिंक पर जाकर अपनी आपत्तियों को आयोग द्वारा जारी दिशा निर्देशों के अनुसार दिनांक : 20 जुलाई, 2024 से 26 जुलाई, 2024 (समय रात्रि के 23:59:59 बजे तक) तक दर्ज करा सकते हैं। अर्हताओं द्वारा प्रति-प्रश्न आपत्ति के सापेक्ष निर्धारित शुल्क ₹ 50.00 का भुगतान करना होगा। आयोग की वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध लिंक Online Answer Key Objection के अतिरिक्त ई-मेल, डाक अथवा अन्य किसी माध्यम से प्रेषित आपत्तियों पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। उक्त के अतिरिक्त अर्हताओं द्वारा अन्तिम तिथि के उपरान्त प्रेषित आपत्तियां तथा प्रति-प्रश्न आपत्ति के सापेक्ष निर्धारित शुल्क ₹ 50.00 का भुगतान नहीं किये जाने की दशा में प्रस्तुत आपत्तियों पर कोई विचार नहीं किया जाएगा। उत्तर कुंजी के सापेक्ष आपत्ति दर्ज किये जाने से पूर्व आयोग की वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध दिशा-निर्देश सामन्धी विस्तृत विज्ञापित पत्रांक : 20/64/उ.कु.प्रसा./रा०आ०/प्रधानाचार्य (श्रेणी-02) परीक्षा-2023/गोपन-3/2024-25 दिनांक : 19 जुलाई, 2024 का अध्ययन अवश्य कर लें। (गिरिशारी सिंह रावत) सचिव।

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BINA RAJAL INDOUR 1984

Temple of modern India thrown open
HT reporter on the day the Bhabra-Nagpal canal heralded a new irrigation era for India

02

www.hindustantimes.com

SPECIAL SOPS acknowledged the need for compensating Andhra Pradesh which lost most of the revenue resources to Telangana after bifurcation of the state in February 2014. While former PM Manmohan Singh promised in the Rajya Sabha on 20.2.2014 SCS status to Andhra Pradesh, the Narendra Modi government also subsequently expressed its commitment to providing special assistance to the state," the person said.

During its interaction with the state of Andhra Pradesh in Amravati on October 11, 2018, the 15th FC said the issue of SCS was "forcefully" raised by the CM of the state but the issue would be a transgression of the presidential notification as it does not figure in its Terms of Reference (ToR).

"Philosophy of Special Category Status never emanated from any Finance Commission but from the resolution of erstwhile National Development Council (NDC)," commission chairman NK Singh said that day. Speaking on this matter with HT on Saturday, he said, "The position remains the same." NDC was an apex body for deliberations on development matters. It was presided over by the Prime Minister and comprised Union ministers and CMs.

"The government is fulfilling, and will fulfil, all commitments that were made by former PM [Manmohan Singh] in February 2014 under the Andhra Pradesh Re-organisation Act. The Centre may do more than what was committed, not only for AP and Bihar but also for other states, something required if we want to make India the third largest economy of the world in five years," the third person said. Similar requests have also come from Bihar, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh and the government is willing to help them so that they can become India's engine of growth," he added.

Indicating that the Union government is favourably inclined towards AP and Bihar (allies of Modi 3.0) demanding a special package, people in the BJP said the party leadership is keen to maintain equilibrium in the alliance and smooth ties with the allies. The BJP-led NDA government's stability rests on support from the allies, the TDP and the JDU, that together have 28 lawmakers in the Lok Sabha.

The TDP had parted ways with the BJP in 2017, alleging that the party in power had reneged on its promise of granting special category status to AP following the bifurcation.

"Amravati is a prestige project and CM Naidu has put it on record that he expects the Centre to be expeditious with grants. The BJP too is aware of the implications of the demand and the sentiment on the ground...and given the political sensitivity there will definitely be an effort on the part of the central government to address the aspirations of the alliance partner and the demands of the people," said a BJP functionary not wishing to be named.

Referring to Bihar's demand, the functionary quoted above said, the BJP leadership is committed to improving "the quality of life" in the state and helping build "world-class infrastructure". In the state that goes to the polls next year, the alliance partner, the Janata Dal United or the JDU has also been vocal about the demand for a special package.

"The JDU is keen on infrastructure development. Every year there is loss of life and property on account of seasonal floods. This problem originates across the border with floodwaters from Nepal entering Bihar and can be solved by building barrages and carrying out work for interlinking of rivers... we are also hopeful of getting monies for metro and airport projects," said a JDU functionary not wishing to be named.

The functionary said senior leaders of the party have conveyed their wishlist to the Union government and are hopeful that the funds required for the projects will be released well before the state polls scheduled for 2025. A NITI Aayog report on the SDG India Index 2023-24 released last week placed Bihar at the bottom of the index despite improvements on some parameters. The party's working president and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Jha said the JDU has conveyed that to help Bihar take a leap to the next level, the state will need a special assistance package.

(Bihar CM) Nitish Kumar has for long campaigned for special category status for Bihar. As a party we have led this campaign. In the past few years Bihar has done reasonably well and that can be gauged from the GDP and other indices, but for the state to be able to leap to the next level we will need a special package for industry, investment and employment avenues. Given the BJP and PM Modi's special attention to east India, we are hopeful of our demands being met," Jha said.

NEET MARKS either close to or worse than their city's average.

To be sure, attempts to conclude or rule out a paper-leak benefiting a large number of candidates will be hard to detect statistically if such candidates are distributed thinly across centres.

The exam has been the subject of intense debate, with doubts cast over the fairness and integrity of a process that serves as the gateway to medical education in India. The concerns came into view after allegations of question paper leaks and inflated marking — issues that have become a nationwide flashpoint for political parties, leading to thousands of students protesting for weeks.

This year's examination was conducted at 4,750 centres in 571 cities, including 14 abroad. The results, declared on June 4, first sparked controversy when 67 candidates achieved perfect scores of 720, with some of them belonging to the same examination centre. A retest of these candidates and the roll-back of a grace-mark decision since has changed their results.

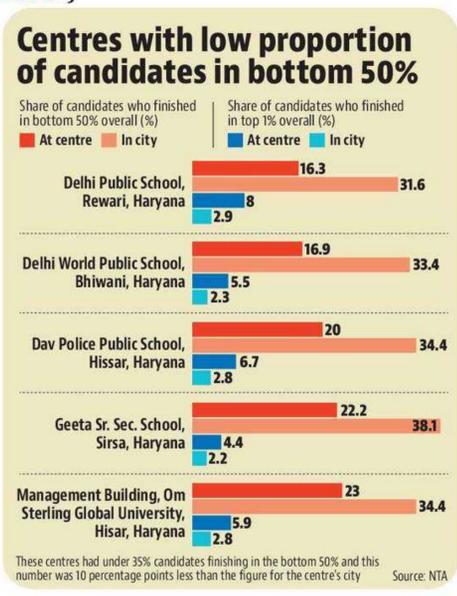
Officials at the NTA did not respond to requests for comment on the data release and its implications.

The lack of a conclusive proof of mass-cheating can be seen by comparing the success rate of a centre (measured here as the proportion of candidates at the centre who finished in the top 1%) with that of the city.

By that yardstick, some centres indeed have a high proportion of students who ranked in the top percentiles. For instance, 8%-10% of candidates at Tagore P.G. College in Rajasthan's Sikar, Junior Baselios English Medium School in Kerala's Kottayam, and Danta Mahavidyalaya in Sikar finished in the top 1% of all NEET candidates, the highest at any centre within India.

However, these success rates were only 2.3-5.7 percentage points higher than those of Sikar and Kottayam overall, both known coaching hubs. No other centre's performance departed by more than 5.7 percentage points from their city's performance.

The data also revealed an intriguing anomaly in 17 cen-



tres across Haryana, Gujarat, and West Bengal. These centres had an unusually low proportion of candidates finishing in the bottom 50% — less than 35% and at least ten percentage points below their city's average. However, their proportion of top 1% performers remained close to their city's average, complicating attempts to draw definitive conclusions about potential malpractices.

Keshav Agarwal, a member of the Coaching Federation of India, expressed concern over the concentration of high scorers in certain areas. "The result has shown shocking data and the concentration of high scorers has come from Sikar, Gujarat and Haryana and majority of the places are small towns and surprisingly Kota is missing," he said.

"From Gujarat itself we have 3,400 students above 600, from Sikar 4,300 and Haryana around 1,200, which is 11 percent of the students who have scored 600 plus all over India." Agarwal added. "The result definitely is skewed and this is just one year and if 2023 data is released then definitely there will be a lot of abnormalities

and if comparison with board exam scores then many more aberrations will be seen and matter is much beyond paper leak and difficult to segregate beneficiaries."

The data also showed that centres previously flagged for irregularities did not display unusual performance patterns. For example, at Oasis School in Jharkhand's Hazaribagh, where the principal was arrested in connection with the NEET exam, only 0.71% of candidates finished in the top 1%, similar to Hazaribagh's overall rate of 0.66%.

Similarly, at Master Adityendra Government Senior Secondary School in Rajasthan's Bharatpur, where a case of impersonation was reported, 0.71% of candidates finished in the top 1%, below Bharatpur's overall rate of 1.4%.

The Supreme Court's scrutiny of the NEET-UG's validity is currently limited to two separate instances of paper leaks in Patna and Hazaribagh. The court emphasised that its decision on potentially scrapping the exam and ordering a retest will depend on whether the breaches were localised or systemic.

MICROSOFT OUTAGE remained on air travel. After carriers cancelled thousands of flights on Friday, many had planes and crews in the wrong place, while airports in some western cities continued facing problems with checking in and security, news agency Reuters reported.

In India, Union minister for Civil Aviation, K Ram Mohan Naidu, said on Saturday morning that airline systems had started working normally and all issues were likely to be resolved by noon.

News agency Reuters cited security experts as saying that CrowdStrike's routine update of its widely used cybersecurity software Falcon apparently did not undergo adequate quality checks before it was deployed.

The update was meant to make CrowdStrike clients' systems more secure against hacking by updating the threats it defends against. But faulty code in the update files resulted what may be the most disruptive tech outages till now.

"What it looks like is, potentially, the vetting or the sand-boxing they do when they look at code, maybe somehow this file was not included in that or slipped through," said Steve Cobb, chief security officer at Security Scorecard, which also had some systems impacted by the issue.

Problems came to light quickly after the update was rolled out on Friday, and users posted pictures on social media of computers with blue screens displaying error messages. These are known in the industry as "blue screens of death."

Patrick Wardle, a security researcher who specialises in studying threats against operating systems, said his analysis identified the code responsible for the outage.

The update's problem was "in a file that contains either configuration information or signatures," he said. Such signatures are code that detects specific types of malicious code or malware.

"It's very common that security products update their signatures, like once a day... because they're continually monitoring for new malware and because they want to make sure that their customers are protected from the latest threats," he said.

The frequency of updates "is probably the reason why (CrowdStrike) didn't test it as much," he said.

It's unclear how that faulty code got into the update and why it wasn't detected before being released to customers.

"Ideally, this would have been rolled out to a limited pool first," said John Hammond, principal security researcher at Huntress Labs. "That is a safer

approach to avoid a big mess like this."

Other security companies have had similar episodes in the past. McAfee's buggy antivirus update in 2010 stalled hundreds of thousands of computers.

But the global impact of this outage reflects CrowdStrike's dominance. Over half of Fortune 500 companies and many government bodies such as the top U.S. cybersecurity agency itself, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, use the company's software.

B'DESH PROTESTS
AFP. The curfew will remain in effect until at least 10:00am on Sunday, private broadcaster Channel 24 reported.

The protesters are demanding an end to a quota system that reserves up to 30% of government jobs for relatives of veterans who fought in Bangladesh's war of Independence in 1971 against Pakistan. They argue the system is discriminatory and benefits supporters of Hasina, whose Awami League party led the Independence movement, and they want it replaced with a merit-based system. The agitation, which began weeks ago, represents the biggest challenge to Hasina since she won a fourth consecutive term in office after elections in January that were boycotted by the main opposition groups.

Streets in the capital Dhaka were almost deserted at daybreak, with troops on foot and in armoured personnel carriers patrolling the sprawling megacity of 20 million. But thousands returned to the streets later in the day in the residential neighbourhood of Rampura, with police firing at the crowd and wounding at least one person.

"Our backs are to the wall," protester Nazrul Islam, 52, said. "There's anarchy going on in the country... They are shooting at people like birds."

Hospitals have reported a growing number of gunshot deaths to AFP since Thursday. "Hundreds of thousands of people" had battled police across the capital on Friday, police spokesman Faruk Hossain said.

"At least 150 police officers were admitted to hospital. Another 150 were given first aid treatment," he said, adding that two officers had been beaten to death.

Nearly 1,000 Indian students have returned home from Bangladesh through various land transit points or by flight, the ministry of external Affairs (MEA) said on Saturday, with external affairs minister (EAM) S Jaishankar adding that the government was focused on ensuring the safety

and well-being of Indian nationals in the neighbouring country.

"Appreciate the concern of families and well wishers of Indian nationals in Bangladesh. MEA is fully focused on ensuring their safety and well being," he posted on X.

Indian missions in Bangladesh are in regular touch with authorities concerned to ensure safety and security of Indian nationals and students, the MEA said.

"Thus far, 778 Indian students have returned to India through various land ports. In addition, around 200 students have returned home by regular flight services through Dhaka and Chittagong airports," it said.

Bangladesh authorities imposed a nationwide internet shutdown on Thursday that remains in effect, severely hampering communication in and out of the country. Government websites remained offline and major newspapers including the Dhaka Tribune and Daily Star have been unable to update their social media platforms since Thursday. Bangladesh Television, the state broadcaster, also remained offline after its Dhaka headquarters was set on fire by protesters.

The Awami League and the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) have often accused each other of fuelling political chaos and violence, most recently ahead of the country's national election, which was marred by a crackdown on several opposition figures. Hasina's government had accused the opposition party of attempting to disrupt the vote.

In 2018, the government halted the job quotas following mass student protests. But in June, Bangladesh's high court nullified that decision and reinstated the quotas after relatives of 1971 veterans filed petitions. The Supreme Court suspended the ruling, pending an appeal hearing, and said in a statement it will take the issue up Sunday. Hasina has called on protesters to wait for the court's verdict.

HT TWTW
THE WEEK THAT WAS

ANSWERS

1. Paris
2. Babies
3. Usha
4. Camlin
5. His gender
6. Emmys
7. Divorce
8. Manish Malhotra
9. Spain
10. A temple



REFLECTIONS

THE BIG PICTURE

The morality of reading, or not reading, Alice Munro

A specific social process of modernity liberates scientific knowledge from the constraints of morality. But art does not have this easy way out

Stories are essential for our existence. We read stories because they matter to us in our everyday lives. They influence us, give us joy, evoke sadness, and exemplify courage. Among all other forms of art, it is stories that make us realise that we are part of the world of others; they are also a way of bringing others into our lives. I begin with these thoughts as a response to the controversy surrounding Alice Munro, the celebrated Canadian Nobel Prize winner in literature. Her daughter, Andrea Skinner, wrote an essay in the *Toronto Star* a few weeks ago, about the fact that she was sexually abused as a child by her stepfather. This abuse was known to her mother who aligned with the man against her daughter. The revelation about the abuse was not a secret, as Skinner had filed a police complaint in 2004, following which her stepfather was given a suspended sentence. Munro was awarded the Nobel in 2013. Apparently, this episode did not affect the decision of the Nobel committee.

Skinner's article has led to a churning in the academic as well as the literary world. Should Munro be taught in class? Should we read her books now? Do her stories represent the attitude that made her behave in this reprehensible manner with regard to

her daughter? Should we show our solidarity with feminists and survivors of sexual abuse by censoring her work in our classes, or expunge it completely as a form of post-humous censure?

A line from Skinner's essay is illustrative. She writes that after she told her mother of the abuse, her mother was not supportive of her. Munro had written a story with a similar plot line of a girl being abused by an adult. Skinner points out that "in spite of her sympathy for a fictional character, my mother had no similar feelings for me."

This comment captures an important facet of writing fiction. Good writers produce characters who go beyond the frailties of their own lives. Stories are a form of reflection, both for the writer and the reader. Storytelling is not merely a reproduction of one's own life, although that life can often be the foundation for the narrative.

The controversy now is more than a judgement of her personal life and is about the artistic merit of her work. Despite the successes of the characters in her stories to alert and move readers about certain issues, should she be deemed unworthy of reading and teaching because of her personal failure as a mother/woman/human?

One of my friends refuses to buy anything from a well-known chain because he believes that they follow unethical business practices. It is as if the objects for sale in that shop are tainted by the immorality of the company which owns that shop.

There were some prominent musicians who were accused in the #MeToo movement in music. Many listeners boycotted these musicians as they felt that their

music itself was stained by their actions in their personal lives.

On the contrary, famous scientists who have produced great work have not had their work boycotted or rejected because of their immoral personal behaviour. Arguably, the greatest immorality in scientific work was in producing the theory and technology of nuclear bombs. Yet, all those scientists are not only revered but their work has been valorised and developed even today.

Similarly, many famous figures in philosophy have not had their work cancelled or even questioned even though their personal life was built on practices of misogyny, racism and casteism. Philosophy departments around the world teach these thinkers as if their views can be effortlessly decoupled from their regressive and dangerous beliefs and practices.

These examples illustrate a split in the responses to the relation between what is produced and the moral quality of the producer. Modern academic disciplines are built on the assumption that knowledge that is produced should be differentiated from the moral qualities of the individual. This belief was not always held and is part of a specific social process of modernity to liberate scientific knowledge from the constraints of morality.

