

# THE TIMES OF INDIA

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## Bye, Done: Biden Drops Out Of Race, Endorses Kamala

106 Days Left For Election Day: No Prez Has Bowed Out This Late

Chidanand Rajghatta



File picture of Biden with Kamala Harris

Washington: US President Joe Biden on Sunday dropped out of the 2024 presidential race, bowing to immense pressure from the Democratic Party. In a statement posted on X Biden said while it had been his intention to seek re-election, "I believe it is in the best interest of my party and the country for me to stand down and to focus solely on fulfilling my duties as President for the remainder of my term."

He thanked his vice-president Kamala Harris for being an "extraordinary partner," but did not endorse her as the party nominee for the Presidency in the initial statement he posted on X, in which he also said he would speak to the

While it has been my intention to seek re-election, I believe it is in the best interest of my party and the country for me to stand down and to focus solely on fulfilling my duties as President for the remainder of my term

My fellow Democrats... Today I want to offer my full support and endorsement for Kamala to be the nominee of our party this year. Democrats—it's time to come together and beat Trump. Let's do this

► Stage is now set for a Trump vs Harris fight. He says it'll be easier to beat her than Biden, P 18

will make Kamala Harris — assuming rest of the party accepts Biden's endorsement and confirms her as the nominee — the first non-white female and the first Indian-American candidate for the US presidency.

There are only 106 days to go before election day on November 5. No president has dropped out so late in the race. While 106 days might seem a lot in other democracies such as India, UK and Israel, which can run campaigns and conduct polls in a matter of days or weeks, elections in the US is a different deal altogether, with candidates having to raise millions in funding to do voter rallies with advertising and on-the-road rallies in a country four times India's size.

Democratic Party grandees and leaders will now begin the process to nominate Biden's replacement with Harris best placed to succeed, particularly after the President's endorsement.

► 'Resisted revolt', P 18

## 10 centres in Haryana, 8 in Kottayam score well above average in NEET-UG

Over 5% Of Aspirants Score More Than 650, Nat'l Avg Is 1.3%

Rema Nagarajan & Richa Gandhi

An initial analysis of data on city and centre-wise NEET-UG scores put out by National Testing Agency shows that there are 10 centres in Haryana and eight in Kerala where more than 5% of candidates scored over 650 (out of 720). That proportion is more than three times the national average of 1.3% students getting that score. Unlike in Kerala, where all such centres are in Kottayam, a well-known coaching hub, in Haryana they are from eight cities.

► EDIT: Who's Coaching NTA?

Other than Rajasthan's Sikar, which grabbed headlines for the maximum number of centres with high proportion of 650-plus students, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Chandigarh, Vijayawada and Malappuram

### CENTRES WITH 5% CANDIDATES SCORING OVER 650

City	Centre Name	Candidates	Over 650	% over 650
Kottayam	JR Baslios English Medium School Pampady	183	17	9.3
Rewari	Delhi Public School	264	24	9.1
Mahendragarh	Rao Pahlad Singh Sr Sec School	448	39	8.7
Gurgaon	Yaduvanshi Shiksha Niketan	270	23	8.5
Hisar	DAV Police Public School	434	34	7.8
Bhiwani	DAV Police Public School	328	25	7.6
Hisar	Management Building, Om Sterling Global University	304	22	7.2
Bhiwani	Delhi World Public School	397	28	7.1
Sirsa	Geeta Sr Sec School	158	10	6.3
Kottayam	Good Shepherd Public School	380	23	6.1

\*Centres in Haryana marked in bold Preliminary list, doesn't include all such centres

More On P 17

### 'Club of 700' spans 276 cities across 25 states

The 2,321 aspirants who secured 700 or more marks in NEET-UG wrote the exam from 276 cities across 25 states and UTs, including places such as Dhubri in Assam and Kangra in Himachal, reports Manash Pratim Gohain. Thirty-five students were from Lucknow, 27 from Kolkata and 25 from Latur. P 17

had many centres where proportion of such students was well above national average.

Several centres in Haryana also had a high proportion of those scoring over 600. But the clustering of scores abo-

ve 700 was seen more in two centres in Gujarat, with nine students in one centre in Rajkot and another in Ahmedabad managing the feat.

► Had 3-4 students, P 17

## Sikar comes out on top but it's not celebrating

Little-known Sikar in Rajasthan has likely outperformed all other cities, including hot-favourite Kota, in the NEET-UG test, as per data released by NTA. But far from elation, the mood in Sikar on Sunday was one of apprehension against the backdrop of controversies plaguing the exam this year and Rajasthan's recent track record of paper leaks, reports Shoeb Khan.

NTA data shows 13,423 of 27,216 students who wrote NEET-UG in Sikar scored over 550. The number of 600-plus scorers was 4,100, higher than what Sikar's coaching institutes put out after results were declared on June 4. Several institutes were figuring out where the "extra" top-scorers came from before trumpeting it as an achievement. Sikar has at least eight institutes with more than 5,000 students each, and a combined figure of 1 lakh students. P 17

## 14-year-old dies of Nipah in Kerala

In the first Nipah fatality in Kerala this year, a 14-year-old boy from Malappuram district who tested positive for the infection died at Kozhikode govt medical college Sunday. The state govt has intensified curbs in Pandikad and Anakayam panchayats and has stepped up contact tracing. P 12

## 2-year-old city boy brutally murdered

A two-year-old boy was killed brutally after being abducted in central Delhi's Anand Parbat. The incident came to light Sunday when the child's body, wrapped in a cloth, was found in an MCD toilet. He was struck with a heavy object. There were cigarette burns and bite marks on his body. P 6

## Battlelines drawn: Oppn adds UP advisory to 'must debate' list

Let Parliament Run Smoothly: Rajnath At All-Party Meet

Akhilesh Singh & Ambika Pandit

New Delhi: The UP govt advisory that owners of eateries along kanwar yatra route should display their names became one of the focal points of an all-party meeting here Sunday on the eve of the first full-fledged Parliament session after the formation of Modi 3.0 govt.

Apart from criticising the order and demanding that discussion on it must take place in Parliament, opposition parties brought up the NEET paper leak issue, which had been prominently raised in the brief session that was held after the Lok Sabha polls. Congress demanded that discussion should also take

### JD(U) & TDP go easy on spl category status

Pressure from NDA allies, JD(U) and TDP, on BJP seems to have eased as both didn't press for 'special category' status for Bihar and Andhra at the all-party meeting. Instead, they signalled their willingness to accept 'special packages' to meet specific requirements. P 12

### RLD's Jayant wants rollback of order

RLD's Jayant Chaudhary criticised the Kanwar route order, the second central minister after LJP's Chirag Paswan to do so. "It shouldn't be linked to religion. This decision wasn't made with much consideration and was taken in a hurry. There's still time for govt to roll it back," he said. P 15

### Budget tightrope walk awaits Nirmala

In her seventh Budget, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman will try striking a balance between the need to spend more on social sector schemes and calls for allies for extra assistance to states, while seeking to address demands for a reduction in personal income tax and yet ensuring she sticks to the fiscal glide path. She will need funds to roll out PM's pre-poll announcement of a housing subsidy scheme for the poor, while honouring other promises like increasing the coverage of Aayushman Bharat. P 19

place on railway safety, Agni-veer scheme, Centre-state relations and the security situation in Manipur and J&K.

Parliamentary affairs minister Kiren Rijju to-

ld reporters that the Centre is ready to debate any issue with an open heart. Deputy leader of Lok Sabha Rajnath Singh urged all MPs not to interrupt when a fellow member is speaking in Parliament.

► SP, DMK back Cong, P 14

## Bangladesh SC slashes quota for kin of 1971 vets, toll crosses 150

Bangladesh Supreme Court Sunday slashed a contentious quota for government job applicants — a partial victory for students protesting against the reservation — after the death toll in days of nationwide unrest and clashes between police and demonstrators touched 151.

SC ordered the 30% quota

► Centre slams Didi offer to B'desh refugees, P 12

► EDIT: Disturbing In Dhaka

for kin of veterans who fought in the 1971 Bangladesh war be cut to 5%, with 93% of jobs to be allocated on merit. The rest 2% will be set aside for ethnic minorities, transgender and the disabled.

Though the law minister said the court's ruling was "well thought of", a prominent student outfit said it wouldn't call off the stir till govt issued an order reflecting their demands. P 18

## As India hosts key Unesco event for 1st time, PM says heritage isn't just history

New Delhi: PM Modi Sunday sent out a strong message to the world citing "heritage" as a unifying factor that has the power to transcend current geopolitical factors and pave the way for solutions for the betterment of the world, reports Ambika Pandit.

"Heritage is not just history but a shared consciousness. Whenever we see any heritage in the world, our minds overcome the geopolitical factors. We must tap into this potential of heritage for the betterment of the world and to connect hearts," he said at the 46th Session of the World Heritage Committee.

The meeting is being held in India for the first time. "It is India's clarion call to the world to come together to promote each other's herita-

India's vision is development as well as heritage — Vikas bhi Virasat bhi... This resolve of India regarding heritage is linked with the feeling of serving entire humanity. Indian culture talks about us, not just about self | PM MODI

ge and amplify the spirit of human welfare, encourage tourism and create more job opportunities," he said. Modi said that there was a time when heritage was ignored in the pursuit of development, but today, India's vision is development as well as heritage — 'Vikas bhi, Virasat bhi'.

► Vows \$1m, P 14

## Now, row over K'taka's plan on 14-hr workday for techies

Bengaluru: Within days of the jobs-for-locals controversy, Karnataka is in the midst of another wrangle over labour: Karnataka State IT/ITES Employees Union (Kitu) said Saturday the Karnataka govt plans to increase the working hours in IT and ITES (IT-enabled services) sector to 14 hours a day, from the maximum 10 hours (including overtime) that's allowed now. Sources in the state govt acknowledged there is a move to raise the per-day limit to 12-14 hours.

But what Kitu left unsaid in its press statement was whether the upper limit of 48 hours for the week is also being reconsidered. Govt sources declined to provide details of the Bill being proposed.

Karnataka labour minister Santosh Lad is said to have taken objection to the proposed amendments. TNN

► Nasscom opposes, P 14

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Brace for traffic as Kanwar Yatra begins | 6

**TEMP ON SUNDAY**  
**36.6°** MAXIMUM  
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 FORECAST: Generally cloudy sky with light rain. Max and min on Saturday would be around 34 and 27°C  
 SUNSET 7.19PM (MON) MOONSET 5.03AM (TUE)  
 SUNRISE 5.37AM (TUE) MOONRISE 6.39PM (MON)



95-year-old haveli's revamp on hold due to fund crunch | 9

Crackdown on permit violations, prosecutions up 45% from last year | 5



# Drawing Fire: Meter Boards Close To Escape Path Open Invites To Disaster

900 Related Incidents This Year Already

Abhay@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** In 2023, a fire broke out in a building housing coaching centres in Mukherjee Nagar, where students were trapped due to the fire originating from meter boards placed near the staircase. The students, consumed by fear and urgency, sought any means possible to flee the building. Some tried to rappel down the exterior walls, grasping tightly to ropes and wires. Others clung precariously to air conditioning units. Some students even resorted to jumping from the upper floors. The scene was one of chaos and panic. Nearly 60 students were injured in the incident. As things stand a year later, many building owners of Delhi seem to have learnt no lesson from the incident.

About 900 fires have been linked to meters positioned near or directly on escape paths this year, forcing rescue teams to resort to perilous alternatives like rooftop access or ladder rescues due to smoke-filled exits. This represents a significant

## RISKOMETER: VERY HIGH

900 cases (approx)

of electric meter fires reported in Delhi till July 10, 2024

350-400 cases reported during the same period in 2023

### WHAT THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FOUND

Most fires originated from electric meters located near staircases, trapping occupants

With staircases on fire, firefighters had to use unconventional routes to rescue people, which was time consuming and also hampered operations



Key reasons | Overloading | Poor maintenance of wiring

### MAJOR INCIDENTS

2024

In July, a fire broke out in a hospital hostel in central Delhi. The blaze started from the electric meter installed near an escape route

A fire erupted at a hospital in south Delhi's Kotla Mubarakpur in June from meter boxes; 15-20 patients had to be evacuated

Two people were injured in a fire at a restaurant in east Delhi's Mayur Vihar in June

2023

In June, a fire in a building housing coaching centres in northwest Delhi's Mukherjee Nagar injured 61 students, who got trapped as the fire allegedly originated from meter boards located near the staircase

Over 35 girls and a kid were trapped in a PG accommodation in Mukherjee Nagar in Sept due to a fire that started from a meter board installed near the staircase

A major tragedy was averted after a fire broke out at a madrasa in east Delhi's Jagatpuri in June; 150-200 people, including children, were rescued

cant increase from the 350-400 such incidents reported last year. The fire department has already written to discoms requesting the removal of such meters and their installation in alternative locations. It has also urged the public to avoid installing meters near primary escape routes.

This year, the number of fire incidents in which meters were found to be installed near or on escape paths was 98 in Jan, 63 in Feb, 42 in March and 74 in April. There was a major rise in such cases in May. While 285 cases were

sorted to jumping from the building to save themselves.

The Mukherjee Nagar incident is still fresh in the minds of Delhiites.

A fire department official stated that in several cases, electric meter boards were found near parking lots, close to staircases. In several cases, fires started from the meter boards and quickly spread to nearby vehicles within seconds.

Atul Garg, director of Delhi Fire Service, emphasised the importance of placing meters away from staircases, stating, "If meters are placed anywhere other than the staircase, it will not only help firefighters but also lead to fewer injuries or casualties. We have already written to discoms, but people should also ensure that meters are not placed on escape routes. If they are already installed, they should contact discoms to have them removed and relocated."

If meter boards are installed in a location other than the staircase, residents of the building will have more time to evacuate in case of a fire. There have been instances where people become trapped due to smoke, he added.

Another fire official attributed the reasons behind electric meter fires to increased appliance loads and lack of wire maintenance.

## TIMES Special

reported that month, 271 such incidents took place in June and 63 in July.

Explaining the challenges faced during rescue operations due to such meters, a senior fire department officer stated, "During rescue operations, we are often forced to enter buildings or factories by using ladders, breaking walls of the affected building through other buildings due to smoke-filled staircases, significantly hindering our efforts. The time lost in reaching trapped individuals leads to injuries and casualties." He also mentioned that there were instances where occupants re-

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## Yellow alert issued, rain activity may intensify

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Some parts of Delhi recorded very light showers on Sunday. However, hot and humid weather continued to trouble residents. India Meteorological Department has issued a 'yellow' alert, indicating that rain activity may intensify on Monday and Tuesday.

IMD's data shows that Safdarjung, the city's base station, logged 7 mm rainfall till 8.30am on Sunday. Lodhi Road and Ayanagar received 10.2 mm and 8 mm rainfall during the same duration. However, parts of the city saw light rain during the day. Between 8.30am and 5.30pm, Delhi University, Pitampura, Ridge, and Jafarpur reported 4, 1.5, 1.2, and 0.5 mm rainfall, respectively. However, Palam witnessed just 'trace' rainfall during the day, and rain eluded Safdarjung from 8.30am to 5.30pm.

It was a sultry day as the maximum temperature stood at 36.6 degrees Celsius, two degrees above normal, and humidity oscillated between 70% and 98%, making it uncomfortable for Delhiites. This July, the temperature and high humidity have been making the outdoors uncomfortable, but IMD has discontinued giving the he-

at index or feel-like temperature. The minimum temperature was 26.4 degrees Celsius, one degree below normal.

IMD's forecast says that the city may witness a drop in the maximum temperature by two to three degrees on Monday. "Light to moderate rain or thunderstorm is likely on Tuesday and Wednesday, and we have placed a 'yellow' alert. Rain may cause the mercury to dip," said a Met official.

The maximum temperature is likely to touch 34 degrees Celsius on Monday and may dip further to 33 degrees Celsius on Tuesday. The minimum temperature is predicted to hover around 27-26 degrees Celsius over the next two days. "There is a possibility of light rain on Wednesday and Thursday, and hence, no color-coded alert has been issued. However, there are chances that light to moderate showers may lash parts of the city on July 26 and 27," added the official.

## This gang of thieves will leave you scratching your head as well as body

Devanshi.Mehta@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** The sudden itch you may experience while navigating through a bustling bazaar may not be because of the sweltering temperature or the oppressive humidity of Delhi. You could be the unsuspecting victim of "Khujli Gang" that employs specially formulated powders to induce an intense pruritic sensation and divert your attention. The unscrupulous miscreants exploit this momentary lapse in focus to pilfer the currency on your person.

Notorious for their mischievous antics, the gang has been wreaking havoc in Sadar Bazaar. Some of their exploits, which were captured on CCTV footage, have gone viral across various social media platforms. In these videos, a member of the gang can be observed nonchalantly approaching an unsuspecting person from behind, surreptitiously sprinkling an itch-inducing powder with such dexterity that it is barely perceptible, before casually walking away. The person has no idea what they're in for because within se-

conds they find themselves in the throes of an uncontrollable itching frenzy, frantically scratching the back of their neck in a desperate attempt to alleviate the maddening sensation.

Some of the afflicted individuals even resorted to removing their shirts in a bid to find relief, momentarily abandoning their belongings on the ground or on their scooter's seat. Seizing upon this distraction, another member of the gang creates a clever diversion, positioning themselves strategically to obscure the view

of onlookers, while their accomplices successfully steal the unattended possessions, executing their well-orchestrated heist with precision.

Another video of Sadar Bazaar exhibited this gang perpetrating a daylight heist within the confines of a shop. They sprinkle the itch powder on an unsuspecting person's neck. Inside the shop, the individual is left utterly disconcerted and even the shopkeeper's attention is momentarily diverted. It is during this fleeting instance of chaos that they

sneakily steal the man's belongings and make their swift egress.

Manoj Kumar Meena, DCP-North, recently arrested two individuals connected to Khujli Gang. Despite the absence of an official FIR or complaint lodged against this particular type of theft, police took proactive measures based on the viral videos circulating online.

Their investigation culminated in the arrest of two accused persons, Munna and Rajendra, both hailing from Siliguri, West Bengal.

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# AAP Alleges Conspiracy To Kill CM In Jail, Cites 'Report Shared By Tihar'

## Claims Sugar Levels Dipped To 50 Or Below 26 Times In A Month; BJP Hits Back

Abhinav.Rajput@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: AAP on Sunday alleged that BJP and LG VK Saxena were endangering the life of CM Arvind Kejriwal, claiming there was a "conspiracy to kill him in jail". The party cited his medical report, reportedly provided to Kejriwal's lawyer by jail authorities, to claim that CM's sugar levels had fallen close to 50 or below as many as 26 times between June 3 and July 7.

AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said, "BJP, central govt and LG are playing with the life of CM Arvind Kejriwal. A conspiracy to kill him in jail is being laid." He added, "The medical report of Arvind Kejriwal is enough evidence that anything could happen to him any time in jail. The way LG and BJP are making incorrect statements about Kejriwal's health only confirms our doubts. If someone's sugar level drops from 80-70 to 50, then he can go into a coma... he can even die." According to the data shared by Singh, there were wild fluctuations in the CM's sugar level. On many days, according to the report, it climbed to over 150 and even crossed 200.

No reaction was available from Raj Niwas or Tihar jail.

Pointing to various statements made about CM's health in recent days, Singh said, "Earlier, these people said Kejriwal is

### CM'S SUGAR LEVELS, ACCORDING TO AAP

Days when blood sugar level of CM was around 50 or below, as per the party



AAP claims this report was provided to CM's lawyer by the jail doctor

According to the data, there were fluctuations in sugar level of CM; it even climbed to 150-200 or above on many days

Blood sugar level below 70 mg/dL is low and can harm you

Blood sugar level below 54 mg/dL is a cause for immediate action

... now, they are saying that Kejriwal is not eating at all, he is staying hungry and bringing down his sugar levels." He added, "Will any person make such an effort to end his own life? That is why I am reiterating that BJP is playing with Kejriwal's life and hatching a conspiracy to kill him." Singh cited another report

which stated that Kejriwal was suffering from diabetes, weight loss, weakness, and hypoglycemia. "This was the first report. After this, LG and BJP got restless. They created a false narrative, but there was still some truth in it. Then, a second report was issued, which stated that Kejriwal was fine. This report was deliberately leaked to media by

LG's office. But this report too mentioned that his weight was continuously going down and that a panel of AIIMS doctors had examined him. It is written in the report that CM is suffering from hypoglycemia," he said. Singh targeted the jail administration, alleging that it was repeatedly spreading false news about Kejriwal's health. He refer-

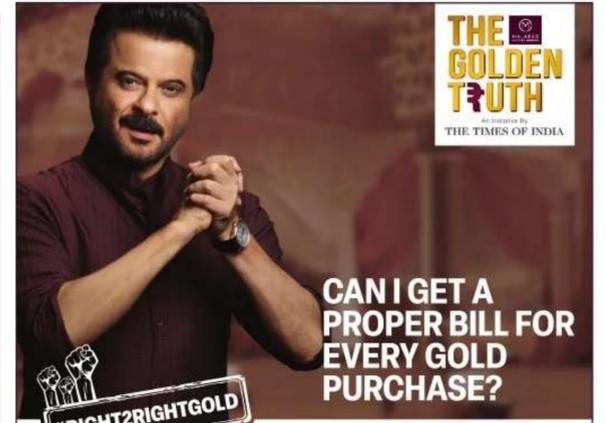
red to an earlier medical report of Tihar Jail wherein the administration informed Delhi govt that Kejriwal's health was constantly monitored and his vital signs were in the normal range.

Further, the Tihar administration had said that Kejriwal had only lost 2kg since his second imprisonment on June 2, contradicting AAP functionaries' claim of an 8.5kg weight loss.

"If something untoward happens... it can be a case of attempted murder. We are also taking advice from lawyers that a case of attempted murder be registered against those involved in this conspiracy," Singh said.

Hitting back, Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva said, "The problem is not with the facilities... Instead, there is a well-planned conspiracy by Arvind Kejriwal, who is deliberately eating less amount of homemade food to lose weight so that he can use it as an excuse to get bail. It won't be an exaggeration to say that Kejriwal is playing a game of jail and bail through food and medicine."

He added, "By presenting himself as a victim before the court, Kejriwal wants to show that he is being mistreated in Tihar, but this conspiracy is not going to succeed." Sachdeva claimed that Kejriwal would "still be punished for the crime he committed in the liquor 'scam', no matter how much noise his entire ecosystem makes."



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# Revamp hospital operated by Indian Red Cross Society at Seemapuri: LG to officials

Abhinav.Rajput@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Lieutenant governor VK Saxena has issued directions for the "complete revamp" of the hospital operated by the Indian Red Cross Society in Seemapuri, opposite the Dilshad Garden Metro Station in East Delhi, Raj Niwas said.

Red Cross Society officials have been given six months for a total facelift of the hospital, which currently lacks modern equipment and suffers from a shortage of manpower, an LG house official said.

During his inspection on Saturday, Saxena told senior doctors and officials present there to swiftly develop a roadmap for enhancing facilities.

The Red Cross General Maternity and Child Care Hospital was established in 1987. It offers general, maternity and child care, dental, general surgery, orthopedic, dermatology, ENT, neurology and dietician OPD services.

The hospital has minimal staff and has been without a medical officer for the past six months. The LG specifically ordered a comprehensive assessment of the doctors, staff, equipment and facilities required at the facility, in accordance with central government guidelines.

Saxena also inspected the building provided by DDA to the Red Cross Society in Dilshad Garden, which was found to be in a dilapidated condition and had been unused for years.

Expressing dissatisfaction with the building's status, he directed officials to create a revamping and restoration plan.

During his inspection of the main office of the Delhi Chapter of the Indian Red Cross Society at Golf Links, Saxena instructed that the iconic building, dedicated to society in 1962, be renovated within two months without disturbing its architectural aesthetics. He also suggested developing a training camp for nurses and other clinical staff at the main office, which has ample space.

The LG emphasised that the modalities for fund requirements for all the projects must be worked out while strictly adhering to the rules and regulations of the Indian Red Cross Society.

The LG also visited the Henry Duntan Public School, which is run by the Red Cross Society. He assured the staff and management of full cooperation in upgrading the facilities with smart boards and other amenities.

# Delhi govt allocates ₹100 crore for 12 DU colleges funded by it

Abhinav.Rajput@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Delhi govt has allocated Rs 100 crore to 12 Delhi University colleges under its funding, stating that despite financial mismanagement issues that have surfaced in these colleges in recent years, govt has decided to prioritise the welfare of teachers and students.

Minister Atishi said, "Many issues of financial mismanagement have come to the fore in these colleges in the last few years, but Kejriwal govt has decided that the teachers and students at those colleges should not suffer due to the mistakes of the management and administration."

She said, "Keeping in mind the welfare of teachers, their medical benefits and pension benefits which were stuck due to financial mismanagement, Delhi govt is releasing a fund of Rs 100 crore in the second quarter for these 12 colleges."

The minister added, "Along with schools, Kejriwal govt focused on higher education and opened three new universities and expanded existing universities. The 12 Delhi University colleges fully funded by Delhi govt play an important role in higher education in Delhi." She stressed that "education has always been the biggest priority for Kejriwal govt. Ever since it came to power in Delhi, every year the biggest share in the budget is allotted to education."



ATISHI SAYS

Many issues of financial mismanagement have come to the fore in these colleges in the last few years, but Kejriwal govt has decided that the teachers and students at those colleges should not suffer due to the mistakes of the management and administration

In 2014-15, Rs 132 crore were allocated to these colleges, which has increased more than threefold to about Rs 400 crores this financial year, the government said. The 12 colleges fully funded by Delhi government are Acharya Narendra Dev College, Aditi Mahavidyalaya, Bhagini Nivedita College, Bhaskaracharya College, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College, Dr. Bim Rao Ambedkar College, Indira Gandhi Institute of Physical Education and Sports Sciences, Keshav Mahavidyalaya. Other colleges on the list are Maharaja Agrasen College, Maharishi Valmiki College, Shaheed Rajguru College, and Shaheed Sukhdev College of Business Studies.

# Crackdown on permit violations, prosecutions up 45% from last yr

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: There has been a 45% surge in prosecutions for permit violations in the city this year. According to official statistics, Delhi Traffic Police booked 20,009 violators for such transgressions, a notable increase from 13,751 in 2023.

This rise, special commissioner HGS Dhaliwal stated, came as part of a comprehensive crackdown on traffic rule infractions aimed at enhancing road safety and ensuring adherence to regulatory standards.

"The rise can be attributed to more stringent enforcement measures and a multi-faceted strategy aimed at addressing non-compliance among commercial vehicle operators. Teams have been deployed across the city to conduct regular inspections

### 10 AREAS WITH MOST VIOLATIONS



at strategic locations, including major intersections, highways and commercial hubs," Dhaliwal said.

Delhi Traffic Police also conducted an extensive analysis of 10 traffic circles with the highest number of permit violation challans issued

# Mobile internet & bulk SMS services suspended in Nuh ahead of religious procession

Mahesh.Buddi@timesofindia.com

Gurgaon: The Haryana govt ordered suspension of mobile internet and bulk SMS services in Nuh for 24 hours ahead of Braj Mandal Jalabishek Yatra, which is set to start from Nalhar Mahadev temple in the district on Monday morning. The decision to bolster security comes in the wake of last year's communal violence that erupted during the yatra, resulting in the loss of six lives and imposition of a curfew in the district.

The mobile internet service in the district will remain suspended from 6pm Sunday to 6pm Monday, an order issued by additional chief secretary (Home) Anurag Rastogi stated.

"There is a clear potential of disruption of public utilities, damage to public assets and amenities and disturbance of public law and order in Nuh on account of misuse of internet services... the suspension order has been given in order to stop the spread of misinformation and rumours through various

social media platforms such as Whatsapp, Facebook, X and SMS for facilitation and mobilisation of mobs of agitators who can cause serious loss of life and damage to public and private properties by indulging in arson or vandalism..." the order read.

However, individual SMS, mobile recharge service, banking SMS, voice calls, broadband internet services through leased lines of corporate and domestic households will not be affected.

The district authorities have implemented extensive security measures, deploying around 2,000 cops to maintain peace and prevent clashes in Nuh. The Aravali range surrounding the Shiv temple will be heavily guarded, and drones will be used to monitor the area and the yatra route, enabling law enforcement agencies to identify potential trouble spots in advance.

Nuh SP Vijay Pratap Singh said, "We have been using drones to comb the areas surrounding Nalhar temple."

areas, targeted enforcement measures can be implemented to improve compliance with traffic regulations," Dhaliwal added.

"We have emphasised on the importance of adhering to permit regulations, as non-compliance poses significant risks to public safety and contributes to traffic-related issues," he said. Delhi Traffic Police has also initiated awareness campaigns to educate vehicle owners and operators about the significance of obtaining and maintaining valid permits. These campaigns, officials said, aimed to inform the public about legal requirements and ramifications of violations, thereby encouraging voluntary compliance.

The surge in prosecution is expected to persist as cops aim to maintain the momentum of the enforcement

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## OUT OF BOUNDS FOR COMMON MAN

Anindya Chattopadhyay



Red Cross Road was closed for traffic during the construction of the New Parliament Building. After the new complex became operational, the road was relaid but remains closed for the public for 'security reasons', say sources. It has now become a parking lot for vehicles of MPs and visitors to Parliament

## Aghast to note conduct of law students: HC on brawl

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**New Delhi:** A late-night brawl involving law students at Delhi University in May has prompted the Delhi high court to order an in-depth probe.

Dismissing the anticipatory bail plea of one of the accused students, HC said it takes such incidents "very seriously" and is "aghast" to note the conduct of the law students.

"This court has time and again condemned the act of such free fights between groups of people. Here again, around 11pm., the assaulters, including the petitioner, assaulted the complainant party with lathi, hockey and danda. I consider that granting anticipatory bail in such cases would certainly send a wrong message," Justice D K Sharma noted in a recent order.

HC termed it "quite unfortunate that the complainant as well as the petitioner party (the law students) have indulged in the fight," adding that it is "a matter of great concern that students of law are fighting in such a manner."

Referring to the FIR, HC noted, "The fact that whether it was the petitioner himself who assaulted the complainant...or he was merely a part of the group is a matter of investigation. The FIR indicates he was certainly in the group, members of which were carrying weapons like hockey, lathior danda."

The court was hearing a plea for pre-arrest bail by one Priyam Sharma, who claimed it was a general clash between groups of students in the university area and was a common incident. He added that the fight involved fist blows. However, HC said that the

matter can't be treated as a "trivial" one. "This court takes such incidents very seriously and is aghast to note that the law students, who will in the coming years be occupying the responsible position of lawyers or law officers, are indulging in such altercations. Such cases may on the face of it seem to be a fight between two groups, but this court is of the view that they require in-depth investigation."

In his plea, the student petitioner had claimed that he was being framed at the instance of the alleged victim. He further urged HC to grant him the relief, citing impending law exams he had to appear for.

HC, however, recorded its "extreme disappointment" that Sharma had made "allegations without any basis". The court pointed out that Sharma can seek permission from trial court to appear in the exam "and the same shall be decided in accordance with the law", indicating that it can't be a ground to protect him from arrest.

Meanwhile, the counsel for the complainant highlighted that the FIR was lodged in May at Mukherjee Nagar police station, but none of the accused had been arrested despite being captured on CCTV.

HC concluded that prima facie there was no ground to grant anticipatory bail as there was no apprehension of Sharma being falsely implicated or harassed.

## 2-year-old child abducted from outside home, body found with injuries and cigarette burns

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Police are investigating the abduction and brutal murder of a two-year-old boy reported from central Delhi's Anand Parbat.

The incident came to light on Sunday morning when the boy's lifeless body, wrapped in a cloth, was found discarded in an MCD toilet approximately 100 meters from his home. The perpetrator not only struck the child's face with a heavy object, but also subjected him to cigarette burns and left bite marks on his body.

Angry family members and other residents blocked New Rohtak Road in protest.

Senior police officers rushed to the scene upon receiving the informa-

tion. After approximately an hour of persuasion, the family members were convinced to vacate the road. The family alleged a callous response from police when the matter was taken up with them. Senior officers said they would look into the allegations.

They stated that following the registration of the case, efforts were under way to identify the accused, with four teams assigned to the investigation.

The boy's father earns a living by playing drums at weddings and other functions.

The child's grandfather recounted that, on Saturday evening around 7:30 pm, the child was playing in front of their house while his mother was preparing dinner. Suddenly, the family realised that the boy had vanished.

**The incident came to light on Sunday morning when the boy's lifeless body, wrapped in a cloth, was found discarded in an MCD toilet approximately 100 meters from his home. Angry family members and other residents blocked New Rohtak Road in protest**

The family started a search for him but when their efforts to locate him proved futile, they went to the police station to file a missing person report. Despite an all-night search, the child remained untraceable.

At 9am, the lifeless body of the

child was discovered in the local MCD toilet. Alerted by neighbours, the family rushed to the scene, only to find that the child, Ayush, had not only been murdered but also subjected to torture. Enraged, the family staged a roadblock in protest.

The police are now actively pursuing the perpetrator.

The child was wearing silver bracelets and anklets at the time of his disappearance. The family suspects that he was murdered during the course of a robbery, as the bracelets and anklets were missing when the body was discovered.

They believe that a drug addict may have committed this heinous crime. Police are also probing the angle of a personal vendetta against the family.

## Kanwariyas Are Here, You Will Do Well To Avoid These Routes

**CONGESTION ALERT:** Cops Issue Advisory For Yatra From July 22 To Aug 2

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Delhi traffic police issued an advisory on Sunday for the Kanwar Yatra from July 22 to Aug 2 as a large influx of devotees is expected in the national capital.

The traffic unit's advisory warned of potential traffic congestion at locations across Delhi. Commuters, particularly those in the eastern and western parts of the city, besides those coming in from Noida and Gurgaon, are likely to experience heavier than usual traffic.

The Kanwariyas will arrive in Delhi and have a brief sojourn here en route to their destinations in Haryana and Rajasthan. This year, the projected number of Kanwariyas expected to arrive here is 15-20 lakh, as stated in the advisory.

Traffic police said it had made arrangements for segregating their movement, with an aim of minimising inconvenience to local people and devotees alike.

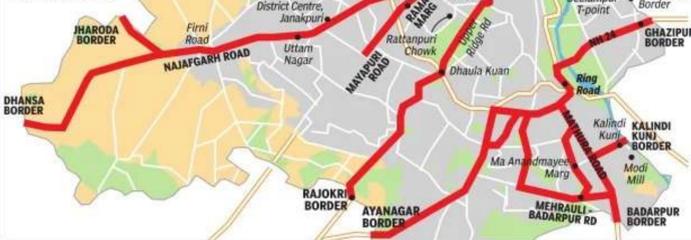
The traffic police cautioned that during "Sawan" (the rainy season), traffic congestion and obstruction would be encountered at numerous places across the city due to the movement of Kanwariyas and the establishment of "Kanwaria Camps" along roadsides.

To ensure an unimpeded passage for the Kanwariyas, heavy transport vehicles (HTV) will be rerouted by the

### ROUTES THAT THEY WILL TAKE

> Commuters, particularly those in the eastern and western parts of the city, besides those coming in from Noida and Gurgaon, are likely to experience heavier than usual traffic

> This year, the projected number of Kanwariyas expected to arrive here is 15-20 lakh, as stated in the traffic advisory



The Kanwariyas will arrive in Delhi and have a brief sojourn here en route to their destinations in Haryana and Rajasthan

### ADVISORY WARNS

Traffic violations would be subject to on-the-spot prosecution and documented through photography or videography during the period of Kanwaria movement

ulevard Road and at Azad Market Chowk, Gokul Puri Fly Over, 66 Foota Road, Maujpur Chowk, Badarpur T Point, and Mathura Road.

Similarly, traffic congestion can be anticipated on NH-08 from Dhaura Kuan Metro Station up to Rajokri border. Moreover, due to the diversion of traffic bound for Apsara border and Maharajpur border to Ghazipur by UP police, congestion is expected on NH-24 as well, the advisory added. It advised motorists to plan their journeys judiciously to avoid delays.

Devotees and road users need to adhere to traffic regulations and comply with the directives of police personnel on duty, the advisory said.

The advisory warned that traffic violations would be subject to on-the-spot prosecution and documented through photography or videography during the period of Kanwaria movement.

UP police from Mohan Nagar towards NH-24, and no traffic will be permitted towards Wazirabad Road via Bhopura and towards GT Road via Apsara border, as per the advisory.

The HTVs, with the exception of city buses, will be prohibited on GT Road towards

Shahdara and Wazirabad Road. Heavy commercial transport, barring city buses originating from GT Karnal Road at Outer Ring Road, will be diverted towards NH-24 and will not be allowed to proceed on Wazirabad Road and GT Road towards Shahdara, it stated.

The advisory elaborated that heavy congestion typically occurs on Najafgarh Firni, Rohtak Road, Pankha Road, Dev Prakash Shastri Marg, Najafgarh Road, Outer Ring Road, Rani Jhansi Road from Baraf Khana Chowk to Fire Station, Bo-

## IAF sergeant bangs mother's head on floor, strangles her at home

Mahesh Buddi@timesofindia.com

**Gurgaon:** A sergeant with the Indian Air Force allegedly banged the head of his 58-year-old mother against the floor repeatedly and then strangled her with a stole at their home in Jhajjar's Matanhel village on Saturday.

Police have launched a search for Praveen Kumar (35), who was last seen on Saturday morning. The investigators said they were still looking for a motive behind the murder. But, according to his neighbours, Praveen—who is currently posted in Jammu—was under a lot of mental stress after ties with his wife Suman strained recently, causing the couple to stay separately.

Neighbours in Matanhel suspected something was wrong when they did not see the victim, Krishna—a widow—even once by afternoon.

Finding the door unlocked, a group of women entered her house around 2pm, and found her lying dead in the veranda. They alerted the cops.

"She had been strangled with a stole, and her head banged repeatedly against the floor," said inspector Dilbag Singh in Sahlawas.

Praveen's wife Suman, who has been staying with the couple's 7-year-old son at her parents' house in MP's Majra, arrived in Matanhel in the evening after being informed by the village pradhan, Vijayalata.

Suman told police her husband would often

pick up fights with her and his mother over petty issues. "In Jan this year, my mother-in-law, my son and I visited Praveen in Jammu, where he is posted. But we were unable to put up with him because of his constant taunts and fights with us. On June 10, my son and I returned to my parents' house in MP, unable to tolerate the harassment anymore," she told the cops.

Praveen did not spare his mother either. She, too, returned to Matanhel a week ago.

"Praveen also came home a few days back. His wife is almost certain that the IAF sergeant killed his mother in a fit of rage after some argument on Saturday morning. They were not known to be in any financial stress. The motive

behind the murder can be ascertained only after he is arrested," the inspector said.

Another officer said the marital discord between Praveen and Krishna could have led to a spat between the mother and son.

"As of now, Praveen is the prime suspect. The forensic team has collected evidence from the scene of crime. We hope to make an arrest soon. But his phone is switched off, making it a bit difficult for us to trace him," the officer added.

The body of Krishna was handed over to her relatives after an autopsy on Saturday. Following a complaint by Suman, a case was registered against Praveen under Section 103(1) (murder) of the BNS.

## Decriminalisation of DMC Act: MCD seeks inputs from its depts

Vibha Sharma  
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**New Delhi:** Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has given its departments two weeks to give suggestions on decriminalising the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act.

This decision is being implemented on the direction of the Centre, aiming to reduce the sentence or imprisonment period for various violations.

"The move has been made in accordance with the Department for Promotion of Industries and Other Trade (DPIIT), Government of India, and as per norms of ease of doing business. The initiative is aimed at helping people access MCD services without hindrance," an official said.

"The internal discussions within the departments have already started. They will soon give their recommendations, and the final changes in the imprisonment terms and conditions have to be made by the law department. We expect the initiative will go a long way in increasing people's trust in the civic body," the official added.

At present, according to the DMC Act, defaulters are expected to face imprisonment for violations in tax payment, obtaining licences from the public health department, illegal construction or encroachments, and violation of advertisement norms (including placing illegal advertisements).

Among the norms that indicate severe punishments is section 152A of the DMC Act. According to this section, if a person wilfully evades the payment of tax, arrears, interest or penalty, and the amount exceeds Rs

10 lakh, the defaulter may face rigorous imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than three months and extend up to seven years, and with a fine of not less than 50%.

"Though there are barely any instances where we are using the imprisonment conditions, and efforts are made to solve the matter amicably, the changes in norms will further increase the trust of the public in us. However, these reforms don't mean that people can easily escape punishment... as we will implement norms stringently," said the official.

### AN OFFICIAL SAYS

The move has been made in accordance with DPIIT and as per norms of ease of doing business. The initiative is aimed at helping people access MCD services without hindrance

In addition to decreasing the sentence duration, officials stated that changes would be implemented to stop the practice of issuing challans (where the lower court determines the fine) in most cases.

Instead, the focus will be on increasing the penalty amount for each violation. "These will be increased multiple times to dissuade people from making mistakes. Also, strict monitoring will be done to ensure that no violations of norms occur. With the changes, we are also expecting to act on complaints immediately," the official said further.

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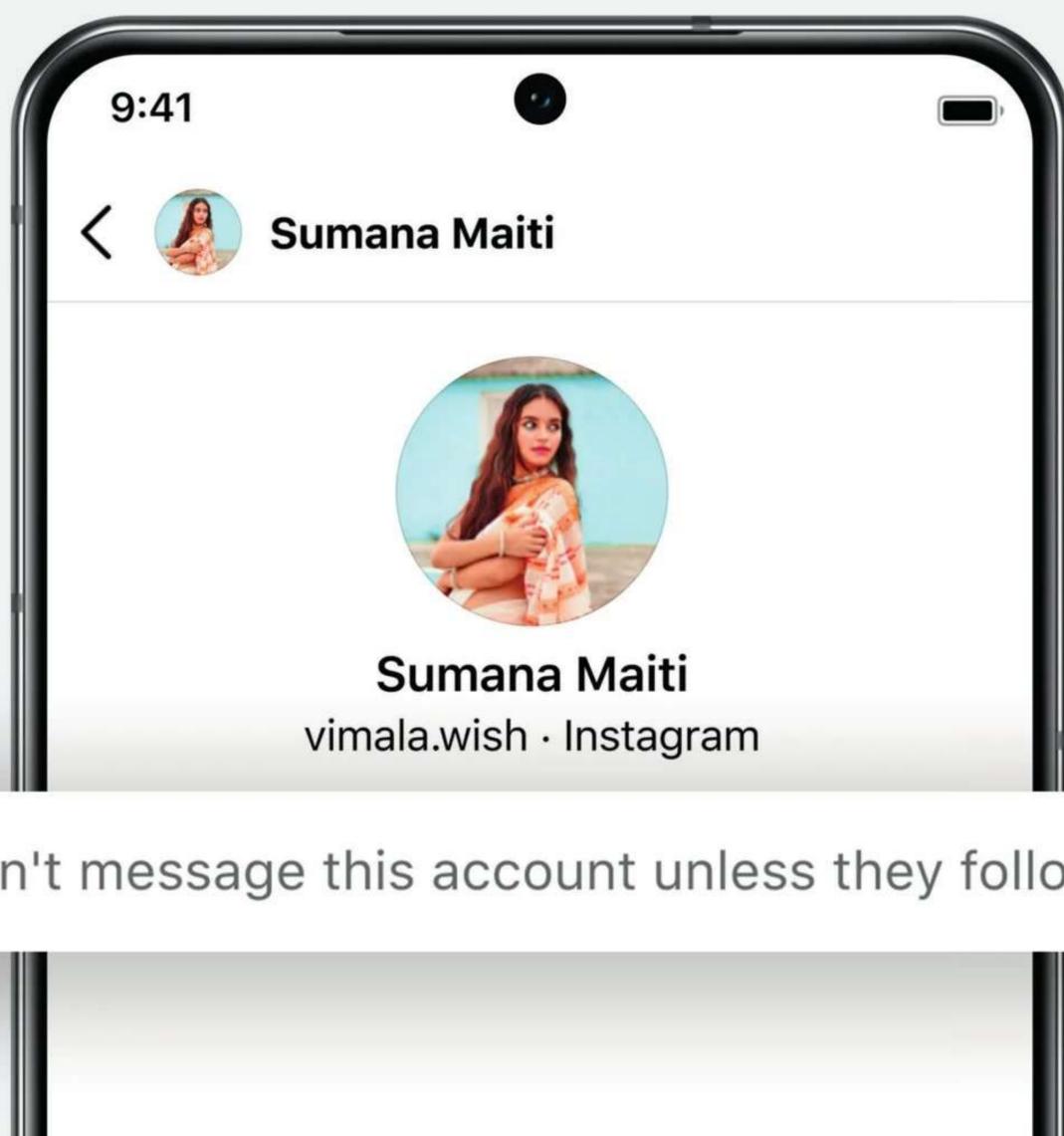
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## New push for managing hazardous waste

Priyangi Agarwal  
@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** Treatment, storage, and disposal facilities (TSDF) for hazardous waste located in the National Capital Region will now be permitted to register with Delhi Pollution Control Committee to collect the city's waste. Officials stated that since Delhi has only one TSDF unit in Bawana, the move aims to end the monopoly and ensure effective waste management.

Around 11.7 tonnes per day of hazardous waste is generated by more than 29,000 industrial units and 13 common effluent treatment plants (CETPs) in Delhi. In addition, households also produce hazardous waste.

A senior DPCC official said, "We have opened the registration of TSDF facilities operating in NCR areas of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana for authorization under hazardous waste rules for collection, transportation, treatment, and disposal of hazardous waste generated in Delhi. After these NCR-based facilities are registered, hazardous waste can be transported, treated, and disposed of at these units. However, following the registration,

facilities will also have to obtain a no-objection certificate from their respective states."

"Improper storage, handling, transportation, treatment, and disposal of hazardous wastes results in an adverse impact on the ecosystem and human health," stated a DPCC report on hazardous waste.

The report stated that majority of small-scale industries generating hazardous waste include printing, metal surface treatment, pharmaceuticals, vehicle service centres, dyeing, textiles, and electronic units. However, some of the large-scale

units include power distribution stations and CETPs, according to the report.

Delhi's only TSDF in Bawana industrial area became operational in 2022. However, the issue of engaging other agencies to eliminate monopoly and create a competitive market was raised during the 72nd board meeting of DPCC, held in Feb this year.

"The Board decided that DPCC may try to explore permitting more TSDF located in NCR so as to ensure competition and better delivery of service," according to the Board's minutes of meeting.

## How Trees And Shrubs Are Taking Over Vacant Lands

### Miyawaki Technique Being Applied To Encroached Areas Too

Vibha Sharma  
@timesofindia.com

### ROOTING FOR CHANGE

#### What is Miyawaki and why it is useful

Miyawaki Method was invented by Japanese botanist and expert in plant ecology, Dr Akira Miyawaki. It provides faster growth of saplings, denser forests, more biodiversity, more reduction in noise and dust, and better carbon dioxide absorption

MCD has implemented the concept at nine locations so far and planted 1,65,330 trees and 18,370 shrubs



#### NEW PROJECTS

1.2-acre park at C block, Wazirpur Industrial area

Work on biofencing of 200m patch at Bhalswa to begin next week

16k saplings planted at 1.5-acre park in Rohini

#### How it is implemented

Soil testing is conducted after a survey of the site

The soil is revived through a natural process

Based on the testing report, appropriate biomass is selected for mixing into the soil

The idea is to

biomimic the nearby natural forest in the Miyawaki plantation

The plantation site is excavated and a one-metre trench is created after removing soil from entire land

Biomass is mixed with soil

Soil is spread loosely in the pit so that plants can grow easily

Native species of sapling are planted at the site

Tree plantation is done with support stick

Saplings are planted closely to help them grow faster



for Air Quality Management (CAQM), the civic body shared the progress of the project.

"CAQM recommended a study to assess the reduction in temperature and pollution levels in these areas compared to neighbouring regions after plantation is completed. It also suggested generating carbon credits for these initiatives," said the official.

The task of implementing the project has been given to the NGO Green Yatra. While MCD is not bearing any cost, it is responsible for inspection. The NGO handles the remaining tasks. The process involves site inspection and testing and revival of soil. "The site is excavated, a one-metre trench

is dug up, and the soil is mixed with husk, hay, cocopeat, manure and biomass," said the official. Finally, 20-50 varieties of native saplings are planted closely, with about 45 saplings in a 150 sq feet area. Regular watering, de-weeding, nutrient application, re-mulching and support stick fixing are carried out for two years.

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Smt. Rani Arora & Sakshi Arora

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Khushali Kumar

Tulsi Kumar & Hitesh Ralhan

Vishu Dua & Akanksha Dua

Smt. Gitanjali Ajit Singh

Natasha Ajit Singh

Arhhan Ajit Singh

Samyukta Singh

Dhanraj Morarji & Sapna Morarji

Kabir Merchant & Sana Merchant

Neha Menda, Yuvraj Morarji

### IN LOVING MEMORY

*"Her absence is like the sky, spread over everything."*



**Usha Dutt**

(W/o Late Dr. Som Datt)

We miss you Mummy  
Gunchu, Bunti, Chicki, Charu & Latika

Obituary

**Cmde Rajan Vir**  
03.12.1930 - 20.07.2024

Devoted husband of Late Gita  
Loving father of Atul-Arati Rahul-Zeze Naina-Sekhar  
Adoring grandfather of  
Amrita-Kevin, Avi, Gabriel, Olivia, Rahini

Mon, 22 July, 2024  
Last respects at La Shanz, Boat Club Rd,  
1:00 - 2:00 pm  
Funeral at Muktidham Crematorium,  
Golibar Maidan at 3:00 pm

Sat, 27 July, 2024  
Prayer Ceremony at Hollywood Gurudwara  
4:00 - 6:00 pm

## Bank employee among 7 cyber cons held for fraud

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Special cell of Delhi Police dismantled a module that provided bank accounts to cyber criminals, with the apprehension of seven accused individuals, including a bank employee.

According to DCP (special cell) Dr Hemant Tiwari, the accused were posing as investigating officers of the police department and were sending emails to unfreeze the alleged bank accounts by utilising impersonated govt email IDs of police officers.

Cops initiated a probe after receiving a complaint from a man who lost Rs 91 lakh to cyber criminals. These criminals lured him of receiving lucrative returns in stock trading.

"The complainant was added to a WhatsApp group where the perpetrators were providing stock recommendations. He was made to open an

account on www.yotemog.com and transfer Rs 91 lakh to 19 different accounts," DCP Tiwari added.

During the investigation, the beneficiary bank accounts were frozen by the police. One of the SBI accounts, registered under the name of Gaurav Trading, had an available balance of Rs 46 lakh, which was promptly seized. The branch manager later informed that the bank had received a notice from an email address resembling a govt ID, requesting the unfreezing of the alleged SBI account. Technical analysis revealed that the de-freezing notice was sent using Proton Mail.

Based on technical surveillance and digital footprints, the accused persons were identified. Subsequently, a raid was conducted, and two accused persons, namely Ajay and Mohit, were arrested. At their instance, five more accused persons, including an SBI bank employee, were arrested.

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an Architect of Destinies,  
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**APPLY BRAKES FOR BEAUTY**

Text and photos:  
Piyaal Bhattacharjee



Art enthusiasts may find themselves involuntarily reducing their vehicle's speed while driving through the underpass on Africa Avenue, close to Leela Hotel. The underpass's side walls and main structure now showcase exquisite Indian paintings.

On the Yashwant Palace side, Phad paintings from Rajasthan depicting elephant and camel safaris in ancient India captivate passersby, while the entrance features Madhya Pradesh's Gond paintings, which tell the story of the jungle. As one exits the underpass, Madhubani paintings of women welcoming guests adorn both side walls, with rivers portrayed on the lower portions.

Three National Award-winning artists—Manisha Jha (Madhubani painting, Bihar), Venkat Singh Shyam (Gond, Madhya Pradesh) and Kalyan Joshi (Phad, Rajasthan)—along with their team members, dedicated extensive time and effort in challenging weather conditions to transform the underpass into a visually striking masterpiece for the 46th session of World Heritage Committee.



**95-Year-Old Haveli's Revamp on Hold Due To Fund Crunch**

Agency Yet To Be Hired For Interpretation Centre & Museum

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**New Delhi:** The development project to transform the 95-year-old Lahori Gate Haveli in Khari Baoli into Shahjahanabad Interpretation Centre and Museum is not expected to be completed anytime soon.

Although Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has completed maintenance and civil work at the site with funds from the Union ministry of culture, it is facing delays in hiring an agency to carry out specialised work at the interpretation centre and museum.

Initially, it was decided that services of Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) would be taken for the museum and interpretation centre. However, due to no standing committee in place, the proposal had to be withdrawn. "A decision has been taken now to issue a tender for hiring an expert agency to carry out the specialised work as per normal procedure. We are looking to hire a project management consultant to give specifications, which will

be included in the tender documents," said an official. The ministry of culture had recommended financial assistance for setting up of the museum under Museum Grant Scheme in 2017. In May of that year, Rs 338.4 lakh (80% of the project cost) was sanctioned and Rs 169.2 lakh (50% of the approved amount) was released.

"Of these funds, Rs 41 lakh was spent on external development, and Rs 239.8 lakh on

internal civil development and finishing, including electrical installations, airconditioning and a firefighting system. We are currently working on installing electric fixtures and facade lighting with a budget of Rs 26 lakh," the official added.

The haveli, located at the intersection of Khari Baoli and Naya Bazar known as Vasudev Captain Chowk, is a municipal property built in 1929. The structure, which served as

a single-room dispensary till 2003, was restored and inaugurated in 2004. MCD has planned to establish a museum at the haveli to showcase the cultural diversity of Shahjahanabad, a city founded by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in the mid-17th century.

"The museum will feature artefacts, digital databases, narrative panels and audio-visual tools to tell the story of Shahjahanabad. There are also plans to create specific galleries, which will depict the evolution of the town plan and will also display digital reconstructions of historic structures like the clock tower. Additionally, artists and craftsmen will have the opportunity to showcase their products in these galleries," an official said.

Earlier, INTACH had prepared a report proposing the development of the museum. The report had many suggestions, including a tour of the interpretation centre, beginning with the Shahjahanabad gallery, featuring a model of the place and display panels illustrating its evolution over the centuries.



The haveli is located at the intersection of Khari Baoli and Naya Bazar

**Municipal museum next to Town Hall complex on track**

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**New Delhi:** Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has made headway in its plan to establish a museum in the old press building, next to Town Hall in Chandni Chowk. Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) has submitted its proposal, specifying the manner in which the museum can be set up, said officials.

Early this year, MCD took the decision to develop the printing press building, constructed in the 1940s. The museum will display souvenirs, visitors' books signed by dignitaries, artefacts and printing machines, including the one purchased in 1926 from England. MCD had signed an MoU with IGNCA for conserving these artefacts and digitising rare documents, and another for consultancy in setting up of the museum.

"The press building has 12 rooms. In the report it was suggested that 10 rooms could be used for developing galleries and the remaining two for tickets, food, etc. Each gallery would have a different theme. For example, one can have a collection of rare documents and gazette notifications, and another can have a collection of old artefacts and paintings that were gifted to us by delegations from various countries. Operation of old printing press machines may also be shown to people," said Anchal Pandya, head of division, conservation and cultural archives, IGNCA.

MCD has a visitors' book that has been signed by many known personalities, including Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip from the UK in January 1961, Saddam Hussein (fifth pre-

**HEAD OF DIVISION, IGNC A, SAYS**

**The press building has 12 rooms. In the report it was suggested that 10 rooms could be used for developing galleries and the remaining two for tickets, food, etc**

sident of Iraq), Rajendra Prasad (first president of India) in 1958 and Mohammad Zahir Shah (last King of Afghanistan) in 1958. The civic body also has revenue stamps, postal stamps (1902 onwards), Wilson's Survey Report (1910-11) with maps and drawings of Shahjahanabad, paintings, Abhinandan Patra, a 1709 cannon, a crown from the 1940s, etc. "The plan is to preserve them and put them on display for the public. There are house proceedings from 1878, preambles and many such rare documents," said an official.

IGNCA has already started working on the restoration of these rare documents. According to officials, the press building has a lot of potential to transform into a cultural space.

Meanwhile, MCD officials said that Aga Khan Trust has also submitted a revised detailed report for structural restoration of buildings. "It has given specifications of material like Agra limestone, old iron bars, etc. We will check the material rates fixed by ASI and accordingly, a request for proposal will be prepared for inviting an agency to do the job," said the official.

MCD has also requested Aga Khan Trust to submit a plan for the restoration of Town Hall.

**UP couple arrested for killing, burying Gurgaon worker in friend's backyard**

Kapil.Dixit@timesofindia.com

**Prayagraj:** A Pratapgarh-based couple was arrested by a joint team of UP and Haryana police on Sunday on charges of killing a Bihar native who was working in Gurgaon and burying his body in the courtyard of their friend's house in Subansa (Fatanpur) village of Pratapgarh district. According to the police, the victim was in an illicit relationship with the woman who was her co-worker.

The body was exhumed on Saturday, after which, an FIR was registered against Pushapa and three others under sections 302 and 201 (destruction of evidence).

The slain man was identified as Shivnath Shah (42), resident of Sitamarhi in Bihar, who was employed in a company in sector 33 of Gurgaon. Illicit relationship led to the murder of the youth in the village in Pratapgarh district on June 16, police said.

The arrested accused couple, Vinod Kumar Gautam (40) and his wife Pushpa Gautam (35), were residents of Subansa (Fatanpur) village. Police recovered an axe and a pan used in the murder from their possession.

Additional SP (East) Durgesh Kumar Singh said, "The accused couple confessed to having killed the man and buried his body." The accused couple's neighbours, who allegedly helped the prime accused in killing and burying Shivnath's body, were absconding, said police.

**Jamia VC seat vacant for six months, faculty writes to Modi for 'urgent intervention'**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** The position of regular vice-chancellor at Jamia Millia Islamia has remained vacant for over six months, causing concern among faculty members who believe the vacancy is negatively impacting the institution. A group of professors from the university recently wrote to PM Modi, urging him to address the issue.

The previous regular VC's term concluded on Nov 12, 2023. Since then, two officiating VCs have been appointed, but both appointments were met with internal challenges within the university. In May, Delhi HC invalidated professor Eghal Hussain's appointment as officiating VC, stating that his continued service in that role was not in accordance with the statute. The court also requested that the

President of India, the "visitor," ensure the appointment of a regular VC in the interim.

According to unnamed faculty members, the absence of a regular vice-chancellor has created numerous obstacles and difficulties for faculty, staff, students and the overall potential of the university. These challenges include issues with CAS promotion, direct appointments, and the inability to make crucial policy decisions without a regular Vice Chancellor in place.

The letter stated, "As per reports, the shortlisting of the names of potential candidates after the interaction and screening process for the post of VC was done in Feb 2024. However, the notification for the appointment has not been done till date. We, therefore, request your Excellency to look into the matter and do the needful."

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# Murder accused found hanging in Noida jail, 3 cops suspended

**Avishkekumar**  
@timesofindia.com

**Noida:** A 42-year-old murder accused was found hanging from a water pipe in Luksar Jail last Thursday, leading to the suspension of three constables for negligence.

Banarasi, who was from Balrampur in UP, was arrested from Jewar in Sept last year for allegedly killing his friend. Arun Pratap Singh, the jail superintendent, said that on Thursday morning, Banarasi asked for permission to take a bath, saying he wasn't feeling well because of the high temperature.

The three constables who

**Banarasi, who was from UP, was arrested in Sept last year for allegedly killing his friend**

were on duty in his barracks allowed him.

"After almost 15 minutes, when the cops went to check on him, they found him hanging from the pipe that connects to the main water tank. He had used his towel to hang himself. Banarasi was rushed to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival," Singh said.

Banarasi was charged under Section 302 (murder) of the IPC. In the past 10 months,

no friend or family member had come to meet him in jail. He would keep to himself and would often be found sitting alone in a corner of the jail, another officer said.

"He was lodged in circle 3 of barrack number 9. While others often engaged in fights and arguments, Banarasi would stay away from them. He did not participate in any activity or sport," the officer said.

The three cops who were suspended for negligence were head constable Hori Lal, and constables Prashant Chaudhary and Satya Prakash. "They were responsible for supervising the prisoners after they left their cells," SP Singh said.

# Noida gets pollution board notice for RWH project in parks

**Noida:** UP Pollution Control Board on July 18 issued a notice to Noida Authority after it received a complaint alleging that officials had initiated the process to carry out rainwater harvesting in parks, and this could pollute groundwater as fertilisers and chemicals are used abundantly.

"The above complaint is mainly related to the project of setting up rainwater harvesting systems in the parks under Noida area and the possibility of ground water pollution due to the same. At present, Uttar Pradesh Ground Water (Management and Regulation) Act 2019 is effective for groundwater exploitation/conservation in the state," the notice said.

# The Emperors' Clothes?

CITY CITY BANG BANG

SANTOSH DESAI



Is Rahul Gandhi's white T-shirt a worthy subject for discussion? Are there not more substantial issues that should occupy our attention? Is it a sign of our image-driven times that we have so much conversation around appearance and very little about policies and ideas?

It would be a mistake to think of these as binary opposites, and it would be hasty to deny the importance of self-presentation when it comes to politicians and leaders. And although it is true that we are far more interested in surface appearance today than ever before, the aura generated by leaders has always been strongly influenced by the way in which they present themselves.

It would be difficult to think of Gandhi as a mahatma if he had not traded in his western attire for the loin cloth. Churchill with the cigar, Stalin's bushy moustache, Castro's beard, all of them played a key role in shaping the perceptions they generated. Often, the choices were an organic overflow of the people they were rather than a deliberate strategy to create a narrative.

In modern politics, however, it is much likelier that these are deliberately and carefully chosen. Rahul Gandhi's decision to move to a white T-shirt and jeans is interesting on several counts.

He is not trying to portray his Indianness, in spite of the Italian jabs directed at him. The T-shirt is a western garment, but in the most neutral way possible; it connotes an openness to possibilities. It showcases his youth and his level of fitness, without making a song and dance about it. The beard with white in it lends the youthful appearance some heft. The white T-shirt is a sign of being comfortable in his skin; for the first time trying not to don a costume of a politician, but being one by being who he is.

Rahul Gandhi is not a traditional politician; he cannot be with his privileged background. In choosing this way of presenting himself, he acknowledges this reality but simultaneously attempts to create a fresh narrative. It runs the risk of underlining what many

see as his immaturity, and the "balak buddhi" jibes that have been directed at him seek to build on this criticism.

He is competing with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has used his appearance extremely powerfully over the years. Notwithstanding the initial hiccup with the monogrammed suit, he has crafted a persona that is both powerful and wise. The "56 inch" self-description is an overt attempt to fashion a sense of strength and purpose. The beard adds to the sense of paternal gravitas. And while his frequent costume changes and his fondness for the camera have attracted many sarcastic comments, there is no question that his physical identity has been used strategically to amplify his political ideas.

whose appearance is an intrinsic part of their political persona include Laloo Prasad Yadav, who milked (pardon the pun) his image as a rustic "man of the people" by rushing to tend to his cows every time there was a photo-op. Mamma Banerjee's utter disinterest in her clothes and her penchant of turning up in rubber slippers at important events is such an essential part of her political message. For Keirriwal too, the ill-fitting clothes and the muffler helped create a sense of someone more easily identifiable for the "aam aadmi". Conversely, for Mayawati, the flaunting of symbols that were otherwise the preserve of the more privileged sections of society made a graphic point about an assertion of Dalit identity and self-respect.

Women politicians are far more vulnerable to being viewed through the lens of their personal appearance and manner. Mayawati was the butt of so many upper-caste jokes that tried to undermine her ascent to significance and power. Hillary Clinton was hounded for her pantsuits and attacked with a venom that seemed particularly pointed. The Finnish PM "caught" partying became an international scandal.

In politics, so much is vibe-driven. In a flash energies shift, and new images get crystallised. Rahul Gandhi has gone from being a perennial out-of-touch striver to a serious politician in the course of a few months. Biden has crumbled because of his manner of self-presentation in the debate and its aftermath. From receiving unstinted support from his fellow Democrats, there is a cascading sense that he is not the right man. Trump, on the other hand, seems energised after the abortive attempt on his life. And a lot of it has to do with the iconic photograph of his raising his fist in defiance immediately after being shot at. Politics is so unpredictable partly because, at one level, perceptions move very slowly, and at another they can alter in very little time.

Narratives need to be built around tangible signals that translate political stances into emotional responses. We buy into leaders for what they represent, and we are powerfully but often subconsciously affected by those signs that we can most easily decode. When leaders wear what they profess, it becomes so much easier.