But art does not have this easy way out. Art has always had a close relation to the world of feeling rather than that of reason. Art moves us in ways that science and philosophy texts don't. We share a greater familiarity with music and other arts, than with academic disciplines. Because of this



Good writers produce characters who go beyond the frailties of their own lives, even though stories are a form of reflection

aspect, art, particularly stories, are much closer to us and impact us much more than other knowledge productions.

Art has had its share of immoral artists to the extent that the term "monstrous" has now become common in referring to them. There is a long list of famous writers, filmmakers and other artists whose moral lives are "monstrous".

The problem with these "monstrous" artists is that they produce what is seen as great work but once we hear of their infamous life practices, our reaction, reception and judgment of their artwork gets distorted.

But the conflict rages on between those who think that artworks are independent

of the moral qualities of the artist and should be seen as such. When they say this, they are basically converting artworks into pieces of objective knowledge, as in the academic disciplines.

Can art really be seen in this manner? After all, an artwork gets its value through a social process. One becomes a famous writer due to a variety of social factors, the most important of which is the support of a group of people who promote a person's work. But this aspect is hidden when the value of an artwork is reduced to some independent aesthetic qualities present in the artwork.

But these aesthetic qualities that presumably define great art are as much a

product of a community of critics, friends, magazines, socialites and others. An artist who depends on the social world for her legitimacy cannot, when inconvenient, say that they cannot be held accountable to society.

Art has the capacity to show us a world through its own filters. I will read Alice Munro now, not for her stories but to see what those stories can tell me about the terrible human capacity to hurt others around them.

Sundar Sarukkai is the founder of Barefoot Philosophers and author of the novel, *Following a Prayer*. The views expressed are personal

SUNDAY SENTIMENTS

Karan Thapar



Why we say clip-clop, and never clop-clip

I can't compare myself to Henry Higgins, but the delightful rules of the English language never cease to fascinate me. For instance, the letters of the alphabet that are never pronounced, the turns of phrases you cannot fathom, and, of course, cockney rhyming slang that no one other than them can understand. However, let me today introduce you to something that's truly amazing. In fact, you could even call it peculiarly British. The rule of ablaut re-duplication. In a recent email, my dear friend Mala Gupta reminded me of it and examples of how it works should cheer up the grimmest and hottest Sunday.

Have you ever wondered why we say tick-tock and not tock-tick, or ding-dong not dong-ding or, even, King-Kong and not

Kong-King? As Mala's message explains, "it turns out it's one of the unwritten rules of English that native speakers know without knowing".

A BBC article explains further. "If there are three words then the order has to go I, A, O. If there are two words then the first is I and the second is either A or O." This explains why we automatically and very comfortably say mish-mash, chit-chat, dilly-dally, shilly-shally, tip-top, hip-hop, flip-flop, tic-tac, sing-sing and ping-pong. Try it the other way around and your tongue will probably get stuck to your palate: dally-dilly, song-sing, chat-chit, mash-mish. Frankly, it's too troublesome to carry on!

There's another aspect of the rule of ablaut re-duplication. It determines the order in which you should use multiple

adjectives. For example, it's Little Red Riding Hood, not Red Little Riding Hood or little green men and not green little men. Here's the rule: "Adjectives in English absolutely have to be in this order: opinion-size-age-shape-colour-origin-material-purpose-noun. So you can have a lovely little old rectangular green French silver whittling knife. (Re-read that sentence and you'll see the order of the adjectives is exactly as this quirky professional rule requires). But if you mess with that word order even in the slightest, you will sound like a maniac. (And here's proof. This version sounds horribly wrong: old rectangular silver lovely little French green whittling knife)."

If you have doubts about this order of using adjectives, try using adjectives in a different order. It will confound your listeners and readers. For example, this makes sense: "I've just bought a beautiful, large, old, rectangular, black, Rajasthani, cotton dupatta. This does not: I've just bought a black, old, beautiful, rectangular, Rajasthani, cotton, large dupatta."

Actually, it's a lot kinder to your audience or readership if you use fewer adjectives or break it into two or three sentences. But the rule is there for those who insist on saying it all in one. But I'd advise against it!

Now, there could be occasions when

you will spot that the rule hasn't been obeyed and it still makes sense. For instance, we say 'Big bad wolf' not bad big wolf as the rule would require (opinion before size). But if you recall the other part of the rule of ablaut re-duplication, you'll at once see why this is okay. I'm referring to what you could call the I-A-O order. As Mala's message explains: "That rule seems inviolable".

The BBC puts it most pithily: "All four of a horse's feet make exactly the same sound. But we always, always say clip-clop, never clop-clip".

Now tell me, honestly, did you know of this rule? Indeed, could you have even imagined it existed? And, yet, once you've found out about it, doesn't it make perfect sense? This is why I find the English language fascinating. Perhaps this is also why it's the world's preferred lingua franca, yet so many of us never get it quite right. By the way, nor do the Brits.

Finally, the rule of ablaut re-duplication does not apply to Punjabi who rhyme their words for extra emphasis. For them, *Khana-shana, drink-shink and paisa-waisa* will always be correct, even when the language they're speaking is intended to be English!

Karan Thapar is the author of *Devil's Advocate: The Untold Story*. Views expressed are personal

Formalising care work can pay gender dividends

New data paints a sobering picture of progress towards gender equality. According to the World Economic Forum (WEF), it will take 134 years for the world to achieve gender parity. That's five generations from now. India's overall position in the WEF's 2024 Global Gender Gap ranking — despite policies such as the Women's Reservation Act — dropped by two spots from the rankings' previous edition, to 129th out of 146 countries. Central to this reality is the low level of economic participation among Indian women. Less than half of Indian women are currently in employment, one of the lowest figures globally.

That said, signs of change are visible, and Indian women certainly have come a long way from the earlier reality. In the recent general election, women voters turned out in equal numbers to men. As per the WEF Global Gender Gap Report, India has made strides in educational attainment and health, with index scores in the high 90s out of 100. However, the overall ranking shows the persistence of deep-seated economic inequalities. Addressing these will not only improve the lives of women and girls but also drive economic growth for all Indians.

There is an approach through which we can hit two birds with one stone — freeing women and girls from unpaid labour and creating new jobs to grow the economic pie for everyone. This unique opportunity lies in the formalisation of the nascent Indian care economy. Women in paid employment take on around six times more unpaid care work than employed men, according to a recent strategy paper. This unpaid work is estimated to account for 15-17% of India's GDP. Tied up at home, this prevents women from working and a more formalised care sector materialising.

The opportunity here is vast. Recent estimates suggest that an investment of just 2% of GDP in the care economy could yield 11 million new jobs for India. Such enormous societal shifts require a rare 'trifecta effect' where market, social, and political forces align to drive deep and sustainable change.

India is no stranger to such shifts. Our remarkable march towards financial inclusion is one example of this rare 'trifecta effect'. Let us learn from this blueprint and write the next chapter of women's economic empowerment in India by applying it to the care economy. Almost a decade ago, the government's Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) programme set the guardrails, prioritising the establishment of individual bank accounts over household accounts. This was a crucial gender-responsive adjustment to previous programmes. At that time, just 43% of Indian women had a bank account.

PMJDY allowed the private sector to compete on a level playing field. The government set the rules of play, and then it was upon the private sector to innovate. Fintech start-ups and traditional banks began competing for a new customer base to grow their operations. At the same time, civil society came together to improve digital literacy among women and girls and expand access to mobile phones. The 'trifecta effect' was in full force, allowing India to leapfrog developed nations on universal financial inclusion.

We have yet to realise the opportunities unlocked by the powerful trifecta of government, market, and civil society when it comes to the care economy. There is impressive momentum generated by India's civil society. Organisations like Mobile Crèches, the Self Employed Women's Association, CHETNA, and many more are leading the way with innovative approaches to formalising a care economy. Yet the private sector is lagging behind. As one example, in privatised childcare, there are still outdated curricula and meals lacking nutrition. Here, there is a need for government to set the guardrails and encourage further innovation and growth.

For India, the care economy is the promise of another leapfrog moment. The latest data from the WEF should provide us with the impetus to tackle this enormous task.

Shagun Sabarwal is regional director (Asia), Co-Impact. The views expressed are personal



Shagun Sabarwal

In death, a Pashtun poet's message rings a lot louder

Millions of Afghans on both sides of the Durand Line and across the globe are mourning the death of Gilman Wazir, a Pashtun poet, activist, believer in non-violence, and member of the Pashtun Protection Movement (PTM).

Wazir was attacked in Islamabad, the Pakistani capital, on July 6 and succumbed to his wounds three days later. Born in 1994, he grew up near the Durand line in northern Waziristan, a part of the region formerly known as FATA, or the Federally Administered Tribal Areas. This region was governed by the inhuman British-era



Baitullah Hameedi

law, Frontier Crimes Regulations (FCR), between 1901 and 2018. Growing up under the FCR, Wazir's childhood and teenage life was further affected by the presence of numerous terrorist groups, including the Afghan and Pakistani Taliban and al-Qaida, apart from American drone strikes and the Pakistani army's brutal military operation, making Waziristan the "most dangerous place in the world." Life there deprived Wazir of school education after third grade. Yet, he learned about politics, war, terrorism, and injustice firsthand. Beheaded bodies, kidnappings, bombing of villages and towns, and repeated displacement were the bitter experiences of his life. Despite growing up in the shadow of war and terrorism, he became a voice for peace, democracy, and human rights. In an interview, he explained how, growing up, he and others from Waziristan used to be treated as terrorists.

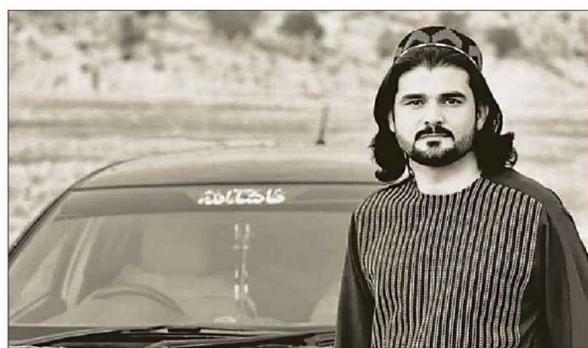
Like many others from his region, Wazir was sent to Bahrain by his family in his

early 20s to ensure his safety and to support them financially. While in Bahrain, he used social media to advocate for the PTM and raise funds for their peaceful resistance movement against what they saw as "extrajudicial killing, forced disappearance, and state-sponsored terrorism in the region." His support for PTM led to his imprisonment and subsequent deportation from Bahrain. Upon being sent to Pakistan as a prisoner, his Pakistani passport was confiscated by the government.

Wazir became a more active member of the PTM thereafter. He participated in every rally and sit-in, reciting his poetry, challenging the Pakistani establishment for its support of terrorists, and urging people to raise their voices for peace. What made him famous among Afghans was his fondness for the shared history of Pashtuns on both sides of the Durand Line, his advocacy for Afghan women's rights, and his love for the Afghan national flag. He would recite his poetry during

rallies and sit-ins, as well as post them on social media—all to have his voice heard. He was strident about the alarming impact of Pakistan's policies in the tribal areas, the presence of terrorists in the region, and the Taliban's treatment of Afghans, especially women. His message was clear, and his poetry resonated with the masses, reaching millions across social media platforms. "God, dismantle your regime, Girls confined, whisper pain," he wrote. "You barred the doors to girls' education, May God close Paradise's doors in retaliation."

With the Afghan flag in the background, Wazir once recited on social media, "My limmerence blooms from love for her so



Gilman Wazir stressed on the shared history of the Pashtuns on both sides of the Durand Line. This made him famous among Afghans

deep. In dreams, I sing of Afghanistan's keep. You asked who cloaked the Pashtuns' minds in shade, with whispered breath, I spoke of Mullahs' blade."

In another video, he can be seen in Waziristan, where Pakistan had bombed a Pashtun Jirga led by Ghazi Mirzali Khan, also known as the *faqir* of Ipi, in 1949. Mentioning the incident, Wazir claims that "Pakistan was founded on shedding Pashtun blood."

Wazir was repeatedly jailed by the Pakistani army. His latest imprisonment was between July 2023 and February 2024. He endured six months of torture before being released. "They would torture me and ask me why you call yourself Afghan," Wazir told the media upon release.

After the news of the attack on Wazir spread, Afghans from all social classes and across the globe — especially Pashtuns — including former Afghan president Hamid Karzai, Ashraf Ghani, and vice president Amrullah Saleh expressed grief and concern. It was the first time that Afghan politicians, athletes, artists, religious figures, army personnel, men, and

women came together to honour the political struggle of a young Pashtun non-violence activist.

The news of Wazir's death prompted a strong show of solidarity to honour his work and life. Many people across Pashtun lands mobilised to stand against state-sponsored terrorism. From Islamabad to Peshawar and all the way to Waziristan, hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets to pay their respects while Wazir's hearse drove past, chanting "Yeh jo dehshtagardi hai, iske peche wardi hai" (Those in uniform are behind terrorism).

Wazir, the youngest among nine siblings, left his young wife and five children behind. He was buried in his village, his coffin covered in the Afghan tricolour as per his will. Tens of thousands participated in his funeral, and his mother was the only person who told Manzoor Ahmad Pashteen, the leader of PTM, "Stay strong. Onward, I will accompany you myself!"

Baitullah Hameedi is a New York-based scholar and former lecturer at Kabul University. The views expressed are personal

SUNDAY LETTERS

Mark of efficient governments

This is with reference to "Three lessons for Indian politics from British polls" by Karan Thapar (July 14).

The author has rightly pointed out that the defeated party must accept the loss gracefully. The winner must resume work quickly without wasting time and money in a spectacular ceremony

J S Saluja

Lawmakers must fix monsoon woes

This is with reference to "Learning from Delhi-uge: Cosmetic plans won't do" by Narayani Gupta and Narayan Moorthy (July 14). Our representatives hardly take remedial action so that residents are not compelled to face the same situation the next year.

Subhash Taneja

The life of an extraordinary artist

This is with reference to "Poet and policeman: Art of Keki Daruwalla" by Vappala Balachandran (July 14). It is indeed remarkable that a "multi-hatted" police-intelligence man like Keki became a renowned poet.

Sarvesh Mehta

Write to us at: letters@hindustantimes.com

HT **Weekend**

A PART OF YOUR EVERYDAY

Vikas Swarup

Word famous

He is best-known for Q&A, which became the film Slumdog Millionaire. Now, Swarup's first book in 11 years is out. It's a complex plot, he says. The main character isn't as lovable. In fact, she's hiding something, and her captor is demanding she confess. Swarup's own confession? He's revelling in all the free time he has, as a retired diplomat. 'I sometimes have to ask my wife what day it is. It's unreal, in a good way,' he says

Anesha George

anesha.george@hindustantimes.com

It took Vikas Swarup about 10 weeks to write his debut novel, Q&A, in 2005. His latest, his fourth in the genre that he calls "social thrillers", comes after an 11-year gap, and was three years in the making.

The Girl with the Seven Lives was released by Simon & Schuster this week. "I wanted to once again explore a strong first-person narrative, but with a morally complex character this time around, who would feel more real in today's world," he says.

Swarup knows a little something about moral complexity. The former diplomat, now 63, retired in 2021 as a secretary with the union ministry of external affairs. He has been official spokesperson for that ministry, toured the world, and served at embassies in countries ranging from the US and UK to South Africa and Japan.

Swarup is best-known for Q&A, which was adapted for the screen as the Oscar-winning film Slumdog Millionaire (2008). The book cuts across squalor and glory to tell the strange story of how Ram Mohammad Thomas, a poverty-stricken waiter in Mumbai, wins a bounty on a quiz show.

The Girl with the Seven Lives is darker. The protagonist, 25-year-old Devi, is kidnapped by a masked gunman who threatens to put her life up for auction online and let the highest bidder determine her fate. Except, it's not a victim-villain tale. She's hiding something; her captor seems to know what it is. He is demanding that she confess.

The plot hurtles between Delhi, Punjab, Kerala, Goa and Mumbai, offering a peek into fake-degree rackets, India's obsession with godmen, and the horror stories of juvenile remand homes.

"Q&A was a relatively safe story of a lovable character," Swarup says. "My mission now is to offer a more layered, multidimensional view of India, through a flawed character that the reader will still somehow root for at the end."

A lot has changed about how Swarup writes. His first book was written on empty mornings, towards the end of his time at the Indian high commission in London, after his family had moved back to Delhi.

As it rose up the best-seller charts, "second-book syndrome hit," he says. The pressure to produce another winner was immense, and it would take about 18 months to finish each of his next two works, Six Suspects (2008) and The Accidental Apprentice (2013).

Then he was appointed official spokesperson for the external affairs ministry. As he travelled to 40 countries over two years, there was little time to write. Even weekends became a thing of the past when he moved to

Canada in 2017. "I was not prepared for how often the Indian diaspora in Canada needed the Indian high commissioner at every little community event," he says, laughing.

Since he retired, he's been writing every day. He sits at his desk in his Greater Noida home from 5.30 am to 9 am. In these golden hours of quiet and stillness, his characters come to life.

The biggest challenge with his latest book was accurately representing the experiences and worldview of an underprivileged woman, as a male writer, Swarup says. That's where his wife, artist and photographer Aparna Swarup, stepped in. "She became a touchstone, reading my drafts and helping me with perspective on the female characters."

His greatest critics, he adds, are his sons: startup investor Aditya Swarup, 32, and singer-songwriter Varun Swarup, 28. They revel in his success and stand by him in a slump, "but they do not mince words."

Writing has always been a visual experience for Swarup. "I write words as I imagine the events playing out in my head, which is probably why the transition to screen is easier," he says. Six Suspects, a tale of crimes, secrets and people who aren't what they seem, was recently adapted as the web series The Great Indian Murder (2022).

Raised in the '60s and '70s in a family of lawyers in Allahabad, Swarup grew up with a love of reading. His grandfather had an extensive library, so he was able to read widely and eclectically. He picked the civil services because preparing for the exam let him do what he loved: pore through books on history, psychology and philosophy.