**It would be difficult to think of Gandhi as a mahatma if he had not traded in his western attire for the loin cloth. Churchill with the cigar, Stalin's bushy moustache, Castro's beard, all of them played a key role in shaping the perceptions they generated**

If PM Modi is among the most careful nurturers of their appearance, at the opposite end of the spectrum must lie Boris Johnson, who comes through as someone who has been yanked up from bed by the hair and whisked in a blender. However, there is nothing accidental or slapdash about his look-it is a carefully crafted attempt to come through as a bumbling good-humoured "man of the masses" who stands out in stark contrast to other blow-dried politicians.

Speaking of which, no one could be more expensively turned out than Rishi Sunak, despite which he may have been the one of the most awkward looking heads of state in history. The choice of well-cut suits that were also extremely tight made him look like a drainpipe desperately trying to climb to the top floor. He looked like a badly put together identikit sketch, a composite sketch of parts that don't fit.

Among the other Indian politicians

It would be difficult to think of Gandhi as a mahatma if he had not traded in his western attire for the loin cloth. Churchill with the cigar, Stalin's bushy moustache, Castro's beard, all of them played a key role in shaping the perceptions they generated

Pratapgargh and currently living in Sector 5, in Phase-1. ADCP (Noida) Manish Mishra said that cops had been investigating a thak-thak gang that stole electronic gadgets from cars after breaking car windows.

Police also recovered a county-made pistol, scooter, six laptops, one airtag, four ATMs, from the accused's possession. tnn

**TOI**

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# 2 of 'thak thak' gang held after gunfight

**Noida:** Two members of a thak thak gang were arrested after a gunfight with police on Saturday night. The accused had been active in the city for the past few months, police said.

The accused were identified as Rohit Krishnan (26), a native of Tamil Nadu, who is currently living in Delhi's Ashok Nagar, and Gulshan Kumar (20), from

# State-level boxer held for firing at his rival

**New Delhi:** Delhi Police's Crime Branch has arrested a state-level boxer for allegedly shooting at his rival and leaving him critically wounded last month. The 30-year-old suspect has been identified as Rajan alias Mantri, a resident of Pannipat, police said.

DCP Satish Kumar stated that Rajan was apprehended after police acted upon an informer's tip off about his whereabouts. "A raid was conducted in Rohini, and he was nabbed. An automatic pistol and a single-shot gun, along with three live cartridges, were seized from him," the DCP added.

Rajan had a property dispute with a man named Azad from his village. After a verbal spat, Rajan was looking for an opportunity to seek revenge.

On the evening of June 23, as Azad was returning to the village in his car, Rajan and his associates opened fire at the vehicle. One bullet penetrated the car and struck Azad in the waist. Despite being wounded, he managed to evade Rajan, who was pursuing him, and reached his residence. Azad's family members rushed him to the hospital, where he received treatment for the gunshot injury.

Rajan came into contact with gangsters through one of his uncles, who was incarcerated in a murder case. "The accused also provided shelter to gangsters at his residence and assisted them in obtaining passports with fake names using his home address. Rajan had fled to Dubai a few months ago but later returned to India, where he started a finance business and also became a partner in a liquor shop," the DCP added.

Rajan has a criminal history, with involvement in four cases of attempted murder, abduction, and other serious offenses in Haryana, police added.

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DISTRICT: NORTH 24 PARGANAS, SUB-DIVISION: BARASAT, BLOCK- BARASAT-I

Sl. No.	Notification No. and Date	GP/ Ward No.	Location of vacancy
1	259/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 14.05.2024	Kashipur	Mouza: Jirat, Near Udayraj Sangha
2	303/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 17.05.2024	Kadambagachi	Mouza: Sarabati, Sarabati More Near Raigate
3	258/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 14.05.2024	Chhotogajula	Mouza: Tentula, Chhotogajula, Near Tentula More
4	305/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 17.05.2024	Duttapur-II	Mouza: Chatta Bari (CT), Nabadra Duttapur (CT), Near Duttapur Hospital More
5	263/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 15.05.2024	Duttapur-I	Mouza: Gangapur (CT), Near Gangapur Chownmatta More
6	264/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 15.05.2024	Chhotogajula	Mouza: Sikdepukuria, Sikdepukuria Parbhara, Near Sabaj Sangha
7	229/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 13.05.2024	Chhotogajula	Mouza: Malakar, Near Malakar More
8	228/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 13.05.2024	Chhotogajula	Mouza: Mandalgathi, Near Mandalgathi Bus Stand
9	227/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 13.05.2024	Kadambagachi	Mouza: Koyra (CT), Koyra 1 No. Mathopara More, Near Hemanta Basu Nagar
10	267/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 15.05.2024	Duttapur-II	Mouza: Joppal, Joppal (CT), Joppal Methopara More, Near Bira Rail Station
11	286/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 15.05.2024	Duttapur-II	Mouza: Joppal (CT), Nazul Colony Near Joppal Bowkabi Smriti Sangha
12	275/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 15.05.2024	Ichapur Nilgari	Mouza: Rangpur, Near Nilgari Hat
13	269/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 15.05.2024	Ichapur Nilgari	Mouza: Jakuha, Near Jakuha Sadhan Chandra Prathamika Bidyalay
14	265/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 15.05.2024	Purba Chikapur	Mouza: Khilapur, Khilapur (Uttar), Darjapur More Near Young Star Club
15	244/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 14.05.2024	Paschim Chikapur	Mouza: Barbaria, Near Nazrul Sangha
16	242/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 14.05.2024	Kashipur	Mouza: Chandrapur (CT), Near Mitai Sangha
17	241/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 14.05.2024	Kotra	Mouza: Rembata, Near Nimdira Play Ground
18	230/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 13.05.2024	Ichapur Nilgari	Mouza: Santoshpur, Near Tapukur More
19	304/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 17.05.2024	Chhotogajula	Mouza: Kuberia (CT), Near Kuberia More
20	226/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 13.05.2024	Kashipur	Mouza: Narsinghpur, Near Narsinghpur Chownmatta, Jessore Road

DISTRICT: NORTH 24 PARGANAS, SUB-DIVISION: BARASAT, BLOCK- BARASAT-II

Sl. No.	Notification No. and Date	GP/ Ward No.	Location of vacancy
1	316/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 21.05.2024	Kirtipur-I	Mouza: Shanbenabadi, Near Sanberia Jame Masjid,
2	285/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 15.05.2024	Kemta Kumarpura	Mouza: Koyamba, Near Kalupara Jame Masjid,
3	245/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 14.05.2024	Chandigar Rehoda	Mouza: Daratal, Near Daratal Jame Masjid
4	253/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 14.05.2024	Dandipur	Mouza: Dhokra, Near Dhokra P.P. School
5	254/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 14.05.2024	Dandipur	Mouza: Barha, Near Barha Kalbari
6	278/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 15.05.2024	Chandigar Rehoda	Mouza: Gobha, Near Gobha Taran Sangha Club

DISTRICT: NORTH 24 PARGANAS, SUB-DIVISION: BARASAT, BLOCK- MUNICIPALITY- BARASAT (M)

Sl. No.	Notification No. and Date	GP/ Ward No.	Location of vacancy
1	292/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 17.05.2024	28	Mouza: Barasat, Near Ashwinipally Play Ground
2	288/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 15.05.2024	35	Mouza: Hirdipur, Near Pransab Kanya Ashram
3	301/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 17.05.2024	25	Mouza: Barasat, K.B. Bose Road, Near Rabindra Bhavan
4	302/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 17.05.2024	24	Mouza: Barasat, Jessore Road, Near Barasat Govt. College
5	293/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 17.05.2024	15	Mouza: Uttarahat, Near Vijayanagar Sporting Club
6	296/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 17.05.2024	20	Mouza: Kuberpur, Near Taran Sangha Club
7	297/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 17.05.2024	18	Mouza: Neogpara, Near Chevli Feet
8	294/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 17.05.2024	26	Mouza: Prasadpur, Dakshinapara Road, Near Shiber Kotha
9	295/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 17.05.2024	02	Mouza: Neogpara, Near Gopal Smriti Sangha
10	284/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 15.05.2024	31	Mouza: Hanbarpur, Near Dipshaha Coaching Centre
11	330/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 05.06.2024	25	Mouza: Prasadpur, Adhutor Ghosh Road, Near Barasat Government College

DISTRICT: NORTH 24 PARGANAS, SUB-DIVISION: BARASAT, BLOCK- AMANGA

Sl. No.	Notification No. and Date	GP/ Ward No.	Location of vacancy
1	307/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 17.05.2024	Berabaria	Mouza: Berabaria, Near Nabaganjan Sangha,
2	251/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 14.05.2024	Sadhampur	Mouza: Kharu, Near Kharu Battala
3	273/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 13.05.2024	Amnanga	Mouza: Kamdepur, Near Kamdepur Thakurbati
4	257/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 14.05.2024	Adhala	Mouza: Hicali, Near Jaulidighi Chownmatta
5	306/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 17.05.2024	Berabaria	Mouza: Chanchat, Near Chanchat Jam-E-Masjid

DISTRICT: NORTH 24 PARGANAS, SUB-DIVISION: BARASAT, BLOCK- DEGANGA

Sl. No.	Notification No. and Date	GP/ Ward No.	Location of vacancy
1	291/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 17.05.2024	Amata	Mouza: Bara Gachha, Near Bank of India
2	247/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 14.05.2024	Chowpaha	Mouza: Basudebpur, Near Basudebpur Central Jame Masjid
3	256/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 14.05.2024	Saha Sengapur	Mouza: Khatra Manakhatla, Near Saha Sengapur G.P. Office
4	248/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 14.05.2024	Neonagar	Mouza: Khatra, Near Barasat Jame Masjid
5	249/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 14.05.2024	Dhaki, Chhatrapati	Mouza: Srangpur, Near Srangpur Bazar
6	276/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 15.05.2024	Chhatrapati	Mouza: Pandharpur, Near Pandharpur P.P. School
7	275/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 15.05.2024	Chhatra	Mouza: Beyer, Near Beyer Durga Mandir

DISTRICT: NORTH 24 PARGANAS, SUB-DIVISION: BARASAT, BLOCK- MUNICIPALITY- GORANDANGA (M)

Sl. No.	Notification No. and Date	GP/ Ward No.	Location of vacancy
1	308/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 17.05.2024	05	Mouza: Gobardanga, Near Chatterjee Para Sanday Club

DISTRICT: NORTH 24 PARGANAS, SUB-DIVISION: BARASAT, BLOCK- HABRA-I

Sl. No.	Notification No. and Date	GP/ Ward No.	Location of vacancy
1	255/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 14.05.2024	Prithiba	Mouza: Arbiata, Near Prithiba Radha Rani Girls Junior High School

DISTRICT: NORTH 24 PARGANAS, SUB-DIVISION: BARASAT, BLOCK- HABRA-II

Sl. No.	Notification No. and Date	GP/ Ward No.	Location of vacancy
1	268/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 15.05.2024	Rajpur Bira	Mouza: Bira, Near Bira Mallick Para Eigan Madan
2	311/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 17.05.2024	Guma-II	Mouza: Dogachha, Near Manikata Market Shid Mandir
3	224/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 13.05.2024	Guma-I	Mouza: Guma, St. Francis School, Near 24 No. Raigate
4	250/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 14.05.2024	Srinagarpur	Mouza: Nurpur, Near Nurpur Bazar,
5	252/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 14.05.2024	Dighra-Bira, Dighra Malbaria	Mouza: Jangipur, Near Balaha Mondal Decorators
6	273/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 15.05.2024	Guma-I	Mouza: Khatdepur, Near Khatdepur Masjid
7	310/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 17.05.2024	Bhukhandia	Mouza: Bhukhandia, Near Bhukhandia Endulgy Senior Madrasa
8	246/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 15.05.2024	Guma-II	Mouza: Bara Bamonia, Near Habra-II Block Development Office

DISTRICT: NORTH 24 PARGANAS, SUB-DIVISION: BARASAT, BLOCK- MUNICIPALITY- MADHYAMGRAM (M)

Sl. No.	Notification No. and Date	GP/ Ward No.	Location of vacancy
1	326/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 31.05.2024	14	Mouza: Kora, Near Kora Free Primary School
2	270/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 15.05.2024	23	Mouza: Chakraborty, Near Vidysagar Vidyalay
3	327/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 31.05.2024	04	Mouza: Adampur, Near Tetulata Masjid
4	277/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 15.05.2024	09	Mouza: Doharia, Near Netaj Nagar Sporting Club
5	328/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 03.06.2024	04, 06 & 08	Mouza: Abadpur, Near Ramkameshwarly Sargap Pajar Math
6	243/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 14.05.2024	08	Mouza: Haripur, Bara Road, Near Greenway T.No. Gate
7	282/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 15.05.2024	25	Mouza: Doharia, Nazrul Sarani, Near Doharia Bazar
8	354/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 11.06.2024	20	Mouza: Gachhura, Near Sripar Amriti Club

DISTRICT: NORTH 24 PARGANAS, SUB-DIVISION: BARASAT, BLOCK- RAIAHAT

Sl. No.	Notification No. and Date	GP/ Ward No.	Location of vacancy
1	243/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 14.05.2024	Jyngira Nattara-II	Mouza: Sulanganj CT, Near Sulanganj Colony Para Madhyamik School,
2	272/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 15.05.2024	RB-II	Mouza: Basina, Near Basina Manikata Shahi Masjid
3	275/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 15.05.2024	Chandpur	Mouza: Hadarat, Near Kadar Bridge
4	324/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 30.05.2024	Jyngira Nattara-I	Mouza: Ghuni CT, Near Nabin Ch P.P. School
5	246/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 14.05.2024	Patharghata	Mouza: Rangpur, Near Rangpur Lalgait Mosque
6	242/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 14.05.2024	Chandpur	Mouza: Nawabid, Near Uttar Parashurama Jame Masjid
7	329/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 dt. 05.06.2024	RB-II	Mouza: Mahammadpur, Near Mahammadpur P.P. School

DISTRICT: NORTH 24 PARGANAS, SUB-DIVISION: BASIRHAT, BLOCK- BASIRHAT-I

Sl. No.	Notification No. and Date	GP/ Ward No.	Location of vacancy
1	Memo No. 305/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 Date: 16.05.2024	Pila	Mouza: Ramnagar, Near Pila Anchari Rati Shikhalay
2	Memo No. 340/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 Date: 07.06.2024	Gotra	Mouza: Matniya, Near Matniya Bazar
3	Memo No. 339/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 Date: 07.06.2024	Gacha Aharpur	Mouza: Prasanankat, Near Gacha Aharpur G.P. Office

DISTRICT: NORTH 24 PARGANAS, SUB-DIVISION: BASIRHAT, BLOCK- BASIRHAT-II

Sl. No.	Notification No. and Date	GP/ Ward No.	Location of vacancy
1	Memo No. 336/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 Date: 07.06.2024	Champurapur	Mouza: Akipur, Near Akipur Foot Ball Ground
2	Memo No. 337/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 Date: 07.06.2024	Chaita	Mouza: Jagatpur, Near Bank of Baroda Jagatpur

DISTRICT: NORTH 24 PARGANAS, SUB-DIVISION: BASIRHAT, BLOCK- MIKAKHAN

Sl. No.	Notification No. and Date	GP/ Ward No.	Location of vacancy
1	Memo No. 306/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 Date: 16.05.2024	Mitakhan	Mouza: Abad Malancha, Near Malancha Danush Sharita Hanifa Madrasa
2	Memo No. 307/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 Date: 16.05.2024	Mitakhan	Mouza: Moul, Near Moul P.P. School

DISTRICT: NORTH 24 PARGANAS, SUB-DIVISION: BASIRHAT, BLOCK- HASNABAD

Sl. No.	Notification No. and Date	GP/ Ward No.	Location of vacancy
1	Memo No. 308/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 Date: 16.05.2024	Patilhanpur	Mouza: Ghuz, Near Purba Ghuzi P.P. School
2	Memo No. 334/SCFS/BS/1/M/2024 Date: 07.06.2024	Amiani	Mouza: Mohanpur, Near Mohanpur P.P. School

DISTRICT: NORTH 24 PARGANAS, SUB-DIVISION: BASIRHAT, BLOCK- BADURIA

Sl. No.	Notification No. and Date	GP/ Ward No.	Location of vacancy
1	Memo No. 304/SCFS		



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शिवाय

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occasion of

**RAJKIYA**

**SHRAVANI**

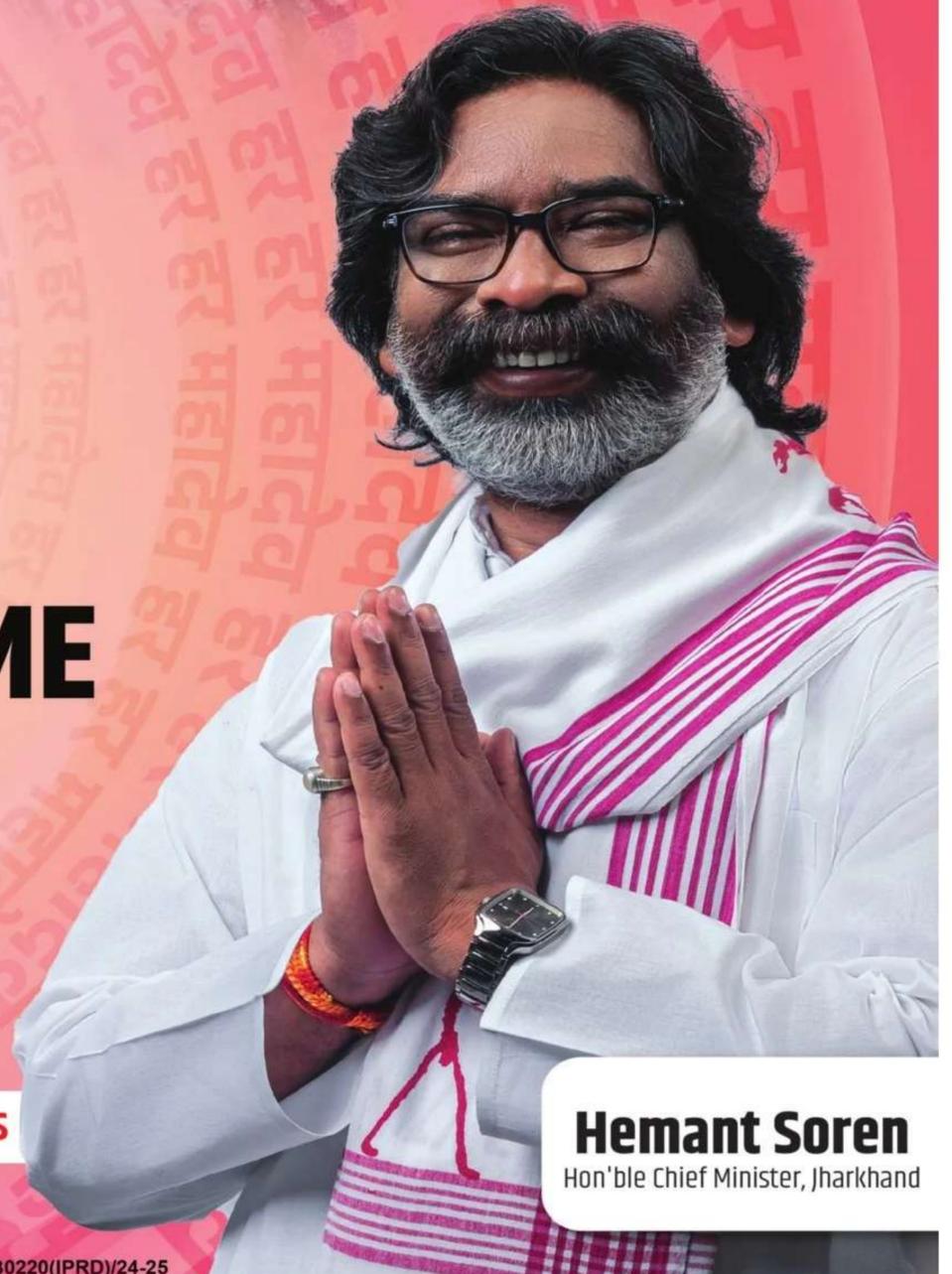
**MELA**

**A HEARTY WELCOME**

**AND JOHAR**

to all the devotees in  
Mahadev's land, Deoghar

May Lord Shiva fulfill the wishes of all the devotees

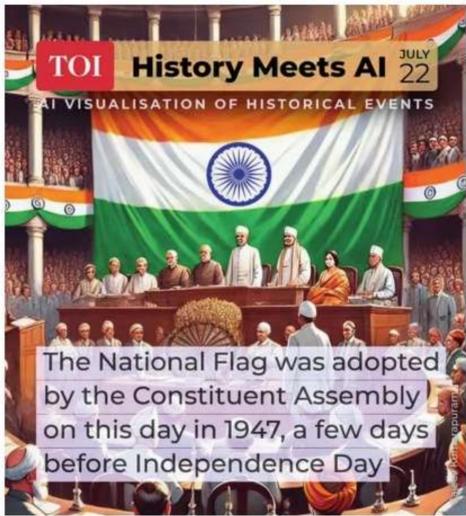


**Hemant Soren**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Jharkhand



DEVISE PLAN TO CRUSH TERROR, PLUG INFILTRATION ROUTES: J&K LG MANOJ SINHA TO SECURITY BRASS | 16

UDDHAV MEMBER OF 'AURANGZEB FAN CLUB', PAWAR SR RINGLEADER OF CORRUPT IN POLITICS: SHAH | 16



**TOI History Meets AI** JULY 22  
AI VISUALISATION OF HISTORICAL EVENTS  
The National Flag was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on this day in 1947, a few days before Independence Day

## Ahead of Budget, JDU, TDP go easy on spl category demand

### Signal Willingness To Accept Funds Over Special Status

Sidhartha@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Days before the Union Budget is placed in Parliament, major pressure from NDA partners JDU and TDP seems to have eased as both did not press for 'special category' status for Bihar and Andhra at Sunday's all-party meeting and instead suggested that there could be special packages to meet specific requirements.

While JDU working president Sanjay Jha flagged the issue of special category, a demand backed by RJD and Chirag Paswan, he also appeared to appreciate that it may be tough to implement it due to "technical reasons" and focused on provision in the Budget for 'visheshahayata' or special assistance, focused on areas such as flood control, where the state spends thousands of crores. Party sources also indicated that JDU has realised that it was not possible to meet the demands in this Budget itself.

Similarly, TDP again raised the issue of assistance for Amaravati and projects such as Polavaram, while



File photo of PM Modi with TDP's Chandrababu Naidu and JDU's Nitish Kumar. The Centre has said a special category status cannot be accorded now, given 14th Finance Commission's recommendations

steering clear of specific reference to a special package. Andhra CM N Chandrababu Naidu has submitted a list of projects, including an oil refinery, on which it wants Centre's announcements, with some of them sought in the Budget.

As reported by TOI on July 15, JDU has flagged flood control as a priority issue given that it involves water flowing from Nepal, which cannot be dealt with at the state level. On Sunday, Jha highlighted how Bihar CM has repeatedly flagged the demand for special status but provided greater leeway to Union FM

Nirmala Sitharman who will present the Budget on Tuesday in allocating funds for infrastructure and specific projects in the state.

After the meeting, TDP MP Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu said party lawmakers have sought more time during the Budget session that starts on Monday to highlight the issues on which white papers have been released.

While the Centre has repeatedly said that a special category status cannot be accorded now, given the 14th Finance Commission recommenda-

tions, the demand has not gone away with BJD demanding the tag for Odisha pointing that BJP had promised it as part of its 2014 poll campaign. Odisha is now among the better performers on fiscal parameters.

Special category status, which was originally designed for hilly and border states, ensured that the Centre provided additional funds.

While Andhra has a weak fiscal position, Naidu and his team have realised that it will be more prudent to focus on getting their specific demands addressed. TDP's rival YSR Congress, however, demanded the status for the state, something that Jairam Ramesh of Congress, which has been encouraging TDP to up the ante on the demand for special category tag, highlighted.

"In today's all-party meeting of floor leaders chaired by defence minister Rajnath Singh, the JDU functionary demanded special status of Bihar. The YSRCP member demanded special status for Andhra. Strangely, the TDP member kept quiet on the matter," he tweeted.

## With 4 golds, India posts best show at maths olympiad

Hemali Chhappia & Naisha Shetty | TNN

Mumbai: The Indian team of six high school students has achieved a historic feat at the International Mathematics Olympiad (IMO) 2024, securing the best ever performance since India's debut in 1989.

Rushil Mathur, Ananda Bhaduri, Adhitya Ganesh, and Kanav Talwar clinched four gold medals for India, while Arjun Gupta secured a silver medal and Siddharth Choppa received an honourable mention.

The team, led by Professor Krishnan Sivasubramanian (IIT-Bombay) and Riju Saini (former IMO medalist; from Homi Bhabha Centre For Science Education, or HBCSE) as the deputy leader, finished fourth among 108 participating countries, with over 609 students in the competition.

The Indian team scored an impressive 167 points, just one mark behind South Korea, with the US, China, and South Korea taking the top three spots. This outstanding performance marks India's best result in the Olympiad in terms of medals won and



The Indian team of six high school students finished fourth among 108 participating nations

rank attained, surpassing the previous best rankings of 7th in 2001 and 1998.

For each team member, mathematics is their primary passion. Rushil Mathur from Powai, who will pursue mathematics and computer science at the University of Oxford for his undergraduate studies, shared his love for the subject, stating, "While I always enjoyed mathematics as a middle-schooler, I was first introduced to its vastness and beauty when I began preparing for the mathematics Olympiad. The thrill of solving Olympiad problems hooked me onto maths."

PM Modi congratulated the 2024 team on their remarkable achievement via a post on X, calling them an inspiration to young people.

## Didi offers shelter to B'deshis; Centre refutes Bengal's 'locus standi'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: After West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee said her state will let in Bangladeshis looking to escape from violence at home, Indian govt sources said such issues are handled by the Centre and as such her comments are totally misplaced.

Bangladesh has been teetering on the brink of disaster for the past several days amid violent clashes between students and pro-govt forces over reservation in govt jobs. According to authorities here, 4,500 Indian students have so far returned from Bangladesh because of the deteriorating law and order situation in the neighbouring country.

"A state govt has no locus standi on the issue," said a source, speaking on condition of anonymity. Mamata had earlier said the state govt would offer shelter to people who might flee to India if the ongoing violence does not stop. "I should not be speaking on the affairs of Bangladesh since that is a sovereign nation and whatever needs to be said on the issue is a subject matter of the Centre. But I can tell you this, if helpless people come knocking on the doors of Bengal, we will surely provide them shelter," she said.

Meanwhile, the ministry of external affairs (MEA) said in a statement so far, over 4,500 Indian students have returned. The high commission has been making arrangement for security escort to the border-crossing points for safe travel of Indian nationals.

"Five hundred students of Nepal, 38 of Bhutan and one of Maldives have also arrived in India. The high commission and our assistant high commissions continue to be in regular touch with local authorities for the safety and security of Indian nationals. They are also in regular contact with remaining students in various universities in Bangladesh and with Indian nationals for their welfare and assistance," said the statement.

Before violence erupted, there were 15,000 Indian nationals in Bangladesh, including 4,500 students.

The MEA said it has been coordinating with relevant Indian authorities to ensure a smooth passage for our citizens at land ports and airports. "The high commission in Dhaka is also coordinating with civil aviation authorities of Bangladesh and commercial airlines to ensure availability of flight services between India and Bangladesh," said the ministry.



## Babu's estranged wife who 'eloped' with gangster takes poison, dies

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: The estranged wife of a Gujarat IAS officer died on Sunday after taking poison the previous day at the official's doorstep in Gandhinagar, the high drama capping a turbulent past few months when she allegedly eloped with a gangster from her native Tamil Nadu and was involved in a child abduction case there.

Surya J, 45, passed away at Civil Hospital in the Gujarat capital. According to police, Surya had ingested the poisonous stuff on Saturday morning after husband Ranjeeth Kumar J instructed aides not to let her into his home in Sector-19 of Gandhinagar. Kumar is secretary of Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission (GERC).

"Kumar had gone out to finalise his divorce petition

Cops said the woman had taken poisonous stuff after her IAS officer husband barred her from entering his home. She was possibly trying to evade arrest by TN cops in a child abduction case

with Surya on Saturday. Rattled at not being let in, she (Surya) ingested poison and called up 108 (an ambulance helpline)," said a police officer. Gandhinagar SP Ravi Teja Vasamsetty said the cops had found a purported suicide note in Tamil but declined to provide details.

Police sources suggested Surya might have gone to her husband's home to evade arrest from TN Police in the Madurai kidnapping case of

the 14-year-old boy. Surya's name surfaced in the case with her rumoured boyfriend and local gangster known as "High Court Maharaja", and his aide Senthil Kumar. They allegedly abducted the boy on July 11 over a monetary dispute with the child's mother. They had demanded a ransom of Rs 2 crore from his mother but the Madurai cops managed to rescue the boy. The cops then started a search for all those involved, including Surya.

A source privy to the developments said Surya had left Kumar and eloped with "High Court Maharaja" around nine months ago. SP Vasamsetty referred to the kidnapping case as a factor. "I came to know from reports that she (Surya) was accused of kidnapping in Madurai, which could have forced her to take this extreme step," the officer said.

## Boy who tested +ve for Nipah dies in Kerala

Kozhikode/ Delhi: A 14-year-old boy from Kerala's Malappuram district who had tested positive for Nipah infection died while undergoing treatment at Kozhikode govt medical college on Sunday morning even as the state govt has intensified preventive measures including curbs in Pankkud and Anakkayam panchayats in the affected district and has stepped up contact tracing. This is the first Nipah fatality in Kerala this year.

The Union health ministry said in a statement on Sunday that Centre will deploy a multi-member joint outbreak response team to support Kerala in investigating the case, identifying epidemiological linkages and providing technical assistance. The ministry said the boy had exhibited acute encephalitis syndrome. TNN

## 'Ban' on govt staff joining RSS lifted, alleges Cong

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Congress on Sunday cited a purported govt order issued last week to allege that a "ban" on participation of govt employees in the activities of RSS has been removed.

The office memorandum cited in the post by Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh could not be found by TOI on the DoPT website. Also the veracity of the purported govt order, which was shared on X by Congress leaders, could not be ascertained till the time of the edition going to the press.

Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh late on Sunday posted a photo of an office memorandum, dated July 9, pertaining to the "participation of govt servants in the

activities of RSS".

"The undersigned is directed to refer to the OM (office memorandum)...dated 30.11.1966, OM No. 7/4/70-Est. (B) dated 25.07.1970 and OM No. 15014/3(S)/80-Estt.(B) dated 28.10.1980 on the above subject. 2. The aforesaid instructions have been reviewed and it has been decided to remove the mention of Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh (RSS) from the impugned OMs dated 30.11.1966, 25.07.1970 and 28.10.1980." the purported order with DoPT written at the top end.

In a post, Ramesh said, "Sardar Patel had banned the RSS in February 1948 following Gandhi ji's assassination. Subsequently, the ban was withdrawn on assurances of good behaviour. Even after this the RSS never flew the Tiranga in Nagpur."

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# Madhya rekha, Sindhu-Sarasvati civilisation in NCERT book's focus

Revised Class 6 Social Science Textbook Unveils Heritage Of Ancient India

Manash.Gohain  
@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** Unveiling the rich heritage of ancient India to our young minds, the newly-revised Class VI social science textbook has introduced the concept of 'Madhya rekha', an ancient prime meridian that predates the Greenwich Meridian. This meridian traversed the city of Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh.

Notably, the textbook also includes significant modifications, such as the omission of caste-based discrimination, alterations to BR Ambedkar's experiences with discrimination, and the rebranding of the Harappan civilisation as the 'Sindhu-Sarasvati' civilisation.

The textbook elaborates on the 'Madhya rekha', highlighting: "The Greenwich Meridian is not the first prime meridian. There were others in the past. In fact, many centuries before Europe, India had a prime meridian of its own! It was called Madhya rekha (or middle line) and passed through the city of Ujjain (today Ujjain), which was a reputed centre for astronomy over many centuries. Varaha-



The revised textbook incorporates information on the Vedas but excludes references to the caste system and the preclusion of women and Shudras from studying these scriptures

mihira, a famous astronomer, lived and worked there some 1,500 years ago. Indian astronomers were aware of the concepts of latitude and longitude, including the need for a zero or prime meridian. The Ujjaini meridian became a reference for calculations in all Indian astronomical texts."

The textbook, 'Exploring Society: India and Beyond', accentuates significance of the 'Sarasvati' river to early Indian civilisation, identifying it as the seasonal 'Ghaggar' in India and 'Hakra' in Pakistan, while referring to the Harappan civilisation as the 'Sindhu-Sarasvati' civilisation.

The revised textbook in-

corporates information on the Vedas but excludes references to the caste system and the preclusion of women and Shudras from studying these scriptures. It states: "Many professions are mentioned in the Vedic texts, such as agriculturist, weaver, potter, builder, carpenter, healer, dancer, barber, priest, etc."

This diverges from the previous textbook, which addressed the categorisation of people into varnas and the exclusion of Shudras and women from ritual participation and Vedic study.

The textbook rationalisation during Covid-19, initially characterised as temporary by

NCERT, has precipitated further revisions. The new Class VI social science book is a condensed amalgamation of the formerly separate history, geography & civics books. Dinesh Saklani, director NCERT, elucidates in the introductory chapter that the text was streamlined to emphasise "big ideas", integrating insights from various disciplines.

However, comprehensive explorations of ancient Indian kingdoms have been substantially abridged. The new book eliminates four chapters from the previous textbook that encompassed the kingdoms of Ashoka and Chandragupta Maurya, including Chanakya's role and his Arthashastra, as well as the Gupta, Pallava, and Chalukya dynasties, and Kalidasa's works. King Ashoka is mentioned only once in the new textbook's timeline.

A chapter that discussed tools, coins, irrigation, crafts, and trade, has been truncated, and references to historical sites such as the iron pillar at Qutub Minar, Sanchi Stupa, the monolithic temples of Mahabalipuram, and the Ajanta cave paintings have been expunged.

## After backlash, Odisha's U-turn on Biju award

**Bhubaneswar:** BJP govt in Odisha on Sunday reversed its decision to rename Biju Patnaik Sports Award to Odisha Rajya Krida Samman following backlash from BJD, sports community, and netizens, reports **Debabrata Mohapatra**.

CM Mohan Majhi said he was unaware of the decision. "I came to know about the renaming...from the media. The sports award was instituted in the name of Biju babu and will continue to remain so," he said.

However, BJD continued to criticise BJP. "It seems the CM has no control over his govt. The move to drop Biju babu's name has hurt 4.5 crore Odias in state," BJD spokesperson **Lekhasri Samantsinghar** said.

## NDA govt's days are numbered: Didi, Akhilesh at mega TMC rally

Tamaghna Banerjee & Rohit Khanna | TNN

**Kolkata:** Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee and Samajwadi Party chief **Akhilesh Yadav** patted each other's back on Sunday in front of a mammoth crowd at Trinamool Congress' annual martyrs' day rally for "showing BJP its place" in their respective states, saying it was now clear that NDA 3.0 govt's days are numbered.

"BJP should have resigned after what you (Akhilesh) did in UP (in Lok Sabha polls). However, they don't have any shame left and you

have to wait a while," Mamata said. "I am thankful to people of UP for making you the second largest opposition (after Congress) in Parliament. NDA has already stayed in govt for a long time. Enough is enough." She said nobody would be able to uproot the party as long they were content "being poor, eating bhaat-roti, and making do with whatever you have at home".

As Akhilesh looked on, Mamata said she didn't need "rich party workers going around in cars" but "conscientious ones" who would uphold the virtues of introspection, humility and ser-

vice to society. "The more we win, the humbler we must become," said Mamata.

"Remember, Trinamool Congress is not just a political platform, but a stage to serve people," she said.

Akhilesh, who drove to Mamata's home in south Kolkata's Kalighat straight from the airport, had a meeting with her for around half an hour to discuss "fault lines" in NDA "despite their attempt to project a picture of unity", sources said.

At the rally, he declared, "They (BJP) don't have anyone who can dedicate his life for a cause. How can those who divide humanity produce great leaders?"

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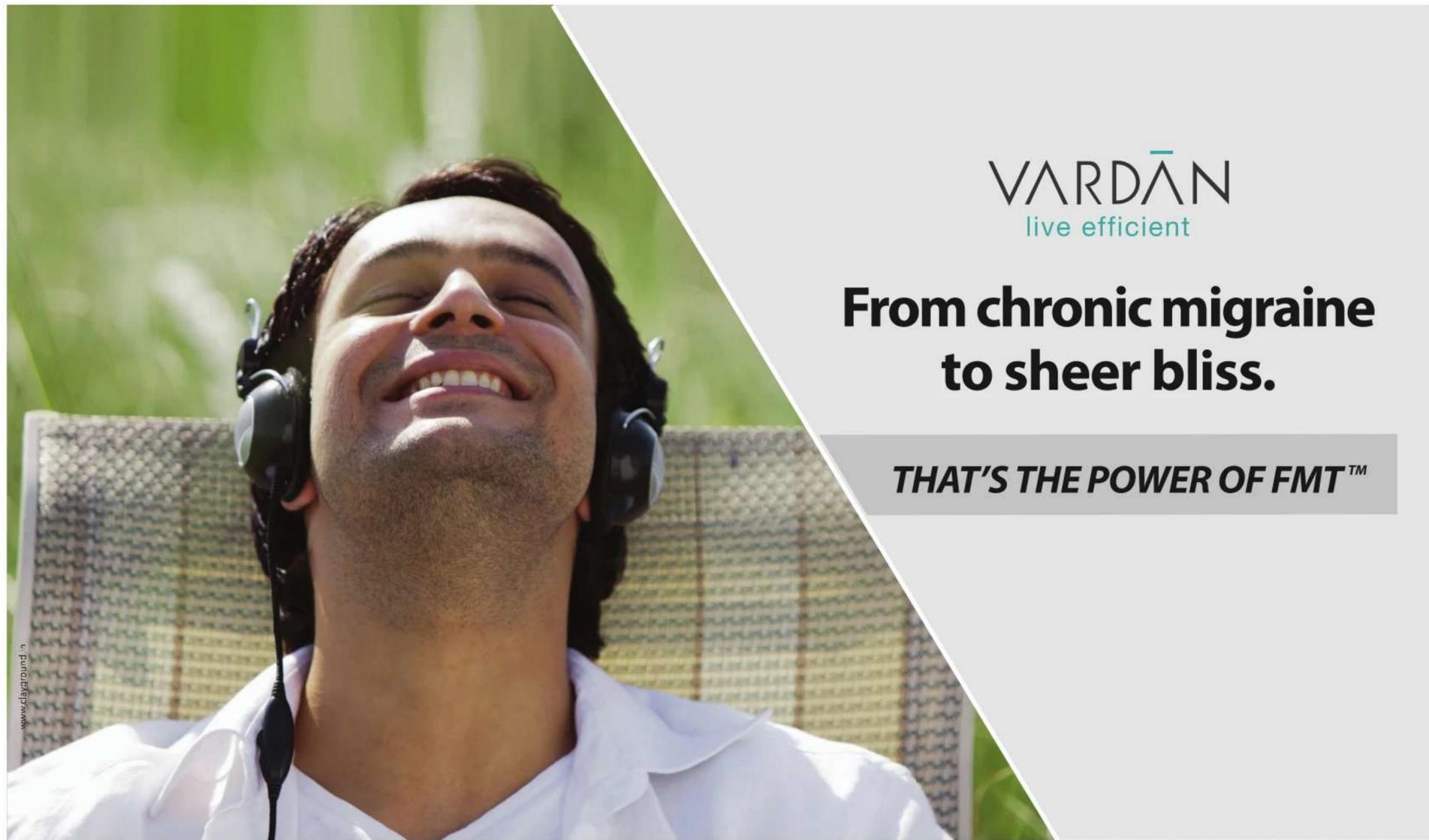
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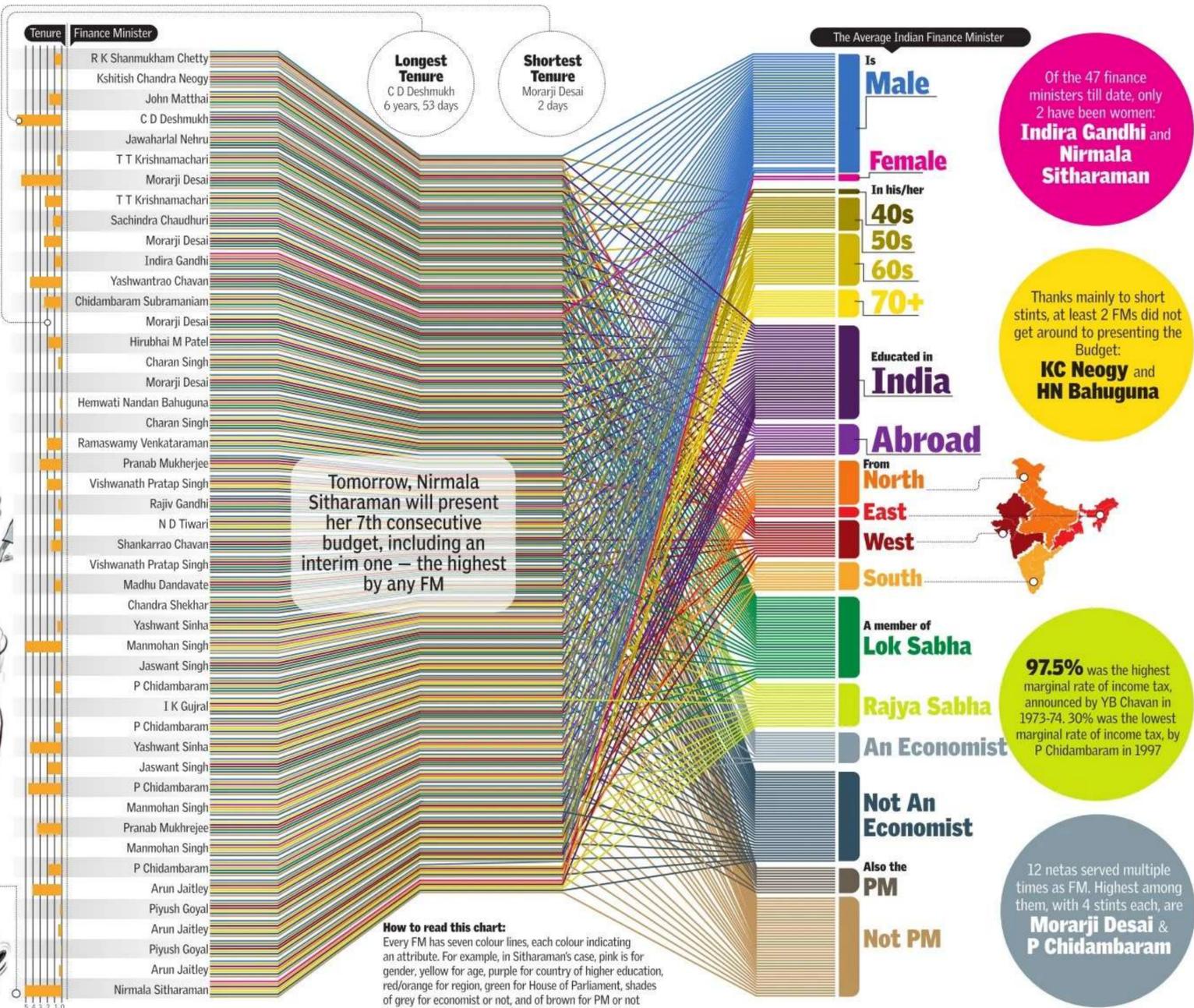
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# Who Gets To Be India's Finance Minister?

Once every year (in LS election years, twice), Indians listen to the finance minister for an hour or two in collective suspense — wondering what tax fortune or misfortune is about to befall them in the Budget. Other than the support of PM, what constitutes the CV of a finance minister? **TOI** gives you a quick look at all Indian FMs



Research & Design: Nirmal Sharma  
Illustration: Uday Deb



Of the 47 finance ministers till date, only 2 have been women: **Indira Gandhi** and **Nirmala Sitharaman**

Thanks mainly to short stints, at least 2 FMs did not get around to presenting the Budget: **KC Neogy** and **HN Bahuguna**

**97.5%** was the highest marginal rate of income tax, announced by YB Chavan in 1973-74. **30%** was the lowest marginal rate of income tax, by P Chidambaram in 1997

12 netas served multiple times as FM. Highest among them, with 4 stints each, are **Morarji Desai & P Chidambaram**

## US: No tangible proof of India deepening ties with Russia

Moscow's Beijing Ties May Render It Unreliable For Delhi: Sullivan

Washington: There is no tangible evidence of India deepening its military and technology relationship with Russia, US national security advisor Jake Sullivan has said, asserting that Moscow, which has become a "junior partner" to China, is not necessarily going to be a "great and reliable friend" to India in a future contingency.



PM Modi with President Putin during an informal meeting outside Moscow during his recent visit to Russia

Sullivan also said the US has had constructive and effective dialogue with India on the Pannun murder-for-hire plot and that it will continue to "work through" until the US sees an outcome that it thinks is satisfactory.

Sullivan made remarks at Aspen Security Forum in Colorado while responding to questions about the recent visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Russia for bilateral talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin. "I think the biggest question is: Do we see tangible evidence that India is deepening its military and technology relationship with Russia? And I did not see tan-

gible evidence out of that visit that it was deepening; I didn't see deliverables in that space," Sullivan said. How concerned were you when PM Modi met Russian President Putin, essentially at the same time that US President Joe Biden was hosting the NATO leaders in Washington, he was asked. "Don't you think the bear hug was significant then?" he was asked. "Well, Modi has a

certain way of greeting world leaders. I've seen it up close and personal," Sullivan said. The Biden administration, he said, never wants to see countries that the US cares about, who are its partners and friends, show up in Moscow and hug Putin. "But in terms of our relationship with India, we see enormous opportunities in technology, in economics, and in the statecraft and geo-

politics of the wider Indo-Pacific region. And we want to deepen that relationship as equals, as two sovereign countries who also have relationships with other countries. And India has a historical relationship with Russia that they're not going to cut off," Sullivan said.

"But we do believe that we want to continue to have a deep dialogue with India about specifics and nature of that relationship and whether it evolves, because Russia is getting closer to China, and as the junior partner to China, is not necessarily going to be a great and reliable friend to India in a future contingency or crisis," he said.

"That's not something India needs to hear from Jake Sullivan, but it is a fact in the world. And it's something that we take into account as we have our strategic dialogue with India," said the US national security advisor, who was in New Delhi last month and met Prime Minister Modi and his counterpart Ajit Doval. AGENCIES

## Nasscom too opposes K'taka 14-hr workday plan for techies

Continued from P1

The labour minister's opposition, sources said, is partly because he's unhappy he did not receive support from within govt for the proposed bill on job reservation for locals, mooted by his department. That Bill was put on hold by Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah following backlash from industry and his party's central leaders.

IT industry association Nasscom, too, has opposed the proposal, saying categorically that they fully support the 48-hour workweek across the country. Nasscom said it had not asked for a 14-hour workday limit, or a 70-hour workweek. "All we have asked of the states and central govt is to consider some flexibility within this 48-hour limit. This request stems from the fact

**A senior Karnataka minister, not wanting to be identified, said there will always be a cap on the number of working days or hours**

that different states have varying daily limits of 8-9 hours and IT industry generally follows a 5-day week instead of a 6-day week. Flexibility would help companies with a pan-India presence to standardise their operations," Ashish Aggarwal, VP & head of public policy at Nasscom, said in a statement.

A senior Karnataka minister, not wanting to be identified, said there will always be a cap on the number of working days or hours. "The companies will not be looking to convert their units in the state into sweatshops," he said.

Through much of Sunday, it was Kitu's statement of 14 hours a day (which translates to 70 hours a week in the absence of a separate weekly limit) which dominated conversations. Some linked it to Infosys founder NR Narayana Murthy's statement last year about the need for a 70-hour workweek. Kitu said the measure would lead to IT employees having mental health issues. It said this would allow the companies to go for a two-shift system instead of the current three-shift system, "and one-third of the workforce will be thrown out from their employment".

## Parts of Mum lashed by 200mm rain; 36 flights cancelled, traffic hit

Richa Pinto  
@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: It was a wet Sunday as nearly 152mm of rainfall coupled with a high tide of 4.4m at noon caused waterlogging in many areas and disrupted road and air traffic in Mumbai.

Mumbai airport's runway had to be shut twice — from 12.12pm to 12.20pm and from 1pm to 1.15pm — and flight operations were delayed by an hour due to poor visibility, said an airport source, adding that 15 arrival flights were diverted. Agencies reported 36 flights were cancelled.

IMD's Santacruz and Colaba observatories recorded 151.6mm and 42mm rainfall in the 12-hour period ending Sunday 8pm. Other parts of Mumbai Metropolitan Region too witnessed downpour — Thane recorded 96mm rain, Palghar 88mm, and Panvel 85mm.

Several areas in Mumbai saw nearly 200mm rainfall during this 12-hour period, including Trombay 196mm, Ghatkopar 191mm, Chembur 186mm, Mankhurd 178mm, Wadala 174mm, Dadar 163mm, and



A shot of rain from the 54th floor of a Mumbai building that has gone viral

Sion and Sewri 160mm, as per BMC's automatic weather stations which record localised data.

A day after issuing a 'yellow' alert indicating the likelihood of heavy rainfall at isolated places, IMD on Sunday afternoon upgraded the warning to 'orange' — heavy to very heavy rains very likely. The rain activity is expected to continue on Monday, but with reduced intensity, said IMD.

A traffic police officer said though there were no major snarls, several areas experienced delays due to waterlogging and vehicle breakdowns.

(With inputs from V Narayan, Manju V, Somit Sen, Umesh K Parida)

## 'Global South to benefit': PM vows \$1m for heritage centre

Continued from P1

PM Modi mentioned steps such as Kashi Vishwanath Corridor, Shri Ram Mandir, Modern Campus of ancient Nalanda University. "This resolve of India regarding heritage is linked with the feeling of serving the entire humanity. Indian culture talks about us, not just about self," he added.

He also announced that India will contribute \$1 million to Unesco World Heritage Centre for capacity building, technical assistance and conservation of world heritage sites. He underlined that this money will be useful for the countries of Global South.

Reiterating that India considers the preservation of global heritage as its responsibility, the PM highlighted the engineering marvels that

**Modi highlighted that historic 'Moidams' — burial system of the Ahom dynasty in Assam — have been nominated for being considered for inclusion in Unesco's World Heritage list**

define India's diverse heritage — from Kedarnath temple to Dholavira and Lothal. Referring to the Capital, he cited the example of the 2000-year-old 'Iron Pillar' which has been rust-resistant and gives a glimpse of India's metallurgical prowess in the past.

"India's heritage is not merely history, but also science... India's civilization and history are much older and widespread than the history that we know. As we are getting new evidence, and as it is getting scientific verification, we are developing a new perspective to view the past," the PM said.

While noting that hosting the event was a matter of pride for India, Modi highlighted that Northeast India's historic 'Moidams' — the mound — burial system of the Ahom dynasty in Assam have been nominated for being considered for inclusion in the Unesco's popular world heritage list. "This will be India's 43rd world heritage site and Northeast India's first heritage to get the status of cultural world heritage," Modi said.

## K'taka HC closes Pocso case after suspect weds survivor

Bengaluru: Karnataka high court has permitted closure of a case under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act against a man who married the survivor after she turned 18.

The verdict was passed recently by Justice M Nagaprassanna, who stressed that the court's paramount importance was the welfare of the survivor and her child born out of the relationship. The judge cited recent SC judgments allowing compounding in similar cases.

The case was registered in Mysuru after a complaint from the mother of the girl, who was 16 years and nine months old then. The man had been in judicial custody since Feb 2023. In June this year, the court granted him a 15-day interim bail to marry the girl. The accused returned to prison after the wedding. TNN

## Hub of infotech, Telangana turns cybercrime hotspot

Amrita Didiyala  
@timesofindia.com

Hyderabad: A flourishing IT industry, coupled with a thick concentration of high net worth individuals (HNIs), has put Hyderabad on the hit list of cyber criminals, with Telangana accounting for the highest 15% share of malware attacks reported from across the country in 2023, a report says.

A bevy of attackers worm their way into systems to make the state the geographical hotspot for such strikes, from the rookie OTP fraudsters of Jharkhand cybercrime den Jamtara to skilled malware attackers working out of plush offices.

According to the latest India Cyber Threat Report, Telangana was closely followed by Tamil Nadu with 14% of such attacks



According to the latest India Cyber Threat Report, Telangana was closely followed by Tamil Nadu with 14% of such attacks

Surat and Bengaluru. "These attacks have penetrated Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities as well, like Khammam and Adilabad, in Telangana. The server of a mid-sized IT company in a Tier 2 city was recently compromised after criminals gained access to the laptop of an employee working remotely," said the vice-president of a cyber security company that has handled

several high-profile cases.

According to him, Telangana could well top the list in 2024 with a slew of cyber crimes reported in the last six months. "We have already had 55 attacks so far this year on IT majors, pharma companies, large banks and manufacturing companies' data centres in Hyderabad. There have been attacks targeting specific companies to steal intellectual properties. The attackers are focused on large companies with database of thousands of people," the cybersecurity expert explained.

While the semi-skilled bunch of cyber criminals operating from Jharkhand and UP target individuals from Telangana, specifically Hyderabad, the rest of the state has also turned fertile ground for sophisticated cyber criminals using malware as well, according to other experts.

# 'Draft note' on Sukhoi upgrade project all set to head for PM-led panel's nod

## Plan To Make 84 Jets More Lethal To Cost ₹63K Cr

Rajat Pandit@timesofindia.com



The Sukhoi upgrade is critical since IAF is currently grappling with just 30 fighter squadrons (16-18 jets in each) when its 'authorised' strength is 42 to deter both China and Pakistan

New Delhi: India has now put finishing touches on the mega indigenous plan to make its existing Russian-origin Sukhoi-30MKI fighter jets much more lethal with advanced radars, avionics, longer-range weapons and multi-sensor fusion to ensure they are capable of air combat for another 30 years.

The defence ministry has more or less finalised the 'draft note' for the approval of the PM-led cabinet committee on security (CCS) for the upgrade of the first lot of 84 Sukhoi jets at an overall cost of around Rs 63,000 crore, which includes the design and development phase, sources told TOI.

The upgraded 'Super' Suk-

hoi will be close to fifth-generation fighters in terms of capabilities except for stealth. "They will also have manned-unmanned teaming capability (to operate in concert with advanced autonomous drones using AI and data links) to boost mission effectiveness. IAF aims to fly these Sukhois till 2055," a source said.

The Sukhoi upgrade is critical since IAF is currently

grappling with just 30 fighter squadrons (16-18 jets in each) when its "authorised" strength is 42 to deter both China and Pakistan.

All the 84 twin-engine Sukhois will be upgraded by Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL) in around 15 years. After the CCS sanction, it will take seven years for development work and flight-testing, which will then be followed by the progressive upgrade and induction of jets in batches.

IAF currently has 259 Sukhois, the bulk of them licensed produced by HAL for over \$12 billion from Russia, which constitute the backbone of its combat fleet. Another 12 new Sukhois along with associated equipment are now being ordered for around Rs 11,500 crore to replace the ones that crashed over the years.

"In another 15 years, India will have its own 5th-Gen fighter AMCA (advanced medium combat aircraft) with futuristic technologies. Those technologies would be incorporated in the next tranche of Sukhois to be upgraded after the first 84 jets," another source said.

The present upgrade project will include equipping Sukhois with indigenous 'Vipraksha' advanced electronically scanned array (AESA) radars, which will increase the detection range by "1.5 to 1.7 times" over existing Russian radars.

This, in turn, will allow Sukhois with longer-range weapons like Astra-3 air-to-air missiles, with a beyond visual range of 350-km. While IAF is currently inducting Astra-1 missiles (100-km), DRDO is developing Astra-2 (160-km) and Astra-3 (with solid fuel ducted ramjet propulsion) variants.

"Apart from the fly-by-wire system, all other electronics in the upgraded Sukhois will be indigenous. This will include all three mission computers with better algorithms. Overall, of the 51 systems to be upgraded, 30 are by HAL, 13 by DRDO and eight by the private sector," the source said.

At present, 40 Sukhoi fighters have also been modified to carry the air-to-ground precision-strike BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles. The BrahMos range has already been extended from 290 to 450-km, and will go up further with a 800-km variant, as reported by TOI earlier.

# 'Hurried decision': NDA ally Jayant too slams kanwar route name display order

Mohammad Dilshad & Deepak Lavania | TNN

Muzaffarnagar/Agra: Amid the ongoing controversy over naming business establishments along the Kanwar route in UP and Uttarakhand, RLD chief Jayant Chaudhary, whose party is part of the NDA govt, criticised the directive saying, "Kanwariyas never see the caste and religion of those who do 'sewa' (service) and bless them without knowing their names. Likewise, those who serve the Kanwariyas do the same thing. It should not be linked to religion."

The UP-based Jat leader is the second Union minister after Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) president Chirag Paswan to criticise the Yogi govt order.

Chaudhary added: "Names and brands can vary. What will McDonald's write? What will Burger King on the Kanwar route write? These old brands have multiple owners." When asked if he had discussed the matter with any NDA partner, Chaudhary responded, "I believe this decision was not made with much consideration and taken in a hurry. There is still time for govt to roll it back or not emphasise it too much..."

Chaudhary, who was on a visit to Muzaffarnagar on Sunday, said, "The important thing is about vegetarian and non-vegetarian distinctions, which makes sense. If someone is a vegetarian, it should be certified that all ingredients and the process of making it are vegetarian. But whose hands make it, what does it matter? Many Muslims are vegetarians, and many Hindus eat meat."

He was informed by a few locals that some roadside tyre puncture shop owners were also asked to display their names and phone numbers. He retorted: "Where should people write names? Should they start writing their names on their 'kurta' too, so that, after seeing that, people would greet each other?"

# To woo Kanwariyas, Muslim-run shops sport devotional themes

Kanwardeep Singh & Asif Ansari | TNN

Bareilly: Members of the minority community in Bareilly region while following the directive to put up their names on business establishments, have also started decorating them with devotional themes in order to attract Kanwariyas. One such roadside 'dhaba' (eatery) — run by Chaudhary Wahid Khan at Deulaer in Bareilly — has put up 'kanwar' (decorative pitchers) and other articles, with boards welcoming the devotees.

"I'm serving food with the pure intention of 'sewa'. I, too, follow Bholenath (Lord Shiva) and decorated my dhaba to give it a devotional look. Kanwariyas are stopping at my eatery and happily eating food served by a Muslim. My grandfather had once told me there will be attempts to break the Hindu-Muslim unity but we should try and choose the path of love and peace," Khan said.

Sony Mishra, a resident of Gola in Kheri district on his way to Haridwar, stopped at Khan's dhaba with his large group of devotees. Mishra told TOI: "People of minority community are greeting us warmly and saying, 'tumhari yatra mangalmay ho' (have a nice and safe journey). We passed through several villages with a large minority population, and so far had a very good experience."

Mukesh Kumar, a Kanwariya from Pilibhit, while welcoming the directive, said, "Writing names of proprietors and employees is not a bad idea since there were incidents in the past when people had tried to create issues. It doesn't mean that we won't buy anything from Muslims. We'll only be careful while buying unpacked materials like fruits, juice and other food items."



Shops have put up decorative pitchers & other articles, with boards welcoming devotees

## Stay UP's name display order: TMC's Moitra in SC

TMC MP Mahua Moitra has moved SC against the directives by UP and Uttarakhand govt that eateries along the Kanwar Yatra route must display the names of their owners. In her plea, Moitra has sought a stay on the orders passed by the two state govt saying such directives aggravate discord between communities. The plea is yet to be listed for hearing.

Moitra said by forcing the disclosure of the names of proprietors and even those of their staff, on the stated ground of respecting pilgrims' dietary choices, "makes it clear that dietary choices is a pretext, or a proxy, for the compelled disclosure of personal — and, in this case, religious — identity", the plea said. The plea alleged that this has been done to create a socially-enforced economic boycott on Muslim shop owners and workers, and the loss of their livelihoods.

On Monday, SC is scheduled to hear a plea against UP govt's controversial order. A bench of justices Hrishikesh Roy and S V N Bhatti is likely to hear plea filed by NGO Association of Protection of Civil Rights. PTI

## Bihar BJP brass mum on Kanwar yatra order to avert clash with allies

Bihar's BJP brass refrained from commenting but several party legislators supported the Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand govt's directive requiring shops selling food along the Kanwar Yatra route to display their owners' names, reports Manoj Chaurasia.

With the Kanwar Yatra set to begin Monday, Bihar BJP brass appeared cautious, possibly to avoid friction with NDA allies JD(U) of CM Nitish Kumar and LJP (Ram Vilas) of Union minister Chirag Paswan, which have openly opposed the order.

## WESTERN RAILWAY-AHMEDABAD DIVISION NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

(i) Name of work with its Location and Completion Period: E-Tender No.: CWM-CPOH-EWS-ADI-05-24-25; Name of Work: Supplying, Manufacturing, Fabrication, Testing and welding with studs etc. of normal head / round shear studs, shear connectors of 25 mm dia. And 200 mm length conforming to IS:3935-66, as per specification of drawings no. RDSO/B-11754-R2, B-11754-1R2, B-11754-2R2, B-11754-3R2, B-11754-4R2, B-11754-5R2, B-11754-6 & similar drawings approved by Railway along with ferrules on top flange of girder, to be fabricated at Engineering Workshop, CONCOR, Kailagam, Sabarmati, Western Railway, as per direction / approval of Engineer-in-charge. Completion Period: 24 Months; (ii) Approx. Cost of the Work: ₹ 2,03,90,484.40; (iii) Bid Security / EMD to be deposited: ₹ 2,52,00,000.00; (iv) Date & Time for submission of Tender: 12.08.2024 upto 15:00 Hrs; (v) Date and Time of opening: 12.08.2024 at 15:30 Hrs; (vi) Website Particulars, Notice Board Location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the Office etc.: Website particulars: www.ireps.gov.in; Notice Board Location and address of the Office: Office of the Chief Workshop Manager, (CPOH & EWS), Ahmedabad, Western Railway, PO. Digvijaynagar, Kailagam, Ahmedabad-382470. Mobile No.: 9773213925; NOTE:- The complete detailed terms and conditions of work are available at Railway Website. No:- W/623/05/2024-25 dated: 18.07.2024 Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRly 113

## Hosp, 2 docs to pay woman ₹5L for needle left in spine 20 yrs ago

Bengaluru: Karnataka's consumer forum has ordered a Bengaluru hospital and two doctors to pay a woman over Rs 5 lakh as compensation for a botched 2004 surgery during which a 3.2cm surgical needle was left behind in her spine, reports Vindhya Pabolu.

The needle had caused 46-year-old Padmavathi extreme abdominal pain, backache and trauma for over six years till it was removed at another hospital.

The Karnataka State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has asked Deepak Hospital and the two doctors to pay Padmavathi Rs 50,000 as litigation costs. New India Assurance Co Ltd, which had issued a policy covering the hospital against negligence risks, will have to pay the damages of Rs 5 lakh.

DR. RAM MANOHAR LOHIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES  
VIBHUTI KHAND, GOMTI NAGAR, LUCKNOW- 226 010 (UP)  
Phone: 0522-4918504, Website: www.drmlims.ac.in  
E-mail: director@drmlims@gmail.com

E-Bid Ref No:- 950/RMLIMS/M/2024 Dated:- 20.07.2024

### E-Bid Notice

Online E-tenders are invited for the rate contract of Supply and Installation of Hepa Filters, diffuser cloth & Micro-Vee Filters in Operation Theatres and A.H.U. of the Institute.

The detailed NIT complete with bid document shall be available for downloading on e-tender portal: <https://etender.up.nic.in> from 22.07.2024, 9:00 AM to 05.08.2024 up to 5:00 PM. The e-bids (Technical bid & Price bid) can be submitted online in the above e-tender site till 05.08.2024 up to 5:00 PM and the same shall be opened on 06.08.2024 at 11:30 AM. The Director reserves the right to accept or reject any or all E-Bids or annul the bidding process without assigning any reason thereof.

Director

DR. RAM MANOHAR LOHIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES  
VIBHUTI KHAND, GOMTI NAGAR, LUCKNOW- 226 010 (UP)  
Phone: 0522-4918504, Website: www.drmlims.ac.in  
E-mail: director@drmlims@gmail.com

E-Bid Ref No: 951/RMLIMS/M/2024 Dated:- 20.07.2024

### E-Bid Notice

E-Bids are invited from experience contractor/Agency for ARC of Endotoxin test of RO Water in Dialysis Unit in the Institute.