It was this history with literature that helped him take the leap from reader to writer at 42. "Reading lets you get into the consciousness of a writer. It drives you to decode the deeper meanings and question holes in the plot," he says.

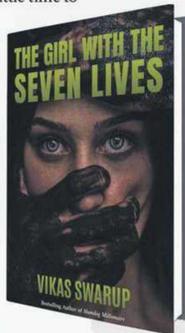
His career as a diplomat helped. "We are trained to use words very carefully and that played an integral role in my becoming a writer." His life in the Indian Foreign Service also offered him rare insight into the ways the human mind works. And being a successful writer opened doors for him as a diplomat. When posted as consul general in Osaka, for instance, he was invited to meet the governor within a week of his arrival. "It usually takes up to three months for such a meeting to be scheduled, but I was invited because Slumdog Millionaire was all the rage then."

He has worked to use these platforms, he adds, to paint a vivid picture for the West, of our country beyond its stereotypes.

With his latest book now out, all Swarup sees ahead of him is open road.

Ideas for future fiction projects jostle in his mind. "I also find myself drawn to the world of non-fiction, and perhaps a project involving geopolitics or artificial intelligence."

For now, he is enjoying life in retirement, and the luxury of having too much time on his hands. "I sometimes have to ask my wife what day it is. It feels unreal," he says, "unreal in a good way."



As diplomats, we are trained to use words very carefully and that played an integral role in my becoming a writer.

VIKAS SWARUP, author



READ an exclusive excerpt from The Girl with the Seven Lives by Vikas Swarup



1 Vikas Swarup, 63, grew up in Allahabad, in a family of lawyers. He was raised with a love of reading, and free access to his grandfather's extensive library.

2 The retired diplomat picked the civil services, he says, because preparing for the exam let him do what he loved: pore through books on history, psychology and philosophy.

3 Swarup is married to the artist and photographer Aparna Swarup. They have two sons, Aditya, 32, and Varun, 28. "They are my greatest critics," Swarup says, laughing. They revel in his success and stand by him in a slump, "but they do not mince words."



WATCH Vikas Swarup talk about India as seen through his books



RAJK RAJ / HT PHOTO

inside

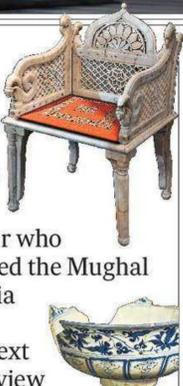


HERITAGE

Tales from the crypt

P16

A new museum in Delhi tells the underrated story of a warrior who fought numerous battles, founded the Mughal school of miniature art, lost India and then won it back. The Humayun Museum opens next month. An exclusive preview



CULTURE

Smile to take the next leap

P17

Videogames are adapting further for the differently abled. Players can now raise their eyebrows to click or drag, twist the mouth to move a cursor. It's not that hard to make this possible, game producers say



MIND

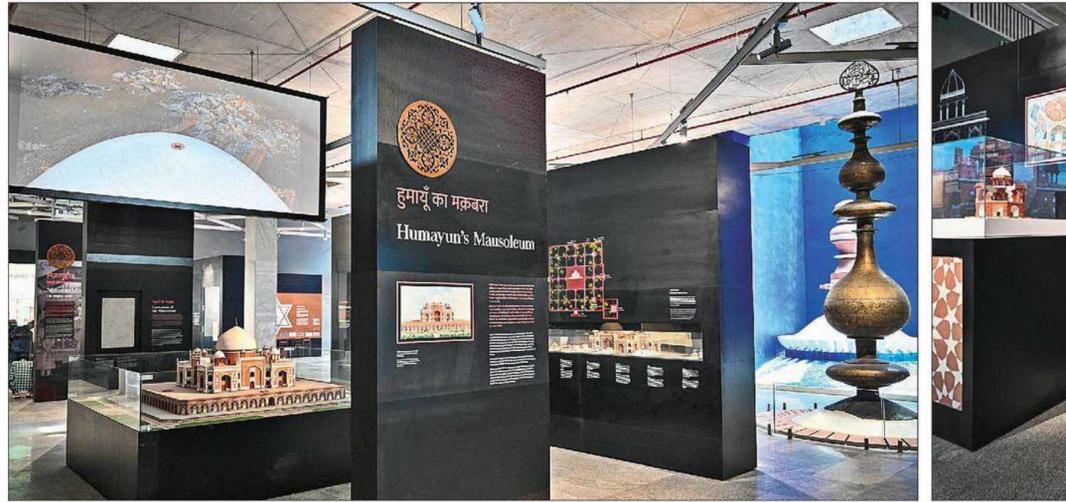
Page against the machine

P18

What came before AI? We've been trying to chat with machines for centuries. Check out divination circles, word looms, robots that churned out film scripts



wknd heritage



THE SILVER COIN

The silver rupee coin bears the Arabic inscription, "Allahu Akbar jallalalahu". Flip it around, and it bears, in Persian, the word "Ram". Minted during Akbar's reign in Berar, which is in present-day Maharashtra, the coin is evidence of the Muslim-born ruler's fascination for various faiths — a passion that led him to propound the spiritual system "Din-i-Ilahi", or the religion of God. This aspect of Akbar is reflected in another exhibit — a much-faded 17th century Persian-language farman, or royal decree, issued by him, referring to scores of land allotments for the construction of temples.



CHINESE PORCELAIN

No Chinese takeaway existed in Mughal India. But Chinese crockery certainly did. The Mughal royalty had their daily meals in Chinese porcelain vessels, as confirmed in Emperor feasting with envoys (1598), one of the original paintings in the museum. The adjoining glass case displays four plates and two bowls. They were excavated decades ago from the ruins of Feroz Shah Kotla, outside the Walled City of Old Delhi. The plates had come via sea and land from the Yuan region of 14th-century China. The Delhi Tughlaks introduced porcelain on their dastarkhan (dining cloth/table), and the Mughals decided to keep that going. One plate has a blue fish painted on it (albeit with a hairline crack running through the fish's head).



Tales from the crypt

A new museum in Delhi tells the underrated story of a warrior who fought numerous battles, founded the Mughal school of miniature art, lost India and then won it back. The Humayun Museum opens next month. An exclusive preview

{ DELHIWALE }

Mayank Austen Soofi



Nestled in a corner of the pristine Sunder Nursery, across the road from Humayun's Tomb in central Delhi, a series of red sandstone ramps gently heads to the grassy ground beneath. They descend into corridors and halls with massive sheesham doorways that summon the grandeur of Fatehpur Sikri's Buland Darwaza. Inside, await five huge galleries of granite flooring, marble columns, and stone benches.

THE MUSEUM HOLDS 700 OBJECTS, OF WHICH 500 ARE ORIGINALS. THE 200 REPLICAS ARE OF THE SAME DIMENSIONS, AND IN THE SAME MATERIALS, MADE BY ARTISTS TRAINED IN THE CRAFTS OF THE TIME

Delhi is crusted with layers and layers of the past. These exist laterally, extending outwards, but also vertically, beneath the ground, under a surface that millions of feet pound on every day. It is fitting, then, that the newest landmark of this city of graveyards is entirely underground.

Opening in August, the Humayun Museum lies beneath the soil on which the Mughal identity, which gave a distinctive character and left an indelible mark on India, first began to take shape. Indeed, the earliest city of the Mughals was not Agra, or Lahore, or Fatehpur Sikri. Neither was it the Walled City of Shahjahanabad, the so-called Purani Dilli. It was around the much older 14th century shrine of Delhi's great Sufi saint Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya. This is the assertion of the country's newest museum.

"The Humayun Museum will serve as a gateway to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Humayun's Tomb," says Ratish Nanda, the CEO of Aga Khan Trust for Culture, which has built the museum. "Each artefact relays and interprets the story of this historic precinct, where 700 years of monumental architecture is surrounded with craft, music, culture, and pluralism."

Stepping inside the museum, visitors are transported into the world of Humayun's Tomb — from the 16th century, when the monument was built, to the later centuries whose narrative the tomb helped shape, right up to this modern age. Each gallery is arrayed with numerous clusters devoted to different themes — their arrangement resembling French gardens whose hedges are arranged like a maze. The clusters

feature artefacts, replicas, films playing on loop, architectural models, stone fragments, statues and paintings that come together to weave hundreds of years of history.

The Humayun Museum is the culmination of 15 years of work by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, in partnership with the Archaeological Survey of India — the same team that restored Humayun's Tomb. Fashioned as a site museum, the subterranean sprawl awakens visitors to the aesthetics of a slice of land that was — due to its intimate proximity to Nizamuddin's shrine — the preferred burial field for both the awaam and the baadshah (commoner and king). The dargah was venerated by the Mughals all through their 331-year rule. Each of the 18 emperors kept their links with this Sufi terrain; if not always through ziyarat (pilgrimage), then through architecture, or by making the zameen (ground) their final resting place.

Until now, India's only prominent UNESCO World Heritage Site museum was in Sarnath, which bears a collection of 7,000 precious objects, out of which 300 are on display. The new museum in Delhi exhibits 700 objects, out of which 500 are original — some are provided by the National Museum, and many are from the collection of the Archaeological Survey of India and the Aga Khan Trust. The 200 replicas are of the same dimensions, and in the same materials, as their originals — made by artists trained in the crafts of the time.

For this curtain-raiser, I have shortlisted 10 handpicked exhibits that offer a sense of the museum and capture the era it commemorates.



THE SEVEN SCULPTURES

Although born in Kabul, the texture of Humayun's daily life was steeped in the traditions of the land where he was eventually buried. The museum's seven bronze Humayuns are sculpted by Scottish artist Jill Watson. Each Humayun is wearing the same ulbaqcha — a jacket that the emperor designed himself — but the robes are of different colours.

In Hindu astrological traditions, planets associated with a day of the week are worshipped as deities. To avail the benefits of the powers associated with the planets, Humayun matched the colour of his robes to correspond to the colour of the planet of the day. For instance, white (moon) was for Monday, and black (Saturn) was for Saturday. The day Humayun fatally slipped, he was on his library's roof, waiting for a word from his mathematician, whom he had sent to observe the rise of Venus in order to set the most auspicious hour to take an administrative decision. Since he died on a Sunday, Humayun must have been wearing a golden robe.

THE WALL TILES

The golden vase looks fragile, as if could shatter at the touch. The vase exists as a drawing on a damaged tile and lies beside tiles of competing exquisiteness.

The 17th century Shahjahan tiles were recovered by Old Delhi's illustrious Persian scholar, the late Yunus Jaffrey, from the Neeli Chatri monument at the foot of Salimgarh Fort, which stands beside the Red Fort. It was Humayun's favoured riverside pavilion, where he would often look at the Yamuna, or read a book. The edifice still exists, without the tiles. Fortunately, a handful of Delhi's monuments continue to hold on to their glazed tiles (plainer than the Shahjahan tiles), which are indicative of the Central Asian origins of the Mughals. Such tiles once adorned parts of Humayun's Tomb, but most were lost by the 1950s, and were replaced with new tiles during the tomb's restoration.



THE WOODEN CANOPY

Age-old tradition does not let women enter Hazrat Nizamuddin's small grave chamber. But the museum has an exact replica — not of the grave but of the grave chamber's spectacular wooden canopy gifted by a Mughal noble from 17th century Bengal. It is inlaid in mother-of-pearl, ostensibly to mimic the starry effect of the night sky. A giant Tree of Life holds up each of the four corners of the canopy. In a sense, the museum's spiritual core is this recreated canopy, simply because its original hangs over Nizamuddin's grave. Had the saint's grave not existed here, there would be no Sufi dargah at this place. And no Humayun's Tomb.





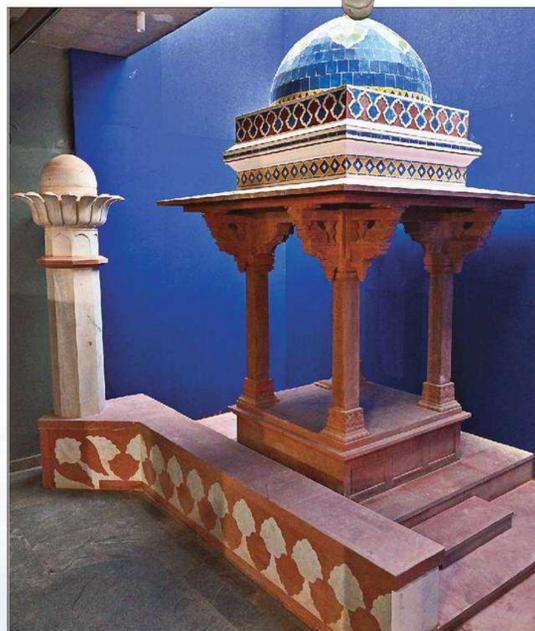
Each gallery in the museum holds clusters of artefacts devoted to different themes. (Bottom) Humayun's Tomb. HT PHOTOS: SANCHIT KHANNA



THE GRAND THRONE

On this, he must have sat and mulled the end of his dynasty. This was the throne of the final Mughal emperor. At first, Bahadur Shah Zafar's marble throne looks small, not quite a seat of power. It becomes stately as one observes it closely. The armrests are supported by lattice-work in stone. The tip of each armrest curves into a swan. A devotee of Sufism, Zafar had allotted himself a grave next to the dargah of a cherished Sufi saint in Mehrauli. But his plan didn't work — following the failure of the 1857 war of independence, in which Indian fighters rejected British rule and chose Zafar as their nominal ruler, the emperor was sent into exile in Burma (now Myanmar), where he was eventually buried. Now, at long last, Zafar finds some posthumous peace in the museum. His throne commands a part of the gallery that celebrates his beloved Sufi mystics. The saint of Mehrauli belongs to the same Sufi order as Hazrat Nizamuddin, the surrounding grounds of whose shrine eventually became the resting place of hundreds of Mughal

royals. Called the "dormitory of the Mughals," Humayun's Tomb is home to 160 graves, most of them in ground-level vaults. A display case beside Zafar's throne details all the Mughal monarchs who visited Nizamuddin's dargah. Their veneration began in 1526, following Babar's victory over Ibrahim Lodi. Among the first things that Babar did on entering Delhi was to pray at this dargah. Years later, his son Humayun built his capital of Dinpanah, known as Purana Qila, close to the dargah. Humayun also built a tomb for his mother, Maham Begum — it was even closer to the dargah (and now functions as a traffic island). Then, Humayun's successor, Akbar, built a mausoleum for his father close to Nizamuddin's dargah — the Humayun's Tomb. One of the two most significant early Mughal monuments, it served the model for the other, the Taj Mahal. The tomb was Zafar's refuge after he lost to the British in 1857, and it was from here that he was arrested and deported to Rangoon.



THE COPPER KALASH

It stood for more than 400 years at the top of Humayun's Tomb. Here, it stands inches away from your face — 18 ft tall, weighing 300 kg. This gilded finial, or kalash, shows the influence of Hindu temples on Mughal architecture. Several mandirs tend to be topped with a gold kalash. The tomb's kalash, however, is made of copper, covered with layers of gold leaves. One evening in 2014, during a dust storm, it fell 70 ft, landing on the roof and crumbling into pieces. The mended kalash in the museum becomes even more precious because we know it has been salvaged from oblivion. Meanwhile, the orphaned dome received an exact replica of the original kalash. Perched atop the tomb, it shines at night — like it always did.

THE BOOK OF POEMS

The book is lying open. The left-hand page has Persian text in narrow columns; the page on the right shows a painting of robed men in a garden, with a deer behind the bushes. This is the 14th century illustrated and handwritten manuscript of the romantic poem Laila Majnu. The version is by the poet Abdullah, who was from Jam town in modern-day Afghanistan. The manuscript has 332 pages of text and 18 illustrations, some bearing floral details in gold. The copy does not belong to Humayun, but its presence reiterates how books were his spiritual companions. Literature was Humayun's lifeblood. His father authored one of the world's most vivid early memoirs (Baburnama). Humayun himself was a poet who penned in Persian and Turki. An avid reader, he was a compulsive collector of books. His library was carried along on all his frequent journeys, on the backs of special library camels called shatur-i-kitubkhana. His encampment was once attacked in a battlefield close to Kabul, and the camels carrying his library were lost, causing him acute anguish. But the camels were later spotted wandering on their own, and the books were retrieved. Upon losing the Bengal sultanate to Sher Shah Suri, Humayun was obliged to add even more distance to his travels. In all, he journeyed 34,000 km — from present-day Bangladesh to the borders of Europe. His books would always be with him, and they found their final home in his city of Dinpanah, where Humayun built a double-storied kitubkhana, or library. The museum exhibits a beautiful model of this library, and a painting displays the tile decor of the interiors as they originally looked. The tiles in the actual library have lost their shine, and the walls show their faded gleam. For a man who spent much of his life on the road, and much of that time in wars, it was a tragic yet fitting farewell that the book-collector Humayun died in his library after slipping on its steep stairs at the age of 47.

THE LARGE CHHATRI

This piece is so massive that it is a monument in itself. This replica of the neck of the dome at Humayun's Tomb is crafted of the same red sandstone, and built on the same scale as the real thing perched atop the mausoleum. Since the roof is inaccessible, this is the closest you can get to absorb its hugeness. The chhatra next to it is also a replica of the chhatris on the tomb's roof. Since visitors will be allowed to climb this gigantic chhatra, it may be on its way to becoming one of Delhi's most popular selfie spots.