The detailed NIT complete with bid document shall be available for downloading on e-tender portal: <https://etender.up.nic.in> from 22.07.2024, 9:00 AM to 05.08.2024 up to 5:00 PM. The e-bids (Technical bid & Price bid) can be submitted online in the above e-tender site till 05.08.2024 up to 5:00 PM and the same shall be opened on 06.08.2024 at 11:30 AM. The Director reserves the right to accept or reject any or all E-Bids or annul the bidding process without assigning any reason thereof.

Director

## MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHANDIGARH

### E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Bid Submission Schedule (Online)	Opening Technical Bid (Online)
<b>EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - Division IV</b>			
1.	Selection of an Agency to set up a Project Management Unit (PMU) for NCAIP, AMRUT 2.0 & SBM-U 2.0.	22.07.2024 at 05:00 P.M To 12.08.2024 by 05:00 P.M	13.08.2024 at 11:00 A.M

**Earnest Money : Rs. 12,00,000/-**  
**Time Period : 24 months with the provision of extension for another 24 months (maximum 2 extensions of 12 months each) based on satisfactory performance.**  
**Tender Fee : Rs. 5,000/-**

Note:- All other terms and conditions and complete DNIT are uploaded on website <https://etenders.chd.nic.in>

**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
Div-IV, Public Health Engineering, Room No. 413, New Deluxe Building, MC, Sector- 17, Chandigarh  
Email: publichealthdiv4@gmail.com

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**Contact Details:**

<b>NLMC</b> Asst. Manager: Sh. Ajay Kumar Mob: +91 7840 000 686 Email: am-nlmc-dpe@gov.in	<b>AU Bank</b> Prayagraj: Sh. Rakesh Tripathi Mob: +91 8306 004 336 Email: rakesh.tripathi1@aubank.in
Asst. Manager: Sh. Shashikant Mob: +91 9557 352 295 Email: sk-nlmc-dpe@gov.in	<b>Kolkata:</b> Sh. Rohit Singh Mob: +91 8905 222 092 Email: rohit.singh18@aubank.in

For RFP For E-brochure & more information, Scan here

ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE  
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & MANAGEMENT GWALIOR  
(An Institute of National Importance under Ministry of Education, GOI)

ज.वि.भा.भा.सू.प्रौ.एच.प्र.सं. न्या./ससुंकेत कुलसचिव/2024 /3989 दिनांक: जुलाई 18, 2024

### ADMISSION TO FULL-TIME M.TECH. (GATE/ NON-GATE) FOR ODD SEMESTER: 2024-25

Online applications are invited for admission to the full-time M.Tech. (GATE/Non-GATE) programme. M.Tech admissions are offered in Information and Cybersecurity, IC Design and Technology, and Wireless Networks and Computing. For more details and application forms, please visit institute website: <https://www.iiitm.ac.in>. \*Last date for filling the online application form for admissions is 9th August 2024 till 4:00 PM.

**Joint Registrar (Academics)**

**UJVN LIMITED**  
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Telephone- 0135-2763508, 2763808 Fax 0135-2763507  
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

Letter No: 619 e-TENDER NOTICE Date: 20/07/2024

Office of the Executive Engineer PCM Dhalipur, Dehradun invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of the tender is given below:

**E-Tender No:** 03/EE/PCM/Dhalipur/2024-25  
Name of work: Refurbishment of damaged structures of Syphon located at km 3.25 and km 3.68 of power Channel between Asan Barrage to Kulhal Power House

**Estimated value of Tender:** Rs. 75,87,354.00 (excluding GST)  
**Date & Time of availability of bid document on website -** From 17:00 Hrs of 22.07.2024  
**Last Date & Time for submission of tender:** Up to 17:00 Hrs 12.08.2024

For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in> **Executive Engineer(PCM)**

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Corporate ID U40101UR2004SGC028675, Tel. No. 0135-2642711

### E-TENDER CORRIGENDUM-2

The last date of the bid submission of E-Tender for "Construction of 132 GIS Switching Substation for RVNL at Rishikesh and 132 kV GIS Switching Substation for RVNL at Ranihat (Srinagar)" against Tender Specification no. PTCUL/C&P-/E-Tender/SS-01/2024-25" is hereby extended upto 02.08.2024 15:30 Hrs. For more details please visit e-tender website [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in) (tender id no. 2024\_PTCU1\_72478\_1) and for e-tender notice our website [www.ptcul.org](http://www.ptcul.org). All other terms and conditions shall remain same.

For any assistance on E-Tendering, please contact +91-8899890000  
Ro no 1255/HQ/PTCUL dated 20.07.2024 **Superintending Engineer (C&P-I)**

"Save Electricity in the Interest of Nation"

**IndianOil**  
CIN : L23201MH1959GOI011388

### Pipelines Division

#### RECRUITMENT FOR FILLING NON-EXECUTIVE VACANCIES IN PIPELINES DIVISION

Advertisement No.: PL/HR/ESTB/RECT-2024 Date: 22.07.2024

Pipelines Division of Indian Oil Corporation Limited invites applications from eligible Indian Nationals for Non-Executive positions in Group C and D at various locations of Pipelines Division for the posts of Engineering Assistant (Electrical/Mechanical/T&I) and Technical Attendant-I in states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

The tentative number of vacancies is 67. For exact number of vacancies and reservation, please refer to our detailed advertisement in the section IndianOil For You—IndianOil For Careers—Latest Job Openings in IndianOil website at [www.iocl.com](http://www.iocl.com)

All future announcements shall be published in IndianOil website at [www.iocl.com](http://www.iocl.com) only. It shall not be made available on any other website/medium. Candidates are advised to visit IndianOil website from time to time for updates on the above notification.

**IndianOil**  
CIN : L23201MH1959GOI011388

### Panipat Refinery and Petrochemical Complex requires Experienced Non-Executive Personnel

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To fuel its future growth, IndianOil invites applications from bright, young and energetic persons of Indian Nationality for selection to various posts in the pay scale of ₹ 25,000-1,05,000/- for its Panipat Refinery & Petrochemical Complex.

Detailed advertisement alongwith Number of Posts including reservation, Educational qualification requirement, Experience criteria and other eligibility criteria/parameters are available on our Corporate website [www.iocl.com](http://www.iocl.com) and Employment News dated 20.07.2024.

To refer to the detailed advertisement and to apply online, visit website [www.iocl.com](http://www.iocl.com), go to 'What's New'-click on 'Requirement of Non-Executive Personnel in Refineries & Pipelines Division-2024'

Summary of Post-wise vacancies notified is as under:

Post Code	Name of Post	Total No. of vacancies
201	Jr. Engg. Asstt.-IV (Production)	16
203	Jr. Engg. Asstt.-IV (P&U-O&M)	16
205	Jr. Engg. Asstt.-IV (Mechanical) / Jr. Technical Asstt.-IV	4
206	Jr. Engg. Asstt.-IV (Instrumentation) / Jr. Technical Asstt.-IV	7
207	Jr. Quality Control Analyst-IV	4
208	Jr. Engg. Asstt.-IV (Fire & Safety)	3

Refer to detailed advertisement for details of vacancies reserved for SC/OBC/EWS/PwBD/ExSM which is as per Govt. Directives.

ACTIVITIES	TENTATIVE DATES
Date of Opening of Online Application	22-07-2024 (10:00 Hrs.)
Last Date of Submission of Online Application, Document Upload and Payment of Application Fees	21-08-2024 (23:55 Hrs.)
Tentative Month of Computer Based Test (CBT)	September, 2024
Likely Schedule for Publication of Computer Based Result (Shortlist for SPPT) on <a href="http://www.iocl.com">www.iocl.com</a>	By 3 <sup>rd</sup> week of October, 2024

\* Details of exact date and city/venue of CBT shall be communicated separately.

Advertisement No.: PR/P48 (2024-25)

**WESTERN RAILWAY-AHMEDABAD DIVISION**

### VARIOUS ENGINEERING WORKS

#### E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 14 OF 2024-25

Sr. No.	E-Tender No.	Name of Work	Approximate NIT Cost (₹)	EMD Cost (₹)
01	DRM-ADI-95-2024-25	Replacement of existing steel girder by RCC PSC U type slab of 12.20 m span under jurisdiction of Divisional Engineer — (North) Ahmedabad.	12,37,29,008.77	7,68,700.00
02	DRM-ADI-96-2024-25	Sidhpur:- Providing S&T structure at (Chargeable to DFCCL:ADI) (Composite tender).	43,74,001.62	87,500.00
03	DRM-ADI-97-2024-25	Providing cover shed on PF-1 & 2/3 at Asarva & PF-5 at Chanditola Railway station and other ancillary works under jurisdiction of Divisional Engineer (Works) Ahmedabad. (Re-invited).	5,75,45,208.91	4,37,700.00
04	DRM-ADI-98-2024-25	Maninagar:- Repairs and cleaning of underground drainage and Manholes at (For 24 Months). (Re-invited).	18,91,934.82	37,800.00
05	DRM-ADI-99-2024-25	Ahmedabad station area:- Repairs and cleaning of underground drainage and manholes for station area at. (For 16 Months). (Balance work).	11,02,687.66	22,100.00
06	DRM-ADI-100-2024-25	Providing cover shed on Amrit Stations i.e. Asarva & Chanditola and other related works under jurisdiction of Divisional Engineer (Works) Ahmedabad.	5,75,33,848.35	4,37,700.00
07	DRM-ADI-101-2024-25	Sabarmati:- Major repairing works in Signal Workshop and other related works under jurisdiction of Divisional Engineer (Works) Ahmedabad at.	7,30,30,269.62	5,15,200.00
08	DRM-ADI-102-2024-25	Replacement of dilapidated RCC OH tanks on age cum condition basis under jurisdiction of Sr. Divisional Engineer (South)—Ahmedabad	1,60,92,156.90	2,30,500.00
09	DRM-ADI-103-2024-25	Rag picking and cleaning of tracks on approaches to stations (Asarva to Naroda) under SSE (PWay) Himatnagar, under jurisdiction of Assistant Divisional Engineer (NW) Ahmedabad.	68,21,791.57	1,36,400.00
10	DRM-ADI-104-2024-25	Replacement of dilapidated RCC OH tanks on age cum condition basis under jurisdiction of Divisional Engineer (North)—Ahmedabad.	2,79,54,114.82	2,89,800.00

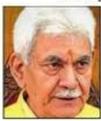
For All above tenders: Closing date & time of e-tender: Date 13.08.2024 at 15:00 hrs; Opening date & time of e-tender: Date 13.08.2024 at 15:30 hrs; Office Address: Sr. Divisional Engineer, (Co. Ordination), Ahmedabad, DRM Office, Near Chamunda Bridge, Opp. New Swadeshi Mill, Naroda Road, Amdupura, Ahmedabad -382 345. Website for participating e-tender: [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

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## Devise plan to crush terror, plug infiltration routes: J&K LG to forces

Sanjay Khajuria | TNN

Jammu: Amid a spike in terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor **Manoj Sinha** chaired a meeting on Saturday with the chiefs of the Army, Border Security Force (BSF), Central Reserve Police



Force (CRPF), Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), Intelligence Bureau, and police, asking them to devise a strategy to crush terrorism. "We must launch meticulous and well-planned counter terrorist operations with greater synergy among all agen-

cies to wipe out terrorists and those aiding and abetting them," the LG said. The Lieutenant Governor directed the forces to ensure zero cross-border infiltration, as per a Raj Bhavan source. Later, Sinha held a separate meeting with Army chief General Uday Kumar, who had earlier discussed

with the top brass of Northern and Western Commands and police the mechanism to seal infiltration routes in hilly areas and dismantle the terror network. BSF DG Nitin Agrawal reviewed the operational preparedness of troops along international border in Jammu sector on Sunday.

## MVA 'Aurangzeb fan club', Pawar ringleader of graft in politics: Shah

Anurag Bende | TNN



Pune: Union home minister Amit Shah on Sunday came down heavily on NCP (SCP) chief Sharad Pawar, calling him "sargana" (ringleader) of the corrupt in the country. Also, targeting leader of opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Shah said why Congress wasn't implementing 'khata-khat' transfer of money in Himachal, Karnataka and Telangana. "Opposition is accusing us of corruption but ringleader of corruption in Indian politics is Sharad Pawar. If any politician in any govt of the country has institutionalised corruption, it is Sharad Pawar," Shah said while addressing BJP's state-level convention here on Sunday. Shah

ise during the election campaign and asked why Congress is not implementing it in Himachal, Karnataka and Telangana where it has its govt. "Women in these states should demand that Congress transfer money in their accounts." Shah also criticised Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray for joining the opposition alliance and called him the leader of the 'Aurangzeb fan club'. "The opposition is the 'Aurangzeb fan club' and Uddhav is its leader. He calls himself the successor of Balasaheb Thackeray, but he is the one who joined the alliance of those who served biryani to Kasab and demanded cancellation of Yakub Memon's hanging. Uddhav should be ashamed," Shah added.

claimed that NDA has provided more funds to Maharashtra in the last decade compared to UPA's 10 years when Pawar was a Union minister. Shah also took a dig at Rahul Gandhi over his 'khata-khat' transfer of money prom-

**SBI**  
State Bank of India, SB Global IT Centre, IT-Foreign Offices Department, L & T Building, B - Wing, 2nd Floor, Tower-1, Seawoods (West), Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra - 400706

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
RFP Ref: SBI/GITC/ITFO/2024/2025/50 DATED: 22.07.2024  
Bids are invited by State Bank of India from the eligible bidders for Procurement of Screening and AML/CFT Solution(s) for SBI Foreign Offices along with Support and Maintenance. For details, please visit 'Procurement News' at <https://www.sbi.co.in> or <https://bank.sbi> and apply on e-Procurement agency portal at <https://etender.sbi/sbi/> (Ref: SBI/GITC/ITFO/2024/2025/50 dated: 22.07.2024)  
Last date and time for submission of bids: 20.08.2024 up to 15:00hrs.  
Bid Opening Date: 20.08.2024 at 17:00hrs.  
Place: Navi Mumbai  
Date: 22.07.2024  
Deputy General Manager  
IT-Foreign Offices

**UJVN Limited**  
H.O.: "UJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006  
Telephones: 0135-2763808 & Fax: 0135-2763508  
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: [www.ujvn.com](http://www.ujvn.com)

RO No. 617 Dated: 20/07/2024

**e-Tender Date Extension Notice-5**  
Due to unavoidable reasons, the dates of tenders invited against e-NIT No. 01/UJVN/DGM(Civil-Arakot-Tiuni-Plasu)/TP/2023-24, e-NIT No. 02/UJVN/DGM(Civil-Arakot-Tiuni-Plasu)/TP/2023-24, e-NIT No. 03/UJVN/DGM(Civil-Arakot-Tiuni-Plasu)/TP/2023-24 are hereby extended as follows:  
Date of availability of bid document on website: 14.08.2024 from 17:00hrs.  
Last date for submission of bids on website: 28.10.2024 at 16:00 Hrs  
Details of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/ cancellation etc. may be obtained from e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in>  
Dy. General Manager (Civil)  
Arakot-Tiuni & Tiuni Plasu Project, Dakpathar  
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**  
(See Section 82 Cr.PC)  
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Ankit Nayyar, S/o Ajay Nayyar R/o H.No. 700, Gali No. 1, Surya Colony, Tej Vihar Road, Meerut, U.P.** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No.183/2019, Dated 30.5.2019 u/s 498A/406/34 IPC, P.S. Farsh Bazar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Ankit Nayyar** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Ankit Nayyar** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).  
Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Ankit Nayyar** of FIR No.183/2019, Dated 30.5.2019 u/s 498A/406/34 IPC, P.S. Farsh Bazar, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **24.09.2024**.  
By Order,  
Ms. Shruti Sharma,  
Metropolitan Magistrate (Mahila Court-01), Shahdara,  
Room No. 55, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi  
DP/9458/SHD/2024

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
E-Procurement Tender Notice No.: 24/50 Date: 19.07.2024

**E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**  
On behalf of the President of India, The Principal Chief Materials Manager, North Central Railway, Prayagraj, (An ISO 9001:2015 certified unit) invites the following E-Procurement Tenders.

S.N.	Tender No.	Short Description	Qty.	Tender Opening Date
1	30241692	Cut of angle cock with vent	4246 Nos.	05.08.2024
2	64231097B	DISTRIBUTOR CONVEYOR BELT TYPE: EL PLASSER	8 Nos.	05.08.2024
3	40245011 (e-RA)	Jointless Grooved Copper Contact Wire 107 Sq mm	555.87 MT	20.08.2024
4	40245014 (e-RA)	Cadmium Copper Catenary Conductor Wire 65 Sq mm	351.88 MT	27.08.2024
5	20243512	AC CIRCUIT BREAKER 16A	24 Nos.	12.08.2024
6	38241581A	BOGIE CENTRE PIVOT BOTTOM	3543 Nos.	08.08.2024
7	30242877	FLEX-BALL CABLE- SHORT	40 Nos.	12.08.2024
8	30242832	POLYMER SPRING PAD ASSEMBLY	684 Set.	12.08.2024
9	30241672	DOUBLE ACTING HYDRAULIC SHOCK ABSORBER	1183 Nos.	20.08.2024
10	30241014	POH KIT FOR C3W DISTRIBUTOR VALVE	2502 Set.	28.08.2024
11	80244112B	PRE-PRINTED THERMAL PAPER UTS TICKET ROOLS FOR ATVM	40200 T.ROLL	07.08.2024
12	20243510	AC CIRCUIT BREAKER	44 Nos.	01.08.2024
13	20243581A	SET OF SPARE FOR SANDER	320 SET	09.08.2024
14	64245173	Pneumatic Cylinder	319 Nos.	22.08.2024
15	64245175	Proximity Switch	268 Nos.	23.08.2024
16	64245135	Hydraulic Hose Plain	110 MTR	19.08.2024
17	64245149	Potentiometer	1 Nos.	19.08.2024
18	64245129	Hydraulic Hose Pipe	1400 MTR	20.08.2024

Note: The complete information of above tenders can be seen and downloaded from IREPS website i.e. <https://www.ireps.gov.in>. For any change/corrigendum in tender, please visit this website regularly. No separate corrigendum/change will be published in news paper.  
1258/24 (A)  
North central railways | [www.nccr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.nccr.indianrailways.gov.in) | @northcentralrailway | @CPNCR

**Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike**  
Office of the Executive Engineer, (Traffic Engineering Cell) Road Infrastructure, N. R. Square, Bengaluru-560 002.

No. EE/TEC-RI/TEND/06/2024-25 Date: 20.07.2024

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) 2nd Call**  
(Two Cover System-Short Term)  
(Through GOK Kpp Portal only)  
website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

The Executive Engineer (TEC), Road Infrastructure, BBMP, invites request for proposal from the eligible contractors/Agencies for the below mentioned work.

Sl. No.	Name of work	EMD (in ₹.)
1.	Operation, maintenance of Asphalt Batch Mix Plant & equipment including Production/Manufacturing of Asphalt mixes, supplying of asphalt mixes to various designated locations in BBMP limits and laying of asphalt mixes by Mechanical/Manual means (as the case may be) by utilizing the available facilities of BBMP Asphalt Batch Mix Plant at Sy No.50, Kannur Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East for a period of 3 years and extendable to another 2 years on performance basis.	Rs. 15,00,000.00 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh Through e-payment & remaining as specified in bid document)

**Calendar of Events:** (1) The RFP documents may be downloaded from the Govt. of Karnataka viz <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> from 20.07.2024. (2) Last date for submission of Pre-bid queries 25.07.2024 upto 3:00 p.m. (3) Pre-bid meeting on 25.07.2024 at 4:30 p.m. in the Office of the Engineer in Chief, 1st Floor, Annex-2 Building, N. R. Square, BBMP, Bengaluru-560 002. (4) Last Date and time for submission of Proposals is 30.07.2024 upto 4:00 p.m. (5) Date of Opening of Technical Proposals is 31.07.2024 at 4:30 p.m. (6) Date of Opening of Financial Proposals-Will be intimated to the Qualified Tenderers.  
Sd/- Executive Engineer, RI Traffic Engineering Cell, BBMP.

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
Tender Notice  
Chief Project Manager, Gati Shakti, N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and on behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through online (E-Tendering) for the following work.

Description of work: Provision of Goods platforms, labour shelter, railway offices etc. and repair of existing railway service building at Rayaru station.

E-Tender No.	Approx Cost	Earnest Money
JHS-ENGG-GSU-2024-16	₹ 94990938.00	₹ 625000.00

Date of Closing Tender: 10.08.2024. Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter: 12 Months. Tender online can be submitted up to 13.00 hrs. on 10.08.2024. For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) 1270/24 FA  
North central railways | @CPNCR | @northcentralrailway | www.nccr.indianrailways.gov.in

**GOVERNMENT COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY, JAMMU**  
SHORT TERM TENDER  
NOTICE NO. 02 OF 2024-25 DATED: 18.07.2024

Principal GCET Jammu, on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, invites sealed bids affixed with a Revenue Stamp worth Rs 10/- from Registered Insurance Companies under Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) for providing Group Insurance to the students for one year (2024-25) w.e.f. 02.10.2024 as per the students enrolment (1000 students approx.) for a premium amount not exceeding Rs. 100/- per student (including of all taxes), indicating the details of risks covered under the Insurance Policy of the Students studying at GCET, Jammu.

Date of download of Tender Form :- 19.07.2024 to 31.07.2024.  
Date of Receipt of Tender :- 19.07.2024 to 01.08.2024 (upto 02.00 PM.)  
Date of Opening of Tender :- 05.08.2024 at 02.00 P.M. or on any other convenient date.

The Tender should be addressed and sent to the Principal, GCET, Chak Bhalwal, Jammu, in sealed envelopes by registered post/speed post/courier service/by hand and duly superscribed on the envelopes "Notice No. 02 of 2024-25 Dated 18.07.2024" alongwith the attested photocopy of Registration Certificate of the Company.

Tender Form and other details can be had from the office of the College as well as can be downloaded from College Website [www.gcetjammu.org.in](http://www.gcetjammu.org.in). For any related queries, please contact: 0191-2958077.

No.: GCET/Acctts/2024-25/216  
Dated:- 18/7/2024  
DIP No:DIPIJ-3144/24/20.07.2024  
Sd/-  
Principal,  
GCET, Jammu.

**DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE & FOOD PRODUCTION, ODISHA**  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL  
SELECTION OF PUBLIC/PRIVATE SEED PRODUCING COMPANIES FOR PRODUCTION OF SEEDS OF PADDY AND NON-PADDY CROPS IN SELECTED GOVT. AGRIL. FARMS THROUGH PPP MODE

RFP No. 25636 Dated 20.07.2024 : The Director of Agriculture & Food Production, Odisha, Bhubaneswar of Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment, Odisha invites sealed RFP proposal from eligible bidders for Selection of public/private seed producing companies for production of seeds of paddy and non-paddy crops in selected Govt. Agril. Farms through PPP mode in the State of Odisha.

The RFP document is available and can be downloaded from the e-procurement portal: [tendersodisha.gov.in/](http://tendersodisha.gov.in/) and from website [agrisnetodisha.ori.nic.in/](http://agrisnetodisha.ori.nic.in/) or [agriodisha.nic.in/](http://agriodisha.nic.in/). The bidder must possess matching compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) to participate in the online Bidding.

The Technical proposal complete in all respect must reach the undersigned by Speed Post / Registered Post to The Director of Agriculture & Food Production, Krushi Bhavan, Gopabandhu Marg Bhubaneswar, Odisha PIN-751001 latest by 02.09.2024 up to 4:30 PM.

The proposals received beyond the scheduled last date & time will be rejected out rightly. The Director of Agriculture & Food Production, Odisha, Bhubaneswar reserves the right to reject any/all proposals without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-  
Director of Agriculture & Food Production, Odisha  
OIPR-0151011/000324-25

**CHANDRAPUR CANCER CARE FOUNDATION**  
New Government Medical College Campus, Ballarshah Bypass Road Chandrapur, Maharashtra, India, 442401  
CIN: U85100MH2018NPL313419  
Email: [procurementcccf@tatatrusters.org](mailto:procurementcccf@tatatrusters.org)

**NOTICE INVITING ONLINE TENDER**

Reference: NIT/CCCF/2024-25/05 Date: 22/07/2024

1.1 Government of Maharashtra in GR No. GHC-2018/418/P N 167/Admin-1 approved 140 bedded cancer hospital. A joint initiative of the Directorate of Medical Education & Research, Department of Medical Education, Govt of Maharashtra, District Mineral Foundation and Tata Trust. A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV - a company), under Section 8 of the Company Act, 2013, was formed for the development of the cancer hospital. For the purpose.

1.2 Now for procurement of Packages listed herein below, the Director - Administration, Chandrapur Cancer Care Foundation invites interested contractors & vendors to submit online Tenders on Mahatenders (<https://mahatenders.gov.in/nicpep/app>).

Package No	Items	Tender Fee	Bid Security value	Period of Completion in Weeks (W)
G6 (Retender)	Education Entertainment, QMS, Digital Signage	₹ 25,000	₹ 4,50,000	10 W
J	Drip and Sprinkler irrigation system	₹ 17,000	₹ 1,20,000	10 W
K	Additional Civil & Allied Work	₹ 25,000	₹ 3,90,000	10 W

The evaluation of the Bid(s) shall be done as per the Maharashtra Government - GR No CAT/2017/Q N 08/Bldg-2 dated 26 November 2018 and Procurement Policies of CCCF.

Payment of Tender Fee and/or Bid Security can be made to "Chandrapur Cancer Care Foundation" A/c: 961220110000636 Bank of India, Branch: Jatpura, Chandrapur and IFSC No: BKID00096112.

All bidders are requested to enclose the receipt along with technical document as per Clause no. 4.9 in Envelop-1 Instruction to tenderer.

The Tender packages have been uploaded on Mahatenders (Government of Maharashtra e Tender portal - <https://mahatenders.gov.in/>). Separate Tenders are hereby invited for each package and interested parties may obtain following documents from the Mahatenders Portal upon payment of non-refundable Tender Fee as specified in the table above.

- Notice Inviting Online Tender
- Instructions to Tenderer
- Draft Contract Agreement
- Performa and Undertaking formats (Wherever Applicable-Annexure to be furnished)
- Bill of Quantities
- Specifications
- Make List
- Drawings (Intent drawing is supplied by CCCF-Shop drawing will be made by contractor/Special agency)

Tender shall valid for 180 days from the date of submission and the date CCCF may deem fit.

The duly completed Tender in accordance with the Instruction to Tenderer must be submitted not later than 17:00 hours on 12-08-2024. Proposed dates of tendering process is

	Date	Time
1	Notice Inviting Tender	22-07-2024 11.00
2	Prospective Tenderer can download Tender Document	23-07-2024 10.00
3	Submission of Tender	12-08-2024 17.00
4	Opening of Financial Bid	13-08-2024 14.00
5	Opening of Financial Bid (Tentative)	21-08-2024 14.00

All interested parties are advised to regularly check the updates on the portal. CCCF shall not be responsible for any deficiency in the provided documents. Bidder can request clarification or submit queries via email before the Pre-bid meeting. CCCF will endeavour to address all the matters raised. CCCF invites all the participants to have a visit at Site to be acquainted with the site conditions and the requirements and purpose of the works.

Director - Administration  
Chandrapur Cancer Care Foundation

All the tendering process shall be conducted through District Mineral Foundation and the Office of District Collector, Chandrapur.

**Jairam posts 'live' from all-party meet, draws BJP, JDU ire**

New Delhi: BJP and its key ally JDU on Sunday hit out at Congress' **Jairam Ramesh** for what they perceive as "inappropriate conduct" at a pre-budget all-party meeting, during which he "posted on X live updates of the proceedings".

Parliamentary affairs minister Kiren Rijiju endorsed concern expressed by the alliance party, saying, "This is unfortunate. Everyone must maintain the sanctity and protocol of Parliamentary traditions." BJP's IT cell head Amit Malviya said while open discussion is encouraged, media briefings usually follow the meetings. He pointed out that Ramesh's social media activity during the meeting appeared to be "live-tweeting", which he deemed contrary to the expected protocol.

"There is a certain propriety and protocol one associates with these all party meetings. There is free and frank exchange of ideas followed by media briefing. But a look at Jairam Ramesh's timeline and it appears he was live tweeting the proceedings. Next time, the Congress should consider sending a more seasoned hand for these meetings," Malviya wrote on X.

Jairam had posted: "In today's all-party meeting... JDU demanded special category status of Bihar. YSRCP demanded special category status for Andhra. Strangely, TDP kept quiet on the matter."

Responding to it, JDU working president Sanjay Jha posted: "...I wish the senior Congress member respected the sanctity of the Parliamentary proceedings." TNN

**विशेष शाखा पुलिस मुख्यालय, मध्यप्रदेश भोपाल**  
क्रमांक- विशा/स्टोर/2024-25 (239) दिनांक- 15/07/2024

**निविदा सूचना का शब्द पत्र (Corrigendum)**

विशेष शाखा पुलिस मुख्यालय की निविदा सूचना क्रमांक SB/Store/2024-25 (205), Bhopal, Dated 19-06-2024 द्वारा Explosive Vapour Detector & Other 5 Items के क्रय हेतु ई-निविदा सूचना जारी की गई है। उपरोक्त आमंत्रित निविदा के माध्यम से क्रय किये जाने वाले उपकरण के समय-सारणी में 'आंशिक संशोधन' के संबंध में 'शब्द पत्र' (Corrigendum) जारी किया गया है। जो website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicpep/app> पर तथा विभाग की वेबसाइट [www.mppolice.gov.in](http://www.mppolice.gov.in) पर उल्लेख है।

Sd/-  
पुलिस महानिरीक्षक,  
गुप्तवार्त, म.प्र. भोपाल  
दूरभाष क्र.-0755-2443654  
Email: [secwz-sb@mppolice.gov.in](mailto:secwz-sb@mppolice.gov.in)  
G-13704/24

**German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation (GIZ)** Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

**TENDER NOTICE**  
Tender Notice for Third party monitoring (TPM) in Afghanistan for TVET Health Sector Projects, RFQ Nr. 83468402

GIZ India invites bids from the interested companies for providing services on Third party monitoring (TPM) in Afghanistan for TVET Health Sector Projects under the GIZ Project, Support to Technical and Vocational Education and Training in Afghanistan (TVET).

Interested bidders are requested to visit the below given weblinks and download the complete tender package including detailed technical specifications and bidding conditions.

<http://www.tender24x7.com/GizTenderDetails/78744505>  
<https://www.dgmarket.com/tender/83657743>  
<https://www.2dgmarket.com/Notice/83657743>

The bid must be submitted in digital format / electronically on the specific email id and in the prescribed format to GIZ GmbH as specified in tender document. The bid must reach to us on or before Tuesday, 13th August 2024.

GIZ reserves the rights to cancel/modify this call for tender and/or reject an offer including a technical and financial proposal, without assigning any reasons.

**MAHATRANSCO** E-TENDER NOTICE (2nd Call)

MSETCL SRM invites online RfX (e-Tender) from the Registered Contractors for MAHATRANSCO e-Tendering (SRM) website for below mentioned work.

E-tender No./ RfX No. 7000032323 Name of Work : "2nd Call for Replacement of existing 0.4 ACSR Conductor by equivalent High Performance Conductor of 220 kV Padgha - Pal line, 220 kV Padgha - Jambhul, 220 kV Jambhul - Anandnagar lines under EHV O&M Dn., Dombivali under EHV O&M Circle, Panvel." Estimated Cost: Rs. 49,62,69,602.00. Tender Fees : Rs. 25,000/-+ GST.

Date for Sale and Submission of the e-Tender Documents: From 22.07.2024 @ 15.00 Hrs to 05.08.2024 @ 15.30 Hrs. For detailed information visit our website: <https://srmtender.mahatransco.in>

Sd/-  
CHIEF ENGINEER, EHV PC (O&M) Zone, Vashi

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
Letter No.: DRM/C/AGRA/NFR/E-AUCTION Dated: 19.07.2024

**E-Auction Notice**

On Behalf of the President of India, The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager- North Central Railway-Agra invites E-Auction as per category given as under:-

Category	Catalogue No.	Asset Details
Publicity	ADVT-AGRA-24-02	Commercial Publicity via Glowsign at Agra Fort Railway station Zone 1st. Publicity on platforms and concourse area.