THE INSCRIBED DAGGER

This small weapon helps us understand who Humayun was. So, who was he? Humayun's father Babar founded the Mughal dynasty. Humayun's son Akbar became the greatest of all the Mughals. Nestled between them, Humayun remains somewhat out of focus. The most famous thing about him is the Humayun's Tomb — and that wasn't built by him. The museum reveals the lesser-known Humayun. Far from being a nonentity, he was a warrior who fought numerous battles, founded the Mughal school of miniature art, lost Hindustan (to Sher Shah Suri) after ruling it for about a decade, and then re-won it 15 years later. During the intervening years, Humayun stayed in Iran for 11 months as a guest of its Shah. And this dagger belonged to the Shah, inscribed with the words: "Sultan Tahmasp Safari". The iron blade, with its graceful curve, is a tangible link to a long, tumultuous period in Humayun's life. A life full of contrasting probabilities that could have spun our national history to one of several "what if" alternatives.

culture

Smile to take the next leap

Videogames are adapting further for the differently abled. Players can now raise their brows to click, twist the mouth to drag. It's not that hard to make this possible, game producers say



A still from The Last of Us Part II; the audio now also describes what background players are doing. (Above right) The upcoming Indus: Indo-Futuristic Battle Royale uses Google's Project Gameface to enable gesture-control. (Below) Elements of the Xbox Adaptive Controller.

Arshia

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MaskGun, released by the Indian developer Super-Gaming in 2019, wasn't designed to be inclusive. But in 2021, co-founder and CEO Roby John received an email that changed a lot for his company. A player wrote in from Michigan to say that she had a leg amputated following an accident, and MaskGun — a game of secret agents, snipers and more — had kept her going during her recovery. The email got John thinking about what it might be like for a differently abled person to try to immerse themselves in an imagined world of action and adventure. And in June last year, the Pune company tied up with Google's Project Gameface, to offer new features that would allow differently abled people to play more easily.

When Indus: Indo-Futuristic Battle Royale is released later this year, it will allow players to use gestures to play: raise their eyebrows to click or drag, twist the mouth to move a cursor. "The aim is to have no player left behind," John says. While subtitles and audio descriptions have been helping aid gameplay for years, and while these features are thankfully improving, new ones such as the gesture controls allow gamers with far greater variability in movement to join in.

In May, for instance, the first-person shooter game XDefiant by Ubisoft announced that players could now toggle to crouch, slide and sprint (rather than use a complicated combination of manual controls), while the actions of reloading or switching weapons, and grabbing onto ledges, could be made automatic. The latest instalment of the fighting game Mortal Kombat MK1, released in September, offers lush soundscapes for the sight-impaired. Subtitles describe the actions of background characters too. And for players using audio descriptions, the voices aren't sterile and robotic but expressive and often funny. Popular games such as The Last of Us Part II (2020), Sea of Thieves (2018) and The Sims 4 (2014) have incorporated similar features. Additional aids are available if one plays via gaming consoles such as the Xbox Adaptive Controller, launched in 2018.

New realms Now to step back a bit. Of all the battles being fought by the differently abled, how much of a priority should this one be? "The world we inhabit today is not just a physical world but also a digital one. So it's important that everyone, including people with disabilities,

can inhabit both," says gender rights and disability activist Nidhi Goyal, 38. "There is still so much struggle in realising basic rights enshrined in the law that other things fall by the wayside. But we too need access to recreation." In the pandemic, for instance, Goyal adds, she and her then-boyfriend-now-husband Apoorv Kulkarni, 37, a research head with an inclusivity think tank, were separated in the lockdown and spent hours connecting over accessible videogames. "Virtual playgrounds should be accessible, just as real-world ones should be, she says. Simple things like making sure descriptions don't overlap with subtitles make it possible for everyone to come together on the same platform, and that matters, as it always has.

Pixel power Over and over, lived experience is catalysing the shift, underlining the difference that such access can make. In California, in 2005, 14-year-old Arman Nobari found comfort in playing the fantasy real-time strategy game Warcraft III, while battling a Stage 3 lymphoma. He realised the limitations of the game when his friends in hospital with vision or mobility issues tried to join him and couldn't.

As a user-experience designer with Google, he became an advocate for accessibility. In 2018, he co-founded Vault Labs, an agency that sought to help apps and websites cater more adequately to the differently abled. Before it could take off, Nobari suffered a setback. "A tumour in the front of my brain ruptured, causing partial facial paralysis, and I had to get a craniotomy," he says. Now 33, he is starting afresh, with Good Trouble Games, set up last year. Its first offering will be a real-time strategy (RTS) game with accessibility at the forefront.

The biggest problem with RTS, Nobari says, is that a simple slip or a single inaccurate click can cause one's gameplay to fall apart. For many differently abled players, this is a big barrier to entry, and he wants to take it down. Players may look to the Microsoft car-racing game Forza Motorsport (2023) for clues on what such a shift might look like, he says. That game uses aural and sonar cues such as beeps, bleeps and pings to help players assess how they are faring, and better manoeuvre their car.

"Accessibility cannot be an afterthought. It needs to be integrated from the start, to make a game seamless and intuitive for a wider range of players," Nobari says. And it often isn't very hard to do. Gaming is all about: Will this work? Well, take that a step further, he recommends, "by asking simple and thoughtful questions such as: Can this game be played easily with one hand, especially a non-dominant one?"

{ ALWAYS AT THE MOVIES }

Anupama Chopra



Closing credits

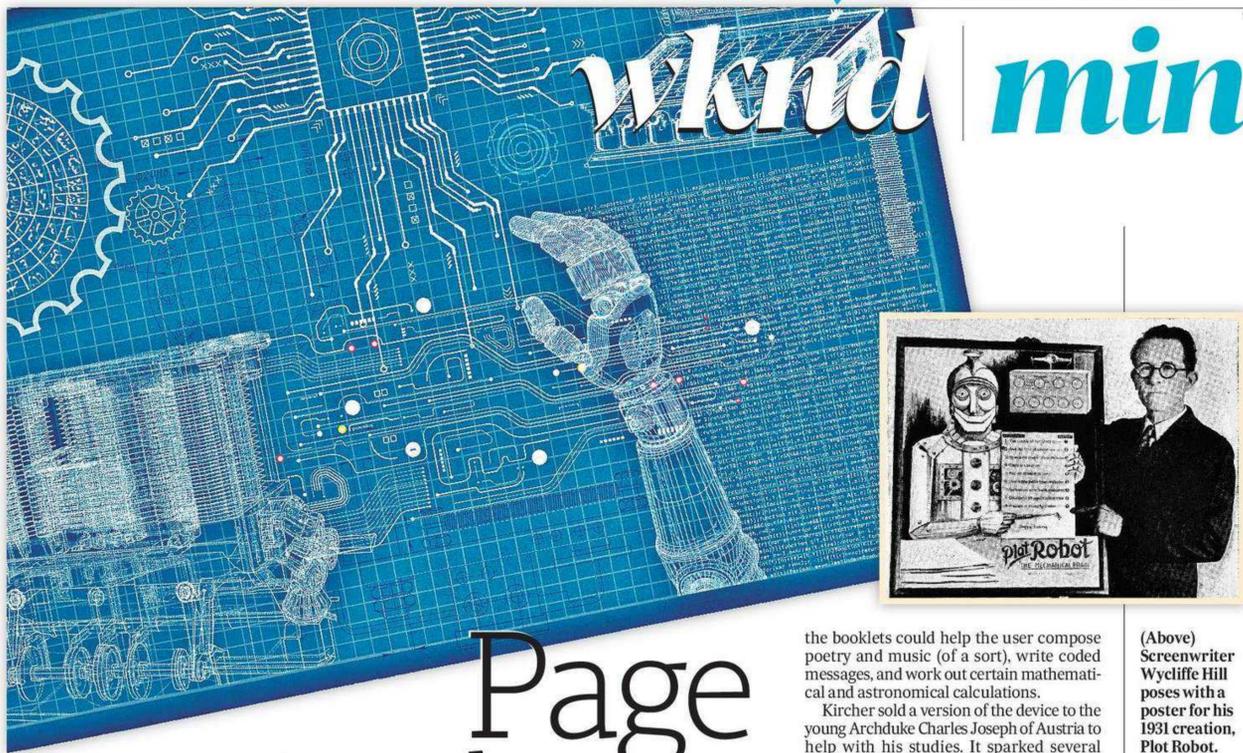
Nothing matches the high of a good movie. As she takes a final bow, here is Anupama Chopra's list of notable new films to watch

We never say never at Wknd, so this is Anupama Chopra's last column, for now. We wish her the very best at The Hollywood Reporter. Stay tuned as a familiar voice joins Wknd next month.

In the Oscar-winning 2020 film Nomadland — about a woman in her 60s who lives out of her trailer — another character, also a nomad, says: "One of the things I love most about this life is that there's no final goodbye. I've met hundreds of people out here... I always just say, 'I'll see you down the road.' And I do." I thought of that line, and it made me weep, as I wrote this, my last Always at the Movies column. Over the years, this space has become like a second home, where I connect with thousands of readers and share the great passion of my life: the movies. I have written about entertainment trends, great actors, great films, and the soft spots: fault lines and dubious industry practices. I've shared here my hopes and dreams for Indian cinema. Now, at the end, as I move on to pilot The Hollywood Reporter - India, I leave you with a few final recommendations. For me, nothing matches the high of a good movie. So I'd like to end on that high. • **Ullozhukku (Undercurrent):** This Malayalam film explores an unusual bond between a woman and her mother-in-law. Anju (Parvathy Thiruvothu) was forced into her marriage. Her husband is ailing and soon dies. She and her mother-in-law Leelamma (Urvashi) then begin to discover new truths about each other. Debutant director Christo Tomy weaves a deeply moving tale about family, acceptance and the solidarity of women. Ullozhukku is currently in theatres. • **Godzilla Minus One:** I didn't think I'd cry at a Godzilla movie, but, with

incredible skill, writer-director Takashi Yamazaki threads emotional heft into the tale of a giant creature who flattens and destroys with each step. The intimate human drama offsets the de rigueur sequences of the monster pulverizing people and cities. One can see why the film won an Oscar for visual effects. Expect shock, awe and catharsis. Godzilla Minus One is streaming on Netflix. • **Bramayugam (The Age of Madness):** Writer-director Rahul Sadasivan creates a masterful portrait of power, corruption and how they ultimately poison everyone they touch. Most of the tale is set in the decrepit house of a monstrous landlord, played by the great Mammooty in fearsome mode (those teeth!). Rahul tells his story in black-and-white, which elevates the drama and the horror. You can watch the film on Sony Liv. • **Inside Out 2:** There has been some debate about Pixar over-simplifying the inner workings of our heads and reducing anxiety to a cartoonish phenomenon (literally and metaphorically). But I was utterly seduced by this revisit to Riley's brain. She is now 13. Puberty has hit. She has braces, a pimple and new emotions, including the aforesaid Anxiety, Embarrassment (who is adorable), and my favourite, the languidly weary Ennui (voiced in a French accent by Adèle Exarchopoulos). Nothing truly terrible happens. Riley's hormones remain in a PG-13 space. And yet, with charm and eloquence, Inside Out 2 reminds us that as we grow older, we must choose joy. And that is always worth hearing. Inside Out 2 is now in theatres. • **Hit Man:** This movie is a sparkling comedy about a university professor who pretends to be a professional assassin so he can help the local police entrap people who are willing to pay to have someone murdered. This goes swimmingly until he falls in love with a client. The film is a smouldering romance with two attractive leads, Glen Powell and Adria Arjona. But beneath the wit and charm, it is also about the casual, seething violence of America. Director Richard Linklater masterfully mixes the laughs in with something darker and more sinister, so one comes away both delighted and uneasy. And that's a lethal combination. You can watch Hit Man on Netflix. I hope you enjoy these movies. And I hope I'll see you down the road.

(To reach Anupama Chopra with feedback, email feedbackforanu@gmail.com)



{ THIS, AGAIN? } MUSIC THEORY

I'm the problem, it's me: Turns out, pop lyrics are stuck in a loop

Bhanuj Kappal

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One of the enduring clichés in popular culture is the older music fan—usually, but not always, a middle-aged male—bemoaning the state of contemporary popular music. “Songs were so much better in my day,” he says.

Well, even the most well-worn cliché contains a tiny kernel of truth. New research suggests that, at least when it comes to the lyrics, there is a trend towards simpler and more repetitive lines.

A team of researchers analysed lyrics from 353,320 English-language songs released between 1970 and 2020, using machine-learning algorithms to identify key linguistic features (diversity of words, repetition of lines, terms relating to emotion). They then created a representative subset of 12,000 songs from across the rock, rap, country, pop and R&B genres, for further analysis.

In a study published in the journal *Scientific Reports*, they state that lyrics have become simpler on multiple fronts: richness of vocabulary, readability, complexity, number of repeated lines. This holds true for all five genres, though the specifics varied.

Rap, for instance, more than doubled the ratio of repeated to non-repeated lines, while for country the increase was more modest.

“There’s more rhyming lines and... more chorus,” the study’s senior author Eva Zangerle, a computer scientist at Austria’s University of Innsbruck, told *Scientific American*.

The researchers also found that music has become more emotionally negative, with terms of anger and sadness increasingly common. And it has become more centred on the singer, as shown by the higher frequency of pronouns such as “I” and “me.” These findings are supported by earlier

research. A 2019 study published in the *Journal of Popular Music Studies* found that expression of sadness and anger had grown in popular music, from the 1950s to 2019.

A 2011 study published in *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts* analysed the 10 most popular songs in the US from each year between 1980 and 2007 and found that lyrics had become increasingly self-focused, and contained terms relating to anger and antisocial sentiment.

What’s driving this evolution? There are plenty of theories.

In today’s attention economy, simple, repetitive lyrics may be the most efficient way to hook the listener. Most people already have too much media and information coming at them, plus on-demand streaming has turned music-listening into a passive activity.

We are usually doing something else while we listen: working, driving, doing the laundry. As such, we are more likely to add to our playlists something like Miley Cyrus’s 2023 hit *Flowers*—with its simple, repeated refrain of “I can love me better”, which features 22 times in the song—than something like Patti Smith’s *Birdland* (1975), in which she sings of “shaman bouquets”, “helium ravens” and “melted sand” that “coagulated like a river of glass”.

Meanwhile, the taboos around negative emotions—particularly anxiety, loneliness and sadness—have fallen away, with discourse around mental health and trauma going mainstream. And so Cyrus sings of not finding the love she wants, needs and deserves. And rappers sing of anger, disgust and violence.

Does that mean today’s music is objectively worse? That’s a debate science can’t really settle. There is no objective way to answer it, is there? “One man’s cringe is another man’s tattoo,” as the band *Dance Gavin Dance* put it, in 2022.

Page against the machine

What came before AI? We’ve been trying to chat with machines for centuries. Check out divination circles, word looms, robots that churned out film scripts

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We tend to think of AI in isolation, as this slightly menacing entity that has taken shape from the nuts and bolts of our algorithms and experiments in machine learning. But it is really part of a rather large family tree of “smart” machines, dating as far back as the 14th century.

All those years ago, an Arabic astrology wheel was built in an early attempt at automated chat. Then, in 17th-century Europe, a “mathematical cabinet” was built in an attempt to automate poetry, music and coded messages. There was an American robot in the 1930s designed to spit out story ideas for Hollywood. Spell checks, text messaging and autocorrect would follow.

It’s an intriguing journey that Dennis Yi Tenen, a scholar and software engineer, traces in his new book, *Literary Theory for Robots: How Computers Learned to Write*. His aim, he says, is to take some of the fear and confusion away from how we view this technology, and offer a reminder that humans have always woven threads of language and technology together.

“Language and technology didn’t just develop together; language is technology,” says Yi Tenen, an associate professor of English and comparative literature at Columbia University. “While many animals teach things to their young, only humans are able to do it remotely, for instance, preserving and transmitting our collective know-how across time and space.”

Can we go too far in this quest? “Of course we can. I find it difficult to use technology in a balanced way myself,” Yi Tenen says.

With AI, of course, the struggle isn’t quite the same. It is, potentially, a battle over the nature of reality, veracity, truth.

Which is why it is even more vital to view this technology accurately, as a product of human endeavour, Yi Tenen says. If we view it as an extension of our collective intelligence, we can hold technology makers responsible and accountable, he adds.

How far back can we trace the effort to create “intelligent” machines? Take a look.

The prophecy wheel, 14th century

Created in Arabia, this was a maze of concentric circles and elaborate charts that bore zodiac signs, letters, symbols and numerical values. A manual or rulebook of sorts helped soothsayers interpret the readings, particularly in matters of astrology.

What’s interesting is that some of the circles contained verses from holy texts, “and in manipulating the circles, one could actually kind of have a conversation with the device,” Yi Tenen says.

Smart cabinets, 17th century

The earliest literary bots were shaped like giant cupboards, and operated like a sort of word loom. One of the earliest was the Mathematical Organ, created by polymath Athanasius Kircher. This was a painted wooden chest made up of rows and columns of slats or rods. Attached to each were paper booklets on subjects such as arithmetic, music, geometry, chronology and astrology.

In a spooky foreshadowing, Kircher called them “applications”. Manipulating these rods and consulting

the booklets could help the user compose poetry and music (of a sort), write coded messages, and work out certain mathematical and astronomical calculations.

Kircher sold a version of the device to the young Archduke Charles Joseph of Austria to help with his studies. It sparked several debates, including one between Kircher and the German poet Quirinus Kuhlmann. The latter argued that the path to knowledge should be “torturous, accessible only to those willing to walk it properly”.

It wasn’t the organ that was intelligent, the poet added; the intelligence lay with Kircher. “Without the box, the young duke remains an idiotic parrot.” Essentially, an early instance of the argument that computers are making us lazy and stupid.

The Analytical Engine, 1830s

Kircher’s Mathematical Organ inspired the English mathematician Charles Babbage to create what would go down in history as the world’s first computer, in the 1830s.

The Analytical Engine was developed in collaboration with the countess and mathematician Ada Lovelace. It eventually looked like a weaver’s loom, and could process calculations with the help of punch cards.