E-Auction Start Date and Time : Date: 02.08.2024 Time: 11:00  
E-Auction End Date and Time : Date: 02.08.2024 Time: 11:30

Note:- Prospective bidders are requested to visit E-Auction Leasing Module on IREPS website ([www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)). The Lot-wise details are available therein under the above mentioned Catalogue Number. Kindly arrange to publish the E-Auction notice as tabulated above. 1259/24 (MG)  
North central railways | [www.nccr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.nccr.indianrailways.gov.in) | @northcentralrailway | @CPNCR

# Sizzling Sikar's moment under the sun, but Raj coaching hub cold to NEET fame

## With Cloud Over Nat'l Med Exam, It's Caution Over Celebrations

Shoebkhan@timesofindia.com

**Sikar:** Winter is when Sikar usually makes headlines as temperatures often plummet to sub-zero, making it the coldest place in north India. On a sizzling summer day, this lesser-known JEE-NEET coaching destination in Rajasthan was cold to fame of a different kind — outsourcing hot favourite Kota to finish on top in the NEET-UG exam, according to National Testing Agency (NTA) data released Saturday.

Far from elation, the mood Sunday was one of apprehension against the backdrop of the controversies plaguing the national medical entrance examination this year. Rajasthan's recent track record of paper leaks seems to have added to the sense of caution, with coaching institutes in Sikar wary of social media inquests into Sikar's performance.

NTA data show 13,423 of 27,216 students who wrote NEET-UG at exam centres in Sikar score more than 550 out of a 720. The number of 600-plus scorers stand at 4,100, higher than what coaching institutes in the town put out after the results were first de-

clared on June 4. Several individual coaching institutes' records of students with 550-plus scores purportedly do not match the city and centre-wise data released by NTA.

The number of 600-plus scorers from Sikar when the NEET-UG results were declared over a month and a half ago was estimated to be between 3,300 and 3,500, coaching centre owners said.

"I woke up to the sensational news of Sikar's NEET results and the first thing that came to mind was that people would link this to a paper leak or attribute it to some malpractice in exam centres," said the director of a coaching institute. "I immediately called my admin team to re-check the number of 650-plus scorers from my coaching institute. I was relieved to hear by noon that our records of top scorers remain intact (in the NTA break-up)."

Although Sunday is a holiday, several coaching institutes went to work trying to figure out where the "extra" top scorers came from before trumpeting it as an achievement.

Sikar has at least eight coaching institutes with over 5,000 students each, and a com-



Boards and hoardings advertising coaching centres dot the skyline along Railway Station Road in Sikar. The town has emerged as a leading coaching hub with over 1 lakh students enrolled by mid-July this year

## No malpractice in Sikar: NTA coordinator

Speculation about the reasons behind Sikar producing the best set of NEET-UG results prompted the local coordinator for the National Testing Agency (NTA) to declare on Sunday that there was "no scope for any malpractice", reports Shoebkhan.

"This year, we had 49 exam centres in Sikar, with 27,216 students appearing for the exam. We adhered strictly to all protocols, including biometric verification, centres equipped with jammers and CCTV, thorough document checks, and videography at each place," Balwant Singh Chirana, the NTA coordinator for Sikar, said.

Chirana said that a retired Army officer of the rank of Colonel was appointed invigilator and tasked with visiting exam centres. A contingent of NTA officials provided administrative support.

Road, along which 80% of these institutes are located.

Sunday saw no such outpouring of joy. Even the usual congratulatory messages, banners and posters, which typically appear within an hour of

NEET and JEE results, were absent 24 hours after NTA released the centre-wise data.

"In the morning, I thought of calling for a celebration, but the negative comments on social media forced me to hold back," a coaching institute owner said. Rajesh Kulhari, director of Gurukripa Career Institute, was among the few exceptions. He said 115 students from the institute scored 700-plus marks, which was 'a surprise to him. "Sikar has been consistently delivering high performance. The only difference is that NTA has released the centre-wise results. If anyone has any doubt, they can refer to our previous results."

Piyush Sunda, chairman of Prince Education Hub, said at least 10% of the high scorers (550 marks and above) mentioned in the data as being from Sikar were neither from the town nor enrolled in any institute here. Saloni Soni, a student from Bikaner who enrolled a month ago at a coaching centre in Sikar, said, "I hope nothing is wrong here."

Sikar has students from 26 states in the country. A govt official at Sikar Circuit House conceded that paper leaks have cast a shadow on exam results, recalling that Rajasthan had reported 14 paper leaks in different exams over the past five years.

# 2,321 who scored 700+ spread across 276 cities

## HIGH ACHIEVERS

Scores	Cities	Centres
650-699	509	4,044
600-649	540	4,484
550-599	548	4,563

Ranks	Cities	Centres
1-100	56	95
101-1000	187	709
1001-10000	431	2,959
10001-50000	523	4,283
50001-110000	546	4,542
110001-150000	539	4,470



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**New Delhi:** NEET-UG 2024 results may have put the spotlight on "coaching factories" burnishing their credentials, but the successes in one of the toughest exams are spread over diverse geographies.

From Dhubri in Assam to Kangra in Himachal Pradesh, the 2,321 aspirants who secured 700 or more marks hail from 276 cities spanning 25 states and Union territories, in addition to the well-known centres like Sikar, Kota and Kottayam.

Conspicuous examples include 35 students from Lucknow, 27 from Kolkata, and 25 from Latur in Maharashtra who achieved scores of 700 or above. Other cities such as Nagpur (20 students), Faridabad (19), Nanded (18), Indore (17), Cuttack and Kanpur (16 each), Kolhapur, Noida, Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar (14 each), Agra and Aligarh (13 each), Akola and Patiala (10 each), Davangere (8), and Banaskantha (7) also contributed to this elite group of high achievers.

While traditional frontrunners like Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Kerala, and Uttar Pradesh continue to lead, states such as Jharkhand (14 candidates), Assam

(12), Chhattisgarh (11), Jammu and Kashmir (9), Tripura (3), and Arunachal Pradesh (1) have also contributed to the pool of candidates scoring 700 or above.

Those who took exams from remote and rural areas in Odisha (Kendujhar), Tripura (Agartala) and Arunachal Pradesh, along with those from Jammu, also made it to distinguished list, excelling alongside their counterparts from the popular coaching hubs and big cities. A candidate from Dhubri Govt. Girls HS School in Assam scored an impressive 710, while another from the village of Kathog in Himachal Pradesh secured 711 marks.

The distribution of scores in the cohorts of 650-699 and 600-649, which are likely to secure admission in reputable govt medical colleges, spans over 540 cities and more than 4,400 centres. Candidates scoring between 650 and 699 were spread across 509 cities and 4,044 centres, while those scoring between 600 and 649 were distributed across 540 cities and 4,484 centres. Similarly, candidates scoring between 550 and 599 were in 548 cities and 4,563 centres.

A rank-wise analysis of the NEET 2024 results further highlights the wide spread distribution of top ranks. The cohort of ranks 1 to 100 comprise applicants from 56 cities and 95 centres, while those with ranks 101 to 1,000 are from 187 cities and 706 centres. Similarly, applicants with ranks 1,001 to 10,000 are distributed across 431 cities and 2,959 centres, and ranks 10,001 to 50,000 are from 523 cities and 4,283 centres. Data show similar distribution patterns for ranks 50,001 to 110,000 (546 cities and 4,542 centres) and ranks 110,001 to 150,000 (539 cities and 4,470 centres).

# Most 'high-performing' centres had just 3-4 students with 700+ scores

Continued from P 1

## OTHER CENTRES WHERE 5% ASPIRANTS SCORED 650+

City	Centre Name	Candidates	Over 650	% over 650
Rajkot	Unit-1, School of Engineering, RK University	1968	110	5.6
Kottayam	BMM English Medium School	380	21	5.5
Kottayam	AKM Public School	453	25	5.5
Karnal	St Theresa's Convent School	472	26	5.5
Kottayam	Public School Pala PO	680	37	5.4
Kottayam	Mary Mount Public School	669	36	5.4
Tanuku	Sree Rama Institute of Management	214	11	5.1
Kurukshetra	Wisdom World School	467	24	5.1
Kottayam	Sacred Heart Public School Kilimalla	491	25	5.1
Kottayam	Sree Saraswathy Vidya Mandir	402	20	5

It came to having a high proportion of candidates who scored over 650 and 600. The 650-mark is significant because it is widely perceived as a rough indicator of the possibility of getting into the much-sought-after govt medical colleges, which offer both quality medical education and relatively modest fees.

# Over 1lk score zero or below; lowest score of -180 in Bihar

## BIHAR'S BEST

Centre	Total candidates	700+	650-699	600-649	550-599	% of candidates with 600+ score	Highest score
A N College, Boring Road	1746	---	26	51	36	4.4	698
Gyan Niketan	1247	---	12	31	37	3.4	695
Radiant Int'l School	1222	1	20	44	28	5.3	715
Dr D Y Patil Pushpalata Patil International School	1169	---	20	40	31	5.1	695
Raza Int'l Girls School	342	2	5	9	7	4.7	715
Dony Polo Public School	579	--	6	11	11	2.9	690
Ambedkar Institute Of Higher Education	696	---	6	26	25	4.6	695
MS Memorial Academy	811	1	14	22	23	4.56	700
Keshav Saraswati Vidya Mandir	760	1	8	22	16	3.94	701
Leed, S Asian School	559	1	13	9	18	3.93	700

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**New Delhi:** Centre-wise results of NEET-UG released by NTA Saturday show that over 11,000 candidates scored zero or sub-zero marks. The lowest score in the exam, which awards negative marks for wrong answers, is -180, recorded at a centre in Bihar.

While more than 2,250 candidates scored 'absolute zero', the marks obtained by more than 9,400 aspirants were in the 'negative' range.

Several candidates from centres in Jharkhand's Hazaribag, which has been under adverse glare following the leak of the NEET exam paper from one of the centres in the town, have also scored less than zero marks. Officials explained that a 'zero' score does not necessarily mean blank answer sheets were submitted

or the questions were not attempted. "It is plausible that the candidate attempted some questions correctly and some questions incorrectly, which led to the negative score."

In NEET-UG, four marks are awarded for correct answers, while incorrect answers lead to deduction of one mark. Unattempted questions do not result in any marks being awarded or deducted.

The results, released on the direction of Supreme Court, indicate that while candidates allegedly involved in irregularities have not performed well, some centres have a high concentration of well-performing students. Over 2,000 candidates from centres in Rajasthan's Sikar, one of the popular coaching hubs, scored above 650 marks, while another 4,000 scored above 600 marks. Data for over 23 lakh

candidates from 4,750 centres was released in drop-down menu format for each centre, rather than a cumulative format. Supreme Court is currently hearing several petitions regarding alleged irregularities in the conduct of the NEET-UG exam on May 5, which was held at 4,750 centres in 571 cities, including 14 cities abroad, for more than 24 lakh candidates. The court ordered the results to be announced while masking the identities of aspirants to ascertain whether candidates appearing at allegedly tainted centres secured higher marks than those who wrote the exam elsewhere. The hearing will resume on July 22, with the court considering pleas seeking the cancellation, re-test, and a court-monitored probe into the allegations of malpractice in this prestigious exam.

# Latur pips Mum, Pune, has most students who got 500+ in Maha

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**Mumbai:** Latur has emerged as the district with the most candidates to score above 500 in NEET 2024. Compared to Latur's 7,538 students who achieved the feat, 5,281 from Mumbai and 5,330 from Pune scored above 500. Those scoring above 700 from Maharashtra total 205, with Pune being the district with the most candidates (41) to achieve the feat, followed by Mumbai (29) and Latur (25). The 650 mark was crossed by 2,585 candidates in the state, with Pune leading (386) followed by Latur (376) and Mumbai (317), according to data released by the National Testing Agency.

When the idea of NEET, an all-India centralised exam for admission to medical programmes, was introduced, Latur, known for its study model, felt the jitters. Experts felt the Latur model, which produced state toppers in the erstwhile CET (Common Entrance Test), conducted by the state, would fail NEET. Clearly, that was not to be.

"The reduced syllabus and easy-to-moderate level of questions in NEET seems to have taken overall scores a lot higher than previous years. The cutoff for admission to colleges will go through the roof. Students must be ready with a plan B from the very first round of admission," advised a parent representative, Sachin Bangad.

Echoing the same logic

# In underage driving cases, Pune cops to seize cars for 1 year

**Pune:** Pune city police have decided to impound four-wheelers and two-wheelers driven by minors and keep the vehicles with them for a year to curb rise in cases of underage driving, reports Gitesh Shelke. The action will begin this week.

The move comes following the May 19 accident in Kalyaninagar in which a minor boy driving a Porsche Taycan hit a motorcycle, resulting in the death of two technicians.

Earlier, the police would summon and register cases against parents of such drivers and send the cases to courts for final settlement.

"The idea behind keeping seized vehicles at police stations is to ensure minors do not get a chance to drive them again. This will help reduce accidents involving minors," additional commissioner of police Manoj Patil said.

Road safety activists, however, raised questions over the feasibility of the action. "Owners of impounded vehicles can secure an order from the court to get their vehicles released, negating the action. Additionally, police stations are grappling with space issues to keep seized vehicles on their premises," an activist said.

"In case the owner of an impounded vehicle secures an order for the release of the vehicle, we will abide by the court's directives. As for the space crunch, a few police stations have large space, and we will utilise it," Patil said. According to section 199A of the Motor Vehicles (MV) Act, police can not only impound vehicles used by underage drivers but also get the RTO to cancel the registration of such vehicles for 12 months and ensure the minor offender does not get a driving licence till he/she attains the age of 25. The same section also empowers police to file cases against parents of underage drivers.

कार्यालय प्राचार्य, वीरगंगा अखनीबाई लोधी स्वशासी राज्य चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, एटा।  
Veerangna Avanti Bai Lodhi Autonomous State Medical College, Etah  
Email ID: - gmecetah@gmail.com Website: www.asmcetah.org

दिनांक: 20.07.2024

विज्ञापन संख्या: 2024/1362

विज्ञापन का विवरण: - विज्ञापन संख्या: 2024/1362

विज्ञापन का विवरण: - विज्ञापन संख्या: 2024/1362

विज्ञापन का विवरण: - विज्ञापन संख्या: 2024/1362

क्र.सं.	विभाग	आवृत्ति	पदों की संख्या	श्रेणी	पदों की संख्या	श्रेणी	पदों की संख्या	श्रेणी
1	अधीनस्थ	01	UR	01	SC	01	UR	01
2	अधीनस्थ	01	SC	01	SC	-	-	-
3	अधीनस्थ	01	UR	01	UR	01	UR	01
4	अधीनस्थ	01	UR	01	OBC	01	UR	01
5	अधीनस्थ	-	-	-	-	02	SC	-
6	अधीनस्थ	01	OBC	01	SC	02	OBC	01
7	अधीनस्थ	01	UR	01	UR	01	OBC	01
8	अधीनस्थ	01	OBC	01	SC	01	EWS	01
9	अधीनस्थ	01	OBC	02	OBC	02	UR	01
10	अधीनस्थ	-	-	01	UR	01	OBC	01
11	अधीनस्थ	-	-	01	OBC	01	UR	01
12	अधीनस्थ	-	-	01	OBC	-	-	-
13	अधीनस्थ	-	-	01	OBC	-	-	-
14	अधीनस्थ	01	EWS	01	OBC	01	OBC	01
15	अधीनस्थ	01	SC	01	OBC	01	OBC	01
16	अधीनस्थ	01	OBC	01	SC	01	SC	01
17	अधीनस्थ	01	SC	01	SC	01	OBC	01
18	अधीनस्थ	01	OBC	01	UR	01	SC	01
19	अधीनस्थ	01	UR	01	OBC	01	EWS	01
20	अधीनस्थ	01	OBC	-	-	01	UR	01
21	अधीनस्थ	01	UR	01	OBC	01	SC	01
22	अधीनस्थ	-	-	01	EWS	01	ST	01

कुल पदों की संख्या: 16, 25, 32

विस्तृत विवरण वीरगंगा अखनीबाई लोधी स्वशासी राज्य चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, एटा एवं महाविद्यालय को वेबसाइट क्रमशः www.asmcetah.org व www.updgmce.com पर उपलब्ध है।

प्रधानाचार्य

## ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

### Vijaypur, Jammu - 184120

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2.	Office Assistant (NS)	B	(Level-6)	01
3.	Assistant Accounts Officer	B	(Level-7)	01
4.	Sanitation Officer	B	(Level-6)	01
5.	Librarian Grade - I	B	(Level-7)	01
6.	Senior Pharmacist	B	(Level-6)	01
7.	Personal Assistant	B	(Level-6)	02
8.	Junior Medical Record Officer	C	(Level-5)	02
9.	Upper Division Clerk (UDC)	C	(Level-4)	02
<b>Total</b>				<b>12</b>

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Deputy Director (Administration)  
For and on Behalf of the Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Jammu



**ADIDAS REMOVES HALF-PALESTINIAN BELLA HADID FROM AD CAMPAIGN AFTER ISRAEL'S CRITICISM; MODEL PLANS LAWSUIT**

**ARMIE HAMMER ADMITS HE 'SCRAPED' HIS INITIALS INTO EX-GF'S GROIN WITH A KNIFE: 'TO SOME, IT'S A VERY ROMANTIC GESTURE'**



## Stage Is Set For Donald vs Kamala

Veep Likely To Become First Black & Indian-American Woman To Be A Major Party Nominee For White House

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: Kamala Harris will likely become the first Black and Indian-American woman to be a major party nominee for the White House after incumbent Joe Biden bowed out of the race and endorsed her candidacy. Harris will have to be formally nominated by more than 3000 Democratic Party delegates in the days to come, but after Biden's endorsement, that is expected to be a shoo-in. It is unlikely that other party leaders who sought to ease Biden out will also oppose his political legate. Besides, Harris, as Biden's running mate, can more easily inherit campaign finances and logistics than other aspirants who may want to jump into the fray.



Harris will have to be formally nominated by 3000+ Democratic Party delegates in the days to come, but after Biden's endorsement, that is expected to be a shoo-in

Harris is also likely to have the backing of Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and former President Barack Obama, the two other party grandees who worked behind the scenes to ease Biden out, although the former is reported to have suggested Harris go through an open convention to gain greater legitimacy. In either case, a Trump v Harris 2024 clash for the White House sets up an unprecedented spectacle, given the former president's frequently irascible attitude towards women, particularly minority women. Trump already seems to have anticipated Kamala Harris moving to top of the ticket by ramping up attacks against her: At a rally in Michigan on Saturday, he dubbed her "laffin' Kamala" and ridiculed the way she laughed, calling her "crazy." "Kamala, I call her laughing Kamala. Have you seen her laughing? She is crazy. You can tell a lot by a laugh. She is nuts. She is not as crazy as Nancy Pelosi," Trump said with his ugly trademark sexism. His MAGA followers, many of them women, lapped it up. Trump himself is seen as unhinged in Democratic circles but that does not seem to bother his millions of followers who worship him.

## Where Kamala Harris stands on abortion, immigration and more

With vice-prez Kamala Harris being eyed as a potential replacement for Prez Biden on the Democratic ticket, her stances on key issues will be scrutinised by both parties and the voters. She has a long record in politics: as district attorney of San Francisco, as attorney general of California, as a senator; as a prez candidate and as vice prez.

**Abortion** Harris supports legislation that would protect the right to abortion nationally, as Roe v. Wade did before it was overturned in 2022. She has been central to the Biden campaign's efforts to keep the spotlight on abortion, given that Biden — with his personal discomfort with abortion and his support for restrictions earlier in his career — was a flawed messenger. In March, she made the first official visit to an abortion clinic by a prez or vice prez.

**Immigration** One of Harris's mandates as vice-prez has been to address the root causes of migration from Latin America, like poverty and violence in migrants' home countries. In 2021, she visited the US-Mexico border

and said: "This issue cannot be reduced to a political issue. We are talking about children, we are talking about families, we are talking about suffering."

**Climate change** Harris has supported the Biden's climate efforts, including legislation that provided hundreds of billions of dollars in tax credits and rebates for renewable energy and electric vehicles. During her 2020 prez campaign, she emphasized the need for environmental justice, a framework that calls for policies to address the adverse effects that climate change has on the poor and people of colour.

**Democracy** She has condemned Donald Trump's efforts to overturn the 2020 election results. In a speech in 2022 marking the anniversary of the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol, she said that day had showed "what our nation would look like if the forces who seek to dismantle our democracy are successful."

**Economic policy** Harris has promoted the Biden's economic policies, including the infrastructure bill that Biden signed, funding for

small businesses, a provision that capped the cost of insulin for people on Medicare and student debt forgiveness. As a senator, she introduced legislation that would have provided a tax credit of up to \$6,000 for middle- and low-income families to address income inequality.

**Israel and Gaza** Harris called in March for an "immediate ceasefire" in Gaza and described the situation as a "humanitarian catastrophe." She has said "Hamas must be eliminated" but also that "too many innocent Palestinians have been killed." She supports a two-state solution.

**Racial justice** In a debate exchange in 2019, she denounced Biden's past work with segregationist senators and opposition to school busing mandates. Amid the protests that followed the police killing of George Floyd in 2020, she was one of the senators who introduced the Justice in Policing Act, which would have made it easier to prosecute police officers, created a national registry of police misconduct and required officers to complete training on racial profiling. It was not passed. **NT**

## B'desh SC Scales Back Job Quota After Unrest

30% Govt Job Reservation For Kin Of '71 War Vets To Be Cut To 5%, And 93% To Be Allocated On Merit; Protest Toll 155

Dhaka: Bangladesh's top court on Sunday scaled back a controversial quota system for govt job applicants, a partial victory for student protesters after days of nationwide unrest and deadly clashes between police and demonstrators that have killed scores of people. Students, frustrated by shortages of good jobs, have been demanding an end to a quota that reserved 30% of govt jobs for relatives of veterans who fought in Bangladesh's war of independence in 1971. The govt previously halted it in 2018 following mass student protests, but in June, Bangladesh's High Court reinstated the quotas and set off a new round of protests. The Supreme Court was due to decide next month on the legality of the recently reintroduced scheme, but brought forward its verdict as the civil strife intensified.



Army patrols Dhaka streets on Day 2 of curfew in Bangladesh on Sunday

Ruling on an appeal, the Supreme Court ordered that the veterans' quota be cut to 5%, with 93% of jobs to be allocated on merit. The remaining 2% will be set aside for members of ethnic minorities and transgender and disabled people. The protests have posed the most serious challenge to Bangladesh's govt since PM Sheikh Hasina won a fourth consecutive term in Jan elections that the main opposition groups boycotted. Universities have been closed, the internet has been shut off and the govt has ordered people to stay at home. With most communications offline, it was unclear whether the verdict satisfied protesting students, but a lawyer representing some student groups called the court's decision historic. Shah Monjurul Haque said it was a start to reforming the problematic quota system. "Everyone should abide by the ver-

dict. I urge all protestors to return to their homes," said Haque. Students, however, had called for a complete abolition of "freedom fighter" category, along with other quotas for women and specific districts of the country. "We welcome the Supreme Court verdict," a spokesman for Students Against Discrimination, the main group responsible for organising the protests, told AFP on condition of anonymity. "But we won't call off our protests until the govt issues an order reflecting our demands." Law minister Anisul Haq of the ruling Awami League party welcomed the SC decision and said it "well thought of". The protests turned deadly on Tuesday, a day after students at Dhaka University began clashing with police. Violence continued to escalate as police fired tear gas and rubber bullets and hurled smoke grenades to scatter stone-throwing protesters. Bangladesh authorities haven't shared any official numbers of those killed and injured, but at least four local newspapers on Sunday reported that over 100 people have been killed. An AFP count of victims reported by police and hospitals since Tuesday says that at least 155 people, including several police officers, have been killed in clashes around the country. Ahead of the Supreme Court hearing, soldiers patrolled cities across the country. Home minister Asaduzzaman Khan said the stay-at-home order will be relaxed from 3pm to 5pm on Sunday for people to run essential errands. Meanwhile, the govt has declared Sunday and Monday as public holidays, with only emergency services allowed to operate. **AGENCIES**

## How Biden & His Inner Circle Blew It

Washington: US Prez Joe Biden's decision to end his re-election campaign on Sunday followed a series of strategic missteps by his campaign team and White House aides that amplified concerns that the 81-year-old wouldn't be able to win in Nov's election, or run the country for another four years.



Veep Kamala Harris and President Joe Biden in Raleigh, North Carolina

Biden's halting performance at the June 27 debate against Republican candidate Donald Trump, pushed even some of his closest allies to question his fitness. Within days, Biden went from the party's figurehead to a liability. He became the first sitting prez to stand down from a possible reelection since Lyndon B. Johnson in 1968. **Debate coup: April to June** Biden himself set the debate in motion, after he told radio show host Howard Stern in April that he'd debate Trump, despite worries from some of his Democratic allies that a debate might cast an unflattering light on him. Some Biden aides thought they had scored a coup in agreeing to a June debate. They worked with broadcaster CNN to shape the rules in what they thought was their favour and agreed on May 15 to two debates, including the first on June 27. An earlier debate would serve Biden well, some aides thought, convincing voters

that there was no other anti-Trump option in the race.

**Jet lag: June 4 to 27** Biden flew to Europe twice and to the West Coast over a 14-day period before taking just a few days to rest at his vacation home in Delaware. Biden was tired and dragging by the end of the travel. He and his aides headed to Camp David for focused prep sessions on June 21, where they held mock debates for the better part of 7 days.

**A bad night: June 27** In CNN's Atlanta studios, Biden stumbled over his words and lost his train of thought. His delivery, appearance and voice drew the immediate attention of reporters, who asked his aides for an explanation. Officials told reporters as the debate was underway that Bi-

den was sick with a cold. His hoarseness would improve as the debate went on but his disjointed answers took voters, donors and Democratic officials by surprise. One Democratic strategist called it "a disaster".

**Fallout: June 27 to July 2** Calls for Biden to step down would start in the hours after the debate. "I know I'm not a young man, to state the obvious," Biden said the day after the debate, admitting a poor performance. "Nearly fell asleep on stage," he said on July 2. Some lawmakers started to break ranks, starting with US representative Lloyd Doggett on July 2, and then gathering steam. Angry donors told Biden's aides they would need to see a turnaround in the candidate's performance. Representative Jim Clyburn — a kingmaker of sorts within the Democratic Party who was instrumental in Biden's 2020 win — said on July 2 that he would back vice-prez Kamala Harris if Biden did depart and suggested the idea of a "mini-primary" if Biden stepped aside.

**The dam breaks: July 5 to 8** Biden would fail to quiet the chorus of dissent. In his first major interview after the debate, on July 5, Biden said only the "Lord Almighty" could cast him from the race. Thirty-six Democratic US lawmakers and one independent who caucuses with the Democrats would ultimately call for Biden to step off the ticket over the 24 days that followed the debate. **Nato, Polls: July 9 to 12** At the Nato summit during the second week of July, Biden mixed up the names of his vice-prez Harris and his Republican rival Trump, and those of Ukrainian Prez Volodymyr Zelensky and Russian Prez Putin. Polls showed Biden trailing other Democrats in many of the key states and districts Democrats need to win in Nov. **Trump shooting: July 13** Trump was shot while giving a speech in Pennsylvania. The bullet grazed his ear, bloodied his face, and photos of the former prez holding up his fist in defiance were shown widely. Republicans spoke of divine providence, unifying around their candidate. Democrats worried if their own chances were cursed, seeing only a narrower path to any victory in Nov. Days later, Biden got Covid while campaigning in Nevada. Recovering at his Delaware home, he would be left with time, alone and in isolation, to decide whether and how to end his campaign. **REUTERS**

## Trump: Harris will be easier to defeat than Biden

Washington: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump said on Sunday that he thinks vice-president Kamala Harris will be easier to defeat in Nov's election than Democratic Prez Joe Biden, who earlier in the day stepped aside as his party's candidate.

CNN said the Republican former president made the comments to the network shortly after Biden announced his decision. Trump also later attacked Biden on social media, saying that Biden was unfit to continue serving as president. On his Truth Social platform Sunday, Trump said Biden "was not fit to run for President, and is certainly not fit to serve." Other top Republicans, including House of Representatives Speaker Mike Johnson, also said Biden was not fit to serve as prez and finish his term. Johnson explicitly called on Biden to resign.

Trump, in a post on his Truth Social platform, said: "We will suffer greatly because of his (Biden's) presidency, but we will remedy the damage he has done very quickly." **REUTERS**

## Trumpists are now dreaming of '400 paar'

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: Chuffed by a rousing party convention last week, Trump loyalists are giddily talking of a landslide bordering or surpassing 400 electoral votes amid disarray on the Democratic side. In Modi-speak, "Abki bar 400 paar". Needing 270 electoral votes to take the White House — out of 538 spread across 50 states — Democrats and Republicans almost take for granted about 20 states each, leaving only around 10 "toss-up" states that could go either way. The party that wins the popular vote in each state (by any margin) typically takes all of the state's electoral votes, which is the number of representatives in Congress (varies as per the population) and senators (always two per state regardless of population). Thus California, the most populous state, has 54 electoral votes (it has 52 reps and two senators) and Wyoming, the least populated, has only three electoral votes (it has one rep and two Senators). California last voted Republican in the Reagan era, but after Bill Clinton turned it around in 1992, it has become a Democratic bastion and is not expected to change. Current polls indicate that Republicans led by Trump are on track to win 251 electoral votes, needing only 19 from some half-dozen "battleground" states, among the ten that could change hands, to get to 270. They can do so by winning Pennsylvania

nia (19 electoral votes) or a combination of any two other battleground states, say Michigan (15) and Nevada (6); or Arizona (11) and Wisconsin (10); or Michigan and Wisconsin. There are at least five combinations that can put Trump over 270. But Trumpists are looking much further; eyeing even traditionally blue states such as New Jersey, which, like California, has not voted for Republicans since the Reagan era.

Trump himself talked of turning around New Jersey at a rally in Michigan, saying polls show him ahead in the state. Internal party polls reportedly show Trump leading Biden 43-41 in a two-way race and tied at 38%, with 8% going to Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. and 3% to Green Party candidate Jill Stein, in a multi-pledged race. But even if Republicans win all the battleground states and land unexpected bonanza in reliably blue states, getting to 400 would still be a stretch. The last major landslide, in arguably the most one-sided election in US history, occurred in 1984 when Ronald Reagan won 525 electoral votes against Democrat Walter Mondale, who got only 13 electoral votes. Reagan's successor George Bush Sr too won a landslide in 1988 bagging 426 electoral votes against Michael Dukakis, who got only 111. These are among the only 15 instances in US electoral history when a party or candidate has managed "400 paar". Since 1992, no candidate has crossed 400 electoral votes.

## Indian Americans become a political force, just as Usha Vance's profile rises

Amy Qin and Jonathan Wolfe

When Ohio Senator JD Vance became former prez Donald Trump's running mate this past week on the Republican presidential ticket, it also marked the first time that an Indian American and practicing Hindu, Usha Vance, stood to become a vice-presidential spouse. That cemented a remarkable reality: At the moment, a woman of Indian descent will either serve another term in the White House or be the second lady.