Thirty-Six Dramatic Situations, 1895

By the 19th century, amid the industrial revolution, templates were emerging: for furniture, machinery, clothing, equipment, and for the arts, journalism, even philosophy.

In the arts, templates have always been looked down upon as a poor substitute for missing genius. But, Yi Tenen argues, they have always lain at the heart of how we learn. Could a machine, then, help a not-so-great writer write a great tale?

In 1895, the French writer Georges Polti created a plot generator titled *The Thirty-Six Dramatic Situations*. Each was explained briefly with examples. Combining elements from his set of dramatic situations, hundreds of thousands of stories could take shape.

Though rarely acknowledged, such templates were frequently used, Yi Tenen says.

The Plot Robot, 1931

This machine, built by Los Angeles screenwriter Wycliffe Hill, could produce a complete outline of a story in 20 minutes, its whirring gears drawing background, characters and dramatic situations from a series of tapes housed in its chassis.

The robot found no takers, but prompted Hill to write a book titled *Plot Genie* (1935), about a similar machine.

As it turns out, Hill wasn’t a polymath or early technocrat. He was a scriptwriter who became fixated on decoding the intricacies of what makes a good plot, when his own screenplay was rejected. His aim was to take the effort and uncertainty out of writing.

There hasn’t yet been a magic wand created that can do that.

(Above)

Screenwriter

Wycliffe Hill

poses with a

poster for his

1931 creation,

Plot Robot.

(Top) Spot the

divination

circles,

Mathematical

Organ and

Analytical

Engine.

HT IMAGING;

MONICA GUPTA;

PHOTO COURTESY

PLOT GENIE

{ LIFE HACKS }

Charles Assisi

Snap out of it, Gen Z

Influencers do not make for role models. Effort is not a bad thing. And it shouldn’t be only the odd outlier teen who knows where they’re headed, or how to get things done

After reading this, my 18-year-old daughter told me I “sound like an old man”, and that everything that follows is what my dad and his generation likely thought of me and my friends. I’ll let you be the judge of that.

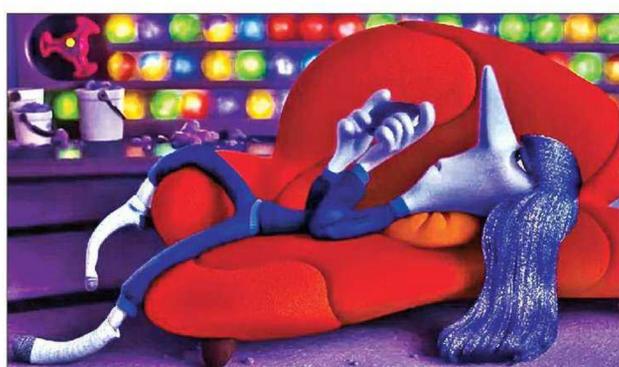
My story begins when an 18-year-old knocked on my door last Sunday. His demeanour challenged every notion I hold about his generation. More on him later. But the encounter with him got me thinking about how my generation compares with today’s Gen Z (those aged 11 to 27). And boy, do I have a lot to say about that.

I’m from the generation just before the millennials: Gen X. We had it rough but rewarding. We grew up in a time of neon fashion and rock-n-roll. We accessed it all on borrowed cassettes and players because that’s all the middle-class could afford.

I believe this moulded us into a generation that understood hard work and resilience. There wasn’t a manual for everything, and we knew some things took time and effort.

Fast-forward to today and we have a Gen Z obsessed seemingly unfamiliar with hard work. Role models, in the true sense of the word, barely exist. In the ‘80s, we had giants. There was Steve Jobs tinkering in the early years of Apple, Bill Gates at work on Microsoft, and stories of other such mavericks.

In India, we had Kapil Dev and the delirium of the World Cup win. We saw a surge of entrepreneurs and self-made professionals transform the socio-economics of the country. Think of the founders of companies such as Infosys and TCS, and the strong-willed



Ennu, from the film *Inside Out 2* (2024). I wish more members of Gen Z would choose to put down the phone, pick up a book, or better yet, a hammer.

men and women they hired.

Gen Z pride themselves on being tech-savvy, but I doubt most can even code as well as we did. Their role models? Influencers whose biggest achievement is perfecting the art of the selfie. Theirs is a culture of instant gratification. If something doesn’t go viral, it’s a failure. If something doesn’t immediately thrill, it must be abandoned.

These are minds rewired by social media. What about resilience? The ‘80s folk are the embodiment of “tough it out”. We didn’t have “safe spaces” or “trigger warnings”. Life was tough. It worries me that today’s youth seems fragile by comparison.

Mental health and well-being are vital, but there’s a fine line between addressing a genuine issue and coddling oneself until one can no longer weather the inevitable challenges life throws at every living being.

Now, I’ve been harsh so far. It’s time to admit that not everything about Gen Z is wrong. This is a generation that is more inclusive, more aware, and incredibly adaptive to a constantly changing world. I do wish they had better role models.

Which brings me to the 18-year-old who knocked on my door. His hair was trimmed, army-style. He asked, “Sir, may I have your car keys?” I stared at him, confused. Then,

the man who washes my car came up and introduced him. The teen was stepping in for him, temporarily. I had to speak to the kid.

It turned out he was a science student at a Mumbai college, prepping to join the Army. He was washing cars because he and his mother needed the money.

He reminded me of so many of us from Gen X and the generations that came before. Was he an outlier? “Dada, you underestimate us,” my daughter said.

And there it was, like a flash of lightning: a stark reminder that, in a sea of digital facades and fleeting fame, there remains at least some of that raw tenacity. Perhaps it takes hardship to let it shine through. I wish that weren’t the case. I wish there were easier ways to learn life’s truest lessons.

I wish more members of Gen Z would choose to put down the phone, pick up a book, or better yet, a hammer. Because the world does not need more influencers. It needs more innovators, creators and doers.

It is not enough to simply drift in search of pleasures, and only choose the easy paths. To rephrase Gandalf: We do have to decide what to do with the time that is given to us.

(Charles Assisi is co-founder of Founding Fuel. He can be reached on assisi@foundingfuel.com)

{ NOW I GET IT } WHERE EARTH ENDS AND SPACE BEGINS

You’re going where?

Dipanjan Sinha

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READ: What’s next, after ISS? Change is coming to Low-Earth Orbit. By Natasha Rego

gen) towards its surface. Move away from the surface and that force weakens.

At about 100 km, the pull barely registers on the gasses. Thus, while atmospheric pressure stands at 14.7 psi (pound-force per sq inch) at sea level, it is considered to be about zero at the Karman line.

Cross this line, and one enters Low-Earth Orbit, a zone that stretches for about 2,000 km. Beyond 2,000 km, one can consider oneself in outer space.

The International Space Station (ISS)—and most of the planned labs, hotels and other tourist ventures—will be limited to “space” or Low-Earth Orbit. ISS currently orbits at about 400 km: high enough to avoid most of Earth’s atmospheric drag, low enough to avoid space debris such as fragments of asteroids and other natural and manmade junk.

There’s an interesting boundary in the other direction too.

The Armstrong limit, at about 19 km above sea level, marks the altitude at which human blood would boil if unprotected by a suit. It bubbles up at this point not because the temperature rises, but because the low atmospheric pressure reduces its boiling point. The line was defined by Harry Armstrong (1899-1983), an early aerospace physician. And isn’t that just the stuff of space nightmares?

Eventually, Google Maps may jot all this down for tourists, but for now, here goes. The most widely accepted boundary between Earth and space is the Karman line, named after the Hungarian physicist Theodore von Karman (1881-1963). This imagined boundary, about 100 km above sea level, is more or less the point at which most aircraft begin to falter.

The reason they falter is the medium they are travelling through, which is essentially compressed air, starts to dissipate. In some of his early work, Karman is believed to have fixed his line closer to 80 km from sea level, because atmospheric fluctuations can make this entire band hard to traverse.

A big part of what creates that compressed air—that we call atmosphere—is the pull of Earth’s gravity drawing atmospheric gasses (including oxy-

IMAGES: ADOBE STOCK

{ CAPITAL LETTERS } DON’T SAY HELLO

Greet expectations

Adam Jacot de Boinod



It’s become so universal, we barely notice it. But “hello” hasn’t been around for very long.

It is only about 200 years old in the English language, and comes to us from the Middle Age “Hail”, which itself draws from hale and health.

Of course, pretty much every culture has a favoured greeting. “Allilanchu” is “How are you” in the indigenous Quechua language of Peru. “Dumela” in Tswana and “goddag” in Danish are “good day”. There’s “jambo” in Swahili and “kaixo” in Basque, for “you are welcome”. “Ni hao” is “are you well” in Mandarin. And “xin chao” is the uber-polite “may I greet you” in Vietnamese. Coming full circle, “zdravo” is “hail” or “good health” in Bosnian.

A greeting needn’t be a word. Among the Japanese, a bow must accompany whatever term one uses, as a sign of respect. Saikerei (literally, “most respectful gesture”) is the deepest bow, an almost-worshipful one in which the nose nearly touches the hands (which rest on the lap of the greeter). There is also the pekoeko, a sort of ingratiating bobbing, to indicate a fawning respect.

The Japanese are almost obsessively punctual, so they probably don’t have a word for the feeling of waiting impatiently for an encounter to begin. But in the Arctic, the frustration of this experience is summed up in the Inuit word “iktsuarpok”, meaning “to go outside often to see if someone is coming”. Russian has the rather aggressive flip side: “dozvonit’sya”, which is to ring a doorbell not once or twice but incessantly, until one gets an answer.

Once the gathering is complete, conver-

sation must ensue, and this can be complicated. As any Indian knows, there are many, many ways to say “you”. Hindi alone has “aap” for elders, seniors and the respected; “tum” for friends, peers and junior family; and “tu” which, let’s face it, is a veiled insult (or endearment, depending on the context).

Vietnamese has 18 words for “you”, depending on factors such as whether the person addressed is a child or a senior citizen, and whether the relationship is one marked by formality or informality.

The Western Australian Aboriginal language of Jiwari is less subtle. It has four terms for “we”. Ngali means “we two, including you”. Ngaliju means “we two, but not you”. Nganthuru is “we all, including you”. And nganthurruju is “we all, excluding you” (ouch).

That last is clearly for a person regarded with less than affection. What of a meeting with someone beloved? “Samir” is Persian for one who converses at night, by moonlight. “Begadang” is Indonesian for the act of staying up all night, talking. The wonderfully tactile “glossalgos” was Ancient Greek for “talking until one’s tongue ached”.

And then there are phrases for times when a conversation simply won’t go right... In Indonesian, “latath” is the uncontrollable habit of saying embarrassing things. In Hawaiian, ‘a’ama is someone who speaks rapidly, hiding their meaning from one person whilst communicating it to another!

Don’t you love it when a term is that specific? Not every culture opts to be quite as frank, which makes for some twisty metaphors. My favourite: The Mandarin “dai niu tanqin”, for talking over someone’s head or addressing the wrong audience. Literally? They’re “playing the lute to a cow”.

(Adam Jacot de Boinod is the author of *The Meaning of Tingo*)

WORLD

Biden promises campaign return despite calls to quit

Biden said that he will 'get back on the campaign trail next week to continue exposing the threat of Donald Trump's Project 2025 agenda'

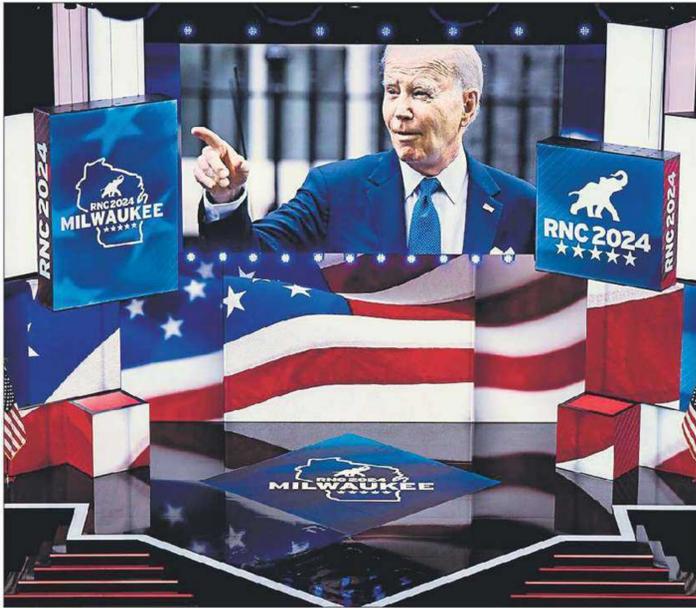
Agencies
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW YORK: President Joe Biden said he would resume campaigning next week, despite mounting criticism from Democratic allies who have begun viewing his exit from the race as an inevitability.

"I look forward to getting back on the campaign trail next week to continue exposing the threat of Donald Trump's Project 2025 agenda while making the case for my own record and the vision that I have for America," Biden, who is recovering from Covid-19 at his Delaware beach home, said in a statement Friday.

The statement was the latest indication that Biden remains determined to stay in the race, despite prominent party leaders urging him to reconsider. Vice President Kamala Harris, who is seen as the most likely to replace Biden atop the Democratic ticket, echoed the sentiment in a call with top party donors, extolling Biden's virtues.

"It is something I feel strongly you should all hear and should take with you when you leave,



A screen showing an image of Joe Biden during the Republican National Convention (RNC) at the Fiserv Forum in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on Thursday. AFP

and tell your friends too: We are going to win this election," Harris said.

Paired with a rare television appearance by campaign chairwoman Jennifer O'Malley Dillon, who told MSNBC the president was "absolutely" determined to stay in the race and "more com-

mitted than ever," the signal from the Wilmington, Delaware, headquarters clearly intended to convey Biden's determination. But few Democrats outside Biden's team believe his effort remains viable.

In a Friday meeting, senior campaign officials acknowl-

edged the difficulty of combating speculation and media reports, while arguing that Biden's support was deeper than cable news suggests.

Fundraisers on hold Meanwhile, several of Biden's reelection campaign fundraisers

are on hold, multiple Democratic sources involved in the events told Reuters on Friday, even as the Democratic Party planned to accelerate his nomination and he vowed to continue in the 2024 race.

Biden had planned to raise money in Austin, Denver and California next week, but these plans have been shelved, at least for now, the sources said.

Biden's campaign said his fundraisers would go ahead as planned.

"Reuters' sourcing is incorrect, and we look forward to a robust fundraising schedule," campaign spokesman Kevin Munoz said on Friday.

A source familiar with the situation said former late-night comic David Letterman would headline a fundraiser for Biden at the home of Hawaii Governor Josh Green in about 10 days, a sign of forward movement for Biden.

A number of big donors are closing their checkbooks amid questions about whether Biden should remain at the top of Democratic Party ticket, the sources said, using their financial clout to tell Biden to drop out of the November 5 race, potentially in favour of Vice President Kamala Harris.

The campaign hoped to raise some \$50 million in big-dollar donations in July for the Biden Victory fund but was on track for less than half that figure as of Friday, according to two sources familiar with the fundraising efforts.

Australia warns of malicious websites after cyber outage

Reuters
letters@hindustantimes.com

SYDNEY: Australia's cyber intelligence agency announced on Saturday that "malicious websites and unofficial code" are circulating online, falsely claiming to assist with recovery from Friday's global digital outage.

This outage, which disrupted media, retailers, banks, and airlines, was caused by a botched software update from CrowdStrike. Australia was among the many countries affected by the widespread chaos.

On Saturday, the Australian Signals Directorate (ASD) - the country's cyber intelligence agency - said "a number of malicious websites and unofficial code are being released claiming to help entities recover from the widespread outages caused



Passengers check flight information at Ronald Reagan Washington Airport, in Virginia, on Friday. AFP

by the CrowdStrike technical incident". On its website, the agency said its cyber security centre "strongly encourages all consumers to source their technical information and updates from official CrowdStrike sources only". Cyber Security Minister Clare

O'Neil said on social media platform X on Saturday that Australians should "be on the lookout for possible scams and phishing attempts".

Friday's outage hit Commonwealth Bank of Australia, the country's largest bank, which said some customers were unable to transfer money. National airline Qantas and Sydney airport said planes were delayed but still flying.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said late on Friday that there had been no impact to critical infrastructure, government services or emergency phone systems.

CrowdStrike - which previously reached a market cap of about \$83 billion - is a major cybersecurity provider, with close to 30,000 subscribers globally.

APPALLING: FRANCE BLASTS RUSSIA'S CONVICTION OF US REPORTER

Agence France-Presse
letters@hindustantimes.com

PARIS: France on Saturday condemned Russia's conviction of American reporter Evan Gershkovich to 16 years in jail for "espionage", with the foreign ministry calling it "appalling".

Paris "calls on Russian authorities to free Evan Gershkovich as well as all political prisoners, Russian or foreign," ministry spokesman Christophe Lemoine said in a statement.

France "condemns (his) appalling conviction to 16 years in a penal colony," he said, charging that "Russia's authoritarian drift continues to intensify".

Wall Street Journal correspondent Gershkovich, who pleaded not guilty, became the first journalist in Russia to be charged with spying since the Cold War when he was detained in 2023.

The Kremlin claims Gershkovich was caught "red-handed" spying on a tank factory in the Urals for the CIA but has provided no public evidence.

Myanmar alliance to extend ceasefire with junta in Shan state

Agence France-Presse
letters@hindustantimes.com

YANGON: Myanmar's armed groups agreed to extend a ceasefire with the junta in northern Shan state to July 31 after Chinese pressure. The ceasefire follows clashes in which the groups seized territory along a key highway.

Fighting in the area intensified last month when the Three Brotherhood Alliance renewed its offensive against junta troops.