Indian Americans are now the largest and most politically active group among Asian Americans

It was the latest milestone for an Indian American community that has emerged as a political powerhouse over the past decade. Kamala Harris in 2021 became the first person of Indian descent, as well as the first woman and black person, to be vice president. The 2024 presidential cycle is the first one to have featured two Indian American candidates in Nikki Haley and Vivek Ramaswamy. And there are now five Indian American members of Congress and nearly 40 Indian Americans in state legislatures — the highest number of any Asian origin group in the country, as per AAPI Data, an organisation that collects data about Asian Americans. It comes alongside another first for Indian Americans: They recently surpassed Chinese

and most highly educated origin group on average. And on almost every measure of political and civic engagement, Indian Americans rank at or near the top among Asian groups, a fact that experts largely attribute to their roots in a country with a strong democratic tradition and high usage of English. "Indian Americans are a growing force in American politics," said Karthick Ramakrishnan, the founder and the executive director of AAPI Data. Like many first-generation immigrants, Usha's parents Krish and Lakshmi Chilukuri have not been especially vocal about politics, five family friends said. But like most Indian Americans, her parents are Democrats, according to recent voter registration records. In 2017, Lakshmi Chilukuri, a biologist, was also one of more than 2,300 California professors who signed an open letter to Trump urging him not to withdraw from the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change. Since at least 2008, Indian Americans, who have the highest voter turnout rates among Asian groups in presidential elections, have been a reliably Democratic voting bloc. But Indian American support for Prez Joe Biden has declined, and more Indian Americans are identifying as independents, according to the Asian American Voter

Survey released this month. If Biden leaves the 2024 race, Harris would be his likeliest replacement, which would give Indian Americans their first presidential nominee. Some Republican leaders see an opportunity to make inroads on issues such as family, education and immigration. And even as Republican Party has emphasised its ties to Christianity some party leaders have tried to appeal to people of other faiths. In an interview last month, Usha spoke openly about the importance of her Hindu faith in her upbringing. Usha's elevated role could also help win over some Indian American voters and donors. But the recent Asian American Voter Survey also showed that the drop in support for Biden among has not corresponded with a meaningful uptick in support for Trump. Usha is something of a political enigma: She was a registered Democrat until at least 2014. Even as her husband has gone from a "Never Trump" critic to a fervent supporter of Trump's, she has said little publicly or privately about her own politics, friends said. At the Republican National Committee on Wednesday night, in her first high-profile appearance, Usha spoke lovingly of her husband. But two words were conspicuously missing from her speech: Donald Trump. **NT**

## AROUND THE WORLD



VENICE DAY-TRIPPER TAX NETS €2.4M: Venice city officials said that the day-tripper tax netted 2.4 million euros (\$2.6m) during a test phase this summer. Officials have indicated that the fee would be extended next year, and doubled to 10 euros, at least on some days

## Jailed for 43 years for a murder she did not commit, US woman walks free

A woman whose murder conviction was overturned after she served 43 years of a life sentence was released Friday, despite attempts in the last month by Missouri's attorney general to keep her behind bars. Sandra Hemme, 64, left a prison in Chillicothe, hours after a judge threatened to hold the attorney general's office in contempt if they continued to fight against her release. Hemme had been the longest-held wrongly incarcerated woman known in the US, according to her legal team. The judge originally ruled on June 14 that Hemme's attorneys had established "clear and convincing evidence" of "actual innocence" and he overturned

her conviction. But attorney general Andrew Bailey fought her release. Hemme was serving a life sentence for the 1980 stabbing death of library worker. Hemme's immediate freedom was complicated by sentences she got for crimes committed while behind bars. She got a 10-year sentence in 1996 for attacking a prison worker with a razor blade, and a two-year sentence in 1984 for "offering to commit violence." Bailey had argued Hemme is a safety risk and she should start serving those sentences now.

**Oli wins vote of confidence, gets 2/3rd majority:** Nepal PM K P Sharma Oli won a key floor test in parliament on Sunday with more than two-thirds of lawmakers voting in his favour. Oli secured 188 votes in favour, 74 against and one member abstained out of a total of 263 members present. Oli required 138 votes to pass.

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CL 1625

### Import curbs hurt garment export growth: GTRI

**New Delhi:** Issues like complex procedures of DGFT and customs, import restrictions and domestic vested interests are holding up the export growth of the Indian garment sector, think tank Global Trade Research Initiative said on Sunday. At the root of the exporters' problem is difficulty in obtaining quality raw fabric, particularly synthetic fabric, the GTRI said. "High import duties on fabrics, intricate procedures, force exporters to meticulously account for every inch and type of fabric imported," GTRI founder Ajay Srivastava said. AGENCIES

## 7th Budget: Striking a balance key challenge for Sitharaman

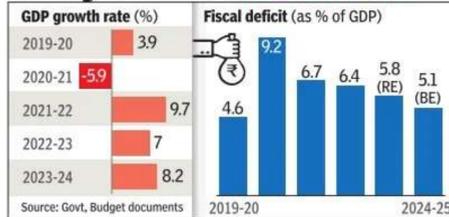
### To-Do & Wishlist: Social Sector Needs, Allies' Demands, I-T Relief

Sidhartha@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman's seventh Budget will do a tight rope walk as she looks to strike a balance between the need to spend more on social sector schemes amid calls from allies for additional assistance to states, while seeking to address demands for a reduction in personal income tax and yet ensuring that she sticks to the fiscal glide path.

Much of the discussion has focused on RBI's higher dividend of over Rs 2 lakh crore coming to govt's aid, but the additional money has already been used for the solar rooftop scheme. Sitharaman will need more funds to roll out PM Narendra Modi's other pre-poll announcement of a new housing subsidy scheme for the poor, while honouring poll promises such as increasing the cover-

### Looking To Maintain Fiscal Glide Path



age of Aayushman Bharat to include seniors. There are already demands to enhance the insurance cover to Rs 10 lakh, which requires a political call given that there are complaints of hospitals coming up just to cater to this segment of population. Her Budget arithmetic will be based on revenue, tax revenue and capital receipts (disinvestment) collections being higher than what she had budgeted for in the interim Budget, which was bereft of any announcements. Since then the political si-

tuation has changed with BJP now dependent on allies to run govt at the Centre although it still has 240 MPs in the Lok Sabha. But the noise of lack of jobs, persistent weakness in private investment, income disparity and regional imbalance has grown, generating expectations of issues being addressed in the Budget with youth, women and farmers being major thrust areas. For a govt that has so far stayed away from freebies or revisits, checking leakages from schemes has been a key priority — be it tax breaks or be-

nefits under schemes. While that will remain leitmotif, Sitharaman may be constricted to lower the fiscal deficit significantly below the budgeted 5.1% of GDP due to higher expenditure requirements, especially as she presents the first Budget of Modi 3.0, laying out the road map for the period up to 2030, with 2047 being the ultimate target.

There have been demands for employment-linked incentives from some industry groups, but the focus of govt is on production linked sops, where incremental output and investments in creating capacity, which in turn generates employment, has remained the focus. Sitharaman is expected to once again count on the private sector to create jobs through higher investment in creating and adding to capacity. Overall growth and the sentiment on India has been positive but the focus may be on addressing the requirements of sectors that need hand holding.

## Banks rejig deposit plans as savers turn investors

### Look At Ways To Grow Deposit Base Without Hiking Rates | More Sweep-In FDs On The Cards

Mayur.Shetty @timesofindia.com

**Mumbai:** As inflation bites into savings and banks remain adamant about not raising interest rates on savings deposits, customers are transforming from savers to investors. This has caused banks to reevaluate their strategies. "The saver-to-investor movement is quite accentuated, and it has only galloped after the elections. That is why you are seeing pressure on savings accounts where funds are going into mutual funds, SIPs or even term deposits," said Shanti Ekambaram, deputy MD, Kotak Bank.

Since March 2020, the share of deposits in savings accounts has dropped to 31.2% from 32.8%, while the number for current account has remained unchanged at around 9.5%. The share of term deposits has risen to 59% from 57.8%. Adjusted for inflation (5%), most savings accounts are yielding negative returns, but none of the banks are looking at hiking rates.

Ashok Vaswani, MD & CEO of Kotak Bank, in an analyst call said the bank sees itself as the holding company for other businesses, generating value from money

that moves from the bank to capital markets or insurance. To grow the deposit base, the bank aims to strengthen its franchise by making savings accounts easier to open and bundling offers for key segments. It relaunched a programme that sweeps money from savings and current to

posits" said Srinivasan Vaidyanathan, CFO, HDFC Bank. He added that the 'star' in resources mobilisation was fixed deposits which have grown by Rs 44,300 crore or 24% over the previous year. Yes Bank has added 140 branches since Jan last year. This year, it plans to add 30-50

### Focus Is On Increasing 'Granular' Deposits

- Kotak Bank** aims to bundle offers... It relaunched the active money programme that sweeps money from savings and current a/c to FDs
- HDFC Bank's** strategy is to grow its branch network and customer base. The bank's focus is on granular retail deposits, which are the individual balances retained in customer accounts
- Yes Bank** has added 140 branches since Jan last year. It plans to add 30-50 branches this year
- RBL Bank** too is looking to attract customers with differentiated service and interest rate

term deposits and has introduced a micro-market strategy to grow the deposit base.

HDFC Bank's strategy is to significantly grow its branch network and customer base while fostering deeper connections with existing customers. The bank's focus is now on granular retail deposits, which are the individual balances retained in customer accounts.

"We want the branches to drive granular deposit growth and not look for non-retail or large ticket-sized de-

branches. Rajan Pental, head of retail at the bank, said that there has been a marginal uptick on the cost of new deposits, but it does not move the needle.

"The customer needs money for transactions, investment, for spending which has to come through the banking channel, which we are in a position to augment and make them do transactions through RBL Bank with our differentiated service and interest rate," said R Subramaniakumar, MD & CEO, RBL Bank.

## HDFC current a/c outflows double

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** HDFC Bank saw a record outflow of nearly Rs 43,000 crore from current accounts in the June quarter, resulting in flat growth in deposits during the period.

In a post-earnings call with analysts, the bank's MD & CEO, Sashidhar Jagdishan, expressed dissatisfaction with the deposit

growth, indicating that it had fallen short of the bank's expectations. He said that while there is typically some seasonality to funds

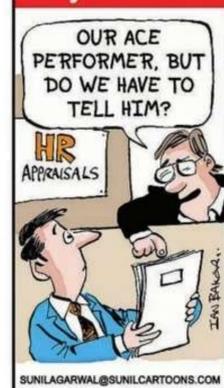
flowing into current accounts, he was surprised by the scale of the outflows.

Current accounts are held by businesses that typically realise funds ahead of

the fiscal year-end. The first quarter sees an outflow from these accounts as the funds get deployed. However, the outflows seen by the private lender were nearly twice as high as in any first quarter.

The outflow from banks coincided with two major events — general elections and a record rally in stocks following the results in the first week of June.

### crazy bosses



### FPIs invest ₹31k cr in equities in July

**New Delhi:** Foreign investors injected Rs 30,772 crore into Indian equities so far this month, driven by hopes of policy reforms, economic growth and a better-than-expected earnings season. AGENCIES

### Hero Moto plans to roll out affordable EVs

**New Delhi:** Eyeing leadership in the electric two-wheeler segment, Hero Moto Corp is looking to roll out affordable models in the current fiscal, according to CEO Niranjan Gupta. AGENCIES

### figure it out

**16%** is the share of top 10 US stocks in the market capitalisation of global stock markets. The figure was 4% in 2004



## IT cos' headcount rises in June qtr as hiring resumes

Veena.Mani@timesofindia.com

**Bengaluru:** Two out of the four top IT firms in India have seen a net addition to their headcount in the June quarter. This comes after multiple quarters of reductions in headcount for all top firms.

TCS last recorded a net addition to the employee count in Q1 FY24, after which, the firm reported a drop for three straight quarters. Even in the June quarter of FY25, a meagre 523 employees were added by India's biggest IT services firm. The net addition was a result of an increased utilisation of last year's recruits, the company said in its analyst call after the Q1 FY25 earnings.

Infosys has had five straight quarters of headcount reduction, including in the June quarter of FY25, while Wipro has finally reported a net addition after reporting a decline during the entire FY24 fiscal. HCL has been reporting additions and declines intermittently in the last five quarters. Analysts say IT demand

is still to fully recover, but there are green shoots to which companies are having to cater to. "To address this, companies are adopting various strategies. So

Company	Q1FY25	Q4FY24	Q3FY24	Q2FY24	Q1FY24
TCS	5,452	-1,759	-5,680	-6,333	523
Infosys	-1,908	-5,423	-6,101	-7,530	-6,940
HCL	-8,080	2,725	3,617	-2,299	-2,506
Wipro	337	-6,180	-4,473	-5,051	-8,812

Source: Regulatory filings

me are slowing down hiring, others are focusing on reskilling or upskilling their existing employees, and some are balancing the hiring of freshers with laterals." Biswajit Maity, senior principal analyst at Gartner, said.

Pareek Jain, CEO and lead analyst at Pareek Consulting, said an addition to the total headcount is a reflection of IT firms preparing for a recovery in demand. Despite forecasting uncertainties in the demand environment, IT firms have announced clear plans of hiring freshers. They have

also stated that they will complete onboarding of all freshers who were hired in the last couple of years. Kapil Joshi, deputy CEO of IT staffing at Quesst Corp, said

that fresher hiring will boost the net headcount. TCS has said it will add 40,000 freshers this year, while Infosys has given an estimate of 20,000 freshers from campus as well as the off-campus route. Wipro has said it will bring onboard 10,000 to 12,000 freshers this year and go to campuses to hire the same number for next year.

Pareek Jain said that even those who haven't added to their net employee count will do so next quarter as companies prepare for growth, with certain clients and segments beginning to spend on technology advancements.

## Take down NSE MD's deepfake videos: HC to Meta, others

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Bombay high court has asked Meta Platforms and other social media platforms such as Telegram to take down deep fake videos of NSE managing director and CEO Ashish Kumar Chauhan, citing provisions of the Information Technology Act.

A single bench of Justice RI Chagla has asked the platforms to disclose details like their name, address, email IDs, contact details, organisation and associations, URLs of all the perpetrators allegedly involved in publishing the fake videos.

The issue relates to NSE coming across fake videos in April where Chauhan urges people to join a WhatsApp group. Besides, there were Facebook posts using NSE's name to make false claims. While FIRs have been filed, court intervention was sought to get the platforms to remove the fake content.

NSE has argued that intermediaries such as Facebook need to verify the content and remove it, which has been a time-consuming exercise with several fake pages still active.

## How govt can reduce cos' compliance burden

By Prachi Kulkarni

Tax policy and administration play a pivotal role in shaping the economic landscape of a country. For corporates around the world, the competitiveness of local laws and the associated compliance costs are crucial

factors when deciding on investment destinations. These costs include the time and resources dedicated to adhering to tax laws, maintaining records, filing returns, and liaising with tax authorities. It is incumbent upon govts to ensure that tax laws and compliances are fair, equitable, and streamlined, so that they do not hinder business operations. In India, the tax system has historically been complex, characterised by large number of indirect and direct taxes levied by various levels of govts. Recognising this, the Central

### KEY SUGGESTIONS

- Simplifying tax filings and striking a balance between comprehensive reporting requirements and ease of compliance
- Adopting global best practices like introduction of thresholds for presumptive taxation
- Continued reforms and technological investments
- Multiple TDS/TCS provisions can be reduced as also reporting requirements in corporate tax returns and tax audit reports

Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and the Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) have been diligently working to enhance user experience and simplify the compliance process.

The introduction of the GST in 2017 marked a significant overhaul of the Indian tax compliance landscape, complemented by various digitisation efforts. Yet, the GST law requires monthly and annual returns, plus a yearly reconciliation statement for each state, leading to 14 returns per state each year. For entities operating across multiple states, compliance be-

comes a substantial investment of time and effort.

As a result of digitisation, the GST and income tax systems are also being linked and there is seamless flow of data among various departments of govt. However, the tax policy makers have regularly expanded the scope of tax deducted at source (TDS) and tax collection at source (TCS) provisions, over the past few years. This has increased the TDS compliance and reporting burden of corporate India. For example, recent years have seen the introduction of TDS on transactions such as purchase of go-

ods, cash withdrawals from the bank, and benefits or perquisites provided in the course of business. TCS has also been applied to overseas remittances, tour package sales, and sale of goods. These provisions, with their different thresholds and rates, are challenging for corporates to comply with.

Add to these the growing disclosure requirements in corporate tax return forms and tax audit reports and one is looking at a heavy compliance burden.

As India continues to refine its tax infrastructure, it is essential to monitor global trends and adopt best practices. One such measure could be introducing thresholds for presumptive taxation to alleviate compliance costs. For example, the UAE exempts corporate tax on profits up to AED 375,000. It also offers "small business relief" for companies with revenues up to AED 30,000,000, exempting them from corporate tax and transfer pricing documentation requirements, thus re-

ducing the compliance burden for small taxpayers.

Continued reforms and technological investments are crucial for further reducing the compliance burden. The multiple TDS/TCS provisions can be reduced as also the reporting requirements in corporate tax returns and tax audit reports. With seamless data exchange among govt departments, tax filings can also be streamlined by removing disclosures where the data can be obtained from other sources.

Further, a consultative approach involving stakeholders in the design and scrutiny of proposed measures can help reduce some of the pain. Proactive communication of the intent behind tax policy measures and issuing clear and fair guidance on new provisions will provide certainty to taxpayers and decrease disputes.

(The writer is tax director, EY India; Aviral Godha, senior tax professional with EY has also contributed to this article. Views expressed are personal)

**TOI** IN THE CLASSROOM

### With SWPs, Enjoy Steady Stream Of Income From MFs

As investors create wealth using MFs, many are also using this corpus as a tool to withdraw money on a monthly basis using a **systematic withdrawal plan (SWP)**. This can be set up in any MF scheme, but is generally used in the case of hybrid funds, large-cap oriented funds or a mix of the two.

### What Is A Systematic Withdrawal Plan?

An SWP is a feature offered by a mutual fund house, where an investor can withdraw a fixed amount of money at regular intervals, typically every month. Once this is set up and the date is decided, units from your scheme are sold and the proceeds from those are sent to your bank account. The balance units in the scheme from which units are withdrawn keep moving in line with the markets. Retirees, senior citizens or any of those eyeing a regular income are using this product.

slab, which could go up to 30% for those in high tax brackets. If the dividend amount exceeds ₹5,000 in a year, the fund house deducts 10% TDS, which reduces your cash flows.

### What Are The Pros Of SWPs?

Distributors consider an SWP as a far more reliable tool for monthly cash flows than a dividend. In the dividend plan of an equity fund, the quantum and frequency of dividend and the date of dividend are not guaranteed. These depend on market movements and the profits that are available in the scheme for distribution. An SWP brings stability of income.

### What Should Investors Know?

Investors use the growth option of a large-cap, flexicap, index fund or an equity-oriented hybrid scheme to start an SWP. They should avoid thematic sectoral funds and small, mid-cap schemes as volatility here is far higher. It is not necessary to start SWP immediately when you invest. It can be started anytime later or whenever there is a need. Similarly, if you have an existing corpus, you can activate an SWP by filing in the relevant form.

—PRASHANT MAHESH

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### Why Are SWPs Considered Tax Efficient?

An SWP is a redemption of units from the scheme, which are equity oriented for taxation purposes. Hence, the tax treatment of each withdrawal will be the same as is applicable to equity-oriented funds. For units held for more than a year, long-term capital gains of 10% will be applicable, while for units held less than a year it is 15%. In addition, long-term capital gains of up to ₹1 lakh in equity-oriented funds in a financial year are tax free. In comparison, when you opt for a dividend payout in a mutual fund scheme, there is a tax on the dividend paid in line with your tax

CONTRAPUNTO

If you're not cheating, you're not trying

-EDDIE GUERRERO



# Who's Coaching NTA?

More NEET-UG data, more questions about testing agency's capacity and vision

As SC continues hearing the plea for RE-NEET today, the key question remains whether irregularities in the May 5 exam total up to "the sanctity of the entire test" which has been affected. This is critical for all the 2.3mn students who took the test in the first place, to get justice. Where will this clarity come from? CBI has made arrests and lodged FIRs, but not reached a 'comprehensive' conclusion. SC-directed publication of city-wise and centre-wise results has helped to assess marking patterns, but their message is disputed.

Exam centres that allegedly benefitted from irregularities, have actually not performed well. Centres that have outperformed are from cities that are coaching hubs - such as Sikar, Kota and Kottayam. The counter is that such data analysis, like that by IIT-Madras, cannot catch irregularities if students who benefitted from these are distributed thinly across centres, even if there are many, many such students.

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# Disturbing In Dhaka

Anti-quota violence symptomatic of Awami's authoritarian politics. India must think beyond Hasina

Before the Bangladeshi Supreme Court's ruling yesterday struck down a contentious quota for liberation fighters and their progeny, massive anti-quota protests had claimed at least 114 lives, hundreds more had been injured. What Bangladesh is witnessing today is a lethal combination of quota politics, lack of opposition space, and a govt increasingly given to authoritarian ways.

**Quota fire** | The latest round of turmoil began after the Bangladeshi high court on June 5 ruled to restore 30% quota in govt jobs at all levels for Bangladesh's liberation fighters and their children and grandchildren. While this quota isn't new, it has had a fraught history. It was implemented whenever Awami League was in govt and ignored when BNP and its Islamist allies were in office.

**Merit vs entitlement** | When Awami returned to govt in 2009, it extended quota benefits to grandchildren of liberation fighters. That the benefits accrue to those politically aligned with Awami is lost on no one. But in 2018, amid similar protests against the quota, Awami scrapped it ahead of polls that year.

**The perfect storm** | The high court decision was challenged, and the Supreme Court reversed the quota, saying up to 93% of the jobs should be open to merit. But a large section of Bangladeshi society believes the judiciary is under Awami's thumb. Plus, it didn't help matters when Sheikh Hasina equated the protesters with raskals. Add to this a growing unemployment problem within Bangladesh.

**Echoes for India** | India is not unfamiliar with violent quota agitations. But things haven't degenerated to the extent in Bangladesh. The latter is in this spot today because it is failing to tick the basic check-boxes of democracy - a viable opposition, elections seen to be free and fair, and an independent judiciary. The growing popular resentment against Awami presents a security dilemma for India. The last thing India needs is a Bangladesh run by a Pakistan-backed dispensation in a post-Awami scenario. New Delhi should change tack and reach out to all segments of Bangladeshi polity to secure its strategic interests.

# Rear window

Living through one IT outage, prepping for the next

Shinie Antony

Last week a global tech outage saw us come apart pixel by pixel. Here we were, expecting bots to be at our beck and call to fetch and carry, and for AI to finish our sentences, when the lights went off as if the electricity bill had not been paid. Servers were on the blink, making it tough for employees to pretend to be working. GPS aunty, who often took us into cul-de-sacs, but always in that warm, wise voice, was greatly missed. Some could not open their own fridge, turning leftovers into a tragic love story. We were back in the dark ages. What would we do without Siri calling out 'aji sunte ho'?

Outage turned to outrage even as many learnt these were two different words. Passengers who were mid-flight during the IT chaos took the time to yell at the airline staff in person despite landing safely; they knew there would be no email asking for feedback or ratings. Flights were cancelled or delayed, and many who got handwritten tickets hated that their name was spelt wrong. With everything long computerised, pen or paper ran short. People were also seen struggling to read their own handwriting; previously only doctors penned illegible prescriptions, but now a scrawl is universal. Some companies plan to go net-less once a month so workers will know which end of the pen to pick up.

What if cell phone towers blinked one day? And 'no signal' was the new condolence? We'd have to converse face to face instead of back to back. The words 'Free Wi-Fi' will no longer physically arouse. The same mobile phone that stores all our pictures will be taken to a studio and made to pose for a professional shot so we can hang it up as a portrait. Bluetooth will henceforth be a dental malady. We will use inlands and postcards again. Telegrams. Stop. Will. Stop. Be. Stop. Back. Stop.

They are playing our song: Bruce Springsteen's *Dancing in the Dark*. A Brazilian psychic said to have predicted 'three days of darkness' has been declared God. It puts humanity in its place that something that froze them in their tracks was neither cybercrime nor a big bug, but a minor glitch in the system. All those headed for digital detox or silent meditation who spoke nostalgically about farming in the hills, were last seen giving their PCs mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

# FM, Please Close The Dragon's Maw

Chinese imports are cheap, thanks to an industrial policy that aims to smother all rivals. They threaten India with industrial infanticide. Will the Budget forge a strong defence against this danger?

TK Arun



When GOI presents its Budget 2024 tomorrow, what would be really useful is a focus on forging a new economic strategy, which is now crucial to counter the challenge to investment and growth posed by China's muscular industrial policy.

On the heels of the 100% import duty on electric cars from China by US, EU has announced 47.5% tariffs on such imports. This would both slow down the energy transition and make it more costly. What is commendable, though, is American and European policymakers recognising Chinese industrial policy's potential to undermine their own economies.

Such an appreciation is conspicuously missing from the Indian policy discourse. In the run-up to the Budget, Confederation of Indian Industry has submitted three documents to govt: on direct taxes, indirect taxes and economic policy. Together, these mention China only three times, twice bemoaning India's dependence on China for critical minerals, and once to take note that India has overtaken China as the most populous nation.

At least since the publication, in the 17th century, of *Journey to the West*, a rollicking Chinese tale loosely based on the travels of Xuanzang to Central Asia and India, the Chinese have been aware of India. India seems to be aware of China only as a military threat, and is content to let imports from China mount, year after year, even as it exports to China barely a tenth of what it imports from that country.

Those who see this as one-sided trade and object to India sustaining such a huge trade deficit with China are only partly justified. On an overall balance of payments basis, India's current account deficit is small, and the prosperity in many mineral-rich countries generated by huge exports to China, in turn, creates local demand for exports from India. China's economic heft, thus, helps boost India's exports to third countries, and contains the overall trade and current account deficits within limits of prudence.

The trouble with the flood of imports from China is not their scale in relation to exports from India. The problem is that China has achieved its stupendous,

world-beating export capacity through active industrial policy that has the potential to stunt the growth of industry and manufacturing in developing countries like India.

India has huge ambitions in photovoltaic, semiconductor, electric vehicle and pharma industries. Success in these sectors depends on achieving scale and innovative efficiency in chemicals, steel, electronics, batteries, the minerals that go into batteries, and logistics. Of these, India has a robust capacity in steel, and yet sees significant imports of cheap Chinese steel. Of the rest, China is a dominant supplier to India, including in pharma, with an iron grip on Active Pharma

billions of dollars of support to domestic industry in strategic sectors. The Centre for Strategic and International Studies, an American think tank, brought out a report titled *Red Ink* in 2022. It quantifies Chinese industrial policy into dollars of extended support.

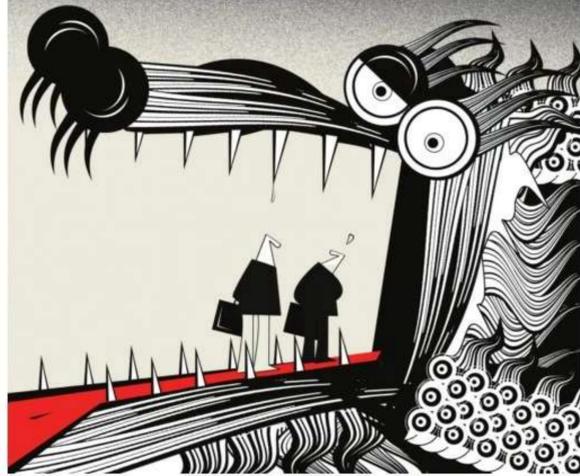
Its estimate of China's industrial policy spending includes nine categories of instruments based on limited data: direct subsidies to firms, R&D tax incentives, other tax incentives, govt-financed business R&D, below-market credit to state-owned enterprises, state investment funds (govt guidance funds), below-market land sales to firms, implied credit advantage among SOEs for their large net payables balances, and debt-equity swaps.

In 2019, such support totalled 1.73% of GDP or \$407 billion in PPP terms. The support was no flash in the pan, it had been 1.89% of GDP in 2017, and 1.79% of GDP in 2018.

The problem is neither abstract nor always obvious. A company might appear to be operating entirely within the parameters of market competition - till you notice that \$70 billion of its debt has been taken over by a parent SOE. The company might be located on an industrial park built on land given gratis by the state, its workers might have been skilled for free at a state-run institute, it might use tech developed with research grants and subsidies. If such a company then offers a lower price than anyone else operating without such assistance can offer, would you call it superior competitiveness or the gift of Chinese industrial policy?

Indian industry must face fair competition from abroad, and must be made to compete in export markets. But to thwart industrial infanticide at the hands of the Chinese state, Indian industry must be spared the price pressure of Chinese imports. That calls for a dual tariff structure: one set of tariffs for imports from China, which factor in the direct and indirect, market-distorting state subsidy in Chinese imports, and another set of tariffs for the rest of the world.

This, in effect, is what US and EU are doing, and they are not developing countries. India has every right to look the Chinese gift horse in the mouth - it is a gift only to Chinese industry, to smother rivals elsewhere, and achieve global dominance.



Ingredients, with Indian companies focused solely on converting these APIs into the formulations that doctors prescribe and patients buy.

Since roads, ports and rail tracks are not tradable, India makes these at home, perforce. But the rest are falling prey to Chinese industrial policy. If current needs are met via imports, that would rule out investment for meeting future demand, and depress overall economic growth below the potential.

When we hear policy, we think of strategies and work. But Chinese industrial policy translates into

# Those Famous Five Rings, In French Style

French ambassador Thierry Mathou explains why the Paris Olympics will be the 'most innovative' in the Games' history. And there's an Indian connection behind the scenes



In four days, France will welcome the world for the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Around 15,000 athletes from 206 nations will compete in 32 Olympic and 22 Paralympic sports, with over 15mn visitors expected. The Games are back in Paris for the third time in history, and after exactly 100 years since France last hosted the Summer Olympics in 1924. Because it's such a historic event for France, and comes at a moment when the world is enduring international tensions and war, France has conceived the Paris 2024 Games as a unique reflection of the values it promotes globally: innovation, sustainability, solidarity and equality.

**Innovation** | Innovation is at the heart of the Paris Games. On July 26, the Opening Ceremony will for the first time in the Summer Olympics' history take place not within a stadium but out in the city, along Seine river - a symbol of our eagerness to be open to all. Innovation is in competition venues too: rather than building new, ad hoc infra, 95% of all venues are either existing or temporary, with many events being held at Paris' most iconic landmarks.

**Sustainability** | Nine years after the Paris Agreement on climate change, the French capital once again seeks to show that progress can go hand in hand with environmental concerns. A guiding principle for the Games was how to do more with less and for longer. This meant building fewer venues, using sustainable construction, powering every venue

with renewable energy, renting rather than buying, and mapping all the resources needed to ensure nothing will be wasted after the Games are over. Thus, Paris 2024 will have only half the carbon footprint of the two previous Olympics and will be the greenest in history.

**International solidarity** | France believes that the Olympics and Paralympics are an opportunity to drive closer international cooperation. That's why President Emmanuel Macron will host a Summit for Sport and Sustainable Development on the eve of the opening ceremony. Around 500 participants, including heads of state and govt, ministers, international organisations, athletes, development finance institutions, and NGOs will gather to launch a global initiative for sports to contribute to SDGs. The summit is supported by French Development Agency (AFD), which is strongly committed to these issues, including in its 16-year-long partnership with India. In

this framework, India's contribution in shaping the global sustainable development agenda is essential.

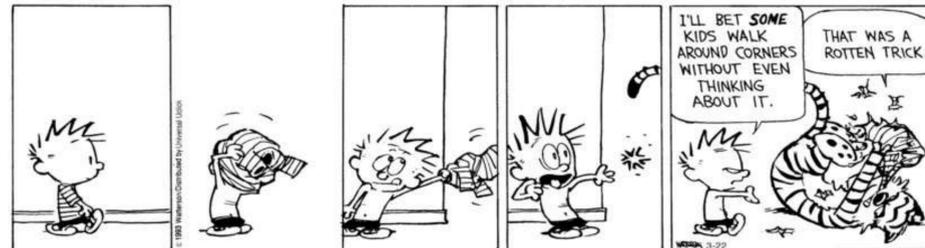
**Equality and inclusivity** | The Paris 2024 "Games Wide Open" slogan focuses on inclusivity and the commitment to enabling everyone to enjoy the Olympic experience. First, Paris 2024 will make history by achieving gender parity with equal participation of male and female athletes. This was a key endeavour for France, in line with our feminist foreign policy. Second, massive efforts and investments have been made towards accessibility for spectators with disabilities. For instance, 100% of Paris bus and tram lines have been made wheelchair-friendly. At the venues, specially trained volunteers will assist spectators with disabilities. Lastly, France has the same level of ambition for the Paralympic as for the Olympic Games. That's why the French govt is contributing to funding the Paralympic Games, beginning on Aug 28, and ensuring their visibility through full

live telecast on French TV.

**Indo-French sports cooperation** | France and India share the same vision of sports for good. That's why on Jan 26 President Macron and PM Modi decided to make sports a new dimension of our cooperation. France is sharing its experience on hosting the Games with India, as India is bidding to host the Olympics. This was the purpose of an Indian expert delegation's visit to France in the spring. Moreover, an Indian homeland security K9 team is in Paris to help reinforce security throughout the Games. This cooperation around the Paris Olympics will provide a lasting momentum as we look to boost youth exchanges and ties between economic actors of sports industry. The Indo-French agreement on sports cooperation, signed on July 14, 2023 during Modi's visit to France, provides the framework for this promising cooperation.

**Bringing the Games to India** | France looks forward to welcoming the Indian Olympic delegation, tourists and spectators in Paris. But what if you are not travelling to Paris for the Games? Team France in India has worked to ensure that our Indian friends can enjoy the Paris 2024 Games, even without travelling. That's why, from July 26 with the opening ceremony, Alliances Françaises across India will host Fan Zones, where every sport fan can come for live screenings of the games, contests, exhibitions and more. Come join us in these Fan Zones in the Alliance Française nearest to you. From Paris to Delhi, let's celebrate the Olympic spirit together!

# Calvin & Hobbes



# Sacred space

*Righteousness and unrighteousness, pleasure and pain are purely of the mind and are no concern of yours. You are neither the doer nor the reaper of the consequences, so you are always free.*

Ashtavakra Gita

# Nobody Has Power Over You Except Yourself

Osho

The power of the guru is nothing but the power of your imagination, and the real guru will make you alert about and aware of your own power.

The pseudo guru will pretend that it is his power; it is your imagination, and you are free to give as much power to your guru as you decide. If you want to, you can give him all the power; it is your projection. But imagination is a powerful faculty; the most powerful: reason is just impotent in comparison to imagination.

All that happens through imagination; nothing happens through reason. First, it happens through imagination; then reason comes in and figures it out; that's okay. Reason comes only

secondary; it gives explanations and analyses, makes things clear, and demystifies things, but nothing ever happens through reason.

All that happens is intuitive. It is your power; please don't bring that guru in! Nobody has power over you except yourself. You can give this power to somebody, and then he has power over you, but my work here is really to make you free of all kinds of gurus.

I am not a guru, at the most a friend, and I would like you to be unburdened of all the gurus...and I am included. If you start giving power to me, I don't like it. It is your power. Because if I accept - and it is very flattering... When you go and give some power

to somebody, it is flattering to him; he will not be able to reject it. He will accept it with a smile. You are falling into his trap on your own. Why should he say, "This is your power?" Gurus have exploited people as much as leaders have...

In the East, we have two words: guru and satguru. The guru is just a teacher, and the satguru is the master. The master is one who makes you utterly free of all kinds of entanglements, who makes you really free of all kinds of bondage. He will not allow you to project any kind of image on him; he will not function as a screen. It is your imagination, and that very imagination is telling you to go away, to do this and that. That imagination will



create many troubles for you because the imagination is there, the power is there, but you are not yet in a state of meditation. Imagination becomes destructive if there is no meditative quality around it - then it can go berserk.

Imagination alone is dangerous; imagination plus meditation, then you are in the right balance. Then the meditation will never allow you to go beyond the limit and it will use your power of imagination in a creative way.

Just do a few meditations...You need meditation, you need it urgently. Put your energies into meditation, at least one meditation.

*Abridged from Osho, Far Beyond the Stars; Courtesy: Osho Times International / www.osho.com*



"Hopefully one day when she (daughter Isabella) is a bit older and whatever she wants to do in life, whether it be horses or another sport, I can inspire her and make her realise how hard work it is."

CHARLOTTE DUJARDIN  
BRITISH EQUESTRIAN LEGEND

**A walk in Germany, with thoughts of Paris: The undisputed boss of this Olympics boxing squad is fully prepared**

Siddharth.Saxena@timesofindia.com

Saarbrücken (Germany): "Aaa jao sir, aap bhi walk kar lo. Thodi fitness badegi..."

Nikhath Zareen is walking a few laps of the indoor track at the sprawling SportCampus Saar here in Saarbrücken, an oasis of sport and training in south-west Germany, just nudging distance from Paris. With coach Pranamika Borah in tow — like those invisible but always-there minders — she is cooling down after an intense hour and half long gym session. It is probably her last training engagement here before the Indian boxing squad departs via the TGV — once a 1980s middle-school quiz question about the fastest train in the world — for the Olympics on Monday.

To a varied medley from her portable speaker, she has sprinted, skipped, stretched, had an intense padwork session with coach Dmitry Dmitruk, who appears to seem to enjoy the labour of training. Ask him if he does, and the Irish passport-holding former Russian shakes his head. "Hate it, Hate it. Ninety-nine times out of hundred, hate it, only probably one time, I love..."

Then as he walks back to the training area, the oversized pads making him look like a walrus on a diet, the slight 47-year-old turns back and looks, "No, no, I am joking. Training is fun, good training is great." Often Dmitruk himself dances to the house music — a strange mix of Irish and Cosack — in between breaks to shake off the monotony of office. "You want to dance, eh, you want to dance? C'mon, c'mon," he goads us.

For Nikhat, there's no such respite. Often stopping in between reps to bend and ease open sleeves of her training jacket to allow rivulets of sweat pour onto the Saarbrücken floor, finding refuge on a spartan bench to be with herself during breathers, her hand towel and her thoughts, she seems to be in some other space, her own sanctuary in this forest-covered campus. It's a strange mix of bounding energy and intermittent fatigue.

So, afterwards, in the reflective silences that walks often bring,

# WISER NIKHATH SEEKS TO CARVE OWN DESTINY

when she offers to walk, we walk. Nikhat is simply being matter of fact. It doesn't matter to her that the person she is asking to amble along is of the sunlight-blocking variety. She is far from pointing to his obvious out-of-shape shape. Bigger things occupy her mind, more immediate and pressing, like as she says, "weight giraana." At the low 50kg, it automatically becomes tougher for a boxer to maintain their weights as compared to the higher weight categories and this

is a lifelong battle for Nikhat. When she addresses you, she is not looking at you. There are minimal smiles, barely concealed grimaces. Yet, the faraway look in her eyes is not uncharted. "Till I touch down on the Paris soil," she says in an easy mix of Urdu and Hindi, in that slightly bored lilt, "My mind is only in training. I, my mind is working only session to session, occupied with only what I have to in that particular

session. *Kya karna hai wahan ka soch, soch key...*

"I think I have become more patient. I have become wise." You are mildly amused by the remarkable absence of any uncertainty in the thought process and delivery; but maybe this is how she is wired because also, you don't sense that it is rehearsed or that anything is lost in translation when she says these things of self-realisation.

"I have become wiser," she repeats, nodding to herself the observation, not so much the question.

Maybe in "wiser," Nikhat means philosophical. "I have worked under so many coaches now, that I also need to vibrate on a personal level with them. It is natural to want that at this level now. So many coaches, so many inputs, it also important that I don't forget what defines me, my skill and my own identity as a boxer. That is important," she says.

A monster of training, in that Nikhat has been moulded by the many coaches since she entered the SAI centre in Vizag as a gawky kid

years ago, does she go back to her old coaches for time-tested inputs?

"Woh jo mere first coach hain naa..." she starts off, referring to her old coach in Hyderabad, Emami Chiranjeevi, now touching 80, "I still call him sometimes..."

"I always remember that one thing he told me, ki 'Only you can make your own destiny.' I always remember this one line."

"Dekho, agar kismat mein hai, toh Paris hoga, wahan medal hoga. Kismat mein nahin hai, toh nahin sahi," she grins for the first time, but swiftly steels up again.

"But I have to do everything that I know, that I have learnt to be fully prepared. *Woh kami nahin rehni chahiye*. That is what I am doing here, preparing to make my own destiny. *Baaki, kismat...*"

At 27 years, she's the undisputed boss of this Olympic squad, despite the presence of Tokyo medal winner, Lovlina Borgohain in the mix. A natural leader, the larger idea is always on the mind. "Sir, *wahan boxing hall mein Nishant ka sparring chal raha, wahan jaa key photo kheeche. Khush ho jayega lada...*" she says.

"I have worked under so many coaches, so many inputs, it is also important that I don't forget what defines me, my skill and my own identity as a boxer."  
—Nikhath Zareen

MY SPACE: Nikhat Zareen takes a breather at the training campus in Saarbrücken



# Flavours of India in Saarbrücken senses

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Saarbrücken: Tell Dikshant Mehta that the cooking area of the cafeteria at the SportCampus Saar here smells like an Indian kitchen and the 28-year-old chef from Himachal Pradesh immediately gets defensive. "Kisney bola? Did anyone say anything?" he asks, only assuaged when told that the smells remind one of home so far away.

It is cheat day today for the Indian athletes in their final training here. Residing here for over a month for the Paris Olympics scheduled to begin in less than a week's time, the various Indian teams are departing for the French capital in batches, and Mehta, on deputation from SAI for this extended training camp, has decided to whip some Indian flavours as a farewell meal. For today, he severed ties with boxing team nutritionist, Mohit Dhariwal who would zealously oversee the carbs, the calorie count and the protein intake each time Mehta fired up the induction. And so, it's butter chicken and *peeli daal* for lunch today.

"The rotis are on demand, mainly for the athletes only," says Mehta, explaining, "The cooking here is done on induction and rotis take a long time, so we usually save it for the athletes."

The Indian table tennis that had trained here for over a fortnight left for Paris earlier on Sunday, led by Sharath Kamal — who along with PV Sindhu — will be India's flagbearer at the opening ceremony in Paris. The boxing team, camping here for a month, will leave for Paris on Monday, as will Sindhu — 'PV' in these parts.

Apart from the gym in such sports centres, the cafeteria at the SportCampus Saar gives one the feeling of how the general eating areas of Olympic villages can tend to be — the off-field, off-competition melting pots. At one point 401 athletes from 27 countries were training for the Olympics at this sprawling nine-hectare facility. "There are at least two dozen potential Olympic med-



SAY CHEESE: PV Sindhu with her canine friends in Saarbrücken

als floating here at Saarbrücken," a boxing coach with the US team drawled as he watched his higher-weight boxers manhandle the heavy bags.

Spending time here, rubbing shoulders with athletes of various disciplines — competitors turned sparring partners turned fellow philosophers and guides — can be an uplifting experience. It can also be a bit distracting, even a bit overwhelming for a first-timer, he felt.

On Saturday, 'Anna' Sharath and 'PV' were having a leisurely post-lunch chat. You could overhear snatches of "fitting," and "trial" and "rehearsal" and thus asked if they were discussing the opening ceremony and the flag-bearing protocol. "Right now, all we can only think of is 'serve and smash,'" both said, almost in unison.

Sunday afternoon, under overcast skies and pleasant

breeze, saw much activity at the campus. Locals outnumbered the training athletes and crowds and cars lined from well outside the forest area surrounding it. Turns out the crowd was flocking in because home team Germany was playing Brazil for an international volleyball Test match and tickets had been sold out days in advance for the 1000-seater auditorium. Brazil were flying in just for the game, before returning to their training base in France. But the biggest draw for the organisers? 'PV' could also be in attendance since volleyball is like a family heirloom sport, with both her parents being international volleyball players, father Ramana, a fearsome spiker who helped India win the men's bronze at the 1986 Asian Games in Seoul. "I have training, but I think I will put in a little appearance, after all, it's volleyball," Sindhu told TOI.

# Sarvesh, from preparing mat to becoming India's first high jumper to vie in Olympics

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Nagpur: Sarvesh Kushare is the first Indian ever to qualify for the high jump event in Olympics. Like many Indian athletes, Sarvesh too has spent countless hours of his life for just one goal — to be an Olympian and to win a medal for the country.

The journey of this small-town athlete from Deogaoon village of Nashik district in Maharashtra is nothing but incredible.

As a young and aspiring kid, Sarvesh found a mentor in Raosaheb Jadhav, a physical education teacher at his school — DR Bhosale Madhyamik Vidyalaya in Deogaoon. Looking at his jumping skills, Jadhav introduced Sarvesh to high jump, but the mat required for landing during practice and at an event was missing. Like many Taluka-level athletes, Sarvesh started high jump with the Scissors style, and it took some years for him to shift to the result-oriented Fosbury mode.

His shift to the Fosbury style of jumping was possible only after school authorities and his father Anil Kushare prepared a makeshift mat made from the waste from Corn with some cotton and unused clothes. Some agricultural waste too was used.



In a chat with TOI, Jadhav explained the initial days of struggle. He said, "To achieve success in high jump, Fosbury style must be followed. Since the requisite mat was not available, I and Sarvesh's father tried to find out ways to prepare a similar mat and after some research we achieved the desired result."

Jadhav added, "The second challenge was to convert Sarvesh from the Scissors to Fosbury style. Since Sarvesh was getting results in Scissors style he was hesitant and a bit frightened. Then I gave him a practical dis-

play of landing and slowly he mastered Fosbury. Finally in 2013 Sarvesh won his first national medal, a silver, at the school nationals at Etawah."

Speaking with TOI from Poland, where he is camping with the Indian contingent, Sarvesh said, "After I won my first national medal, Jadhav sir told me that this was just the first step as you need to bring medals for India and become an Olympic medalist. And I started living a dream of qualifying for the Olympics."

In 2016 Sarvesh joined the Army on the insistence of Jadhav. After be-

ing rejected twice by the Army, he was reluctant but with his consistent performance at the national level and the push that Jadhav gave, Sarvesh got himself enrolled. With better facilities and salary Sarvesh started his journey as a professional athlete.

Jadhav said, "From the savings of his salary at the Army, Sarvesh bought his first professional high jump spikes (shoes). The proper jumping spikes are not available in India. Now that he has all the facilities, Sarvesh is just a step away from achieving the unthinkable at the Paris Games."

The Asian Games silver medalist and reigning national champion, Sarvesh's personal best is 2.27m which he achieved during the 2022 Nationals in Gujarat. Jadhav feels Sarvesh has a realistic chance to create history in Paris. He explained, "On June 29 at Panchkula, Sarvesh took a leap of 2.25m with a 15-20cms gap between his chest and bar. If we add that 15cms to his jump of 2.25m then he can cross 2.40m and it will be a sure shot medal."

Jadhav said, "At Paris, Sarvesh will get similar weather conditions as Panchkula. If he is in his best frame, then history can be scripted."

# Neeraj's adductor is fine, says coach

New Delhi: The adductor niggle that has troubled Neeraj Chopra in the past couple of months "is fine" now and the reigning Olympic champion has entered the high intensity phase of his Paris preparations, his German coach Klaus Bartonietz said, dismissing concerns surrounding the Indian star's fitness.



The 26-year-old Chopra, who scripted history by winning the javelin throw gold at the Tokyo Olympics, is once again the country's best bet for a top podium finish in the Paris Games beginning on July 26.

But his season has been far from perfect in terms of fitness. Bartonietz, however,

insisted that things are back on track.

"Everything is according to plan. At the moment, no issue with that (adductor niggle), it's fine, it looks good, hoping to remain like that till the Olympics," the coach, who has been with Chopra for close to five years, said from Antalya, Turkey where they are currently based for training.

"It's just over two weeks left in the Olympics, so the intensity of training is high. He is having full throwing sessions."

Chopra withdrew from Ostrava Golden Spike on May 28 as a precautionary measure after he felt "something" in his adductor (group of muscles located on inner thighs). He made a strong comeback by winning gold at the Paavo Nurmi Games in Finland on June 18 with a throw of 85.97m. PTI

# After accreditation fiasco, 'tainted' physio's presence sparks row

Paris: A day after its Korean chief coach Baek Woong Ki was forced to leave following denial of Olympic accreditation, India's archery contingent found itself at the centre of another controversy as it was alleged that a "tainted" physio was accommodated at his expense.

The contingent will be without Woong Ki and Dronacharya award-winning high performance director Sanjeeva Singh as both of them could not find a place in the contingent's support staff.

A top Archery Association of India (AAI) official re-

vealed that instead, physio Arvind Yadav has been included despite the fact that he faced allegations of making an "inappropriate approach" to a Canadian teenager during the Youth World Championships in Limerick, Ireland in November last year.

India had won a historic haul of six gold, one silver and four bronze medals at that event. "As per the complaint from the World Archery competition manager Thomas Aubert, Yadav had made an inappropriate approach to a Canadian teenager on social media," the official said.

"The Canadian coach reported this to the WA, who in turn raised the complaint with AAI. Federation called an ethics committee meeting and dismissed the matter saying the 'inappropriate approach' to the teenaged Canadian archer was a 'normal hi, hello'," he revealed.

Yadav, when reached out, rejected the charge altogether. "It's a conspiracy to malign me. Nothing of this sort has happened. Why didn't AAI take action against me then? Also, the archers could have objected to my appointment," Yadav said. PTI

# 'BCCI TO PROVIDE RS 8.5 CRORE FOR PARIS OLY'

New Delhi: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Sunday announced financial assistance to the Paris Olympics-bound Indian athletes, contributing Rs 8.5 crore to the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) for their campaign.

The Paris Games will begin from July 26. "I am proud to announce that the @BCCI will be supporting our incredible athletes representing #India at the 2024 Paris Olympics. We are providing INR 8.5 Crores to the IOA for the campaign," BCCI secretary Jay Shah wrote on his 'X' account. "To our entire contingent, we wish you the very best. Make India proud! Jai Hind!" PTI

# Harman, Richa power sings UAE

## India Women Post Their First 200+ Score In T20s In Clinical 78-Run Win

**Dambulla:** Contrasting fifties from skipper Harmanpreet Kaur and Richa Ghosh were complemented nicely by the bowlers as India notched up a massive 78-run win over UAE in their second match of the ongoing women's Asia Cup T20 tournament here on Sunday.

### WOMEN'S ASIA CUP

Invited to bat, Kaur played the anchor's role to perfection with a 47-ball 66, while Ghosh produced late charge with an unbeaten 29-ball-64 to power defending champions India to 201 for five, their first-ever 200-plus score in T20s.

The bowlers, led by Deepti Sharma (2/23), then produced a clinical show to limit UAE to 123 for 7 as India put one foot in the semifinals.

With two wins in as many games, India occupy the top spot in group A with four points and have a Net Run Rate of +3.298. India will play their third and final group game

against Nepal on Tuesday. Chasing the daunting total, opener Esha Rohit Oza scored a 36-ball 38 (5x4, 1x6) but UAE never were in the chase as they kept losing wickets at regular intervals. Pace duo of Renuka Singh (1/30) and Pooja Vastrakar (1/27) dismissed Theertha Satish (4) and Rinita Rajith (7) as UAE slipped to 24 for 2 in 5.2 overs.

Deepti then struck in her third ball, removing Samaira Dharnidharka (5) but Oza and Kavisha Egodage (40 not out) played some entertaining shots to score 20 runs in next three overs.

However, Tanuja Kanwar (1/14), who had replaced an injured Shreyanka Patil in the playing XI, had Oza stumped, while Radha Yadav (1/29) got rid of Khushi Sharma (10) as UAE fell to 95 for five in the 16th over.

Heena Hotchandani then became Deepti's second victim and Ritika was run out in the last ball as UAE finished far away from India's total. Earlier, while the 35-year-old



WALK IN THE PARK: Richa Ghosh and Harmanpreet Kaur on Sunday

Harmanpreet blasted seven fours and a six during her innings, Ghosh slammed as many as 12 boundaries and a maximum, including five consecutive hits to the fence in the final over of the innings bowled by Hotchandani.

Kaur stitched two crucial partnerships, adding 54 off 39 balls with Jemimah Rodrigues and 75 off 45 balls with Ghosh to put India in a commanding position. Opener Smriti Mandhana (13) blasted a six and a four to give India

## 201/5

India Women have recorded their highest T20I total, going past the 198/4 vs Eng Women at Brabourne Stadium, Mumbai on Mar 25, 2018. India's score is the first ever total of 200-plus in the history of Women's T20 Asia Cup.

64 Richa Ghosh's unbeaten knock off 29 balls is her maiden fifty in T20Is. She is the first Indian wicketkeeper to post a fifty in T20 Asia Cup. Richa has become the first Indian wicketkeeper to record a fifty each across formats - Tests, ODIs and T20Is.

--Rajesh Kumar

a good start but an overambitious shot saw her being holed out at mid-off off spinner Egodage in the third over. **Brief scores:** India 201/5 (Harmanpreet 66, Ghosh 64\*, Egodage 2-36) beat UAE 123/7 (Egodage 40, Oza 36, Deepti 2-23) by 78 runs

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### GALLERY

## Piastrri secures maiden F1 race at Hungarian GP

**Budapest:** Oscar Piastrri won his first Formula One race after completing a McLaren one-two with Lando Norris at the Hungarian Grand Prix on Sunday. The 23-year-old Australian driver started second behind pole-sitting Norris and beat him at the first turn to take the lead. Norris got ahead after a pit-stop strategy that favoured him, but he finally complied with team's request to give the lead back to his partner.

### Indian boys, girls enter quarters

Indian boys and girls entered the quarterfinals in the team event of the World Junior Squash Championships in Houston, USA, to set up a clash with higher-ranked South Korea and Malaysia respectively. The boys beat Canada 2-0 in the pre-quarterfinals and will meet fourth seeds Korea, while the girls will take on third-seeded Malaysia after finishing second in Group D, following their loss to Hong Kong 1-2 in their final league clash.

### Aditi lies T-12th: Aditi Ashok stayed in sight of her first Top 10 of 2024, as she shot a bogey free 3-under 68 in the third round of the Dana Open golf to be tied-12th in Sylvania, USA.

With rounds of 67-72 on the first two days, Aditi is now 8-under with one more round to go.

### Pogacar wins Tour de France for the 3rd time:

Tadej Pogacar won the 2024 Tour de France on Sunday, adding a third overall title to his 2020 and 2021 crowns. The 25-year-old won the final day's time-trial with defending champion Jonas Vingegaard coming second at 1 minute 03 seconds on the day to seal second overall ahead of a disappointed Remco Evenepoel, third on the day and third overall. Astonishingly Pogacar won six stages on this edition of the Tour de France, just as he did when winning the 2024 Giro d'Italia. With five stage wins already in his saddlebag, Pogacar stormed out of his adopted hometown of Monaco and up the coast to Nice, where he leapt into the arms of his teammates. Pogacar took overall lead on a downhill on day four.

### ACTION TODAY

**CRICKET:** England vs WI, 2nd Test, Day 5, 3.30 pm (Sony Sports); Women's Asia Cup T20s, SL vs Malaysia, 2 pm; Bangladesh vs Thailand, 6.30 pm (Star)

## USA get wake-up call ahead of Paris

### LeBron James hits 25th birthday with 8 secs left to secure 101-100 win over South Sudan

**Paris:** LeBron James saved the US from what would have been a stunning loss.

James' layup with 8 seconds left was the go-ahead basket on Saturday, and the US Olympic team that'll soon head to the Paris Games escaped with a 101-100 win over South Sudan in London, rallying from a 16-point deficit to avoid perhaps the biggest upset in the programme's history.

South Sudan, the African nation that gained their independence just 13 years ago and is about to play in the Olympics for the first time, led for more than half the game and had a chance to win at the end. But Carlik Jones' runner off the glass missed with about 4

### BASKETBALL

seconds left, and the Americans survived.

"I'm going to be honest: I like those better than the blow-outs," James said as he walked off the court. "At least we got tested." Oh, they got tested — by a team that came into the game as 43.5-point underdogs, according to BetMGM Sportsbook. "A good reminder that when we play against teams, it's the biggest game of their lives," US coach Steve Kerr said. "We have to expect everyone to play like that."

Down by 16 at one point, the Americans dug out of that hole with an 18-0 run in the second half — then needed heroics at the end anyway. JT Thor's 3-pointer with 20 seconds left gave South Sudan a 100-99 lead, then the Americans called timeout and put the ball in James' hands.

He made it look easy: He waited, waited, waited, then drove and laid it in with ease to put the US back on top, and the Americans got the stop they needed at the end. **AP**



TESTING TIMES: United States' LeBron James scores against South Sudan during a warm-up game in London on Saturday

## Aus women soccer players reach Paris sans some luggage, medical equipment

**Paris:** Australia's women soccer players have arrived in Paris without some of their luggage, including key medical equipment, that has been stuck in Spain. Australia team chief Anna Meares said on Sunday.

The soccer team, whose first group game is in four days' time against Germany in Marseille, will now need to have some of that equipment replaced locally before the luggage is eventually shipped to France.

"It is still currently in Spain and we are working with Football Australia to resolve this issue," Meares told a press conference.

## Convicted rapist competing for Netherlands barred from media interaction

**Paris:** The Dutch Olympic committee is taking measures to mitigate the impact of including a convicted rapist on their squad, a move that has sparked dismay among some women's advocacy groups, its chef de mission said on Sunday. Steven van de Velde was sentenced to four years in prison in Britain in 2016 following the rape of a 12-year-old girl two years earlier when he was 19.

After serving part of his sentence there, he was transferred to the Netherlands and his sentence was adjusted to the norms of Dutch law. Van de Velde has been competing in beach volleyball again since 2017 and was named last month in the Dutch Olympic team.

The Dutch Olympic committee, in consultation with van de Velde and playing partner Matthew Immers, have taken steps to mitigate the impact of his participation by moving him to alternative accommodation in Paris and putting a ban on him talking to the media, chef de mission Pieter van den Hoogenband told Dutch television on Sunday.

## Manolo handpicks his staff for nat'l team

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**Panaji:** Manolo Marquez's coaching staff with the national team will comprise those who he has worked with in the past, except for Indian assistant Mahesh Gawli, already contracted with the All India Football Federation (AIFF). Manolo, 55, was named the head coach of the national team on Saturday and has now been asked to choose his coaching staff. According to sources, the Spanish coach — who will continue to be with FC Goa till the end of the season — will

have Benito Montalvo as his assistant and Jose Carlos Barroso as the strength and conditioning coach, both working with Goa at the moment.

Montalvo, a former Argentinean footballer, trained to become a coach in Barcelona and was head coach at the RCD Espanyol Academy Helsinki. He met Manolo during training camps in Finland and Sweden during the Covid-19 pandemic, and has been with him since his first season at Hyderabad FC in 2020.

Barroso was part of Cesar Ferrando's coaching staff at Jamshedpur and has extensive

experience of working in India. The only new member of Manolo's coaching staff, outside Goa, would be goalkeeper's coach Marc Gamon, who worked for two seasons with the Spaniard at Hyderabad FC before taking up a job in Belgium.

Manolo is already preparing for his first assignment with the national team in Sept and will most certainly skip the Bhausaheb Bhandarkar Memorial Trophy where part of the dates clash with the international window.

"The AIFF will confirm the teams for the Sept window in the next couple of days but most certainly the two opponents will be from Africa and Oceania," said a senior official. "Since it's already late in confirming the teams, they won't be from the top 100. In fact, most certainly lower ranked than India."

The AIFF is expected to host the matches in Hyderabad. For the October window, India will travel to Vietnam for a friendly tri-nation series which also involves Lebanon. As per the latest FIFA rankings, Vietnam (116) and Lebanon (117) are placed ahead of India (124).

## Bahutule bowling coach for SL tour before Morkel joins team

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**Colombo:** Former India and Mumbai leg-spinning all-rounder Sairaj Bahutule will travel to Sri Lanka as Team India's bowling coach for the six-match white-ball series, TOI has learnt. Serving as a bowling coach at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru for the last three years, Bahutule has been a part of the support staff with the India A and the Indian teams with previous head coach Rahul Dravid and NCA chairman VVS Laxman.

Bahutule, who played two Tests and eight ODIs for India has done good work with India's young spinners, and his presence should particularly help the team's spinners Axar



EXPERIENCED: Sairaj Bahutule

Patel, Ravi Bishnoi and Washington Sundar, who are all part of the India T20 team, and Kuldeep Yadav, who will feature in the ODIs.

He was also with the Indian team during the home series against Sri Lanka last year. In 2017, he worked with Australia's young spinners at Cricket Australia's Centre of Excellence. The 51-year-old

## Eng win Trent Bridge Test by 241 runs to clinch series vs WI

**Nottingham:** Spinner Shoaib Bashir took five wickets as England bowled out West Indies for 143 to secure a 241-run victory on the fourth day of the second Test at Trent Bridge on Sunday and take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the series.

The touring side, chasing 385 to win, started well thanks to a solid opening partnership of 61 between captain Kraigg Brathwaite and Mikyle Louis. The dismissal of Louis by Chris Woakes, however, prompted a collapse as West Indies lost five wickets in 35 balls.

After Louis was caught by



Root celebrates after his century

wicketkeeper Jamie Smith for 17, Kirk McKenzie edged Bashir to Smith for one and Brathwaite fell for 47 when he feathered a catch to Smith off Woakes. Kavem Hodge, who made a century in the first innings, was trapped lbw by Bashir for a duck and Alick Athanaze edged Bashir to Joe Root at slip for one to leave the West Indies reeling at 82-5.

Kevin Sinclair did not last long, skying a catch off his wrist to Zak Crawley in the slips off Mark Wood. Gus Atkinson trapped Joshua Da Silva lbw for 14. Atkinson bowled Alzarri Joseph for a duck, Bashir bowled Jason Holder for 37 and the spinner bowled Shamar Joseph for 8 to complete figures of 5-41. **REUTERS**

**Brief scores:** England 416 and 425 (overnight 248/3) (J Root 122, H Brook 109; J Seales 4/97) beat West Indies 457 and 143 all out (K Brathwaite 47; S Bashir 5/41) by 241 runs.

## Paes, Amritraj first Asians to be inducted into Tennis Hall of Fame

**Newport:** Legendary Indian tennis players, Leander Paes and Vijay Amritraj, the heroes of many a historic triumph transcending generations, on Sunday became the first two exponents of the sport from Asia to be inducted into the International Hall of Fame.

Paes was given the honour in the 'Player Category'. Vijay Amritraj and Richard Evans were inducted into the Hall of fame in the 'Contributor Category'.

"Paes was inducted in the Player Category, while Amritraj and Evans were recognised as a part of the Contributor Category: honoring visionary leaders, pioneers, or individuals who have made a consummate impact on the sport. The three inductees brings the total to 267 legends



Rafael Nadal congratulates Nuno Borges on Sunday

from 28 nations represented in the Hall of Fame," said the International Tennis Hall of Fame statement.

### Nadal loses to Borges in Nordea Open final

**Bastad:** Rafael Nadal's winning run at the clay-court Nordea Open ended Sunday when the Spaniard was beat-

en by Nuno Borges 6-3, 6-2 in the final on Sunday.

The seventh-seeded Portuguese player broke the Nadal serve five times on his way to a first ATP tour victory. It was Nadal's first final since the 2022 French Open.

### Yuki wins ATP Tour tournament doubles title

**Gstaad:** Yuki Bhambri and his French partner Albano Olivetti clinched the men's doubles title at the Swiss Open ATP Tour tennis tournament with a hard-fought win over Ugo Humbert and Fabrice Martin in the final here on Sunday. The pair of Bhambri and Olivetti, seeded third in the ATP 250 clay court tournament beat their French opponents 3-6, 6-3, 10-6 to win the title. **AGENCIES**

## Sharma gets ready for Paris with T-19 finish on 28th birthday; Schauffele wins Open

V Krishnaswamy

**Royal Troon (Scotland):** Shubhankar Sharma gave his Olympic hopes a major fillip with a gritty 72 in tough conditions at Royal Troon in the 152nd Open. "I am proud of the fightback, and it will hold me in good stead for my first Olympic Games next month in Paris," said Sharma, who also celebrated his 28th birthday on Sunday.

Though conditions were not as tough as the first two days, the conditions on Sunday were not a cakewalk as Sharma began with strong wind and cold breeze in attendance. Sharma showed great grit and hung in with a lot of determination

to bring home a final round of 1-over 72 and finished 3-over 287 for the week and inside Top-20 for the second straight year. He was T-8 last year at Royal Liverpool.

Meanwhile, reigning PGA Champion and Tokyo Olympics gold medalist Xander Schauffele (65) took a 3-shot lead with three holes to go and went on to win by two shots to become the first player since Brooks Koepka to win two Majors in the same year. Schauffele ended at 9-under 275. Koepka won the US Open and the PGA Championships in 2018.

Tied for the second place were Justin Rose (67), a 2013 US Open winner, and the third-round leader,

Billy Horschel (68), who birdied the 72nd hole to get to 7-under 277.

South African Thriston Lawrence, who has never finished better than T-42 in a Major (at the Open in 2022), dropped his first bogey of the day on the 12th and fell back from the lead to second. Later Rose and Horschel overtook him leaving the long-hitting Lawrence fourth at 6-under 278.

Coming back to Sharma, he had two birdies and dropped three bogeys. One of the bogeys was on the ninth, where he missed a par putt inside eighth feet as the hole took a stroke from him each of the last three days. On the final day, his bogey came on the sixth, where he



CONCENTRATION PERSONIFIED: Schauffele places the ball on the 15th green

missed a par from inside four feet, the ninth where he missed from in-

side eight feet and on the 11th, also called the 'Railway,' as a train track

runs next to it. Speaking on the cut-line to inside Top-20. He smiled and added, "There will be some celebrations with my family, the entire team and some friends here, but a lot of the season is still left, and I have some big events leading to the DP World finale."

Schauffele, who will defend his Olympic title next month, began with five pars after getting close looks at birdies more than once. He had back-to-back birdies on the sixth and seventh and then added another on 11th to go to 6-under and come alongside Lawrence, who began the day at 3-under and moved to 6-under by the ninth.

Then Schauffele shifted gears.

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