The alliance, including the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), initially agreed to a four-day ceasefire from July 14-18, but the Arakan Army, a third member, did not join the ceasefire.

"China put a lot of pressure on us to have a ceasefire immediately," the leader from the TNLA, who asked not to be named, told AFP. "Therefore, we have to do it as we can't avoid it." But the leader warned that if junta

troops launched offensives on the alliance's troops or if they continued to bomb civilians during the ceasefire, they would "attack back".

Fighting broke out in Myanmar after the military's ouster of Aung San Suu Kyi's government in a coup in 2021.

The putsch sparked renewed fighting with ethnic minority armed groups, as well as with pro-democracy "People's Defence Forces".

The Shan state clashes have broken a Beijing-brokered truce from January.

The new agreement, however, doesn't include Mandalay, where fighting continues. China supports the junta with arms but analysts say it also engages with ethnic armed groups near its border.

Myanmar's borderlands host ethnic armed groups fighting the military since 1948 for autonomy and resources.

Some support new "People's Defence Forces" formed after the 2021 coup.



Moroccan ex-minister hit with five-year jail sentence

RABAT: Moroccan opposition figure and former minister Mohamed Ziane has been sentenced to five years in prison while serving a three-year term in another case, his lawyer said on Saturday. The former Rabat bar association president was convicted on charges of "embezzlement and squandering of public funds", the lawyer Ali Reda Ziane, who is also his son, said. The charges relate to funds the Moroccan Liberal Party - of which Mohamed Ziane was founder - received in a 2015 electoral campaign. AFP

Russia shot 26 Ukrainian drones in Rostov region

MOSCOW: Russia shot down 26 Ukrainian drones overnight in the southern Rostov region, several hundred kilometres from the front line, the regional governor said on Saturday. "Last night, air defence forces intercepted and destroyed a total of 26 UAVs in Rostov region. There were no casualties as a result of the attack. Emergency services are on their way to the site where the UAV wreckage fell," Governor Vasily Golubev posted on the social media platform Telegram. AFP

Turkish prez dims hopes for Cyprus talks

NICOSIA: Turkey's president on Saturday put a damper on hopes for a quick resumption of talks to heal a half-century of ethnic division on Cyprus, reaffirming his support for a two-state deal that Greek Cypriots dismiss as a non-starter. Speaking ahead of a parade marking the 50th anniversary of the Turkish invasion that split Cyprus, Erdogan ruled out a UN-endorsed federation peace deal. Despite past rejections, Greece and Greek Cypriots hoped he might soften his stance. AFP

Bridge collapse in China kills 12 people, leaves over 30 missing

Agence France-Presse
letters@hindustantimes.com

BEIJING: A bridge collapse caused by torrential rains in northern China killed 12 people and left more than 30 missing, state media said on Saturday.

Large parts of northern and central China have been battered in recent days by rains that have caused flooding and significant damage.

The bridge in northwestern Shaanxi province buckled "due to a sudden downpour and flash floods" on Friday night, according to state news agency Xinhua. All 12 victims in the city of Shangluo were found inside five vehicles that were recovered from the river below the bridge, Xinhua said.

At least 31 people remained missing, and initial investigations indicated that 17 cars and eight trucks had fallen into the river, it added.

Images on state television showed a partially submerged section of the bridge with the river rushing over it.

One witness told local media that he had approached the bridge but that other drivers started "yelling at me to brake and stop the car".

"A truck in front of me didn't stop" and fell into the water, the witness, surnamed Meng, said.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has urged "all-out rescue and



A rescuer looks at the collapsed bridge as they conduct a search and rescue on a river in Zhashui County in Shangluo City, northwest China's Shaanxi Province, on Saturday. AP

relief efforts" to find those still missing, Xinhua said.

And in the southwestern province of Sichuan, more than 30 people were reported missing on Saturday after a violent thunderstorm caused flash flooding in the town of Ya'an, according to Xinhua, which later reported four people had been rescued.

On Friday, state media reported at least five people dead and eight missing after the rains sparked flooding and mudslides in Shaanxi's Baoji

city. State television broadcast images of neighbourhoods completely flooded by muddy water, with excavators and residents attempting to clear the damage.

Extreme weather

The semi-desert province of Gansu, which neighbours Shaanxi, and Henan in central China were also hit by heavy rains this week.

In Henan's Nanyang city, the equivalent of a year's worth of rain fell at the start of the week, CCTV said.

And in Sichuan province, two people were reported killed and seven others missing on Friday after heavy rain triggered landslides.

China is enduring a summer of extreme weather, with heavy rains across the east and south coming as much of the north has sweltered under successive heatwaves. Climate change, which scientists say is exacerbated by greenhouse gas emissions, is making such extreme weather phenomena more frequent and more intense.

{ NEPAL PM }

Oli likely to win vote of confidence on Sunday

Press Trust of India
letters@hindustantimes.com

KATHMANDU: Nepal's newly appointed Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli is expected to win a vote of confidence in Parliament on Sunday, nearly a week after he was sworn in to lead another coalition government in the Himalayan nation facing frequent power struggles.

The 72-year-old veteran Communist leader was sworn in on July 15 as Nepal's prime minister for the fourth time, along with 21 Cabinet members.

According to Nepal's Constitution, Oli needs a parliamentary vote of confidence within 30 days of his appointment, which he is likely to secure easily. A minimum of 138 votes is required in the 275-member House of Representatives. The Chairman of the CPN-

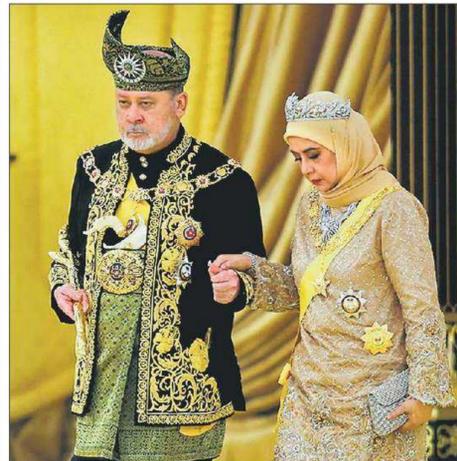
UML, Nepal's largest communist party was appointed as prime minister on Sunday by President Ram Chandra Poudel to lead the coalition government with the Nepali Congress (NC), the largest party in Parliament, apart from other smaller parties.

Nepali Congress and Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) have a combined strength of 167, and two other ruling parties, Janata Samajwadi Party and Lokatantrik Samajwadi Party, have seven and four seats, respectively. With this, the ruling alliance has a strength of 178 in the 275-member HoR.

Apart from the ruling alliance, Oli is also likely to get votes from the Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP), Janata Samajwadi Party Nepal (JSP), Nagarik Unmukti Party (NUP) and Janamat Party.

{ KING SULTAN IBRAHIM ISKANDAR } NINE MALAY RULERS ROTATE AS THE COUNTRY'S KING EVERY FIVE YEARS

Malaysia crowns new king with pomp and cannon fire



The seventeenth King of Malaysia, Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar and Queen Raja Zarith Sofiah Idris Shah, during his coronation at the National Palace, in Kuala Lumpur, on Saturday. AFP

Associated Press
letters@hindustantimes.com

KUALA LUMPUR: Traditional pomp and cannon fire on Saturday marked the coronation of Malaysia's billionaire King Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar, who pledged to govern fairly during the five-year term he will serve under a unique rotating monarchy system.

Sultan Ibrahim, 65, was sworn in on January 31. Saturday's coronation at the national palace formalised his role as Malaysia's 17th king in a ceremony steeped in Malay culture and pageantry.

Nine ethnic Malay state rulers take turns as Malaysia's king for five-year terms under the country's rotating monarchy, which began when Malaysia gained independence from Britain in 1957.

Malaysia has 13 states but only nine have royal families, some which trace their roots to

centuries-old Malay kingdoms that were independent states until they were brought together by the British.

Donned in black and gold traditional ceremonial outfit and headgear, Sultan Ibrahim and Queen Raja Zarith Sofiah were greeted by military salute before they proceeded to the throne.

The heads of the other royal families, Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah and Bahrain King Hamad Isa al Khalifa were seated on a stage beside the throne.

At the start of the proceedings, a copy of the Quran was presented to the Sultan who kissed it.

The monarch received a gold dagger, a symbol of power. Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim then pledged his government's loyalty and said the royal institution was a pillar of strength for the nation. He then proclaimed Sultan Ibrahim as Malaysia's new king.

"God willing, I will discharge my duties faithfully and honestly, and to rule fairly," Sultan Ibrahim said in his coronation speech.

He also urged Anwar's government to step up efforts to improve the livelihood of the people and bolster the nation's development. After the sultan took his oath, guests in the hall chanted "Long live the king" three times.

Sultan Ibrahim from southern Johor state bordering Singapore is one of the country's richest men, with a business empire spanning from telecoms to real estate.

He is known for his collection of luxury cars and motorbikes, and is the only state ruler with a small private army - a concession granted to his state when it joined modern-day Malaysia.

The sultan is vocal about Malaysian politics, and has spoken out about corruption and racial discrimination.



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OKHLA-I Crown Plaza Rd 1100y@2.75 Okhla-I, Crown Plaza Rd 425y @2.90 CR Park 233y Bsm-GF Stilt, Lift, 95-25 GK-I 300y FF 4bhk sq lift cars @5cr GK-II 250y FF 3bhk sq car park @3.60 CR Park Main Rd Rented office @40L

NEHRU PLACE, Davika Tower, Rented office, Flat Monthly Rent 30000, Sale Price 55 lakh Lock in Three year. Contact Owner #981001682.

RAJOURI GARDEN - Plots / Floors 200 sq. yards Resi cum Comm. SP Mukherjee Park Tikla Nagar Near Metro Stn. New Delhi -18 Contact 9811093915 / 9968214861.

PRE RENTED on sale at Wave Silver Tower 1087/ Sq.Ft. 2 Floors Rented to Samsung 2 Lac/pn Sale @ 5Cr. More details GK Estate @ 09810093757.

AVAILABLE FOR SALE 1.538 Sq yds Plot 2, Imperial Court's BHK Penthouse 5250 Sq.Ft. both Golf Facing JP Noida @ 5Cr. More details GK Estate @ 09810093757.

AGRICULTURAL/COMMERCIAL Land in District Badaun, Shahjahanpur Bareilly. For Buy and Sell Contact Shyam Baba Properties, Badaun UP. #0885975959, 0705571112

IMMEDIATE KOTHI for Sale in Noida, Good Location 200sq.meter Sec-30 & 180 sq.meter Sec-41, only for Genuine User, Vedanta Associates # 981848188, 9891019808

LAND SALE NH-58 Delhi to Haridwar Rd on Highway Nr. Elcher Motor, Muzaffarnagar (UP)-251002 Area-5460 sq.mt. Size - (150x450 ft) Contact: 9927034340

WANTED 2 groups of 4 singlelet, indpt semi furnished flats at F/9/4 vasant vihar, GF & FF, self-run rent per group Rs 20 PM, no haggle, 1st come 1st serve Meet at site, Kapur MSc tech, aged 100, 9899999905.

FOR RENT fully furnished 430sqft. Comm. Flat on 6th Floor in Ashoka Estate C.P. & 1300 sqft comm. flat on 7th Floor in Deepali build, Nehru Place. Contact: 999941000



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Sample Apartment Ultra Luxury.
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It will be provided as Furnished.
9810087626
9811028593
Broker welcome

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For Lease in IDC Tower Gurgaon. Prime Loc. Close to NCR, near HFCO Chowk in HSIDC Sec-16. New Construction with Lift. Fire NCC. Building Completion. Huge Parking. 4 Firs each of 3000 Sq.Ft. Cvdrt area (Total 14000 Sq. Ft.)
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DLF PHASE-3. 500 Sqyds. Brand New. Ground & First Floor. 4 BHK each. Excellent Location, Greens Facing. A+ Specs. For MNC/ Reputed Profiles. L18198312077

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NAVJEEVANS PREP Academy in D Block Nehru Vihar, Delhi-54 Regd Female NIT/IBT/Grad/Primary Teachers & Field Officers, 12th Pass (M/F). Interview: 2-26th July onwards (10:00pm to 4:00pm) # 931002254

C.R. Sani Public School, Delhi-41 Regd PGT-English, Biology, Chemistry, P.E.T., TGT-English, PRT, Sp.Ed., PRT, Dance. Electrician cum caretaker #971314725. E.crs.dta@gmail.com

EMPLOYMENT/ACADEMIC

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- PGT (Political Science) - M.A. in Political Science, B.Ed.
- TGT (S.St) - Post Graduate, B.Ed., CTET qualified
- Special Educator - Post Graduate with B.Ed. in Special Education & Registered with RC1
- Administrative Officer - Post Graduate / Graduate, conversant with school office tasks, estate supervision, admin procedures, computer operations, CBSE & DOE compliances, capable of handling correspondence, legal matters, liaisoning with agencies. Work experience in Public Schools preferred
- Lab Assistants (Physics/Chemistry) - Graduate in respective subjects with 1st division and hands on experience of Lab handling
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New Era Public School, Dwarka

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Candidates with minimum 5-10 years of experience in a public school of repute, proficiency in Computers, good communication skills and command over English language need apply.

Interested candidates may contact Society's office for application form or apply online on neweramp@gmail.com (For Mayapuri) and neweraddwarka@gmail.com (For Dwarka)

Shiv Vani M.S.S. School

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WALK-IN INTERVIEW

July 26 & 27, 2024, 9.00 am - 11.30 am

- PRT : English, Science
- Sports Teacher (Female)
- Dance Teacher (Female)
- Table Teacher
- Brass/Bagpipe Band Teacher (Part time)
- Fencing Teacher (Part time)
- Accountant (Male with minimum 10 years of experience)
- Hardware Engineer

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Requires

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Only Female candidates may apply with detailed Resume through registered post or email to resume2024@Mothermarys.school

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Qualifications: As per GGSIPU/AICTE Norms.

Preference will be given to candidates having Corporate/Research/Administrative Experience. Recently retired persons with a Ph D degree may also apply.

Emoluments: As per norms.

Application Form with other details may be collected from the Institute or downloaded from its website <http://www.dias.ac.in>. The completed application should be submitted to the Institute latest by 27th July 2024 along with testimonials.

RDJP SCHOOL urgently req. TGT Science & English. Download application form from www.rdps.co.in & mail within one week.

CAPITAL PUBLIC Sec. School, A-125, Gurgaon, Haryana. Download application form from www.cdps.ac.in & mail within one week.

LOVELY HERITAGE School, Mayur Vihar, Vihar, Delhi-54 Regd Female NIT/IBT/Grad/Primary Teachers & Field Officers, 12th Pass (M/F). Interview: 2-26th July onwards (10:00pm to 4:00pm) # 931002254

REGD. FEMALE Exp. & O'ld Teacher
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ACADEMIC

J.M INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
Sector-6, Dwarka, New Delhi
Tel. : # 011-4912 3899, 2508 6313
www.jminternationalschool.com

PGT: Biology
Office Assistant (Knowledge of Accounts would be preferred)
Transport in-charge cum Estate Officer

Qualifications & Experience as per DOE norms. Candidates should also possess excellent communication & computer skills. Apply within 3 days on the prescribed form available on school website. Principal

DEEP PUBLIC SCHOOL
Sr. Sec. School, (Affiliated to CBSE), Sector D Pocket II, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070; 8595870897; Ph: 011-26897382, 011-26131771
Website: deeppublicschool.com
deeppublicschool@rediffmail.com

REQUIRES
PGT's: Physics, Geography, English
TGT's: Computers/IT, Librarian & SET
Coaches: Yoga, Judo, Karate, Skating and PRO (Preferably BBA, Computer Savvy)

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Walk-in Interview
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Qualified, experienced candidates fluent in English to apply on the prescribed form available in school till 30.07.2024 between 8.00am and 02.00pm. Qualification, age, pay scale etc. as per Delhi Admn. Rules. For Class Assistants, Graduates/XI pass with good command over English may also apply.

Principal

TEACHERS & staff required by a CBSE Sr. Sec. Public School of New Delhi as follows:
Primary T's, Teachers for English, Hindi, Sanskrit, Science, Maths, Science, Economics, Commerce, Accounts & Business Studies, Physical Education, Yoga, Computers, Art Craft, Music, Dance, Film Making & Media Studies, Librarian, Special educator, Office Asstt., Accounts Asstt., HR Asstt./Consultant, Events Coordinator, Admission Counselors, telecallers, Receptionist Secretary, computer ability preferred for all posts. Sports Coaches for all sports. Candidates with good english ability & english medium schooling preferred. Apply with contact details to: edukornew@gmail.com. Mention 'post applied for' in the subject of email.

REQD 5-10 yrs exp. accountant - Near by prefer contact Chaudhary Timber Industries Pvt Ltd. RZ-20 Amar colony nr. Metro pillar 453 nangoli Delhi # 6882998840

REQ. EXPERIENCED Accountant with min exp of 4-5 yrs for IT Co. Auth. Partner of HP, Dell & Lenovo. ABC Info P. Ltd. CP, ND-01 Email: anjani@abcinfo.in # 9810076839

REQUIRED CA, Audit Assistants, Articles, Accountants. Apply Sumit Trehan & Associates, Chartered Accountants, at R-40, South Ext-1I, ND-49. Email: castr@rediffmail.com

FIELD JOB for Readymade Shop. Married. BLD ID Proof, Own house & Bike must. Salary 20,000/- Conveyance. Cont.-6159, Pratap Gali, Gandhi Ngr, Delhi-31 Whatsapp 9667699360

SALES GIRL Required for Jewellery Showroom in Punjabi Bagh for Salivam Jewels. Attractive Salary. West Delhi Preferred. Freshers welcome! 9891060350,8743009500

WALK IN Interview Graduates For Govt. Survey Work 15-20K+Perks, IICONS, ISI, Gyankhand-4, Indraprasth, GZB. Interview 18-25 July Time: 10-6 pm Mb: 7860824809, 7011382992

URGENTLY REQ. part/full candidates for MNC Noida. Age 30 to 65 yrs. Preferred: Retired / H/wife / VRs / Self emp. Education Graduate/ call 9971096664 / 9212020206

DRIVER REQUIRED for personal duty in Vasant Vihar, min 20yrs experience of driving luxury cars in Delhi. Call 932718105.

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Office: 505, Ring Road Mall, Rohini, New Delhi-110085
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REO MBBS Full time Junior Resident for Nursing Home in South Delhi 1-3 years experience. Submit CV on Email:- ewmcindia@gmail.com or Whatsapp 981183738

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For all above Post Male / Female may apply

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With High Moral Values, Applicants must be Dynamic Team Builders with exemplary Track Record. Academic Leaders with excellent Interpersonal Skills and ability to achieve targets will be preferred.

ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS: As per CBSE norms
EXPERIENCE: 15 years of teaching and administrative experience including at least 5 years as principal in reputed CBSE schools.
SALARY: No bar for deserving candidates. Free accommodation inside the school campus.

ABOUT US: A Premier CBSE institution from Nursery to 12th serving the cause of education for the last 32 years. Students strength around 6000
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REQ. EXPERIENCED Accountant with min exp of 4-5 yrs for IT Co. Auth. Partner of HP, Dell & Lenovo. ABC Info P. Ltd. CP, ND-01 Email: anjani@abcinfo.in # 9810076839

REQUIRED CA, Audit Assistants, Articles, Accountants. Apply Sumit Trehan & Associates, Chartered Accountants, at R-40, South Ext-1I, ND-49. Email: castr@rediffmail.com

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SUITABLE MATCH For Kayashta Beautiful Girl 1993 Born. MBA, P.H.D. (Psychology) From Reputed Family, Cast No Bar. Contact: 9415108305

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SMA 4 very beautiful charmar girl DOB 16.01.1987, 5'8" MBBS and schooling from prestigious institutions. Father ret IPS officer, mother ret lecturer, based in Panchikula. Cast no bar. contact Mob 985637637

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WANTED PROFESSIONAL qualified well settled match for beautiful PQM NCR convent educated Punjabi Arora girl 1969/5/1. Email: pcmat43@gmail.com

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SUITABLE MATCH For Brahmin, B.Tul, Fair girl July 1995/5/1. Lives in Toronto with Canadian PR. Reputed well settled Delhi based Business Class family. Contact: 9868953384

DELHI BASED Garhwali Brahmin family, seeks well educated groom for their beautiful daughter 27/5/2, pursuing regular PhD. #9971134856

PB SR BR girl 5'2" 1979 Born working in IT firm. Looking for professional and never married match Whatsapp 8558031749

SUITABLE MATCH for Gaur Brahmin Girl September/56/51/1 MBA Working at reputed Bank as Deputy Manager seeks Prof. Qld Boy in Delhi / NCR. Call: 8178989101, 9315051226.

MATCH FOR Brahmin girl, 21 December 1993 Born, Birth place Chandigarh Time 1:AM, 5'4" B.Tech (Electronics & Telecommunication) Working in MNC at Gurgaon package 10.26 Lac PA. Preference in NCR. Whatsapp no: 9417086800 Mail: ashwani2494@gmail.com

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SC/ST
SOMA 5'5" tall, fair Ad-Dharmi (Hindu) girl, Nov 1993 born, Ph.D. Assistant Professor in Computer Science. Reach out on 7814957949 / 6239524994.

SM (Class I officers) for Meghal/Jatav(5C32/5.4 girl working as Asst Prof.(Permanent) in DU. 987336024.

SM FOR Jstav, Fair, Divorcee 36yrs/5'5" B.Sc. MBA, Sr. Mngt in Govt. Bank, Father-Retd. PCS, Mother-Housewife Brother-Advocate, Sister-Dr (Prefd Govt. Service boy) Cont: 9837996045

SIKH
SIKH GIRL, 20/10/1993, Ht.5'2", Saini, MA eng. UGC-NET, wrkg. Asst. Professor (ad hoc) Punjab, required well educated groom, +919915170019

SM FOR Gursikh girl 42yrs/5'5" B.Tul, Graduate from IIM Sr. Manager in leading MNC Gurgaon, 24Akh P.A Educated Khatri Family, South Delhi # 971773434 seek Gursikh only.

PUNJABI
TALL, BEAUTIFUL, Professional Girl 5.6 /86, Defence Affluent Punjabi Family, Seeks Professionally Accomplished Tall Groom. Whatsapp Biodata Photos to 9810169871, 9810675640

SM4 SMART, beautiful, slim and talented Punjabi Khatri girl 24/ 5'8" Delhi, MBA. Seeks alliance for a well established business family in Delhi based. Contact: 9540388000

NRI
Well established & reputed, Delhi based Jindal family looking for Professional match in UK for their UK based Non-manglik daughter age 27, height 5.7", slim & fair, working as a doctor in NHS UK, has done MBBS from Manipal India. Email your Biodata & photo bjjindal1967@gmail.com

AGARWAL
SM FOR MBA/B.E. Garg boy Sept 94 working in big 4/50+ LPA Gurgaon Noida based family seeks well educated working girl caste no bar Mobile Whatsapp No 9810352546

BRAHMIN
LOOKING FOR Well Educated Girl As Match For Our 28 year Son 5'7" B.Tech Punjabi Saraswat Brahmin. Boy well placed in MNC. Girl should be from Respected Preferably Punjabi family contact with details 9810283476 kamalsharma963@gmail.com

JAT
JAT BOY age 32 yrs Height 5'10" well settled in Business smart own house wanted Educ. smart Girl, avoid Gotra Phagat & Tomar. WhatsApp 8448012376, 9318322421

KHATRI
SEEK EDU teacher/homely girl firm Del-NR/Khatri Family for H'some boy 98/5/87 BCA MBA Delhi Unia.Mgk Imly b'nss of share trading, invest-ent & gym owner W.App 9999003822

RAMGARHIA
PROFESSIONAL MATCH For Ramgarhia Sikh Dhinan clean shaven boy, Dec. 1986, 5'-11", B.Tech, working IT Company-46 LPA, 9971888402.

VAISH
GOEL 9:23AM, Meerut, 27.07.97 /5'11", Fair, B.Tech/C/S, working as Senior Engineer in Software Co. in Noida 22.5 LPA seeks B.Tul, Educ. wrkg Girl, 9450470591, Bureau Excuse

ARORA
WANTED B'FUL smart NCR convent educated professional qualified bride for handsome NCR Punjabi Arora Army Colonel, 1974/5/77 Family in Karnal. Cont: 925514774 Email: lokeshgupta0574@gmail.com

ALLIANCE INVITED A High Status Khatri Pb Boy 18-09-1987, 03:00 PM, Panipat, 5'7", Govt employed (ETD), Pref. well edu, girl, Send BHP to wadhw.sandep2010@gmail.com

KAYASHTHA
WANTED BRIDE for a 26 y/o boy based in Bangalore, belonging to an old Delhi Mathur family (only Mathur kind-hearted girl who values mutual respect. Contact: 7838743869

WANTED B'FUL BRIDE for Kayashta Brahmin Businessman Boy 29/6/83/170cm, B.Tech, M. Tech from IIT Kanpur. Former Neurologist Owning a Hospital. # 7985670572, drsradhag@rediffmail.com

BRAHMIN
HANDSOME SARASWAT Brahmin Businessman Boy 29/6/83/170cm (USA) Now Chandigarh Settled From High Status Call 9417415511, 738020029

BRAHMIN
BRAH PUNJABI boy 1999 / 5'9" / B.E. MBA own factory in Noida Seeks NCR girl engg./mkt.mngt./hr teacher - self | jay #8826678569

KANPUR, 32 yrs, 32 LPA/6.0" Brahmin Software Engineer, HCL Noida, Seeks beautiful tall (5'5") girl, preferred UP/NCR. # 8130477926 (WhatsApp)

DOCTOR
GOOD LOOKING Aggarwal Girl from reputed business family in North Delhi, 5'2", born Dec 1991. Completed MD (Pediatrics) in 2023, currently pursuing Neonatology fellowship, Earning 18 LPA. Prefer Medical professional or any other esteemed professional, businessman, or industrialist from background, based in Delhi/ NCR. 9899414

SPORT  PARIS OLYMPICS

In this series, we look at the bond between some of India's Olympics-bound athletes and their coaches and find out what makes them click

Balgu charts Manika's top table return

Since teaming up in 2022 with the 29-year-old Indian paddler keen to rediscover her best, coach Aman Balgu has helped Manika Batra shed her inhibitions and find a fresh perspective

Susan Ninan

susan.ninan@hindustantimes.com

BENGALURU: Aman Balgu ran into Manika Batra in two completely distinct phases of her career. "It's funny, how life happens," says Balgu, Manika's 35-year-old coach.

"The first time I met Manika she was a rising junior player, on her way up. The second time, she was already a star who had suffered setbacks and was on a sort of downward spiral."

That's when India's table tennis star reached out to Balgu.

It wasn't a call that Balgu was expecting. "I never thought we'd work together. The first time she pitched the idea to me she was already working with another coach but it wasn't going well. I needed some time to think." The second time Manika approached Balgu was ahead of the 2022 Asian Cup. They decided to give it a shot for a couple of months. "I told her 'You're a top player, so it's going to take a lot of effort for me and it could affect the academy set-up I have in Hyderabad'. Well, it did affect things a bit but it's been worth it."

Since their time together for over a year and half now, Manika has seen her career-best win and career-highest ranking. "I've perhaps changed the way she looks at things," says Balgu.

Manika agrees. "I chose Aman because I felt I needed someone with a fresh perspective. He has helped me become more adaptable, open to new strategies. One major change he's brought about in me is perhaps reducing my urge to be a perfectionist."

Free from doubt

Balgu has been testing out a routine to keep Manika free from doubt and distractions going into tournaments. Close to a fortnight before an event, he stops discussing technique, flaws or tweaks. "She's a free-spirited person. The moment I tell her something is not great it could bother her and she might want to try something new. At times, my approach can cost us. But I think it's important that she's just herself, with no self-doubt or too many voices in her head. That's when she plays her best."

He takes it a step further. "I'm in regular touch with Manika's mother and some of her friends. Since they're all close to her and are obviously excited for her, before tournaments I remind them to just enjoy the matches and not to get too worked up and say anything that might affect her."

Even when he wasn't working with Manika, Balgu was watching her closely. He was then coaching another female player, Reeth Rishya, who featured in the 2022 Commonwealth Games. "If Reeth had to become No.1, she had to beat Manika, so it was my job to follow her games. So, even when Manika was going through a decline a couple of years ago, I had an idea of

what could have gone wrong. We're only six years apart in age, so there was no generational gulf really and it was a smooth transition for both of us once we decided to work together."

The Manika he met in 2022 though was worlds apart from the adolescent girl Balgu knew.

"When Manika was a junior, she seemed to just enjoy the game and not care about much else. No matter what happened the previous day, you'd find her playing the next day just as always."

"But when I met her two years ago, she was a very different person. She was extremely cautious, rigid about many things and was having a hard time trusting people. I suppose in this regard I've had some impact on her. I'm a social person, I like to meet people and don't like to hold any grudges or regrets."

"Her relationship with teammates and other players was quite different when we began working together. It has changed for the better since. Whether it's attending camps or sparring with other Indian players, I've tried to put it across to her that it's good to train in different environments, rather than limiting ourselves to our comfort zone. She's a lot more open now, and happier too I suppose."

Balgu too has gained from the association. "Because of Manika, I've had the opportunity to travel to lots of international tournaments and to see how these top nations and their players function."

Arguments and disagreements

Their relationship, however, isn't without its fair share of disagreements.

"I rely on Aman a lot and trust his decisions," Manika offers.

"He helps me see things differently and pushes me to improve in ways I might not have considered. Our equation is more like a partnership. But it's not like we always see eye-to-eye. We differ sometimes on strategies and techniques. For instance, Aman might want me to focus on a specific drill that I find tedious or less effective. The disagreements have been of help though. It sometimes leads us to even better solutions than the ones we were fighting over."

In addition to Balgu, Manika also has Belarusian sparring partner Kirill Barabanov to count on.

She calls Balgu her "strategic mastermind" and Kirill her "rock in high-pressure moments". "Aman's technical inputs can be a game-changer, especially when I'm struggling to break through my opponent's defences. He'll give me just the precise pointers that can quickly shift the momentum. I suppose both Aman and Kirill understand me well enough to know when to step in with advice and when to let me find my own rhythm."

Manika calls herself and Kirill "foodies", who're always on the lookout for new restaurants and dishes wherever they travel, and Balgu the "fitness enthusiast", one who's always counting calories.

"This one time, Kirill and I were on a mission to find the best pastries when we were in Europe," recalls Manika, "and we ended up in this little bakery. We convinced Aman to join us, promising we'd burn off the calories later. The bakery had a 'bake your own pastry' session, and let's just say the pastries Aman baked seemed nothing like pastries. They almost looked like abstract art. We had a good laugh over it."

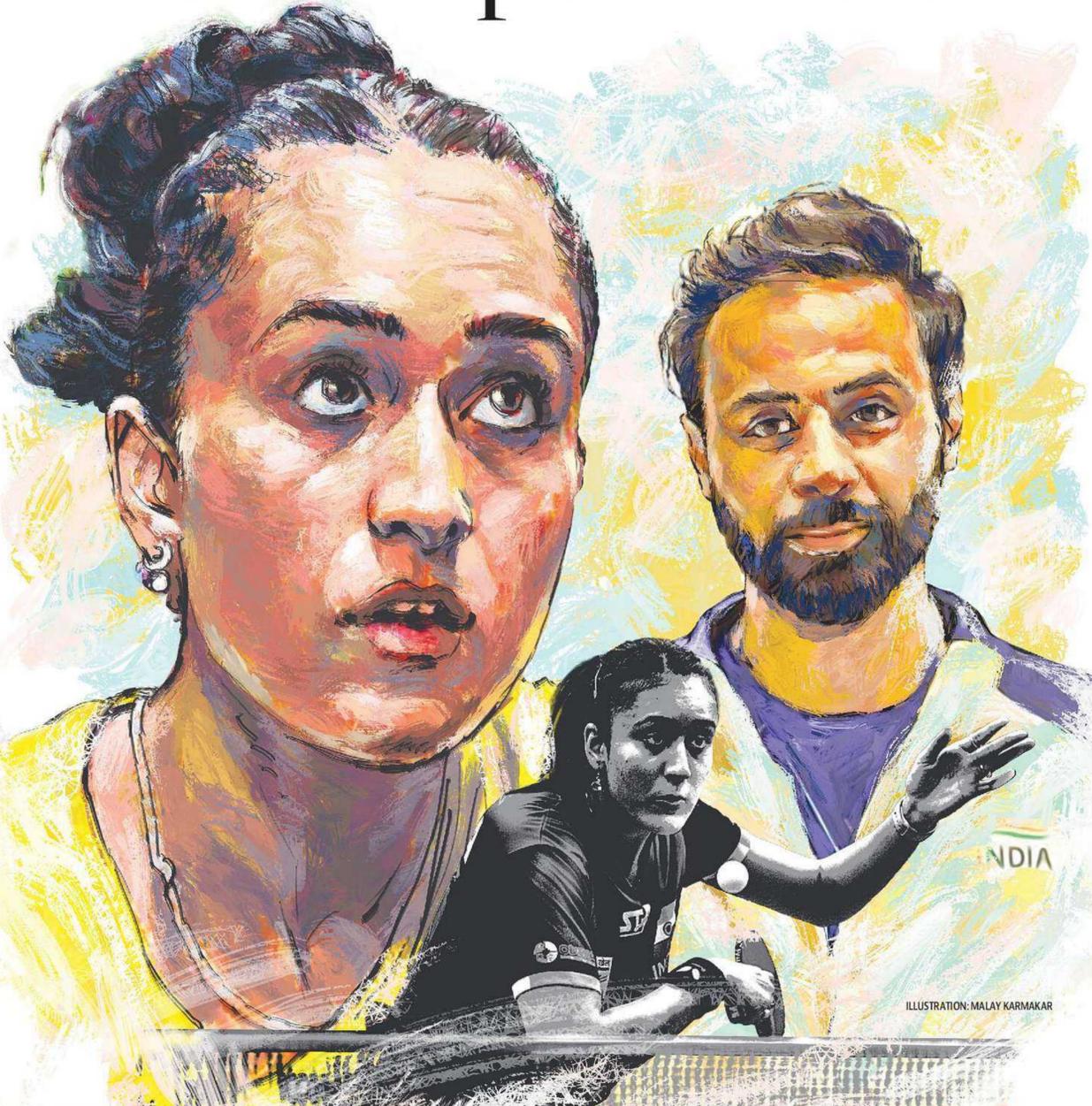


ILLUSTRATION: MALAY KARMAKAR

Athlete's corner



MANIKA BATRA
  Won four medals at the 2018 CWG – including two gold.
Became the first Indian female paddler to win a singles medal
 Won a mixed doubles bronze medal alongside Sharath Kamal at the 2018 Asian Games
 In Tokyo, she became the first Indian female singles table player to make the round of 32 at an Olympics
 Touched her career-highest rank of 24 this year

Coach's corner

AMAN BALGU
 Former India international, Balgu transitioned to coaching early
 Was coach to Reeth Rishya before Manika, and runs his academy in Hyderabad
He helped Manika ahead of the 2022 Asian Cup, where she became the first Indian female player to win a medal at the event
 Balgu was unsure to coach a top paddler like Manika, but relented after her bronze at the 2022 Asian Cup



Over the years

2022: Manika reached out to Balgu for assistance ahead of the 2022 Asian Cup

2024: Manika had her career-best win at the Saudi Smash in May 2024, defeating world No.2 China's Wang Manyu



Manika divides her training between Mumbai and Hyderabad

She has sessions with her Belarusian sparring partner Kirill Barabanov in Mumbai and heads over to Hyderabad to train with Balgu

Paris will be her third Olympics. She lost in the first round in Rio and reached third round in Tokyo, beating the 20th seed

When I met her two years ago, she was a very different person. She was extremely cautious, rigid about many things and was having a hard time trusting people. I suppose in this regard I've had some impact on her.

AMAN BALGU, Manika's coach

Sharma rallies with 67 in Round 3

Joy Chakravarty

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ROYAL TROON: After being battered by the elements in his first two rounds, Shubhankar Sharma managed to exact some revenge on Royal Troon Golf Club.

On Saturday in the third round of The Open, played mostly in benign conditions and before the sky opened up just as the leaders were teeing off, Sharma came home in four-under par 67 that greatly improved his position going into the final round after making the cut on the number (6-over). The conditions for Sharma were in sharp contrast to what he faced the first two days. It rained and blew on Thursday, and on Friday, wind gusts reached almost 50 kilometers an hour. On both days, Sharma's group, and a few before and after him, had to bear the brunt of the worst weather.

"I made the most of the conditions today. Got off to a hot start and hit it really well. Was kind of struggling with some energy because I was very tired after yesterday. After I finished on 6-over, I should have gone back and slept, but we were all very nervous," said Sharma, who started the



Shubhankar Sharma in action on Saturday.

AFP

round with back-to-back birdies.

"Today was just about getting my rhythm and being consistent with my processes, and that's why I got a pretty good round. I'm happy. The back nine is not playing as easy as the last few days because we have an opposite wind. Even downwind, it was not that easy, but it was more gettable the last two days."

The sun rarely shines over Scotland, and that was again the case on Saturday, but the Indian made hay even in its absence. At least the wind was mild, and Sharma produced a spectacular round of eight birdies. Royal Troon remained a formidable foe, and the only mistake of the day—a

tee shot slightly pulled into an unplayable lie in the tall fescue—resulted in a double bogey on the 15th.

However, he responded in spectacular fashion, making a long, 30-foot birdie putt on the 16th hole, before adding another birdie on the 18th following a pinpoint iron shot from 188 yards that left him with a 17-foot putt. He also had a chance on the difficult par-3 17th hole, where his birdie putt from 19 feet shaved the cup after a gorgeous 2-iron tee shot.

The double bogey was deflating, but Sharma took it in his stride. "I'm not disappointed because of that. We just got a bad ruling there. We were put on the

clock after we had a ball search and all that, which was why I was unhappy. I am delighted with my score," said Sharma who turns 28 on Sunday.

"I didn't hit the tee shot (on 15th) that bad. One yard right and I would have had a clear shot. It was just in a very bad spot. It is what it is, but I am concentrating on the good things. We made two good birdies coming in, so I'm quite happy."

Sharma secured his spot this year at The Open because of his eighth-place finish at Royal Liverpool last year, where he played a battling final round in heavy rain and finished without making a single bogey.

"The Royal Troon is 100 percent a much tougher course. I think the last round at Liverpool and here are comparable. Yesterday, the wind was twice as much as it was in Liverpool on the last day, which was decently windy, but very wet. That was a challenge. But yesterday was 30-mile-an-hour gusts, which was a huge challenge."

Denied accreditation, archery coach Baek returning to India

Avishek Roy

avishek.roy@htlive.com

NEW DELHI: Upset at not being given accreditation to be part of the Indian archery team at Paris Olympics, its renowned South Korean chief coach Baek Woong Ki said on Saturday he felt "humiliated and insulted" and wanted to end his tenure. To make matters worse, Baek, who reached Paris with the Indian team after over-seeing preparation in Marseille, was called back to India on Saturday by the Archery Association of India (AAI) after it failed to arrange accreditation for him at the Games Village.

The Korean was staying in a Paris hotel awaiting his Games accreditation while AAI was talking to Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to find a way to accommodate him in the contingent. Baek, who guided South Korea to two gold medals at the 2012 London Olympics, is learnt to have told AAI that it was "humiliating and insulting" to be treated this way by officials. His contract with the Indian



Baek Woong Ki.

team expires after the Paris Olympics on August 30. "I do not want to continue anymore. I just want to go back to South Korea," he told HT from Paris. "I have been preparing with the goal of helping India win a medal for the first time at the Paris Olympics. However, I believe that appointing a foreign coach but excluding (me) from the Olympic Games archery coach is a big mistake by the IOA and a decision that does not follow the original plan and goals," he said.

"Paris Olympics is India's best chance to win a medal in archery. It is very unfortunate that I cannot be with the team right now. I can only send messages to the team and I have told them what all they should be doing during the tournament. I hope the Indian archers win a medal at the Olympics," he said.

The Korean coach said he should have been the first coach on board. "We have been training hard but at a very important stage (Olympics), I am not appointed coach, why?" he asked. After 2012, this is the first time both the Indian men's and women's archery teams have qualified for the Olympics. They will be competing in all the five events. Baek — he is contracted by AAI and funded by Sports Authority of India (SAI) — has played a key role in shaping this team. At the 2023 Hangzhou Asian Games, the recurve archers bagged the men's and women's team silver medals, ending a 13-year medal drought. The men's team of Tarundeep Rai, Pravin Jadhav and Dhiraj Bommadevara has risen to No.2 in world rankings. They stunned reigning Olympic champions South Korea at the World Cup in Shanghai, winning gold after 14 years. The women's team won bronze in the Hangzhou Games.

AAI had sent a list of four coaches and two support staff members to guide the squad of six archers. However, two Indian coaches Sonam T Shering Bhutia (for men) and Purnima Mahato (for women), besides physio Arvind Yadav and psychologist Gayatri Aditya Madkekar, were cleared by IOA and the union sports ministry. The two Indian coaches have been given accreditation to stay in the Games Village while the support staff will get 'P category' cards and stay in a hotel.

AAI to blame for mess?

It was learnt that IOA had told the federation that only four support staff members could be accommodated. "The head coach's name was given as fifth member of the support staff and it was removed. Even when he did not get accreditation, he was sent for the pre-Olympics camp in France, knowing well that his name is not in the list," said people aware of the development. An AAI official said it has reached out to IOA officials, but no solution was found. AAI secretary general Virender Sachdeva and other top officials did not respond to calls.



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Surya: From problem child to India's new T20I captain

India leadership for the 33-year-old shows transformation after early struggles to fit in at state, club levels

Sanjeev K Samyal
sanjeev.samyal@htlive.com

MUMBAI: For Mumbai left-arm spinner Shams Mulani, it has seemed a never-ending wait to get into national reckoning. Season after season the 27-year-old has taken wickets aplenty—180 wickets in 38 first-class matches, 82 scalps in 55 List A games and 52 in 45 T20s. If he hasn't lost hope, it is because of the inspiration in the dressing rooms of Mumbai, his club Parsee Gymkhana, and IPL team Mumbai Indians—Suryakumar Yadav.

Mulani has seen the effort Surya had to put in, finally getting his India cap at the age of 30. Surya's prodigious batting talent though was obvious to everyone from his junior days. As an 18-year-old, he made 73 on Ranji Trophy debut in 2010, and the next season scored 754 from nine games. But he had to toil for almost 12 years before getting his India debut in 2021.

"He has been in front of my eyes (working). I take that as an inspiration—a guy who is the No.1 T20 batter, has played a crucial part in India's World Cup victory. He got his India debut very late; that's the inspiration we all have as Mumbai players... The struggle and grind is very important; when you play international cricket after that, it is the sweetest thing," says Mulani, the highest Ranji wicket-taker in 2021-22, the second highest in 2022-23, and who claimed 35 scalps last season. Surya's rise in the three years since he broke into the India side has been rapid. And this week he was named the T20I skipper. His Mumbai teammates are amazed. "Somehow, no one thought he would become this big. He has great game sense, that's the main reason he has been given the cap-

SKY's gradual rise to stardom

Suryakumar Yadav made his India debut at the age of 30. He spent his early years in the professional circuit battling inconsistency and disciplinary issues, but hasn't looked back since getting his chance for India

HIGHLIGHTS OF HIS CAREER

- Made his Ranji Trophy debut for Mumbai against Delhi in December 2010. Scored 73 in his maiden innings
- Also made his List A and T20 debuts for Mumbai in 2010
- After playing just one game for Mumbai Indians in the IPL in 2012 in which he was out for 0, he was signed by Kolkata Knight Riders in 2014
- He did decently for KKR lower down the order but never enjoyed a breakthrough IPL season with them
- He was signed again by MI ahead of IPL 2018, and finally had an impressive season, scoring 512 runs at a strike rate of 133.33. Won two titles with MI, in 2019 and 2020

- Made his T20I debut against England in March 2021. Made his ODI debut in July 2021
- Went on to become the world's top-ranked T20I batter. He is ranked second right now
- Was one of India's best batters at the 2022 T20 World Cup. Scored 239 runs at a strike rate of 189.68
- Played his only Test in February 2023 against Australia
- Took the decisive catch to dismiss David Miller in the last over of the 2024 T20 World Cup final against South Africa

7 Number of T20Is that Suryakumar has captained India in so far



Numbers game

15 Number of player-of-the-match awards won by Suryakumar in T20Is is the second-most by a player

167.74 Suryakumar's strike rate in T20Is is the best for anyone who has faced a minimum of 250 balls (among players from full member teams)

4 HUNDREDS Number of T20I hundreds scored by Suryakumar. Only Rohit Sharma has scored more for India

taincy. I used to listen to him talk about the game... Being a left-arm spinner, it really helped me get ahead of the batters," adds Mulani.

In cricket, perception matters. Confidence can be construed as cockiness and the player branded as having an attitude problem. Surya had to deal with it. He found it tough to win over the Mumbai dressing room after being appointed captain in 2014-15, and gave it away through an underwhelming season. In 2017, Surya was pulled up by the association (MCA) for retweeting a post questioning his omission from the team for the inter-state T20s. Vinayak Mane, his early captain at Parsee Gymkhana and now the club's coach, recalls a conversation early on when he was asked

to mentor Surya at the club.

"Mak sir (cricket columnist and consultant Makarand Wainankar) has always been in touch with him. He was the one who put him on to us. I was captain but about to enter coaching. He said: 'Vinayak, you will have to handle such characters if you want to be a successful coach.' Sir was clear: 'If anything goes up and down, I will make sure, I will take him out,' the former Mumbai opener recalls. "It was a tough phase for him. He was looking for club cricket opportunities and not many clubs (the big ones) were keen to play him; not because of his cricket but he was a strong character. He was known to be very dominant on the field and people were not able to handle him. Luckily for him, and us, he

was a good addition. That (Parsee Gymkhana) dressing room has helped him change overall, I feel. We maintained a very relaxed atmosphere—play and quietly go home."

Surya's fielding is now hailed as world class, but it wasn't the case early on. The club cricket secretary Khodadad Yazdegardi recalls how then Rajasthan Royals captain Shane Warne wasn't impressed and he was let go after trials. "Surya was match fit, but not as fit as he is now. Zubin Bhurucha (RR's head of High Performance Centre) took him to RR for trials. But whenever the ball went to him, Warne would turn around with hand on hips and look at Zubin as if to say 'I have got this guy'. Zubin told me this boy has something in him, but RR

management didn't agree and he was let go."

Coach Mane says Surya is ready for India captaincy. "Tactically, I was sure he would tick all the boxes. That I felt when he was first captain of Mumbai also. Only the man management skill was missing. That part he has added," says Mane.

Childhood coach Ashok Aswalkar at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) ground is happy his parents let him to pursue cricket. "In our colony, the culture was that after 8th-9th standard, children would leave all sports and get into academics, to become doctors, engineers and scientists. I am thankful to his parents for taking this decision. Surya has shown everyone what talent he has."

AIFF names Marquez as new coach of India

HT Correspondents
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NEW DELHI/KOLKATA: With Igor Stimac's removal as India coach still rumbling on, the All India Football Federation on Saturday named Spaniard Manolo Marquez to the post at an executive committee meeting at which former skipper Bhaichung Bhutia resigned as technical committee member citing procedural irregularities in the new appointment.

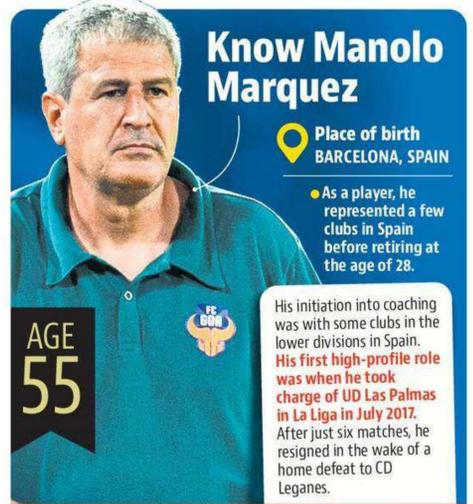
"The Committee, in the first order of the day, deliberated on the appointment of the new head coach for the Senior Men's National Team, and selected Manolo Marquez for the job, effective immediately," AIFF announced in a media release after the meeting in Delhi. "During the 2024-25 season, Marquez will continue his role as the head coach of first team at (ISL club) FC Goa, handling both responsibilities concurrently before assuming the national coaching role on a full-time basis," it said. He is likely to get a three-year contract.

Valid till June 2026, Stimac's contract was terminated by AIFF on June 17 with the offer of three months' salary as compensation. Stimac contested it, demanding compensation for the rest of the contract, failing which he would sue AIFF at an appropriate FIFA platform.

AIFF president Kalyan Chaudhary said in the statement: "We are delighted to welcome Marquez to this important role and are also thankful to FC Goa for their generosity of releasing him for national duty. We look forward to working with Marquez in the years ahead."

The federation, club and Marquez will work closely to ensure there is "minimal impact between the two jobs", the statement added.

"It's an honour for me to be the National Football Team coach of India, a country I consider my second home," Marquez, 55 said. "India and its people are something I feel attached to and I feel a part of since I first came to this beautiful country. I want to do my best to bring success to the millions of fans we have. I am very grateful to FC Goa for allowing us the flexibility to help the national team during the coming season while I am still the club's head



Know Manolo Marquez

Place of birth
BARCELONA, SPAIN

As a player, he represented a few clubs in Spain before retiring at the age of 28.

AGE
55

His initiation into coaching was with some clubs in the lower divisions in Spain. His first high-profile role was when he took charge of UD Las Palmas in La Liga in July 2017. After just six matches, he resigned in the wake of a home defeat to CD Leganes.

IN AUGUST
2020

He was appointed coach of Indian Super League (ISL) club Hyderabad.

IN 2021-22

Led Hyderabad to their first-ever ISL title. He left the job in March 2023.

IN JUNE
2023

He became FC Goa coach. He will now handle the Goa and India job together.

appointment for a second stint as head coach in 2015.

"The process used to be the technical committee scrutinises CVs and, if required, interviews candidates. That was not followed," said Bhutia.

The president said at the meeting on Saturday that AIFF's finances were tight and the new coach would suit its budget, said Bhutia. "Never in all my time at AIFF was money the deciding factor in appointing a coach."

Stimac's removal followed India's elimination from the FIFA World Cup qualifier. Their hopes for a historic progress to the third round were dashed following a controversial defeat to hosts Qatar on June 11. AIFF had advertised for the position of the men's and under-23 teams' head coach. Candidates must have 10-15 years of experience as coach at elite, youth and senior level and must have at least a UEFA or AFC pro license or their equivalent, the advertisement posted on the federation's website had said.

Bhutia headed the AIFF technical committee when it recommended Stephen Constantine's

Nadal makes first final in two years

BASTAD: Rafael Nadal reached his first final since winning the 2022 French Open, defeating Croatian qualifier Duje Ajdukovic in a three-set tussle in Bastad on Saturday.

A day after his four-hour quarter-final victory, the 22-time Grand Slam champion was again tested to the limit by

Ajdukovic, the world No.130 who had won just two tour-level matches before this week.

The Spaniard rebounded from dropping the opening set to prevail 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, returning to the final of a tournament he won as a teenager in 2005.

Nadal will play Portuguese seventh seed Nuno Borges or

Argentina's Thiago Agustin Tirante on Sunday as he goes in search of the 93rd singles title of his career. His most recent triumph came two years ago at Roland Garros, when he won the tournament for a record-extending 14th time. Nadal is using the event in Bastad as a tune-up for the Paris Olympics. AFP



Lando Norris. REUTERS

Norris on pole at Hungarian GP

BUDAPEST: Lando Norris grabbed pole position ahead of his teammate Oscar Piastri for the Hungarian Grand Prix on Saturday as McLaren locked out the front row of the grid for the first time since 2012. Red Bull's three-time champion Max Verstappen had to settle for third.

Lyles hits personal best before Paris

LONDON: US sprint star Noah Lyles fired out a timely broadside at pretenders to the Olympic 100m crown at Saturday's Diamond League meeting. Lyles, who won the world 100-200m titles in Budapest last year, clocked a personal best of 9.81 seconds in the blue riband event at London Stadium.

Duckett leads England charge

NOTTINGHAM: Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope and Harry Brook hit brisk fifties as England ended the third day of the second Test against West Indies at Trent Bridge on 248/3 for a 207-run lead. Earlier, WI were bowled out for 457 in their first innings.

Maini earns first win in Formula 2

NEW DELHI: Indian racer Kush Maini clinched his first win in Formula 2 in Hungary on Saturday. The Invicta Racing driver inherited the win after Trident's Richard Verschoor was disqualified from the Sprint Race due to a technical infringement.

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